

Week three of the 2017 Montana legislative session has come and gone.

The highlight from this week was MWGA's participation on Monday the 16th at the Agriculture legislative reception held in Helena. Jim Brown and Jesse Thompson attended the reception and gave a brief presentation to the attending Legislators about MWGA's history, its non-legislative activities and initiatives, and its legislative priorities.

As to legislation, this Montana legislative session has had a slow start, and this week was no different. In fact, The Senate Agriculture Committee did not meet this week for a lack of bills to be heard.

As you will recall, the MWGA requested bill to fund the Board of Livestock was heard on January 12th by the Senate Ag Committee. The committee has taken no action on the bill. However, it is my understanding the committee may vote on the bill this coming Tuesday.

MWGA only testified one bill this past week. MWGA testified in support of a bill that would require MT FWP to actually count sage grouse populations in Montana – a common sense bill to say the least given the effort by some groups to get the sage grouse listed on the Endangered Species List. This bill is sponsored by Brad Hamlett and is HB 211.

This coming week, MWGA will weigh in on three bills. The first bill would continue to provide funding for sage grouse stewardship. The second bill would better define what is a 'legal fence.' The third bill would allow the livestock loss board to compensate livestock producers for losses incurred as a result of mountain lion kills. MWGA has concerns about this bill given the critical funding situation the loss board is already facing in terms of covering grizzly bear and wolf losses, the Board's current mission.

MSU's budget and the budget for the Board of Livestock are slated to be heard by the appropriations committee during the week of January 30th. So, MWGA will be monitoring those hearings.

This week's upcoming schedule is as follows:

Upcoming Hearings

Monday – January 23 – Legislative Day 16

Senate Education and Cultural Resources – Room 422, 3pm

SB124 – Extend school district bond term (Edith McClafferty)

HB113 – Allow Indian language immersion program funds to be used as matching funds (Edward Greef)

Senate State Administration – Room 335, 3pm

SB127 – Revise public officer vacancy laws (Mary Moe)

SB131 – Revise the effective date provisions for the Montana medical marijuana act (Fred Thomas)

HB39 – Adopting the most recent federal laws applicable to the National Guard (Jacob Bachmeier)

HB40 – Allow Dissemination of Confidential Criminal Justice Info to Adjutant General (Kim Abbott)

House Appropriations – Room 102, 3pm

HB23 – Provide for suicide prevention among American Indian and rural youth (Jonathan Windy Boy)

HB64 – Revise child abuse diversion project laws (Kimberly Dudik)

House Education – Room 137, 3pm

HB66 – Revise school funding related to facilities (Amanda Curtis)

HB178 – Provide ANB funding for 19 year olds (Jean Price)

HJ1 – Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students (Kathy Kelker)

House Human Services – Room 152, 3pm

HB173 – Provide deadline for treatment plans and permanency hearings (Kimberly Dudik)

HB244 – Revise definition of elder abuse (Tom Jacobson)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 9am

HB268 – Create offense related to assault on healthcare and emergency providers (James O’Hara)

HB277 – Revise speedy trial laws for felony offenses (Matt Regier)

HB278 – Provide option for drug treatment on a deferred sentence (Matt Regier)

House Natural Resources – Room 172, 3pm

HB110 – Revise laws for filing of exempt water right claims (Bradley Hamlett)

House Transportation – Room 455, 3pm

HB144 – Generally revise motor vehicle laws (Zach Brown)

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

HB241 – Revise unattended motor vehicle laws (Alan Doane)

HB267 – Revise laws related to bicycles on roadways (Frank Garner)

Tuesday – January 24 – Legislative Day 17 – Last day to request Revenue Bills

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

HB120 – Revise insurance laws pertaining to NAIC accreditation (Jacob Bachmeier)

HB122 – Revise Board of Realty Regulation (Casey Schreiner)

Senate Energy and Telecommunications – Room 317, 3pm

SB86 – Reinstate the enhanced recovery tax incentive for oil (Tom Richmond)

SR5 – Confirm Governor’s appointee to NW Power Planning Council (Duane Ankney)

SR6 – Confirm Governor’s appointee to NW Power Planning Council (Duane Ankney)

Senate Finance and Claims – Room 303, 1:30pm

SB95 – Authorize necessary measures to implement House Bill 2 (Llew Jones)

Senate Highways and Transportation – Room 405, 3pm

SB106 – Revise laws related to the use of certain chemical deicers on Montana roads (Dee Brown)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 10am

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

Senate Taxation – Room 405, 9am

SB76 – Eliminate income taxes on social security benefits (Dee Brown)

