

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA SENATE**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (S) LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

**Call to Order:** Chair Chris Friedel-R, on April 05, 2023 at 3:19 PM, in 405

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Sen. Chris Friedel, Chair (R)  
Sen. Kenneth Bogner, Vice Chair (R)  
Sen. Mary Ann Dunwell, Vice Chair (D)  
Sen. Ellie Boldman (D)  
Sen. Forrest Mandeville (R)  
Sen. Christopher Pope (D)  
Sen. Jeremy Trebas (R)  
Sen. Terry Vermeire (R)

**Members Excused:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov (R)

**Staff Present:** Toni Henneman, Research Analyst  
Lorna Mason, Secretary

**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:

HB 55 03/24/2023  
HB 364 03/21/2023  
HB 435 04/02/2023  
HB 455 03/23/2023  
HB 469 03/24/2023  
HB 534 03/31/2023  
HB 592 03/23/2023  
HB 653 03/31/2023  
HB 748 03/31/2023

Executive Action:

HB 32  
HB 366  
HB 488  
HB 465  
HB 374  
HB 283

HB 282  
HB 244

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 32 - Allow additional local government entity board training by petition**

15:21:25 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 32 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:21:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:21:25 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Terry Vermeire

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 366 - Increase penalties for passing school buses**

15:22:45 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 366 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:23:32 **Motion:** Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell moved that **HB 366 BE AMENDED.**

**Discussion:**

15:25:04 Toni Henneman

15:25:13 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

15:25:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:25:47 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 366 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**

15:25:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 8 - 1 by voice vote with Sen. Trebas, voting no.

15:25:47 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Barry Usher

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 488 - Revise security deposit law**

15:29:27 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 488 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:29:54 Sen. Christopher Pope

15:30:35 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

15:30:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.

15:29:27 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Chris Friedel

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 465 - Revise local government acceptable uses of building permit fees**

15:32:47 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 465 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:33:26 Sen. Christopher Pope  
15:32:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:32:47 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Christopher Pope

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 374 - Create offense for failure to yield to an emergency vehicle**

15:34:29 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 374 BE CONCURRED IN.**

**Discussion:**

15:34:47 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
15:34:56 Toni Henneman  
15:34:56 **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.  
15:34:29 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Becky Beard

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 283 - Generally revise rental laws**

15:37:14 **Motion:** Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner moved that **HB 283 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:37:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
15:37:14 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Jeremy Trebas

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 282 - Generally revise rental laws**

15:42:21 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 282 BE CONCURRED IN.**  
15:42:28 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 282 BE AMENDED.**  
15:42:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
15:43:08 **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 282 BE CONCURRED IN AS AMENDED.**  
15:43:56 **Vote:** Motion carried 6 - 3 by roll call vote with Sen. Boldman, Sen. Dunwell, Sen. Pope, voting no.  
15:43:08 **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Daniel Zolnikov

**EXECUTIVE ACTION ON HB 244 - Revise laws governing the housing Montana fund**

15:55:36        **Motion:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville moved that **HB 244 BE CONCURRED IN.**

15:55:56        **Vote:** Motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

15:55:36        **Carrier Assigned:** Sen. Forrest Mandeville

**HEARING ON HB 748 - Allow zoning for separation of incompatible uses of property**

**Opening Statement:**

15:56:20        Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, opened the hearing on HB 748, Allow zoning for separation of incompatible uses of property.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

15:58:44        Rep. Katie Zolnikov (R), HD 45, closed the hearing on HB 748.

**HEARING ON HB 55 - An act establishing a tax on electric vehicle charging stations**

**Opening Statement:**

15:59:23        Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, opened the hearing on HB 55, An act establishing a tax on electric vehicle charging stations.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:03:34        Representative John Fitzpatrick, HD 77

16:10:24        Al Ekblad, Operators 400

16:11:30        Brad Longcake, Energy Marketers of America (EMA)

16:12:11        Chris Puyear, Northwestern Energy

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:13:28 Charles Denowh, Tesla

16:17:35 Ian Lund, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

16:18:37 Mark Lambrecht, Montana Electrical Cooperatives' Association (MECA)

16:19:39 Makenna Sellers, Montana Renewable Energy Association (MREA)

16:20:55 Jesse Therien, self

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

16:24:42 Larry Flynn, Montana Department of Transportation (MDOT)

16:25:04 Dan Lloyd, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

16:25:25 Ashley Keltner, Flathead Electric Cooperative

**Questions from Committee:**

16:26:10 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:26:25 Larry Flynn, MDOT

16:27:01 Sen. Terry Vermeire joined the meeting.

16:30:10 John Fitzpatrick, self

16:31:15 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

16:31:45 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:34:57 Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

16:35:14 Charles Denowh, Tesla

16:35:38 Sen. Ellie Boldman left the meeting.

16:38:29 Sen. Christopher Pope

16:38:54 Dan Lloyd, DEQ

16:41:46 Rep. Denley Loge-R

16:45:34 Chris Puyear, Northwestern Energy

16:47:35 Mark Lambrecht, MECA

16:48:10 Sen. Ellie Boldman joined the meeting.

16:49:07 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

16:49:19 John Fitzpatrick, self

**Closing Statement:**

16:51:48 Rep. Denley Loge (R), HD 14, closed the hearing on HB 55.

