

HB 220- Retail Fairness Act UPDATE

Two weeks ago HB 220- Retail Fairness Act was rushed through the house process and is very likely to hit the senate floor sometime over the coming week. HB 220 will create a new 7% corporate income tax on retail and hospitality businesses with 100 shareholders or more. We are working tirelessly to slow this bill down and to defeat it and we have made some progress in the Wyoming Senate. Please watch your emails closely for calls to action. This bill moved incredibly fast in the house significantly reducing the ability for retail and hospitality businesses to weigh in.

Bills WLRA and WTIC are supporting

HB 66- Lodging Tax <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0066>

Creates a 5% statewide lodging tax as an alternative-funding source for growing the visitor economy through the Wyoming Office of Tourism. 3% would be dedicated to funding the Wyoming Office of Tourism. The other 2% would replace 2% of local option lodging taxes across Wyoming eliminating the need to vote on them every four years. Local option lodging tax boards will still have the ability to vote on up to an additional 2% every four years. Your association has been working on the alternative funding initiative for more than 2 years and is supporting this bill as long as the funding derived from the tax remains dedicated to funding tourism at a significantly more competitive level with our surrounding states. For more information about the statewide lodging tax bill please contact WLRA Executive Director Chris Brown at chris@wlra.org

Status-Passed the house and awaiting introduction in the senate

HB 93-Tourism Improvement Districts <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0093>

A tourism improvement district, or TID, is a mechanism for funding local tourism promotion activities. An assessment is placed on tourism businesses within a designated geographic area and the funds raised through the assessment are used for specific tourism marketing purposes. The bill will be written as enabling legislation, meaning that it allows for the conversation about Tourism Improvement Districts in your communities but it does not create or mandate anyone to utilize a TID. *Status-Passed the house and awaiting introduction in the senate*

Governor's recommended supplemental budget request of \$2.5 million for the Wyoming Office of Tourism.

Wyoming's marketing program currently ranks 29th in the nation, well below most of our competing surrounding states. This funding is a stopgap that will aid in elevating marketing resources and driving more visitor traffic to Wyoming until an alternative funding source is passed. *Status-Joint Appropriations Committee denied the \$2.5 million request and approved \$500,000. There were no other budget amendments for tourism that passed*
<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0001>

HB 99-Public Lands Day

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0099>

Would create a Public Lands Day state holiday.

Status-Passed the house and awaiting introduction in the senate

SF 43 Hathaway Scholarship Eligibility

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SF0043>

Would modify the Hathaway Scholarship Program to allow for a career technical aptitude test to satisfy Hathaway Scholarship eligibility requirements.

Status-Passed the senate and awaiting introduction in the house

SJ 3-Wyoming Women's Suffrage Day

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SJ0003>

Commemorates the 150th anniversary of Wyoming Women's Suffrage.

Status-Passed the senate and assigned to House Travel, Recreation, Wildlife and Cultural Resources Committee

SF 138-Malt Beverage and Catering Permits-Fees

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SF0138>

Would reduce the cost of malt beverage and catering permits from \$100 to \$50

Status-Passed the senate and awaiting introduction in the house

Bills we are opposing**HB 220 Retail Fairness Act**

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0220>

Bill would create a new 7% corporate income tax on retail and hospitality business domiciled out of state with 100 or more shareholders

Status-Passed the house and awaiting introduction in the senate.

Bills we are monitoring**HB 14 Mountain Daylight Time** <https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0014>

Bill eliminates daylight savings time and would put Wyoming in a different time zone than our neighboring states for a significant period of time each year. The bill would not go into effect until three adjoining states agreed to do the same.

Status-Passed the house and senate committee. May be heard on senate floor this week

HB 71-Equal Pay Penalties

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0071>

Would amend penalties for equal pay provisions.

Status-Passed the house and assigned to Senate Transportation Committee

HB 76-Wyoming Beer Freedom Act

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0076>

Would allow microbreweries to obtain 24-hour malt beverage permits

Status-Passed the house and awaiting introduction in the senate

HB 212-Alcoholic Beverages Business Flexibility

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0212>

Would amend microbrewery and wine permit holders to hold manufacturing licenses

Status-Passed committee and Committee of the Whole in the house

HB 219- Alcoholic Beverages-24 hr. Permit

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0219>

Would allow liquor manufacturer' to obtain a 24 hr. catering permit

Status-Passed committee and Committee of the Whole in the house

HB 273- Minimum Wage

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0273>

Would increase the state minimum wage to \$8.50/hr and increase it to \$10.00 over a 5-year period.

Passed committee in the house and may be heard on house floor this week

SF 101- Wage Offset for Employee Theft

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SF0101>

Would allow businesses to withhold earnings from an employee that has been found guilty of theft from their employer.

Status-Passed committee and Committee of the Whole in the senate

Bills that have died

SF 52- Special Permit for Alcoholic Beverages-exception

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SF0052>

Would allow exceptions to be made for business owners to sell alcohol at special events.

HB 64-Indexing Fuel Taxes

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0064>

Would index Wyoming's fuel tax to the Consumer Price Index (CPI)

HB 67-Sales Tax Revisions

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0067>

Would remove the sales tax exemption on home-prepared foods, data centers and manufacturing. The bill would reduce the state sales tax to 3.5% and would create a tax on most services.

HB 72- Wage Transparency

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0072>

Would prohibit employers from barring employees from disclosing wage information and would prohibit employers from requiring employees to waive wage disclosure rights.

HB 162- Alcoholic Liquors Markup Amount

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0162>

Would increase the state liquor division markup on wholesale liquor and wine purchases by 3%

HB 164- Wyoming Film Production Incentive

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0164>

The Wyoming Film Production Incentive would allow the Wyoming Office of Tourism (WOT) to offer incentives to film companies that shoot in and feature Wyoming in their productions. The bill has no appropriation attached and is enabling legislation to give the WOT an additional tool in the event that an opportunity presents itself.

HB 179-Food Trucks

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0179>

Would define regulation on food trucks

HB 200-Wyoming Pregnant Workers Fairness Act

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0200>

Would specify accommodations needed to be made for medical needs arising from pregnancy, childbirth and related conditions

HB 259 Tourism Funding

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/HB0259>

Would change the 60/30/10 local option lodging tax split to 60/20/20

SF 48- Unemployment Compensation-Seasonal Employees

<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2019/SF0048>

Would define unemployment benefits for seasonal employees