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## WEEK THREE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY JANUARY 27, 2019

Week two ended with 283 House bills (50 more than last week) and 173 Senate files (40 more than last week) introduced for consideration. The Senate's deadline of January 24<sup>th</sup> was met this week to get bills into LSO for introduction and the Senate has until January 29<sup>th</sup>. Friday, February 1<sup>st</sup> is the last day for bills to get out of committee in the first house.

Governor Gordon announced several more cabinet positions for his administration. [Click here for the press release](#). Of note:

- Jim Ruby, Director of the Wyoming Office of Administrative Hearings
- Reappointments:
  - Del McOmie, Director of the Wyoming State Construction Department
  - Darin Westby, Director of the Wyoming State Parks and Cultural Resources
  - Dr. Erin Campbell as the Wyoming State Geologist
  - Michael Reed as the State Fire Marshal
  - Diane M. Lozano as the Wyoming State Public Defender
  - Tom Glause as the Insurance Commissioner of the Wyoming Department of Insurance
- Previously announced:
  - Lynn Budd, Director of the Wyoming Office of Homeland Security and Leland Christensen as the deputy director
  - Mike Ceballos as the director of the Wyoming Department of Health.
  - Todd Parfitt, Director of the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
  - Dan Noble, Director of the Wyoming Department of Revenue
  - Doug Miyamoto, Director of the Wyoming Department of Agriculture.

The call for interim topics was released this week – the deadline is February 19<sup>th</sup>. [Here is the form](#).

### **Budget Bill:**

Highlights of the [supplemental budget bill](#):

- \$1.15M into the Federal Natural Resource Policy Account
- \$400,000 into the corpus of the Wyoming Cultural Trust Fund
- \$15M for the Wyoming Commercial Air Services Improvement Account
- WCCC loss of one FTE (all unused FTE positions were cut in other agencies)
- UW Endowment Challenge Fund:
  - \$2.5M for the President's endowed scholarships
  - \$2.5M for programs associated with excellence in ag education and research (for which matching funds are received)
- \$3M for broadband – providing grants for broadband projects in underserved areas of the state as defined by the broadband enhancement plan
- Employee compensation (see page 81-83 for more detail)
  - \$10.120M for salary adjustments for employees whose salary is not prescribed by law for the fiscal position commencing July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. Here is the distribution:
    - \$5.5M for executive branch agencies

- \$2.770M for UW
  - \$1.520 for Community Colleges
- \$5M to the UW School of Energy Resources for advancing coal technology
- Study (to the Joint Labor Committee) to expand the State Employee and Officials Group Insurance to:
  - All K12 school district employees
  - Private, small employers in the state with 50 or less employees
  - Residents of the state
- Medicaid Expansion – directs the Director of the Wyoming Department of Health, in consultation with the Governor, to enter into negotiations with the US Department of Health and Human Services regarding the expansion of Medicaid eligibility

## IN THE NEWS

[Governor announces seven Cabinet appointments](#) – 1/24/19 – Governor Press Release

[Wyoming lawmakers want to sue Washington state over coal again](#) – 1/24/2019 – Wyoming Energy Journal

[Wyoming Legislature considers bill to allow community colleges to offer bachelor's degrees](#) – 1/26/2018 – Casper Star Tribune

[Powell lawmaker pushes common transcript for Wyoming colleges](#) – 1/25/2019 – Casper Star Tribune

[Budget bill would give UW over \\$20 million](#) – 1/25/2019 – Casper Star Tribune

[Wyoming Senate committee votes down bill that would have repealed most gun-free zones](#) – 1/23/2019 – Casper Star Tribune

## BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- [HB 34 - Nonresident tuition and fee rates](#) - Requires the University of Wyoming and community colleges to charge nonresident tuition and fees at an amount that is at least 20% higher than resident levels. **The bill was heard in House Education this week. UW and WACCT testified with information about how tuition is set, and fees assessed. The bill failed.**
- [HB 67 – Sales tax revisions](#) – reduces the State’s sales tax from 4% to 3% and broadens the tax to services. Eliminates the sales tax exemptions for food, data centers and manufacturing. **The bill was never heard in House Approps – and is dead.**
- [SF 74 - Professional services procurement](#) - Requires Wyoming residency requirements related to the procurement of professional architectural, engineering and land surveying services. **Was amended to include the community colleges. 3rd Reading: Passed 28-0-2-0-0. If this bill causes issues for your colleges, please contact your senates to explain how it can impact your colleges.**
- [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 heard in House Education this week – there were several questions about the Wyoming Homeland Security grant process. Passed 7-1. Will be re-referred to House Appropriations. WACCT testified in favor of the bill.**
- [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 will be heard in House Education on 1/28.**
- [SF 103 – State funded capital construction](#) - Expands the duties of the School Facilities Select Committee to include other state capital construction and renames the Committee to the Select Committee on State Capital Construction. **3rd Reading: Passed 26-2-2-0-0.**
- [SF 75 - Repeal gun free zones and preemption amendments](#) – The Senate took up a motion to reconsider the Senate Judiciary Committee’s vote on SF75 and reassign the bill to another committee. It was deemed appropriate for the body to consider, however failed by a wide margin. **The bill remains dead.**

- [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 was heard in Senate Education this week and enjoyed wide support from the economic development and business community. Only UW testified against the bill. WACCT supports. The bill passed committee of the whole in the Senate on Friday too.**
- [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.**
- [SF 162 State Funded Capital Construction](#) - Appropriates dollars for state-funded capital construction (community colleges):
  - 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

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#