**HEARING ON HB 469 - Revise taxation of horizontally recompleted wells**

**Opening Statement:**

16:55:32 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, opened the hearing on HB 469, Revise taxation of horizontally recompleted wells.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:57:01 Adam Visosky, White Rock Oil and Gas Company

17:00:44 Allen Olson, Montana Petroleum Association (MPA)

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa1\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa2\)](#)

17:03:45 Aimee Grmoljez, Conoco Phillips

**Opponent Testimony:**

17:05:28 Shelby Demars, Montana Association of Oil, Gas and Coal Counties

17:08:07 Gordon Oelkers, Roosevelt County

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:10:00 Jared Isom, Department of Revenue (DOR)

17:10:14 Tyler Flaig, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:11:12 Sen. Christopher Pope

17:11:21 Adam Visosky, White Rock Oil and Gas Company

17:12:48 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:13:16 Rep. Larry Brewster-R

17:15:40 Adam Viskosky, White Rock Oil and Gas Company

**Closing Statement:**

17:18:53 Rep. Larry Brewster (R), HD 44, closed the hearing on HB 469.

**HEARING ON HB 592 - Direct DEQ to allow the installation of certain new septic systems**

**Opening Statement:**

17:20:43 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, opened the hearing on HB 592, Direct DEQ to allow the installation of certain new septic systems.

**Discussion:**

17:20:54 Sen. Terry Vermeire joined the meeting.

17:22:51 Sen. Ellie Boldman left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:23:34 Ken Miller, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:26:28 Rachel Clark, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:27:45 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

17:27:50 Rachel Clark, DEQ

17:29:03 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle-R

**Closing Statement:**

17:29:18 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R), HD 67, closed the hearing on HB 592.

**HEARING ON HB 455 - Revise alcohol laws relating to certain products**

**Opening Statement:**



17:30:27 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, opened the hearing on HB 455, Revise alcohol laws relating to certain products.

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:31:42 Joe Block, Shottys

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

17:34:27 Steve Swanson, Department of Revenue (DOR)

**Questions from Committee:**

17:35:38 Sen. Jeremy Trebas

17:35:43 Steve Swanson, DOR

17:36:33 Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner

17:36:46 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

17:37:10 Chair Chris Friedel

17:37:19 Rep. Braxton Mitchell-R

**Closing Statement:**

17:37:28 Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R), HD 3, closed the hearing on HB 455.

**HEARING ON HB 364 - Allow for independent subdivision reviews for past due applications**

**Opening Statement:**

17:39:30 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, opened the hearing on HB 364, Allow for independent subdivision reviews for past due applications.

**Proponent Testimony:**

17:40:06 Sam Still, Montana Association of Realtors (MAR)

17:41:51 Sen. Daniel Zolnikov joined the meeting.

17:41:58 Scott Aspenlieder, self

**Opponent Testimony:**

17:48:13 Chris Dorrington, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa3\)](#)

17:51:35 Shannon Therriault, Montana Health Association (MHA)

17:54:06 Brittany Krahn, Gallatin County

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa4\)](#)

17:56:04 Barbara Kingery, Fergus County

17:57:45 Eric Bryson, Montana Association of Counties (MACo)

17:58:51 Tim Rude, self

17:59:22 Derf Johnson, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

17:59:53 Pamela Vosen, Fergus County

18:00:13 Erica Grinde, Missoula County

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

18:01:31 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

18:01:35 Rep. Casey Knudsen-R

**Closing Statement:**

18:02:02 Rep. Casey Knudsen (R), HD 33, closed the hearing on HB 364.

**HEARING ON HB 435 - Revise water right laws related to exempt wells**

**Opening Statement:**

18:03:17 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, opened the hearing on HB 435, Revise water right laws related to exempt wells.

**Proponent Testimony:**

18:06:39 Clayton Elliott, Montana Trout Unlimited

18:08:17 Krista Lee Evans, Senior Rights Water Coalition

18:08:44 Mike Murphey, Montana Water Resources Association (MWRA)  
18:10:11 Ann Schwend, Montana Environmental Information Center (MEIC)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

18:12:31 Nate Ward, Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC)

**Questions from Committee:**

18:13:51 Sen. Jeremy Trebas  
18:14:08 Rhonda Wiggers, Montana Water Well Drillers Association (MWWDA)

**Closing Statement:**

18:14:30 Rep. John Fitzpatrick (R), HD 77, closed the hearing on HB 435.

**HEARING ON HB 534 - Revise collections limit for actions brought before city court**

**Opening Statement:**

18:15:28 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, opened the hearing on HB 534,  
Revise collections limit for actions brought before city court.

**Discussion:**

18:15:49 Sen. Terry Vermeire left the meeting.  
18:16:50 Vice Chair Kenneth Bogner left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

18:19:31 Thomas Jodoin, Montana League of Cities and Towns (MTLCT)  
18:22:11 Steve Turkiewicz, City of Billings

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa5\)](#)

[EXHIBIT\(230405LOSa6\)](#)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

18:25:25 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:26:30 Thomas Jodoin, MTLCT

**Closing Statement:**

18:26:54 Rep. Michael Yakawich (R), HD 51, closed the hearing on HB 534.

**HEARING ON HB 653 - Allowing reimbursement to county officers and employees for out of state travel**

**Opening Statement:**

18:28:53 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 653, Allowing reimbursement to county officers and employees for out of state travel.

**Proponent Testimony:**

18:29:33 Brian Thompson, Montana Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (MSPOA)

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Informational Witness Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

18:31:12 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:33:42 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

18:33:57 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:34:00 Rep. Steve Gist-R

18:34:23 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

18:35:43 Chair Chris Friedel

18:35:47 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

18:36:03 Vice Chair Mary Ann Dunwell

18:36:14 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

18:36:57 Sen. Forrest Mandeville

18:37:04 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

18:37:24 Chair Chris Friedel

18:37:35 Brian Thompson, MSPOA

**Closing Statement:**

18:37:53 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HB 653.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 18:45:18

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Lorna Mason, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230405LOSaad\)](#)