



# Montana Grain Growers Association

## 2021 Montana Legislative Update – Week 7



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February 19, 2021

Over 700 bills have been introduced and two bills have been signed into law as we wrap up week 7. Bills seem to be dropping and into hearings on a rapid speed. Transmittal deadline has been pushed back one day and is now at close of business on Wednesday, March 3. Which means general bills will be transferred to the opposite chamber.

This week Joint Subcommittee for Education and Natural Resources & Transportation took executive action. While it was a lengthy and thorough process, all went smoothly and the Montana Wheat and Barley Committee monies stayed put.

President Konen made a trip to Helena to testify in opposition to [SB 180](#)- establish an interim committee on soil health. While we do not oppose soil health programs, we do oppose a soil health subcommittee created within SB 180. Currently used practices can be attributed to soil health programs that were developed by research done at universities and implemented initiatives through agencies such as USDA and NRCS. We do not see a need for redundancy of existing federal and university programs that address soil health. We see the bill as time and money misplaces when it could be put toward university research.

[HJ 7](#) is a joint resolution regarding the St. Mary and Milk River project, sponsored by Representative Casey Knudsen. This resolution urges the State of Montana to fund the repair and replacement of the St. Mary's Diversion as well as urging the Federal Government to address the funding mechanism for this project. John Semple testified in

support as some of our members are within the boundaries of the project.



**Next week:**

[HB 390 - Generally revise laws related to agricultural equipment repair](#)

Revises laws related to the right to repair; provides for an agricultural right to repair; requires manufactures to make documentation, parts and tools available for repair of electronics-enabled implements of husbandry

*Sponsored by: Katie Sullivan*

*Tuesday, February 23*

[HB 410 - Pollinator protection act](#)

Revises laws related to providing for a state policy on pollinators; requires noxious weed management programs for certain state lands to seed or plant native plants friendly to animal pollinators, to prohibit the use of neonicotinoid insecticides and to reimburse persons for damage to apiaries; provides the Department of Agriculture to establish and administer a program to reimburse for losses and damages to apiaries

*Sponsored by: Andrea Olsen*

*Tuesday, February 23*

[SB 273 - Generally revise laws related to agricultural equipment repair](#)

Revises laws related to the right to repair; provides for an agricultural right to repair; requires manufactures to make documentation, parts and tools available for repair of electronics-enabled implements of husbandry

*Sponsored by: Mark Sweeney*

*Thursday, February 25*

[SB 285 - Provide gas and fuel tax refund for agriculture](#)

Allows any type of retail transaction as evidence for estimating agricultural usage of gasoline

*Sponsored by: Steve Hinebauch*

*Tuesday, February 23*

For more information:

- [Primary Preference List](#)
- [Secondary Preference List](#)
- [MGGA State Legislature Home Page](#)
- [House Ag Committee Hearing](#)
- [Senate Ag Committee Hearing](#)

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