

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) BUSINESS, LABOR, AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS**

**Call to Order:** Chair Jason Small-R, on May 02, 2023 at 7:59 AM, in 422

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Jason Small, Chair (R)  
Sen. Willis Curdy, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Mark Noland, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mike Fox (D)  
Sen. Bruce Gillespie (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Walt Sales (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Jason Ellsworth (R)  
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)

**Staff Present:** Lynnette Sena, Secretary  
Erin Sullivan, Attorney

**Audio Committees:** These minutes are in outline form only. They provide a list of participants and a record of official action taken by the committee. The link to the audio recording of the meeting is available on the Legislative Branch website.

**Committee Business Summary:**

Hearing & Date Posted:

HJ 27 05/01/2023

HJ 41 05/01/2023

Executive Action:

HJ 41 BE CONCURRED IN

HJ 27 BE CONCURRED IN

**HEARING ON HJ 41 - Interim study of fentanyl abuse and marijuana use**

**Opening Statement:**

08:00:42 Rep. Tanner Smith (R), HD 11, opened the hearing on HJ 41, Interim study of fentanyl abuse and marijuana use.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:02:51 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:04:48 Rep. Tanner Smith

08:05:10 Sen. Walt Sales

08:07:17 Rep. Tanner Smith

08:07:37 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:08:41 Rep. Tanner Smith

08:10:03 Sen. Christopher Pope

08:10:21 Rep. Tanner Smith

**Closing Statement:**

08:11:12 Rep. Tanner Smith (R), HD 11, closed the hearing on HJ 41.

**HEARING ON HJ 27 - Request an interim study of ag data collection**

**Opening Statement:**

08:11:47 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, opened the hearing on HJ 27, Request an interim study of ag data collection.

**Proponent Testimony:**

08:14:08 Rachel Prevost, Montana Farmers Union (MFU)

[EXHIBIT\(230502BUSa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230502BUSa2\)](#)

08:16:58 John Semple, Montana Grain Growers Association

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

08:18:10 Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:18:59 Rachel Prevost, MFU

08:19:42 Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:20:41 Rachel Prevost, MFU

08:21:06 Sen. Walt Sales

08:23:41 Rep. Katie Sullivan

**Closing Statement:**

08:24:35 Rep. Katie Sullivan (D), HD 89, closed the hearing on HJ 27.

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 41 - Interim study of fentanyl abuse and marijuana use**

08:25:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HJ 41 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

08:25:50 Chair Jason Small

08:26:14 Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:28:12 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Mark Noland

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HJ 27 - Request an interim study of ag data collection**

08:28:47        **Motion:** Vice Chair Mark Noland moved that **HJ 27 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

08:29:14        Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:29:42        Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:30:31        Sen. Walt Sales

08:31:13        Sen. Bruce Gillespie

08:32:17        Vice Chair Willis Curdy

08:32:53        Chair Jason Small

08:33:11        Vice Chair Mark Noland

08:34:44        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

**Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Bruce Gillespie

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 08:36:38

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Lynnette Sena, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230502BUSaad\)](#)