

WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION



ACTION ALERT

WEEK FIVE LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2013

Both houses worked the budget bill last week with each adopting their own amendments. Below is an outline of the mirror amendments and where they differ. The bill will go to conference committee in the next couple of weeks.

Mirror amendments:

- **Wyoming Military Department** – increased by 2 full-time positions for a client services supervisor and a client services advocate position. \$245,812 general fund.
- **WYDOT** – requires increased reporting under NEPA for establishing speed limits on certain roadways.
- Department of Health - uses tobacco settlement funds for services at **camps for survivors of childhood cancers**. \$10,000 of tobacco settlement funds.
- Increased funding for **mental health and substance abuse services** - \$20,500 in other funds
- Created a **Task Force on Capitol Rehabilitation and Restoration**. Also transferred money for level I and level II studies on the building. \$15,000 for task force and \$726,500 in other funds for the studies
- Requirement that **agencies submit reductions of 4%, 6% and 8% in the 2015-2016 budget**.
- Requires the **Early Childhood State Advisory Council** to report to the Joint Education Interim Committee by August 1, 2013 on the activities of the council.
- Directive to the Director of the Department of Education to **consolidate reporting requirements of all school districts**.
- Department of Audit – conduct a **baseline audit of the Department of Education** - \$250,000
- **Audit of personnel policies and practices of the Department of Education** \$150,000

House	Amount	Senate	Amount
UW Half Acre Rec Center – removed the requirement that any art work display the historical, cultural and current significance of Wyoming’s major industries and resources.			
Budget transfers – increased the amount the Auditor shall transfer to the Common School Account within the Permanent Land Fund anything that is in excess of \$810M.			
WYDOT performance and efficiency study	\$500,000		
Increased position for DEQ , land quality division.	\$74,200 general funds and \$54,018 federal funds	Failed in the Senate.	
Facilitation of expanded foreign trade efforts	\$500,000 from the Community Facilities Program Account	Failed in the Senate.	
Increased one full time position for the Secretary of State	\$121,009		

Limitation that the Cowboy Marketing Program , including the college national finals rodeo and the national high school rodeo shall not be affected by budget reductions.			
Added a budget transfer saying that unanticipated capital gains greater than \$40M will be transferred to the LSRA.		All unanticipated capital gains will be transferred into the LSRA.	
Allows up to \$15M from the landfill account to be used for fires as long as the Governor includes an appropriation request in his next biennial budget to backfill the landfill account.		Failed in the Senate.	
Increases amount available for Pine Bark Beetle mitigation to total \$2M.	\$1M to Department of Ag.	Failed in the Senate.	
Employees Group Insurance – study the cost savings and benefits of establishing a tiered health insurance model	\$10,000 from tobacco settlement funds		
		Department of Health public health nursing program increase full time position	\$232,293 general fund and \$125,080 other funds
		Air services enhancements	\$240,000
		Governor's Office shall undertake a market analysis study for Wyoming's access to and growth in domestic and international markets for natural gas, oil, coal, uranium, power, manufacturing, tourism and others.	Reduces amount from \$100,000 to \$75,000.
		WYLINK	\$106,000 in other funds
		Funding for senior centers	\$490,585
Failed in the House.		UW report to the Joint Minerals Committee on the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current practices for installing permanent art work • Practices for selecting deans • Practices for selecting staff for the School of Energy Resources • Practices for razing buildings • Architectural features for campus buildings • Custodian of all matching funds Allocation and assignment of all faculty positions	

		Allows local governments to use their direct distribution to pay for HB 250 (increased retirement contributions) if it passes.	
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BILLS OF INTEREST THIS WEEK

WTA testified on three bills this week – two in support (SF 30 Special Districts and HB 170 Streamlined sales tax – direct mail) and one in opposition (HB 195 Rail tax exemption – see the comments below).

