

	
2012 Budget Session	RED= Dead bills, GREEN (shaded)=Enacted
BILL	DESCRIPTION/STATUS
House Bills	
<u>HB 3 State Vehicle registration Fee</u>	Sponsored by the Joint Transportation Committee. Increases the state fee charged on private use vehicle registrations by \$7.50. Fiscal impact benefit to the highway fund is \$6.7M per year. Will vary from year to year based on the number or vehicles registered. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 33 Highway fund - assignment of fine and penalty revenues</u>	This legislation proposes a constitutional amendment which would reassign general fine and penalty revenues from the public schools to WYDOT for the construction, improvement or maintenance of Wyoming's highways. School districts will not see a decrease in funding as a result. Currently, revenues from fines and penalties are distributed to county treasurers for deposit into the county school fund. These funds are then distributed to each school district. The revenues are deducted from the education resource block grant guarantee amount to determine the district's state entitlement or the amount to be recaptured. The fiscal impact under this proposal would be an increased cost to the state school foundation program account and would not result in any direct loss to school districts. The cost to the state would result from an increase in entitlement payments to school districts as well as a loss of revenue from recapture school districts. Approximately \$16M annually.
<u>HB 38 Coal severance tax industry factor</u>	This bill would establish an industry factor for coal sold away from the mouth of the mine in an arms-length sale to determine fair market value. The factor would be set at 79% for coal produced in Campbell, Converse, Johnson and Sheridan counties and 81% for coal produced in other counties within the state. The issue will be evaluated every three years. Fiscal impacts to the budget reserve account, general fund, PMTF, school foundation program and ad valorem collections. Passed the House on 2/20/12 by a vote of 52-6-1 and second reading in the Senate on Friday. The bill ran into significant opposition from the Governor's office to make it revenue neutral and was sent back to the Revenue Committee for work in the interim. WTA supports this bill.
<u>HB 40 Optional sales/use tax</u>	Enrolled Act No. 19. This bill allows the optional sales and use tax (currently what is commonly referred to as the 6th penny) to be used for what has been defined to include "one time major maintenance, renovation or reconstruction of a specifically defined section of a public roadway." The bill passed the Senate on Friday by a vote of 17-13.

<u>HB 47 School Finance</u>	The bill makes a number of adjustments to the school finance formula through reconfiguration requirements under the education resource block grant funding model, modifying the regional cost adjustment to the model, clarifying methodology for computing external cost adjustments, etc. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 49 Yellowstone infrastructure</u>	This bill proposes to impose a 1% sales and use tax specifically to fund the operation and maintenance of Yellowstone national Park. The tax would be imposed on all retail sales and admissions and services made within the boundaries of the Park. The tax would be imposed on Park and Teton Counties. Currently, the tax is aggregated with sales which occur in both Park and Teton Counties. The revenues shall flow to an account under the control of the Department of State Parks and Cultural Resources. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 51 Industrial siting impact payments</u>	Two critical changes in the law are made to the Industrial Siting Process - specific to the distribution of funds: First, impacts as projected by local governments are reconciled with those identified by the industrial firm utilizing processes and procedures laid out by the industrial siting staff and council. Second, impact assistance payments will then be made to impacted subdivisions according to the rate at which excise and use taxes are generated and in proportion to the completion of the construction activity associated with the new industrial facility. Once the total local impact costs are reached, or the project has been completed, these monthly payments will cease. The bill passed the House but died by a vote of 15-15 on third reading in the Senate.
<u>HB 68 - Severance tax distributions</u>	The bill proposes to increase the severance tax distribution cap from \$150M to \$200M for dedicated recipients of severance taxes. this includes: cities and towns, counties, county roads, local government capitol construction, highways, the water accounts, and the general fund. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 69 - Vehicle registration fees</u>	Motor vehicle owners will be required to pay lower county-based motor vehicle annual registration fees for vehicles seven (7) years and older. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 79 - Renewable resources electricity generation exemption</u>	This bill extends the sales and use tax exemption on equipment used to generate electricity from renewable resources with a total net rating capacity of not more than 25 kilowatts, or where the entire renewable energy system is for off-grid use - until 2017. The exemption was done away with last year therefore no fiscal impact. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 91 - Wyoming retirement act</u>	Changes the current defined benefit system for state employees to a defined contribution. immediate fiscal impact is upwards of \$600,000, however the impact of paying out the current system is unknown, but estimated to be upwards of \$1B. While our retirement system is looking good now compared to the other states, it is only a couple of years down the road where it becomes insolvent (which has serious implications for the state). Failed introduction.

