

# Agenda Items

**City of Billings**  
**Legislative Report to City Council**  
**Thirteenth Week of the Montana Legislature**  
**April 10, 2015**

HB 2, the General Appropriations Act, was passed by the Senate by a vote of 33 to 17 on April 9<sup>th</sup>. The Senate made few changes to SB 2 and adopted the Bill as amended by the Senate Finance and Claims Committee. These amendments included about \$24 million for supplemental spending authority for this fiscal year. This authority had been rejected when the House Appropriations Committee tabled HB 3.

Although HB 5, the Build Montana Act, was tabled by the House Appropriations Committee, the House endorsed spending for infrastructure projects by passing HBs 6, 7 and 11 last week. The House failed to pass HB 8 this week, which would have included approval to bond certain projects. The Senate passed SB 416. It will be heard in House Appropriations on April 13<sup>th</sup>. SB 416 approves infrastructure projects with a combination of cash, bonds and local government spending authority.

As of today, 1169 bills have been introduced, of the 2468 filed bill draft requests. For this Report, the following topics and bill draft requests are highlighted:

- The local impact option authority bill (LC 0599) will not be introduced this Session.
- The Governor's "Healthy Montana Plan", HB 249, which included Medicaid expansion, was rejected in the House though a "Do Not Pass" determination. Sen. Ed Buttrey's SB 405 is being touted as a compromise proposal. SB 405 passed in the Senate by a vote of 28 to 22. House Human Services Committee approved a "Do Not Pass", but the Bill was removed to the House floor on a vote of the full House. SB 405 passed the House on April 9<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 54 to 46.
- SB 157, sponsored by Sen. Bruce Tutvedt, would revise property reappraisals to a two year cycle and adjust tax rates in reappraised classes. The Bill was passed as amended by the Senate, and was heard in the House Taxation Committee on April 8<sup>th</sup>.
- SB 301, introduced by Sen. Cary Smith, would have revised laws on the PSC regulation of municipal utilities. The Bill missed the General Bill Transmittal deadline.
- SB 360 (LC 1355), introduced by Sen. Doug Kary, would allow local governments to prohibit public intoxication by ordinance. SB 360 passed in the Senate by a vote of 29 to 21. It was tabled in the House Judiciary Committee. A motion for reconsideration failed on a tie vote of 9 to 9 on April 8<sup>th</sup>, which means there is no time for further action on the Bill.
- SB 404 was introduced by Sen. Elsie Arntzen. It would exempt the 95 mill school levy from tax increment financing. The Bill was tabled in Senate Taxation Committee on March 25<sup>th</sup>.
- SB 406, introduced by Sen. Robyn Driscoll, would have revised the Montana Marijuana Act passed in the 2011 Session. The Bill was tabled in Senate Judiciary.

- HB 213, sponsored by Rep. Mike Miller, would have increased the exemption amounts under the business equipment tax laws. It was tabled in the House Appropriations Committee on March 24<sup>th</sup>.
- HB 224, requested by Rep. Zac Perry, would revise building code programs to increase the enforcement reserve authority from 12 to 24 months. It passed the House and was tabled in the Senate Local Government Committee. The Bill will not make the transmittal deadline for general bills.
- HB 297, introduced by Rep. Virginia Court, would have prohibited the use of cell phones while driving anywhere in the State. The Bill was amended to apply only to texting while driving. It passed the House, but failed on 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in the Senate on March 28<sup>th</sup>.
- HB 344 was introduced by Rep. Daniel Zolnikov. The Bill would prohibit the use of license plate scanners, except in certain circumstances, and would limit access to information obtained from scanners. It passed the House but failed in the Senate Judiciary Committee.
- HB 471, introduced by Rep. Rob Cook, would permit an inflationary adjustment for mill levies at the average rate of inflation for the prior three years. HB 471 was tabled in the House Taxation Committee and missed the transmittal deadline for revenue bills.
- HB 512, requested by Rep. Dale Mortensen, would approve and fund a branch crime lab in Yellowstone County. HB 512, as amended, passed the House on March 30<sup>th</sup>. The amendments reduced the appropriations for this project from \$5.8 million to \$2.05 million (there is also a line item approval of this project at \$5.8 million in SB 416). The Bill will be heard in Senate Finance and Claims Committee on April 13<sup>th</sup>.

I look forward to discussing these and other legislative matters with City Administrator Volek and City Council. Please contact me if you have any questions or would like information on any particular topic or bill.

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## MEMORANDUM

**To: Honorable Mayor and City Council**

**CC: Tina Volek**

**Date: 04/10/15**

**Subject: East End Storm Drain Revenue Bond Sale**

Public Works has 1.A.1. (East End Storm Drain Improvements, Phase II) contract on the consent agenda for the Monday, 04/13/15 regular session meeting.

Tina and I executed a bond purchase agreement for the East End Storm Drain revenue bonds on 04/08/15. The terms of the bond sale are within the parameters set by a resolution at the February 23, 2015, Council meeting. The bonds have a true interest cost of 3.037%.

The resolution setting the final form and details of the bond sale will be on the 04/27/15 Council meeting. Proceeds from the bond sale will be received 04/29/15.

Staff recommends Council award the contract for the East End Storm Drain Improvements, Phase II based on the signed bond purchase agreement.

Please let Tina know if you have any questions.