

## LWVWY Bill Summary Report #8

### Wyoming LWV - Bills of interest as of Feb. 24 in the 2019 Wyoming Legislature

Find all bills with related information on [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov).

Titles of bills that have died are in red. Titles of enrolled acts are in blue.

#### ELECTIONS

##### HB106 – Party Affiliation Changes (Rep. Blackburn)

Billed as the top priority for the Wyoming GOP Central Committee, this would prevent people from changing party affiliation for the Primary. Amended to make the block-out period two weeks before Primary and to exempt unaffiliated voters. Failed Committee of the Whole vote in the Senate 11-14-5

##### SF99 – Voting Systems and Ballots (Sen. Steinmetz)

County clerks may send ballots to a “central counting center.” Senate Enrolled Act 57.

#### EDUCATION

##### SF80 – Passing Stopped School Bus – recorded images (Sen. Ellis)

Establishes civil penalty of \$195 for registered owners of vehicles that go through the “stop arm” put out by a school bus driver to stop traffic while students get on and off the bus. There are an estimated 8,000 stop arm violations in Wyoming annually. Senate Enrolled Act 42

##### HB308 – Modernizing and balancing Wyoming’s school funding streams (Speaker Harshman)

This bill does several things that lift the cap on special ed and transportation funding and address at least some of the “structural” deficit in school funding by changing the revenue flow and investment income for various school related accounts. School districts support this bill. Read the bill’s fiscal note for the revenue redirection plan. Senate has appointed a joint conference committee

#### HEALTH & INSURANCE

##### SF144 – Medicaid and SNAP eligibility requirements (Sen. Hicks)

Requires Medicaid recipients to comply with specified work or volunteer requirements. Includes several exemptions. Would require the state to apply for a Section 1115 waiver from CMS. An estimated 1,700 persons would lose benefits. Ready for second reading in House.

##### SF146 – Medicaid Expansion Study (Sen. Scott)

Bill to study once again the feasibility of expanding Medicaid, this time by the Department of Insurance. Appropriations for the study have been deleted. Legislature already has a study by the Department of Health in December. Third reading in House.

##### HB194 – Air ambulance coverage - Medicaid (Rep. Barlow)

This bill would provide air ambulance coverage under Medicaid, an innovative use of a narrow exemption to the federal airline deregulation act and attempt state regulation of air ambulance charges that are beyond the means of individuals and agencies. Would create an Air Ambulance Coverage Account with an assessment on insurance companies. Air ambulance opponents condemn as “Medicaid for all,” bypassing the argument of trying to control unmanageable charges. Third reading in Senate.

##### SF44 – Multiple Employer Welfare Arrangements (Joint Labor)

With this bill, the State of Wyoming would begin a very limited effort to get a handle on these “MEWA” health insurance arrangements, to ensure a bare minimum of consumer protections, including assurances they will actually cover claims made by premium payers. At least they would be subject to the same regulation as small group insurance – still short of ACA exchange requirements. Senate Enrolled Act 49.

#### HB103 – Reporting of Abortions (Rep. Clem)

Requires report of abortions to include race, ethnicity and marital status of the women, plus gestational age of the aborted fetus or embryo. Report required within 30 days. Fine of \$1,000 for late reports and Board of Medicine disciplinary action for failure to report within 6 months. Office of Vital Records will report the statistics. Anticipate collecting \$46,000 in fines annually, deposited in School Foundation Account. Third reading in Senate.

#### HB140 – Abortion – 48-hour waiting period (Rep. Tass)

Physicians must wait 24 hours before non-emergency procedures. Failed in Senate Labor Committee.

### JUSTICE

#### HB53 – Probation and Parole – Incentives and sanctions

This bill establishes incentives and sanctions in a “graduated response” to compliance violations, so prosecutors and courts use supervised probation and parole before re-incarcerating people. House Enrolled Act 53.

#### SF38 – Limitation on length of Probation

Maximum probation for first-time non-violent felonies would be reduced from 5 years to 42 months – or the length of a maximum prison term for the offense. Senate Enrolled Act 50.

#### SF104 – Wyoming Chancery Court (Sen Pres. Perkins)

Creates 3-member Chancery Court to hear cases seeking money recovery of more than \$50,000 (exclusive of claims for punitive damages). Appropriates \$600,000 from the General Fund to the Supreme Court. Intended to serve business litigants with speed and expertise. Second reading in the House.

### LABOR

*Joint Labor Committee is sponsoring a package of bills resulting from a study commissioned by the Legislature to determine the size and nature of pay disparity between men and women. The bills were championed by Reps. Cathy Connolly (D) and former Rep. Marti Halverson (R). Three of these bills will be heard in House Labor on Monday.*

#### HB84 – Wage equality-state employees and programs.

Require efforts by state agencies and contractors to find and remedy gender wage inequities. Died in Senate Transportation 2-3.

### GOVERNMENT

#### SF57 – Public Records (Joint Corporations)

Senate Corporations spent three intensive meetings to rewrite a law to tighten up accountability to respond to requests and establish the office of an ombudsman in the governor’s office who could advocate for records applicants before a complaint gets to court. Has wide support from diverse interests. Supporters of the ombudsman position want it to be full time and ongoing. In Joint Conference Committee.

#### SF119 – State Spending Transparency (Sen. Bouchard)

Sets up a state auditor's Website to post all payments to all vendors for the past 5 years.  
Not enough time to write a fiscal note. Died on General File.

## REVENUE

HB66 – Lodging Tax (Joint Revenue)

After all the false starts of last year for a lodging tax, this might have a chance. A 5 percent tax (about \$19.5 million a year) – 3 percent for state tourism and 2 percent back to counties. Ready for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in Senate.

HB282 – Tobacco Products (House Appropriations)

House Appropriations wrote another bill to follow up HB218, with a 75-cent-per-pack increase, deemed too low to impact tobacco sales. Amended to include only a provision to include e-cigarettes with “other tobacco product” in taxing statutes. Died at deadline in Senate Labor.

## Resolutions and Constitutional Amendments

HJ2 – Funding Sewage Systems (Rep. Larsen)

Would amend the Wyoming Constitution to remove the specific limit on the amount of debt a municipality can incur for a sewer project and let the Legislature set the debt limit for municipal sewer projects. On Senate General File.

HJ6 – Legislative Sessions (Speaker Harshman)

Proposes amending the Wyoming Constitution to remove the 2/3 introduction vote requirement for non-budget bills during budget legislative sessions. In Senate Corporations.

HJ8 – Free and Fair Elections (Rep. Zwonitzer)

Calls for Congress to approve a US Constitutional amendment to clarify difference between rights of a natural person and a corporation. In House Corporations. Died in Senate Corporations.

SJ1 State-federal school trust lands exchange (Joint Agriculture)

Asks Congress to enact legislation requiring exchange of certain landlocked state trust lands in Wyoming. Failed in House Committee of the Whole 28-30-2. (However likely to reappear in interim work.)

(end)