



WEEK 6 AT THE CAPITOL

Week 6 at the Capitol was another busy week during the Legislative Session. With crossover week behind us, the number of active bills continues to decline as bills have passed and been signed or died in committee(s) or on the House or Senate Floor. As of the writing of this document, there are 142 active House Bills and 98 Senate Files, and 86 Bills/Files have been approved by both bodies.

The WAM Website 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 proposals with differences. During Week 5, both the House and Senate Budget proposals were amended numerous times. After much review by both bodies, we have heard that the House and Senate have agreed on a budget compromise although we do not have details. It is expected that more Bills/Files B will be reviewed which may cause differences.

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 complete list of tracked bills are found on the WAM website.

House Joint02 – Funding Sewer Systems

This is a joint resolution that would modify the Wyoming Constitution to remove the constitutional 4% limitation on debt for sewage disposal systems and replace it with a limit to be established by Wyoming Legislature. The bill has passed both bodies and must be approved by Wyoming voters at the next general election as a constitutional amendment. WAM supports this Joint Bill.

House Bill14 – 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 US Secretary of Transportation to modify 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 and been approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee and is now awaiting action on the Senate Floor. WAM is monitoring this bill.



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House Bill 66 – Statewide Lodging Tax

This bill would impose a 5% statewide lodging tax, with 3% being used to fund the State Office of Tourism and 2% going to local government. This bill has passed the House and has been introduced in the Senate and referred to the Travel Wildlife and Recreation Committee. WAM supports 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 FY2020. This bill has passed both the House and Senate Chamber and signed as Enrolled Act No. 23. WAM supports this bill.

HB 81 – Omnibus Water Bill-Planning

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 including municipalities. The bill has passed the House and the Senate, and is Enrolled Act No. 38. 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, but failed the Senate. WAM supported the 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 other states (i.e. Walmart, Target, etc.) that have a state corporate tax. Currently, income from the Wyoming businesses are taxed in the domiciled state, with no revenue received in 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. This Committee will continue its review during Week 7. We expect good controversy, and opposition and support on this bill. WAM is supporting this bill.

House Bill 291 - Alcoholic beverages-licensing authority powers.

This bill limits a city or town's ability 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 was approved by the Senate Revenue Committee. WAM opposes this bill.



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SENATE FILES OF INTEREST

Senate File 16 – Community Development Districts

This bill allows for the creation of community development districts within municipal boundaries at the request of the property owners. The bill passed the Senate, but failed the House Committee of the Whole. WAM monitored this bill.

SF 49 County Zoning - Schools

As noted in the last update, this bill preempts the ability of counties to regulate private schools through county zoning regulations. This bill treats private schools similar to public schools. This bill passed the Senate. It passed the House Corporations Committee on a 6-3 vote and is on General File in the House. WAM opposes this bill. An extremely close vote is expected on the House Floor.

Senate File 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 and passed the House Corporations Committee. During the House debate, there were several amendments passed that WAM objected to. The bill passed on 2nd reading in a form we can live with; however, it is expected that more amendments will be introduced that WAM opposes.

Senate File 59 - Water Omnibus – Construction

This bill relates to funding for water construction projects. It appropriates approximately \$28 million for various water projects around the state including municipal projects. The bill has passed the House and Senate, and is Enrolled Act No. 28. WAM supports this bill.

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 4% increase over 4 years at 1% per year as a result of the accelerated schedule. The Wyoming Retirement System states this is necessary to keep the fund adequately funded. We requested an amendment to allow the increase cost to 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



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Appropriations Committee; however, the amendment was removed on the House Floor. WAM is monitoring this 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.

