

ADVOCACY

Advocating for Wyoming Doctors and their Patients Since 1903

Bills of interest to the Wyoming Medical Society are tracked on a spreadsheet and regularly updated. To access the spreadsheet, [CLICK HERE](#). The WMS Board of Trustees establishes positions on legislation on behalf of the association. Any member is welcome to request that WMS reconsider a position on an issue, or take another issue under review

Status:

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The WY Legislature is 18 days into the 2019 Session with 16 remaining. This year's General Session is scheduled to last 35 days in order to extend the 2020 Budget Session to 25 days.

Deadline for bills to be reported out of Committee of the Whole is Monday, February 4.



Halftime Updates

Four weeks marks the halfway point of the 2019 Legislative Session. WMS has been following 49 legislative proposals. The WMS Board of Trustees took positions of support on 19 of the proposals, opposed eight and is monitoring 22. Of the 49 total bills only 34 remain active. Fifteen of the 49 bills being watched by WMS have failed to move forward in the process either because they failed to be reported out of committee by the Friday, February 1, deadline or they failed on votes in committee or on the floor.

Bills with WMS Support that Failed the 2019 Process:

- HB 100 - Use of hemp extracts
- HB 176 - Tobacco settlement funds research standards
- HB 218 - Tobacco Tax

WMS Opposed Bills that have Failed the 2019 Process:

- HB 123 - Naturopathic Licensure
- HB 262 - Associate Physician Licensure



WMS Doc of the Day

Thank you to our volunteers who serve the Wyoming Legislature and staff during the session.

- Lynn Horton, MD
- Amy Shaw, PA
- Ron Malm, MD

Timing Deadlines:

Monday, February 4, is the last day for bills to be voted off of General File, or Committee of the Whole, in the house of origin meaning that if a bill has failed to have been heard on First Reading in the first chamber it fails to move forward in the 2019 process.

The following house bills & Senate Files must be reported off of General File by Monday or they fail on timing:

HB 35 - Worker's compensation- air ambulances

HB 103 - Reporting of Abortions

HB 194 - Air ambulance coverage - Medicaid

HB 244 - Medicaid - work requirements and expansion

HB 249 - Psychiatric step down and coordination services - children

HB 282 - Tobacco Products (raises tobacco tax \$0.50)

SF 128 - Unborn victims of violence

- HB 278 - Medical Cannabis Act
- HB 302 - Abortion - penalty for failure to inform
- SF 56 - Mental health professions practice act amendments

Next Phase of Budget Debate

The House and Senate started debate on mirror version so the supplemental budget this past week and concluded debate Thursday. Each chamber made a number of amendments to the budget leaving two very different versions of a budget bill to reconcile. The Joint Appropriations Committee will now have to meet to debate and compromise the House and Senate amendments to ultimately bring one reconciled version back to each chamber for approval.

Each chamber debated the breast and cervical cancer treatment program funding at length as well as Medicaid expansion funding. The original version of the budget included what was billed as a mistake to fully fund medicaid expansion which was quickly stripped with substitute language for a study of medicaid expansion.

Big Takeaways from Week 4:

Although the House Revenue Committee produced disappointing results in their vote to not move an effort to increase the state's **tobacco tax** forward, the House Labor, Health and Social Services Committee voted 6-3 to move along a bill that would **expand Medicaid**. The Senate worked on two separate bills that would aim at easing the state climate for **medical technology innovation** and the Senate defeated a measure that would have lowered standards for mental health professions licensure. A bill to protect **unborn victims of violence** was heavily amended in Senate Judiciary and will be heard on the floor this coming week. A bill to add penalties to physicians who fail to **report abortion** procedures was also amended to remove criminal penalties, fines and jail time and passed the House LHSS Cmte Thursday morning. Another bill, on which WMS did not take a position, that will require a **48-hour waiting period** for patients seeking an abortion procedure passed third reading in the House and is heading to the Senate for debate.

The most interesting and contentious debate in the House focused on repealing the state's **death penalty**, ultimately passing third reading in the House.



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MEDICAL
SOCIETY

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