

Week two ended just as fast and furious as week one with discussion of the budget in both houses of the Legislature. Each house debated budget amendments on second and third reading and ultimately ended up about \$6.4 million apart. The Senate seems to want to cut more from K-12 education than the House and both houses seem firm on the opposition to increasing taxes.

After debating numerous amendments on the second and third reading this week, the House and Senate ended the week differing significantly on respective plans to cut K-12 spending and standing firm against further attempts to increase taxes. The House adopted Substitute No. 1 for HB 0140 School finance amendments-4 that proposes to reduce spending from the School Foundation Program by \$19.8 million for FY 2019-2020 and an additional \$13.8 million in FY 2021. The Senate version, SF0117 School finance amendments-3, proposes to decrease education funding by \$76.2 million for FY 2019-2020, and an additional \$38.6 million in FY 2021.

The Legislature will be taking Monday off for a mid-session recess. It will reconvene on Tuesday, February 27 at 12 P.M. for the House, and 10 A.M. for the Senate.

There were several budget amendments of interest to the community colleges:

- **Excellence in Higher Education Account Funding** – dropped the JAC appropriation of \$8.8M down to \$4.4M and allowed an interfund loan of \$4.4M to build up the rest of the account so UW and the community colleges can continue to earn the spending limit from the interest on the account. This amendment PASSED.
- There were several attempts to lessen or completely delete the \$5M loan/grant to LCCC for WyoTech, but they were DEFEATED.
- One amendment for WyoTech did pass in mirror amendments to both houses that requires a private/public partnership with reports from the Wyoming Business Council by April. This amendment PASSED.
- There was an amendment for \$10M to the WCCC to help reach the educational attainment goal. The amendment FAILED.

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). **The standing committee amendment was stripped off the bill on first reading in the house. The floor presentation was a bit of a mishap with the Chairman caught off guard on his presentation. In his frustration, he said something to the effect of, “this is essentially an unfunded mandate on the school districts.” Which then set off a wildfire of speakers in opposition to the amendment. Chairman Northrup plans to bring a third reading amendment to fix the bill. MS, along with the Wyoming Business Alliance and others, have been lobbying the house members to support the third reading amendment.**

[HB 175 – Common college transcripts](#) – the bill passed House Education Committee last week and is on third reading on 2/27. **The bill was amended to include a report to the Joint Education Committee by October 31, 2018.**

[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 \$200M in loans for political subdivisions for road and street projects (but NOT community college projects like the original bill). It still contains language to allow just one college (LCCC) to qualify for up to \$30M in loans for dorms. **As of 2/26, the bill is not on the list for 2nd reading tomorrow. We will continue to keep a watchful eye on the bill.**

[SF29 – Education Computer Science and Computational Thinking](#) – **The bill passed the Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee on Wednesday, February 28th. The Committee meets upon adjournment.**

[SF 121 – State Funded Capital Construction](#) – the bill is scheduled to be in 2nd reading in the Senate on 2/27. There is a second reading amendment to open the dorm loan program to include all seven colleges.

IN THE NEWS

[307 Politics: Everything is totally great at the Legislature, why do you ask?](#) – 2/26/18 - Casper Star Tribune

[Wyoming House, Senate at odds over education — but cuts almost certain](#) – 2/24/18 – Casper Star Tribune

Please visit the [WACCT webpage](#) for the WACCT Talking Points and the 2018 Legislative Tracking Spreadsheet for more information.

KEY EVENTS OF THE 2018 SESSION:

(20-day session)

- **Monday, February 26 Mid-Session Recess**
- **Day 11 Tuesday, February 27 Last day for 2nd Reading in House of Origin.**
- **Day 12 Wednesday, February 28 Last day for 3rd Reading on bills in House of Origin. [CROSS-OVER]**
- 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

The remainder of the weekly conference calls will be held on **Fridays at 10am.**

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