



*State Chamber of Commerce*

**WSSC Weekly Report 2-10-2019**

This week marked the halfway point of the 2019 legislative session, with “crossover” taking place Wednesday. All bills that were not passed out of their house of origin died. Of the 499 House Bills, Senate Files and Joint Resolutions filed this session, 269 remain active.

Much of the week was dedicated to jockeying between the House and Senate on the budget bill. The start of the week saw the two houses about \$70-\$80 million apart in their respective bills. The Senate suspended its rules Wednesday and introduced four alternative budget bills designed to fund essential state operations if a compromise cannot be found and the overall budget bill fails. While there is plenty of political gamesmanship taking place, both the House Speaker and Senate President have expressed confidence that a budget solution will be found.

The series of career and technical education bills we are tracking and supporting this session are moving nicely. [SF0043](#), which adds a career-vocational pathway to Hathaway Scholarship eligibility has passed first reading in the House. [SF0122, the Wyoming Works Program](#), has been introduced and referred to committee in the House. The bill would establish the “Wyoming Works Program” at community colleges and provide grants and funding for community college technical programs. We are also supporting [SF0111, Community colleges-bachelor of applied science programs](#). This would authorize community colleges to provide 4-year baccalaureate degree programs in applied sciences. This bill has also passed the Senate and is awaiting introduction in the House.

The weekly bill tracker is attached below, and you can see the full list of bills introduced [HERE](#). If you notice any bills still alive you believe we should be following or weighing in on with a formal position, please let us know.

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## House Bills

**Bill Number and Title:** ~~[HB0010 – Crimes against critical infrastructure](#)~~. The bill would create the crimes of trespassing on critical infrastructure and impeding critical infrastructure and provide for penalties. The bill would also hold organizations accountable if found to have had influence in the commission of the acts. Modified version from last session.

**Sponsor:** Larsen

**WMA Position:** Support

**Status:** DEAD: House Did Not Consider in Committee of the Whole (2/4/19)

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0027 – Transportation enterprise program investments](#). AN ACT relating to public funds; authorizing investment of the transportation trust fund in equities through the pool A investment account; making conforming amendments; and providing for an effective date.

**Sponsor:** Cap Fin & Inv

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** S 3rd Reading:Passed 28-0-2-0-0 (2/8/2019) No meetings or Floor Sessions Currently Scheduled

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0066 – Lodging Tax](#). 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. The hospitality industry 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

**Sponsor:** Revenue

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** S Received for Introduction (1/22/2019) No meetings or Floor Sessions Currently Scheduled

**Bill Number and Title:** ~~[HB0067 – Sales Tax revisions](#)~~. 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.

**Sponsor:** Revenue

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** DEAD H No report prior to CoW Cutoff (2/4/2019)

**Bill Number and Title:** ~~[HB0072 – Wage transparency](#)~~. Would prohibit employers from barring employees from disclosing wage information and would prohibit employers from requiring employees to waive wage disclosure rights. We are opposed because they currently do not have to disclose this. Right now this is dependent on how businesses file with the IRS and the

nature of their business. So with being a 501(c)6 and 501(c)3 we have to disclose that when we file our paperwork and share our CEO's. Ultimately this allows for employers to be able to pay people what they deem as adequate for the talent acquisition at the time and makes it so small employers and businesses don't have to disclose what everyone pays. We want to preserve this privacy employers have when setting salaries, bonuses, etc.

**Sponsor:** Labor

**WMA Position:** **Opposed**

**Status:** **DEAD: Failed Committee of the Whole in House (1/16/19)**

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0097 – Taxation of broadband internet infrastructure.](#) Maintains the opportunity for telecom to stay in the right ways as they become a deregulated industry (as current right away is for public utility). This does NOT mandate what they pay or allow anyone in for free as that is up to the local control.

**Sponsor:** Lindholm

**WMA Position:** **Support**

**Status:** **S Placed on General File (2/8/2019) Scheduled Senate General File 02/11/2019 - 10:00 AM**

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB098 – Right of ways-communications services.](#) Is a sales tax exemption on equipment and incentive for broadband providers to serve unserved areas (as by our unserved definition). Another incentive to get connectivity to unserved areas.

