



## WAM's 2017 Wyoming 64<sup>th</sup> Legislature Agenda Summary Report



WAM's proactive approach to the 64th Wyoming Legislative Session began with the WAM Board and the Legislative Leadership Committee (LLC) approving the following agenda. Throughout the session, the LLC met at least weekly with the WAM Staff to provide a 'one-voice' approach toward legislation specific to your municipalities. This 64<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session Summary Report highlights lobbied legislative outcomes related to this agenda or other bills that impacted municipal government. Bills that WAM supported = (S); opposed = (O); and monitored = (M). Additional information can be found on the Advocacy Page of WAM's Website [wyomuni.org](http://wyomuni.org).

### Session Statistics

	Total	House	House Joint	Senate	Senate Joint	Passed <sup>2</sup>	Failed <sup>2</sup>
<b>LSO Bills<sup>1</sup></b>	485	293	11	172	9	220	265
<b>WAM Bills</b>	150	89	6	49	6	64	86

<sup>1</sup>The Legislative Service Office (LSO) reported a record 699 bill requests from the 2016 interim and the 64<sup>th</sup> Session. The above bill data reflects bills that were moved forward through the Session's legislative process (<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>.)

<sup>2</sup> Signed by both House and Senate at time of report

### Municipal Finance Report Recommendations

- Support securing the remaining FY17/18 direct distribution payments (\$52.5M)
  - *The Aug '17 and Jan '18 payments were secured since no new legislation was proposed.*
- Monitor and provide input for modifications of the direct distribution formula
  - *No bills were proposed regarding the distribution formula.*
- Support funding for state grant and loan programs
  - *The Joint Appropriations Committee did not approve the Governor's proposed \$5M for the Mineral Royalty Grant account. Additionally, following two WAM amendment attempts, \$6M was deducted from the Water Development Commission Fund 1 to support the State Engineers Office.*
- Support bills that increase local revenue generating authority
  - *HB0082 (S) allows incremental tax limits through separate propositions of the local optional sales and use taxes; passed.*
  - *SF0043 (S), SF0014 (S), SF0155 (S) are three of ten bills related to alcohol taxation or liquor law revisions that could impact municipal license or operations; passed.*
- Support increasing state sales and use tax by 1% and/or adjust the split to local government
  - *No bill supporting increased sales and use tax passed; however, the Joint Revenue Committee plans to holistically study the state's tax structure during the interim.*
- Support amending the property tax limit to add flexibility to local government
  - *No bill for local government flexibility, but HB0162 and HJ0007 were failed bills that offered property tax revisions.*
- Support sales tax exemptions that promote economic development
  - *SF0070 (S) extended the sunset on tax exemptions for major manufacturing; passed.*

- Support efforts to increase operating efficiencies
  - *SF0156 (S) creates a committee from the legislature and private sector to evaluate state government efficiencies; passed. WAM expects potential lessons learned could be passed to local government.*

### WAM Annual Convention Resolutions

- Monitor and advocate for bills that improve intra-state public transportation
  - *HB0052 (S) provides immunity for intra-state transportation services; passed.*
- Support statewide repeal of food sales tax
  - *No bills were proposed.*
- Support clarification and ease of process for nuisance and dangerous abandoned buildings
  - *Although no bills were filed this session, WAM proposed as an interim topic.*
- Monitor lodging tax changes to align with the lodging and restaurant association
  - *Three bills were proposed, but all failed, to utilize or increase the current lodging tax. This was approved as an interim topic.*
- Support preserving current wind tax, but oppose increasing the tax to enhance economic development
  - *HB0127 (O) proposed a \$4 per megawatt hour additional wind tax; failed.*

