

## Montana Legislative update 2-14-2021

A quick run down on last week's legislative actions:

SB 178 was heard in front of the Senate Judiciary committee. This bill would prevent state building codes from adopting a mandatory requirement for sprinkler systems in single family dwellings. There was a pretty good showing from fire officials testifying in opposition to this bill. Despite that, the committee took executive action on the bill on 12<sup>th</sup> and it passed out of Committee and will be heading to the Senate Floor. **Standby by for a call to action, we may be asking you all to get ahold of your Senators to try to get this bill killed on the senate Floor!**

HB 264, the bill designed to strengthen the Move over Law, had a hearing on Wednesday the 3<sup>rd</sup> in front of the House Transportation Committee. This bill is still awaiting executive action.

HB 24 would create a resiliency fund for DES. This bill was scheduled and pulled once again, and it may possibly be assigned to a different committee, although it is unknown at this time what is happening with this bill.

Legislative action this week:

HB 215 has been sent to the Senate Judiciary Committee. This bill would make the sale of bottle rockets and roman candles legal in the State. **Standby for a call to action to oppose this bill. There is no hearing date scheduled yet.**

HB 382 snuck in and is scheduled for a hearing Monday the 15<sup>th</sup> at 3 PM in front of the House Natural Resources committee. This bill would allow for the restricted use of exploding targets particularly on state lands, and state park land during high fire danger times. **We may need local folks to testify in support of this person on this bill.**

LC's that we are watching:

There is language attached to these LC's, but they do not have Bill numbers attached as of yet.

LC729: Would sunset mill levies after 10 years. Still getting redrafted.

LC 1435: Tries to give EMS volunteers a pension fund, attached to the VFCA, using 911 funds.

LC 2929: Allows members of a non-transport unit to provide community care.

LC3323: Revise employment applications by eliminating reference to criminal records.

Again, with the COVID precautions this session there is the traditional way of testifying, in person or in writing, but testimony can also be done remotely by Zoom. For any that may wish to use this method, you must register 24 hours in advance, or by noon the preceding day.

Any questions feel free to call!

Rich Cowger