

Council Legislative Committee

DATE: Wednesday, March 08, 2023

TIME: 4:00 PM

PLACE: City Hall Conference Room

210 N. 27th Street, Billings, MT

ATTENDANCE:

Mayor/Council: X Kendra Shaw – Ward 1; X Roy Neese – Ward 2; X Danny Choriki – Ward 3; X Pam Purinton – Ward 4; X Tom Rupsis – Ward 5

Staff: Chris Kukulski, Wyeth Friday

Guests: Mike Yakawich (HD51), Larry Brewster (HD44) Terri Todd, Steve Simonson, Daniel Zolnikov (State Senate)

Adjournment:

Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENT

00:14 (Public comment is limited to three minutes or as set by the presiding officer.
Please sign in on the roster provided Comments are to be directed to agenda items and
items within the scope of this committee)
Steve Simonson - HB 819

TOPIC # 1 –

6:00 bill tracking.

PRESENTER

Tom Rupsis

NOTES / OUTCOME:

TOPIC # 2 -

6:12 Legislative guests

PRESENTER

Pam Purinton

NOTES / OUTCOME:	<p>Brewster bills:</p> <p>HB 35 - county water board appointees</p> <p>HB 211 - revise subdivision laws</p> <p>HB 269 - local disaster resiliency fund</p> <p>HB 381 - methamphetamine bill</p> <p>HB 291 - revise local government investment laws</p> <p>HB 675 - consolidation of county and municipal water and/or sewer</p> <p>26:01 Mike Yakawich bills:</p> <p>HB 534 - adjusting cap in municipal court</p> <p>HB 523 - MERA Transparency</p> <p>HB 311 - voucher for substance abuse care</p> <p>HB 426 - DOC early pre-release</p> <p>38:01 Daniel Zolnikov</p> <p>SB 245 - revise municipal zoning to allow multi-family</p> <p>SB 262 - generally revise licensing requirements</p> <p>1:25:40 Terri Todd</p> <p>SB 94</p>
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TOPIC # 3	Review, SB HB 774 and SB 420, discuss and formulate options and report to council on current bills in the legislature and on Crowley Fleck report.
	<i>Tom, Chris Kukulski</i>
NOTES / OUTCOME:	

TOPIC # 4	Items to add to next or future meeting agenda
PRESENTER	Roy Neese
NOTES / OUTCOME:	

Public Comment	
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Adjourn by 5:00 PM	1:34:25
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Sign-In / Roll Call / Public Comment

Legislative Committee Meeting Date: _____

List of the Bills

Mike Yakawich

HB 58: DOR

SB6: NGRMI

HB311: Voucher

HB523: Transparency MERA

HB426: DOC early pre-release

HB681: Blood Samples

HB308: NGRMI

HB534: Local Government

HB428: Mobile Home Park

HB800: Revising NGRMI

****One can go to legmt.gov for more information on this or any bills**



HB 819

Creating Stability. Changing Lives.

Attainable Housing is an Emergency in Montana

It impacts individuals across all spectrums. Some have been born and raised here, many are newcomers, and many are packing up to leave the state as they cannot find work at an income level that can match escalating housing costs.

HB 819 Statewide housing cost buy-down program for Montana's workforce.

Create 3,000+ Immediate Homeownership Opportunities for Montana's Workforce.

We work together. We win together.

Join forces with the Montana Attainable Housing Alliance by showing your support and desire for a plan that immediately addresses our state's workforce housing crisis.

Visit Us at mtaha.org
to learn more.

Join the network of followers/supporters
across the state. Like/Follow and
Comment on Facebook.

MTAHA.org

Click Here ↑

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It is equally important to **contact your local legislator** and urge them to **Pass LC 2443** to benefit all hardworking Montanans.

[Legislator](#)

Click Here ↑

NEW SECTION. Section 5. Preferential placement at and referral to certified recovery residences. (1) The department of corrections shall establish a preference for certified recovery residences by encouraging and assisting appropriate individuals seeking placements in recovery residences.

(2) (a) A qualified health care provider, judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate may not refer an individual to an uncertified recovery residence.

(b) A judge, justice of the peace, or magistrate may not refer an individual to a certified recovery residence that does not permit the individual to receive treatment or take medication prescribed by a qualified health care provider.

“To mandate a judge, probation officer, etc or tying their hands on what is available for them to assist a person in need is unreasonable and harmful. We need to allow these professionals to assess each case individually and find the appropriate solution for that individual. One size does not fit all in these cases. These professionals are the ones with boots on the ground, and who are far better equipped to assess what is best for each individual.

One has to question why this intense effort is underway to illuminate all alternatives but one and to force by mandate only one choice for the citizens of Montana. It truly is baffling.”

Certifying organizations

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Recovery residence requirements. (1) A recovery residence must register with the department of public health and human services.

(2) A recovery residence **may** seek certification from a certifying organization.

The concern I have is that if a sober living home is listed on a state registry, that is likely to be construed as a state endorsement. People will look at the list and choose a sober living home for themselves or their loved ones without doing any further checking, thinking it is safe, ethical, and drug/alcohol free. They will probably think, hey, if it's listed on a state registry, it must be good. They are not likely to know that the state has not checked or investigated the listings for their quality or lack thereof. How I interpret the bill in its current form is that there are no provisions for certification, inspection, training, or indeed any oversight at all.

Currently in the background information listed by the state we see that there are 10 Certified Homes in Montana this is not accurate. There are 10 NARR certified homes but that does not consider any other National organizations.

It would be an implied endorsement. To include only one organization into mandated legislation does in fact create an unconstitutional monopoly.

Also we know that DPHHS invested \$500,000 to bring NARR to Montana stating that they chose them due to the fact that SAMSA states NARR is accepted as Best Practices by SAMSA.

NARR has a presence in Washington DC with a paid lobbyist and as such has the ability to work closely with SAMSA. Rather than spend money on lobbying or trying to drive legislation, the National Sober Living Association's primary focus is in helping, training, inspecting and certifying sober living homes. As such SAMSA is under the misinformation that NARR is the only national organization that meets its standards, which is simply not correct.

Not only does the NSLA meet and exceed the SAMSA standards, but NSLA may be the only truly national association which has unified standards across the nation, rather than state affiliates that may or may not regulate and certify in a uniform manner.

As such, I would urge this committee, at the very least, to amend this bill to include the National Sober Living Association into the bill's language so that Montana's sober living operators can have the choice of membership into an affordable, active, and accessible national association.

To mandate the types of residents a sober living home takes is also extremely problematic. Not every sober living home is the same and some are able to offer services that others are unable to do so.

This clause basically is the same idea as requiring the small mom and pop grocery store to offer the same products as a Walmart.

Sober living homes provide a vitally needed service to Montana, at no cost to the tax payers, in fact sober living homes directly and indirectly save Montana hundreds of thousands of dollars. These unnecessary regulations and mandates will destroy a grassroots movement that has for the most part been operating beautifully.