
WEEK SEVEN LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 24, 2023

The budget bill was signed by both the Speaker and the President of the Senate, but we still await signature (and possible line-item veto) by the Governor. It is important to understand *how* to read the budget bill in a supplemental year – what you see is last year’s budget bill amended to include any additions or subtractions from this supplemental budget process. [Here is a link to this year’s enrolled act.](#) Once the Governor acts on the bill and potentially line-item vetoes certain aspects of the bill, the legislature has three days to override the vetoes.

This is what the budget includes for the colleges:

- **WCCC \$369,172 exception budget request for cap con software** – pg. 35
- **Wyoming’s Tomorrow endowment** appropriation \$20M – pg. 56
- **Enterprise inflation** \$693,000 (Gov’s original recommendation for the CC’s) + \$3.5M one time – pg. 65-66
- **Employee compensation** - \$6.5M, biennial, totaling \$13M – pg. 66
 - Add this to the \$8.5M to the block grant last year (also biennial)
 - **Therefore, a total of \$21.5M added to the biennial budget.**
- **Higher Education Scholarship** - \$1.25M - pg. 69-70 (to be used the same as Wyoming’s Tomorrow until the WT endowment is fully funded). The WCCC will hold a special meeting next week to account for the rules for this special scholarship.
- **Budget Summary:**
 - Last year’s standard budget for the Community Colleges \$147M
 - +7.5M given last year.
 - + 21.5M in the supplemental
 - **Equals approximately \$176M for the standard budget for the Community Colleges**

Friday, February 24th is the deadline to submit interim topics. WACCT will continue to push the message of sustainable funding and consideration of an ECA in the Joint Education Committee – in addition to regular education for the JEIC during the interim of the community college funding allocation model, revenue sources, and initiatives such as the Wyoming Innovation Partnership, Wyoming Works, and Wyoming’s Tomorrow.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- [SF 146 – State-funded capital Construction](#) – passed the Senate and the House Appropriations Committee on 2/23. The Community College projects are still intact, but the House added in more projects for UW. The bill now heads to the floor of the House.
- **HB 286 - ETS consolidation** – passed the House but failed on COW in the Senate. This bill was initiated by the Governor’s Office.
- **SF 133 - Student eligibility in interscholastic sports** – passed the Senate and House Education on 2/23 by one vote.

- **SF 136 - property tax relief rate assessment reduction** – Passed the Senate with only \$28M in backfill in the budget bill and passed House Revenue on 2/23 with full backfill in the bill (still limited to three years). WACCT testified in opposition. This and the Property Tax Refund Program are the primary vehicles for property tax relief still rolling.

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

WEEKLY ZOOM

Fridays at 10am:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84012002625?pwd=MG9UWlV4MkZKNjl6MVp0eGFOMkhEQT09>

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