

January 2010

LSO Update

A Newsletter to Legislators from the Legislative Service Office Staff
<http://legisweb.state.wy.us>



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CONVENING OF BUDGET SESSION

The Budget Session will convene in joint session in the House Chamber at 10:00 a.m., on Monday, February 8, 2010.

As the first order of business, the Governor will present the "State of the State" address, followed by the "State of the Judiciary" address by the Chief Justice.

Upon completion of the opening ceremonies, the House and Senate typically recess for lunch, however, both houses will likely reconvene later in the afternoon to begin introduction and referral of bills.

BILL PROCESSING

As of this date, we have received 285 bill drafting requests. Please submit your additional requests as soon as possible.

Drafting deadline: To meet the cutoff deadline, bills to be offered for introduction in the Budget Session must be in final form and approved by the sponsor (not just requested) by noon on Wednesday, February 10th.

Held Bills: Note that beginning Wednesday, January 27th sponsor approval forms are being "held" here at LSO. If you did not receive a sponsor form for your bill by that date, please inquire at the main office of LSO regarding your sponsor form when you arrive in Cheyenne for the Session. You will be provided a sponsor form which you can also use to obtain signatures of cosponsors.

SESSION ADMINISTRATION

Session Schedule - Attached is the tentative schedule for the Budget Session. Management Council has decided to proceed initially with a 20 day schedule that would end on Friday, March 5th. Note, however, that three additional days will be available if needed. If these three additional days are in fact used, the session could end as late as Wednesday, March 10th. Please keep this in mind when scheduling post-session trips or other business. Also note that the Legislature will be in session on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 15th.

Compensation/Payroll - Attached is a memo explaining the schedule for the payment of salary, per diem and mileage during the Session.

"Snow day" Policy - Attached is the policy that will be followed in the event severe weather causes closure of the Capitol during the Session.

Public Information Regarding Session - Attached are three "Fact Sheets" providing information relating to session operations that you may wish to share with your local media and constituents. LSO will distribute these fact sheets to media outlets via E-mail.

Access to the Capitol and Parking - Throughout the session the Capitol building will be open each weekday from 6:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. You will need to use your photo ID access card to gain entrance after hours and on weekends.

Please be sure to bring your access card with you to the session.

Attached is a memo setting out additional policies relating to parking and building access. Also attached is a list of parking assignments in the Herschler underground parking garage.

PRE-SESSION TRAINING

A budget process orientation session for all freshman members will be conducted on Saturday, February 6th. A copy of the agenda is attached.

PARTY CAUCUSES

Both the Republicans and Democrats will hold pre-session caucuses on Sunday, February 7, 2010, at the Holiday Inn, 204 West Fox Farm Rd, Cheyenne. Note: The Republican Caucus will begin at 12:30 p.m.; the Democratic Caucus will begin at 1:00 p.m.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE BILLS

A summary of proposed legislation resulting from interim committee work this past year will soon be available on the Legislative Website. At the homepage select "2010 Bill Information" then select "Summary of Committee Sponsored Bills."

HOTLINE CHANGES

As you know, we currently operate a telephone "hotline" that provides a toll-free number which constituents can use to call to recommend support for or opposition to a bill. In addition, as a pilot project for this session, we have developed a web-based form which constituents may complete to submit recommendations on bills via the website called the "On-line Hotline." Rather than distributing paper reports periodically during the day, the information generated by constituents on either the on-line or telephone hotlines will now be compiled in an electronic database which members may access at any time via the legislator intranet site. During the first week of the session the LSO IT staff will provide training about how to access this information.

FISCAL NOTE CHANGES

The attached memo explains changes in the fiscal note process relating to bills that contain an appropriation.

LSO STAFF CHANGES

- School Finance Section: Matthew Willmarth began working at LSO in July as our new school finance analyst. Matt was previously working as a School Foundation Program Consultant for the Wyoming Department of Education.
- Program Evaluation Section: We have hired Katja Vermehren and Michelle Garcia to fill the vacancies in the program evaluation staff. Katja has a Masters of Political Science from the University of Colorado and Michelle is a recent U.W. graduate.
- Legal Services Section: Staff attorney Dana Jill Lent has left the LSO to enter private practice. Beginning in April she will be replaced by Cheyenne attorney Lilly Sharpe who most recently worked as a law clerk for the U.S. District Court in Cheyenne.
- Information Technology Section: IT Manager Jim Griffin retired January 5th. We wish him the very best.
- Attached is a revised LSO organizational chart reflecting current staff assignments.

EQUALITY STATE POLICY CENTER AWARD

The Wyoming Equality State Policy Center (ESPC) recently recognized the Wyoming Legislature for its efforts to inform and educate the public about the legislative process, when it honored the institution as the first recipient of the ESPC's "Sunshine Award." Senator Case accepted the award on behalf of the Wyoming Legislature in his capacity as Co-Chairman of the Select Committee on Legislative Technology and Process at the ESPC Sweet 16 dinner Oct. 2 in Casper. The Legislature was given the award for the advancements it has made in technology and information provided to the public on its Web site.

DELAYED EFFECTIVE DATES AND REPEALERS

As a reminder, there is attached a list of key delayed effective dates/repeal dates contained in the statutes. These are statutes that will either be repealed or go into effect sometime after the 2010 session if the Legislature takes no further action.

LIST OF PENDING AGENCY RULES

Each LSO Update includes a list of agency rules that have not yet received final agency approval. Please remember that your comments and questions concerning pending rules should be addressed to the agency contact person listed.