

---

## WEEK TWO LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – JANUARY 23, 2023

The Legislature took Monday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>, off for MLK instead of last week, so they didn't have two four-day weeks in a row. The Appropriations Committee finalized its work on the budget bill, capital construction, and ARPA bills, which are all published. The budget will be explained to the floors of both bodies next week, and work on the budget will follow thereafter. Remember, we are preparing for Wyoming's Tomorrow and Wyoming Works bills to head to the House floor soon. Therefore, we are working on educating new legislators about the programs and the importance of funding them. We have talking points for both Wyoming's Tomorrow and Wyoming Works on the Advocacy page of the WACCT website.

***A general note pertaining to all the property tax relief bills*** – WACCT is watching them closely. The Counties are taking positions against some of these bills and other users of the mill levies are also closely watching. Some of the bills have constitutional concerns, and, of course, members of the industries who pay the lion's share of the taxes in the state are also working to educate legislators about how the tiered system developed. Tax relief is not easy in Wyoming and can be quite complicated – no doubt, there will be many hours of conversations about this topic.

Don't forget that we are also preparing for our WACCT Board meeting on February 16<sup>th</sup> and the WACCT legislative breakfast on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

### BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- **HB 28 – Community college capital construction** – Passed the House **SUPPORT**
- **HB 29 – Community college funding – distance Education credit hours** – passed the House **SUPPORT**
- **HB 30 – Wyoming's Tomorrow Scholarship Amendments** – The bill was amended to appropriate \$60M into the endowment fund, \$5M into the expenditure fund, as well as the Wyoming Works funding from HB 109. **SUPPORT**
- **HB 32 – Education mill levy amendments** – bill pertains to BOCES mill levies – Friday, LSO walked the Committee through the bill and how the different parts address various issues. Recall, the confusion earlier in the week – the new Committee did not understand the bill and what it was working to accomplish. [Here is the whitepaper produced by LSO in the interim Joint Education Committee work.](#) Also, [a presentation by BOCES professionals during the interim.](#) Ultimately, the bill passed the Committee and is fine for the community colleges, as amended.
- **HB 65 – 988 Suicide hotline** – the bill passed the House, but the trust fund was stripped from the bill.
- **HB 66 – Prohibiting mask, vaccine, and testing discrimination** – passed House Labor Committee heavily amended.
- **HB 109 – Wyoming Works for Tomorrow** – The bill was amended in House Appropriations Committee to move \$40M from the LSRA into the endowment account, \$5M into the expenditure account, as well as \$10M for Wyoming Works programs and \$5M for student grants. **SUPPORT**
- **HB 136 – Capital construction amendments** – this is the bill that further defines capital renewal projects for all state agencies - passed House Minerals Committee.
- **SF 46 – Community college funding – inflation adjustment** – died in Senate Education Committee. **Aye: Chairman Scott and Rothfuss, No: Biteman, Brennan, and Steinmetz. SUPPORT**
- **SF 104 – Property tax – mill levy adjustment** – was laid back in Senate Revenue
- **SJ 3 – Property tax exemption for the elderly and infirm** – passed Senate Revenue

- **SF 90 – Wyoming property tax relief authority** – passed Senate Revenue
- **SF 125 – Property tax** – limiting the maximum taxable value increase – passed Senate Revenue

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

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

### **WEEKLY ZOOM**

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84012002625?pwd=MG9UWIV4MkZKNjl6MVp0eGFOMkhEQT09>

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