
WEEK FOUR LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 5, 2023

Both houses worked through the budget this week and spent long nights in the building. Friday, February 3rd, was the last day for bills to get out of committee in the first house, and Monday, February 6th, is the last day for bills to pass the committee of the whole. This is just about the halfway point of the session.

Here is a quick update on the budget bill amendments:

- Employee compensation holds solid in both houses
- House added \$3.5M additional for inflation for the Colleges
- House added \$2.5M for the Wyoming’s Tomorrow expenditure account
- Senate stripped \$40M for Wyoming’s Tomorrow
- \$550M over what was originally budgeted which includes more money for education and Department of Health
- \$950 million be put into savings (though the Houses differ on how the money should be saved).
- House vote on the final bill was a 37-24 vote. Spending \$89M more than what the Governor recommended.
- Remember, the state has a \$2 billion budget surplus, which contained \$738.8 million in increased revenue for the 2023-24 biennium.
- The House matched the governor’s proposal for education funding at \$386M
- \$27M for K-12 ECA
- \$10 million amendment to create a physician’s assistant program at the University of Wyoming.
- A total of \$5 million also was taken away for affordable housing, leaving \$15 million for those efforts.
- The Senate passed its version on an 18-12 vote.
- The Senate also wants \$1 billion for permanent savings.
- One year of backfill for local entities for property tax relief provided in SF 136

Don’t forget the WACCT Board meeting on February 16th and the WACCT legislative breakfast on February 17th.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- **SF 126 Barbering and cosmetology practice amendments – DEAD.** The bill stirred up the dust in Senate Ag Committee this week, as the bill sponsors were surprised by the number of people opposed to the bill. The motion to move the bill was withdrawn and the bill did not pass. It could come up as an interim, however. WACCT and the WCCC testified on the bill, as did CWC and EWC.
- **SF 136 - property tax relief - assessment rate reduction** -as amended, this bill reduces the “all other” category of property taxation from 9.5% to 8.5%. While it offers tax relief to residential taxpayers, it harms those that utilize the local revenues, such as k-12 schools, counties, cities, special districts, and community colleges, and it **does not** provide backfill for those dollars. The Senate passed a budget amendment that provides for some sort of application for just one year if an entity wants to ask for backfill funding.

- [SF 110 - personal property - tax exemption](#) – this bill repeals the provision for taxpayers to report tangible personal property and could have an even more significant impact on the colleges. This bill has an even more significant impact to the colleges and does not have a backfill mechanism.
- **HB 30 – Wyoming’s Tomorrow** - passed the House with a strong vote.
- **HB 286 – ETS Consolidation** – moved out of House Minerals Committee – the bill makes ETS a department under the Department of Administration and Information. It has been said that the goal will still be to hire an expert CIO to run the department.
- **SF 177 – Promoting obscenity – education exception repeal –DEAD.** failed to pass Senate Education. Dr. Tribley testified with his concerns about the bill. He also testified with concerns about **HB 87 Crimes of obscenity – revisions** (also failed to pass committee).
- **SF135 – Repeal gun-free zones – government buildings and meetings** – passed the Senate Revenue Committee meeting. WACCT testified in opposition.
- **HB 167 – Wyoming teacher shortage loan repayment program** – passed House Education Committee.
- **HB 105 – Repeal gun-free zones and preemption amendments - DEAD.** failed to pass House Approps. WACCT opposed.

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, January 23 - **Legislature Will Not Convene for MLK recognition.**
- Thursday, January 26 – last day for Senate Files to be introduced
- Monday, January 30 – Budget Bill-Committee of the Whole
- Tuesday, January 31 - Last day for House Bills to be introduced
- Friday, February 3 - Last day for Bills to be reported out of the Committee in the house of origin
- 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

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WEEKLY ZOOM

Remember, WACCT hosts weekly conference/Zoom calls to keep you updated on **Fridays at 10am.**

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

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