

WEEKLY REPORT
Missoula
Week Ending 1-22-2021

WEEK IN REVIEW

SB10: Providing for circuit breaker income tax credit for property taxes paid.

Position: SUPPORT.

MacDonald testified in favor for both Missoula and Bozeman. No exec action yet, but clear indications are the bill has little chance of passing.

HB21: Authorize funding for the multifamily coal trust home loan program.

Position: SUPPORT.

Passed Third Reading 57-42. Scheduled for Senate committee 1-28

Votes on the House side were not as high as they were in 2019, but this still gets enough support that we should be ok. Need to continue to monitor and help out as needed if there are any signs of weakening support.

HB78: Require certain employees to report suspected child abuse and neglect. Hearing in House Judiciary 1-12.

Position: MONITOR. TABLED IN COMMITTEE

We stayed out of the room on this one, but did seek -- and got agreement from the sponsor to add -- some changes from the sponsor to remove liability on volunteers. The committee did not like the bill, apparently didn't consider the amendments either and tabled it.

HB102: Generally Revise Gun laws.

Position: OPPOSE without additional amendments

Passed 3rd reading in the House.

Senate Judiciary Committee hearing held 1-20

House passed AMENDED version: [HB0102.pdf \(mt.gov\)](#). While there are some improvements to the 'remedy' section and the courtroom section, it does not go as far as we hoped, or as far as we thought the sponsor had initially said he would go. One of the amendments the sponsor added reads that areas used by courts in a "courthouse" are also restricted. MacDonald testified on the Senate side, seeking additions/changes in language to make it clear municipal court areas that may not be in a court "house" should also be covered. The sponsor was not interested. Several Ds on the committee additionally said they were not interested in improving a "bad" bill.

Awaiting Exec action.

HB107: Revise mill levy election laws.

Position: OPPOSE. TABLED IN COMMITTEE

Hearing held 1/13. MacDonald testified for Missoula and Bozeman. A terrible bill that had little chance, but always good to see these kinds die quickly. Clears the table a little bit.

HB112: Require interscholastic athletes to participate under sex assigned at birth.

Position: OPPOSE

Hearing held 1/18. Massive opposition compared to the proponents from cities of Bozeman and Missoula, civil rights advocates, medical experts, trans kids, and parents. LGBTQ community turned out strong. Committee passed the bill in executive action on 1/21. President Biden issued EO that would put \$500 million in federal education funding at risk if 112 passes and is signed. Second reading on the floor on Monday 1/25.

HB113 - penalizes healthcare professionals up to 50,000 dollars for providing transition related medical care to transgender youth under the age of 18.

Position: OPPOSE

Hearing held 1/18. Same as above. Enormous opposition. Executive action took place 1/21 and the bill was amended. Nearly 100% new language that makes the bill worse than before.

Second reading on floor on Monday 1/25.

SB78: Revise special district financing and dissolution provisions. Hearing 1-15 in Senate Local Government.

Position: OPPOSE as written. Amendments pending.

Hearing Held 1-15. The league is taking the lead and we are working members in the hall as needed. There are league amendments expected. When we have them, we will need to hit our delegation members to support.

Removes taxable value as a method of assessment for special districts, removing local control and likely completely upending what a lot of communities have been doing for years.

NEW BILLS OF CONCERN OR INTEREST:

SB127: Revise laws on selection of municipal judges. Would require all municipal judges be elected rather than hired/appointed.

Position: RECOMMEND NEUTRAL/Monitor.

Magistrates are concerned about this bill and the potential costs, but there are a number of reasons to stay out of this. The League has recommended Neutral and is not monitoring.

HB106: Prohibit expansion of the Montana Clean Indoor Air Act

Position: RECOMMEND OPPOSE.

Hearing Scheduled for 1-28 House Local Government.

Another bill by Rep. Marshall intended to limit local gov't ability to regulate tobacco product use indoors.

LC1467: Revise laws related to firearms, ammunition and accessories.

Position: RECOMMEND OPPOSE.

This bill would prohibit state or local police from essentially assisting in any investigations, arrests, etc. of federal firearms laws.

STATUS OF OTHER BILLS OF INTEREST

SB77: Revise allowable special district assessment methods. Hearing 1-15 Senate Tax
Position: OPPOSE AS IS. SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENTS

Hearing Held 1/15. League is taking the lead in the committee. Kelly Lynch has an agreement with the sponsor that will address the concerns communities and the League have. We will assist the league in securing votes for the amended version of the bill.

HB137: Generally revise vaping and alternative nicotine product laws.
Position: OPPOSE.

Hearing held 1/13. Efforts led by health advocates and students. MacDonald testified for Missoula and Bozeman. Working with the health groups to get the moderate Rs to gain some additional votes. Very much an uphill battle. MacDonald has confirmed Greef will oppose. No exec yet.

SB73: Provide for local distribution of lodging sales tax revenue.
Position: SUPPORT

Hearing held 1-14 Senate Tax. Awaiting executive action..

HB134: Allow zoning for duplex, triplex, and fourplex housing in certain municipalities:
Position: OPPOSE

Scheduled for Hearing on 1-26 in House Local Government. See Notes below.

LC0304: Prohibition on inclusionary housing ordinances. See notes below

STATUS OF PRIORITY ISSUES:

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: MacDonald and Rossi had follow up talks with Rep. Vinton. Spoke with builders' lobbyist, who is taking our amendment proposals back to her clients to see if they are amenable to compromise. Likely we are going to have to seek amendments to the bill in committee. The builders are so far unwilling to consider changing the text of the existing bill.

On track to stop HB 134 - Danny Tenebaum's zoning regulation bill. Both Ds and Rs have concerns about it.

LOCAL OPTION: Bill draft with Rep. Pope's help is nearing final edits as of Friday.

We have worked out a few last issues and given Sen. Pope a final say on a couple of them. MacDonald and Rossi have shared the bill with MACO, League of Cities and Towns for review.

Sen. Pope is sharing with Rep. Jim Hamilton and Gallatin County Commissioner Zack Brown. of language.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF: SB10, while an interesting concept that we supported, is likely doomed in Senate Tax.