



Legislative Update

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No. 9

Under the “goat’s tail” *QEW*

The second half of the legislative session kicked off March 7 so hang on to your seats because this is where it gets bumpy. The Montana State AFL-CIO published a [halftime score card](#) that shows bills supported and opposed by Montana’s labor unions and their status as of now.

Did I mention bumpy ride, LC 144 is getting some attention right now and as proposed would privatize the operations of Montana State Fund and outsource its entire book of business to privately held companies to provide workers compensation insurance to businesses. As written it would eliminate all positions and employee benefits without any language referencing a path for our members, your employees, to transfer to successors of Montana State Fund. As such, I have written a letter to Lance Zanto, Chairman MSF Board, and Lanny Hubbard, President/CEO MSF, asking them to work with MPEA, MT State AFL-CIO in opposing this legislation. Hopefully we can nip this in the bud before it gains anymore traction.

Chair Ballance, House Appropriations, has scheduled a hearing for HB 13 on March 23. Senator Jon Sesso’s [SB 152](#) to revise laws pertaining to state employee benefits and compensation looks like a backup bill to HB 13 if it fails. Of course that could just be my paranoia running amok but it bears watching.

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 – Hearing scheduled March 23 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 hearing scheduled 3/14/2017
- **[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](#) Vetoed by Governor 3/02/2017**
- [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 – hearing scheduled for 03/16/2017 (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 – passed House on third reading and referred to (S) State Administration 03/09/2017
- **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 – Passed the House on second reading referred to (H) Appropriations 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 and filed with the Secretary of State
- **SB 87 Revise campaign finance report laws – Tabled in (S) State Administration**
- **SB 99** Prohibit enforcement of federal firearms laws by Montana public employees – transferred to House assigned to (H) Judiciary hearing scheduled for 03/22/2017
- **SB 141 Tabled in (S) State Administration Committee**
- **SB 148 Tabled in (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Committee**
- **SB 152** Revise laws relating to state employees – heard (H) State Administration 03-09-2017
- **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.

- LC 0144 Dissolve Montana State Fund

Contact your legislator

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