

2017 65th Legislative Session Summary of Legislation Related to K-12 Education



Putting Montana Students First

June 2017

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACCREDITATION/CURRICULUM.....	1
APPROPRIATIONS.....	2
AT-RISK YOUTH	8
ELECTIONS.....	11
EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS	15
FACILITIES.....	16
GOVERNANCE	19
HIGHER EDUCATION	22
SAFETY	26
SCHOOL FINANCE	28
STATE LANDS	35
INDEX OF K-12 EDUCATION RELATED BILLS	37

PLEASE NOTE: This document contains brief summaries of bills relating to K-12 education that were considered by the Montana Legislature during the 2017 legislative session. The summaries are not offered as legal advice nor as a definitive interpretation of these bills. For a more comprehensive understanding of the laws, please consult the original legislation.

Total number of bills in Education is 170 for the 65th Legislative session.

ACCREDITATION/CURRICULUM

HB 37 Jonathan Windy Boy

Revise MT Indian language preservation program

Chapter: 232

Effective Date: April 25, 2017

HB 37 extends the Montana Indian language preservation program, 20-9-537, MCA, to the end of FY 2019. The bill includes sung language into the provisions of the program. The bill also appropriates \$1.0 million of state general fund for the biennium to be paid to the State-Tribal Economic Development Commission in order to support the program.

HB 232 Kenneth L. Holmlund

Revise MT laws for dual enrollment at community colleges

Chapter: 74

Effective: March 13, 2017

HB 232 changes the definition of “community college district”. The definition previously allowed community colleges to only admit high school graduates or persons who have terminated their formal high school education. The new definition allows all people to be admitted, subject to regulations established by the trustees. This definition change allows high school students to take dual enrollment courses at a community college.

SB 103 Llew Jones

Clarify education laws related to minimum aggregate hours and proficiency

Chapter: 149

Effective: July 1, 2017

SB 103 revises the language of 20-1-301, MCA, which sets the minimum aggregate hours for public schools. The revision provides an exception to the minimum aggregate hours for pupils enrolled in a program that allows fewer hours for any pupil demonstrating proficiency in the course content.

SB 242 Sue Malek

Encourage high schools to administer civics test

Chapter: 303

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 242 encourages each Montana public high school to administer a United States civics test developed by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services for persons seeking to become naturalized citizens. The high schools may provide each student with the opportunity to take the test as many times necessary to pass the test. An exception is made for students with individualized education programs where the civics test is determined to be an inappropriate requirement. The Superintendent of Public Education is encouraged to annually publish a list of high schools whose graduating seniors all pass the United States civics test and recognize these schools as civics all-star schools for that year.

APPROPRIATIONS

HB 2 Nancy Ballance
General Appropriations Act
Chapter: 366

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 2 and the guarantee account contain the majority of the Office of Public Instruction appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017. The following table shows the total appropriations for OPI:

Total OPI Appropriations for the 2018-2019 Biennium

Funding Source	Distributed to Schools	State Level Activities	Total
State General Fund	\$ 1,599,515,855	\$ 22,531,776	\$ 1,622,047,631
State Special Revenue	\$ 18,672,000	\$ 414,445	\$ 19,086,445
Federal Special Revenue	\$ 303,470,782	\$ 37,263,617	\$ 340,734,399
Statutory Appropriations	\$ 83,858,759	\$ -	\$ 83,858,759
Total	\$ 2,005,517,396	\$ 60,209,838	\$ 2,065,727,234

The legislature made a major change to school funding by eliminating general fund block grants, a decrease of \$54.429 million per year, and eliminating the Natural Resource Development (NRD) payment, a decrease of \$8.100 million per year. Some of this reduced funding will be replaced as Guaranteed Tax Base – General Fund (GTB) payments will increase by \$31.376 million in 2018. In future years, the GTB statewide guarantee ratio increases to compensate totally for the amount of the block grant reduction. However, the GTB backfill is not in direct proportion to the decrease in block grants. Each school district will have to evaluate how this change affects the district and the amount of permissive levy that will have to be generated to compensate. (Please see HB 647 for further details).

Part of the removal of the NRD payment was related to a change to how funds are provided to schools for facility enhancements. In 2019 the \$5.800 million of NRD funds will go towards school facilities major maintenance aid payments. Also, \$1.693 million per year will fund an account for mitigation of the anticipated effect of closing the Colstrip operation. (Please see SB 307 for further details).

The following summary describes appropriations for K-12 Education in HB 2.

K-12 EDUCATION, HB 2:

- K-12 BASE Aid

Appropriates \$699.090 million in FY 2018 and \$731.529 million in FY 2019 for K-12 BASE aid. The distributions to school districts that are included in the K-12 BASE aid appropriations are direct state aid, guaranteed tax base aid for both the district general fund and county school retirement

accounts, quality educator payments, Indian Education for All payments, American Indian achievement gap payments, data for achievement payments, and school district audit filing fees.

HB 191 provides inflationary increases of 0.5% in FY 2018 and 1.87% in FY 2019 for the basic and per-ANB entitlements, quality educator payment, Indian Education for All payment, American Indian achievement gap payment, and data for achievement payment. HB 2 increased funding for school district audit filing fees by \$100,000 in each year of the biennium. State payments to the district for general fund GTB increase by \$31.376 million in FY2018 and \$48.765 million in FY 2019. State GTB payments under current law partially backfill mandatory BASE Aid for the elimination of \$54.429 million in FY 2018 and \$54.446 million in FY 2019 of district general fund block grant payments. In addition, GTB payments backfill district base budgets with state money and ameliorate property tax increases that will result from the elimination of the \$8.100 million NRD payment as well as the \$54 million in state block grants to district general funds.

- At-Risk Student Payment

Appropriates \$5.391 million in FY 2018 and \$5.491 million in FY 2019 for at-risk student payments under 20-9-328, MCA, to the school district general funds. The appropriations increase funding \$26,819 in FY 2018 and \$127,622 in FY 2019 above the FY 2017 base appropriation level.

- Special Education

Appropriates \$43.509 million in each of FY 2018 and FY 2019 for state special education payments to schools. These appropriations are \$617,500 above the FY 2017 base expenditure level. The increase represents the inflation factors applied to K-12 education. However, the total amount calculated to be necessary for the biennium was divided in half and applied equally to each year in order to ease the maintenance of effort requirement for federal funding in future years.

- Transportation Aid

Appropriates \$11.767 million in each year of the biennium for state reimbursements to school districts for pupil transportation. These appropriations reduce transportation reimbursements by \$500,000 in both FY 2018 and FY 2019 from the base FY 2017 appropriation. The reduction puts the appropriation in line with actual expenditure history and will not be a reduction in funds provided to schools.

- In-State Treatment

Appropriates \$787,800 in each year of the 2019 biennium for education services for students in in-state psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The appropriations maintain the state funding for in-state treatment at the FY 2017 base appropriation level.

- Career and Technical Education

Appropriates \$2.000 million in each year of the 2019 biennium for secondary vocational education programs. These appropriations increase funding by \$0.5 million per year, but a one time only appropriation of \$1.0 million per year from the last election was not approved.

- Adult Basic Education

Appropriates \$525,000 in each year of the 2019 biennium for adult basic education programs. The appropriations maintain the state funding for adult basic education at the FY 2017 base appropriation level.

- Gifted and Talented Grant Program

Appropriates \$250,000 in each year of the 2019 biennium for school district gifted and talented programs. The appropriations maintain the state funding for gifted and talented grants at the FY 2017 base appropriation level.

- School Foods

Appropriates \$663,861 in each year of the 2019 biennium for school nutrition programs. The appropriations maintain the state funding for school foods at the FY 2017 base appropriation level.

- Reimbursement Block Grants

The 2017 legislature made a decision to end the general fund block grants, a reduction of \$54.429 million in FY 2018 and \$54.446 million in FY 2019. Transportation and combined district block grants are appropriated \$14.357 million in each year of the biennium. The modest 0.5% per year inflationary increase in transportation block grants was eliminated by the legislature.

- State Tuition Payments

Appropriates \$402,675 in each year of the 2019 biennium for tuition payments to schools that enroll students placed by state agencies or courts under mandatory attendance agreements. The appropriations are a reduction of \$175,000 from the base 2017 appropriation but are in line with actual expenditure history.

- Advancing Agricultural Education in Montana

Appropriates \$151,941 in FY 2018 and \$151,944 in FY 2019 from the state general fund to school districts to support secondary agricultural education programs and to implement 20-7-334, MCA.

- Coal-fired Generating Unit Closure Mitigation Block Grant

The 2017 legislature added an appropriation to specifically aid schools that would be affected by the closure of the Colstrip power generation units. The amount per year for the 2019 biennium is equal to what the Colstrip K-12 school district received in FY 2017 in district general fund block grants, \$1.693 million per year.

- Traffic and Safety Education

Appropriates \$750,000 in each year of the 2019 biennium for driver's education programs provided by school districts. The appropriations maintain the state funding for traffic education programs at the FY 2017 base appropriation level. Traffic and Safety Education revenues are generated from a percentage of the drivers' license fee and commercial drivers' license fee. Should these revenues exceed the appropriation, OPI can distribute the additional revenues so long as the total expended does not exceed \$1.800 million.

