

To: Wyoming LWV members  
From: Marguerite Herman, LWVWY Lobbyist  
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Re: 2023 WyoLeg Report #3  
Date: Jan. 24, 2023

The Wyoming Legislature begins its third week with two health care access bills on General File in the House, putting the fate of those two bills in the hands of Majority Floor Leader Chip Neiman. That is an uncertain fate, especially after the House voted to change its rules and require a 2/3 vote to override Neiman and pull bills up to the top of the list where they might be debated.

Way at the bottom of the General File list of bills to be considered by the full House are HB4 – Medicaid 12 month postpartum coverage (reported out of House Labor 5-4) and HB80 Medical treatment opportunity act – Medicaid reform (reported out of House Revenue (6-3). Recall that the deadline for General File consideration is Feb. 6. Majority Floor Leader Neiman controls the order of bills on that list, and the time to lobby him for those bills is now.

Other deadlines to be mindful of are Jan. 26 for introduction of Senate files and Jan. 31 for House bills. However, any proposals that are introduced that late stand very little chance of meeting deadlines to be considered this session, unless they are favored by legislative leaders. Watch those dates on the Session Schedule, on the LSO website [wyoleg.gov](http://wyoleg.gov). The other option for popular initiatives is to become an amendment to the supplemental appropriation bills, when they are considered by the House and Senate.

Bills that failed in committee last week include HB49, the optional municipal ranked choice vote (RCV) measure that would test how well that kind of ballot would work for nonpartisan races Wyoming. In the interim, state GOP leaders told the Joint Corporations Committee that candidates were winning primaries without a majority of votes. With no time to run a third election, the RCV was considered one way to achieve an “instant runoff,” and other advantages included more voter interest and possibly a better turnout. But all that ended with a 3-6 vote in House Corporations.

Find a complete list of 2023 bills, files and resolutions on the LSO website, along with a digest for each proposal that lists all the votes and amendments. The LWVWY legislative liaison committee is listing bills of general or high interest on the tracking program Quorum, administered by our national League. Find the Wyoming Quorum tracker at <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/RfeAZatgWJauorqjDnyE/>

The bills of particular interest to LWV fall under our priority areas of elections, education funding, missing persons alerts and healthcare. Several bills in both the House and Senate propose to limit the ability to change a party affiliation for the Primary Election. One proposed constitutional amendment proposes to put school funding entirely in the hands of the legislative and executive branch and eliminate the courts’ ability to say if the funding was adequate. Another proposed amendment would strengthen the Wyoming Constitution’s right to privacy. HB18 Missing persons alert system was approved by House Labor 9-0 and sent to the full House.

Several bills and amendments address property tax relief, and several bills prescribe how schools will and will not instruct students in social studies and gender issues. One measure (HB220) prohibits the use of “sensitive” and indecent materials in all schools.

Some committee chairmen have decided to discount or disregard entirely any member of the public who wants to testify remotely. The chairmen of House Minerals and Senate Education are taking in-person testimony only, and the chairman of House Corporations has said he gives greater weight to people who make the effort to show up in person. I have asked Management Council Chairmen Driskill and Sommers to direct the committee leaders to give equal consideration to people who cannot come to the Capitol because of family or work or financial constraints.

However, you can find contact information for legislators on the LSO website to inform and advocate for/against legislation. If you email, it helps to put a good summary of your message into the subject line.