**Sponsor:** Lindholm

**WMA Position:** **Support**

**Status:** **S Introduced and Referred to S07 – Corporations (2/6/2019) Scheduled Senate Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions 02/12/2019 - 08:00 AM - Jonah Business Center**

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0193 - Wyoming career technical pathway workforce strategy.](#)

**Sponsor:** Henderson

**WMA Position:** **Support**

**Status:** **DEAD: House Postponed Indefinitely (2/4/19)**

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0200 – Wyoming pregnant workers fairness act.](#)

**Sponsor:** Yin

**WMA Position:** **Monitor**

**Status:** **DEAD: House Postponed Indefinitely (2/4/19)**

**Bill Number and Title:** [HB0220 - National Retail Fairness Act.](#) The bill would implement a 7% income tax on large corporations headquartered out of state with more than 100 shareholders. The bill is specific to 3 NAICS Code classifications: retail trade, accommodations and food services.

**Sponsor:** Obermueller

**WMA Position:** **Monitor**

**Status:** **Introduced in Senate, Referred to Corporations (2/7/19)**

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0012 – Business Licensing Fee](#). AN ACT relating to corporations, partnerships and associations; altering licensing fees as specified; and providing for an effective date

**Sponsor:** Corporations

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** DEAD - S No report prior to CoW Cutoff (2/1/2019)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0013 - Eminent domain-wind energy collector systems.](#)

**Sponsor:** Case

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** DEAD: Senate Did Not Consider for Introduction (2/4/19)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0016 – Community development districts.](#) Authorizes municipalities to create community development districts through specific assessments.

**Sponsor:** Corporations

**WMA Position:** Support

**Status:** H Introduced and Referred to H07 – Corporations (2/1/2019) Scheduled House Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivisions 02/11/2019 - Upon Noon Recess - Jonah Business Center

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0037 - Wyoming energy authority.](#) The bill would merge the Wyoming pipeline authority and the Wyoming infrastructure authority into an overarching Wyoming Energy Authority.

**Sponsor:** Minerals

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** Passed Committee of the Whole in House (2/8/19)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0043 - Hathaway scholarship eligibility.](#) Amends the standards for Hathaway Scholarship eligibility with a career-technical aptitude assessment, adds career-vocational elective pathways.

**Sponsor:** Education

**WMA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed Committee of the Whole in House (2/3/19)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0048 – Unemployment compensation-seasonal employers.](#) This affects employers ultimately. It would cause for employers to have to cover seasonal employees under employment. We opposed it last year and we oppose it again because most businesses who hire seasonal employees communicate to them that they will not have a job after X number of months, etc. This is saying that these employees would have a right to file unemployment still if the seasonal work expand beyond that issued time period. Then this is an added expense to our businesses. Some already do this sort of thing with their employees independently of this being law. There are best practices associated with this too but again it is most certainly an added expense on our employers if seasonal employees are able to file for unemployment.

**Sponsor:** Labor

**WMA Position:** Opposed

**Status:** DEAD -S No report prior to CoW Cutoff (2/1/2019)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0052 – Special Permits for alcoholic beverages-exception.](#) AN ACT relating to alcoholic beverages; amending the applicability of general definitions as specified; providing a definition for purposes of special permits; clarifying applicability of twenty-four hour

malt beverage permit and catering permits; amending penalties for sales without a license or permit; and providing for an effective date.

**Sponsor:** Senator Coe

**WMA Position:** Monitor

**Status:** DEAD -S No report prior to CoW Cutoff (2/1/2019)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0111 – Community colleges-bachelor of applied science programs.](#) This would authorize community colleges to provide 4-year baccalaureate degree programs in applies sciences.

**Sponsor:** Nethercott

**WMA Position:** Support

**Status:** Passed Senate, Received for Introduction in House (1/29/19)

**Bill Number and Title:** [SF0122 - Wyoming works program.](#) The bill would establish the “Wyoming Works Program” at community colleges and provide grants and funding for community college technical programs.

**Sponsor:** SAppropriations

**WMA Position:** Support

**Status:** Introduced in House, Referred to Appropriations (2/8/19)

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