



## **WEEK 5 AT THE CAPITOL**

Week 5 at the Capitol was crossover week and was one of the busiest weeks of the session. Every House Bill, Senate File and Joint Resolution to survive had to be approved by its chamber of origin and passed to the other chamber by February 6. Measures that did not make it through the required process will not be considered for the session. Of the 499 bills that were introduced, 209 did not make the crossover deadline and 290 are still active and being debated.

The WAM Website [www.wyomuni.org](http://www.wyomuni.org) contains information on all the bills we are tracking and identifies bills that directly and indirectly relate to WAM. The following is a summary of several of the most important bills WAM is tracking. Please note these are not all of the bills we are following, but the ones that most directly affect our members. As noted, the full legislative summaries and bill status are on the WAM website.

### **State Budget**

The Supplemental Budget is processed through the separate chambers on mirrored bills. During Week 5, both the House and Senate Budget Bills were amended numerous times.

It is our understanding that a **\$70-\$80 million** discrepancy between the HB01 and Senate File 01; because of the numerous amendments it is difficult to have a precise number. These differences will need to be resolved in the Conference Committee and will likely not be resolved until the very end of the session. Concurrence on amendments and Joint Committee Reports are scheduled for February 26.

### **HOUSE BILLS OF INTEREST**

The following are brief summaries of bills of interest to WAM members. Please note they are not all of the bills we are following, but the ones we believe are of the greatest interest. The full list of tracked bills are found on the WAM website.

#### **House Bill 10 - Crimes Against Critical Infrastructure**

This bill made it a crime to impede critical infrastructure. This bill was primarily designed to protect oil and gas facilities, electrical generation plants, but also included municipal facilities such as sewer plants, water treatment facilities, electric distribution systems, etc. After two contentious committee hearings, the Mineral Committee passed the bill with a do pass recommendation. The bill died in the House when it was not considered by the Committee of Whole. WAM supported the bill.

#### **House 14 – Daylight Savings Time**

This bill would change the time zone for the State of Wyoming. As written, this bill would authorize the Governor to apply to the United States Secretary of Transportation to modify the Wyoming Time Zone when at least 3 contiguous states to Wyoming have made this change. If approved, Wyoming would move to the Central Time Zone. This bill has passed the House, approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee and is now awaiting action on the Senate Floor. WAM is monitoring this bill.



House Bill 66 – Statewide Lodging Tax

This bill would impose a 5% statewide lodging tax, with 3% being used to fund the Tourism Department and 2% going to local government. This bill has passed the House and has been introduced in the Senate. WAM supports this bill.

House Bill 67 – Sales Tax Revisions

This bill reduces the state sales tax by .5% and repeals tax exemptions including tax on food. The bill did not meet the Committee of the Whole time requirements and has no further consideration. WAM was monitoring this bill.

House Bill 69 – Marketplace Facilitators

This bill would effectively tax internet sales. This bill is estimated to generate \$3.5 million for local governments in FY 2020. This bill passed the Senate Revenue Committee and is awaiting action on the Senate floor. WAM supports this bill.

HB 81 – Omnibus Water Bill

This bill funds a number of water projects around the state. The bill appropriates \$6.4 million from the Water Development Funds for planning of water projects around the state. The bill has passed the House, been approved in the Senate Agriculture and Appropriations Committees and is awaiting action on the Senate Floor. Project details can be found in the bill. WAM supports this bill.

House Bill 93 – Tourism Districts

This bill authorizes counties, cities and towns to establish of tourism improvement districts to fund specified tourism and marketing activities. The bill passed the House and referred to the Senate Corporations Committee. WAM supports this bill.

House Bill 95 – Special Purpose Tax-Excess Funds

This bill relates to local sales tax and authorizes the expenditure of excess funds for a specific purpose. The bill is on General File in the Senate. WAM supports this bill.

HB 101 – Joint Powers Boards-Natural Gas Service

This bill authorizes joint powers boards to create and operate natural gas systems. The bill passed the House and has been referred to the Senate Corporations. WAM supports this bill.

HB 151 – Ban On Sanctuary Cities And Counties

This bill prohibited the implementation of sanctuary cities and proposed to withhold state and federal funding if a sanctuary city was created. The bill failed the Committee of the Whole. WAM opposed the bill.





#### HB 183 - Repeal of Gun Free Zones

This bill proposed to repeal the gun free zones established in previous legislation. This bill was introduced in the House and referred to the House Appropriations Committee. It did not pass the Committee of the Whole by the deadline and is dead for this session. WAM was monitoring the bill.

#### House Bill 196 – Local Regulation - Subdivisions

This bill would preempt Counties from establishing minimum lot sizes in family subdivisions. This bill does not affect cities and town's but is another local government preemption bill. The bill was amended to minimize land speculation. It passed the House and has been introduced in the Senate and referred to Senate Corporations. WAM is monitoring this bill.