- School Facility Payments

Appropriates \$8.586 million in each year of the 2019 biennium for school facility debt service payments to school districts that are eligible for guaranteed tax base aid and have outstanding bonded indebtedness. The state appropriation for school facility debt service payments is the same as the FY 2017 base appropriation level. These payments will be paid from the school facility and technology account established in 20-9-516, MCA. However it is unlikely that this account will

receive the full \$8.586 million. Although the Legislative Fiscal Division (LFD) revenue estimates for this account include approximately \$4.5 million per year from riverbed rents and \$2.5 million per year from timber revenue for the 2019 biennium, the riverbed rents payment is being held in escrow due to a dispute between the state and the primary lessee. It is not clear what funds will be available in the biennium

- State School Oil and Natural Gas Impact Account

The 2017 legislature made the decision to end the appropriation for the State School Oil and Natural Gas Impact Account. Under HB 647, this revenue will now flow to the guarantee account. As a result, the guarantee account increases by \$1.570 million in FY 2018 and by \$1.630 million in FY 2019.

- Federal Grant Awards

Appropriates \$151.235 million in FY 2018 and \$152.235 million in FY 2019 for distribution of federal education grant monies to school districts. This spending authority represents an increase of \$1.0 million in FY 2018 and \$2.0 million in FY 2019 over the FY 2017 base appropriation level. Increases are projected for federal school foods programs and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act programs.

- Guarantee Account Funding

Monies from the guarantee account are statutorily appropriated. The amount available for distribution is estimated to be \$40.174 million in FY 2018 and \$41.685 million in FY 2019 for K-12 BASE aid payments and \$1.0 million in each year for grants for school technology purchases. Revenues for the state guarantee account are generated from state school trust lands. The guarantee account is the first source of funding for the K-12 BASE aid. Funds from the guarantee account offset expenditures that would otherwise be paid from the state general fund. HB 647 directs revenue that formerly funded the State School Oil and Natural Gas Impact Account to be deposited in the guarantee account. This is expected to be \$1.570 million in FY 2018 and \$1.630 million in FY 2019. State general fund base aid in HB 2 is reduced by a like amount.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS, HB 2:

- OPI Agency Budget

Appropriates \$10.304 million in FY 2018 and \$10.433 million in FY 2019 from state general fund dollars for OPI state level activities. Although the Legislature funded the statewide present law adjustment for the agency, it also imposed a 6% vacancy savings adjustment in addition to a 5% reduction resulting in an \$820,301 reduction from the FY 2017 appropriation to the FY 2018 appropriation. HB 2 appropriates \$206,925 in FY 2018 and \$207,520 in state special revenue, which is primarily used for the driver education program in Lewistown. Finally HB2 appropriates \$18.616 million in FY 2018 and \$18.648 million in FY 2019 for federal expenditures at the agency level.

- Montana Digital Academy

Appropriates \$832,500 for each year of the biennium in one time only funds for the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA), the same as the previous biennium. The agency base budget includes \$1,167,500 per year for the MTDA, giving the MTDA a total appropriation of \$4.0 million for the biennium.

- Audiological Services

Appropriates \$50,000 in each year of the biennium of one-time-only funds in addition to the base of \$400,000 in the agency budget. The total of \$450,000 for each year of the 2019 biennium funds the Hearing Conservation Program, which contracts with audiology service providers to screen and identify children with hearing impairments.

HB 3 Nancy Ballance
Supplemental appropriations bill
Chapter: 115

Effective: March 30, 2017

HB 3 provides supplemental general fund appropriations to meet the state's legal obligations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. In addition, HB 3 mandates a \$10.0 million reduction in agency expenditures, and reduces the governor's emergency fund authorization from \$16M to \$4M. HB 3 appropriates \$17.3 million for K-12 BASE Aid distribution to school districts. In addition, HB 3 for this legislative session includes reductions to general fund appropriations for the current year, including a \$300,000 reduction for the OPI's state-level activities appropriation.

HB 4 Nancy Ballance
Appropriations by budget amendment
Chapter: 239

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 4 extends spending authority into the 2019 biennium for the Pre-K Development Grant the OPI received from the U.S. Department of Education. The federal grant award continues into state fiscal years 2018 and 2019.

HB 261 Frank Garner
Extending termination date for statutory appropriation to public libraries
Chapter: 340

Effective Date: May 7, 2017

HB 261 extends the termination date of the statutory appropriation to public libraries of 40 cents per capita of state general fund. However, if the total amount of general fund revenue and transfers in for the state are less than \$2,213 million in FY 2017 or \$2,360 million in FY 2018, the appropriation for the following year is void.

SB 261 Llew Jones
Generally revise state fiscal laws
Chapter: 429

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 261 revises budgeting laws to establish a budget stabilization reserve fund. At the end of each fiscal year, 50% of the state general fund revenue amount that is in excess of the revenue estimate

plus \$15.0 million is placed into the budget stabilization reserve fund. This fund can be used to:

- Mitigate budget reductions when there is a revenue shortfall.
- Pay down debt service on bonds for capital projects,
- Delay, forego, or reduce the amount of an issuance of bonds authorized by the legislature, or
- Allow the funds to remain in the account.

SB 261 also increases the severity of general fund appropriation reductions that the Governor shall order in the event of a general fund budget deficit.

Finally, for the 2018-2019 biennium SB 261 establishes general fund revenue shortfall triggers that result in reductions in appropriations. Specific to education funding, in the event of a FY 2017 general fund revenue shortfall of 0.4% or more, the following appropriations will be reduced by 0.5% in FY 2018 and FY 2019:

- OPI State Level Activities
- Audiological Services
- National Board Certified Teachers stipends
- Montana Digital Academy
- Advancing Agricultural Education
- In-State Treatment
- Secondary Vo-Ed (CTE)
- Adult Basic Education
- Gifted and Talented
- At-risk Student Payment
- Special Education
- School Foods

If there is not a 0.4% shortfall in FY 2017 but there is a 1.0% shortfall in FY 2018, the 0.5% reduction will be applied to the FY 2019 appropriations with the exception of Special Education.

In the event of the most severe revenue shortfall considered in bill, 1.5% or greater, the 1% increase for state employees will be void and the following appropriation cuts to state aid to schools will be implemented in addition to the reductions shown above:

- \$500,000 per year in Secondary Vo-Ed (CTE) funding
- The data for achievement payment will be suspended, \$3.109 million in FY 2018 and \$3.180 million in FY 2019
- \$2.800 million per year in combined district reimbursement block grants
- \$5.800 million in FY 2019 of the Natural Resource Development K-12 Facilities payment into the school facility major maintenance aid account.

If the general fund revenue in FY 2017 is above the trigger level but there is a revenue shortfall of 1.0% or greater in FY 2018, appropriation cuts shown above for FY 2019 will be implemented.

AT-RISK YOUTH

HB 118 Jonathan Windy Boy

Revise and provide additional funding for suicide prevention activities

Chapter: 233

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 118 amends the duties of the state suicide prevention officer, establishes a suicide prevention grant program, and appropriates funds for the program.

HB 118 amends 53-21-1101, MCA, to clarify the duties of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) suicide prevention officer to include:

- The biennial suicide reduction plan should include all ethnic groups and occupations.
- The statewide suicide prevention plan activities should be evidence based.
- Public awareness campaigns should be aimed at normalizing the need to address mental health problems, and should include digital and social media and also include input from veteran groups.
- The definition of entities receiving grants is expanded to include tribes, tribal and urban health organizations, local governments, schools, health care providers, professional associations, and other nonprofit and community organizations.

HB 118 establishes a grant program for suicide prevention activities administered by DPHHS.

Entities seeking a grant must demonstrate credible evidence the activity to be funded is effective in preventing suicide by showing:

- The activity has been cited by peer-reviewed research or literature,
- The activity was a formally adopted recommendation of the Montana suicide review team, or
- The activity increases knowledge of and response to adverse childhood experience.

HB 118 amends the Special Revenue Fund – Health and Medicaid Initiatives in 53-6-1201 to allow grants to schools for suicide prevention activities for the biennium beginning on July 1, 2017. HB 118 appropriates three funding streams:

- \$500,000 from the tobacco settlement proceeds for existing activities and expanded activities created by this bill.
- \$250,000 (one time only) from the Special Revenue Fund – Health and Medicaid Initiatives for assisting with state and tribal efforts to implement the action steps of the Montana native youth suicide reduction plan published in January 2017.
- \$250,000 (one time only) from the Special Revenue Fund – Health and Medicaid Initiatives for grants for school-based suicide prevention plan.

HB 248 Kimberly Dudik
Revise anti-bullying laws
Chapter: 216

Effective Date: April 20, 2017

HB 248 amends 20-5-210, MCA, to clarify the remedies available to any person alleging a violation under the anti-bullying statute. In the section stating that other remedies are available after exhausting administrative remedies, the bill adds the statement “Nothing in this section precludes a person from contacting law enforcement in relation to incidents of bullying at any point in time.”

HB 298 Edward Greef
Emphasize sexual abuse awareness and prevention in elementary schools
Chapter: 218

Effective Date: April 20, 2017

HB 298 encourages the Office of Public Instruction (OPI) to develop and maintain model school districts policies and procedures for child sexual abuse awareness, prevention, response, and reporting. The bill also suggests such policies and procedures should include:

- Basic principles of child sexual abuse prevention,
- Warning signs of a child who is sexually abused,
- Actions that a child who is a victim of sexual abuse may take to obtain assistance,
- Counseling options,
- Educational support available for a child who is a victim of sexual abuse to enable the child to develop their full educational potential, and
- Response and reporting procedures.

Adoption by school district trustees is voluntary.

HB 381 Dennis Lenz
Require school districts to address suicide prevention and response
Chapter: 256

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 381 amends 20-7-1310, MCA, to require trustees of a school district to establish policies, procedures, or plans related to suicide prevention and response. Language is added to prevent liability for any loss or damage resulting from the implementation of the new requirement or resulting from any training or lack of training.

