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## WEEK FIVE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 11, 2023

Monday was the last day for bills to pass committee of the whole in the first house, and because of that deadline, many bills died in the House particularly. Let's take a look at the numbers – as told by Cowboy State Daily this week:

- In 2021, the House gave the Senate 122 bills to consider. This year, there were 121.
- In 2021, there were 108 Senate bills that passed over to the House, while this year, there were considerably more, 139.
- In the House there were 48 bills that passed through a committee but were not allowed to be heard for discussion by House Majority Floor Leader Rep. Chip Neiman, R-Hulett (in 2021, 23 bills experienced the same fate at the hands of the MFL)
- Exactly 300 bills and joint resolutions were crafted in the House this year compared to 280 in the last general session in 2021. The Senate drafted 197 bills compared to the 161 in 2021.
- The Senate only has 45-50 House bills left for consideration and took Friday off due to the light workload.

There are a few options still alive to grant property tax relief for residents – some target funding into existing programs for those most in need, and SF 136 offers broad relief to everyone in the “all other” category. WACCT is closely watching bills that will impact loss in local revenues.

The budget conference committee has been named, and those folks will get to work next week to iron out the differences:

- House members are: Nicholas, Stith, Walters, Larsen, Sherwood
- Senate members include: Driskill, Anderson, Nethercott, Salazar, Gierau
- There were 11 mirror amendments
- The House passed 42
- The Senate passed 41
- The difference in spending is only \$1.5M
- Re: savings, both houses socked away approximately \$1B, but the House put \$300M in permanent savings and \$700 in other funds like reserve accounts. The Senate put \$1B into permanent savings.
- **Major differences:**
  - Senate offered the Governor's large project contingency fund \$160M (House did not do this)
  - Senate \$28.4M for property tax relief related to SF 136 – House did not do this because they did not hear the bill yet.
  - House \$10M for affordable housing (Senate did not)
  - Both – WYOLINK \$8.6M
  - House \$3.5M for inflation for community colleges (Senate did not)
  - House \$10M for a physician assistant program at UW (Senate did not)
  - House \$2.5M to the Wyoming's Tomorrow expenditure account (senate did not)

- Both – K12 ECA for \$22M
- Senate took out \$40M from Wyoming’s Tomorrow (House keeps \$40M + HB 30 that funds it at \$60M)
- Senate deleted the UW marketing for CTE education of \$500,000
- House increased the corpus of the Wyoming Cultural Trust fund by another \$6M from the JAC position (Senate did not)

Don’t forget the WACCT Board meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the WACCT legislative breakfast on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Here is the schedule of events:

**Thursday, February 16:**

- **WACCT Board meeting** - February 16, 2023, 4pm, LCCC CCI 130
- **Reception hosted by LCCC for invited guests – all college trustees included**

**Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup>:**

- **WACCT Legislative Breakfast** - Capitol Extension Conference Center
  - Room W053/W054 6:30-8:30am
  - Enter the Capitol from either of the two doors at the side of the large stairs in front of the building. Go to the back of the building and through the Extension to the two statues – turn left at the statue of Esther Hobart Morris.
- **Wyoming Community College Commission meeting** – LCCC 10am Clay Pathfinder Building, Room #108 ANB Bank Leadership Center

**BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK**

- [SF 146 – State-funded capital Construction](#) – passed the Senate this week. The Community College projects are still intact.
- HB 28 – Community College capital construction – passed both houses (**bill signing has been requested**)
- HB 29 – Community College funding distance education credit hours – passed both houses (**bill signing has been requested**)

Please visit the [WACCT webpage \(Advocacy page and 2023 Resources\)](#) for the WACCT Bill Tracking, Legislative priorities, and talking points.

**KEY DEADLINES** ([click here for the full schedule](#)):

- Monday, February 20 -**Legislature Will Not Convene for President’s Day recognition**
- Friday, February 28 - Last day for Bills to be reported out of Committee in the second house
- Wednesday, March 1- Last day for Third Reading in the second house
- Friday, March 3 - Adjourn

**WEEKLY ZOOM**

**The Zoom will not take place on Friday, February 17<sup>th</sup> due to WACCT/WCCC activities.**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84012002625?pwd=MG9UWlV4MkZKNjI6MVp0eGFOMkhEQT09>

- Meeting ID: 840 1200 2625
- Passcode: 032653
- 1-669-444-9171