

Chamber of Commerce
Legislative Report #3
Week of Jan 15-19, 2007

The Legislature completed its third week and bills are starting to move at a quick pace. This week the Senate approved the Governor's \$400 property tax rebate and passed the bill on to the House. The Senate Taxation committee also took up the first Local Option tax bill, with others to come.

On Thursday morning, the Senate Taxation Committee will hold a public hearing where the senators on the committee will discuss their tax philosophy. If you want to listen to the discussion you can on the internet by going to the following web address.

http://leg.mt.gov/css/audio/audio_broadcast.asp

This should be an interesting session with the conservative and liberal members of the committee detailing their individual tax ideas and concepts.

Upcoming Friday Morning Conference Call Guests

Jan 26 th	Speaker Scott Sales
Feb 2 nd	Senator Greg Barkus, Kalispell and Rep Jack Wells, Bozeman
Feb. 9 th	Rep. John Sonju (Chairman of House Taxation), Kalispell and Rep. John Sinrud (Chairman of House Appropriations), Bozeman

The coming week will see the following bills of interest being heard in various committees.

HB 235: Business Improvement District: This bill would allow a business improvement district to be formed for business promotional activities. The bill is the idea of the Billings Chamber of Commerce for their local motels to form a district and tax their members for funds to promote Billings. The bill will be heard in House Taxation on Tuesday, Jan. 23

HB 267 Clarify Impact Fees Laws: This bill will amend impact fees to include schools. The bill will be heard in House Education on Monday, Jan. 22

HB 280 Revise Impact Fees: This bill revises the voting requirements for imposing impact fees in subdivisions that cross county boundaries. This bill will be heard in House Local Government on Thursday, Jan. 25.

SB 240 Code of Corporate Responsibility: This bill adds a long list of considerations a director of a corporation must consider in running the corporation. The list includes: (a) the interests of the corporation's shareholders, employees, customers, suppliers, and creditors; (b) the economy of the state and nation; (c) the impact of any action upon the communities in or near which the corporation's facilities or operations are located;

(d) the long-term as well as the short-term interests of the corporation; and (e) any other factors relevant to promoting or preserving public or community interests.

In discharging duties, a director shall consider the impact of any action upon the public health, public safety, and environment. This bill will be heard in Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs on Wednesday, Jan 24.

HB 147 Revise and Clarify Application of Bed Tax: This bill clarifies that fees charged by intermediaries, such as on-line reservation services, are part of the base on which the lodging facility use tax, the accommodations sales tax, and rental car sales tax is collected. It also requires an intermediary to collect and remit the tax when the intermediary takes payment for lodging or car rentals. The bill will be heard in House Taxation on Tuesday, Jan. 23

General Business Legislation

Bill Type - Number	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title
HB 202	Mike Jopek	(H) Hearing-- (H) State Administration	01/17/2007; 8 AM, Rm 455	Revise laws relating to public officials and lobbyists
HB 213	Jonathan Windy Boy	(H) Tabled in Committee-- (H) Business and Labor	01/19/2007	Healthy workplace
HB 235	Ernie Dutton	(H) Hearing-- (H) Local Government	01/23/2007; 3 PM, Rm 172	Business improvement district law
HB 262	Mike Jopek	(H) Hearing-- (H) Natural Resources	01/29/2007; 3 PM, Rm 472	Water rights in growth counties
HB 267	Ron Erickson	(H) Hearing-- (H) Education	01/22/2007; 3 PM, Rm 137	Clarify impact fee laws
HB 270	Michael Lange	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	01/19/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Tax credit for purchase of health care
HB 280	Ray Hawk	(H) Hearing-- (H) Local Government	01/25/2007; 3 PM, Rm 172	Revise impact fee laws
HB 282	Ron Erickson	(H) Hearing-- (H) Natural Resources	02/02/2007; 3 PM, Rm 472	Sequestration to slow global warming
HB 295	Ron Erickson	(H) Introduced	01/11/2007	Revise use of adopted growth policy
HB 399	Dan Villa	(H) Referred to Committee-- (H) State Administration	01/19/2007	Health insurance option for local economic development organizations
SB 67	David E Wanzenried	(S) Hearing-- (S) Judiciary	01/09/2007; 8 AM, Rm 303	Prohibit price gouging on essential goods or services during emergencies
SB 89	Carol Williams	(S) Hearing-- (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety	01/17/2007; 3 PM, Rm 317A	Providing for breast feeding in the workplace
SB 218	Greg Lind	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Natural Resources and Energy	01/09/2007	Sequestration standards for carbon dioxide
SB 240	Christine Kaufmann	(S) Hearing-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	01/24/2007; 9 AM, Rm 422	Code of corporate responsibility
SB 250	Gregory D Barkus	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	01/12/2007	Right to work
SB 254	David E Wanzenried	(S) Hearing-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/06/2007; 9 AM, Rm 422	Require collective bargaining neutrality agreement in state services contracts

SB 259	Jim Shockley	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	01/12/2007	Prohibit deductions of wages paid to illegal aliens
SB 264	Christine Kaufmann	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Local Government	01/15/2007	Low-income rates for local government utilities
SB 265	Sam Kitzenberg	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety	01/16/2007	Revising premium provisions of the comprehensive health association plan
SB 296	Dan Weinberg	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	01/18/2007	Revise beer and wine licensing laws
SB 313	David E Wanzenried	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Natural Resources and Energy	01/19/2007	Generation acquisition for certain utilities

Taxation Legislation

HB 59	Jim Keane	(H) Hearing-- (H) Business and Labor	01/09/2007; 8 AM, Rm 172	Revise unemployment insurance assessments and rate schedules
HB 147	Mike Jopek	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	01/23/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Revise and clarify application of bed tax and sales and use tax
HB 220	Craig Witte	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	01/17/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Reduce individual income tax rates
SB 61	John Cobb	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/05/2007; 8 AM, Rm 405	Adopt federal standard deduction for state income taxes
SB 76	Kim Gillan	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/12/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Revise law on agency access to tax and revenue information
SB 120	Jim Elliott	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	12/27/2006	Revise tax treatment of income and dividends of real estate investment trusts
SB 138	David E Wanzenried	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	12/27/2006	Prevent corporations from channeling income to insurance subsidiary
SB 139	Dan Harrington	(S) Scheduled for 3rd Reading	01/22/2007	Governor's \$400 property tax rebate
SB 150	Kim Gillan	(S) Transmitted to House	01/19/2007	Exclude property contributions from qualified endowment credit and extend credit
SB 174	Jim Elliott	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/11/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Revise laws on revenue administration
SB 220	Jim Elliott	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	01/09/2007	Tax law administration -- transactions, compliance, withholding, class 8 exempt.
SB 275	Sam Kitzenberg	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/19/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Local option sales tax
SB 284	Lynda Moss	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Local Government	01/17/2007	Revise allocation of bed tax and taxes on rental cars