

Week 9 Update:

Big doings in Helena at the moment. The Montana Democrats are presently meeting to discuss and vote on who will be their candidate for the us house special election.

The republicans meet in Helena tomorrow to do the same

The legislature will be reconvening tomorrow afternoon after taking 5 days off for the transmittal break.

The second half of the session will be focused on budget and appropriations work mostly, as is usually the case with the second half of every legislative session.

For the Association, our livestock loss bill, SB 73, will be heard in House Agriculture Committee on Thursday at 3:00. I expect this bill to easily pass out of committee and make it out to the house floor early in March.

In addition, the 'seed bill' will be up on Tuesday. This bill prohibits local and county governments from regulating GMOs.

The raw milk bill is also up this week.

Upcoming Hearings

Monday – March 6 – Legislative Day 46

Tuesday – March 7 – Legislative Day 47

Senate Agriculture, Livestock, and Irrigation – Room 335, 3pm

HB126 – Generally revise the Montana pesticides act (Ray Shaw)

HB157 – Removing restrictions on possession of domestically-bred foxes (Forrest Mandeville)

HB377 – Providing rules for calculation of milk license fees (Alan Redfield)

Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs – Room 422, 8am

SB254 – Provide fees in statute for licensure as retail food establishment (Mark Blasdel)

HB347 – Revising speech-language pathologist or audiologist licensing laws (Donald Jones)

Senate Highways and Transportation – Room 405, 2:30pm or upon adjournment of Senate Floor Session

HB144 – Generally revise motor vehicle laws (Zach Brown)

HB152 – Authorize counties to establish junk vehicle capital improvement funds (Tom Welch)

HB213 – Revise motor vehicle license plate laws (Jeff Essmann)

HB355 – Revise laws related to school district transportation (Ray Shaw)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 9am

SB239 – Revise landlord and tenant act regarding abandonment of rental property (Roger Webb)

SB255 – Revise landlord and tenant laws regarding collection of judgment against tenant (Roger Webb)

SB280 – Generally revise DUI laws (Sue Malek)

Senate Taxation – Room 405, 9am

SB317 – Revise interest assessment on taxes other than individual income taxes (Daniel Salomon)
SB324 – Revise property tax exemption laws (Russel Tempel)

House Agriculture – Room 137, 3pm

SB155 – Prohibit local government regulation of agricultural seeds (Mike Lang)
SB157 – Extend milk regulations to hooved mammals (Jill Cohenour)

House Appropriations – Room 102, 8am

HB2 – General Appropriations Act (Nancy Ballance) – General Gov. and Judicial Branch)

House Appropriations – Room 102, 3pm

HB2 – General Appropriations Act (Nancy Ballance) – Natural Resources and Transportation

House Local Government – Room 172, 3pm

SB2 – Clarify county commission quorum requirements (Pat Connell)
SB189 – Revise protest provisions for special districts (Keith Regier)

Wednesday – March 8 – Legislative Day 48

Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs – Room 422, 8am

HB198 – Revise distribution of death certificate fee increase (Kirk Wagoner)
HB346 – Designate fiscal agent as employer for workers' compensation insurance (Willis Curdy)

Senate Finance and Claims – Room 317, 8am

SB94 – Provide property tax exemption for certain residential property (Keith Regier)
SB180 – Revise laws regarding taxation of certain airlines (Mike Lang)
HB294 – Encourage accessible playgrounds statewide (Jean Price)
HB307 – Create statutory appropriation for radioactive waste account (Kathy Kelker)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 9am

SB276 – Generally revise retaliation laws related to landlords and tenants (Roger Webb)
HB231 – Revising laws regarding trespass (Peggy Webb)
HB349 – Revise effect of failure to sign landlord tenant rental agreement (Peggy Webb)
HB350 – Generally revise default provisions in rental agreements (Peggy Webb)

Senate Natural Resources – Room 303, 3pm

SB215 – Major facility siting act for water bottling plants (Bob Keenan)
SB235 – Allow extension of coal lease on state lands (Tom Richmond)

Senate State Administration – Room 335, 3pm

HB86 – Authorize youth election judges (Kathy Swanson)
HB101 – Generally revise MPERA public employee retirement systems (Wendy McKamey)
HB282 – Grant county commission authority to correct certain election results (Mike Cuffe)

House Appropriations – Room 102, 8am

HB2 – General Appropriations Act (Nancy Ballance) – Health and Human Services

House Appropriations – Room 102, 3pm

HB2 – General Appropriations Act (Nancy Ballance) – Education

House Business and Labor – Room 172, 8:30am

SB72 – create presumptive illness for firefighters (Pat Connell)

SB128 – Revise pari-mutuel fantasy sports takeout rate and distributions laws (Daniel Salomon)

SB165 – Revise consumer loan act to exempt certain licensees (Daniel Salomon)

House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations – Room 472, 3pm

SB78 – Revise reimbursement of net metered generators (Keith Regier)

SB164 – Revise northwest power and conservation council member appointment laws (Keith Regier)

HR2 – House resolution supporting elimination of Montana intertie rate (Daniel Zolnikov)

House Human Services – Room 152, 3pm

SB92 – Allow for proxy decision-making in medical care (Albert Olszewski)

SB96 – Right to shop act for health care services (Cary Smith)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 8am