SB 197 Terry Gauthier
Encouraging the Office of Public Instruction to prevent child sex trafficking
Chapter: 294

Effective Date: May 4, 2017

SB 197 encourages the Office of Public Instruction undertake activities to educate Montanans about and prevent child sex trafficking. Activities may include:

- Reviewing best practices
- Providing access to educational resources for interested parents, teachers, child-care providers, and other community members,

- Coordinating educational and prevention efforts with law enforcement, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, and local organizations,
- Supporting school districts in developing policies on child sex trafficking awareness, prevention, response, and reporting; and educational materials and curricula aimed at preventing child sex trafficking.

ELECTIONS

HB 83 Bryce Bennett

Generally revise election laws

Chapter: 242

Effective: May 4, 2017

HB 83 is a statute “clean-up” bill that clarifies several sections of election law:

- An amendment to a self-government charter or adopted alternative form of government may be proposed by either petition, the local government by ordinance, or a study commission recommendation.
- Before a resort tax question is submitted to the electorate, the governing body of the resort community or the board of county commissioners must provide two notices of the goods and services subject to the resort tax, with at least six days separating the notices. The first notice must be no more than 45 days prior to the election, and the last notice no more than 30 days prior to the election.
- An initiative or referendum election resulting from a petition to enact, repeal, or amend an ordinance must be conducted in conjunction with the next local government election. An exception is allowed if the petition asks for a special election, complies with 13-1-405, MCA, and is signed by at least 25% of the qualified electors.
- The deadline for write-in candidates to file a declaration of intent in special district and local government elections is 5:00 PM on the 65th day before the election.
- Ballots for a local government election must be available for absentee voting in person at least 30 days before the Election Day, and must be mailed to absentee voters 25 days prior to the Election Day. In addition, ballots for a local government election conducted by mail must be mailed between 15 and 20 days before the Election Day.
- For an election of conservation district supervisors held in conjunction with a federal primary or federal general election, if by the candidate filing deadline the number of candidates is equal to or fewer than the number of positions to be filled at the election; the election administrator shall cancel the election and immediately notify the governing body in writing of the cancellation. However, the governing body may, by no later than 10 days after the candidate filing deadline, pass a resolution to require the election be held.
- County election administrators rather than school clerks perform voter registration duties for school elections, including the provisions for late registration.
- Voter qualifications for water and sewer district elections are revised to be:
 1. A resident of the district,
 2. An owner or an agent designated by multiple owners of taxable real property in the district,
 3. An individual representing a corporation or company that owns taxable real property in the district, or
 4. A designated agent for a property being held in trust in the district.

- Elections of commissioners of irrigation districts may take place at the district’s annual meeting or at the scheduled school district election. Terms of office are set at three years.
- Any special district officer elected before November 4, 2015, whose term of office would expire prior to the school district election immediately following the expiration of the term of office, will serve until the election or until the appointment of a successor under the law in effect on November 4, 2015.
- Clarifies that when a school district trustee election is canceled by acclamation notice is required no later than 30 days before the election.
- School district election notice must include the date and polling locations in the district, the hours the polling location will be open, each proposition to be considered by the electorate, if there are trustees to be elected, the number of positions subject to election and the length of term of each position, where and how absentee ballots may be obtained, and where and how later registrants may obtain a ballot.

HB 103 Geraldine Custer

Generally revise election laws- administrative cleanup

Chapter: 368

Effective: January 1, 2018

HB 103 is a statute “clean-up” bill that revises some definitions, terms, and provisions of election law:

- The term “election judge” is defined as a person who is appointed pursuant to 13-4-1, MCA, to perform duties as specified by law.
- HB 103 adds specific language to appear on the ballot regarding the question of holding a constitutional convention.
- HB 103 clarifies that if an election administrator does not receive a response from an elector within 30 days of a final confirmation notice, after the 30th day, the elector is moved to the inactive list.
- Transfer forms are eliminated as mechanisms for registering to vote.
- If a disabled person is assigned to vote in an accessible polling place other than their registered precinct, the name of the elector must be printed on a special addendum to the precinct register in a form prescribed by the Secretary of State.
- All election judges must be instructed by the election administrator on current procedures as prescribed by the Secretary of State.
- HB 103 clarifies that a candidate may not use any word of the name of a political party in a manner that implies the candidate is a candidate of that party unless the individual has been nominated by that party.
- Between ten and two days before an election, the election administrator must broadcast or publish in a newspaper of general circulation in the county a notice indicating the place, time of day, and the method that will be used for counting absentee ballots on Election Day.
- The term “registration card” is changed to “registration form” in all statutes.

- For proposed constitutional amendments, the Secretary of State, rather than the election administrator, selects the method of notification best suited to reach the largest number of potential electors.
- HB 103 clarifies that a federal write-in absentee ballot received by an election administrator may be counted only if the elector's voter registration and identification is sufficient to determine the following: the elector is eligible to vote in the election, the election administrator has not received a regular absentee ballot from the elector by 8 pm on Election Day, the ballot is sent by 8 pm on Election Day, and the ballot is received by 3 pm on the Monday following the election.

HB 287 Bryce Bennett

Revise absentee ballot list confirmation laws

Chapter: 252

Effective Date: May 3, 2017

HB 287 amends 13-13-212, MCA, to establish that an address confirmation is not required for an elector on the absentee ballot list for subsequent elections unless the elector has changed the elector's address. The statute does allow the election administrator to mail a forwardable address confirmation form if the elector is listed in the national change of address system of the U.S. postal service as having changed the elector's address.

HB 405 Rob Cook

Generally revise laws applicable to local government

Chapter: 372

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 405 amends local government statute including the following election items:

- Provide for filling a vacancy on a county administrative board and a special district board,
- Revise the date for filling a vacancy in a county office, and
- Clarify that the board of county commissioners is the entity to receive notice of a cancellation of an election and to fill a position upon the cancellation of an election.

SB 163 Keith Regier

Revise election judge qualifications

Chapter: 365

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

SB 163 revises the qualifications for election judges, the rules for choosing judges, and provisions related to candidates or relatives serving as election judges. The lists of qualified electors proposed by political parties as candidates for elections judges are expanded to include an entire county rather than a separate list for each precinct. Judges for any precinct are only required to be a resident of the county rather than the precinct in question. The requirements for selecting judges for school elections in Title 20 has not changed. An amendment broadens the prohibition of an election judge being a relative of a candidate to cover cases where a polling place is in a venue that has multiple precincts. In these cases, an election judge cannot be a relative of a candidate in any of these precincts.

SB 352 Albert Olzewski

Referendum on prohibition of ballot collection by certain individuals

Chapter: 238

Effective Date: Approval by the electorate

SB 352 establishes the Ballot Interference Prevention Act. The bill prohibits the collection of another individual's ballot unless the collector is an election official, a postal worker, a caregiver, a family member, a household member, or an acquaintance. The number of ballots an authorized individual may collect and convey is limited to six. Except for an election official or a postal worker, an individual permitted to collect and convey a ballot to the polling place or election administrator's office must sign a registry and provide identifying information. The Act will be submitted to the electorate in the November, 2018 election.

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

SB 121 Edward Buttrey

Provide that volunteer positions are not reportable to TRS

Chapter: 165

Effective: July 1, 2017

SB 121 establishes that a position is not reportable to the retirement system if it is a bona fide volunteer position. A bona fide volunteer position is defined using the following criteria:

- The individual in the position receives no remuneration of any kind, no reimbursement of expenses, nor in-kind benefits of services.
- The position was not a paid position for at least 12 months prior to being designated a volunteer position.
- The position does not become a paid position for at least 12 months after being designated a volunteer position.
- The employer does not have any other individual working as a paid employee in the same position.
- The individual does not work more than four hours in a day, 12 hours in a week, or 312 hours in a fiscal year.

FACILITIES

SB 260 Llew Jones

Create school facilities sub-trust within coal tax trust fund

Chapter: 377

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 260 creates the school facilities fund within the coal severance tax trust fund and creates a mechanism to fund the school major maintenance aid created by SB 307. Starting on July 1, 2017, seventy five percent of the amount in the coal severance tax bond fund in excess of the amount that is required to meet all principal and interest payments over the coming year on bonds payable from the coal severance tax bond fund shall be transferred to the school facilities fund. This transfer ends when the balance of the fund reaches \$200 million. Available earnings from this fund are transferred monthly to the school facilities special revenue account to meet the obligations payable from this account, which are the school major maintenance aid payments from SB 307.

HB 294 Jean Price

Encourage accessible playgrounds statewide

Chapter: 325

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 294 appropriates \$100,000 from a state special revenue account for state parks to the Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP) agency. The funds will be distributed to municipalities and school districts to supplement local and private funds in order to secure other grant funding for developing accessible playgrounds. FWP will only distribute grants when the following conditions are met:

- State funds must be matched with an equal amount of local funds and the combined funds used to secure other grant funding.
- A grant may not exceed \$10,000.
- The funds must be used increase accessibility in existing playgrounds, or for the costs of accessibility features in new playgrounds.
- The funds may not be used during initial construction for features required by the Americans With Disabilities Act for newly constructed playgrounds or to upgrade existing restroom or parking facilities that are not compliant with applicable accessibility standards.

