



Legislative Update

Vol. 1

January 2017

No. 2

A fallen brother...

It is with regret that I announce the sudden and tragic passing of Kevin Bock, chapter president at the Department of Revenue, our only merged unit with MEA-MFT. Kevin was an outspoken advocate for members and a tireless organizer for our union. He also served as secretary-treasurer of MEA-MFT, a position that he had held since last June. Kevin had a real commitment to his unions and was a passionate advocate not only for public employees but all of his brothers and sisters in the labor movement. We will miss him and Kevin would be the first to tell us "don't mourn, organize!"

From the exec's chair

Legislators assigned the various sections of Governor Bullock's budget bill, HB 2, to the various subcommittees where they will now begin the process of review and restructure. This isn't unusual as the Republican majority stated early that they believed Governor Bullock's budget proposal was too rich given year end revenue predictions. However, the leadership is assuring the press as well as the executive branch agencies that they will fill back in where needed, read [Representative Rob Cook's](#) comments regarding the proposed \$93 million cuts from DPHHS.

As for HB 13, it has once again entered legislative limbo. We hoped that this session the legislature would move with a bit more speed on the plan but it appears that not only the legislature but also the Governor's office is experiencing a case of the slows as it once again becomes a bargaining chip for the final days of the legislature. We will keep you posted on its status and as soon as we know something you will.

Legislative watch list

MPEA has added HB 2, HB 14, and HB 181 to our watch list for this [legislative session](#). All three have potential positive and negative impacts to our members; as such, if you have comments or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact your [MPEA staff](#). Those bills appearing in **bold red** were tabled in committee.

Bills

- [HB 2](#) General Appropriations Act (Governor Bullock's proposed biennial budget)
- [HB 13](#) State employee pay plan
- [HB 14](#) Bonding program (Governor Bullock's infrastructure bill)
- [HB 72](#) Increase university system supplemental contributions to TRS
- [HB 94](#) Generally revise public safety officer standards/training council laws
- [HB 155](#) Eliminate election day as state holiday
- **[HB 169](#) Raise minimum wage in Montana – Tabled in House Business & Labor**
- [HB 181](#) Establish requirements for police dogs
- **[HB 185](#) Establish grant program to eliminate tuition for certain postsecondary programs – Tabled in Committee.**
- [HB 202](#) Generally revise laws related to government employees and officers
- [HB 208](#) Provide that it is unlawful to retaliate against public whistleblowers
- [SB 5](#) Revise INTERCAP loan program
- [SB 57](#) Clarify highway patrol funding sources and increase certain registration fees
- **[SB 69](#) Create task force to study public employee health benefits – Tabled in committee**
- [SB 87](#) Revise campaign finance report laws

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.

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