
WEEK THREE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY FEBRUARY 28, 2020

Week three was not a very busy week for the community colleges. We are in the "space between" or crossover, which is where bills move from one house to the other. Here are the deadlines for the coming weeks:

- Thursday, March 5 – Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.
- Friday, March 6 – Last day for Committee of Whole on bills in second house.
- Monday, March 9 – Last day for 2nd Reading on bills in second house.
- Tuesday, March 10 – Last day for 3rd Reading on bills in second house.

The only tax bill still moving is the tourism tax – it will be heard on third reading in the Senate on Friday February 28th. Other major bills still moving, gaming regulations, a constitutional amendment to remove the 2/3 introductory vote during budget sessions, and a 48-hour waiting period for abortions, among others.

The Budget Conference Committee will start negotiating the budget amendments on Friday morning. Here is a quick rundown of how the two houses differ:

- \$7-10M apart for the general fund, with the Senate spending less
- \$22M apart on the school foundation program (K12 funding)
- \$19M in the House for K12 External Cost Adjustment
- \$5.5M difference in SIPA
- It was noted that the House would have gone underwater with their budget and all bills
- The two houses had a record number of mirror amendments this year (amendments that are the same in both houses).
- House adopted \$5M one-time funding for the community colleges
- Senate adopted \$5M one-time and \$10M matching opportunities for the colleges
- Senate also adopted the adjunct loan program administrative program funding
- Senate has \$1M for additional program dollars for Wyoming Works, and \$3M for scholarships, the House only has the \$1M for program dollars

The budget differences were presented to each house on the floor this week. The final budget agreement must be forward to the Governor by Friday of next week (but for staff to get the bill written, it must be done by next Wednesday).

Governor Mark Gordon sent the Wyoming Senate his list of nominees for numerous state offices, boards and commissions. These nominees are subject to confirmation by the Senate. [Click here to read the full list of recommendations.](#)

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 and was discussed in Senate Approps this week.**

[HB 242 - Wyoming Learning and Work Program](#) - sponsored by Rep. Greear (R-Worland) - the bill allowed for a path for high school students to take career technical education programs while also working (apprenticeship programs) and allowing students to earn credentials through community colleges. The bill was highly regarded as yet another pathway to increase Wyoming's workforce training opportunities, but most who testified felt that the bill was not ready for prime time. While the bill was ultimately defeated in Committee, the members openly stated that the issue would be the Joint Education Committee's #1 priority for the interim. **WACCT testified in support of the bill.**

[SF 119 – State funded capital construction](#) – this is the bill where the community college capital construction projects are appropriated. **A substitute bill was passed as an amendment in the House Appropriations Committee. It reinstated UW's projects and made some other changes. Community college projects are still intact.**

[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 WCCC estimates that an additional 400 students could access these dollars if this bill passes. **WACCT testified in support of the bill. Passed the Senate.**

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

IN THE NEWS

[Running out of time, lawmakers balk again at new revenue](#)– February 25, 2020 WyoFile

[Then and now: The 10-year transformation of Wyo's fiscal reality](#)– February 25, 2020 WyoFile

[Wyoming moves closer to regulated gambling, but not without changes](#) – February 18, 2020 Casper Star Tribune

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#