



2023 Montana Legislative Update – Week 8



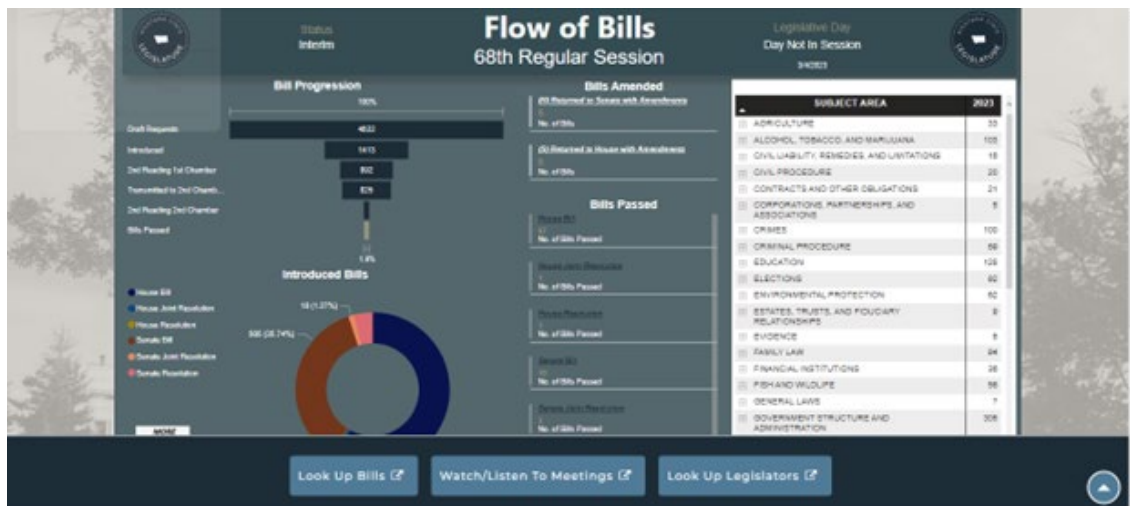
March 4, 2023

MGGA wrapped up the month of February by testifying on [HB 738- Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program](#) sponsored by Representative Ross Fitzgerald who also served as President of MGGA in 1986. After much research and working with bill drafters and MGGA Lobbyist John Semple, the bill addresses the procurement procedures for MWBC staff. The bill passed unanimously out of committee then passed 2nd and 3rd reading of the House

and now heads to the Senate. Thank you, Representative Fitzgerald for your work on this bill!

Transmittal break has officially begun. The Senate will reconvene Thursday, March 9th and the House of Representatives will reconvene Friday, March 10th. The legislators will return home for the week. Transmittal marks the deadline for moving all general bills from the originating house to the other body or they die in process. Revenue bills have a later introduction and transmittal date.

[1413 bills](#) have been introduced and there will be more bills that are classified as revenue bills or appropriations bills when the Legislature returns.



[Legislative Website](#)

President Keane testifying in support of HB 738



HB 738 on the House Floor



Primary Bill Preference List

This Past Week:

[HB 93 - Eliminate noxious weed seed free forage advisory council](#)

Revises laws related to noxious weed management; eliminates the noxious weed advisory council and transfers duties to the noxious weed management advisory council

Sponsored by: Paul Green

Returned from enrolling on Monday, February 27

[HB 94 - Repeal Montana huckleberry products law](#)

Repeals the Montana huckleberry filing laws

Sponsored by: Paul Green

Returned from enrolling on Monday, February 27

[HB 113 - Repeal licensing of hucksters](#)

Sponsored by: Greg Kmetz

Signed by Governor Thursday, March 2

[HB 388 - Increase penalty for uninspected livestock](#)

Sponsored by: Joshua Kassmier

Transmitted to Senate on Monday, February 27

[HB 418 - Revise limitations on irrigable acreage](#)

Revises limitations on irrigable acreage within an irrigation district

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

Transmitted to Senate on Monday, February 27

[HB 435 - Revise water right laws related to exempt wells](#)

Provides that the construction of a water supply system using an exempt water right is proof of beneficial use for issuance of a certificate of water right

Sponsored by: John Fitzpatrick

Transmitted to Senate on Monday, February 27

[HB 463 - Establish reporting requirement for food procurement](#)

Establishes reporting for food procured by governmental bodies

Sponsored by: Katie Sullivan

Tuesday, February 28

House Appropriations

[HB 475 - Generally revise laws related to agricultural equipment repair](#)

Revises laws related to the right to repair; requires manufacturers of agricultural equipment to make available to owners and independent repair providers, on fair and reasonable terms, the documentation, parts and tools used to diagnose, maintain and repair the equipment

Sponsored by: Tom France

Tabled in Committee: House Agriculture on Tuesday, February 28

[HB 622 - Provide for non-resident titling](#)

