

# WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



January 24, 2015

Week Two of the 63rd Wyoming Legislature added nearly 100 bills to its stack now totaling 326. This weekly report and the WTA Bill Tracking Sheet will keep you current on legislative action for the week relevant to the bills we are watching.

As of Friday, January 23, 2015, the total General Fund appropriations for other bills (in addition to the Governor's budget recommendation) totaled \$1,225,800, moving the amount of funds available for appropriation further into the red. Recall the adjustments made recently by the CREG, which had a dramatic effect on funding available for appropriation. Funding for the current biennium, FY 2015-16, suffered a further blow from the dismal negative \$4.4M profiled in October. The result of these revisions translated into a reduction of \$217.6M in traditional funds available for appropriation (General Fund and Budget Reserve Account (BRA)). Both the General Fund and BRA realized reductions of \$18M and \$199.6M, respectively. Combined with the -\$4.4M in traditional funds profiled in October, the overall shortfall, or starting point before any supplemental budget, was **-\$222M**.

<b>Funds Available (Cash, Revenue, Net Transfers)</b>	<b>15-16 Biennium Gov.'s Rec. Oct. CREG Status</b>	<b>15-16 Biennium Gov.'s Rec. Jan. CREG Status</b>
Total Traditional Funds	3,635,515,077	3,452,245,545
Expenditures:		
2014 Budget Bill	-3,345,363,652	-3,345,363,652
2014 Budget Bill transfers	- 159,865,000	- 159,865,000
2015 Governor's Rec. (inferred)	- 135,594,544	- 135,594,544
Other 2014 Bills (GF Approp.) Bud. Session	- 24,983,887	- 24,983,887
Other 2015 Bills (GF Approp.) Gen. Session	- 1,225,800	- 1,225,800
Total Appropriations/Transfers	<u>-3,667,032,883</u>	<u>-3,667,032,883</u>
General Fund/BRA Balance	-31,517,806	-214,787,338
Statutory Reserve (5% of GF revenues)	<u>-109,860,000</u>	<u>-109,860,000</u>
Total Traditional Funds Available for Appropriation **	<b>-141,377,806</b>	<b>-324,647,338</b>

Source: Legislative Service Office, Fiscal Profile 1/23/2015

\*\* The Governor's supplemental budget message identifies funds available (General Fund/BRA, Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA), Strategic Investments and Projects Account (SIPA), Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund (PWMTF) Reserve and possible reversions) but makes no recommendation as to the source of revenue to fund the supplemental budget recommendations. As such, other than the SIPA, which has been profiled as fully expended, the remaining negative balance has not been apportioned to specific revenue sources, e.g., LSRA or PWMTF Reserve.

## **WTA Bills of Interest This Session**

The Legislative Policy Committee met on Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup> and submitted its recommendations on 19 bills to the Executive Committee, all of which were approved. Please see WTA's Bill Tracking Sheet for general information on all of the bills we are tracking.

## **WTA Toast and Taxes**

The first session of Toast and Taxes was held Tuesday morning at the Egg & I Restaurant in Cheyenne. We were privileged to have Representative Tom Walters, HD 38 – Natrona, Representative Mike Madden, HD 40 – Johnson/Sheridan, Representative Dan Kirkbride HD 4 – Platte, and Senator Fred Emerich, SD 5 – Laramie, join 11 WTA members for breakfast and lively discussion. QEP Resources is our gracious sponsor for this event – THANK YOU.

Please join us for this event held each Tuesday morning at 6:30 at the Egg & I.