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ECONOMIC AFFAIRS INTERIM COMMITTEE

68th Montana Legislature

SENATE MEMBERS

Kenneth Bogner
Steve Fitzpatrick
Shane Morigeau
Mark Noland

HOUSE MEMBERS

Jonathan Karlen
Joshua Kassmier
Brandon Ler
Jennifer Lynch
Ron Marshall
Nelly Nicol

COMMITTEE STAFF

Erin Sullivan - Research Analyst
Jameson Walker - Attorney
LJ Jennings - Secretary

MINUTES LOG

March 04, 2024
Capitol Room 137 & Zoom
Helena, Montana

Please note: This document is a Minutes Log and provides annotation of the time elapsed between the beginning of the meeting and the time at which the item was presented or discussed, a motion was made, or a vote was taken. The narrative presented here is provided only as a guide to the audio or video recording of the meeting. The official discussion, motion, or vote is available on the audio or video archive of this meeting. The Legislature does not prepare a transcript of the meeting activities. The time designation may be used to locate the referenced discussion on the audio or video recording of this meeting.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rep. Joshua Kassmier, Presiding Officer (R)
Sen. Shane Morigeau, Vice Presiding Officer (D)
Sen. Kenneth Bogner (R)
Sen. Steve Fitzpatrick (R)
Rep. Jonathan Karlen (D)
Rep. Brandon Ler (R)
Rep. Jennifer Lynch (D)
Rep. Nelly Nicol (R)

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Rep. Ron Marshall (R)
Sen. Mark Noland (R)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

LJ Jennings, Secretary
Erin Sullivan, Research Analyst
Jameson Walker, Attorney

MONTANA LEGISLATIVE SERVICES DIVISION STAFF: JERRY HOWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR • ANGUS MACIVER, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF RESEARCH AND POLICY ANALYSIS • TODD EVERTS, DIRECTOR, LEGAL SERVICES OFFICE • DALE GOW, CIO, OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION SERVICES • JOE KOLMAN, DIRECTOR, LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY OFFICE • ANGIE CARTER, FINANCIAL SERVICES MANAGER

AGENDA (Attachment 1)

VISITORS' LIST (Attachment 2)

CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

13:02:30 Presiding Officer Kassmier called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM. The committee secretary took roll.

INTRODUCTIONS

13:03:25 Griffin Burns, Research Analyst, Legislative Services Division (LSD)

OPENING REMARKS

13:04:23 Erin Sullivan, Research Analyst, LSD
[EXHIBIT1](#)

AGRICULTURE TOPIC: AGRICULTURE DATA PRIVACY

13:06:54 Erin Sullivan
[EXHIBIT2](#)
[EXHIBIT3](#)
[EXHIBIT4](#)

13:09:02 Walter Schweitzer, President, Montana Farmers Union
[EXHIBIT5](#)
[EXHIBIT6](#)

13:18:20 Ken Wheeler, CEO, Frontline Agriculture Solutions
[EXHIBIT7](#)

13:26:35 Wayne Fisher, Torgerson's

13:28:27 Nicole Rolf, Senior Director of Government Affairs, Montana Farm Bureau

Public Comment on Agriculture Topic: Agriculture Data Privacy

13:33:50 Ken Wheeler

Committee Discussion/Questions

13:34:42 Rep. Karlen to Walter Schweitzer

13:39:30 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau

13:43:34 Presiding Officer Kassmier to Ken Wheeler

13:47:24 Rep. Karlen

13:50:02 Presiding Officer Kassmier

13:50:22 Rep. Ler

13:52:04 Rep. Karlen

13:52:36 Presiding Officer Kassmier

13:53:00 Redirected to Ken Wheeler

13:54:49 Rep. Karlen

13:56:46 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau to Walter Schweitzer

14:00:24 Presiding Officer Kassmier to Nicole Rolf

AGENCY OVERSIGHT: DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DOC)

14:03:19 Erin Sullivan
14:03:55 Paul Green, Director, DOC
14:04:22 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
14:05:10 Rep. Marshall joined the meeting.

RECESS

14:08:50 Reconvened at 14:36:46

SJ30 STUDY ON VITICULTURE- VALUE-ADDED AGRICULTURE OPPORTUNITIES

14:37:00 Erin Sullivan
[EXHIBIT8](#)
[EXHIBIT9](#)
[EXHIBIT10](#)
[EXHIBIT11](#)
[EXHIBIT12](#)
[EXHIBIT13](#)
[EXHIBIT14](#)

Topic 1: Department of Commerce Programs

14:41:01 Jenny Pelej, Destination MT Division Administrator, DOC
[EXHIBIT15](#)
14:46:24 Sen. Bogner joined the meeting.

Topic 2: Workers Compensation Classification

14:49:25 Nick Mazanec, VP Legal Services, Montana State Fund
[EXHIBIT16](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:02:49 Rep. Ler
15:05:27 Sen. Bogner to Jenny Pelej

Topic 3: Funding

15:08:43 Dan Villa, Executive Director, Board of Investments
[EXHIBIT17](#)
[EXHIBIT18](#)

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:15:25 Sen. Bogner
15:16:12 Zach Coccoli, Deputy Director, Department of Agriculture (AGR) continued the presentation.

Committee Discussion/Questions

15:19:20 Presiding Officer Kassmier

Topic 4: Crop Insurance

15:20:52 Marni Walter, Risk Management Specialist, USDA Risk Management Agency
[EXHIBIT19](#)

Public Comment on SJ30: Study on Viticulture

15:35:14 Larry Robertson, Flathead Lake Vineyard & Winery, Winery Association of Montana

Committee Work Session

15:40:55 Erin Sullivan (See Exhibit 14)
15:48:20 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:49:03 Rep. Ler
15:49:30 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:50:15 Larry Robertson
15:52:27 Sen. Bogner
15:53:20 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:53:33 Rep. Ler
15:53:40 Rep. Marshall
15:54:08 Rep. Ler
15:54:40 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
15:55:36 Sen. Bogner
15:57:38 Presiding Officer Kassmier
15:57:12 Rep. Ler
15:58:52 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
15:59:28 Presiding Officer Kassmier

MOTION

15:59:38 Rep. Ler moved to start working on a committee bill defining Montana grown wine with a 75 percent Montana grown grapes.

Discussion on the Motion

15:59:59 Erin Sullivan
16:00:09 Sen. Bogner

MOTION

16:00:23 Rep. Ler withdrew the motion.

MOTION

16:00:33 Sen. Bogner moved to have the committee approve the drafting of committee bill to define Montana grown wine as 75 percent grown grapes or other materials.

VOTE

16:00:58 Carried unanimously by voice vote.

Committee Discussion/Questions

16:01:44 Presiding Officer Kassmier

AGRICULTURE STUDY

Committee Discussion/Questions

16:02:15 Rep. Ler
16:03:27 Presiding Officer Kassmier
16:03:49 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
16:05:20 Presiding Officer Kassmier
16:06:05 Sen. Bogner
16:06:55 Erin Sullivan
16:07:06 Presiding Officer Kassmier
16:07:20 Vice Presiding Officer Morigeau
16:07:30 Presiding Officer Kassmier
16:07:49 Sen. Bogner
16:08:12 Jameson Walker
16:08:31 Rep. Karlen
16:08:53 Presiding Officer Kassmier
16:09:18 Erin Sullivan

RECESSED

16:10:38 Presiding Officer Kassmier recessed the meeting until 8 am.