<u>HB 101 - Veterans tax exemption - requalification</u>	The bill removes the requirement that a veteran contact the assessor's office each year to make sure they meet the qualifications of the program. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 103 - School finance amendments - 2</u>	The bill makes a number of adjustments to the school finance formula through reconfiguration requirements under the education resource block grant funding model, modifying the regional cost adjustment to the model, clarifying methodology for computing external cost adjustments, etc. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 104 - Ethanol tax credit - 2</u>	The appropriation in the bill would replace or reimburse WYDOT and local governments for existing fuel tax revenue that is refunded to eligible ethanol tax creditors. Fiscal impact is approximately \$3.2M. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 105 - Property tax exemption - improvement and service districts</u>	Exempts property that is owned by improvement and service districts from taxation. Failed introduction.
<u>HB 106 - Local option tax - municipalities</u>	This bill basically allows the first municipality to pass an optional tax the ability to impose it, rather than working through the current process of working with all of the other municipalities in the county. The bill will in House Revenue on Monday. The bill failed a vote in House Revenue on 2/20/12 by a vote of 4-5. The Committee may ask to study the issue in the interim.
<u>HB 116 - Impact assistance to local governments</u>	Provides a program to provide assistance to local governments impacted by oil and gas development including oil and gas producing facilities, oil and gas facilities and oil and gas well field activities. Grants offered through the Office of State Lands and Investments. Appropriates \$1M for FY's 2013 and 2014 to the Office of State Lands and Investments. The bill passed the House but died on Committee of the Whole in the Senate by a vote of 12-18 on 3/5.
<u>HB 118 - Deferred compensation program - state contribution</u>	Provides for additional state contribution to the Wyoming deferred compensation program for qualifying employees. Failed introduction.

HB 121 - Abandoned mine land funds	<p>Enrolled Act No. 25. This bill contains appropriations of \$83,406,724 from ABANDONED MINE LAND FUNDS to the Department of Environmental Quality, the University of Wyoming, the Wyoming Wildlife Resources Trust Income Account, the State Engineer, and the Department of Transportation for projects as described in the bill. These appropriations are effective immediately. Amounts appropriated to the University of Wyoming require matching funds. This bill also contains appropriations of \$45,250,154 from the ABANDONED MINE LAND FUNDS which have been previously appropriated and are redirected to the University of Wyoming, the Governor's Office, and the Wyoming Pipeline Authority for projects as described in the bill. These appropriations are effective immediately. See WTA's final session summary for a complete breakdown of the AML funds. The bill was signed by the Governor on 3/8, however he issued a veto for Section 2(b)(iii)(E) noting that the section conflicts with federal requirements of the AML program and the implementation of this provision could jeopardize future AML funding to Wyoming. The requirements prohibit the sale of real property acquired with AML grant funds without input from the awarding federal agency.</p>
HJR 2 Constitutional assignment of general fines and penalties	<p>Companion bill to HB 33 amending the Wyoming Constitution to require that fines and penalties collected under the general laws of the state be applied to the construction or maintenance of Wyoming's roadways. Failed due to HB 33 dying.</p>
<p>Senate Bills</p>	
SF 2 Appropriation for the legislature	<p>Enrolled Act No. 57. This bill contains appropriations of \$18.6M from the general fund to the Legislative Service Office for personnel/benefit costs, support services, data services, and contractual services. Also \$32,500 for various artwork and facilities projects. Sponsored by the Management Committee.</p>
SF 8 Ethanol Tax Credit	<p>Enrolled Act No. 61. Sponsored by the Joint Transportation Committee. Another effort to get more dollars flowing to the highway fund and local governments for roads - Allows the local governments to resume collecting fuel taxes on Wyoming-produced ethanol. The current tax credit (\$.40/gallon) reduced funding to state and local roads through reductions in fuel taxes. This bill would effectively make them whole again. There is only one ethanol producer at this time. Effective January 2013. Fiscal impact is an additional \$240,000 to cities and towns, \$440,000 for counties and \$920,000 for the highway fund for 2013. Double those numbers for FY 2014 and 2015. The bill came out of the Senate as introduced, but the House amended the credit down to \$0.18/gallon until December 2018, however in conference committee, the full credit was put back to \$0.40/gallon with a sunset in 2015 .</p>

