

Summary of bills of interest in the 2021 Wyoming Legislature as of April 12, 2021

Summary covers bills with final action the last week. When you read the bills on the LSO Website, select the “enrolled” PDF from the “bill version” list at the top right of the page. Find complete histories of bills in the “digest” tab.

THE BUDGET

The 2021 supplemental budget bill went into the books with no override attempts, looking a lot like the original request from Gov. Gordon. Governor’s veto letter:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1QpHhNPXvWt_GJQ4sMiochzcum4jAj_sX/view.)

GOVERNMENT

HB158 Local land use planning and zoning – Rep. Steve Harshman, R-Casper

This would give primacy to enacted zoning regulations – over land use plans -- as local governments make decisions. If plans and regulations conflict, the regulations win. *House Enrolled Act 92.*

HB36 Management Council Membership – Rep. Dan Laursen (R-Powell)

Would tie political diversity requirements to the percentage of a minority party in the Legislature (30 percent). Management Council will be smaller and have fewer minority party requirements. Last minute debate about when to put changes into effect, which will be Jan. 1, 2022, which is the middle of the two-year 66th Wyoming Legislature. *House Enrolled Act 96.*

HB127 Public Health Amendments – Speaker Eric Barlow, R-Gillette

The limits proposed in this bill would require governing officials (county, municipal, health district, governor) to approve preventive, restrictive orders by health officials beyond 10 days. The governor would appoint (and could dismiss) the state health officer. Public has at least 48 hours to comment on health orders, except those that are to quarantine or prevent contagion. Of course, if you don’t believe a virus is contagious... *House Enrolled Act 93.*

EDUCATION

HB173 School Finance Funding-2 –Substitute 1 House Education Committee

This was rewritten right up to the final minute on third reading in the House, but it seems to be both constitutional and to include all the elements of cuts, revenue shifts and taxes to be acceptable to a wide range of legislators and school districts. Final compromise version never reached, so the bill died and school funding continues with the current system.

SF130 Charter schools – Sen. Ogden Driskill, R-Sundance

This would let people who want to open a state-funded charter school go to the Department of Education for help and the State Loan and Investment Board for approval. Sponsors want to welcome charter schools to deliver education in remote settings that currently are too expensive for our lawmakers. (But not too expensive for charter companies?) A conference committee deleted a House provision for local elections and a study. *House Enrolled Act 74.*

ELECTIONS

HB163 Federal congressional elections-residency – Rep. Joe MacGuire, R-Casper
Would prevent candidates for U.S. House or Senate from Wyoming to claim residence in any other state. Closes a loophole that allows candidates to live anywhere. *Senate passed 28-0-2, sent to House for concurrence.*

TAXATION AND REVENUE

SF121 State Funds-investments and distributions – Sen. Drew Perkins
This bill didn't get much attention from media but provides a comprehensive plan for how major revenue streams to Wyoming will get directed and diverted, spent and saved/invested. Final version emphasizes savings in permanent funds to create interest and earnings for the future. Read a detailed fiscal note for the bill. *Senate Enrolled Act 75.*

HEALTH

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND COURTS

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

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