

MT Legislative Update (March 3, 2019)

The past week in review:

SB20 (Allow certain municipalities to annex into a rural fire district) Passed the House on 3rd reading and is in enrolling, from there the bill will go to the Governor's office for his signature. The bill would allow second class cities to annex into a rural fire district for fire protection services. It was developed by the 2018 Local Government Interim Committee with input from the Montana fire service. It is supported by the Montana Fire Alliance

HB464 (Create a hazardous materials spill response task force) Had a hearing in the House Natural Resources Committee on Wednesday, February 27th. The bill would create a 24 member hazardous materials response and preparedness task force administratively attached to the department of transportation. There were numerous proponents and opponents. The Committee members asked lots of questions. The Committee tabled the bill the same day and it is now probably dead. The Montana Fire Alliance was watching the bill.

SB38 (Allow emergency care providers to offer community health care) After being tied up in Committee for over a month, the bill is finally on the move again. It passed out of Committee 10-0 and subsequently passed 2nd reading 50-0 and 3rd reading 48-0. It is now scheduled for a hearing in the House Human Services Committee on Wednesday, March 13th, at 3:00 PM in room 152. The bill would allow emergency care providers to be involved in community-integrated health care services under the regulation of the Board of Medical Examiners. The Montana Fire Alliance supports the bill.

Hearings and issues this upcoming week:

There are no committee meetings or floor sessions in the coming week due to transmittal break. Hearings will start in earnest the following week with many bills of interest, to the fire service, already having hearing dates. I will report all of those hearings in next weeks legislative update. Stay tuned!

To follow the Montana Fire Alliance's watch list go to www.mtfirealliance.org

Respectfully Submitted

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