



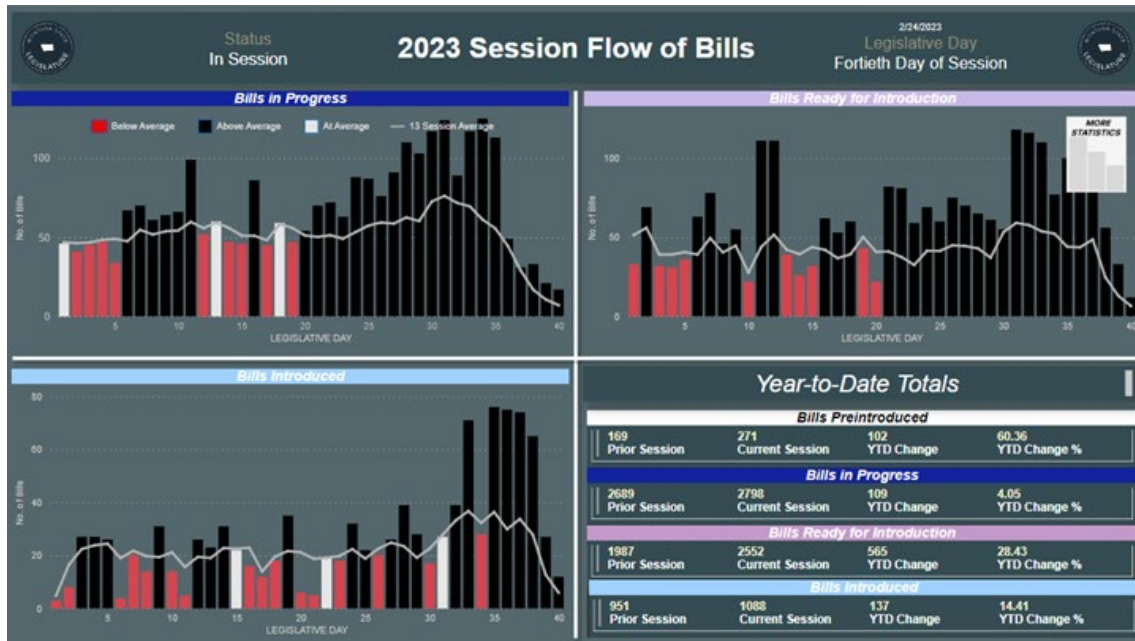
2023 Montana Legislative Update – Week 7



February 24, 2023

Today marks the 40th day of the session. We are so grateful to all the legislators, lobbyist and staff who keep the session going. We've heard this week has brought a couple late nights for various committees, with heaps of bills to work through as we approach Transmittal Deadline next Friday. Transmittal is when the general bills move over to the second chamber.

For more details about the session, please check out the [Home Page](#) for the Legislature. From bills in progress, to bills ready for introduction to bills introduced and much more!



This week, Lobbyist Semple represented MGGA in support of [House Bill 212-](#) Increase business equipment tax exemption by Representative Josh Kassmier as it was up for a hearing in the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. The bill was passed out of this committee with a 13-6 vote.



Primary Bill Preference List

Upcoming:

[HB 636 - Revise workers' compensation laws relating to exemptions from the act](#)

Revises workers' compensation laws related to exemptions from the Workers' Compensation Act; revises ownership interest requirements relating to a corporation or a limited liability company

Sponsored by: Joshua Kassmier

Tuesday, February 28

House Business & Labor

[HB 738 - Revise the Montana wheat & barley checkoff program](#)

Revises the Montana Wheat and Barley checkoff program; exempts the Wheat and Barley Committee from state procurement requirements

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

Tuesday, February 28

House Agriculture

[SB 375 - Remove notice for killing animals running at large](#)

Removes notice requirements before allowing an animal running at large to be killed

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

Tuesday, February 28

Senate Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

[SB 461 - Revise irrigation district tax collections](#)

Revises the collection of irrigation district levies and taxes; provides that a county treasury shall pay for uncollected and unreceived irrigation district levies and taxes; revises the levy of taxes and assessments by county commissioners

Sponsored by: Daniel Salomon

Tuesday, February 28

Senate Taxation

[SJ 13 - Resolution for rangeland appreciation month](#)

Joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana establishing June as Rangeland Appreciation Month

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

Tuesday, February 28

Senate Agriculture, Livestock & Irrigation

[SJ 14 - Resolution opposing bison introduction at Charles M. Russell Wildlife Refuge](#)

Joint resolution of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the state of Montana opposing bison introduction at the Charles M. Russell National Wildlife Refuge

Sponsored by: Mike Lang

Tuesday, February 28

Senate Fish & Game

Referred to Committee:

[HB 129 - Revise fees for special mobile equipment](#)

Revises laws related to special mobile equipment exemptions and identification decals
Sponsored by: Tom Welch

Bill Drafts of Great Interest:

[LC2048 - Constitutional amendment to enshrine right to farm and ranch](#)

Sponsored by: Caleb Hinkle

[LC3057 - Increase funding for Montana agricultural experiment stations](#)

Sponsored by: Russel Miner

[LC4060 - Generally revise MAES & MSU budgets](#)

Sponsored by: Ross Fitzgerald

For more information:

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



How To Have Your Say Virtually! There are new ways to participate with new remote capabilities!

[Request To Testify Remotely/Upload Your Testimony](#)

- You will be able to select from the bills that are currently scheduled for hearing for the next 3 days.
- By 5PM the day before the hearing, you will be able to submit your written testimony, write a brief message, or request a Zoom link to testify in the bill hearing.
- Fill out the form with the pertinent details and submit. You will receive an email confirmation.

- You do not have to testify in order to submit written comments. Written comments received by the deadline will be distributed to all committee members. However, if you request a Zoom link, we request that you write a brief message in the event of technical difficulties so that your name will be entered into the record.
- If you wish to submit written testimony after the 5PM deadline please call the Information Desk at (406) 444-4800 for assistance
- Rules of decorum must be followed, and the Presiding Officer will call on you when it is your turn to speak. Follow the Zoom directions and raise your hand to let the Remote Committee Coordinator know when you want to speak. We will not assume that because you requested the Zoom link that you automatically want to testify. There may be limits placed on how many people are allowed to testify remotely on each bill.

Traditional ways of accessing the Legislature are still available

Website Messages

- [Send messages through the website](#): you can send a web message to a single legislator or to a committee at anytime using a web form.

Phone Messages

- Call (406) 444-4800 and your message will be delivered to a legislator.

Attend committee hearings

- The public will be allowed to attend hearings at the capitol, but because of social distancing, you may only be allowed in the room when it is your time to testify and may not be able to stay in the room. We ask that you wear a mask or face covering in the Capitol Building and in hearing rooms.

Watch/Listen

- [Watch or listen to committee hearings](#): All committee meetings will have a video-stream link and an audio-stream link so you can observe a committee meeting live or watch the archive of the hearing.

Contact us:

- [Your district director](#)
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