

To: Wyoming LWV members
From: Marguerite Herman, LWVWY Lobbyist
307-630-8095
Marguerite.herman@gmail.com
Re: 2023 WyoLeg Report #6
Date: Feb 13, 2023

The Wyoming Legislature enters the fifth week of the 2023 session, with no major deadlines to meet but with a schedule to move bills through committee and floor debate and watch the House and Senate work out a compromise version of the supplemental budget bill.

We do have an urgent message about **HB47**, federal certification of election machines, explained below. LWVWY supports the county clerks in urging the Senate to resist a 3rd reading amendment on Monday to reinsert broad authority to the Secretary of State to deny certification. Please read the attached fact sheet from the clerks and tell senators to pass the committee version of **HB47** on Monday.

The conference committee meetings on **HB1** and **SF1** should be noticed on the Legislative Meetings page of the Legislative Service Office website. The conferees are Sens. Driskill, Anderson, Gierau, Nethercott and Salazar and Reps. Nicholas, Larsen, Sherwood, Stith and Walters. Identical amendments to the Senate and House versions are locked in. Generally speaking, conferees will argue to keep the amendments important to their chambers and will split the difference on similar amendments.

Also, the public can start filling out the form (access on LSO home page) to ask for interim work by standing and select committees.

The decision by House leaders to hear a handful of controversial bills and leave major committee-written legislation to expire on General File has resulted in few bills making their way to the other chamber, so much so that the Senate took Friday off. Among them was Medicaid Expansion, a long-time issue of LWV for health care access and affordability.

You can quickly sort the bills still in play by using the bill page filter of “**Active**,” “**Enrolled**” and “**Inactive**.” Another word about using the bill page. A bill number (and the link on our bill tracker Quorum) takes you to the html version. PDF versions are listed to the right. Be sure to use the correct version for what you want: **Original** as it was introduced, **Engrossed** as the bill passed the first chamber, **Enrolled** as it passed both chambers. Use tabs at the top of the page to dig deeper on amendments, votes and fiscal impact.

- Major action last week included defeat of school vouchers and approval of a state charter school board to approve applications but not provide oversight (**SF174**).
- **HB18** - Missing person alert system is up for final passage in the Senate on Monday.
- **HB5** – Voter registry list is on 2nd reading in the Senate
- The House gave final approval to **HB152** Life is a Human Right after making it a “trigger bill” for the 2022 statute now in court and rejecting an amendment to include a repeal of the death penalty.
- **HB274** Voter ID requirements is passed the House and now in Senate Corporation.
- The House approved Medicaid for Moms -- **HB4**. It is expected to be introduced into the Senate and referred to committee on Monday. Once assigned, we can advocate for it there and then on the Senate floor.
- **SF61** Legislator per Diem is in House Revenue.
- **SF153** Election Security passed the Senate and is in the House awaiting committee assignment.
- Four measures that proposed to restrict the ability of voters to switch party affiliation for the primaries were defeated. They were strongly lobbied for by Secretary of State Chuck Grey, who has broken with SOS tradition to limit legislative involvement to providing information.

Which brings us to a straightforward bill that has turned into “major action” for the county clerks and LWVWY. That is **HB47** – Election equipment, federal certification. At the suggestion of SOS Grey, the House included provisions that allow the SOS very broad discretion to question the machines and deny certification. Recertification would be costly and time-consuming, and those House amendments include no input from counties, who own the equipment. Senate Corporations removed those amendments, but it there is a 3rd reading amendment on Monday to put them back in. At attachment to this report provides talking points from the County Clerks Association of Wyoming to support the Senate committee version.

Our Legislative Liaison Committee continues to work with LWVUS on the bill tracking program Quorum, which is useful to follow bills of interest to our state League. Find the tracker at <https://www.quorum.us/spreadsheet/external/RfeAZatgWJauorqjDnyE/>. Note: A field has been added to indicate that a bill is dead for the session. Also, you can “filter” the bills by House and Senate. In the next column, you can sort the bills by number.