SB130 – Revise tax increment finance laws (Dick Barrett)

HB42 – Revise partnership filing due dates to match federal tax filing due dates (Kim Abbott)

House Agriculture – Room 137, 3pm

HB256 – Revise legal fence laws (Casey Knudsen)

HB286 – Allow livestock loss reimbursement for mountain lion predation (Ray Shaw)

House Appropriations – Room 102, 3pm

HB46 – Generally revising funding for civil legal aid (Kimberly Dudik)

HB89 – Establish holistic defense pilot project within state public defender system (Kimberly Dudik)

HB261 – Extending termination date for statutory appropriation to public libraries (Frank Garner)

HB284 – Revise funding for food and agriculture development centers (Dennis Lenz)

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

SB56 – Revise sunset dates related to funding of prescription drug registry (Margaret MacDonald)

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

SB84 – Extend the paddlefish roe donation program (Steve Hinebauch)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 8am

HB246 – Revise handgun laws pertaining to federal property (Randy Brodehl)

HB251 – Remove certain items from conceal carry laws (Kirk Wagoner)

HB262 – Generally revise concealed carry regulations for legal gun owners (Bill Harris)

HB273 – Generally revise concealed weapon laws (Barry Usher)

House Local Government – Room 172, 3pm

HB245 – Require timelines for review of a final subdivision plat (Forrest Mandeville)

HB250 – Require county and school district approval for adoption of TIF provision (Bruce Grubbs)

House Rules – Room 472, 3:30

SJ1 – Joint rules resolution (Fred Thomas)

House State Administration – Room 455, 9am

HB212 – Ballot Interference Act – restrict collection of absentee ballots (Jeff Essmann)

House Taxation – Room 152, 8am

HB187 – Establish an angel investor/venture capital tax credit (Jim Hamilton)

HB188 – Enact a Small Business Growth Encouragement Act (Jim Hamilton)

HB224 – Extending veterans' exemption to property used or leased by organization (Tom Jacobson)

HB242 – Constitutional amendment to establish natural resources trust fund (Tom Jacobson)

Wednesday – January 25 – Legislative Day 18

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

SB116 – Disallowing workers' compensation benefits for certain false statements (Mark Blasdel)

HB138 – Revise licensing of general insurance agent laws (Dave Fern)

HB197 – Generally revise board of real estate appraisers terms of service (Tom Jacobson)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 9am

SB118 – Provide for uniform act regarding fiduciary access to digital assets (Mary McNally)

SB122 – Generally revise criminal justice laws (Margaret MacDonald)
SB123 – Revise marriage license laws to allow nonresidents to get licenses in any county (Nels Swandal)

Senate Natural Resources – Room 303, 3pm

SB109 – Revise environmental review process to include analysis of impact beyond Montana (Mike Phillips)

SJ5 – Interim study regarding coal phase-out (Mike Phillips)

Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety – Room 317, 3pm

SB104 – Authorizing establishment of an emergency care system (Diane Sands)

SB129 – Require insurance coverage of teledentistry (Mary Caferro)

HB105 – Allow Board of Physical Therapy Examiners to join multistate license compact (Frank Garner)

Senate State Administration – Room 335, 3pm

SB121 – Provide that volunteer positions are not reportable to TRS (Edward Buttrey)

HB67 – Generally revise Teachers' Retirement System (Marilyn Ryan)

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

SB13 – Revise board of horseracing executive secretary duties (Steve Fitzpatrick)

HB198 – Revise distribution of death certificate fee increase (Kirk Wagoner)

HB275 – Revise laws related to occupational diseases (Mary Ann Dunwell)

HB276 – Revise reimbursement for pharmacies (Edward Greef)

House Education – Room 137, 3pm

HB227 – Provide funding for middle grades career and technical education (Sue Vinton)

HB248 – Revise anti-bullying laws (Kimberly Dudik)

HB265 – Create a school suicide prevention competitive grant program (Mary Ann Dunwell)

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

HB269 – Require natural gas utilities to provide customer choice (Daniel Zolnikov)

HB297 – Provide right-of-first-refusal for certain transmission lines (Adam Hertz)

House Human Services – Room 152, 3pm

HB257 – Consider housing needs in Montana State Hospital discharge plans (Ellie Hill Smith)

HB264 – Revise laws related to adverse childhood experiences (Jessica Karjala)

HJ6 – Interim study on the effects of methamphetamine use on state and local services (Ellis Hill Smith)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 8am

HB258 – Require detention center to allow inmates free calls to attorney (Ellie Hill Smith)

