



Legislative Update

Vol. 1

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No. 10

Under the “goat’s tail”

It’s been nasty week in the legislature. HB 2 is on its way to Senate Finance and Claims where hopefully sanity will once again prevail. Montana is one of four states that does not have a form of “[presumptive coverage](#)” for our firefighters and after House Business and Labor voted to table SB 72 it doesn’t look like it’s going to happen this session. Despite empty words of praise for their service and courage, the committee on a mostly partisan vote kicked Montana’s firefighters to the curb. **YOU** can help by contacting these [ten GOP legislators](#) who voted no and let them know we support our union brothers and sisters.

In the meantime, Colstrip residents are pinning their hopes on [SB 383 sponsored by Senator Duane Ankney \(R\) SD 20](#). Senator Ankney’s bill would hold Talen Energy and Puget Sound Energy responsible for helping clean up the mess they created in Montana not only to the environment but also the community and residents of Colstrip who will suffer the dislocation that so many other Montana communities have suffered over the decades from Robber Barons driven by the pursuit of huge profits at the expense of the workers. However, Montana’s legislature has a long tradition of acquiescence to corporate interests.

On the home front, Chair Ballance, House Appropriations, has re-scheduled the hearing for HB 13 on March 21. Don’t forget you can tune into the hearing from your work computer.

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 – 3rd reading on the House floor 03/17/2017 then on to Senate Finance and Claims where they backfill some of the more egregious cuts.
- [HB 13](#) State employee pay plan – Hearing scheduled March 21 House Appropriations
- [HB 14](#) Bonding program (Governor Bullock’s infrastructure bill) – dying a slow death in House Appropriations
- **[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 – Bill concurred as amended 03/16/2017 (S) Judiciary
- [HB 248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws – Bill concurred as amended 03/16/2017
- **[HB 262](#) Vetoed by Governor 2/23/2017**

- [HB 273](#) Generally revise concealed weapons laws – heard 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 – hearing scheduled 03/20/2017 (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 – heard (H) Appropriations 03/14/2017
- [HB 473](#) Revise highway revenue laws introduced by Representative Frank Garner (R) HD 7 – heard (H) Transportation 02/22/2017 and growing old and forgotten.
- **[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 – committee report bill passed 03/15/2017 (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 – committee report bill concurred (H) State Administration 03-15-2017
- **[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 - hearing scheduled 03/24/2017 (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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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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