

Many lawmakers left Friday and when the session resumes for its final two days tomorrow, they will attend virtually. Given the Governor has signed the budget bill, their remaining business will be focused on the concurrence of bills and signing enrolled acts. There are three bills on the list awaiting concurrence after bills were amended in the second house.

Legislators are beginning to talk about a special session in June or July. They will need to approve spending from the most recent stimulus package.

The legislature suspended rules Friday allowing consideration of bills on both second and third reading on the same day. While that system is efficient for getting through bills, it is also challenging when a bill needs a bit of help. Representative Henderson's bill for economic development zones (HB170) failed miserably on its 3rd reading. There wasn't much discussion on the initial reading and it was fine on 2nd reading with no amendments. The only opposition that seemed apparent was a concern that it created additional work for the Business Council. This can happen at the end of the session when a bill might need work, but legislators don't prioritize a remedy. I expect this bill will be back.

**Good News for Business** – [SF19](#) offering immunity provisions who have acted in good faith to protect employees and customers passed both houses and goes to the Governor's desk for signature. This was a priority bill for our Chamber and the Wyoming Business and Industry Federation.

**No New taxes** – the final tax measure awaiting consideration was a half cent for schools attached to HB173, the funding model for K-12 education.

**Cuts to Government Spending** - Governor Mark Gordon has signed the supplemental budget passed by both houses of the legislature this session. More than \$430 million in state government spending has been cut from the state's \$3 billion spending allocation authorized last year during the budget session.

A few key points include:

- The supplemental budget includes the elimination of 324 vacant state positions, some resulting from phase one and two cuts made last year.
- Additionally, nearly 20 positions will come into play in July when the phase three cuts from the supplemental budget become effective.
- Reductions to higher education at UW and community colleges will add to the total number of jobs lost in the state.
- Overall, general fund spending has been reduced by \$1 billion from the 2015-16 budget.
- State employment is comparable to 2003.

Thanks,

Rick Howe, Vice President, IOM