

WEEKLY REPORT
Missoula
Week Ending 1-8-2021

WEEK IN REVIEW

HB137: Generally revise vaping and alternative nicotine product laws.

Position: OPPOSE.

Hearing held 1/13. Efforts led by health advocates and students. MacDonald testified for Missoula and Bozeman. Working with the health groups to get the moderate Rs to gain some additional votes.

MacDonald has confirmed Greef will oppose.

No exec yet.

HB107: Revise mill levy election laws.

Position: OPPOSE.

Hearing held 1/13. MacDonald testified for Missoula and Bozeman. Probably two dozen opponents, including local government, schools, MACO, Clerks and Recorders. All Ds on the committee are aligned.

We are working on several critical Rs.

No Exec yet.

HB21: Authorize funding for the multifamily coal trust home loan program.

Position: SUPPORT.

Passed Committee 19-5.

Second Reading scheduled for 1-18

Hearing held 1-11. Bozeman and Missoula both very supportive, but in consultation with the bill sponsor and housing advocates we stayed out of the hearing. The proponents are concentrating their comments on smaller communities that benefited from the last round of funding. We are working it in the halls to keep vote totals positive.

SB73: Provide for local distribution of lodging sales tax revenue.

Position: SUPPORT

Hearing held 1-14 Senate Tax. A potential avenue to get lodging and sales tax money to local communities. We've gotten messages to Missoula and Bozeman committee members and MacDonald visited with the sponsor, Sen. Regier.

SB77: Revise allowable special district assessment methods. Hearing 1-15 Senate Tax

Position: OPPOSE

Hearing Held 1/15. League is taking the lead in the committee. We are working members in the halls. Limits the amount of assessment to fund a special district, requires dissolution of a special district after 10 years and allows for a dissolution by petition by owners of 50 percent of the property.

SB78: Revise special district financing and dissolution provisions. Hearing 1-15 in Senate Local Government.

Position: OPPOSE as written. Amendments pending.

Hearing Held 1-15. The league is taking the lead and we are working members in the hall as needed. There are league amendments expected. When we have them, we will need to hit our delegation members to support.

Removes taxable value as a method of assessment for special districts, removing local control and likely completely upending what a lot of communities have been doing for years.

HB102: Generally Revise Gun laws.

Position: RECOMMEND MONITOR/OPOPOSE

Passed 3rd reading.

House passed AMENDED version: [HB0102.pdf \(mt.gov\)](#). While there are some improvements to the 'remedy' section and the courtroom section, it does not go as far as we hoped, or as far as we thought the sponsor had initially said he would go. May revisit.

Hearing was held 1-6. Bill sponsor initially indicated he would remove most concerning section or amend it. Has now indicated he likely will not do that. We will be pursuing additional fixes if possible on the Senate side, so we've changed to a Recommend Monitor/Oppose. If we believe there are chances to make more changes in the Senate, we can pursue.

HB78: Require certain employees to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Hearing in House Judiciary 1-12. Potential concerns regarding liability on local governments and even volunteers who work with children at city-sponsored camps, activities and programs. Nugent doesn't believe there are major issues with this. Bozeman considering opposing.

Position: MONITOR.

Committee Tabled 1-15

HB113 - penalizes healthcare professionals up to 50,000 dollars for providing transition related medical care to transgender youth under the age of 18.

Position: OPOPOSE

Rescheduled. Likely to be Monday 1-18. Rossi will oppose for Missoula and Bozeman

HB112: Require interscholastic athletes to participate under sex assigned at birth.

Position: OPOPOSE

Rescheduled. Likely to be Monday 1-18/. Rossi will oppose for Missoula and Bozeman.

NEW BILLS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST:

LC2439: Revise laws on selection of municipal judges. Would require all municipal judges be elected rather than hired/appointed.

Position: NEEDS FURTHER REVIEW. NEED DIRECTION FROM THE CITY

HB106: Prohibit expansion of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act

Position: RECOMMEND OPOPOSE.

Hearing Scheduled for 1-28 House Local Government.

Another bill by Rep. Marshall intended to limit local gov't ability to regulate tobacco product use indoors

LC0309: Generally revise law enforcement. City of Missoula bill to allow reserve officers to be paid, part-time bailiffs in municipal court.
Position: SUPPORT.
Not yet in Hopper.

STATUS OF OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

HB134: Allow zoning for duplex, triplex, and fourplex housing in certain municipalities:
Position: OPPOSE
Scheduled for Hearing on 1-26 in House Local Government. See Notes below.

LC0304: Prohibition on inclusionary housing ordinances. See notes below

SB10: Providing for circuit breaker income tax credit for property taxes paid.
This bill repeals four specific property tax assistance programs or credits in favor of a more comprehensive "circuit breaker" income tax credit for property taxes. This includes benefits for both property owners and renters based on income.
Position: RECOMMEND SUPPORT
Hearing scheduled for 1-21 in Senate Tax.

STATUS OF PRIORITY ISSUES:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: MacDonald and Rossi had follow up talks with Rep. Vinton. Will be talking with the Montana Building Industry Association lobbyist next week. Likely we are going to have to seek amendments to the bill in committee. The builders are so far unwilling to consider changing the text of the existing bill.

HB134. Continuing efforts to persuade sponsor and committee members.

Local Option: Bill draft with Rep. Pope's help is in the drafting stages now. Rossi and MacDonald met with the bill drafter. Working on final details of language.

Property Tax Relief:

SB10 may be an interesting approach to look at in addition to the Pope approach. We are watching to see if additional bills come together.

SB73 – See notes above.