SB 307 Llew Jones

Revise K-12 school funding laws to address facilities

Chapter: 404

Effective Date: Sec. 9-10, July 1, 2017, Sec. 1 & 6(3) January 1, 2017, Sec. 2-8 & 11-15 upon passage and approval

SB 307 creates a new mechanism for funding major maintenance and building improvement expenditures for public schools. Although all of the details in the bill are explained below, the major changes affecting schools from this bill are:

- SB 307 creates a calculation of a *school major maintenance amount* that is calculated each year based on ANB.

- Schools are allowed to permissively levy up to 10 mills to fund the *school major maintenance amount*.
- A state *school major maintenance aid account* is created with the funds used to support the local funding of the *school major maintenance amount*.
- Schools are obligated to notice their electorate of this permissive levy and the purpose for which the levy is established as well as notice increases to levies in all other permissively levied funds.
- Schools must update the School Facilities Condition Inventory and make the items listed in the School Facilities Condition Inventory the first priority for the major maintenance aid account expenditures.

SB 307 defines a calculation to determine the annual amount a district can budget as the *school major maintenance amount*. This calculation is the sum of \$15,000 and the product of \$100 multiplied times the district's budgeted ANB for the prior fiscal year. *Local effort* revenues for the *school major maintenance amount* may consist of permissive levies not to exceed 10 mills, deposits, and transfers from lawfully available revenue sources. Districts awarded a grant through the Quality Schools Facility Grant pursuant to Title 90, chapter 6, part 8, during the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, may not impose a permissive levy to the sub fund in the building reserve fund during the 2019 biennium. K-12 districts must calculate the *school major maintenance amount* separately for K-8 and high school.

SB 307 directs districts to expend funds received through the school major maintenance aid account to first fund repairs categorized as "safety", "damage/wear our", or "codes and standards" in the School Facilities Condition Inventory, June 30, 2008. After addressing these repairs, the school is to update the School Facilities Condition Inventory by July 1, 2019, and each district shall certify the completion of the update to the OPI no later than October 31, 2019. Additional certified updates are to be reported to the OPI every five years.

SB 307 removes language that states that a district may only have a building reserve fund if they have a voted levy in that fund. SB 307 creates sub funds within the building reserve fund for the following purposes:

- Voted building reserve levies to raise money for future construction, equipping, or enlarging of school buildings or for the purchase of land needed for school purposes.
- Permissive levy not to exceed 10 mills in a fiscal year for school facility maintenance and repair and allows for deposits and transfers to the sub-fund, and limit these to the defined school facility maintenance amount per SB 307.
- Voted transition levies that provide for the following:
 - (i) open a new school under the provisions of Title 20,chapter 6;
 - (ii) close a school;
 - (iii) replace a school building; or
 - (iv) consolidate with or annex another district
- Transfer of funds to the building reserve fund for school safety and security.

SB 307 directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to begin distribution, as defined in the bill, of state school major maintenance aid in any year an appropriation is made to the school major

maintenance aid account. Beginning in FY 2019, funds will be distributed to school districts' sub fund, within the district building reserve fund as defined in this bill. These funds are subject to proration and must be distributed by the last working day in May each year. The Superintendent of Public Instruction is to provide a preliminary estimate of the state school major maintenance aid per dollar of local effort by March 1 annually and a final amount for the current school year no later than July 31.

SB 307 directs the trustees of a school district to adopt a resolution no later than June 1 in FY 2017 and no later than March 31 in subsequent fiscal years and provide notice to the electors whenever the trustees intend to impose a non-voted (permissive) levy increase in the ensuing school fiscal year, in any of the following school district funds: tuition, adult education, building reserve, transportation, and bus depreciation.

SB 307 amends 20-9-236, MCA which currently allows transfers between funds for improvements to school safety and security until June 30, 2019. SB 307 eliminates the sunset date and requires the transfers must be returned to the originating fund within two full school fiscal years after the funds were transferred, if not encumbered for expenditures in compliance with the law.

SB 307 renames *reimbursement for school facilities* to *debt service assistance*. SB 307 prioritizes and changes the purposes of the state special revenue school facility and technology account so it is to be used first for the school technology payment per 20-9-534, MCA, and then for debt service assistance payments per 20-9-371, MCA.

SB 307 allows transfer between the state special revenue debt service assistance for school facilities account and the state special revenue school major maintenance aid account. When either fund has an excess of funds to meet its purposes in any year, all or a portion of those funds can be transferred to the other fund up to the amount required to avoid a proration reduction.

SB 307 repeals the current Quality Schools Facility Grant program in 90-6-8, MCA, administered by the Department of Commerce in two parts to allow for possible grants to be awarded in the current 2017 legislative session.

GOVERNANCE

HB 283 Tom Burnett

Require agencies to report grant information

Chapter: 369

Effective Date: May 9, 2017

HB 283 requires state agencies to provide an annual report of grant activities during the previous fiscal year to the legislative finance committee each year by October 1. The report will include the following information about each grant awarded by the agency:

- The name of the grantee,
- The address of the grantee,
- The amount of the grant,
- The award date of the grant,
- The purpose of the grant, and
- The grant period.

The legislative finance committee will post an internet link to the reports on its website.

SB 139 Duane Ankney

Revise K-12 school district expansion laws

Chapter: 205

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 139 allows an elementary school district with an ANB count of at least 1,000 to expand into a K-12 school district so long as it is not part of a unified school district or governed by a joint board. These requirements would mean that currently only the East Helena, Hellgate, and Lockwood elementary school districts would have this option, although in the future any school district meeting the criteria above would have this option as well. The bill spells out the steps the trustees of the school district have to take to create the new district including the need for approval by the district electors and a subsequent proposal to the electors for a transition cost levy, a general obligation bond, and the limits on that bond. In addition, the bill lays out the basis for state BASE Aid and block grants for both the newly formed high school to be part of the new K-12 district and the existing high school district during the transition.

SB 151 Dee Brown

Create local government committee

Chapter: 167

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 151 creates the interim committees of the legislature which meet in the interim between legislative sessions. For the coming interim period a separate education and a separate local government committee will be formed. In the past this was one committee known as the education and local government committee.

SB 319 Jen Gross**Allow individuals to wear traditional regalia, objects of cultural significance****Chapter: 229****Effective Date: April 21, 2017**

SB 319 establishes that a state agency or local government may not prohibit an individual from wearing traditional tribal regalia or objects of cultural significance at a public event, which is further defined to include an award ceremony, a graduation ceremony, or a public meeting.

SB 372 Eric Moore**Revise local government audit financial reports****Chapter: 439****Effective Date: May 22, 2017**

SB 372 revises the local government financial reporting and auditing requirements, which apply to school districts, by revising the threshold above which a government entity is required to conduct an audit at least every two years. Currently, school districts with federal expenditures in excess of \$750,000, a threshold set by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), must conduct an annual audit that meets the requirements set by the federal government. For districts not meeting this threshold, 2-7-503, MCA, requires that districts receiving total revenue or financial assistance in excess of \$500,000 must conduct an audit at least every two years. SB 372 revises this limit to be the same amount as the federal threshold level. In addition, the fee charged to districts below the new threshold level are restricted to only the fee listed by rule.

SR 32 Daniel Salomon**Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Public Education**

SR 32 appoints the following as members of the Board of Public Education:

- Jesse Barnhart, Broadus, MT, to a term ending February 1, 2018
- Tammy Lacey, Great Falls, MT, to a term ending February 1, 2023

SR 35 Daniel Salomon**Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Regents of Higher Education**

SR 35 appoints the following as members of the Board of Regents of Higher Education:

- Levi Berky, Kalispell, MT, to a term ending June 30, 2017
- Casey Lozar, Helena, MT, to a term ending February 1, 2018
- Bob Nystuen, Lakeside, MT, to a term ending February 1, 2022

SR 47 Daniel Salomon

Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Regents of Higher Education

SR 47 confirms the appointment of the following as a member of the Board Regents:

- Bill Johnstone, Bozeman, MT, to a term ending February 1, 2024

SR 60 Daniel Salomon

Confirm Governor's appointee to the Board of Public Education

SR 60 appoints the following as a member of the Board of Public Education:

- Anne Keith, Bozeman, MT, to a term ending February 21, 2024

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 68 Marilyn Ryan

Revise university system retirement plan participation agreements

Chapter: 40

Effective Date: February 22, 2017

HB 68 revises the employee retirement system membership election provisions for employees hired by the Montana University System (MUS). Beginning July 1, 2017, the employee must elect to remain a member of the retirement system to which the position is reportable. This occurs only if the newly hired employee of the MUS is already an active, inactive, or retired member of both the public employees' retirement system, and the teachers' retirement system.

HB 185 Shane Morigeau

Establish a grant program to eliminate tuition for certain postsecondary programs

Chapter: 234

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 185 establishes the Promise grant program for the purpose of providing grants to students enrolled at least half time community and tribal colleges and 2-year institutions of the Montana university system that are taking courses leading to the ability to transfer to another postsecondary institution, an associate degree, or a professional credential. The program will be administered by the board of regents through the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education (OCHE). In order to be eligible for a grant, a student must:

- Have been a resident of Montana for at least 12 months prior to applying to a program,
- Have graduated from high school or received a secondary education equivalency certificate,
- Have earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 in high school or through other measures determined by the Board of Regents,
- Have submitted the free application for federal student aid for the current academic year and accepted all federal and state aid grants available, and
- Have not completed more than 60 credit hours or the equivalent at a postsecondary institution or earned an associate degree.

A student may receive a grant for no more than 2 years, must maintain a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.7, and must contribute 8 hours of community service each service.

The amount of Promise grants is the greater of \$75 per enrolled credit or the amount of tuition remaining due after any other federal, state, or private aid grants or waivers have reduced the tuition amounts. The total amount of the grants may not exceed \$2 million or the amount appropriated by the legislature.

