
WEEK SEVEN LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – MARCH 2, 2025

Friday was the deadline for bills to pass first reading in the second house – so we are now left with a small agenda of bills to be heard on second and third reading on Monday and Tuesday and lots of conference committees. News was confirmed that there will not be an official supplemental budget bill or state funded capital construction. Now lawmakers are attempting to amend other bills to make sure the necessary appropriations pass with a different vehicle.

A good example is SF 103 – Defunding diversity, equity and inclusion – an amendment was put on in the House that appropriates money to UW to partner with the University of Utah for medical students. It will be interesting to see how the Governor handles bills like this one, as the constitution demands one bill, one subject.

WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

[HB 172 - Repeal gun free zones and preemption amendments](#) was allowed to become law without the Governor's signature. [Here is his letter of disapproval](#). WACCT was successful to get the bill amended to allow exemptions for things like labs, childcare centers and safe storage for dorms, but disciplinary hearings are not exempted.

We have a number of similar bills heading to the Governor's desk related to the same topic:

- Fairness in women's sports:
 - **SF 44 (HB 60 died)** – is sponsored by Senator Schuler and is by far the preferred bill *if there has to be one*. The House bill was much more onerous for the colleges.
- Restrooms:
 - **HB 72** – passed both houses – applies to all schools, institutions of higher education and public buildings.
 - **SF 62** – passed both houses – only applies to K12.
- DEI:
 - **SF 103** – passed both houses – this bill is definitely more onerous, unenforceable, and is still riddled with questions of implementation. The Senate concurred with the House actions mention above and the bill heads to the Governor's desk. He has three days to sign or veto the bill.
 - **HB 147** – on 3rd reading in the House on 3/3. This bill is a policy statement and would be much easier to implement. If this bill is passed by the Senate and the House concurs, it could also get to the Governor's desk Monday afternoon and he would have a choice of which bill to sign.

The conference agreement on SF69 was announced:

- 25% exemption on both structure and land for 2025
- No backfill
- Cannot get this if a property qualifies for the Long Term Homeowner Exemption
- In 2026 the 25% applies to all owner occupied homes (as long as the owner lives there for 8 mo.) + deployed military.
- No sunset.
- Effective immediately

Other bills that impact the colleges (for a full list, please see [WACCT's 2025 General Session Bill Tracker](#) on the website):

- **SF 153 – Residential real property – taxable value** – is on 3rd reading in the House on 3/3. There are several amendments to offer backfill for property tax relief.
- **SF 65 – Data privacy – government entities – died in the House**
- **HB 96 – Prohibiting mask, vaccine and testing discrimination – DIED**
- **HB 222 – Medical ethics defense act - DIED**

Interim discussions are now the focus of committee work. The Joint Revenue Committee will meet at 8am on 3/3, Joint Appropriations at noon on 3/3 and Joint Education at noon on Wednesday Marcy 5.

WEEKLY ZOOM Remember, WACCT hosts weekly conference/Zoom calls to update you on **Fridays at 10am**.