#### House Bill 220 – Retail Fairness Act

This bill would impose an income tax on out of state corporations who do business in Wyoming. These corporations are domiciled in states (i.e. Walmart, Target, etc.) that have a state corporate tax. Income from the Wyoming business are taxed in the home state, with no revenue going to Wyoming. This bill is expected to raise \$45 million in revenue and would go the School Foundation Fund. The bill has passed the House, introduced in the Senate and referred to the Senate Corporations Committee. Expect a good fight on this bill. WAM is monitoring this bill.

#### House Bill 237 - Transportation infrastructure-local option

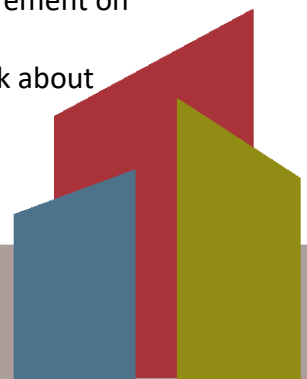
This bill would authorize Specific Purpose Tax sales and use tax to be used for roadway construction or other transportation infrastructure. This bill has passed House Revenue Committee but was not considered by the Committee of Whole and is now dead. WAM supported this bill.

#### House Bill 271 – Firefighter Nonbinding Arbitration

This bill eliminated the requirement for binding arbitration and replaced it with nonbinding arbitration for cities and fire departments represented by a union. This bill was approved by the House Appropriations Committee but was defeated by the Committee of Whole. WAM supported this bill.

#### House Bill 277- Town and County Developments (2)

This bill would preempt towns and counties from imposing affordable housing requirement on new developments. This bill passed the House Corporations Committee but was not considered by the Committee of Whole and is dead for this year. There has been talk about making this a topic for the interim study. WAM opposed this bill.





#### House Bill -284 - Video Skill Games

This is a bill replaced HB 206. The bill essentially makes video “games of skill” legal. As amended, this would allow establishments with liquor licenses to install and operate 2 video skill games. Counties could opt out of this bill and effectively ban these machines from their respective counties. Cities did have the opt out provision. The bill failed a vote of the Committee of Whole is now dead for this session. WAM was monitoring the bill.

#### House Bill 291 - Alcoholic Beverages-Licensing Authority Powers

This bill limits a city or town’s ability to regulate establishments with liquor licenses. It restricts a town’s ability to regulate to zoning regulations only. In other words, a city/town cannot grant or renew a license and restrict hours of operation, etc. The bill has passed the House and awaiting action in the Senate. WAM is monitoring this bill.

### **SENATE FILES OF INTEREST**

#### SF 20 – Surface Water Drainage Systems

This bill proposed to grant authority to cities and towns to fund drainage wayre systems. The bill failed in the Senate on third reading. WAM supported the bill. An attempt was made in the House to pass this bill, but it to failed in committee,

#### SF29 – Cease And Transfer Priority List

This bill prioritizes municipal solid waste facilities cease and transfer projects. The bill passed the Senate and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the House. WAM supports this bill.

#### SF 49 County Zoning - Schools

As note in the last update, this bill preempts the ability of counties to regulate private schools through county zoning regulations. This bill treats private school similar to public schools. This bill has passed the Senate and has been introduced in the House and awaiting further action in the House. WAM is monitoring this bill.

#### SF 57 – Public Records

This bill relates to the production of public records to include setting time limits for production, designating the custodian of records, provides for appeal processes, sets penalties including felonies for noncompliance to include termination of employment. The bill as originally proposed caused numerous concerns for WAM and many other entities. The bill has been amended to a point where we believe is workable. It has passed the Senate and been introduced in the House, passed the House Corporations Committee, and rereferred to the House Appropriations Committee. WAM opposed the original bill; however, is now in a monitor position.



Wyoming  
Association of  
Municipalities  
**Building Strong Communities**

#### Senate File 88 – Fireman’s fund B

This bill reduces the actuarial schedule for this fund from 40 years to 30 years. There is a proposed 4% (1% per year for 4 years) increase in the rate, plan cost will go up by virtue of the reduced actuarial schedule. WRS says this is necessary to keep the fund adequately funded. We have requested an amendment to would allow in the increase cost be divided between the employer and the employee. The House Appropriations Committee amended the bill to divide this increase evenly between the employer and employee. As noted, the bill as amended has passed House Appropriations and awaiting action on the House Floor. WAM is monitoring the bill.

#### Tracking Bills on Line

The WAM website contains all the information about the bills and their status in the legislative process. If you prefer to see this data in the excel format, you can click the excel button and it will format the information into an excel spread sheet. A direct link can be found at

<https://wyomuni.org/follow-legislation>

If you have questions about any legislative issue, please do not hesitate to call Bob McLaurin (307) 413-3483, or Rick Kaysen at (307) 287-4218.

