

WTA 2015 General Session Bill Tracking Sheet

For the week ending: March 7, 2015

(Updated as of: Sunday, March 8, 2015, 12:00 P.M.)



HOUSE BILLS	DESCRIPTION / ACTION	WTA POSITION
HB0002 Museum districts-formation.	<p>This bill specifies the procedure for establishing a special museum district and conducting subsequent district elections. In this legislation, the county commissioners vote to adopt a special district by resolution, providing public notice a minimum of 30 days prior to meeting, bypassing the petition process, and then submitting the issue for electorate approval using standard procedure as required by the Special District Election Act of 1994. H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, Corporations: H: DO PASS FAILED in Accordance with House Rule 5-4: 4-5-0-0-0 on 03/03/15.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Neutral FAILED</p>
HB0005 Property tax refund program-extension.	<p>This bill will reinstitute the long-running property tax refund program and related provisions subject to legislative appropriation that otherwise is due to sunset as of January 1, 2015. Governor signed into law: CH0020 on 02/25/2015. Effective: 02/25/2015.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Neutral</p>
HB0009 Alternative fuel taxation.	<p>This bill provides for taxation of alternative fuels (LNG, CNG, electricity, et al) used to propel a motor vehicle. The effective tax rate will be \$0.24 per gallon. The gasoline gallon equivalency (GGE) will be used for CNG, LPG or electricity. The diesel gallon equivalency (DGE) will be used for LNG or renewable diesel. Electrical energy sold or used for the purpose of propelling a motor vehicle is exempt from all taxes if an electric vehicle decal has been obtained. Governor signed into law: CH0028 on 02/25/2015. Effective: 07/01/2015.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Support</p>
HB0024 Minimum wage	<p>This bill increases the minimum wage from \$5.15 per hour to \$9.00 per hour (175%). It also raises the minimum wage for tipped employees from \$2.13 per hour to \$5.00 per hour (235%). It specifies a penalty for non-compliance. Sponsors: Representative(s) Byrd, Connolly and Throne and Senator(s) Esquibel, F. H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, Revenue: H: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to HR 5-4 on 01/23/15.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Monitor FAILED</p>

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HB0025 Railroad rolling stock tax exemption-sunset.	<p><i>This bill repeals the sunset of the exemption (7/01/15) on the imposition of state sales and use tax on the repair, assembly, alteration or improvement of railroad rolling stock.</i></p> <p>Governor signed into law: CH0120 on 03/03/15. Effective: 03/03/15.</p>	Support
HB0044 Emergency 911 fees-prepaid wireless.	<p><i>This bill proposes the imposition of a 911 emergency tax of 1.5% on every retail sale of prepaid wireless communications access in Wyoming.</i></p> <p>Governor signed into law: CH090 on 03/02/15. Effective: 03/02/15.</p>	Support
HB0051 Excise tax-well site.	<p><i>This bill amends the definition of a well site from being the area within a 250-foot radius of an oil or gas wellbore to an area where production equipment is installed to store or prepare oil or gas for transportation off the well site.</i></p> <p>Governor signed into law: CH0061 on 02/27/15. Effective: 07/01/15.</p>	Support
HB0052 - Sales tax exemption-related business entities.	<p><i>This bill specifies that a lease or rental of tangible personal property between a parent and closely held subsidiary corporations, between subsidiary corporations closely held by the same parent corporation, or between affiliated companies, partnerships, corporations or other business entities which are owned in similar percentages by the same persons, is not subject to taxation.</i></p> <p>Governor signed into law: CH0044 on 02/25/15. Effective: 07/01/15.</p>	Neutral
HB0062 Property tax exemption for faith-based camps.	<p><i>This bill adds faith-based camps to the list of real property exempted from property taxation.</i></p> <p>Governor signed into law: CH0126 on 03/04/15. Effective: 01/01/16.</p>	Monitor
HB0065 State employee's group insurance-county employees.	<p><i>This bill provides counties an option to participate in the state employees' and officials' group insurance plan and specifies participation and contribution requirements and procedures.</i></p> <p>H Received for Concurrence on 03/03/15, H Concur: Failed 1-58-1-0-0 on 03/03/15, H Appointed JCC01 Members on 03/04/15. S postponed indefinitely.</p>	Monitor

