

















BIG SKY NEWS FLASH
April 2, 2023







Legislative Hearings Schedule

There's another flurry of hearings this week on bills which may be of interest to HR practitioners in Montana. These hearings are listed, by Committee, below.









Senate Business, Labor & Economic Affairs.

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor
5-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 137  	Generally revise laws related to the board of behavioral health	Greg Oblander (R) HD 40
05-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 152  	Revise laws related to professional and occupational licensure	Bill Mercer (R) HD 46
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 546  	Authorize additional funding for coal trust loan program for housing	Dave Fern (D) HD 5
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 590  	Revise labor laws relating to violence against healthcare workers	Edward Buttrey (R) HD 21
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 612  	Revise insurance requirements for diabetes self-management	Marta Bertoglio (R) HD 75
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 636  	Revise workers' compensation laws relating to exemptions from the act	Joshua Kassmier (R) HD 27
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	422	HB 652  	Revise unemployment insurance law relating to benefit duration	Steven Galloway (R) HD 24







House Business & Labor Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor
06-APR-23	08:00 AM	172	SB 454  	Generally revise laws pertaining to private security	Jason D Small (R) SD 21
05-APR-23	08:00 AM	172	SB 369  	Provide worker's comp coverage of injury caused by employer-mandated vaccine	Jeremy Trebas (R) SD 13
04-APR-23	08:00 AM	172	SB 340  	Revise laws related to insurance coverage of insulin	Jason D Small (R) SD 21

House Judiciary Committee

Date	Time	Room	Bill Type - Number	Short Title	Primary Sponsor
06-APR-23	07:00 AM	137	SB 450  	Personal Freedom /Right of Conscience Act related to immunizations and drugs	Daniel Emrich (R) SD 11
05-APR-23	07:00 AM	137	SB 397  	Generally revise laws related to privacy and facial recognition technology (affects governmental agencies.)	Kenneth Bogner (R) SD 19
04-APR-23	07:00 AM	137	SB 218  	Revise laws pertaining to settlements	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6
04-APR-23	07:00 AM	137	SB 488  	Abolish common law marriage (Impact on Domestic partnerships insurance coverage?)	Daniel Zolnikov (R) SD 22

Other Hearings

Committee	Date	Time	Room	Bill Type/#	Short Title	Sponsor
House Taxation	04-APR-23	09:00 AM	152	SB 303  	Revise withholding penalties for certain taxes	Greg Hertz (R) SD 6
Senate Judiciary	05-APR-23	08:00 AM	303	HB 474  	Revise background checks for employees with federal tax information	Dave Fern (D) HD 5
Senate Taxation	04-APR-23	08:30 AM	405	HB 601  	Revise annual job growth incentive tax credit	Dave Fern (D) HD 5







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's Flash:

- Passed by Legislature/in Enrolling:

HB 665  	Revise laws related to insurance coverage of breast examinations	Jodee Etchart (R) HD 48
HB 710  	Revise pharmacist laws relating to immunization	Casey Knudsen (R) HD 33

- Tabled in Committee: (Probably dead)

Bill #	Short Title	Sponsor
HB235  	Revise Social Security Taxation	Jonathan Karlen (D) HD 96
HB 351  	Generally revise marijuana laws.	Kerri Seekins-Crowe (R) HD 43
HB 832  	Provide tax credit for early childhood workforce	Melissa Romano (D) HD 81