



Legislative Update

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No. 8

Under the “goat’s tail” *QEN*

The Senate went on break last Friday leaving the House to do business on its own Saturday and Monday through Wednesday morning. The general transmittal break is here and the Capitol once again belongs to those who, in the words of Speaker Knudsen, live “in the bubble of Helena and the State Capitol” where it is “easy to overlook reality.” Both houses will be back to work on Tuesday March 7.

Both parties spent a considerable amount of time pouting and posturing as usual but [Governor Bullock shot down two gun bills](#) that passed both houses on party line votes. A second amendment supporter myself, I found it a bit of a stretch the need to carry weapons onto federal post office property or eliminate the need for a conceal/carry permit as long as you are a legal gun owner. This ain’t the Wild West and even the Earps required everyone to check their guns when they came to Tombstone!

The US Senate confirmed [Congressman Ryan Zinke as Department of Interior secretary](#) Wednesday March 1. Governor Bullock has ordered a special election to fill Montana’s lone US House seat for May 25. The Republicans have several candidates in the running as do the Democrats. My advice, stay informed, double check facts, consider your paycheck, and vote your conscience. We’ll have more on this as the campaigning begins and the posers are moved to the curb.

Remember all, big bull and big buck permits are due on March 15!

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 vetoed by Governor Bullock appear in **bold green**.

Bills

- [HB 2](#) General Appropriations Act – hearings scheduled in House Appropriations March 7 and 8
- [HB 13](#) State employee pay plan – Growing old and forgotten in House Appropriations
- [HB 14](#) Bonding program (Governor Bullock’s infrastructure bill) – stalled in House Appropriations since 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 referred to (S) Education and Cultural Resources
- [HB 262](#) **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 second reading 03/07/2017
- [HB 385](#) Missed deadline for general bill transmittal
- [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- Tabled in committee 02/24/2017**
- [HB 464](#) **Missed deadline for general bill transmittal**
- [HB 439](#) Introduced by Representative Ron Ehli (R) HD 86 clarifying when a state employment receives additional comp for supervisory duty – second reading 03/07/2017.
- [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](#) Signed by President of the Senate and Speaker of the House
- [SB 87](#) **Revise campaign finance report laws – Tabled in (S) State Administration**
- [SB 99](#) Prohibit enforcement of federal firearms laws by Montana public employees – first reading 02/24/2017
- [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 - first reading (H) Administration
- [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

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

Eastern Region
Darcy Dahle
406-671-4159

Western Region
Jeff Howe
406-317-1087

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