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HB0067 Wyoming retirement system amendments.	<p><i>This bill amends provisions in the Wyoming retirement act to allow elected officials to decline participation in the retirement system. It also amends a definition specifying firefighters in the WANG are eligible to be in the pension plan. Governor signed into law: CH0010 on 02/25/15. Effective: 07/01/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor</p>
HB0072 Volunteer firefighter and EMT pension account.	<p><i>This bill creates the volunteer firefighter and EMT pension account and pension account board. It provides for the merger of volunteer firemen's pension account and the volunteer emergency medical technician pension account and provides membership criteria. Governor signed into law: CH0032 on 02/25/15. Effective: 07/01/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor</p>
HB0084 Conservation district levy.	<p><i>This bill authorizes the county commissioners the option to annually levy a tax upon all property in the district not to exceed one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation for a general conservation tax and one mill on each dollar of assessed valuation for a water specific purpose tax. This tax is not part of the general county or city mill levies. H CoW: Failed 26-33-1-0 on 01/28/15.</i></p>	<p>FAILED Neutral</p>
HB0100 Highway funding.	<p><i>This bill restricts any funds deposited to the highway fund attributable to the increase in fuel tax authorized in the 2013 session, to be separately accounted for by the WYDOT and shall only be expended to maintain the state highway system. H Assigned Number HEA No. 0100 on 03/04/15, H Speaker Signed HEA No. 0100 on 03/05/15, S President Signed HEA No. 0100 on 03/05/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor</p>
HB0110 Sales tax distributions.	<p><i>This bill adjusts the distribution for sales & use taxes collected from the current level of 69% to 64% to the general fund and adjusts the distribution to the counties, cities, and towns from 31% to 36%. Sponsor: Larsen, Bebout H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to HR 5-4 on 03/02/15.</i></p>	<p>FAILED Monitor</p>

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HB0140 Malt beverage tax.	<p><i>This bill imposes an additional tax of \$0.17 per gallon on malt beverages.</i> H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: DO PASS FAILED in Accordance with House Rule 5-4: 1-8-0-0-0 on 03/02/15.</p>	<p>Oppose FAILED</p>
HB0141 Malt beverage tax-repeal.	<p><i>This bill repeals the excise tax on malt beverages. Sponsor: Madden</i> H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 03/03/15, S: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to SR 5-4 on 03/03/15.</p>	<p>No Position FAILED</p>
HB0153 Local sales and use tax revisions.	<p><i>This bill revises the process for local governments to propose a sales and use excise tax by receipt of a petition by the board of county commissioners requesting at least 5% of the voter signatures, and revising the increment rate for the excise tax from 0.5% to 0.25% not to exceed 2%. Sponsored by: Madden</i> H CoW: Failed 27-33-0-0 on 01/30/15.</p>	<p>No Position FAILED</p>
HB0169 Tax collections.	<p><i>This bill provides for monthly payment and reporting of ad valorem taxes by the taxpayer to the county treasurer in the county where production occurs, and requires each county to report monthly to the Department of Revenue. Sponsored by: Barlow</i> H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to HR 5-4 on 03/02/15.</p>	<p>Oppose FAILED</p>
HB0173 Tobacco tax revisions.	<p><i>This bill provides for an increase in tobacco taxes on a pack of cigarettes of \$0.65/pack (108%) and increases state excise tax on other tobacco products by 130%. The revenue distribution is apportioned 45% to the general fund and 55% to Department of Health for tobacco cessation and prevention, and Medicaid. Sponsored by: Harvey</i> H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: DO PASS FAILED in Accordance with House Rule 5-4: 1-8-0-0-0 on 03/02/15.</p>	<p>Oppose FAILED</p>

