
WEEK ONE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 16, 2020

The 2020 budget session kicked off on Monday with Governor Gordon delivering his second state of the state address. He highlighted the strengths of the Wyoming economy (increased population, lowest unemployment since 2008, growing GDP, and increased personal income). Here are the highlights of the speech:

- Modernizing the K12 funding model and what is included in the basket of goods
- Curbing capital construction spending
- *WyOpen* website in the State Auditor's Office and *Wyoming Sense* – both focused on transparency
- Endorsing strategic investments in new technology and advanced cybersecurity
- Opportunities to train our workforce
- Legally fighting for coal exportation
- Bringing the next carbon capture and sequestration facility to Wyoming
- Coal market augmentation and preservation
- Invasive Species Initiative
- Migration Corridors Executive Order
- Support for a lodging tax
- Aligning post-secondary education opportunities with our workforce needs
- Support for Wyoming Works and the Higher Education Attainment Council
- Improving access and lowering the cost of healthcare

Yet, he was cautious with his remarks about the future of the state's revenue streams. The downturn from coal is hitting harder and sooner than we ever understood before and the Governor is aware of the augmented downturn.

[Watch his address](#)

[Read his prepared comments](#)

[Read press release](#)

Next week is budget week. The state is still upwards of \$400M short when it comes to K12 education funding. This budget diverts 1% of the severance tax to go into a special fund for two years and imposes across the board cuts in information technology spending to save money for this obligation. Both the House and the Senate will read in the budget bill on Monday and Tuesday and take second reading amendments on Wednesday and third reading budget amendments on Friday.

February 14th was the last day for bills to pass introduction vote and next Monday February 25th, is the last day for bills to be voted out of committee in the first house. See more deadlines at the end of the report.

Bill activity this week yielded failed efforts to bring about Medicaid expansion or the corporate income tax, as discussed in the interim. Yet efforts to implement a state-wide lodging tax and keno gambling advanced to the next steps.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

[HB 50 – Government procurement – amendments](#) – The bill modifies provisions related to procurement and contracting by governmental entities. **The colleges and the WCCC participated in a working group over the summer to come to this language. Passed the House on 2/14.**

[HB 95 – Building and construction projects](#) - Requires legislative authorization for expenditure of funds on state building projects and University of Wyoming capital construction projects as specified; revising requirements for community college capital construction projects. **The bill was laid back in House Appropriations on Feb 13th.**

[SF 119 – State funded capital construction](#) – this is the bill where the community college capital construction projects are appropriated. **The bill passed out of Senate Appropriations on 2/14.**

[SF 93 – Wyoming Works – application period](#) – The bill simply provides a fix for students who have previously been enrolled in a Wyoming Works program so that they may receive funding from the program. **The bill passed out of Senate Education unanimously on 2/14.**

Please visit the [WACCT webpage](#) for the WACCT Bill Tracking, Legislative priorities, and talking points..

IN THE NEWS

[Lodging tax passes introductory vote in Wyoming Legislature](#) – February 14, 2020 Casper Star Tribune

[Newly Appointed CEO of Wyoming Business Council Looking to Enhance Business During the Legislation Session](#) – February 8, 2020 MSN Money

[DeLancey: Now is the time for the legislature to modernize Wyoming's education system](#) – February 9, 2020 Casper Star Tribune

[Legislature convenes under a new roof and a gathering 'storm'](#) – February 11, 2020 WyoFile

KEY EVENTS OF THE 2020 SESSION:

(24-day schedule)

- Day 1 Monday, February 10 – Session convenes with Joint Session at 10:00 a.m.
- Day 3 Wednesday, February 12 – Noon deadline for all bill drafts to be in final form at LSO.
- Day 5 Friday, February 14 – Last day for bill introductions.
- Day 11 Monday, February 24 – Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in House of Origin.
- Day 12 Tuesday, February 25 – Last day for Committee of the Whole in House of Origin.
- Day 13 Wednesday, February 26 – Last day for 2nd Reading in House of Origin.
- Day 14 Thursday, February 27 – Last day for 3rd Reading on bills in House of Origin.
- [CROSS-OVER]
- Day 19 Thursday, March 5 – Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house. Day 20 Friday, March 6 – Last day for Committee of Whole on bills in second house.
- Day 21 Monday, March 9 – Last day for 2nd Reading on bills in second house.
- Day 22 Tuesday, March 10 – Last day for 3rd Reading on bills in second house.
- Day 23 Wednesday, March 11 – Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.
- Day 24 Thursday, March 12 – 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#