



## Legislative Update

Vol. 1

February 23, 2017

No. 7

### From the exec's chair

Tom Schneider and Dave Depew have been working the committee hearings this session providing some solid intel on what's happened so far. To date the legislature has consistently slashed state agency budgets except for the Montana Department of Transportation. So far in committee they have backfilled MDT's budget suggestion that some sort of infrastructure bill may be in the offing this session all so far without any decision or discussion on a gas tax. It appears the goal is to get HB 2 to the House floor by March 16.

In the meantime, Representative Ron Ehli's [HB 439](#) seeks to eliminate supervisors with fewer than 5 FTE under them. He accomplishes this by removing the personal services budget for those positions. This bears watching for a number of reasons so don't hesitate to check it out.

[Representative Jeff Essman \(R\) HD 54 and Montana GOP chairman and Secretary of State Corey Stapleton \(R\)](#) both came out in opposition to a recent vote in Senate State Administration that gives counties the ability to conduct a mail in ballot election after U.S. Representative Ryan Zinke's confirmation as head of the US Department of Interior. Essman claimed that it gave an advantage to the Democrats in the election while Stapleton pointed out that Oregon, Washington, and Colorado use mail in ballots and they are "all-marijuana all-the-time states." The lack of faith these two leaders of the MT Republican Party in their ability to win after the results of the last election seem astounding. It also smacks of voter suppression.

### 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 – referred to (S) 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 Governor 2/22/2017
- [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 – Vetoed by Governor 2/23/2017
- [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 – Tabled in (H) Business and Labor**
- [HB 383](#) Provide actuarial required funding for Sheriffs' Retirement System – (H) State Administration revised fiscal note requested 02/23/2017
- [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 – Tabled in committee**
- [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 – Heard 02/23/2017 in (H) State Administration
- [HB 439](#) Introduced by Representative Ron Ehli (R) HD 86 clarifying when a state employment receives additional comp for supervisory duty heard in (H) State Administration and committee executive action taken on 02/23/2017.
- [HB 473](#) Revise highway revenue laws introduced by Representative Frank Garner (R) HD 7 – heard (H) Transportation 02/22/2017
- **[HB 499](#) Require actuarial report using alternative assumption for investment earnings – Tabled in committee**
- [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](#) Returned for enrolling
- **[SB 87](#) Revise campaign finance report laws – Tabled in (S) State Administration**
- [SB 99](#) Prohibit enforcement of federal firearms laws by Montana public employees. Passed Senate transmitted to the House
- **[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 – Tabled in Committee**
- [SB 294](#) Generally revise laws related to state government pay plans - transferred to (S) Finance and Claims committee report bill passed as amended
- **[SB 326](#) Introduced by Senator Brian Hoven (R) SD 13 revise worker laws to ban certain criminal history in job applications – tabled in (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs**

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

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

Eastern Region  
Darcy Dahle  
406-671-4159

Western Region  
Jeff Howe  
406-317-1087

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