



While this week was full of late nights and long agendas, it also brought some level of relief on Friday when bills faced a deadline to pass Committee of the Whole (first reading of a bill). Several bad bills died – one that would have impacted all of us, the broad-based increase on property tax assessment rates. This bill would have increased taxes on industrial property as well as residential properties. Please see the list below for college-related bills that died.

Now we see bills passing one house and moving to the other side. Next week both houses will take up the budget bill. Usually they present the budget on Monday – members of the Appropriations Committee walk the body through each of the agencies and give a summary of the testimony and their reasoning for any committee actions. The supplemental budget bill is now available on the LSO website – [click her to reference HB1 or SF1](#). Each house begins with mirror bill and the bodies respectively adopt amendments on both second and third readings. They then go to conference committee and the Governor signs the budget.

Recall, the Joint Appropriations Committee added \$631,250 for the veterans' tuition reimbursements (as per the Governor's recommendations) to the Wyoming Community College Commission budget, but also cut the community college block grant by \$590,902. This amount is reflective of the positions and/or program reductions as provided for in Section 320 "Position Freeze and Statewide Budget Reduction" to which other state agencies are subject. The University of Wyoming has a similar reduction in the amount of \$1.04 million.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

- [HB 233 – State or school employment contract – compensation reduction](#) - **Dr. Leach testified in the House Minerals Committee where the bill was laid back, which means it dies.**
- [HB 292 – Community colleges – administrative procedure act exclusion](#) – **the bill was not considered by the committee.**
- [HB 283 – Higher education student recruitment planning](#) – WACCT testified to say that the colleges stand ready to work with UW on recruitment efforts for the state, but that a bill may not be needed. **Ultimately, the bill failed in the House Education Committee.**
- [SF 152 – Hathaway student scholarships](#) – the bill repeals the provisional level of the Hathaway scholarship and creates a savings account students may access as they complete their Hathaway curriculum. **The bill was laid back on 2nd reading in the Senate.**

[Please see the WACCT 2017 Bill Tracking](#) for more bills.

We still await to hear where HB 136 – Campus Carry is assigned. Once we know, WACCT will let you know so you can contact your senators.

IN THE NEWS

[Amendments to sweeping education bill strike 2 percent sales tax increase](#) – 2/4/17 – Casper Star Tribune

[Bills would expand Hathaway eligibility](#) – 2/3/17 – Casper Star Tribune

KEY EVENTS OF THE 2017 SESSION:

(37-day schedule – Recess Friday & Monday for President's Day)

- Day 1 Tuesday, January 10 Session convenes.
- Day 12 Wednesday, January 25 Last day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)
- Day 15 Monday, January 30 Last day for House Bills to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)
- Day 18 Thursday, February 2 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in house of origin.
- Day 19 Friday, February 3 Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin.
- Day 20 Monday, February 6 Last day for Second Reading in house of origin.
- Day 21 Tuesday, February 7 Last day for Third Reading on Bills in house of origin.
- Friday, February 17 & Monday, February 20 President's Day Recess
- Day 32 Friday, February 24 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.
- Day 33 Monday, February 27 Last day for Committee of the Whole in the second house.
- Day 34 Tuesday, February 28 Last day for Second Reading in the second house.
- Day 35 Wednesday, March 1 Last day for Third Reading in the second house.
- Day 36 Thursday, March 2 Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.
- Day 37 Friday, March 3 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk by 2:00 p.m.;
- ADJOURN by Midnight.
- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday - March 6, 7 and 8 are available if necessary.