House Natural Resources – Room 172, 3pm

HB228 – Provide funding for sage grouse stewardship (Jim Keane)

HB263 – Revise analysis of Muddy Creek water rights (Ross Fitzgerald)

House State Administration – Room 455, 9am

HB255 – Revise laws related to the governor's use of state aircraft (Brad Tschida)

HJ5 – Resolution recognizing the anniversary of the Fort Robinson Breakout (Kelly McCarthy)

House Taxation – Room 152, 8am

HB239 – Provide income tax benefits to employers and students for higher education costs (Bill Harris)

HB249 – Tax deduction for employers for employee student loan reimbursements (Kimberly Dudik)

HB254 – Eliminate late filing penalty for taxpayers that are entitled to a refund (Brad Tschida)

HJ4 – Interim study on the coal trust fund (Dave Fern)

Thursday – January 26 – Legislative Day 19

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

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

HB16 – Revise interim committee review authority over alcohol beverage laws (Vince Ricci)

Senate Energy and Telecommunications – Room 317, 3pm

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

SB102 – Establish a maximum length for qualifying facility contracts (Tom Richmond)

Senate Highways and Transportation – Room 405, 3pm

SB134 – Revise laws related to motorcycle operation (Russel Tempel)

HB41 – Revise laws related to oversized loads to comply with federal law (Jim Keane)

HB55 – Revise department of transportation property transfer laws (Denley Loge)

HB146 – Revising temporary roadblock laws (Daniel Zolnikov)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 8am

HB59 – Revise appointment of public defender for putative father in neglect cases (Kimberly Dudik)

HB65 – Revise budget consultation between public defender offices (Kenneth Holmlund)

HB87 – Transfer jury list duties from secretary of state to court administrator (Kathy Swanson)

HB135 – Revise Youth Court Act to allow information sharing (Kimberly Dudik)

Senate Taxation – Room 405, 9am

SB125 – Provide exemption for large increases in property value (Roger Webb)

SB126 – Revise laws related to property valuation appeal process (Keith Regier)

HB74 – Revise property reappraisal laws (Greg Hertz)

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

HB137 – Generally revise securities and insurance laws pertaining to the State Auditor (Moffie Funk)

HB260 – Generally revise state's veteran home loan program (Susan Webber)

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

HB204 – Generally revise laws related to maintenance of fishing access sites (Alan Redfield)

HB243 – Prohibit outfitting on state lands inaccessible to the public (Tom Jacobson)

House Legislative Administration – Room 472, 2pm

SB8 – Revise requirement for interim committees to review advisory boards, reports (Tom Facey)

House State Administration – Room 455, 9am

HB271 – An act establishing the honor and remember medallion for military service (Rob Cook)

HB279 – Revise period of retention for unclaimed veteran remains (Adam Rosendale)

House Taxation – Room 152, 8am

HB226 – Increase property tax abatement for new or expanding industry (Zac Perry)

Friday – January 27 – Legislative Day 20

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

HB25 – Revise reporting for business industrial development corporations (Ryan Lynch)

HB141 – Provide licensing boards with active supervision in antitrust liability cases (Ryan Lynch)

Senate Judiciary – Room 303, 8am

SB98 – Establish property ownership fairness act (Cary Smith)

HB111 – Revising laws related to minor in possession data (Ryan Lynch)

HB184 – Revise health care practitioner gunshot reporting requirement laws (Frank Garner)

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

HB229 – Allowing worker to choose treating physician in workers' compensation cases (Andrea Olsen)

House Human Services – Room 152, 3pm

HB235 – Provide licensing, regulation of anesthesiologist assistants (Donald Jones)

House Judiciary – Room 137, 8am

HB44 – Generally revise laws related to district court judge numbers (Jeff Essmann)

Monday – January 30 – Legislative Day 21

Senate State Administration – Room 335, 3pm

HB68 – Revise university system retirement plan participation requirements (Marilyn Ryan)

HB83 – Generally revise elections laws (Bryce Bennett)

House Education – Room 137, 3pm

HB116 – Increase funding for gifted and talented education (Kathy Kelker)

HB232 – Revise laws for dual enrollment at community colleges (Kenneth Holmlund)

HB274 – Allow ANB funding for students with disabilities up to age 22 (Kathy Kelker)

Tuesday – January 31 – Legislative Day 22

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

HB26 – Revise board of housing loan-servicing laws (Tom Welch)

House Agriculture – Room 137, 3pm

HB272 – Establish label requirements for pasteurized milk (Greg Hertz)

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

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