HB 421 Randy Brodehl

Ensure fees for fire service training are deposited consistent with Higher Ed funds

Chapter: 146

Effective Date: April 3, 2017

HB 421 amends 20-31-402, MCA, to clarify that fees paid to the fire services training school are deposited in accord with the higher education university funding structure. This bill cleans up statute language to match current practice.

HB 462 Frank Garner

Alcohol licenses for certain educational organizations

Chapter: 343

Effective Date: May 7, 2017

HB 462 provides for the Flathead Valley Community College and the Montana State University-Billings to apply for an academic brewer license. The license must be used in conjunction with a beer-brewing class or curriculum and allows the license holders to sell any beer produced to wholesalers only. The bill also sets responsibility for compliance with existing laws and limits production to no more than 10,000 barrels annually.

HB 661 Nancy Balance

A statutory interim study on Montana State University laboratories

Chapter: 352

**Effective Date: Section 1 May 7, 2017, Sections 2 &3
July 1, 2017**

HB 661 provides for the legislative finance committee to direct a study of the long term future and possible efficiencies to be gained from the following labs on the Montana State University campus in Bozeman:

- The veterinary diagnostic lab
- The wool lab
- The wildlife lab
- The seed lab

HB 661 specifies the bipartisan membership of the committee that will be formed to conduct the study and the activities of that committee. \$61,250 is appropriated from some state special revenue accounts to support the study.

SB 6 Chas Vincent

Remove redundant language from tribal college reimbursement statute

Chapter: 105

Effective Date: March 27, 2017

SB 6 cleans up the language in 20-25-428, MCA, regarding reimbursement to tribal colleges for services provided to resident non-beneficiary students. The statute had stated twice that a resident non-beneficiary student had to be taking courses transferable to another Montana college or university in order to be eligible for the reimbursement.

SB 85 Mary Moe

Submitting a 6-mill levy for support of the Montana University System to voters

Chapter: 73

Effective Date: January 1, 2019 if approved by the electorate

SB 85 submits a six-mill levy for the continued support of the Montana University System to the electorate in the November 2018 election. The proceeds of the levy will be deposited in the state special revenue fund and will be used for continued support, maintenance, and improvement of the Montana University System. If approved, the levy will be effective on January 1, 2019, and will terminate on December 31, 2028.

SB 283 Albert Olzewski

Revise the Montana rural physician incentive program

Chapter: 310

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 283 revises the Montana rural physician incentive program in 20-26-1503, MCA. This program provides payments of educational debts incurred by physicians who practice in rural areas or medically underserved areas. SB 283 raises the maximum amount that will be paid from \$100,000 to \$150,000.

SB 321 Albert Olzewski

Revise laws concerning use of cadavers in medical and nursing education

Chapter: 318

Effective Date: 5/04/2017

SB 321 revises the statutes concerning the use of cadavers in medical and nursing education to allow a licensed physician or podiatrist in Montana to procure a cadaver specimen from a nationally accredited non-transplant anatomic bank for the purposes of anatomic dissection and surgical demonstration and training. A licensed physician or podiatrist shall contract with a nationally accredited non-transplant anatomic bank for the delivery and disposal of an anatomic specimen for the purposes of conducting anatomical dissection or surgical demonstration and training. The specimen must be delivered to a hospital or surgical center licensed by the state.

SB 341 Albert Olzewski

Establish contract requirements for the WWAMI program

Chapter: 436

**Effective Date: Applies to students entering the program
2018-2019 or later**

SB 341 establishes requirements for contracts involving participation in the Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho (WWAMI) medical education program and addresses fees based on a student's return to Montana. An individual accepted into the cooperative medical education program must enter into a contract specifying whether an individual will commit to entering active full-time professional practice in Montana for a period of three years within one year of obtaining professional status. An individual who enters the program without committing to enter full-time

professional practice in Montana must pay 2.5 times the normal fee. If an individual fails to honor a commitment to return to Montana must pay the full amount of the support fee paid by the state. Finally, some exceptions to the repayment obligation are authorized.

SAFETY

HB 323 Gordon Pierson

Authorize emergency use of opioid antagonist in a school setting

Chapter: 154

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 323 allows schools to maintain a stock of an opioid antagonist to be used in the event of an actual or perceived opioid overdose emergency. This bill also limits governmental liability in the event of an actual or perceived opioid overdose emergency. Under this bill a school may stock an opioid antagonist if:

- The school develops a protocol for training employees on the storing and maintaining of the drug, and of immediate and long-term follow-up of the administration of the medication;
- The opioid antagonist is prescribed to the school and filled by a licensed pharmacy;
- A school nurse, certified emergency provider, or other healthcare professional provides training on causes, recognition of symptoms, administration techniques, and the need for immediate access to a certified emergency responder;
- The opioid antagonist is kept in a secure and easily accessible location; and
- The school informs parents about the potential use of an opioid antagonist in an overdose emergency.

In line with the school's protocol, a school nurse or other authorized personnel may administer the opioid antagonist in a case of a potential life threatening opioid overdose. The school district and its employees are not liable as a result of an injury resulting from the administration of an opioid antagonist.

HB 487 Moffie Funk

Revise youth athlete protection laws

Chapter: 331

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

HB 487 revises laws related to protecting youth athletes from permanent injury and death related to concussion. HB487 amends 20-7-1301, MCA, to provide immunity from civil damages for a person acting in an individual capacity and not on behalf of the state or any political subdivision who volunteers to assist with an organized youth athletic activity. HB 487 also expands the definition of organized youth athletic activity to include nonpublic schools and youth athletic organizations.

SB 135 Edith McClafferty

Generally revise laws related to first aid training in schools

Chapter: 190

Effective Date: April 13, 2017

SB 135 requires the OPI, in consultation with school districts, the Department of Public Health and Human Services, the American Heart Association, and the American Red Cross to provide guidance and technical support and make available a program of study to Montana schools on: (a) basic first aid; (b) basic cardiopulmonary resuscitation; and (c) the use of automated external defibrillators. The

bill encourages school districts to include these programs of study in high school health enhancement courses. The bill also provides that acceptable instructors for these programs include: emergency medical technicians, paramedics, fire department personnel and police officers, representatives of the American Heart Association, teachers, other school employees, and similarly qualified persons.

SCHOOL FINANCE

HB 67 Marilyn Ryan

Generally revise Teachers' Retirement System to maintain tax qualification

Chapter: 39

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 67 revises provisions of the Teachers' Retirement System to:

- Define "Extra Duty Service,"
- Revise family law order provisions,
- Revise creditable service provisions,
- Revise the calculation of average final compensation,
- Revise provisions related to cancellation of allowances, restoration of membership for disability retirees, and;
- Revise death payment provisions.

HB 76 Greg Hertz

Amend laws related to remittance of tax increment

Chapter: 22

Effective Date: Effective for agreements entered into on or after February 17, 2017

HB 76 requires remittances of unused tax increment to be made proportionally to all affected taxing jurisdictions. The allocation is based upon the ratio of each taxing jurisdiction's mills to the total mills in the tax increment district.

HB 113 Edward Greef

Allow Indian language immersion program funds to be used as matching funds

Chapter: 8

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 113 allows state funds to be used as matching funds for federal or private grants for Indian language immersion programs.

HB 119 Seth Berglee

Revise quality educator loan assistance program

Chapter: 85

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 119 expands the purpose of the quality educator loan assistance program to expressly include recruitment and retention of educators at schools impacted by critical quality educator shortages. In addition, the bill makes changes to the criteria used to identify schools that are experiencing critical quality educator shortages, specifically asking the OPI and the Board of Public Education to consider:

- Special Education cooperatives,
- The Montana Youth Challenge program,
- State youth correctional facilities,

- Public schools located on an American Indian reservation, and
- Schools that are more than 45 minutes from a city with a population greater than 10,000 or more than 30 minutes from a city with a population greater than 4,300.

Finally, the bill adjusts the amounts of education loans to be repaid to eligible quality educators to be:

- \$3,000 after the first year,
- \$4,000 after the second year, and
- \$5,000 after the third year.

The changes will be in effect for the 2017-2018 school year.

HB 191 Seth Berglee

Increase K-12 BASE aid, entitlements, and payments

Chapter: 47

Effective Date: July 1, 2017.

HB 191 provides inflationary increases of 0.5 percent for FY 2018 and 1.87 percent for FY 2019 to the funding components of school district general fund budgets. The increases are applied to the basic and per-ANB entitlements, the quality educator payment, the Indian Education for All payment, the at-risk student payment, the American Indian achievement gap payment, and the data for achievement payment. (Note: The inflationary increase for the at-risk student payment is not included in HB 191; rather it is a line item appropriation in HB 2.)

The fiscal note for HB 191 shows a biennial cost of \$47.4 million. This total includes \$26 million in new money for schools and \$21.4 million to fund the natural resource development (NRD) K-12 payment which is provided to reduce property tax increases in the mandatory BASE budget levies. However, after passage of HB 191, the NRD payment was eliminated by HB 647.

HB 355 Ray L. Shaw

Revise laws related to school district transportation

Chapter: 221

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 355 adjusts the definition of “school bus” to include vehicles which are designed to carry 10 or fewer passengers. HB 355 requires that these vehicles have an overall safety rating of five stars from the national highway traffic safety administration and are insured in accordance with the current requirements set forth in 20-10-109, MCA. The bill also clarifies license requirements for drivers of these vehicles and provides for a reimbursement rate of \$0.50 cents per mile on the schedule of maximum reimbursement by mileage rates set forth in 20-10-141, MCA. HB 355 requires trustees of a district to perform a cost-effectiveness analysis before the purchase of a small school bus.

