

**Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce**  
**Legislative Report #7**  
**Week of Feb. 12-17, 2007**

This week saw one of the most dramatic moments in the 2007 Session. On Tuesday morning the House Appropriations Committee, on a party line vote, tabled HB 2. HB 2 is the major appropriations bill for state government. The House Republicans have decided that they want 6 appropriations bills instead of the one and so they tabled HB 2.

In the coming week the House Republicans will introduce 6 appropriations bill that will encompass what was included in one bill. For approximately 30 years there has just been one appropriations bill for state government. History is about to be changed, and the 2007 Legislature will be cautiously treading on new ground. The House Republican plan is to pass one or two of the six appropriations bills over to the Senate and then wait for the Senate to act on the bill. When the Senate has acted, then the House will send one or two more over. This allows the House to maintain some control over the process. This new and untried strategy will start to play out shortly after the mid-session break.

**This Friday, (Feb. 23) we will have Rep. Franke Wilmer and Rep. J.P. Pomnichowski as our early morning guests. Please plan to attend this interesting and informative early morning call with 2 freshman Democrats.**

The coming week will be the last full week before the mid-session break. There will be a flurry of committee and floor action because any bill with the exception of appropriations and taxation bills must be through one house by the 45<sup>th</sup> day or it dies. This week will no doubt see late night committee meetings and sessions to get as many bills acted on as possible. Below are some of the bills that we will be following for the chamber.

**HB 655: Establishing incumbent worker training program.** This bill will be heard in House Business and Labor on Thursday, Feb. 22

**HB 691 Create Montana Film Art Program.** This bill will be heard in House Education on Monday Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>.

**SB 265 Revising premium provisions of the comprehensive health association plan.** This bill will be heard in Senate Public Health, Welfare and Safety on Wednesday, Feb. 21.

**SB 490 Expand employee drug testing.** This bill will be heard in Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs on Thursday Feb. 22

**HB 644 Revise net operation loss to conform to federal law.** This bill will be heard in House Taxation on Tuesday, Feb. 20.

**HB 684 Revise Impact fee laws** This bill will be heard in House Local Government on Thursday, Feb. 22

**HB 685 Local Option Tax.** This bill will be heard in House Taxation on Wed. Feb. 21

**SB 284 Revise allocation of bed tax and taxes on rental cars.** This bill will be heard on Monday in Senate Taxation

**SB 464 Property tax relief – local option reality transfer tax** This bill will be heard in Senate Taxation on Wed. Feb. 21.

**SB 494 Special capital gains tax rate on employee-owned Montana stock.** This bill will be heard in Senate Taxation on Wed. Feb. 21.

### General Business Legislation

Bill Type - Number	Primary Sponsor	Status	Status Date	Short Title
<a href="#">HB 235</a>	Ernie Dutton	(H) Transmitted to Senate	02/14/2007	Business improvement district law
<a href="#">HB 262</a>	Mike Jopek	(H) Hearing-- (H) Natural Resources	01/29/2007; 3 PM, Rm 472	Water rights in growth counties
<a href="#">HB 270</a>	Michael Lange	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	01/30/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Tax credit for purchase of health care
<a href="#">HB 280</a>	Ray Hawk	(H) Hearing-- (H) Education	02/21/2007; 3 PM, Rm 137	Revise impact fee laws
<a href="#">HB 282</a>	Ron Erickson	(H) Hearing-- (H) Natural Resources	02/02/2007; 3 PM, Rm 472	Sequestration to slow global warming
<a href="#">HB 447</a>	Dan Villa	(H) Hearing-- (H) Appropriations	02/08/2007; UPON ADJ, Rm 102	Infrastructure development funding
<a href="#">HB 464</a>	Ken Peterson	(H) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2007	Revise damages for unfair claims settlement practices
<a href="#">HB 492</a>	Dennis Himmelberger	(H) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2007	Quality service allowance for minimum wage
<a href="#">HB 508</a>	Diane Rice	(H) Hearing-- (H) Business and Labor	02/02/2007; 8 AM, Rm 172	Revise wages definition to reduce unemployment ins. and work comp contributions
<a href="#">HB 512</a>	Llew Jones	(H) Hearing-- (H) Appropriations	02/06/2007; UPON ADJ, Rm 102	Fund certain local government infrastructure projects
<a href="#">HB 516</a>	Betsy Hands	(H) Hearing-- (H) Appropriations	02/15/2007; 9 AM, Rm 102	Fund affordable housing revolving loan act
<a href="#">HB 565</a>	Ken Peterson	(H) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2007	Clarifying negligence principles in workplace safety act
<a href="#">HB 621</a>	Tom McGillvray	(H) Hearing-- (H) Human Services	02/16/2007; 3 PM, Rm 152	Revise health insurance mandates
<a href="#">HB 622</a>	Tom McGillvray	(H) Hearing-- (H) Human Services	02/16/2007; 3 PM, Rm 152	Review of mandated health benefits
<a href="#">HB 655</a>	Gary Branae	(H) Hearing-- (H) Business and Labor	02/22/2007; 8 AM, Rm 172	Establishing incumbent worker training program
<a href="#">HB 691</a>	Dan Villa	(H) Hearing-- (H) Education	02/19/2007; 3 PM, Rm 137	Create Montana Film Arts Program

