

**CITY OF MISSOULA**  
**LOBBYING REPORT**  
**WEEK ENDING 1/24/19**

**Bills This Week:**

SB 117: Revise highway de-icer laws. Oppose. Identical to SB 106 in 2017 session. Hearing held Jan. 22. MacDonald testified in opposition along with state Department of Transportation. Supporters included the Montana Logging Association, regarding damage to vehicle components. MacDonald testimony reiterated the fiscal concerns raised by DOT, but concentrated more on the air quality issues in Missoula and the fact that the city has no viable alternatives to mag chloride. The fiscal note arrived in time for the hearing. It is less than previous years, but still substantial. The bill is likely to get out of committee, but as in past sessions, the fiscal note will likely kill it. This is Sen. Brown's last year in the legislature.

SB 18: Establish workforce housing tax credits. Support. Hearing held Jan. 22 in Senate Tax and MacDonald testified along with a variety of housing advocates. A one-page fact sheet and talking points on this bill were provided to MacDonald. This bill has some issues. Leading proponents didn't explain some of the tax implications well and several key senators, including chair Roger Webb and Sen. Dick Barrett of Missoula, expressed mild skepticism that it could "pencil out." MacDonald spoke with Barrett after and he wants to support the bill and is trying to work with the sponsors to get information in a format that he can use to also persuade other committee members. Unsure when executive action will occur.

HB 15: Revise laws related to nonmotorized vehicle and mobile home disposal. Support. MacDonald visited with the sponsor, Curdy, who notes that this is related strictly to counties. I checked the codes being amended and both are county-related. On 1-24, MacDonald checked with Missoula County's lobbyist and provided the city's support, but did not testify on the bill.

**Other Bills Upcoming or Monitoring:**

LC3240: Revise laws regarding chief municipal judge. SUPPORT. City of Missoula bill to change existing statute that requires municipalities with more than one municipal judge to alternate who serves as the "chief" judge. No bill number yet assigned. Monitoring and will support

HB 232: Revise assessment of taxes during condemnation proceedings. OPPOSE Set for hearing Jan. 31, 9 a.m., Room 152 (House Taxation). MacDonald has been in contact with the city on how to proceed. The bill is sponsored by new Rep. Bill Mercer and is in direct response to an issue in the Missoula water case that he lost. The bill would require an agency that moves to condemn a property (including through eminent domain) to begin paying taxes on the property upon serving the property owner of intent.

HB 194: Revise lodging and rental car taxes including local option. SUPPORT. House Tax hearing set for Jan. 29 at 9 a.m. 152. MacDonald set to testify.

HB 195: Provide for local option luxury sales tax to fund infrastructure. SUPPORT. House Tax hearing set for Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. Room 152. MacDonald has received a letter of support from the mayor to present, and has additional information from the city on tax changes and the need for the local option authority.

HB 236: Generally revise building code program laws. SUPPORT. Hearing set for Jan. 31 3 p.m., House Local Government. A repeat of efforts two sessions ago to allow local governments with building code enforcement divisions to have two-year reserve accounts, rather than just one year. MacDonald has information and will be at the committee to testify in favor.

HB223: Deter the fraudulent use or theft of taxpayer funded resources. MONITOR/OPPOSE. Set for hearing Jan. 29 at 3 p.m., House Local Government. We're in the process of attempting to figure out the impetus for this bill and what, exactly it means. Potentially very concerning to the city.

SB 103: Revise laws on PSC regulation of municipalities. OPPOSE. Hearing set for Jan. 29 at 3 p.m. Senate Energy and Telecommunication The League is gathering information on this from different communities. MacDonald will be getting talking points and will follow the league's lead and advice on how to proceed, but will be working legislators in the halls and likely to testify against. Hearing set Senate Energy and Telecommunications. Hearing set at Jan 22. At 3 p.m room 317.

HB 192: Revise laws related to privacy in communications. SUPPORT. Reviewed by Nugent. Hearing Set for Jan. 28, House Judiciary. This is the "revenge porn" bill similar to last session which makes it a crime to post or publish nude photos of a person without that person's permission. MacDonald is monitoring for both the city and the Montana Newspaper Association. MacDonald will Support/Monitor and is visiting with sponsor and supports to ensure there is no opposition.

