

WEEKLY REPORT
Missoula
Week Ending 3-19-2021

WEEK IN REVIEW

HB259: Revise property and zoning laws.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed Senate Local Government 3/19 on a party line vote.

Very disappointing as we again thought we might have made some headway with Republican members of this committee. We attempted to get some amendments that would have lessened the impact, but those too were unsuccessful. We are going to make another pitch on the Senate floor when this comes up there.

HB427: Provide for youth health protection

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed Senate Judiciary on a party line vote and is headed to the Senate floor.

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

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed Senate Judiciary on a party line vote and is headed to the Senate floor.

SB178: Prohibiting state building codes from requiring mandatory fire sprinklers.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed House Judiciary on narrowest of votes 10-9. Headed to the House floor.

HB436: Generally revise firearms laws

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Heard in Senate Judiciary. This bill would eliminate the ability of local governments to regulate the carrying of unpermitted, concealed weapons in government buildings

HB504: Generally revise firearms laws.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed Senate Judiciary on 3/19 on a party line vote.

HB281: Revise laws related to E bikes.

Position: MONITOR

Status: KILLED on Senate floor on Tie vote. Effort to reconsider also died on tie vote.

This bill originally was not on our priority list because it did not have any impacts to local government. But amendments made in the House appeared to hamper or prohibit local government's ability to restrict the use of certain e-bikes on trails intended for foot or non-

motorized traffic. Additional amendments APPEAR to have addressed this, giving local governments the ability to regulate for “safety” issues on trails.

HB243: Revise laws related to law enforcement officers

Position: SUPPORT

Status: Passed Senate Judiciary 11-0. Headed to the Senate. This is Missoula’s bill allowing reserve officers to serve as court security officers.

SB215: Establish the Religious Freedom Restoration Act.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Passed House Judiciary 3/19 on party line vote.

HB137: Generally revise vaping and alternative nicotine product laws.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: TABLED in Senate Business and Labor on 3/17

HB269: Require elected official approval of sanitation related to local health board rules.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Hearing on 3/15 in Senate Local Government. Awaiting executive action.

Another in the series of bills to limit the authority of local government health boards. This requires that all decisions by a health board or other entity regarding sanitation be approved by an elected board.

NEXT WEEK:

We have a lot of work lined up to try to kill several critical bills noted above when they get to respective house floors for vote. At the top of the list HB 259, 112, 247. We will also be working with Missoula and Bozeman to continue to push for opposition to several other bills of concern, including HB 436 and 504 and SB178.

Additionally, the TIF bill we’ve been anticipating has dropped:

HB639: Revise laws related to the adoption of a tax increment provision.

Position: OPPOSE

Status: Set for hearing in House Tax on 3/24. Discussing this with the league and local governments to put together a comprehensive strategy to oppose.

Also, we continue to closely monitor subcommittee work regarding the ARPA money that is coming to Montana.

We also continue to help the league with:

SB358: Repeal numeric nutrient standards for water quality

Position: SUPPORT

We continue to assist the league on this after we were able to revive it from committee. We coordinated efforts to get input from clients on the amendments that have been offered by the DEQ. This bill continues to be a work in progress and is scheduled for a hearing later this month.

HB121: Require elected official approval of local health board and officer actions.

Of the many bills attempting to limit the ability of local health boards, this is the one we've determined we can work with and hopefully help support and move forward. As of late this week, however, there were indications that we may have issues developing.