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## 2026 WEEK TWO LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY – FEBRUARY 22, 2026

This week closed with the House debating community college amendments late into the night on Friday. The Senate wrapped up its budget work, ultimately passing five of the amendments supported by the colleges. The House, however, rejected all of them—and with so many amendments still on their docket, they’ve needed two full days to work through the stack.

Friday was also the deadline for bills to get off committee of the whole in the first house – meaning crossover for this session. The Senate is moving with a swift and efficient pace, while the House is lagging behind with a challenged workload (in fact, the House needed to work Saturday to continue work on the budget).

Here is a quick outline of the results on the budget for the community colleges:

House:

- Starting position:
  - \$7.5M for CTE – this is now matched in both sides
  - \$5M for Wyoming Works and \$584,486 for student grants – matched in both sides
  - Additional dollars for the college rodeo teams – only the House
- **H3036 – Lawley** - \$350,000 for the WCCC to study college funding – **FAILED. Here is the vote.**
  - Ayes: Representative(s) Campbell, E, Chestek, Clouston, Connolly, Davis, Fornstrom, Harshman, Jarvis, Larson, Jt, Lawley, Nicholas, Provenza, Storer, Thayer, Washut, Wylie
  - Nays: Representative(s) Allemand, Andrew, Angelos, Banks, Bear, Brady, Bratten, Brown, G, Brown, L, Byron, Campbell, K, Erickson, Filer, Geringer, Guggenmos, Haroldson, Heiner, Hoeft, Johnson, Knapp, Larsen, L, Lien, Locke, Lucas, Mccann, Neiman, Ottman, Pendergraft, Posey, Riggins, Rodriguez-Williams, Schmid, Sherwood, Singh, Smith, Strock, Styvar, Tarver, Wasserburger, Webb, Webber, Wharff, Williams, Winter, Yin
  - Excused: Representative Kelly
  - Ayes 16 Nays 45 Excused 1 Absent 0 Conflicts 0
- **H3037 – Angelos** - \$4M for Gillette College for health insurance and retirement funding for their employees- **FAILED.** Here is the vote,
  - Ayes: Representative(s) Angelos, Bear, Campbell, K, Clouston, Harshman, Jarvis, Knapp, Nicholas, Washut, Williams, Yin
  - Nays: Representative(s) Allemand, Andrew, Banks, Brady, Bratten, Brown, G, Brown, L, Byron, Campbell, E, Chestek, Connolly, Davis, Erickson, Filer, Fornstrom, Geringer, Guggenmos, Haroldson, Heiner, Hoeft, Johnson, Larsen, L, Larson, Jt, Lawley, Lien, Locke, Lucas, Mccann, Neiman, Ottman, Pendergraft, Posey, Provenza, Riggins, Rodriguez-Williams, Schmid, Sherwood, Singh, Smith, Storer, Strock, Styvar, Tarver, Thayer, Wasserburger, Webb, Webber, Wharff, Winter, Wylie
  - Excused: Representative Kelly
- **H3038 – Thayer** – deletes the \$750,000 for dual enrollment the Joint Appropriations Committee added. **WITHDRAWN**
- **H3039 – Thayer** – adds \$9.5M to state aid **-FAILED**

- Ayes: Representative(s) Banks, Brown, L, Byron, Campbell, E, Chestek, Clouston, Connolly, Davis, Erickson, Filer, Fornstrom, Geringer, Harshman, Jarvis, Larsen, L, Larson, Jt, Lawley, Lien, Posey, Provenza, Riggins, Sherwood, Singh, Storer, Thayer, Washut, Williams, Wylie, Yin
- Nays: Representative(s) Allemand, Andrew, Angelos, Bear, Brady, Bratten, Brown, G, Campbell, K, Guggenmos, Haroldson, Heiner, Hoeft, Johnson, Knapp, Locke, Lucas, Mccann, Neiman, Nicholas, Ottman, Pendergraft, Rodriguez-Williams, Schmid, Smith, Strock, Styvar, Tarver, Wasserburger, Webb, Webber, Wharff, Winter
- Excused: Representative Kelly
- Ayes 29 Nays 32 Excused 1 Absent 0 Conflicts 0
- **H3040 – Singh** – deletes H3039 and takes the same amount from UW and gives it to the colleges – This is NOT how we want to get the money and I spoke with UW folks about it. I also told UW the colleges are supporting UW in our communications. I’m not asking you to lobby for them right now, but I have already seen the college presidents support UW with the proposed draconian cuts to UW. Thank you everyone. - **WITHDRAWN**
- **H3041 – Rodriguez Williams** – for state aid dollars, says that no funds shall be expended to pay student athletes salaries or endorsement compensation for participation in athletic activities (for UW and the colleges) – **PASSED.**
- **H3042 – Lawley** – deletes the JAC \$7.5M for CTE and takes it to \$15M (the full amount requested by the WCCC) – **WITHDRAWN since the Senate matched.**
- **H3043 – Angelos** – creates a grant process by which the colleges apply to the WCCC to access the CTE dollars appropriated - **WITHDRAWN**
- **H3044 – Larsen, Lloyd** – gives Wyoming Public TV their \$3M exception request - **FAILED**
- **H3045 – Lucas** - DEFUNDS Wyoming Public TV – **FAILED**
- **H3099 – employee compensation** – **PASSED** – now both houses have employee compensation for state employees.