### WAM Member Requests as of 12-21-16

- Support bills that allow natural gas pipeline to provide services in NE Wyoming
  - *SF0079 (S) would have allowed local governments/JPB's participation; failed.*
- Support to maintain municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction
  - *SF0017 (O) removed the extraterritorial municipal boundary; failed. WAM and WCCA agreed to work in the interim to bring joint legislation.*
- Monitor a transportation bill that will offer UBER-like services
  - *HB0080 (S) allows transportation network companies (UBER, LYFT, etc.) to operate statewide, imposes a state sales tax passed along per ride; passed.*
- Support bills to revise employment laws related to seasonal or temporary employees
  - *SF101 (S) did not make it out of committee but it was approved as an interim topic.*
- Support bills in line with the Wyoming Association of Sheriffs and Chief of Police as relates to use of body worn cameras and drones
  - *SF0032 (S) exempted audio/video from a body camera to be released to the public without a court's decision; passed.*
- Support skier liability codes for communities with ski areas
  - *SF0032 (S) reduces the liability to the ski area operators; passed.*
- Monitor vertical local assessment district bills to encourage infill development improving blighted areas
  - *Although no bills were filed this session, WAM proposed as an interim topic.*
- Support sales tax on online/internet purchases
  - *HB0019 (S) requires the collection of applicable internet sales and use tax; passed.*

### Additional Bills Monitored Related to Municipal Government

- *HB0137 (O) repeals the gun free zone for government meetings, including city council and commissioner meetings; passed. WAM's position is to allow local control that is currently in existing statutes.*
- *HB0266 (M) requires the Dept. of Audit to conduct a study and make recommendations on the fiscal review practices of towns less than 4000 people; passed.*

- *SF0015 (M) and SF0016 (M) increases fiscal transparency and revises election and term practices for special districts and joint powers boards; passed.*
- *HB0065 (S) altered the make-up of the Public Safety Commission to include members from WAM and WCCA; passed.*
- *HB0131 (S) removes the sunset and the cap for local government lottery distribution. Also, the distribution was changed to the point of sale; passed.*
- *HB001 (S) the supplemental budget bill added to the 2016 budget bill a net reduction of ~\$280M from General Fund, cutting state departments, colleges, and K-12 education. Wyoming Game and Fish and Wyoming Dept. of Transportation were cut from the General Fund with intent fees would support these agencies. These cuts could trickle down to your community's citizen services; passed.*
- *HB0058 funds from the LSRA select school facilities construction projects; passed. HB0236 is the omnibus school finance bill that modifies the current education funding formula and requires \$34.5M reduction in education without significant revenue options. Obviously, this could impact you as quality school systems are integral to successful communities.*

### **WAM's Proposed Interim Topic Status**

LLC approved the following interim topics for submittal to the appropriate joint interim committee. Topics with an (\*) were approved by the Legislative Management Council to be added to the 2017 interim committee's agenda.

1. \*Evaluate Local Government Revenue Options –Revenue
2. Vertical Local Assessment Districts – Minerals, Business, and Economic Development
3. Nuisance and Abandoned Building Abatement Recovery – Judiciary
4. \*Unemployment Compensation Exemption (Seasonal Employees) – Labor, Health and Social Services
5. \*Extraterritorial Jurisdiction – Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivision
6. Evaluation of Liquor License Statutes - Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivision
7. Local Government Public Notice Print Requirements - Corporations, Elections & Political Subdivision

### **What's Next for WAM**

Following this very intense legislative session that cut spending without tax or revenue increases, the interim discussions should prove to be budget-centric. WAM and the LLC will closely monitor and contribute to topics related to local government revenue, notably the uncertain local government's direct distribution. WAM will fund a 3<sup>rd</sup> party study to evaluate national municipal funding models to provide reasonable local revenue growth recommendations to the legislators. WAM members and staff will also meet with stakeholders to evaluate revenue generating opportunities. For example, and as noted in the October 2016 Municipal Finance Report, WAM will continue discussions with the Wyoming Liquor Division, Wyoming Liquor Association, and other stakeholders to evaluate the current liquor laws and their impact on local economic development. WAM and the Wyoming Press Association will also meet during the interim to evaluate existing public notice print requirements. If you have questions regarding the recent or interim legislative session, please contact the WAM Staff ([rkaysen@wyomuni.org](mailto:rkaysen@wyomuni.org) or [lheath@wyomuni.org](mailto:lheath@wyomuni.org)) or your LLC representatives.

### **Legislative Leadership Committee**

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 Council Member John Wetzels, Powell  
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