<u>SF 9 Allocation of sales tax paid on diesel to highways</u>	This bill allocates sales tax revenue that is currently collected on off-road (dyed) diesel fuel purchases to the general fund and moves it to the highway fund. Railroad and agricultural businesses will remain exempt. The fund may only be used for Wyoming road construction, improvements and maintenance. Fiscal impact is \$23.9M in FY 2014 and 2015. Passed out of Senate Transportation on 2/13. The bill was not considered on general file.
<u>SF 35 Select Committee on Capital Financing and Investments</u>	Enrolled Act No. 12. The bill allows the earnings in the Hathaway student scholarship and excellence in higher education endowment reserve accounts to be retained in those accounts, rather than flow to the General Fund. Fiscal impact is \$489,596 total for FY 2013.
<u>SF 51 - Natural gas regulations</u>	Among other things, the bill proposes an exemption from severance taxes for stripper gas production starting January 1, 2013 or before at 100% until December 31, 2022, and 50% thereafter; and for wells which begin production January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013 at 75% for the period January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2023, and 50% thereafter; finally, for wells beginning production on or after January 1, 2014, 50%. Fiscal impacts to the budget reserve account, general fund and PMTF. The bill was pulled by the sponsor.
<u>SF 57 Education accountability</u>	Enrolled Act No. 65. This bill would revise the statewide educational accountability requirements and teacher performance requirements enacted in 2011. The revisions would provide for a comprehensive framework for an educational accountability system. The bill would modify statewide assessments, provide performance indicators, set target levels for performance and provide a system of supports, interventions and consequences to improve student learning and teaching. The bill would extend the select committee and advisory committee on educational accountability and outline the committees' activities. The bill details the tests students will be taking through high school and sets up a process for measuring the academic progress of students in reading, math, science, writing and language. It creates a committee composed of educators, school administrators, parents and others to decide what standards schools must meet to be evaluated on whether they are doing a good job of educating students.
<u>SF 59 Public employee retirement plans benefit increases</u>	Enrolled Act No. 66. This bill would remove the authorization for cost-of-living increases in specified public employee retirement plans. It would provide legislative findings for the action and provide parameters for the Legislature to follow in making future benefit increases. The bill would require that certain information regarding the retirement plans be provided to employees. It also would direct the joint appropriations interim committee to study: (1) the implementation of an annual cost-of-living adjustment; (2) the implementation of a supplemental defined contribution plan with employee and matching employer contributions as an alternative to addressing cost-of-living increases; and (3) other types of pension plans with the option of developing legislation for the 2013 general session.

<u>SF 74 - Severance tax - trona valuation</u>	Enrolled Act No. 8 , the bill passed the House on 3/1. Allows the taxpayer and the DOR to agree to an alternative valuation of determining fair market value. Make the statutes in line with those of natural gas and coal. The bill now has a reporting requirement. WTA supports this bill.
<u>SF 77 - Government competition</u>	Enrolled Act. No. 47 . Modifies the public finance website to provide a process for lodging concerns regarding competition by government entities (to include the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government, or any instrumentality of those branches - this also includes the University of Wyoming) with the private sector. An annual report will be generated detailing the number of reports received, which entities are involved, and any actions the entity reported. Passed the Senate and the House on 3/7. WTA supports the concepts of this bill.
<u>SF 100 - Water and sewer districts - boundary changes</u>	Allows an exclusion of property from water and sewer districts. This bill and SF 101 did not survive Senate Corporations on 2/23.
<u>SF 101- Special districts - exclusion of property</u>	Provides for an exclusion of property not benefited by the services of the district.