

LWVWY Legislative Report #3  
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By Marguerite Herman, lobbyist  
[Marguerite.herman@gmail.com](mailto:Marguerite.herman@gmail.com)  
307-630-8095 (cell)  
LSO Website [www.wyoleg.gov](http://www.wyoleg.gov).

In the third week of the 2021 Wyoming Legislature, the House and Senate worked a few bills through to final approval, but it was a modest “crossover” before the February break. The tally: In the three-day virtual session last week, the Senate passed 7 bills and will finish up 3 more on Monday. The House gave final approval to 13 bills and will finish up 3 more Monday.

Several committees are scheduled to meet on Monday, as well. The LSO Website lists no other meetings until the reconvening of the session on March 1, which everyone hopes will be in person. The Legislature has promised to unveil the supplemental budget bill by Feb. 22. Standing committees also may meet that week to get bills to their respective chamber floors. Meanwhile, LSO will continue to add lawmaker-requested bills on the 2021 General Session Bills page (<https://www.wyoleg.gov/Legislation/2021>), so you can monitor that list. The budget bill will be listed as mirror HB1 and SF1. Typically, floor “debate” consists of explanation by members of the Appropriations Committees, followed by second and third reading wrangling over scores of amendments.

Notice that several bills have yet to be assigned to committees, which eventually might put them in danger of missing a cutoff for action. When the Legislature reconvenes March 1, the bills will have just 22 working days to get through both chambers, so a slow start could signal leadership’s lack of interest.

Two somewhat controversial bills have passed the House and await action in the Senate: SF16 Net Metering and HB55 Tobacco Tax, a revenue measure, at last! The Senate amended SF16 in apparent response to critics who fear it would kill people’s interest in home renewable resources by not guaranteeing their ability to sell power back to the utility. The approved amendment says, in part, the Public Service Commission should ensure the system “reasonably and equitably balances the interests of customer generators with those of electric utilities and ratepayers to ensure the availability of safe, adequate and reliable electricity service at just and reasonable rates. “

There wasn’t a lot of self-regulation. At one point, Speaker Pro Tem Michael Greer (in the chair) pleaded with House members (new and old) to PLEASE resist repeating previous speakers. It could be that reps find “rising to speak” on Zoom (instead of getting up in front of 59 people and standing at a podium) is a lot easier. It is interesting to note the ease of newly elected reps in adopting the formality of the chamber.

You can stream the House and Senate sessions live, or watch recorded versions later, with links provided on the LSO Website, attached to the legislative meeting notice.

If you have any questions about using the LSO Website or how to participate in the legislative process, please email me at [marguerite.herman@gmail.com](mailto:marguerite.herman@gmail.com).