
WEEK ONE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY JANUARY 12, 2019

Events for the 2019 Legislative Session kicked off with a bang as Governor Gordon and the other state-wide elected officials were sworn into office on Monday, January 7th. The day was capped off with an elegant gala honoring incoming Governor and First Lady Gordon. It was a night to remember! Governor Gordon gave his [State of the State Address](#) on Wednesday of this week highlighting the new administration's goals of fiscal discipline, economic development, and improving Wyoming people's quality of life. Here are a few highlights from the speech:

Budget

- Support Mead's supplemental budget and will bring his own next year
- Better define the purpose of the rainy-day fund (Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account or LSRA) and realize better earnings – as any reduction in earning potential in his eyes equates to a tax increase
- More savings and better delivery of services (efficiencies)

Military

- Support for Wyoming skilled nursing facility
- Support for our deployed troops (largest deployment from Wyoming in State's history)

Access to mental healthcare a priority

K12 Schools

- Stable funding
- External Cost Adjustment for schools
- Safety and security

Skilled Workforce/Community Colleges

- Wyoming Works! Standing up CTE programs at the community colleges
- Long term funding for scholarships for CTE under the provisions of Amendment A, with private industry support and matching capability

University of Wyoming

- scholarships as proposed in their budget
- retain staff and faculty
- Support for their outdoor recreation program
- Innovation in the College of Agriculture - invasive species specifically mentioned

Global Ag reach

- opportunities in Japan and Taiwan

Energy

- Continued support for UW School of Energy Resources
- Continued support for the extraction industries
- Coal specifically:
 - Sees unconstitutional access to markets and will continue to fight for access
 - Continued support for carbon sequestration efforts
 - enhanced energy office creation

State Employees/Government

- Support for Governor Mead's request to support pay increases - Gordon is not interested in growing cost of government - but the efficiency of government

- Continued support for efficiency efforts
- Engage Wyoming more broadly in budget discussions
 - Launching a local high school to help build a state budget (Cowboy Challenge)

Local Communities

- Support Governor Mead's appropriations for local governments
- Would like to build tools for locals to prosper

Economic Development

- Comprehensive review of all groups involved in economic development
- Access to broadband development in the state
- Rural healthcare delivery

Healthcare

- Wants to craft a Wyoming solution

Wildlife and open spaces

- Wildlife Trust work - 15 years - \$58M of work in the state
 - Addition of more funds to the WWTF

The **Joint Appropriations Committee** announced that they will get an update from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) on Monday of next week (January 14th). Rumors around the capitol are saying the forecast will be significantly less than the October report. The JAC will have agency call-backs and begin to mark up the budget bill next week also.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

[HB 58 – Sunset date – Wyoming Investment in Nursing Program](#) – Extends the sunset on the program from 2020 to 2030. The bill was heard in House Labor Committee on 1/11. The Wyoming Nurses Association and Wyoming Hospital Association also support the bill WACCT testified in favor. **Passed unanimously out of Committee on 1/11.**

[SF 43 -Hathaway scholarship eligibility](#) - Modifies the Hathaway curriculum to allow for CTE courses – the bill was amended in Committee to allow flexibility for smaller school districts. The bill enjoys widespread support from industry and trade associations in Wyoming such as the Wyoming Contractors Association, Wyoming Trucking Association, Wyoming Farm Bureau, Wyoming Stockgrowers Association, and the Wyoming Business Alliance (CTE initiatives are the WBA's number one legislative priority this session). WACCT gave general comments of support. **Passed 2nd reading in the Senate on 1/11.**

Please visit the [WACCT webpage](#) for the WACCT Talking Points and the 2019 Legislative Tracking Spreadsheet for more information such as one pagers for bill support.

IN THE NEWS

[Bill aims to extend Wyoming's Hathaway Scholarship to tech ed students](#) – 1/10/19 – Casper Star Tribune

[2019 could be a big year for revenue in Wyoming. The question is how](#) – 1/11/19 – Casper Star Tribune

[Wyoming Gov. Gordon talks appointments, pay raises](#) – 1/1/19 – Wyoming Tribune Eagle

[More than 30 Wyoming legislators sign on to bill to repeal most gun-free zones, override local laws](#) – 1/10/19 – Casper Star Tribune

[Wyo. Legislature leaders share vision for taxes](#) – 1/12/19 – Wyoming Tribune Eagle

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

The remainder of the weekly conference calls will be held on **Fridays at 10am**.

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