
WEEK SIX LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Week six ended on a contentious note, as the Senate took to killing House bills (HB 189 Harmful Communications Minors, HB 221 Bighorn and domestic sheep relocation, and HB 234 Second Amendment Financial Privacy Act). Conference committee appointees are trying to work out the differences on many other bills, all while tensions are high. A few of the more notable bills currently facing negotiations include SF 69, the property tax exemption and HB 199 Wyoming Freedom Scholarship.

Budget negotiations have yet to commence, and the capital construction bill has not progressed in the Senate. Major differences between the House and Senate positions on the budget include property tax relief backfill, large energy project matching funds, and wildfire mitigation. The House conferees are Bear, Knapp, Lein, Neiman, and Heiner, while the Senate has not yet named their conferees. Deadlines are approaching, with Thursday, Feb. 27th being the last day for bills to exit the second committee.

WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

[HB 172 - Repeal gun free zones and preemption amendments](#) passed the Senate on 2/21 with one more amendment that would help UW and the colleges make a rule that open carry would NOT be allowed on their campuses. Here is the final vote on 3rd reading (note, the House voted to concur, and the bill now heads to the Governor's desk):

Ayes: Senator(s) Barlow, Biteman, Boner, Brennan, Cooper, Crago, Crum, Dockstader, Driskill, French, Hicks, Hutchings, Ide, Jones, Kolb, Landen, Laursen, Mckeown, Nethercott, Olsen, Pearson, Salazar, Scott, Smith, Steinmetz

Nays: Senator(s) Anderson, Case, Gierau, Pappas, Rothfuss, Schuler

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

- **Public property and building amendments – HB 86** – passed both houses – the appropriation for the study was ultimately NOT amended into the bill – WACCT supports.
- **Tangible personal property - index and depreciation - HB 49** – passed both houses.
- **HB 189 – Harmful communications – minors – DIED on general file in the Senate.**
- **HB 235 – Career technical equipment and supplies** passed Senate Education and a re-referral to Senate Approps.
- **SF 103 – Terminating and defunding diversity, equity and inclusion** – passed House Labor Committee on 2/21. WACCT testified with several concerns again and worked with the sponsor of the bill to bring more amendments. As of right now, the bill still limits the use of private funds that flow to the colleges. The word “corporation” is still in the bill as it defines “entity.” That causes great concern for private businesses as well as nonprofits.
- **SF 121 – Rodeo license plate** – allows citizens who purchase a rodeo license plate to give a donation to the UW and community college rodeo teams. The proceeds would be split equally among the institutions. The bill passed the Senate and is currently on the House general file.
- **HB 134 – Taxpayer funds – sexually explicit events prohibited** – was discussed in Senate Revenue committee - the bill likely has significant 1st amendment challenges to it. WACCT and UW testified with concerns. The bill passed the committee.

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