
WEEK TWO LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY JANUARY 20, 2019

Week two ended with 227 House bills and 134 Senate files introduced for consideration. The Senate has until January 24 to get bills into LSO for introduction and the Senate has until January 29th.

Revenue Update

The beginning of the week, however, started with sobering news from the Consensus Revenue Estimating Group (CREG) with their January update - the bottom line – total dollars available for appropriation in the FY 2019-2020 biennium are down \$67.3M compared to the October report. The CREG made four major changes to the forecast:

1. Decrease in oil prices
2. Increase in sales and use tax projections
3. Increase in one-time lease and bonus revenue from State lands
4. Decrease in one-time yield from the state agency pool investments

If K12 schools are included, the reduction is closer to \$89M. [Click here to read the January CREG report.](#)

Supplemental Budget

Work on the supplemental budget continued in the Joint Appropriations Committee with agency call backs and work on state funded capital construction. The Senate showed their cards this week in the “round robin” budget markup – since K12 is still experiencing a structural deficit of \$361M this year and \$509M next year, the Senate wants to sock more than \$200M aside (not allowing the funds to sweep into the rainy-day account and instead set them aside in the general fund for K12). The House seems to be interested in adding more construction projects (several for the community colleges) and appropriations into the Cultural Trust Fund corpus to help “invest in Wyoming” and build the state. We will see how things work out as the supplemental budget bill starts moving in both houses. The capital construction breakdown has not yet been released, but we do know it will be a separate bill from the supplemental budget.

The WCCC’s budget passed the Committee with “Gov’s recs” which includes the extra benefits for health insurance and positions for the Statewide Longitudinal Education Data System (SLEDS). With regard to employee compensation, we also know the Committee agreed to a higher compensation level than what Governor Mead proposed – it may look something like this - 2% for UW, CCs, and government up to a salary of 80K, for those over 80K, a maximum of \$1600. We will know more when the budget bill is released. Employee compensation is WACCT’s number one priority.

Governor’s Letters

Governor Mead sent several letters on specific issues:

- Employee Compensation
- Government Emergency Operations Account
- Emergency Fire Suppression Account
- Bark Beetle Mitigation
- Local Governments
- Pari-Mutuel Funds
- Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resource Trust
- SFP Funds to LSRA
- Employees Group Insurance Continuity of Funding

- Cease and Transfer Program
- Multi-Payer Claims Database
- LSRA Reimbursement from SIPA

And Governor Gordon added a few more:

- Combating Invasive Weeds
- Predator Control
- Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Trust Fund
- Advancing Coal Technologies
- Supporting Local Communities through OSLI

IN THE NEWS

[Gordon, Racines hold first meeting of transparency working group](#) – 1/19/19 – Casper Star Tribune

[Governor Gordon asks for \\$21 million to diversify economy, protect wildlife and ag lands, and help communities](#) – 1/15/2019 – Gordon Press Release

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- [HB 58 – Sunset date – Wyoming Investment in Nursing Program](#) - Extends the sunset date of the Wyoming investment in nursing program from 2020 to 2030. **The sunset date was removed on 2nd reading in the House. Passed the House 54-6. WACCT supports this bill.**
- [HB 66 – Lodging tax](#) – Imposes a 5% statewide lodging tax upon the sale of lodging services. **Passed the House 44-46. The tourism industry and most business trade associations are supporting this bill.**
- [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 will be heard in House Appropriations on Tuesday evening. Several industries are opposed to this bill.**
- [HB 78 - Education major maintenance funding](#) - Changes distribution of funding to quarterly rather than annually, increases college reserves to 15% from 8%. Amended on 2nd reading: "No state funds shall be used for the maintaining, operating or equipping of any capital construction project in excess of one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) one million five hundred thousand (\$1,500,000.00) which was not approved by the commission and authorized by the legislature." The effective date of the bill is 2020. **Passed the House 50-10.**
- [HB 90 - Community college police officer retirement](#) - Provides for community college police officer participation in the law enforcement plan under the Wyoming Retirement Act. **Passed the House 53-7 and has been introduced in the Senate.**
- [HB 126 - Revenue recalibration task force](#) - The task force shall recommend standards and options for developing a fair, viable and economically competitive state and local tax structure capable of generating sufficient revenues to meet the state's future, expected needs. – **Will be heard in House Appropriations next week. It brings back Tax Reform 2000 tones.**
- [SF 43 – Hathaway scholarship eligibility](#) – allows for a path for CTE students in the success curriculum. **The bill passed the Senate 28-2 and enjoys support from industry, including PAW. WACCT supports this bill.**
- [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. Passed COW in the Senate. If this bill causes issues for your colleges, please contact your senates to explain how it can impact your colleges.**
- [SF 91 – Common College Application](#) - Requires the community college commission to create a common admission application system and application process. **The bill was withdrawn by the sponsor in Senate Education. UW and the WCCC staff testified to the work the Educational Attainment Council is doing on this issue. The work will continue to make this happen – just outside the legislative arena.**

- [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. **On general file in the Senate.**
- [SF 122 – Wyoming Works](#) - Provides for grants for students and funding for community college technical programs approved to meet labor and economic development needs. **The bill will be heard in Senate Appropriations next week. It also enjoys support from a wide coalition of industry associations, including PAW. WACCT supports this bill.**

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#