HB 390 Donald W. Jones
Generally revise school funding laws
Chapter: 259 **Effective Date: July 1, 2017**

HB 390 requires that property taxes are reduced in the following year when an anticipated enrollment increase does not materialize.

Section 20-9-314, MCA, currently provides procedures for determining eligibility and amount of increased average number belonging (ANB) due to an unusual enrollment increase. Prior to June 1 a district may apply for additional estimated anticipated enrollment for the ensuing year to be used to provide increased budget authority for receiving additional state funding and local property taxes. If this estimate exceeds the lesser of 4% of students or 40 students, an adjusted ANB is calculated and all district general fund per ANB entitlements are adjusted accordingly. HB 390 states that in a school district where additional anticipated ANB is approved by OPI and the district budget is recalculated allowing additional local property tax collections, but the anticipated ANB does not materialize during the school year, the local property taxes collected for the ANB that did not materialize will be returned to the local tax payers via fund balance appropriated for the ensuing year.

HB 390 directs \$1.0 million each year of the 2019 biennium from the school facility and technology state special revenue account to the Department of Commerce for providing funds for schools to use as a match for e-rate broadband matching funds. The money currently is a statutory distribution to all school districts' technology fund each year. The temporary redirection of the existing statutory appropriation to the Department of Commerce terminates on June 30, 2019.

HB 396 Bruce Grubbs
Revise laws related to tax increment financing
Chapter: 157 **Effective Date: April 4, 2017**

HB 396 revises laws related to tax increment financing (TIF). The bill requires that prior to adopting or modifying an urban renewal plan or a comprehensive development plan, the local governing body of a TIF district is required to provide both notice and an opportunity for a public meeting to any affected county or school district.

HB 647 Donald W. Jones
Generally revise education funding, implement general appropriations bill
Chapter: 90 **Effective Date: July 1, 2017**

HB 647 represents a restructuring of school funding in Montana by:

- Eliminating the natural resource development K-12 (NRD) funding payment to school districts' general fund.
- Creating a new NRD facilities payment beginning in FY 2019 that is directed to the school facility account described in SB 307.

- Eliminating general fund block grants and ending the annual inflationary increase to county transportation block grants. General Fund Guaranteed Tax Base (GTB) payments to qualifying districts will increase as a result. However, the GTB increases will preferentially aid districts with a lower tax base, thereby enhancing equalization of state funding to school districts.
- Increasing the district general fund GTB multiplier each year beginning in FY 2019 through FY 2021.
- Redirecting excess oil and natural gas production taxes to the Guarantee Account that is the first source of funding for BASE Aid.

HB 647 eliminates the natural resource development K-12 funding payment to a district's general fund and amends 20-9-630, MCA, to terminate the distribution of general fund block grants to school districts. District general fund block grants are currently distributed to school districts as revenue that offsets local property taxes and GTB in the school funding formula. The bill also amends 20-9-632, MCA, to eliminate the 0.76% annual inflationary increase to the county transportation block grants and establish that future county transportation block grant distributions are equal to the amounts received in FY 2017.

HB 647 creates a natural resource development K-12 school facility payment. This program creates a new funding formula which will provide the greater of \$5.8 million in FY 2019; \$6.4 million in FY 2020; \$7.6 million in FY 2021; and \$10 million in FY 2022 or 5% of the oil and natural gas production taxes deposited to the state general fund pursuant to 15-36-331(4), MCA, for the fiscal year occurring two fiscal years prior to the fiscal year of the payment. HB647 also changes the school district general fund GTB multiplier from the current law 193% to 216% in FY 2019, 224% in FY 2020 and 232% in FY 2021 and ensuing years.

HB 647 directs the OPI to deposit, by March 31, the natural resource development K-12 school facilities payment into the school major maintenance aid account. This legislature has appropriated \$5.8 million of general fund for this purpose for FY 2019 in HB 2.

HB 647 redirects excess oil and natural gas production taxes to be deposited to the state special revenue guarantee account. Excess interest and income deposited in the state special revenue guarantee account in any year will be transferred to the state special revenue school facility and technology account (20-9-516, MCA). Excess revenue is defined to be state lands interest and income in excess of \$56 million.

HB 647 creates a coal-fired generating unit closure mitigation block grant.

HB 647 amends 20-7-306, MCA, to include student participation in workforce development activities as a weighted factor in the distribution of career and technical education funds to districts.

HJ 1 Kathy Kelker**Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students**

HJ 1 requests an interim study of the needs and costs of programs to provide for students with special needs to include children with disabilities, at-risk students, students with limited English proficiency, children who are qualified for services under 29 U.S.C. 794, and gifted and talented children. This comprehensive study will consider existing studies, best practices, current funding mechanisms, recent expenditure patterns, current Montana programs, alternative funding mechanisms and any other aspect of the education of students with special needs as determined by the committee. The results of this study will be reported to the next legislature.

SB 5 Tom Facey**Revise INTERCAP loan program****Chapter: 1****Effective Date: February 8, 2017**

SB 5 amends 20-9-471, MCA, and authorizes school districts to borrow funds for additional eligible projects through the Board of Investments. SB 5 also amends 20-9-503, MCA, and increases the debt repayment term from revenue pledged from a school district's building reserve fund levy from 5 years to 15 years for authorized projects. The bill extends the allowable expenditures for the building reserve fund to include construction of buildings used primarily for the storage and maintenance of vehicles and equipment, and for the costs of non-permanent modular classrooms. SB 5 allows districts to pledge revenue from a special tax protest refund levy for the repayment of the obligation.

SB 46 Chas Vincent**Revise laws on forest reserve money kept in state treasury****Chapter: 283****Effective Date: May 4, 2017**

SB 46 revises the apportionment and distribution of funds and interest earning to Montana counties. The allowed time for distribution of forest reserve funds received by the state to counties is reduced from 30 days to five days. If the time limit is exceeded, any interest earned on the funds must also be distributed to counties. Also, the statute sections that list specific public laws are amended to add the term "or any similar act" to provide for future laws.

SB 95 Llew Jones**Authorize necessary measures to implement House Bill 2****Chapter: 416****Effective Date: July 1, 2017**

For each year of the 2019 biennium the superintendent of public instruction to provide a state lands reimbursement block grant of \$100,000 to each school district in a county with greater than 20% of the county's land area composed of state school trust lands. This block grant is directed to the district's general fund as an anticipated revenue source.

SB 115 Mary Moe**Revising stipends for national board certified teachers****Chapter: 150****Effective Date: July 1, 2017**

SB 115 revises the program for paying stipends to teachers achieving National Board Certification. The current program pays a one-time \$3,000 stipend to teachers who receive National Board Certification. SB 115 discontinues the current program and creates a new program providing ongoing stipends for full time teachers certified or recertified after July 1, 2017. The bill has a tiered structure with the amount of the annual stipend depending on whether the school district is participating in the program and whether the school district is either in a high poverty area or is impacted by a critical quality educator shortage.

The structure is as follows:

	Base State Stipend	Optional Local Stipend	State Matching Stipend	Total Stipend
School <i>is not</i> in a high poverty area or impacted by a critical educator shortage	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$1,500
School <i>is</i> in a high poverty area or impacted by a critical educator shortage	\$1,000	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500

The bill specifies that the OPI pay the school district rather than the teacher. It also includes a provision that a stipend paid pursuant to this statute does not count as earned compensation for the purpose of calculating pension benefits in the Teachers' Retirement System. The stipend is paid annually so long as the certification is in effect.

SB 124 Edie McClafferty**Extend school district bond term****Chapter: 337****Effective Date: May 7, 2017**

SB 124 amends 20-9-410, MCA, to allow school district bonds to be issued for a term of up to 30 years if the rate on the bonds issued is less than or equal to the rate on 20 year bonds, and if the bonds are sold to the United States or an agency, instrumentality, or corporation of the United States. Prior to this amendment, the statute capped bond terms at 20 years.

SB 227 Jill Cohenour

Revise state school transportation reimbursement laws

Chapter: 299

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 227 revises 20-10-145, MCA, to clarify the maximum number of days for which school district transportation services will be eligible for state and county reimbursement. The current language “not to exceed 180 days” is replaced with “to transport eligible transporters...to or from school to participate in the minimum aggregate hours of instruction...”

STATE LANDS

HB 38 Willis Curdy

Revise allowable harvest volume for certain state land timber harvest

Chapter: 116

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

HB 38 amends 77-5-201, MCA, and allows for an increase in the timber volume associated with limited access sales, where access has been granted by the adjoining land owner of inaccessible trust lands. This volume is part of, and not in addition to, the current annual sustainable yield of 56.9 million board feet. Therefore, there will be no additional revenue generated by this bill.

HB 316 Kenneth L. Holmlund

Repeal state land equalization reporting laws

Chapter: 144

Effective Date: October 1, 2017

HB 316 eliminates outdated reporting requirements on state land equalization entitlements. The bill is a result of a legislative audit in 2016. The audit found some statutes predating the 2001 legislation, which replaced state land equalization entitlements with a share of general fund, were no longer relevant. The bill repeals sections 77-1-501, MCA, through 77-1-504, MCA.

HB 498 Jon Knokey

Extend sunset provision for unlocking public lands program

Chapter: 139

Effective Date: March 31, 2017

In order to facilitate public access to state owned or public lands, a statute was enacted in 2013 establishing an income tax credit to individuals or corporations who provide an access path to these lands. HB 498 extends the sunset date for the unlocking state lands credit from 2020 to 2027.

