



As the legislature approached the President's Day Weekend (they took Friday and Monday off), the House and the Senate were nowhere closer to resolving the budget. The three biggest areas of contention remain the prison, education and mental health. The Senate finished marking up SF1 (the budget bill) in week five and the House finished HB1 on Monday of last week with the biggest difference being the \$91 million in cuts to K-12 education (the Senate's position). A budget conference committee met once last week but determined they were not ready to come to a compromise. They will try again next week. Word in the hallway is that there is a very real chance the budget differences will not get resolved during this supplemental budget session. If that is the case, the biennial budget that was signed into law last year remains.

Several committees started meeting to discuss interim topics – this will continue into the next week. The Management Committee (comprised of legislative leadership) will then meet at the end of the session to assign the topics for each committee. I will report out when we have the list of interim topics for the committees.

BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

[HB 55 – SPENDING POLICY AMENDMENTS](#) - Amends the spending policy rates for the permanent Wyoming mineral trust fund, the common school account within the permanent land fund and the excellence in higher education endowment fund. **The bill passed the Senate this week.**

[HB 136 – CAMPUS CARRY](#) – Repeals gun free zones on any public college or university campus. **The bill passed the House and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. Erin Taylor testified on behalf of WACCT and Dr. Shaffer testified on behalf of the college presidents. It is still worthwhile to contact your senators regarding your position on HB136. We expect it to start moving on the floor this week.**

[HB 137 – WYOMING REPEAL GUN FREE ZONES ACT](#) – Repeals the Wyoming Gun Free Zones Act – this would allow guns in public spaces. There is also another bill, HB 136 that would allow guns on college campuses, including sporting events. **The bill passed House and passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last week. It is likely to pass the Senate this year.**

[HB 237 – COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPITAL CONSTRUCTION](#) - The bill grants authority for the schools to start using their private funds on the mentioned projects. **Passed the House and Senate last week. The CWC Jackson building was added.**

[SF 132 – ENDOW initiative](#) - Provides for an economic diversification council to oversee and promote economic diversification activities in the state. \$1.5M would be available for grants to business and the community colleges and \$1M would be needed to administer the program. **Passed the Senate – referred to House Appropriations. WACCT testified in support of this bill.**

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

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.