

LWV Wyoming Report #3 2-27-22  
 2022 Wyoming Legislature  
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The “crossover” has begun for the 2022 Wyoming Legislature. That is when bills complete passage through their house of origin and make their way through the other chamber. Here are things to note this week.

### **The Crossover**

One chamber may love a bill that never goes further than committee assignment in the other chamber, so success is far from assured. One indication of probable success or demise is where the leadership sends a bill. That is why Senate Agriculture heard SF97 – Change in party affiliation, assuring approval that was not so sure in other Senate committees. So, watch the committee assignments and amendments on the floor. Also watch the session schedule, because delay in a bill’s progress can result in missing a deadline (i.e., death for the session). Be sure to use the bill version that incorporates amendments from the first chamber – the “engrossed” version. Find that PDF listed to the right of the html version that comes up when you click on a bill number.

### **Budget Bills**

The House and Senate completed their 2023-24 budget bill versions and exchanged them for consideration. If you want a summary of how the Senate and House amended the budget that was written by the Joint Appropriations Committee, tune into the House and Senate Appropriations committees at the noon recess on Monday. The meetings will be streamed on YouTube. No public testimony at this point. The House and Senate will formally vote not to accept each other’s version, and leadership will appoint members of a conference committee (5 from each chamber). Those meetings also should be streamed.

All the amendments that were filed for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> readings of SF1 and HB1 – and their disposition – are on the bills’ digests. One that has folks scratching their heads is SF1 3<sup>rd</sup> reading amendment #9, which seems to eliminate funding for gender studies at UW and several other things, as well.

### **Redistricting**

HB100 – as written by Joint Corporations – is now ready for floor action in the Senate. Changes must be made cautiously without disrupting many previous decisions in committee and in the House, although legislators don’t seem to care that much about disruptions. That version is for 62 House and 31 Senate seats, which brings down the required district sizes and allows districts that were too small initially to meet deviation compliance. You can use the HB100 bill text or go straight to the maps. Find all of that on the redistricting pages available at the top of the LSO home page. The House version is there, along with several map amendments ready for Senate debate. One of the most contentious regions is the eastern edge of the state, and we are likely to have plenty of debate again in the Senate.

Sen. Scott’s plan to keep 60 House and 30 Senate districts will not be considered.

### **Voting Restrictions**

SF97 Change in party affiliation passed the Senate and is ready for House action. It is one of the most objectionable voting restriction bills to make it this far in the Wyoming Legislature. The state GOP is frustrated with the ability of Wyoming voters to participate in selecting GOP primary nominees. LWVWY has consistently

opposed efforts to restrict access to the ballot box by qualified electors, including the ability to change party affiliation at any time in the election season.

*Once it is assigned to a House Committee, tell those members to stop this bill right now and affirm the practice and values of Wyoming voters to be able to vote for the best candidate regardless of party.*

### **Medicaid Expansion**

The attempt to enlarge eligibility for state Medicaid coverage apparently is dead for 2022. The bill was not considered for introduction, and attempts to amend the idea into the budget bill failed. Only one of the amendments survived rules challenges – sponsored by Sen. Cale Case, R-Lander – so the Senate did have a few minutes to debate the issue at the end of a long day of budget 3<sup>rd</sup> reading amendments. Unfortunately, we heard a lot of the disingenuous, debunked arguments that seem to recirculate every year. But we also heard some impassioned and brilliant debate by supporters. An identical amendment by Rep. Cathy Connolly, D-Laramie, was ruled out of order. They both should get a “thank you.”

The Senate debate on MedEx was preceded by an interesting about whether the amendment was germane. Go to the Legislature’s YouTube channel and listen to the Friday afternoon Senate session. The debate on whether to even hear the amendment begins at about the 1:40 mark. Debate on Case’s proposal starts at about 1:53. The vote comes at 2:23. The opposing debate is discouragingly mis-informed.

### **Deadlines to note:**

The cutoff for General File was supposed to be on Friday, but Senate leadership spared their members the agony of a late night and extended the deadline until Monday. The House, however, enforced that deadline, so all bills caught without action on General File are now dead for the session.

Monday is the deadline for 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in the house of origin.

Tuesday is the deadline for 3<sup>rd</sup> reading in the house of origin.

Friday is the deadline for a budget joint conference committee to report out a compromise acceptable to the House and Senate. This allows time for the governor to exercise a veto and the Legislature to consider an override vote.

Adjournment scheduled for March 11.

### **Also note:**

- Floor sessions and committee meetings are streamed on the Wyoming Legislature’s YouTube channel. The committee meetings have a Zoom option to testify. (See next item.)
- The LSO Website has information about bills and legislators. Check the daily legislative meetings and agendas for the House and Senate and committees. You will see opportunities to testify and to lobby lawmakers on individual bills and amendments.
- The other LSO Website page you will use every day is the bill page, which provides the previous action for each proposal, bill versions and amendments.
- Electronic handouts are required for the chamber floors and are recommended for committees. LSO no longer handles large deliveries (of anything) during sessions.
- The LSO online hotline is activated to leave messages for ALL members of a chamber on a specific bill. The telephone hotline is 866-996-8683 or 307-777-8683.
- Find links to LSO guides “Attending Legislative Sessions” and “Attending Legislative Meetings” at the top of the home page.

If you need help navigating the LSO Website or the Capitol, I am happy to help. My cell is 307-630-8095. Also, Margaret Brown of the Laramie and Wyoming Leagues is a great resource and sends updates to an email list of interested League members, so let her know if you want to join that.

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