



WYOMING  
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# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



## 2026 BUDGET SESSION

### Week Three Recap

#### [2026 WMS Bill Tracker](#)

The 2026 Budget Session continued its fast clip as legislators worked at full speed under the short 20-day calendar. This week's work was shaped by two big forces: 1) the state's biennium budget, and 2) the "checkgate" controversy that continues to consume conversations with the investigatory committee convening Thursday to take four hours of testimony.

#### **Budget Negotiations**

The two chambers entered Joint Conference Committee (JCC) negotiations only \$170 million apart, thanks to the intense floor debate that ensued on the House side to restore cuts that the Joint Appropriations Committee (JAC) proposed to the Governor's Recommended Budget. The House submitted an amended version of the JAC budget, and the Senate submitted an amended version of the Governor's original budget. For context, in 2024, the two chambers entered negotiations challenged with reconciling more than a \$1 billion difference. Interestingly, while this year's numerical gap is closer than in several past budget sessions, as Senate Minority Floor Leader Mike Gierau has been quoted saying, "the ideological, or "philosophical" differences in 2026 are still quite stark, particularly regarding funding for the University of Wyoming and economic development." Tentative agreements made by the JCC that are of interest to WMS members, or widely being covered by media, include:

#### **University of Wyoming:**

The JCC agreed to restore approximately \$61 million that had previously been cut. This includes \$40 million in block grant funding, \$12.5 million in matching funds, and \$1.7 million for Wyoming Public Media. They also agreed to restore the Governor's recommendation to fund the Casper Family Medicine Residency program \$285,783 for an additional physician faculty member.

#### **Employee Salary Raises:**

JCC adopted the governor's request for state employee salary raises, which takes state employees to 2024 market rates.

#### **Wyoming Business Council:**

The JCC rejected full restoration of the governor's \$52.6 million recommendation for the WBC, opting instead for a House-led plan. The WBC's budget for certain divisions is limited to a single year (July 2026-June 2027), forcing them to return to the Legislature next year for the second half of the biennium.

#### **Department of Health:**

JCC agreed to the Senate position to restore the Governor's recommendation to increase inpatient rates to 100% of cost for Critical Access Hospitals to maintain labor and delivery services (\$17,154,000), and increase funding levels for maternity and delivery physician services (\$5,061,660).

## Legislation Headed to the Governor's Desk

Next week, the focus is expected to partially shift from the House and Senate to the Governor as he begins to act on legislation that passed both chambers. When enrolled acts reach his desk, the Governor has three options:

1. **Sign the legislation:** This may include public signing ceremonies where key stakeholders are invited to attend.
2. **Allow the legislation to become law without a signature:** This is often a non-confrontational way for the Governor to express displeasure with a bill without actively trying to stop it.
3. **Veto the legislation:** A veto initiates a three-day window for the legislature to attempt an override, which requires a two-thirds majority vote in both the House and the Senate Chambers.

Legislation of interest to WMS awaiting the Governor's action is outlined below and highlighted in green on the [WMS Bill Tracker](#).

[House Bill 4: Birthing centers - Medicaid coverage](#)

[Senate File 19: Epinephrine delivery methods](#)

[Senate File 32: 911 funding](#)

[Senate File 48: Stem Cell Freedom Act](#)

## Legislation Facing Pending Deadlines

The last day for bills to be reported out of committee in the second house is Monday, March 2. Four bills on the WMS radar will end their legislative journey this year unless committees report them out on Monday. The bills, along with their status or scheduled hearing times, are outlined below:

- [House Bill 103: WY First Amendment Protection Act](#)
  - Scheduled for Senate Judiciary Monday, 3/2, at 8:00 AM
- [Senate File 92: False Claims Act](#)
  - Scheduled for House Judiciary Monday, 3/2, at 8:00 AM
- [Senate File 121: Wyoming Pharmacy Act Amendments](#)
  - Scheduled for House Labor/Health Monday, 3/2, at 8:00 AM
- [Senate File 122: Medical necessity standard-timeline limit](#)
  - Scheduled for House Labor/Health Monday, 3/2, at 8:00 AM

