

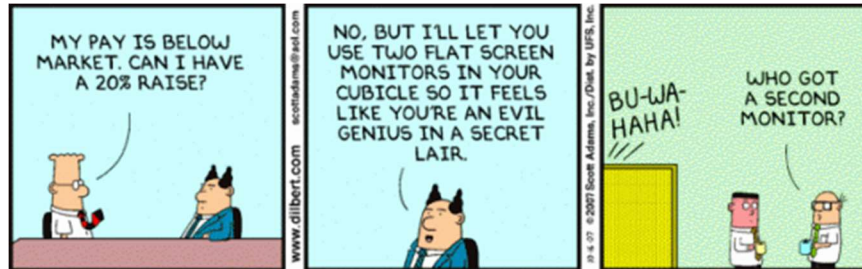
Legislative Update

Vol. 1

April 13, 2017

No. 14

Under the “goat’s tail”



Senators Ed Buttrey, Tom Facey, and Steve Fitzpatrick as well as Representatives Nancy Ballance, Moffie Funk, and Brad Tschida met early this morning as part of a conference committee for SB 294. As such, state employees will receive a 1% base pay increase on February 15, 2018 and February 15, 2019. By changing the implementation date they were able to put money into the Montana University System for faculty and staff pay who are members of MPEA and MEA-MFT. Representative Brad Tschida was the only member of the conference committee to vote against the amendment. SB 294 should have a fairly easy time now passing through the Senate and House.

It's obvious to all that attempting to conduct a fair, impartial pre-budget bargaining session with the Governor's office is an exercise in futility. In recognition of this failed process, Rich Aarstad, Juliana Crowley, Valerie Clague, and Tom Fulton introduced a New Business Item at the MEA-MFT convention asking President Eric Feaver to work with me and our MPEA members on a committee of state employees to discuss how we will bargain the pay increase in the future. MPEA members attending the Annual Meeting will see the same type of resolution.

On a sour note, Senate Finance and Claims tabled HB 136, the game wardens' and peace officers' retirement bill, on Wednesday April 12. This leaves the plan unamortized and essentially kicks the problem down the road for the legislature to tackle again in 2019. Although they resurrected it once before by raising the retirement from 20 to 25 years, this last action kills the bill for the session.

Meanwhile, HB 2 and an infrastructure bill remain on the table. Two weeks left and a lot of work so stay the course we're not done yet.

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 – 3rd reading concurred in the Senate 04/06/2017 and returned to the House with amendments 04/07/2017
- ~~[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 – transmitted to the Governor 04/11/2017.
- [HB 248](#) Revise anti-bullying laws – transmitted to the Governor 04/10/2017
- ~~[HB 262 Vetoed by Governor 2/23/2017](#)~~
- [HB 273](#) Generally revise concealed weapons laws – signed by the Governor 04/07/2017 chapter number assigned
- ~~[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 – concurred on 3rd reading by the Senate and returned to the House with amendments 04/08/2017
- ~~[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 – concurred on 3rd reading by the Senate 04/13/2017
- ~~[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 – Scheduled for 2nd reading in the House 04/18/2017
- ~~[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 – Signed by the President of the Senate 04/12/2017
- ~~[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 – Signed by the Governor 04/10/2017

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

Eastern Region
Darcy Dahle
406-671-4159

Western Region
Jeff Howe
406-317-1087

- ~~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 – Free Conference Committee report received 04/13/2017
- ~~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 – Scheduled for 2nd reading in the House 04/18/2017
- ~~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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