
WEEK FOUR LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 2, 2019

This was budget week at the Jonah Building and the last change for bills to get out of committee in the first house. Monday is the last day for bills to get off committee of the whole, Tuesday, second reading, and Wednesday, third reading. The House certainly has more bills to hear than time, so many will go away after Monday's deadline. Prior legislative bodies have extended the deadlines due to the tremendous volume of bills – it is not out of the question.

Both houses considered many budget amendments. Now, each house will examine how their adopted amendments differ from the other house. Members of a joint conference committee for the budget will be appointed (usually members from the Joint Appropriations Committee) and they will start to work out their differences.

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.](#)
- We should learn more about the total impact of the budget amendments this week.

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 should be heard on general file in the house on Monday.**
- [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 should be heard on general file in the house on Monday. There will be a floor amendment to strip the funding for the SLEDS positions, as they are provided for in the WCCC budget.**
- [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 Education committee on Friday as written.**
- [HB 304 - Community colleges-degree programs](#) - Provides for community college commission approval of baccalaureate degree programs. **The bill passed House appropriations committee on Friday.**

- [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
- [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.**
- [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.**
- [SF 162 State Funded Capital Construction](#) - Appropriates dollars for state-funded capital construction (community colleges) – **the bill should be heard on general file in the senate on Monday.**
 - 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)

- Day 1 Tuesday, January 8 Session convenes
- **Monday, January 21 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Recess**
- Day 12 Thursday, January 24 Last day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)
- Day 15 Tuesday, January 29 Last day for House Bills to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)
- Day 18 Friday, February 1 Last day for Bills to be reported out of Committee in house of origin.
- Day 19 Monday, February 4 Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin.
- Day 20 Tuesday, February 5 Last day for Second Reading in house of origin.
- Day 21 Wednesday, February 6 Last day for Third Reading on Bills in house of origin.
- **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

Due to the Wyoming Community College Commission meeting on Feb 8th, WACCT will not have its weekly call this week. Please join us again next week.