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HB0185 Severance tax distributions.	<p><i>This bill provides for modifying the distribution of the statutory severance tax diversion (2/3 of the 1.5% Constitutional diversion) to the PWMTF for FY 2016-2021. One half of the current distribution will go to the PWMTF and the other half will be distributed in specified percentages to the highway fund, school capital construction account, and local governments. Sponsor: Esquibel, K. H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: DO PASS FAILED in Accordance with House Rule 5-4: 2-6-1-0-0 on 03/02/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor FAILED</p>
HB0202 EPA equipment requirements-tax exemption.	<p><i>This bill provides for a sales & use tax exemption, as an economic development incentive, on equipment purchased for existing electrical generating facilities needed to comply with federal EPA requirements implemented after 1/1/2014. Sponsor: Kirkbride H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to HR 5-4 on 03/02/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor FAILED</p>
HB0238 Flaring of natural gas.	<p><i>This bill changes status on natural gas, which is flared or vented, from being tax exempt for severance tax to being taxable after 90 days for any well, effective 7/1/2015. Sponsor. Krone. H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: Died in Committee Returned Bill Pursuant to HR 5-4 on 03/03/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor FAILED</p>
HB0244 Severance tax distribution amendments.	<p><i>This bill increased the amount of severance taxes available for distribution by raising the current distribution maximum of \$155M to \$205M. In addition, the maximum distribution will be adjusted beginning in FY 2020 and every 5 fiscal years, thereafter, by the cumulative compounded statewide average Wyoming Cost of Living Index. Sponsor(s): Throne and Connelly H No report prior to CoW Cutoff on 02/09/15, H: DO PASS FAILED in Accordance with House Rule 5-4: 3-5-1-0-0 on 03/02/15.</i></p>	<p>Monitor FAILED</p>

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SENATE FILES	DESCRIPTION / ACTION	WTA POSITION
SJ0002 Investment of state funds.	<p><i>This legislation proposes to amend the Wyoming Constitution to authorize the investment of state funds, not deemed as permanent funds of the state, in equities upon a 2/3 vote of both houses of the legislature. Sponsor: JAC</i> Assigned Number SEJR No. 0001 on 03/05/15, S President Signed SEJR No. 0001 on 03/05/15, H Speaker Signed SEJR No. 0001 on 03/05/15.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>
SF0042 Task force on mineral taxes	<p><i>This legislation creates a task force appointed by the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and Governor to study and simplify the mineral product taxes. It requires a report to the Joint Revenue Interim Committee to be delivered no later than November 30, 2016 and provides both an appropriation and effective date. Sponsor: Revenue</i> Governor signed into law: CH0073 on 03/02/15. Effective: 03/02/15.</p>	<p>Support</p>
SF0141 State budget development	<p><i>This bill authorizes the legislature, by way of agency budgetary explanatory material, to specify accounts from which budget recommendations may be directed, i.e., statutory budget reserve amounts for supplemental and emergency budgets excluding the PWMTF, Common School Permanent Fund Reserve account or funds within 5% of the estimated general fund receipts for the next biennium. Sponsor(s): Nicholas, P., Bebout, Perkins and Ross, Berger, Brown, Harshman and Stubson</i> Assigned Number SEA No. 0088 on 03/06/15, S President Signed SEA No. 0088 on 03/06/15, H Speaker Signed SEA No. 0088 on 03/06/15.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>
SF0146 Spending policy amendments	<p><i>This bill codifies and continues the state savings accounts: Legislative Stabilization Reserve Account (LSRA), Strategic Investments and Projects Reserve Account (SIPA), and the School Foundation Program Reserve Account (SPRA). In addition, it amends the investment earnings spending policy amount for the Permanent Wyoming Mineral Trust Fund, the Common School Account. Sponsor(s): Nicholas, P., Bebout, Perkins and Ross, Berger, Brown, Harshman, and Stubson</i> Assigned Number SEA No. 0091 on 03/06/15, S President Signed SEA No. 0091 on 03/06/15, H Speaker Signed SEA No. 0091 on 03/06/15.</p>	<p>Monitor</p>