HB562 – Exempt certain cell phone use from local ordinances (Casey Knudsen)

HB566 – Revise private property notice for trespass (Alan Redfield)

House Natural Resources – Room 172, 3pm

SB24 – Modify commercial leasing rental provisions for state lands (Jeffrey Welborn)

SB42 – Revise the major facility siting act (Dick Barrett)

SB248 – Revise laws regarding exempt wells and family transfer parcels (Mark Blasdel)

House Taxation – Room 152, 8am

SB137 – Increase taxpayer appeal options and create informal procedures (Duane Ankney)

HB550 – Revise laws related to corporate loss carryback and carryforward (Jeff Essmann)

HB554 – Clarify laws related to property tax assistance programs (Becky Beard)

House Transportation – Room 455, 3pm

SB182 – Require MDT to inform the public regarding certain highway construction (Mike Lang)

SB231 – Establish Conrad Buns Memorial Highway (Roger Webb)

HB528 – Restrict use of light bars on vehicles (Tom Welch)

Thursday – March 9 – Legislative Day 49

Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs – Room 422, 8am

HB73 – Regulate certain air ambulance memberships as insurance (Ryan Lynch)

HB145 – Adopt NAIC model legislation regarding Annuities (Zach Brown)

Senate Energy and Telecommunications – Room 317, 3pm

HB20 – Repeal renewable energy credit reporting requirements (Jim Keane)

Senate Highways and Transportation – Room 405, 3pm

HB205 – Revise tax laws related to vehicles (Alan Redfield)

HB374 – Revise right of way laws for county water and sewer districts (Kerry White)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 9am

HB62 – Dept. of Revenue to collect fees for public defender services (Randy Brodehl)

HB93 – Generally revise laws enforcement academy funding laws (Frank Garner)

HB342 – Revise business laws related to liability and agritourism (Ross Fitzgerald)

HB370 – Revise laws regarding the recording of public meetings (Bryce Bennett)

Senate Taxation – Room 405, 9am

SB244 – Exempt portion of homestead market value from property taxes (Roger Webb)

SB327 – Reduce the Montana business equipment tax (Roger Webb)

House Agriculture – Room 137, 3pm

SB73 – Revise laws related to livestock loss (Pat Connell)

HB466 – Allows credit and debit card purchases as evidence for agricultural use estimate (Scott Staffanson)

House Business and Labor – Room 172, 8:30am

SB169 – Revise laws relating to agr. And construction equip. manufacturers (Brian Hoven)

HB570 – Require licensure and inspection for pet breeders (Willis Curdy)

House Fish, Wildlife and Parks – Room 152, 3pm

SB119 – Revise laws related to discounted FWP licenses for certain nonresidents (Jedediah Hinkle)

SB183 – Repeal the sunset on the hunters against hunger program (Jeffrey Welborn)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 8am

SB97 – Prohibit the application of foreign law in state courts (Keith Regier)

SJ11 – Generally revise self-defense laws (Keith Regier)

House Local Government – Room 172, 3pm

SB79 – Revise laws regarding rural improvement districts for road maintenance (Steve Fitzpatrick)

SB177 – Revise authority of self-governing local governments (Roger Webb)

House State Administration – Room 455, 9am

SB127 – Revise public officer vacancy laws (Mary Moe)

SB152 – Revise laws relating to state employees (Jon Sesso)

House Taxation – Room 152, 8am

SB132 – Revise tax laws related to pollution control equipment (Tom Richmond)

SB150 – Require vacation rentals to collect bed taxes (Dee Brown)

SB252 – Revise pass-through entity withholding (Mark Blasdel)

HB567 – Increase sales tax on lodging and direct portion of proceeds to invasive species (Mary Ann Dunwell)

Friday – March 10 – Legislative Day 50

Senate Education and Cultural Resources – Room 422, 3pm

SR35 – Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Regents of Higher Education (Daniel Salomon)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 9am

HB77 – Revise public defender system and provide for a director hired by DOA (Randy Brodehl)
HB147 – Requiring search warrant for gov access to electronic devices (Daniel Zolnikov)
HB149 – Revise privacy laws regarding license plate scanners (Daniel Zolnikov)
HB217 – Revise replacement schedule for regular license plates (Randy Brodehl)

Senate Natural Resources – Room 303, 3pm

HB38 – Revise allowable harvest volume for certain state land timber harvest (Willis Curdy)
HB110 – Revise laws for filing of exempt water right claims (Bradley Hamlett)
HB337 – Require water reservation report by 2026 (Bradley Hamlett)

House Business and Labor – Room 172, 8:30am

SB184 – Revise workers compensation to allow termination of payments due to fraud (Frederick Moore)
HB564 – Revise ‘sports pools’ to allow range of buy-in amounts (Jimmy Patelis)

House Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations – Room 472, 3pm

SB102 – Establish a maximum length of qualifying facility contracts (Tom Richmond)
SJ5 – Interim study regarding coal phase-out (Mike Phillips)
SJ6 – Resolution urging Regulation Freedom amendment to US constitution (Duane Ankney)

House Human Services – Room 152, 3pm

SB104 – Authorizing establishment of an emergency care system (Diane Sands)
SB120 – Generally revise practice of dental hygiene laws (Nels Swandal)