







BIG SKY NEWS FLASH
March 26, 2023

Legislative Hearings Schedule

After a flurry of hearings last week, there are only 2 bills scheduled for hearing between 3/27/23 and 4/01/23 on bills which may be of interest to HR practioners in Montana. Both bills will be heard before the House Business and Labor Committee. (If the links to the bills don't work, [click here](#) and enter the bill #.)

Date	Time	Room #	Bill #	Short Title	Primary Sponsor
28-MAR-23	08:00 AM	172	SB 300  	Revise speech pathologist and audiologist licensing laws	Edith (Edie) McClafferty (D) SD 38
30-MAR-23	08:00 AM	172	SB 436  	Revise labor law adding certain elected officials in collective bargaining	Steve Hinebauch (R) SD 18







How to Participate in the Legislative Process

- **To identify upcoming Hearings:** Go to the [Laws Committees and Hearings Page](#).
- **To Watch Hearings.** [This link](#) will take you to a webpage which allows you to watch/listen/zoom in to hearings.
- **To Provide Public Comment:** Go to [this link](#) and follow the instructions.

Providing Effective Public Comment

1. **Introduce yourself** – A quick sentence describing yourself and your interest in the bill.
2. **Share your Technical Expertise** – These are citizen lawmakers, and you have expertise most of them don't! For example, sometimes proposed bills will conflict with laws that are already on the books. And, many lawmakers are unfamiliar with HR's best practices. Don't be afraid to (tactfully) tell lawmakers what they don't know!
3. **Point Out Unintended Consequences** - Unintended consequences result in unintended errors. Frequently, unintended consequences will only come to light from public feedback.
4. **Make sure the comment is specific to the bill being heard.**
5. **If there is a problem, suggest a solution** – While it's important to explain why a bill doesn't work (or will work, but may cause a problem), it's also important to suggest alternatives and substitute language that will fix what the bill is going to break.
6. **Tell the legislator(s) how to vote.** Even though the online form will ask you whether you support or oppose the bill, don't forget to tell the lawmaker(s) the action you want them to take.
7. If room permits, **thank the legislator(s) for their service.**

Running tab of HR Related bills signed by the Governor/Became Law:

Bill #	Sponsor	Short Title
HB 41  	James Bergstrom	Revise laws to expand incumbent worker training eligibility and awards
HB 142  	Jennifer Lynch	Revise laws related to unemployment insurance theft and penalties
HB 178  	Kenneth Walsh	Revise workers' compensation laws relating to social or recreational activity

Other updates since last week: (An * indicates a bill which is probably dead)

Bill #	Status	Short Title	Sponsor
HB235  	Tabled in Committee *	Revise Social Security Taxation	Jonathan Karlen (D) HD 96
SB 262  	Amendments available	Generally revise licensing requirements	Daniel Zolnikov (R) SD 22
SB 373  	Committee concurred	Provide for alternative teacher credentialing	Daniel R Salomon (R) SD 47
HB 351  	Tabled in Committee*	Generally revise marijuana laws (affects licensing requirements including background checks and fingerprints.	Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R) HD 43
SB 270  	Committee concurred	Prohibit employee termination for legal social media posts	Keith Regier (R) SD 3
HB 474  	Hearing cancelled	Revise background checks for employees with federal tax information	Dave Fern (D) HD 5
HB 819  	Amendments available	Create Montana community reinvestment act to fund workforce housing	Paul Green (R) HD 41
HB 832  	Fiscal note printed	Provide tax credit for early childhood workforce	Melissa Romano (D) HD 81
HB 302  	Committee concurred as amended	Insurance coverage for 12-month supply of birth control	Alice Buckley (D) HD 63
HB 665  	Committee concurred	Revise laws related to insurance coverage of breast examinations	Jodee Etchart (R) HD 48
HB 710  	Committee concurred	Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization	Casey Knudsen (R) HD 33
HB 777  	Committee concurred	Adopt the interstate counseling compact	Edward Buttrey (R) HD 21
HB 601  	Hearing cancelled	Revise annual job growth incentive tax credit	Dave Fern (D) HD 5
SB 22  	Committee concurred	Generally revise independent contractor laws	Shane A Morigeau (D) SD 48
SB 177  	Committee concurred	Revising allowed local government employer benefits	Daniel Zolnikov (R) SD 22
SB 244  	Committee concurred	Revise laws related to internships in funeral homes	Mike Cuffe (R) SD 1
HB 636  	Hearing cancelled	Revise workers' compensation laws relating to exemptions from the act	Joshua Kassmier (R) HD 27