



January 15, 2021

### 2021 Montana Legislative Update- Week 2

As the week kicked off, 234 bills had been introduced. As the weeks go on, its anticipated more policy priorities will be introduced and discussed.

The Department of Agriculture presented their proposed budget for the next biennium. Deputy Director, Christy Clark and Director, Mike Foster, fielded questions from the committee. Representative Keane mentioned Montana Wheat and Barley Committee has \$4 million in cash and asked if it could fund other positions. Clark quickly reminded Keane that money with MWBC is Constitutionally protected and cannot be moved.

In House Agriculture Committee, Chairman Kassmier invited folks to attend the committee meeting to introduce their organizations, provide updates, and share goals for the session. MGGA Lobbyist, John Semple attended and spoke for the association.

#### Upcoming Week:

[HB 142](#) Generally revise hemp laws

Joshua Kassmier (R) HD 27  
(H) Hearing -- (H) Agriculture  
01/19/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 137

[SB 44](#) Revise subdivision laws

John Esp (R) SD 30  
(S) Hearing -- (S) Local Government  
01/20/2021; 3:00 PM, Rm 405

[HB 2](#) General Appropriations Act

Llew Jones (R) HD 18  
(H) Hearing -- (H) Joint Appropriations Subcommittee on Long-Range Planning  
01/22/2021; 8:30 AM, Rm 317B

Remote participation is highly encouraged. Public testimony is a valuable resource for legislators. Please click [HERE](#) to submit testimony, upload documents and request to testify before the committee via Zoom.

The view of watching the committee online- some join via Zoom and others join in person. COVID makes this session look different!

#### For more information:

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

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