

City of Missoula Lobbyist Report for Week of March 21

Committees and Bills Testified:

No testimony this week in committee. Because of the schedule, most committees are wrapping up or have wrapped up. I provided written materials and/or attended the following hearings, but did not testify:

House Human Services: HB 175: Submit repeal of Montana Medical Marijuana Act to voters of Montana.

Senate Judiciary: SB 423, generally revise marijuana law.

Senate Local Government: HB 391: Prohibit local initiative from establishing priority of enforcement of state law. HB 522: Extend approval of subdivision application to mutually agreed upon time.

Senate Fish Wildlife and Parks SB 301: Moratorium on land purchases by department of fish, wildlife, and parks.

Other direct lobbying:

Continued monitoring of HB2, which moved to the Senate this week. It remains very fluid as the Senate continues to attempt to add amendments and restore some funding.

Successfully got HB516 returned to the Senate Local Government Committee, where we expect no action to take place. Continuing to monitor.

Worked with law enforcement and community lobbyists regarding the series of gun bills, successfully tabled HB384, revising the carrying of concealed weapons in prohibited places, got amendments to HB271, exception to CCW offense if "eligible" to carry concealed.

We also continued to work on TIF bills proposed by Elsie Arntzen. The worst of the bills was tabled in committee, while the others were heavily amended and moving forward.

Also assisted the University of Montana lobbyist in shoring up votes for the bonding bill, which passed the House with the required 2/3rds vote. Now moving to the Senate, where it must also get a 2/3rds majority to pass.