<a href="#">SB 67</a>	David E Wanzenried	(S) Transmitted to House	01/31/2007	Prohibit price gouging on essential goods or services during emergencies
<a href="#">SB 89</a>	Carol Williams	(S) Transmitted to House	02/01/2007	Providing for breast feeding in the workplace
<a href="#">SB 218</a>	Greg Lind	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Natural Resources and Energy	02/15/2007	Sequestration standards for carbon dioxide
<a href="#">SB 254</a>	David E Wanzenried	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/14/2007	Require collective bargaining neutrality agreement in state services contracts
<a href="#">SB 264</a>	Christine Kaufmann	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2007	Low-income rates for local government utilities
<a href="#">SB 265</a>	Sam Kitzenberg	(S) Hearing-- (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety	02/21/2007; 3 PM, Rm 317A	Revising premium provisions of the comprehensive health association plan
<a href="#">SB 296</a>	Dan Weinberg	(S) Transmitted to House	02/06/2007	Revise beer and wine licensing laws
<a href="#">SB 313</a>	David E Wanzenried	(S) Hearing-- (S) Natural Resources and Energy	02/16/2007; 3 PM, Rm 422	Generation acquisition for certain utilities
<a href="#">SB 321</a>	John Brueggeman	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/16/2007	Authorize business and industrial development corporations
<a href="#">SB 416</a>	Christine Kaufmann	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/09/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Secretary of state - department of revenue taxpayer identification
<a href="#">SB 418</a>	Dan Weinberg	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed-- (S) Taxation	02/16/2007	Revise distribution of lodging facility use taxes
<a href="#">SB 419</a>	Greg Lind	(S) Hearing-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/15/2007; 9 AM, Rm 422	Allow children to remain covered by parent's health insurance to age 26
<a href="#">SB 490</a>	Lynda Moss	(S) Hearing-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/22/2007; 8 AM, Rm 422	Expand employee drug testing
<a href="#">SB 519</a>	John Esp	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs	02/16/2007	Revise state health insurance benefits

### Taxation Legislation

<a href="#">HB 463</a>	Dan Villa	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/02/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Revise taxation of new or expanded business enterprise property
<a href="#">HB 488</a>	Mike Jopek	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/14/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Study of property taxes
<a href="#">HB 490</a>	Julie French	(H) Transmitted to Senate	02/14/2007	Adoption tax credit
<a href="#">HB 529</a>	Bob Lake	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/13/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Increase business equipment tax exemption and reduce tax rate
<a href="#">HB 552</a>	Ron Erickson	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/13/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Real estate transfer tax
<a href="#">HB 564</a>	Tom McGillvray	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/09/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Revise and reduce income taxes
<a href="#">HB 572</a>	Ron Erickson	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/14/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Property tax relief through income tax credit - elderly renters tax credit
<a href="#">HB 644</a>	Jon Sonju	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/20/2007; 8 AM, Rm 152	Revise net operating loss to conform to federal law
<a href="#">HB 684</a>	Michele Reinhart	(H) Hearing-- (H) Local Government	02/22/2007; 3 PM, Rm 172	Revise impact fee laws
<a href="#">HB 685</a>	Dave McAlpin	(H) Hearing-- (H) Taxation	02/21/2007; 8	Local option tax

			AM, Rm 152	
<a href="#">SB 61</a>	John Cobb	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/05/2007; 8 AM, Rm 405	Adopt federal standard deduction for state income taxes
<a href="#">SB 76</a>	Kim Gillan	(S) Transmitted to House	02/17/2007	Revise law on agency access to tax and revenue information
<a href="#">SB 120</a>	Jim Elliott	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	12/27/2006	Revise tax treatment of income and dividends of real estate investment trusts
<a href="#">SB 138</a>	David E Wanzenried	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/06/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Prevent corporations from channeling income to insurance subsidiary
<a href="#">SB 139</a>	Dan Harrington	(S) Transmitted to House	01/22/2007	Governor's \$400 property tax rebate
<a href="#">SB 150</a>	Kim Gillan	(S) Transmitted to House	01/19/2007	Exclude property contributions from qualified endowment credit and extend credit
<a href="#">SB 174</a>	Jim Elliott	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	01/11/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Revise laws on revenue administration
<a href="#">SB 220</a>	Jim Elliott	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/06/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Tax law administration -- transactions, compliance, withholding, class 8 exempt.
<a href="#">SB 284</a>	Lynda Moss	(S) Scheduled for 2nd Reading	02/19/2007	Revise allocation of bed tax and taxes on rental cars
<a href="#">SB 320</a>	Kim Gillan	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed as Amended-- (S) Local Government	02/02/2007	Revise resort tax -- delete population and designation requirement
<a href="#">SB 378</a>	Kim Gillan	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/07/2007; 9 AM, Rm 405	Standardize income tax definitions and interpretation with federal law
<a href="#">SB 418</a>	Dan Weinberg	(S) Committee Report--Bill Passed-- (S) Taxation	02/16/2007	Revise distribution of lodging facility use taxes
<a href="#">SB 430</a>	Jim Elliott	(S) Transmitted to House	02/17/2007	Allow out-of-state revenue collections
<a href="#">SB 464</a>	Dan Weinberg	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/21/2007; 8 AM, Rm 405	Property tax relief - local option realty transfer tax
<a href="#">SB 483</a>	Jim Elliott	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/22/2007; 8 AM, Rm 405	Reduce scope of tax increment financing to just urban renewal
<a href="#">SB 494</a>	Gary L Perry	(S) Hearing-- (S) Taxation	02/21/2007; 8 AM, Rm 405	Special capital gains tax rate on employee-owned Montana stock
<a href="#">SB 496</a>	Aubyn Curtiss	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	02/15/2007	Constitutional amendment to allow acquisition value for property taxation
<a href="#">SB 529</a>	Jeff Essmann	(S) Referred to Committee-- (S) Taxation	02/16/2007	Constitutionally restrict property taxes