### **Additional Bills**

SB 13: Allocating supportive housing grant funds to those serving Am Indian offenders. HCD awaiting more information on this bill. NO position yet.

HB 6: Renewable resource grants. Strong support. Dale reviewed. Fiscal note printed. No hearing date set.

HB 16: Establish affordable housing loan program. Support. MacDonald testified in SUPPORT at House Tax on 1-11. Met with housing advocates after and traded information in order to assist in tracking this bill as it moves forward. There was no opposition in the committee and very strong support from housing advocates, disability advocates, private lenders, private builders. Still in committee. No executive action yet.

HB 47: Generally revise criminal records laws. Monitor. MacDonald: Monitoring for Missoula and Montana Newspapers. Bill was in response to unintended consequences of legislation last year that decriminalized certain offenses. At hearing on 1-14, attorney general has apparently agreed to amendments to clarify that the fingerprinting and mug shots would be ONLY for cases in which a person must be booked into jail. No executive action yet.

HB 125: Limit use of emergency ordinances by local governments. Oppose. MacDonald has met one-on-one with most members of Senate Local Government to let them know the city opposes. Tim Burton took the lead on this. Continuing to monitor and getting in touch with other committee members. Executive action believed to be on 1-21. Currently relatively sure this bill will die in committee.

HB 134: Revise prostitution statute to include nonpenetrative sex acts. Support. Detective Baker with Missoula spoke on the bill at Dudik's request. MacDonald attended a portion of the hearing, then met with Dudik and Baker after to exchange info and make sure they know he is available in the future. No executive action yet. Bill is likely to pass.

HB 138: Include exposure to prostitution in acts constituting child abuse and neglect. Support. Detective Baker supporting at request of Dudik. Fiscal note printed. No executive action yet.

HB 146: Establish laws regarding sanctuary cities in Montana. Oppose. MacDonald has visited with ACLU and others, who are specifically seeking law enforcement support. Missoula will support, but also unlikely to take a lead role on this one. No hearing date set.

HB 147: Referendum to establish sanctuary city laws in Montana. Oppose. Similar to above, except this is a referendum. ACLU and others are concerned because if it passes the legislature, it's nearly impossible for the governor to do anything to keep it off the ballot. No hearing date set.

HB 155: Generally revise Montana weapons laws. MONITOR, Initially set to OPPOSE. MacDonald visited with sponsor and supporters, who note that the bill does not change CCW rules, and an amendment will allow local governments to continue to ban all weapons from their buildings. The bill essentially is attempting to respond to "hysteria" over the switchblade's reputation as a weapon of gangs and "hoodlums." Hearing held. Amendment will be added. We will continue to monitor. LEOs are also watching closely but will support so long as the amendment is on.

HB 194: Revise lodging and rental car taxes including local option. Support. House Tax hearing set for Jan. 29 at 9 a.m. 152.

HB 195: Provide for local option luxury sales tax to fund infrastructure. Support. House Tax hearing set for Jan. 30 at 9 a.m. Room 152. MacDonald has received a letter of support from the governor to present, and has additional information from the city on tax changes and the need for the local option authority.

SB 15: Allow certain state funds to be used for affordable housing infrastructure. Support. TABLED in Committee.

SB 18: Establish workforce housing tax credits. Support. We are monitoring and will support. A one-page fact sheet and talking points on this bill was provided. Senate Taxation hearing Jan. 23, 8 a.m. Room 405.

SB 19: Revise laws related to local government budgeting and accounting. Oppose. This bill includes new audit requirements that could conflict with financial reporting requirements that are established by the Government Accounting Standards Board. MacDonald stayed out of the room for this very contentious hearing that included accusations of racism. The League is taking the lead. We are confident this bill has enough problems that it will die. No action yet.

SB 52: Generally revise laws on sexual assault kits. Strong support. Formalizes process for submission and requirements for testing sex assault kits. MacDonald testified in support, along with Passed Senate Judiciary Committee. Awaiting Floor Vote in Senate. Likely to pass

SB 103: Revise laws on PSC regulation of municipalities. Oppose. Dale reviewed. The League is gathering information on this from different communities. MacDonald will be getting talking points and will follow.