

**MINUTES**  
**MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
**68th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION**  
**COMMITTEE ON (H) JUDICIARY**

**Call to Order:** Chair Brandon Ler-R, on February 23, 2023 at 3:17 PM, in 455

**ROLL CALL**

**Members Present:** Rep. Amy Regier, Chair (R)  
Rep. Laurie Bishop, Vice Chair (D)  
Rep. Lee Deming (R)  
Rep. Jodee Etchart (R)  
Rep. Donavon Hawk (D)  
Rep. Jedediah Hinkle (R)  
Rep. SJ Howell (D)  
Rep. Greg Kmetz (R)  
Rep. Casey Knudsen (R)  
Rep. Braxton Mitchell (R)  
Rep. Wayne Rusk (R)  
Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway (R)

**Members Excused:** Rep. Kim Abbott (D)  
Rep. Jennifer Carlson (R)  
Rep. Neil Duram (R)  
Rep. Tom France (D)  
Rep. Caleb Hinkle (R)  
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)  
Rep. Laura Smith (D)  
Rep. Zooey Zephyr (D)

**Staff Present:** Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary  
Rachel Weiss, Research Analyst

**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 563 02/20/2023  
HB 564 02/20/2023  
HB 584 02/20/2023  
HB 644 02/20/2023

HB 659 02/20/2023  
HB 713 02/22/2023  
HB 727 02/22/2023  
HB 731 02/22/2023  
HB 732 02/22/2023

Executive Action:

**HEARING ON HB 727 - Prohibit emotional support animal misrepresentation in housing law**

**Opening Statement:**

15:19:35 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 727, Prohibit emotional support animal misrepresentation in housing law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:21:26 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association

15:22:50 Ross Butcher, Montana Landlord Association

15:23:39 Lisa Bennett, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:24:59 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of the University of Montana

15:27:21 Maggie Bornstein, American Civil Liberties Union of Montana

15:28:09 Hannah Pate, Montana Women Vote

**Questions from Committee:**

15:28:50 Rep. Greg Kmetz

15:29:12 Ross Butcher

15:30:08 Rep. Casey Knudsen

15:30:11 Vice Chair Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

15:30:14 Rep. Caleb Hinkle joined the meeting.

15:30:41 John Sinrud MLA

15:32:20 Rep. Caleb Hinkle

15:32:59 John Sinrud MLA

**Closing Statement:**

15:34:22 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 727.

**HEARING ON HB 731 - Generally revise landlord tenant law**

**Opening Statement:**

15:35:34 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 731,  
Generally revise landlord tenant law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:37:28 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association

15:39:21 Ross Butcher, Montana Landlords Association

15:39:40 Adrienna Hines, Loan Mountain Land Company

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:40:20 Ethan Hanley, Associated Students of the University of Montana

15:41:25 Sam Forstag, Cities of Missoula and Bozeman

**Questions from Committee:**

15:43:44 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

15:47:37 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

15:47:46 John Sinrud MLA

15:49:43 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

**Closing Statement:**

15:49:50 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 731.

**HEARING ON HB 732 - Generally revise landlord tenant law**

**Opening Statement:**

15:50:23 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, opened the hearing on HB 732,  
Generally revise landlord tenant law.

**Proponent Testimony:**

15:52:08 John Sinrud, Montana Landlords Association

15:54:08 Ross Butcher, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

15:54:52 Sam Forstag, Cities of Missoula and Bozeman

**Questions from Committee:**

15:56:55 Vice Chair Laurie Bishop

15:57:27 Rep. Steven Galloway-R

15:57:53 John Sinrud MLA

15:58:40 Rep. Casey Knudsen

16:01:12 John Sinrud MLA

16:01:50 Chair Amy Regier left the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

16:02:26 Rep. Steven Galloway (R), HD 24, closed the hearing on HB 732.

**Discussion:**

16:03:27 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway left the meeting.

16:03:33 Rep. SJ Howell left the meeting.

16:03:38 Rep. Kim Abbott left the meeting.

16:03:44 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle left the meeting.

**HEARING ON HB 659 - Provide for grace period for lapsed renewals of concealed carry permits**

**Opening Statement:**

16:05:14 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, opened the hearing on HB 659, Provide for grace period for lapsed renewals of concealed carry permits.

**Discussion:**

16:07:12 Vice Chair Brandon Ler joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

None

**Closing Statement:**

16:06:59 Rep. Steve Gist (R), HD 25, closed the hearing on HB 659.

16:07:36 **Recessed**

16:12:52 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 584 - Revise government lawsuit laws relating to firearms and ammunition**

**Opening Statement:**

16:13:01 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, opened the hearing on HB 584, Revise government lawsuit laws relating to firearms and ammunition.

**Discussion:**

16:13:24 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.

16:13:25 Rep. Lola Sheldon-Galloway left the meeting.

