



## Legislative Update

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### From the exec's chair *QEN*

A severe cold has swept through the halls of the capital thinning the ranks of legislators and lobbyists alike. However, it hasn't stopped the flow of banal legislation from the 65<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. Representative Randy Brodehl (R) HD 9 has two gun bills in this session; one, HB 280, would allow legislators to conceal carry handguns on state property and two, HB 246, would allow a person to carry a firearm on United States Postal Service property. A gun owner myself, I am still surprised at the level of suspicion Representative Brodehl has towards his fellow legislators and postal carriers.

Representative Janet Ellis (D) HD 81 has introduced [HB 464](#), generally revise laws related to the state employee pay plan, and it will be heard on 02/23/2017 in (H) State Administration. This innocuously titled bill actually represents an attempt to begin unwinding the boondoggle that is Pay Plan 20, Broadband. This is a bill that our state employee members should pay particular attention too. If you are a state employee, I urge you to read Representative Ellis' bill. You may also want to keep an eye on [SB 294](#) introduced by Steve Fitzpatrick (R) SD 10. More on this as we gather more information.

Meanwhile, our very own Tom Schneider is keeping a number of pension bills under close scrutiny. Tom has worked the trenches for 50 plus years. His institutional knowledge and legislative savvy are indispensable.

### Legislative watch list

Please contact your [MPEA staff](#) regarding bills on this list or bills you believe MPEA should be tracking. Bills tabled 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](#) Tabled in (H) Judiciary Committee**
- **[HB 185](#) Tabled in Committee**
- [HB 202](#) Generally revise laws related to government employees and officers – sent to enrolling 2/16
- [HB 208](#) Provide that it is unlawful to retaliate against public whistleblowers – heard 02/10/2017 (S) Judiciary
- [HB 248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws – bill concurred (S) Education and Cultural Resources
- [HB 262](#) Generally revise concealed carry regulations for legal gun owners – (H) sent to enrolling 02/16/2017

- [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 – TABLED IN COMMITTEE**
- [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 – heard (H) State Administration 02/10/2107
- [HB 385](#) Provide for the Montana School Safety Act – Heard 02/14/2017 (H) Judiciary
- [HB 392](#) Creating the family and medical leave insurance act – Heard in (H) Business and Labor 02/06/2017
- [HB 436](#) Require voter approval for employer contribution increases in retirement systems- Hearing (H) State Administration 02/21/2017
- [HB 464](#) Generally revise laws related to the state employee pay plan – Hearing date scheduled 02/23/2017 in (H) State Administration
- HB 499 Require actuarial report using alternative assumption for investment earnings – Introduced by Tom Burnett (R) HD 67 no committee assignment as they wait for the requested fiscal note
- [SB 5](#) Revise INTERCAP loan program – Signed by the Governor and chapter number assigned 02/08/2017
- [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](#) House Appropriations hearing 02/16/2017
- **[SB 87](#) Revise campaign finance report laws – Tabled in (S) State Administration**
- [SB 99](#) Prohibit enforcement of federal firearms laws by Montana public employees. Heard February 15 in Senate Judiciary.
- **[SB 141](#) Tabled in (S) State Administration Committee**
- **[SB 148](#) Tabled in (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee**
- [SB 211](#) Revise laws governing MUS board of regents' acceptance of gifts – heard in (S) Education and Cultural Resources 02/15/2017
- [SB 294](#) Generally revise laws related to state government pay plans - referred to (S) State Administration

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.

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