Provides for non-resident titling of vehicles; provides the Motor Vehicle Divisions of the Department of Justice Authority and Legislative Direction to implement non-resident titling

Sponsored by: Denley Loge

Scheduled for 3rd Reading on Thursday, March 2

[HB 636 - Revise workers' compensation laws relating to exemptions from the act](#)

Revises workers' compensation laws related to exemptions from the Workers' Compensation Act; revises ownership interest requirements relating to a corporation or a limited liability company

Sponsored by: Joshua Kassmier

Scheduled for 3rd Reading on Thursday, March 2

[HB 679 - Require certain vehicles to carry traction control devices](#)

Requires certain vehicles to carry traction control devices during winter months

Sponsored by: Denley Loge

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

[HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program](#)

Revises the Montana Wheat and Barley checkoff program; exempts the Wheat and Barley Committee from state procurement requirements

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

2nd Reading passed Thursday, March 2

[HB 775 - Revise certain RRGL loan process](#)

Revises the department loan process within the Renewable Resource Grant and Loan Program

Sponsored by: Mike Hopkins

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

[HB 805 - Revise laws related to cooperatives](#)

Revises laws related to cooperative associations and cooperative agricultural marketing; prohibits use of the term "cooperative" with exceptions

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

Scheduled for 2nd Reading on Thursday, March 2

[SB 72 - Revise judicial administration of water rights](#)

Revises the powers, duties, terms, designations, appointments, operations and jurisdiction of the Water Court

Sponsored by: Steve Fitzpatrick

Transmitted to House on Monday, February 27

[SB 121 - Reduce top marginal income tax rate and increase EITC](#)

Revises individual income tax laws; reduces the top marginal individual income tax rate; increases the earned income tax credit

Sponsored by: Becky Beard

Returned to Senate on Thursday, March 2

[SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large](#)

Removes notice requirements before allowing an animal running at large to be killed

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

[SB 461 - Revise irrigation district tax collections](#)

Revises the collection of irrigation district levies and taxes; provides that a county treasury shall pay for uncollected and unreceived irrigation district levies and taxes; revises the levy of taxes and assessments by county commissioners

Sponsored by: Daniel Salomon

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

[SJ 13 - Resolution for rangeland appreciation month](#)

Joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana establishing June as Rangeland Appreciation Month

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

[SJ 14 - Resolution opposing bison introduction at Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge](#)

Joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana opposing bison introduction at the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

2nd Reading passed on Thursday, March 2

Referred to Committee:

[HB 129 - Revise fees for special mobile equipment](#)

Revises laws related to special mobile equipment exemptions and identification decals

Sponsored by: Tom Welch

Bill Drafts of Great Interest:

[LC2048 - Constitutional amendment to enshrine right to farm and ranch](#)

Sponsored by: Caleb Hinkle

[LC3057 - Increase funding for Montana agricultural experiment stations](#)

Sponsored by: Russel Miner

[LC4060 - Generally revise MAES & MSU budgets](#)

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

For more information:

- [Primary Preference List](#)
 - [MGGA State Legislature Home Page](#)
 - [House Ag Committee Hearing](#)
 - [Senate Ag Committee Hearing](#)
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How To Have Your Say Virtually! There are new ways to participate with new remote capabilities!

[Request To Testify Remotely/Upload Your Testimony](#)

- You will be able to select from the bills that are currently scheduled for hearing for the next 3 days.
- By 5PM the day before the hearing, you will be able to submit your written testimony, write a brief message, or request a Zoom link to testify in the bill hearing.
- Fill out the form with the pertinent details and submit. You will receive an email confirmation.
- You do not have to testify in order to submit written comments. Written comments received by the deadline will be distributed to all committee members. However, if you request a Zoom link, we request that you write a brief message in the event of technical difficulties so that your name will be entered into the record.
- If you wish to submit written testimony after the 5PM deadline please call the Information Desk at (406) 444-4800 for assistance
- Rules of decorum must be followed, and the Presiding Officer will call on you when it is your turn to speak. Follow the Zoom directions and raise your hand to let the Remote Committee Coordinator know when you want to speak. We will not assume that because you requested the Zoom link that you automatically want to testify. There may be limits placed on how many people are allowed to testify remotely on each bill.

Traditional ways of accessing the Legislature are still available

Website Messages

- [Send messages through the website](#): you can send a web message to a single legislator or to a committee at anytime using a web form.

Phone Messages

- Call (406) 444-4800 and your message will be delivered to a legislator.

Attend committee hearings

- The public will be allowed to attend hearings at the capitol, but because of social distancing, you may only be allowed in the room when it is your time to testify and may not be able to stay in the room. We ask that you wear a mask or face covering in the Capitol Building and in hearing rooms.

Watch/Listen

- [Watch or listen to committee hearings](#): All committee meetings will have a video-stream link and an audio-stream link so you can observe a committee meeting live or watch the archive of the hearing.

Contact us:

- [Your district director](#)
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