
WEEK FIVE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Tensions are starting to heat up in the Jonah Building as the session crosses over into the last few weeks. The Senate “sent a message” to the House this week by voting down the capital construction bill with a vote of 30-0. Anything with a vote of 30-0 is usually done intentionally. Rumors in the hallways are saying the Senate is trying to wrangle the House members in on their spending in this supplemental budget.

Work will begin to negotiate the differences in the budget bill (the two houses are about \$69M apart on the budget). In order to give the proper amount of time at the end of the session for the Governor to consider the bill and still give both houses veto override opportunity, the joint conference committee must come to agreement by Friday February 15th.

Here are some of the major areas of difference:

- Broadband provisions for grants
- K12 external cost adjustments
- Community college health insurance
- Study for Medicaid expansion
- Sweeps from excess Federal Mineral Royalties
- UW teacher training program
- Wyoming’s Tomorrow task force
- K12 capital construction

The colleges were impacted by several budget amendments:

- The senate deleted the \$621,936 in the WCCC budget for health insurance positions. The house did not.
- The house adopted the \$5.6M needed for health insurance in the WCCC budget, the senate did not.
- The senate adopted an amendment that requires the WCCC to report to the JEC on the statewide longitudinal education data system (SLEDS)
- The house adopted the following amendment requiring the community colleges to work together with UW to report back as to how to best accomplish the goal of providing more applied baccalaureate degrees in Wyoming. [Here is the amendment.](#)

Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to come to Cheyenne for the WACCT Awards and Legislative reception. Once again, it was a wonderful event. We had a nice handful of legislators, Governor Gordon and Superintendent Balow join us. Pictures of the event will be out soon!

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- [HB 203 – Community Colleges – Safety and Security](#) - There is appropriated from the general fund to the community college commission six million dollars (\$6,000,000.00) for safety and security improvements to the campuses of the seven (7) Wyoming community colleges. This appropriation shall be for the period beginning with the effective date of this act and ending June 30, 2026. **The bill was amended to allow for up to \$1M only if matched, but the bill died on 3rd reading. House members of the Appropriations Committee spoke against it.**
- [HB 204 – Common college transcript – Implementation](#) - relating to community colleges and the University of Wyoming; establishing requirements for the community college commission's common college transcript system; authorizing an at-will position; providing appropriations - implementation and appropriations for HEA

47 from last year. **The bill passed the House with the appropriation stripped (the positions are included in the budget bill).**

- [HE 263 - Postsecondary education](#) - Authorizing a pilot project to allow students attending community colleges to receive baccalaureate degrees conferred by the University. It also has several conditions for the pilot – programs must focus on health sciences and CWC shall offer an education program, among others. **WACCT testified with concerns about UW conferring the degrees and asked for more “teeth” around UW’s authority to approve programs, response timing, etc. The substitute bill passed the House this week. WACCT prefers SF111 to HB263.**
- [HB 304 - Community colleges-degree programs](#) - Provides for community college commission approval of baccalaureate degree programs. **Did not consider in COW.**
- [HB 310 – Wyoming’s Tomorrow](#) – The bill provides for a study to create a grant program to make two years of education at Wyoming community colleges and the University of Wyoming as free as possible; creates a task force; outlines parameters for the study and the program; and creates an endowment fund. **The bill passed the House with a narrow margin. WACCT will need grassroots help explaining why this bill is important to Wyoming’s future. Talking points are posted on WACCT’s website.**
- [SF 111 - Community Colleges-Bachelor of Applied Science programs](#) - Authorizes academic programs at the community colleges; providing for community college commission approval of the baccalaureate degree programs. **The bill passed the Senate 28-2 and still carries strong momentum from the business community. We are working to make sure the bill starts moving in the House. Several members of the business community, including the Wyoming Business Alliance, is rallying behind this bill. WACCT supports this bill.**
- [SF 122 – Wyoming Works](#) - Provides for grants for students and funding for community college technical programs approved to meet labor and economic development needs. **3rd Reading: Passed 28-0-2-0-0. It also enjoys support from a wide coalition of industry associations. WACCT supports this bill. It should start moving in the House this week – it will be in the House Appropriations Committee.**
- [SF 162 State Funded Capital Construction](#) - Appropriates dollars for state-funded capital construction (community colleges) – **The bill failed 3rd reading in the Senate 30-0 this week. We are hearing there is a plan for the bill.**
 - NWC – performing arts center – reduces the level II from \$495,000 to \$149,000
 - NWC – student center – reduced the level II from \$1.071M to \$3.131M
 - For both projects, includes a footnote that reads as follows, “Not more than fifty percent (50%) of total amounts expended for the level II feasibility study for the authorized capital construction project shall be paid from this general fund appropriation.” **This is a departure to how level II has been approached in the past (the state has traditionally funded level II).**
 - WWCC – changes the amount of the mechanical repairs from \$1.071M to \$3,131,200
 - NWC – Cody Hall – authorization for \$3M other funds
 - NWCCD – Health Science Building \$6,718,104
 - NWCCD – Culinary Arts Building \$2,181,984
 - CWC – Ag & Animal Science \$3,926,792

KEY EVENTS OF THE 2019 SESSION

(35 Day Schedule – Recess Martin Luther King Jr. Day & Presidents’ Day)

- **Monday, February 18 President's Day Recess**
- Day 30 Wednesday, February 20 Last day for Bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.
- Day 31 Thursday, February 21 Last day for Committee of the Whole in the second house.
- Day 32 Friday, February 22 Last day for Second Reading in the second house.
- Day 33 Monday, February 25 Last day for Third Reading in the second house.
- Day 34 Tuesday, February 26 Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.
- Day 35 Wednesday, February 27 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk by 2:00 p.m.; ADJOURN by Midnight.

WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL

The remainder of the weekly conference calls will be held on **Fridays at 10am**. Please be sure to announce yourself when you get on the call. We have had great participation, so thank you for your interest!

Please call: 800-356-8372 Guest Code: 8867116#