



## Legislative Update

Vol. 1

February 10, 2017

No. 5

### From the exec's chair

On behalf of MPEA, AFSCME, and MEA-MFT, I attended the hearing and spoke in support of [HB 341](#) to generally revise state travel and per diem laws before the (H) State Administration Committee on February 7. Two state employees testified on behalf of the bill and one opponent, the Montana Lodging and Hospitality Association. It was interesting to note that no one from the Department of Administration attended to support or provide additional information to the committee members. I hope our members who struggle financially with an antiquated state per diem are taking this opportunity to [email the members of House State Administration](#) to let them know the financial hardship that it places on workers.

(H) Business and Labor heard Representative Theresa Manzella's (HD 85) HB 329 on 02/08/2017. If passed it would allow cities and counties to modify contracts circumventing prevailing wage (Davis-Bacon). Prevailing wage guarantees federal construction contracts can't pay less than the local prevailing wage, circumventing Montana's "Little" Davis-Bacon Act. If Manzella's bill passes it could severely impact our union brothers and sisters in the construction trades making it a piece of legislation for ALL to keep an eye on as it makes its way through the legislature.

### Legislative watch list

The legislature tabled a number of bill and we added several new ones to the watch list so please review it carefully. Also, please contact your [MPEA staff](#) regarding bills on this list or bills you believe MPEA should be tracking. Bills table in committee appear in **bold red**.

### Bills

- [HB 2](#) General Appropriations Act – assigned to various Joint Appropriation Subcommittees
- [HB 13](#) State employee pay plan – stewing in House Appropriations
- [HB 14](#) Bonding program (Governor Bullock's infrastructure bill) – passed out of (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long Range Planning 02/09/2017
- **[HB 72 Increase university system supplemental contributions to TRS – tabled in \(H\) State Administration](#)**
- [HB 94](#) Generally revise public safety officer standards/training council laws – stewing in (H) Judiciary
- **[HB 136 Actuarial funding for the Game Wardens' and Peace Officers' retirement system – tabled in House Appropriations 02/08/2017](#)**
- **[HB 155 Eliminate election day as state holiday – tabled in \(H\) State Administration](#)**
- **[HB 169 Tabled in House Business & Labor](#)**
- [HB 181](#) Establish requirements for police dogs – stewing in (H) Judiciary
- **[HB 185 Tabled in Committee](#)**
- [HB 202](#) Generally revise laws related to government employees and officers – stewing in (H) Judiciary
- [HB 208](#) Provide that it is unlawful to retaliate against public whistleblowers – hearing scheduled for 02/10/2017 (S) Judiciary
- [HB 248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws – passed out of (H) Education and hearing set for (S) Education and Cultural Resources 02/13/2017
- [HB 262](#) Generally revise concealed carry regulations for legal gun owners – passed out of (H) Judiciary, heard in (S) Judiciary 02/08/2017

- [HB 273](#) Generally revise concealed weapons laws – passed out of (H) Judiciary referred to (S) Judiciary
- [HB 341](#) Generally revise state employee travel and per diem laws – heard in (H) State Administration 02/07/2017
- [HB 354](#) Revise unemployment insurance retirement considerations – Heard 02/09/2017 in (H) Business and Labor
- [HB 383](#) Provide actuarial required funding for Sheriffs' Retirement System – hearing scheduled in (H) State Administration 02/10/2107
- [HB 385](#) Provide for the Montana School Safety Act – Hearing set for 02/14/2017 (H) Judiciary
- [HB 392](#) Creating the family and medical leave insurance act – Heard in (H) Business and Labor 02/06/2017
- [SB 5](#) Revise INTERCAP loan program – Passed House and Senate transmitted to Governor Bullock 02/03/2017
- [SB 57](#) Clarify highway patrol funding sources and increase certain registration fees – stewing in (S) Finance and Claims
- **SB 69 Tabled in committee**
- [SB 85](#) passed Senate; heard in (H) Tax, February 8: Submitting a 6-mill ley for support of the Montana University System to voters
- **SB 87 Revise campaign finance report laws – Tabled in (S) State Administration**
- [SB 99](#) Prohibit enforcement of federal firearms laws by Montana public employees. Scheduled hearing February 15 in Senate Judiciary.
- [SB 141](#) Establish commission to study legislative compensation and conduct – Senate State Administration – stewing in (S) State Administration
- [SB 148](#) Establish the Montana Pay Equity Act – Heard 02/06/2017 (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs.
- [SB 211](#) Revise laws governing MUS board of regents' acceptance of gifts – heard in (S) Education and Cultural Resources 02/08/2017

Bill drafts – only new bill drafts will be listed in future legislative updates.

- No new bill drafts of note at this time

### Contact your legislator

Legislators respond when they hear from their constituents. That's you! Not sure about your House or Senate district, no problem Legislative Services has a webpage for that [find a legislator](#). Call or email individuals or entire committees through the Legislative Services Division online [contact your legislator](#) page.

### Watch & Listen

Legislative Services has made it even easier to [watch and listen](#) to committee hearings online through your home or work computer. You can even go back and review archived minutes of committee hearings.

Headquarters  
2711 Airport Road  
Helena, MT 59601  
406-442-4600

Eastern Region  
Darcy Dahle  
406-671-4159

Western Region  
Jeff Howe  
406-317-1087