HB 69 – Highway Funding – Passing the House with a vote of 35-24-1, the bill now heads over to the Senate. The House resisted several amendments including one that targeted an increased impact towards diesel over gas; one that would have sunsetted the increase in six years; and one that would have phased the ten cent increase in over a period of 10 years, one cent at a time. HB 69 passed Senate Transportation on Wednesday with a vote of 4-1. Ideas of sun-setting the tax increase or indexing it for inflation were brought up in Committee, yet there was no support for either idea. **The bill should be heard on General File this week in the Senate. WTA continues to strongly support this will and has passed out information to all of the Senators.**

HB 170 – Streamlined sale tax – direct mail - The bill cleans up Wyoming's statutes as they pertain to taxation of direct mail and makes them compliant with the Streamlined Sales Tax Initiative. **Support.** WTA testified in support of the bill due to our long-time support of Wyoming's involvement in Streamlined. WTA also informed the Committee that the House Committee discussed the notion that it might be beneficial for Dan Noble with the Department of Revenue to give a detailed "101" on the Streamlined Sales Tax initiative during the interim. **The bill passed the House with a vote of 51-9 on 1/23 and Senate Revenue with a vote of 4-1 on 2/5. The bill sits on Senate General File.**

HB 195 – Rail tax exemption – extension - Extends the exemption on the imposition of state sales tax on the repair of rolling stock from 2015 to 2019. The total decrease in revenue will be \$1M. **The bill passed the House with a vote of 35-25-0 on 1/28. The House amended the bill to take out the sunset and eliminated the reporting requirement. WTA testified with concern in front of the Senate Revenue Committee and asked that the sunset and reporting requirement be put back into the bill. Both were indeed re-inserted into the bill and it and got out of Senate Revenue with a slim vote of 3-2 on 2/5.**

SF 30 – Special Districts - Requires special districts to submit proposed budgets, and requires the Department of Audit to provide reports to boards of county commissioners. **WTA supports this bill.** The bill passed out of Senate Revenue on 1/10/13 with a unanimous vote. The bill was amended to exclude irrigation districts (or any district that is currently under the jurisdiction of the district court). The bill passed the Senate on 1/18 with a vote of 19-11 and passed 2nd reading in the House on 2/8. **The standing committee amendment to exempt school recreation districts was taken out on the floor. WTA supports this amendment.**

SF 109 – Highway and road funding – severance taxes – This bill proposes to divert 50% of the current statutory severance tax distribution from the PMTF and distributed according to the current distribution for highway funding. Yield is approximately \$71M. Senate Revenue passed the bill with a vote of 3-2 this week and amended the bill heavily to rely on HB 69 being amended as a phased-in fuel tax and SF 109 offsetting the revenues with severance flow to meet the \$71M (amount the full \$.10 would yield annually). **The bill was heard on General File last week but died with a vote of 8-22. Those voting aye: Anderson, HD (S02), Barnard, Coe, Cooper, Johnson, Meier, Perkins, and Peterson.**

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**WTA MEMBERS, PLEASE NOTE – WTA WEEKLY LEGISLATIVE POLICY MEETINGS EVERY MONDAY OF THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**WHERE: 2120 CAREY AVE., CHEYENNE, 4<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM**  
**WHEN: 2:00 PM**

**WHY:** TO DISCUSS TIMELY LEGISLATIVE POLICY ISSUES, SUMMARY OF BILLS, AND MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR WTA POLICY DIRECTION.

**CALL:** 1-877-820-7831  
**PASS CODE:** 6358761

**ALL WTA MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND.**

**2013 LEGISLATIVE SESSION SCHEDULE - TENTATIVE**

Day 1 Tuesday, January 8 Session convenes.  
 Day 12 Wednesday, January 23 Last day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)  
 Day 15 Monday, January 28 Last day for House Bills to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)  
 Day 19 Friday, February 1 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in house of origin.  
 Day 20 Monday, February 4 Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin.  
 Day 21 Tuesday, February 5 Last day for Second Reading in house of origin.  
 Day 22 Wednesday, February 6 Last day for Third Reading on Bills in house of origin.  
 Monday, February 18 President's Day Recess  
 Day 32 Thursday, February 21 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.  
 Day 33 Friday, February 22 Last day for Committee of the Whole on bills in the second house.  
 Day 34 Monday, February 25 Last day for Second Reading on bills in the second house.  
 Day 35 Tuesday, February 26 Last day for Third Reading on bills in the second house.  
 Day 36 Wednesday, February 27 Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.  
 Day 37 Thursday, February 28 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk by 2:00 p.m.  
 ADJOURN by Midnight.  
 Friday, Monday, and Tuesday - March 1, 4 and 5 are available if necessary.