

CITY OF MISSOULA LOBBYIST REPORT

For the week of April 6 to April 10, 2015

Direct Lobbying Update

- 1) **HB114** - Revise tax increment finance district remittance laws for schools
 - a. City maintains MONITOR position. Attended part of the hearing and took no position.
- 2) **HB604** – Create a pilot program to maintain and repair shared-use trails
 - a. Signed in SUPPORT, but was unable to attend the full hearing. This is a good bill and I visited with several lawmakers after, but it remains uncertain whether it will move forward.
- 3) **SB157** - Generally revise tax reappraisal laws
 - a. City maintains a SUPPORT position. This is a good bill, supported by all local governments, MACO and even the conservative Montana Taxpayers Association. There is, however, opposition in the form of conservative Republicans and it is questionable whether this will get out of House Tax. It managed to get through the Senate by slim margins, with moderate Rs joining with the Ds. There are fewer moderate Rs on House Tax and its future is questionable. Looking at ways to gain support from conservative Rs.
- 4) **SB290** - Apply private motor carrier safety standards to certain publicly owned vehicles
 - a. City maintains a MONITOR position. We originally opposed, along with the League, MACO and County Road Supervisors. Sponsor, Rep Keane, has agreed to changes that exempt local governments and state government from all the provisions EXCEPT for very reasonable requirements on safety lights for certain large trucks. It seems the issue with the lights, at this point, is reasonable and something local governments should be able to live as some are already doing this.
- 5) **SB394** - Revise intangible personal property exemption and unit valuation methodology
 - a. Testified in OPPOSITION. The consequences of this bill remain as bad as ever for local governments. We testified against it, along with the DOR, League of Cities and Towns and several others. The bill is supported by the small number of businesses that would benefit from this, as well as the Montana Taxpayers Association and the state Chamber of Commerce. The bill is likely to get out of House Tax. It will most likely face a veto from the governor as it's one of the tax bills the DOR has made a priority to oppose due to the impacts on the general fund and on local governments.

Bill Review Update

- 1) 0 House Bills identified with review requests to City staff
- 2) 0 Senate Bills identified with review requests to City staff