16:13:29 Rep. Donavon Hawk left the meeting.

16:13:35 Rep. Greg Kmetz left the meeting.

16:13:58 Chair Amy Regier left the meeting.

16:14:10 Rep. Jedediah Hinkle left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:14:42 Lisa Bennett, Self

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:15:40 Rep. Casey Knudsen  
16:15:43 Rep. Braxton Mitchell joined the meeting.  
16:15:57 Rep. George Nikolakakos-R

**Closing Statement:**

16:17:00 Rep. George Nikolakakos (R), HD 26, closed the hearing on HB 584.

**HEARING ON HB 644 - Provide for dismissal of certain criminal charges against health care provider**

**Opening Statement:**

16:18:00 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 644, Provide for dismissal of certain criminal charges against health care provider.

**Discussion:**

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16:18:33 Rep. Greg Kmetz joined the meeting.  
16:20:51 Rep. Lee Deming joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:22:07 Lisa Bennett, Self  
16:22:51 Jean Branscum, Montana Medical Association  
16:24:12 Eric Anderson, Montana Nurses Association  
16:25:22 Lauren Wilson, Montana Chapter of the American Academy Pediatrics  
16:27:15 Kristin Anderson, Montana Medical Association  
16:28:16 Chair Amy Regier joined the meeting.

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:29:50 Rep. Casey Knudsen  
16:30:44 Rep. Ed Stafman-D  
16:31:10 Rep. Jodee Etchart  
16:32:56 Jean Branscum  
16:33:18 Rep. Greg Kmetz  
16:33:32 Jean Branscum  
16:33:58 Rep. Greg Kmetz  
16:34:15 Rep. Donavon Hawk joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

16:34:22 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 644.

**HEARING ON HB 563 - Prohibit unauthorized exercise of law enforcement authority**

**Opening Statement:**

16:37:07 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 563, Prohibit unauthorized exercise of law enforcement authority.

**Discussion:**

16:07:18 Committee Discussion  
16:37:22 Rep. SJ Howell left the meeting.  
16:37:47 Rep. Caleb Hinkle joined the meeting.  
16:37:58 Rep. Caleb Hinkle left the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:42:00 Mary McCord, Institute of something  
16:44:50 Travis McAdam, Montana Human Rights Network

**Opponent Testimony:**

16:47:36 Lisa Bennett, Self  
16:47:55 Rep. Caleb Hinkle joined the meeting.

**Questions from Committee:**

16:49:45 Rep. Donavon Hawk  
16:50:01 Lisa Bennett  
16:50:13 Vice Chair Brandon Ler  
16:50:19 Lisa Bennett

**Closing Statement:**

16:50:57 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 563.

**HEARING ON HB 564 - Create offense of interference with government functions**

**Opening Statement:**

16:51:58 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, opened the hearing on HB 564, Create offense of interference with government functions.

**Proponent Testimony:**

16:55:07 Mary McCord, Institute of Constitutional Advocacy and Protection  
16:57:57 Travis McAdam, Montana Human Rights Network

**Opponent Testimony:**

None

**Questions from Committee:**

16:59:07 Rep. Lee Deming  
17:01:55 Rep. Ed Stafman-D  
17:02:26 Mary McCord  
17:03:47 Rep. Lee Deming  
17:04:08 Mary McCord

**Closing Statement:**

17:04:48 Rep. Ed Stafman (D), HD 62, closed the hearing on HB 564.

17:07:24 **Recessed**

17:14:44 **Reconvened**

**HEARING ON HB 713 - Revise laws related to prosecution of death penalty cases**

**Opening Statement:**

17:14:55 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, opened the hearing on HB 713, Revise laws related to prosecution of death penalty cases.

**Discussion:**

17:21:26 Rep. Jodee Etchart left the meeting.

17:21:29 Rep. Wayne Rusk left the meeting.

17:21:33 Rep. Braxton Mitchell left the meeting.

17:21:37 Rep. Donavon Hawk left the meeting.

17:21:44 Rep. Caleb Hinkle left the meeting.

17:23:33 Rep. SJ Howell joined the meeting.

**Proponent Testimony:**

None

**Opponent Testimony:**

17:24:57 Brent Mead, Department of Justice

17:28:47 Rep. Casey Knudsen left the meeting.

17:29:20 Rep. SJ Howell left the meeting.

**Questions from Committee:**

17:32:49 Rep. Greg Kmetz

17:33:01 Brent Mead

17:33:12 Rep. Casey Knudsen joined the meeting.

**Closing Statement:**

17:33:36 Rep. Bill Mercer (R), HD 46, closed the hearing on HB 713.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Adjournment: 17:39:43

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Jamie Van Valkenburg, Secretary

Additional Documents: [EXHIBIT\(230223JUHbad\)](#)