SB 15 Jill Cohenour

Revise collection of payment for historic rights of way

Chapter: 411

Effective Date: May 22, 2017

SB 15 revises the collection by the Department of Natural Resources (DNRC) of full market value when issuing a historic right-of-way deed. The definition in 77-1-130, MCA, of the value to be collected is changed from “full market value of the *acreage* of the historic right-of-way” to “full market value of *the estate or interest disposed of for* the historic right-of-way.”

SB 24 Jeffery Welborn

Modify commercial leasing rental provisions for state lands

Chapter: 412

Effective Date: May 22, 2017

SB 24 clarifies the valuation process for commercial leasing of state land. The bill defines and differentiates the terms “land value” and “limited valuation” for use in the calculation of lease rates. SB 24 sets forth that the annual payment for commercial leases of state land is the “full market value” which is the land value multiplied by a rate that is two percentage points a year less than the rate of return of the unified investment program administered by the Board of Investments. Finally, SB 24 removes the cap of two years on the term of commercial leases of state lands.

SB 224 Sue Malek

State cabin site exemptions for replacements

Chapter: 184

Effective Date: 4/11/17

SB 224 exempts replacement water and sewer systems from subdivision review for the sale of a state-owned cabin or home site.

SB 281 Chas Vincent

Revise use of fire suppression account funds

Chapter: 237

Effective Date: July 1, 2017

SB 281 revises the allowable use of fire suppression account funds. New allowable uses are fuel reduction and mitigation, forest restoration, grants for the purchase of fire suppression equipment for county cooperatives, forest management projects on federal land, road maintenance on federal land, and support for collaborative groups. The collaborative groups must include at least one representative of an affected county commission that is engaged with a federal forest project, and the local governments engaged in litigation related to federal forest projects. Also, if the balance in the account exceeds \$40 million on July 1 of odd numbered years, up to \$5 million must be used on the new allowable uses. No more than 5% of this amount can be used in the support for collaborative groups.

SR 20 Chas Vincent

Confirm Governor Appointee for Director, Dept. of Nat Resources and Conservation

SR 20 appoints the following as Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation:

- John Tubbs, Helena, MT, to serve a term at the pleasure of the Governor.

INDEX OF K-12 EDUCATION RELATED BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Short Title	Status	Category
HB 37	Jonathan Windy Boy	Revise MT Indian language preservation program	Pass	Accreditation/Curriculum
HB 167	Jeremy Trebas	Encourage school-community partnerships for arts education	Fail	Accreditation/Curriculum
HB 232	Kenneth L. Holmlund	Revise laws for dual enrollment at community colleges	Pass	Accreditation/Curriculum
SB 103	Llew Jones	Clarify education laws related to minimum aggregate hours and proficiency	Pass	Accreditation/Curriculum
SB 234	Mary Caferro	Expedite teacher licensure for military	Fail	Accreditation/Curriculum
SB 242	Sue Malek	Encourage high schools to administer civics test	Pass	Accreditation/Curriculum
HB 2	Nancy Ballance	General appropriations bill	Pass	Appropriations
HB 3	Nancy Ballance	Supplemental appropriations bill	Pass	Appropriations
HB 4	Nancy Ballance	Appropriations by budget amendment	Pass	Appropriations
HB 261	Frank Garner	Extending termination date for statutory appropriation to public libraries	Pass	Appropriations
HB 563	Kathy Kelker	Establishing Montana preschool grant program	Fail	Appropriations
HB 578	Wylie Galt	Legalize blackjack and allocate proceeds	Fail	Appropriations
SB 261	Llew Jones	Generally revise state fiscal laws	Pass	Appropriations
HB 118	Jonathan Windy Boy	Revise and provide additional funding for state suicide prevention program	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 248	Kimberly Dudik	Revise anti-bullying laws	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 298	Edward Greef	Emphasize sexual abuse awareness and prevention in elementary schools	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 381	Dennis Lenz	Require school districts to address suicide prevention and response	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 382	Dennis Lenz	Generally revise mental health education for teachers	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 446	Jacob Bachmeier	Revise comprehensive school and community treatment services	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 451	Laurie Bishop	Require DPHHS to establish registry of suicide prevention trainers	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 590	Jessica Karjala	Generally revise suicide prevention laws and grants for youth suicide prevention	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HJ 32	Mary Ann Dunwell	Request interim study of truancy and chronic absenteeism	Fail	At-Risk Youth
SB 197	Terry Gauthier	Encouraging the office of public instruction to prevent child sex trafficking	Pass	At-Risk Youth
SB 361	Chas Vincent	Revise education laws related to truancy	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 83	Bryce	Generally revise election laws	Pass	Elections

	Bennett			
HB 103	Geraldine Custer	Generally revise election laws - administrative cleanup	Pass	Elections
HB 155	Greg Hertz	Eliminate election day as state holiday	Fail	Elections
HB 186	Forrest Mandeville	Revise independent candidate filing laws	Fail	Elections
HB 212	Jeff Essman	Ballot Interference Prevention Act to restrict ballot collection	Fail	Elections
HB 287	Bryce Bennett	Revise absentee ballotlist confirmation laws	Pass	Elections
HB 357	Derek Skees	Generally revise laws related to strengthening voter identification	Fail	Elections
HB 371	Bryce Bennett	Allow late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling locations	Fail	Elections
HB 397	Geraldine Custer	Revise polling place hours	Fail	Elections
HB 401	Derek Skees	Revise local gov't and school district campaign reporting laws	Fail	Elections
HB 405	Rob Cook	Generally revise laws applicable to local government	Pass	Elections
HB 448	Ross Fitzgerald	Allow counties to ask voters to approve nonpartisan or partisan elections	Fail	Elections
HB 525	Moffie Funk	Authorize automatic voter registration	Fail	Elections
HB 532	Kim Abbott	Establish online voter registration	Fail	Elections
HJ 33	Bryce Bennett	Interim study resolution on election system modernization	Fail	Elections
SB 87	Keith Regier	Revise campaign finance report laws	Fail	Elections
SB 163	Keith Regier	Revise election judge qualifications	Pass	Elections
SB 256	Dee Brown	Revise school district election laws	Fail	Elections
SB 297	Jebediah Hinkle	Generally revise laws related to voters in school districts elections	Fail	Elections
SB 352	Albert Olzewski	Referendum on prohibition of ballot collection by certain individuals	Pass	Elections
SB 69	Mary Moe	Create task force to study public employee health benefits	Fail	Employment Relations
SB 121	Edward Buttrey	Provide that volunteer positions are not reportable to TRS	Pass	Employment Relations
SB 143	Mike Lang	Revise retiree return to work provisions in the teachers' retirement system	Fail	Employment Relations
HB 294	Jean Price	Encourage accessible playgrounds statewide	Pass	Facilities
HB 579	Greg Hertz	Referendum allowing counties to mill for local infrastructure projects	Fail	Facilities
HB 645	Mike Cuffe	Provide funding for capital and infrastructure projects statewide	Fail	Facilities
HB 660	Jennifer	Revise lodgin facility use tax to construct	Fail	Facilities

	Eck	MHC		
SB 260	Llew Jones	Create school facilities subtrust within coal tax trust fund	Pass	Facilities
SB 307	Llew Jones	Revise K-12 school funding laws to address facilities	Pass	Facilities
SB 367	Eric Moore	Generally revise infrastructure funding laws	Fail	Facilities
HB 100	Bryce Bennettt	Revise legislative objection polling for administrative rulemaking process	Fail	Governance
HB 210	Mary Ann Dunwell	Revise liquor laws to clarify distance requirements with respect to schools	Fail	Governance
HB 283	Tom Burnett	Require agencies to report grant information	Pass	Governance
HB 514	Bridget Smith	Revise school commemoration of Columbus Day to Montana Heritage Day	Fail	Governance
HB 609	Carl Glimm	Generally revise privacy laws concerning protected facilities	Fail	Governance
HB 611	Derek Skees	Generally revise state laws related immigration and refugees	Fail	Governance
SB 139	Duane Ankney	Revise k-12 school district expansion laws	Pass	Governance
SB 151	Dee Brown	Create local government interim committee	Pass	Governance
SB 209	Frank Smith	Increasing ratio of Montana residents hired on certain public-funded jobs	Fail	Governance
SB 319	Jen Gross	Allow individuals to wear traditional regalia, objects of cultural significance	Pass	Governance
SB 372	Eric Moore	Revise local government audit, financial reports	Pass	Governance
SR 11	Daniel Salomon	Confirm Governor's appointees to boards relating to educations	Fail	Governance
SR 32	Daniel Salomon	Confirm Govern's appointees to the Board of Public Education	Pass	Governance
SR 47	Daniel Salomon	Confirm Governor's appointee to the Board of Regents	Pass	Governance
SR 60	Daniel Salomon	Confirm Governor's appointee to the Board of Public Education	Pass	Governance
HB 68	Marilyn Ryan	Revise university system retirement plan	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 72	Ryan Lynch	Increase university system supplemental contribution to TRS	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 161	Jacob Bachmeier	Revise laws related to state funding of higher education	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 162	Rae Peppers	Provide appropriation for purple heart scholarship program	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 185	Shane Morigeau	Establish grant program to eliminate tuition for certain postsecondary programs	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 239	Bill Harris	Provide income tax benefits to employers and students for higher education costs	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 249	Kimberly Dudik	Tax deduction for employers for employee student loan reimbursements	Fail	Higher Ed

