



## Legislative Update

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### Under the “goat’s tail” *OKW*

The dead bills are starting to stack up like cordwood...some good riddance...others we will mourn for a while but also remembering the words of the immortal Joe Hill “don’t mourn, ORGANIZE!” I can’t say this is the worst session I’ve seen so far in my career but once again like 2011, 2013, and 2015 it demonstrates once again the importance of getting out the vote.

As we get closer to the middle of the month the pressure will build and HB 2 in some shape or form will end up on the Governor’s desk. What happens then depends on whether Governor Bullock and his budget office can live with it. The other big budget item out there of course is some sort of infrastructure bill. Senator Moore’s SB 367 has the best chance to pass and the most money to benefit a great number of Montana’s communities but it still faces a 2/3 vote in the House.

Another bill of importance to our brothers and sisters in labor is SB 338 (Ankney) to revise laws related to the closure of Colstrip’s 1 & 2. This bill has bi-partisan support so far and would go a long way toward alleviating some of the financial and economic impacts on the workers and communities most affected by the closures. It also sends a strong message to out-of-state industries looking to plunder Montana’s natural resources that the good old days of “cutting and running” are over. If anything kills SB 338 it will likely be this message as the corporate “stooges” in our legislature will line up to earn their pay.

### 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 – amended and returned to the House 04/05/2017.
- ~~**HB 13 State employee pay raise – tabled in committee 03/29/2017; DEAD**~~
- ~~**HB 14 Bonding program (Governor Bullock’s infrastructure bill) – tabled in committee 03/27/2017 although the House and Senate both have watered down versions of Governor Bullock’s infrastructure bill that might see their way to the governor’s desk.**~~
- ~~**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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> reading scheduled for the House 04/06/2017
- ~~**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 – 2<sup>nd</sup> reading the House concurred Senate amendments on 04/06/2017.
- [HB 248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws – signed by the Speaker 04/06/2017
- ~~**HB 262 Vetoed by Governor 2/23/2017**~~

- [HB 273](#) Generally revise concealed weapons laws – transmitted to the Governor 03/29/2017
- ~~[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 – Committee report bill concurred in Senate Finance and Claims 04/04/2017
- ~~[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 – missed deadline for appropriations bill transmittal; officially dead.~~
- [HB 473](#) Revise highway revenue laws – (S) Finance and Claims hearing scheduled 04/07/2017
- ~~[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 8](#) Revise requirements for interim committees to review advisory boards, reports – signed by the Governor, chapter number assigned 03/31/2017
- [SB 57](#) Clarify highway patrol funding sources and increase certain registration fees – hearing (H) Appropriations 04/03/2017
- ~~[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 – Concurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading by the House 04/05/2017 returned to the Senate with amendments 04/05/2017
- ~~[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 – enrolled 03/27/2017
- ~~[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 – concurred on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in House 04/06/2017
- ~~[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~~
- [SB 368](#) Generally revise campaign practices laws – passed the Senate on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading and transmitted to the House 03/30/2017; assigned to (H) Judiciary and hearing scheduled 04/07/2017
- ~~[SB 369](#) Create a study commission on the state fund – tabled (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs 03/24/2017; hopefully gone for good~~
- ~~[SB 371](#) Revise workers' compensation insurance and dissolve state fund – tabled 03/24/2017 (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs~~

**Bill drafts** – only new bill drafts will be listed in future legislative updates.

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