Senate:

- Starting position:
  - The State Aid block grant is decreased by \$1.5M. – forgiven on both sides now
  - The CTE stability funding is zeroed out. – Senate added in, so now mirrored
  - Wyoming Works Program Funding is \$5M, one-time funding (new CTE programs) remains in the budget.- now mirror
  - Wyoming Works Student Grant Funding of remained in the budget.- mirror
  - The compensation increases in A&I's budget would be back in (\$14.6M for the colleges) and funding to move from 2022 to 2024 pay tables for the WCCC. – Senate only
- **S3014 Brennan – SUPPORT** -add \$350,000 for the Wyoming Community College Commission to bring in experts and study college funding.- **PASSED – this is only in the Senate side.**
- **S3015 – Brennan – SUPPORT** - Forgives the \$1.5M the College were supposed to take for recalibration – the Governor recommended they take this hit to state aid.- **PASSED**
- **S3016 –Driskill - SUPPORT** - insert \$750,000 for a two-year study to support dual enrollment (remember, \$10M is now in the K12 recalibration bill) **PASSED**
- **S3017 – Laursen – SUPPORT** -Increase \$7.5M for CTE support and sustainability **PASSED**
- **S3018 – Brennan – SUPPORT** -Increase community college state aid by \$9.5M **FAILED**
  - Ayes: Senator(s) Anderson, Barlow, Brennan, Cooper, Driskill, Hicks, Nethercott, Rothfuss, Schuler, Scott
  - Nays: Senator(s) Biteman, Boner, Case, Crago, Crum, Dockstader, French, Gierau, Hutchings, Ide, Jones, Kolb, Landen, Laursen, Love, Mckeown, Olsen, Pappas, Pearson, Salazar, Steinmetz
  - Ayes 10 Nays 21 Excused 0 Absent 0 Conflicts 0
- **S3019 – Brennan – SUPPORT** -Increase community college state aid by \$5M **PASSED – this is only in the Senate side.**

The House is working today to finish the rest of their amendments. I expect a Joint Conference Committee to be appointed next week to begin negotiations between the two houses. Before that happens, both bodies will explain the actions of the other body to their members. It is always worthwhile to listen to those discussions.

Late on Saturday the House passed amendments to bring in employee compensation for state employees, a “smaller cut” to UW (\$20M instead of \$40M). Many close to the process are already questioning whether the House and Senate will be able to negotiate their way to a final agreement. Here’s what must happen procedurally: the budget has to fail in two joint conference committees before it can move to what’s known as a free committee. A standard conference committee is limited to negotiating only the differences between the House and Senate versions; anything that is “mirrored” in both chambers is locked in and cannot be changed. A free committee, however, operates without those guardrails. Once the process reaches that stage, everything is back on the table—far beyond the original points of disagreement. That level of openness can be unpredictable, and for many, deeply concerning.

If a free committee still cannot reach agreement, the session will adjourn without a budget—something the Wyoming Constitution requires. At that point, lawmakers would have no choice but to return to Cheyenne for a special session to finish the job. We will keep an eye on the process this week.

## WHAT HAPPENED THIS WEEK

- **Property Tax Bills** – Most of the property tax bills have died with only a handful still moving. There is a version of the long term homeowners exemption in both houses, and Senator Hicks has a version that allows a portion of the K12 mills to be forgiven. We are keeping an eye on that one too.
- **Gun bills** – HB 95 passed the House on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading late Saturday evening. We will keep an eye on the two bills (HB 95 and HB96 as they continue to progress).
- **Hathaway bills** – the two bills adjusting the amount of the Hathaway scholarship and lump sum award are moving through the process.

Please visit the WACCT Advocacy tab of the website for the weekly WACCT Bill Tracking, Legislative priorities, and talking points. [www.wacct.org/advocacy](http://www.wacct.org/advocacy).

## WEEKLY ZOOM

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

**LEGISLATIVE SCHEDULE** ([click here for the full schedule](#))