

Week three brought more hurdles and deadlines for the bills that remain. Wednesday was the last day for bills to pass third reading in the house of origin and things are heating up! The House killed the Senate's main bill that deals with K12 funding (imposing millions in cuts) and negotiations on the budget are underway. As predicted at the beginning of the session the most outstanding issues remain K12 budget cuts, funding for the ENDOW initiative's priorities (to the tune of some \$40M+) and state funded capital construction. Just like last session, the Senate wants to see more cuts, especially to K12 education.

For the bills that crossed over, Monday is the last day to pass out of a committee in the second house. Monday is also the deadline for interim topic forms to be submitted. [Click here to see the form](#). Next week the committees will meet to discuss the topics, but word in the hallways tells us that Management Council will not make interim topic assignments until April. We will hear more about it next week.

While the two houses are similar in terms of total amount of dollars appropriated in the budget bill, they are far apart in how they get there. The House seems more willing to rely on earnings from permanent funds, while the Senate prefers to use cash. Budget bill conferees started to meet on Friday and came to agreement on most of the less controversial issues, but they still have the section 300's to discuss – this is the part of the budget bill where they can make special appropriations outside of agency budgets. The end of the session is currently marked for March 10, which means the budget bill must be agreed upon by Tuesday of next week to give the Governor three days to sign and still give them the ability to override any line-item vetoes he may make.

## **BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK –**

[HB 53 – State Education Program](#) – Amends the State's K12 standards to require computer science. Also provides that computer science courses may satisfy certain high school graduation requirements and certain Hathaway scholarship requirements. The bill passed the House Education Committee on Friday 2/16 and was amended to ensure computer science curriculum be housed in the Wyoming Common Core of Knowledge (standards). This bill includes computer science along with CTE in the common core of knowledge. **Passed the House and is sitting in Senate Education. Chairman Coe is waiting to see what might happen to SF29 on the House side before he starts this bill moving. The Governor's office is urging the senators to pass the bill as is so the House will concur.**

[HB 175 – Common college transcripts](#) – The community college commission, the community colleges of the state and the University of Wyoming shall work collaboratively to develop the common college transcript system under W.S. 21-18-202(a)(vi). The University of Wyoming and the community college commission, in cooperation with the seven community colleges, shall establish an electronic transcript transfer system that allows each student information system to send and receive transcript data automatically, establish a course equivalence and common course numbering system and make recommendations outlining resource needs and policy or statute changes needed to accomplish this directive in a report to the joint education committee by October 1, 2018. **The bill passed the House and Senate Education Committee on 3/2. WACCT testified in favor of the bill.**

[HB 194 – State funded capital construction](#) – the bill passed first reading in the House last week. It was amended to include language to allow up to \$400M in loans for infrastructure - \$200M for road projects and \$200M for infrastructure for political subdivisions, including community colleges. It was also

amended to allow all 7 colleges to participate in the low interest loan from the PMTF for dorms (up to \$60M). **The bill passed the House and will be discussed Monday 3/5 at 8am in Senate Appropriations.**

[SF29 – Education Computer Science and Computational Thinking](#) – This bill allows computer science to be held as a standalone subject in the common core of knowledge and is the preferred bill amount education champions and the computer science coalition. **The bill passed the Senate and is also the House Education Committee last week. It had to be referred to the Appropriations Committee and on Friday so should be heard on general file on Monday. There are several amendments planned to take care of the small districts’ concerns about implementation. But education leadership seem to all be on the same page with the plan.**

[SF 121 – State Funded Capital Construction](#) – This bill differs from HB194 in that it does not have the low interest loan language from the PMTF, but rather, allows the colleges access to revenue bonds. The bill has reversed numbers for Casper College visual arts center and ag facility (from the House bill) – Casper College prefers the Senate version. **The bill was supposed to be heard on Friday 3/2 in the evening House Appropriations Committee, but they did not consider the bill. It is not on the agenda for the Monday meetings, so WACCT will keep an eye on where this bill ends up. Cap Con is sure to end up in the last-minute negotiations between the two chambers.**

## IN THE NEWS

[Analysis of outdoor recreation industry finds its contribution to GDP larger than that of oil, gas extraction](#) – 3/3/18 – Casper Star tribune

[House kills cut-heavy Senate education bill, setting stage for school funding fight in budget negotiations](#) – 3/2/18 – Casper Star Tribune

[Wyoming commercial air service bill has \\$16M price tag as it heads to House](#) – 3/2/18 – Wyoming Tribune Eagle

## KEY EVENTS OF THE 2018 SESSION:

(20-day session)

- Day 15 Monday, March 5 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.
- Day 16 Tuesday, March 6 Last day for Committee of Whole on bills in second house.
- Day 17 Wednesday, March 7 Last day for 2nd Reading on bills in second house.
- Day 18 Thursday, March 8 Last day for 3rd Reading on bills in second house.
- Day 19 Friday, March 9 Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.
- Day 20 Saturday, March 10 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk by 2:00 p.m.
- Adjourn by midnight.
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - March 12, 13 and 14 are available if necessary.

## WEEKLY CONFERENCE CALL

Please join us on Fridays at 10am.

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