

ADVOCACY

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Bills that died today

If your bill didn't make it out of the chamber it was originated in by Friday, it automatically dies. The House adjourned Friday with about 25 bills that were not considered and therefore died. Among them were:

- [HB232 Drugs and Substances Control](#): would prohibit the State Attorney General from adding, deleting or rescheduling controlled substances by emergency rule.
- [HB81 Hemp Extracts](#): This bill would have allowed for administration of hemp extract to an adult dependent; and authorized hemp extract for treatment of an adult as determined by a physician; instead of just a neurologist.



The Process Hits the Wall

Week Four of the Legislative session meant a high-speed run to get a glut of bills heard in their originating chamber before the bill needed to cross over to the other side of the Capitol. That meant debate in the House side in particular ran non-stop. That saw committee debate run until 9:30 p.m. on Monday while the House scheduled 63 bills for debate on Friday.

Those huge numbers meant lawmakers, and lobbyists alike buried their heads in paper, so much so that WMS staff saw two Reps walk into the glass wall (pictured right) while reading bills on their way into the House this week. The House and Senate will likely debate budget bills, [House Bill 0001](#) and Senate File 0001 respectively, which are identical bills addressing the WY budget.

The bills would require the elimination of 135 full-time positions with the state and makes a total reduction of \$275 million to the 2017-2018



The door (and glass wall) to the House lobby in the state capitol.



WMS Doc of the Day

Thank you to our volunteers who serve the Wyoming Legislature and staff during the session. WMS is proud of our physicians who care for our Senators and Representatives.

- Carol Wright Becker, MD
- Grant Berry, MD
- Afzel Khan, MD
- Mahalia Marcotte, MD
- Amy Shaw, PA-C

WMS still needs Docs of the Day on the following dates:

- March 2

For more information on the program, click [here](#). To volunteer click [here](#).

Keeping you connected

To keep an eye on the latest bills the WMS is following, check out: <https://www.wyomed.org/2017legislative-session>.

To listen to debate in the House or the Senate click [here](#).

biennial budget.

In the medical community it was suggested by the Department of Health during Joint Appropriations Committee testimony that the cuts could result in \$2.3 million less funding from the PMO for substance abuse, tobacco, and suicide prevention; another \$405,000 from Child and Maternal Health; as well as elimination of funding for purchase of birth control for nurses in seven counties.

If you have been following the Title 25 debate you know one of the state's strategies to contains these costs is to address a glut of hard-to-place patients at the State Hospital in Evanston by adding beds and doing a remodel to the Life Resource Center in Lander. That remodel would then allow for more open acute care beds in Evanston and take patients from higher-cost options such as emergency rooms around the state. [HB291](#) took the first step towards making that effort a reality as it passed the House and is headed to the Senate.

While we are on the subject, [HB156](#), which deals with emergency detainments is on its way to the Senate's Labor, Health and Social Services Committee.

Three abortion bills have passed the House and are on their way to the Senate. Read more about them [here](#).

Movement on other bills of note this week include:

[HB247](#): Medical Marijuana Reciprocity died in the House Judiciary Committee. It would have allowed those with medical marijuana cards from other states to travel through and live in Wyoming while possessing marijuana. WMS opposed the bill in committee based on its position against medical marijuana, seen [here](#).

[HB232](#) would prohibit the state attorney general from adding, deleting, or rescheduling controlled substances by setting emergency rules. A talk with reps from the AG's office today suggested this was an attempt to stay current with those who bring in new drugs or develop new versions of CBD in the state which aren't yet listed as a controlled substance. The bill failed to be passed out of the House Judiciary Committee.

[HB215 - Drug-induced infant endangerment](#), which would have created crimes of drug-induced infant homicide and drug-induced abuse did not make it through the House and will fail to proceed in the process.

[HB151 - Tobacco Tax](#): An increase of \$.30 per pack tax increase has perhaps the strangest ride to the Senate of any bill this week. After dying on third reading in the House it was reconsidered and passed without debate. For more, read [here](#).

On Monday the Senate Labor Committee will consider the EMS Licensure Compact, while the House Labor, Health, and Social Services Committee will hear bills on Title 25 federal obligation as well as telepharmacy amendments.