

# WYOMING TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## ACTION ALERT



Legislative Summary – Week Six – Friday, February 18, 2011

Work concluded on the floors of both the House and Senate this week on the budget – now the bill will head to a conference committee next week. Overall, the House and the Senate are not very far apart in terms of dollars and there are no real high profile differences that will require heated debate in Joint Appropriations Committee conference. In a nutshell, both houses approved spending approximately \$250M in the supplemental budget, an increase from the recommendation of the Joint Appropriations Committee of \$215M. Below, is a summary of major budget amendments. Both houses resisted amendments to put more money into the Wildlife Trust Fund, and adopt a zero-based budgeting pilot project, among others.

### MAJOR BUDGET BILL AMENDMENTS

HOUSE	SENATE
<b>Ethanol tax credit</b> – requires a report on the amount of tax credits redeemed under the ethanol credit program and that if the appropriation of \$3M is less than credits redeemed, the funds distributed will be reduced pro rata.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Medicaid</b> – Increase funding to the DOH for Medicaid by \$15M to account for overages at the end of the biennium. Also move the \$25M that was previously set aside in the Auditor’s Office to DOH for Medicaid obligations.	<b>Senate failed the \$15M, but passed the \$25M.</b>
<b>Critical access and rural hospital technology grants</b> - \$2M from the general fund to the Department of Health to administer a grant program to fund technologies at critical access or rural hospitals.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Local government funding</b> - \$10M for the current direct distribution formula, which can be used for operations.	<b>Same</b>
<b>Rural fire districts</b> - \$1M for grants for rural fire districts impacted by mineral exploration and production in southeast Wyoming.	<b>Failed</b>
<b>Community College Commission</b> - \$6.55M general fund and \$11.5M other funds for CWC Health & Science Center; \$7.5M general fund and \$7.5M other funds for NWCCD Big West Academic Center.	<b>Same</b>
<b>Failed</b>	<b>Developmental Disabilities</b> - increase fed funds by \$2.2M to fund a 4% increase in service rates of the home and community-based waivers administered by the Developmental Disabilities Division until June 30, 2012. Match federal funds.
<b>Failed</b>	<b>Land for Governor’s Mansion</b> - \$1m for acquisition of lands for a new governor’s mansion.
<b>Same</b>	<b>PMTF Spending Policy Reserve Account</b> - eliminate disruption of flow of PMTF dollars to the PMTF SPRA until June 30, 2012.
<b>Same</b>	<b>AML</b> – Moves the \$50M for the Michael B. Enzi science, technology and engineering and math lab (STEM) to the Department of A&I instead of UW, allows for contractor preferences, and requires more of the City of Laramie for construction of this project.

	<b>Judicial Branch Employees</b> - decrease of \$600,000 for state employee compensation, allowing such dollars to be used for adjustments for judicial branch employees
	<b>Railroad quite zone funding</b> reduced from \$6m to \$3m.
<b>School finance</b> – interest, capital gains and other earnings held by a district during school year 2010-2011, shall be deemed state revenues and shall be considered when determining the amount to be distributed to each district.	<b>Failed.</b>
	<b>Data centers</b> shall not be subject to the provisions of the Industrial Development Information and Siting act.
	\$100,000 to <b>Department of Health, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Division</b> for bullying, prescription drug abuses, and decision making and positive health choices education. \$100,000.
	<b>Transfer of \$7m from the permanent land income fund to the omnibus permanent land fund</b> - to make sure that SLIB could not spend this money without coming to the Legislature first.
<b>Same</b>	<b>Landfills</b> - \$15m from the budget reserve account to the municipal solid waste landfill account for remediation of high priority municipal solid waste landfill sites.
<b>Failed</b>	<b>DEQ</b> – addition of 2 more positions for permitting backlog.

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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:** 1-866-248-0561

**PASS CODE:** 6358761

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

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2011 LEGISLATIVE SESSION - Tentative schedule  
(37 day schedule – Recess on President's Day)

Day 1 Tuesday, January 11 Session convenes.

Day 12 Wednesday, January 26 Last day for Senate Files to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)

Day 15 Monday, January 31 Last day for House Bills to be submitted to LSO for introduction. (noon)

Day 19 Friday, February 4 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in house of origin.

Day 20 Monday, February 7 Last day for Committee of the Whole in house of origin.

Day 21 Tuesday, February 8 Last day for Second Reading in house of origin.

Day 22 Wednesday, February 9 Last day for Third Reading on Bills in house of origin.

**Monday, February 21 President's Day Recess**

Day 32 Thursday, February 24 Last day for bills to be reported out of Committee in second house.

Day 33 Friday, February 25 Last day for Committee of the Whole on bills in the second house.

Day 34 Monday, February 28 Last day for Second Reading on bills in the second house.

**WYOMING'S LEADING TAX POLICY AND RESEARCH ORGANIZATION SINCE 1937.**

Day 35 Tuesday, March 1 Last day for Third Reading on bills in the second house.

Day 36 Wednesday, March 2 Concurrence on Amendments/Joint Conference Committee Reports.

Day 37 Thursday, March 3 Joint Conference Committee Reports; All JCC Reports due to Front Desk by 2:00 p.m.  
ADJOURN by Midnight.

Friday, Monday, and Tuesday - March 4, 7 and 8 are available if necessary.