HB 420	Bradley Hamlett	Revise allocation of oil and gas revenue for oil and natural gas impact projects	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 421	Randy Brodehl	Ensure fire service training fees are deposited consistent with higher ed funds	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 462	Frank Garner	Alcohol licenses for community colleges and MUS units for educational purposes	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 591	Zach Brown	Provide for student loan	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 634	Tom Woods	Provide for levy on hospitals for medical education programs	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 661	Nancy Ballance	A statutory interim study on Montana State University laboratories	Pass	Higher Ed
HJ 27	Kathy Kelker	Requesting interim study of MUS governance structure	Fail	Higher Ed
SB 6	Jennifer Fielder	Remove redundant language from tribal college reimbursement statute	Pass	Higher Ed
SB 85	Mary Moe	Submitting a 6-mill levy for support of the Montana University System to voters	Pass	Higher Ed
SB 114	Mary Moe	Revise postsecondary scholarships to address teacher pipeline	Fail	Higher Ed
SB 159	Mark Blasdel	Revise laws related to community colleges and bonding	Pass	Higher Ed
SB 211	Diane Sands	Revise laws governing MUS board of regents acceptance of gifts	Fail	Higher Ed
SB 283	Albert Olzewski	Revise the Montana rural physician incentive program	Pass	Higher Ed
SB 321	Albert Olzewski	Revise laws concerning use of cadavers in medical and nursing education	Pass	Higher Ed
SB 341	Albert Olzewski	Establish contract requirements for the WWAMI program	Pass	Higher Ed
SR 35	Daniel Salomon	Confirm Governor's appointees to the Board of Regents of Higher Education	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 23	Jonathan Windy Boy	Provide for suicide prevention among American Indian and rural youth	Fail	Safety
HB 265	Mary Ann Dunwell	Create a school suicide prevention competitive grant program	Fail	Safety
HB 323	Gordon Pierson	Authorize emergency use of opioid antagonist in a school setting	Pass	Safety
HB 380	Virginia Court	Prohibit texting while driving	Fail	Safety
HB 385	Seth Berglee	Provide for the Montana school safety act	Fail	Safety
HB 487	Moffie Funk	Revise youth athlete protections laws	Pass	Safety
HB 535	Jim Hamilton	Revise laws on siting of bars and taverns	Fail	Safety
SB 9	Dick Barrett	Provide for primary enforcement of seatbelt laws	Fail	Safety
SB 135	Edith McClafferty	Generally revise laws related to first aid training in schools	Pass	Safety

SB 147	Diane Sands	Revise clean indoor air act laws to prohibit use of vapor products	Fail	Safety
SB 290	Jill Cohenour	Generally revise school transportation laws	Fail	Safety
HB 12	Denise Harman	Generally revise school funding laws	Fail	School Finance
HB 31	Kathy Kelker	Revise school funding related to special education	Fail	School Finance
HB 32	Kathy Kelker	Revise school funding related to special education - \$2M plus inflation	Fail	School Finance
HB 33	Kathy Kelker	Revise school funding related to special education - \$2M	Fail	School Finance
HB 66	Amanda Curtis	Revise school funding related to facilities	Fail	School Finance
HB 67	Marilyn Ryan	Generally revise Teachers' Retirement System to maintain tax qualification	Pass	School Finance
HB 76	Greg Hertz	Amend laws related to remittance of tax increment	Pass	School Finance
HB 113	Edward Greef	Allow Indian language immersion program funds to be used as matching funds	Pass	School Finance
HB 116	Kathy Kelker	Increase funding for gifted and talented education	Fail	School Finance
HB 119	Seth Berglee	Revise quality educator loan assistance program	Pass	School Finance
HB 134	Jeff Essman	Revise school funding related to facilities	Fail	School Finance
HB 178	Jean Price	Provide ANB Funding for 19 year olds	Fail	School Finance
HB 190	Dave Fern	Establish grant program for early grades dual language immersion programs	Fail	School Finance
HB 191	Seth Berglee	Provide inflationary increase for ANB funding	Pass	School Finance
HB 192	Dave Fern	Raise legal dropout age to 18 or upon graduation	Fail	School Finance
HB 227	Sue Vinton	Provide funding for middle grades career and technical education	Fail	School Finance
HB 250	Bruce Grubbs	Require county and school district approval for adoption of TIF provision	Fail	School Finance
HB 253	Moffie Funk	Inflationary increase for special education allowable cost of payment	Fail	School Finance
HB 270	Fred Anderson	Generally revise funding for K-12 career technical education	Fail	School Finance
HB 274	Kathy Kelker	Allow ANB funding for students with disabilities up to age 22	Fail	School Finance
HB 292	Kathy Kelker	Revise school funding laws related to inflation and 6th grade per-ANB amount	Fail	School Finance
HB 355	Ray Shaw	Revise laws related to school district transportation	Pass	School Finance
HB 359	Tom Burnett	Limit tax increment financing revenue to local mills	Fail	School Finance
HB 361	Tom Burnett	Revise SNAP eligibility	Fail	School Finance

HB 375	Greg Hertz	Provide state funding for tribally controlled schools	Fail	School Finance
HB 376	Jonathan Windy Boy	Establish public charter schools	Fail	School Finance
HB 390	Donald Jones	Generally revise school funding laws	Pass	School Finance
HB 396	Bruce Grubbs	Revise laws related to tax increment financing	Pass	School Finance
HB 403	Adam Hertz	Revise TIF laws to require remittance if increment exceeds certain level	Fail	School Finance
HB 418	Kelly McCarthy	Revise funding for career and vocational/technical education	Fail	School Finance
HB 423	Seth Berglee	Create special needs education savings accounts	Fail	School Finance
HB 573	Rob Cook	Revise education funding laws related to tax increment financing	Fail	School Finance
HB 606	Jeff Essman	Revise procedure for calculation of mills for educational purposes	Fail	School Finance
HB 620	Kerry White	Generally revise taxes and the distribution of revenue through sales tax	Fail	School Finance
HB 631	Zach Brown	Provide student loan forgiveness for new farmers	Fail	School Finance
HB 640	Greg Hertz	Statewide sales tax, elimination of income taxes, and reduction of vehicle fees	Fail	School Finance
HB 647	Donald Jones	Generally revise education funding, implement general appropriations bill	Pass	School Finance
HJ 1	Kathy Kelker	Request study of funding for education programs for special needs students	Pass	School Finance
SB 5	Tom Facey	Revise INTERCAP loan program	Pass	School Finance
SB 14	Jill Cohenour	Expand eligibility for Indian language immersion program funding	Fail	School Finance
SB 38	Duane Ankney	Establish energy accountability act portion of closing fee goes to school district	Fail	School Finance
SB 46	Chas Vincent	Revise laws on forest reserve money kept in state treasury	Pass	School Finance
SB 95	Llew Jones	Authorize necessary measures to implement House Bill 2	Pass	School Finance
SB 115	Mary Moe	Revising stipends for national board certified teachers	Pass	School Finance
SB 124	Edward Buttrey	Extend school district bond term	Pass	School Finance
SB 226	Jill Cohenour	Generally revise summer school bus transportation laws	Fail	School Finance
SB 227	Jill Cohenour	Revise state school transportation reimbursement laws	Pass	School Finance
SB 327	Roger Webb	Reduce the Montana business equipment tax	Fail	School Finance
SB 355	Dee Brown	Revise distribution of lodging tax to convention and visitors bureau	Fail	School Finance
HB 38	Willis Curdy	Revise allowable harvest volume for certain state land timber harvest	Pass	State Lands

HB 154	Willis Curdy	Limit uses of exploding targets on public land	Fail	State Lands
HB 204	Alan Redfield	Generally revise laws related to maintenance of fishing access site	Fail	State Lands
HB 243	Tom Jacobson	Prohibit outfitting on state lands inaccessible to the public	Fail	State Lands
HB 280	Randy Brodehl	Allow Legislators to conceal carry handguns on state property	Fail	State Lands
HB 316	Kenneth L. Holmlund	Repeal state land equalization reporting laws	Pass	State Lands
HB 384	Austin Knudsen	Revise oil and gas lease provisions	Fail	State Lands
HB 486	George Kipp	Prohibit pipelines from crossing under streams and lakes	Fail	State Lands
HB 491	Virginia Court	Create designation of public lands day	Fail	State Lands
HB 498	Jon Knokey	Extend sunset provision for unlocking public lands program	Pass	State Lands
HJ 11	Virginia Court	Joint resolution honoring public lands	Fail	State Lands
SB 15	Jill Cohenour	Revise collection of payment for historic rights of way	Pass	State Lands
SB 24	Jeffrey Welborn	Modify commercial leasing rental provisions for state lands	Pass	State Lands
SB 202	Jedediah Hinkle	Prohibit post of no trespassing sign on another's property	Fail	State Lands
SB 224	Sue Malek	State cabin site exemption for replacement water or sewer systems	Pass	State Lands
SB 235	Tom Richmond	Allow extension of coal lease on state lands	Fail	State Lands
SB 281	Chas Vincent	Revise use of fire suppression account funds	Pass	State Lands
SJ 17	Diane Sands	Resolution supporting federal land management	Fail	State Lands
SR 20	Chas Vincent	Confirm Governor appointee for Director, Dept of Nat Resources and Conservation	Pass	State Lands



Putting Montana Students First

A⁺ Local Control and Flexibility for Stronger
Montana Communities

A⁺ Serving All of Those Who Serve
Montana's Students

A⁺ Montana-Made Solutions to Maximize
Student Success

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