WMS members are encouraged to engage in this important work by watching hearings, contacting your legislators, and/or testifying on bills of particular interest or importance to you and your patients. Links for how to get involved are included below:

- Sign up to testify in committee. You must sign up no later than Sunday, 3/1
  - [House Labor, Health, and Social Services](#)
  - [House Judiciary](#)
  - [Senate Judiciary](#)
- To contact your legislator, please click this [LINK](#) to find your legislator or find information about contacting your Representative or Senator.
- To watch the hearings or floor proceedings, use the Wyoming Legislature YouTube Channel, found [HERE](#).

## MEMBERS SET WMS POLICY

### theWIRE

The role of the WMS Member voice in determining the association's advocacy positions and efforts was significantly increased two years ago when the Board voted to restructure the advocacy process within the organization. WMS will preserve precious and finite political capital and resources by reserving public advocacy efforts, including public testimony, to those issues that gain 20% of WMS member engagement on [theWIRE](#).



For all other bills being tracked by WMS, our advocacy team will represent the Board's Advisory Position in individual conversations and interactions as we work to educate and advise lawmakers on important health policy decisions impacting WY.

Instructions on how to login and use theWIRE are below. **Please remember that all members in good standing with WMS are invited to post their own proposal for member voting and comment on theWIRE.**



To cast your vote on WIRE proposals, [CLICK HERE](#) (or the link in the button below) to access THE WIRE. Members can also access THE WIRE from the WMS website at [www.wyomed.org](http://www.wyomed.org)

#### How to use The Wire:

- Log on - <https://thewire.wyomed.org/>
  - The Wire uses the same username and password as you use to login to the WMS website to manage your membership. If you have forgotten your username or password, you can use the forget password feature on The Wire to reset it.
  - To view proposals - select "Proposal Feedback" at the top of the screen
- Click on "Pre-Board Feedback"
  - Click on the title link to vote/share your opinion on a topic

Members are also welcome to contact a member of the WMS staff for assistance in utilizing THE WIRE.

[Access theWire & VOTE](#)

# ADVOCACY PROCESS

## WMS Advocacy Process

Board Advisory Opinions & Society Position Setting Via The WIRE



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(click the image above to see a larger image)

## WANT TO OPT OUT OF LEGISLATIVE UPDATES?

We get it. Not everyone wants blow-by-blow accounts of the legislative activity in Cheyenne. If this is you, we understand. Please don't unsubscribe from our mailing, but instead, let us know below by clicking the "**thumbs down**". We will assume that you are okay with receiving our less frequent and general membership updates but would like to be removed from the daily update list. We will do our best to get you removed so we don't clutter your inbox with information you don't want.

Click that "Thumbs Down" to be removed from the daily update email list this year.



## DOC/PA OF THE DAY



## 2026 Doc of the Day

Thank you to Drs. Matthew Strang, Evan Norby and Angus McAlpin for generously volunteering their time to serve as Docs of the Day during the third week of session.

If you're interested in participating, there are still a few open dates on the calendar. Doc/PA of the Day volunteers have the opportunity to meet directly with state legislators, are introduced on the floor of both the House and Senate Chambers, and play an important role in showing lawmakers that Wyoming physicians and PAs are engaged and invested in the future of healthcare in our state.

You *must* be a WMS member to serve as Doc/PA of the Day. *Please consider making time to volunteer this year!*

To schedule your volunteer date email [info@wyomed.org](mailto:info@wyomed.org)

[VOLUNTEER CALENDAR/INFO](#)

**THANK YOU 2026 FRIENDS OF WMS**

## DIAMOND



## PLATINUM



## GOLD



## SILVER



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[WMS Annual Meeting Website](#)

[WMS Member Benefit Marketplace](#)

[theWIRE](#)



# Wyoming Medical Society

*Advocating for doctors and their patients since 1903*

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