

K-12 EDUCATION

2015 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION
RELATED TO K-12 EDUCATION**

Prepared by the
Office of Public Instruction



opi.mt.gov

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PLEASE NOTE: This document contains brief summaries of bills relating to K-12 education that were considered by the Montana Legislature during the 2015 legislative session. The summaries are not offered as legal advice nor as a definitive interpretation of these bills. For a more comprehensive understanding of these laws, please consult the original legislation or Montana Code Annotated (2015).

This summary is posted on the OPI website at: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/pdf/Superintendent/2015LegSummary.pdf>

ACCREDITATION/CURRICULUM

HB 559 George Kipp

Promote Montana Indian languages

Chapter: 426 Effective Date: May 15, 2015

HB 559 appropriates \$750,000 of general fund monies to support efforts of Montana tribes to preserve and perpetuate Montana Indian languages and to assist in the preservation and curricular goals of Indian Education for All. The State-Tribal Economic Development Commission will administer the program and create program guidelines in collaboration with the Montana Historical Society, the state director of Indian affairs, and each tribal government located on the seven Montana reservations and the Little Shell Chippewa tribe. Any materials produced by this program must be submitted to the Montana Historical Society for the benefit of language preservation efforts and for preservation and archival purposes. The act terminates June 30, 2017.

SB 65 Robyn Driscoll

An act revising and clarifying the Montana Code Annotated

Chapter: 55 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

SB 65 replaces the references to the general educational development (GED) certificate with high school equivalency diploma throughout the Montana Code Annotated (MCA).

SB 255 Taylor Brown

Revise laws for advancing agricultural education

Chapter: 245 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

SB 255 revises the requirements for the Advancing Agricultural Education in Montana program established in 20-7-334, MCA. The bill makes four primary changes:

- 1) Each agricultural education program that completes the national quality program standard evaluation may receive \$1,000 annually, prorated per full-time equivalent, endorsed teacher who teaches approved agricultural education courses.
- 2) Each agricultural education program in Montana may receive an additional \$1,000 annually, prorated per full-time equivalent, endorsed teacher who teaches approved agricultural education courses, by enacting a plan of improvement based on the data from the national quality program standard evaluation. The evaluation must be completed before an improvement plan can be funded.
- 3) Each Montana school that adds an agricultural education program or expands an existing program by adding a full-time equivalent teacher endorsed in agricultural education must receive a payment up to \$7,500.

Funding for program administrators in Bozeman and Helena is increased to \$20,000 annually up from \$11,500.

SB 272 Jonathan Windy Boy
Encourage Indian language immersion schools
Chapter: 442 Effective Date: May 6, 2015

SB 272 promotes innovative, culturally relevant, Indian language immersion programs for Indian and non-Indian students with the goal of raising student achievement, strengthening families, and preserving and perpetuating Indian language and culture throughout Indian country and Montana. School districts are encouraged to create Indian language immersion programs; collaborate with other school districts, the Montana Digital Academy, tribal governments, and tribal colleges; utilize materials produced in the Montana Indian language preservation pilot program funded by the 2013 Legislature; utilize American Indian language and culture specialists as teachers of language and culture; and look to existing native language schools in Montana and around the world for guidance and best practices.

If a school district creates an Indian language immersion program, the district will receive the following:

- Three American Indian achievement gap payments for every Indian student participating in an Indian language immersion program;
- Three Indian Education for All payments for every non-Indian participant; and
- A quality educator payment for every full-time American Indian language and culture specialist teaching in an Indian language immersion program.

For a district operating an Indian language immersion program that improves the district's graduation rate for American Indians by 5 percentage points or more from the previous year, the district will receive an increase in its American Indian achievement gap payment.

SB 272 includes a general fund appropriation of \$45,000 for the 2017 biennium as a one-time only appropriation. The legislation terminates June 30, 2019.

SB 345 Elsie Arntzen
Revise process of adoption of accreditation standards
Chapter: 379 Effective Date: April 30, 2015

SB 345 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to use the negotiated rulemaking process, defined in 2-5-102, MCA, in the revision or adoption of accreditation standards, prior to making a recommendation to the Board of Public Education. The superintendent is also required to develop an economic impact statement, as described in 2-4-405, MCA, in consultation with the negotiated rulemaking committee.

The rulemaking committee must represent the diverse circumstances of schools of all sizes across the state and must include representatives from the following groups: school district trustees, school administrators, teachers, school business officials, parents and taxpayers. The negotiated rulemaking committee may not exist for longer than two years.

Prior to adoption or amendment of any accreditation standard, the Board of Public Education must submit each proposal, including the economic impact statement, to the education and local government interim committee for review at least one month in advance of a scheduled committee meeting.

Unless the expenditures by school districts required under the proposal are determined by the education and local government interim committee to be insubstantial expenditures that can be readily absorbed into the budgets of existing district programs, the board may not implement the standard until July 1 following the next regular legislative session and must request that the Legislature fund the implementation of the proposed standard.

APPROPRIATIONS

HB 2 Nancy Ballance

General Appropriations Act

Chapter: 400

Effective Date: Sec. 1-9 & 11, July 1, 2015; Sec. 10, May 5, 2015

HB 2 and the guarantee account contain the majority of state agency appropriations for the biennium beginning July 1, 2015. These appropriations include \$977.211 million in FY 2016 and \$994.358 million in FY 2017 for distributions of state and federal aid to local education agencies.

The following summary describes appropriations for K-12 Education in HB 2.

K-12 EDUCATION, HB 2:

- **K-12 BASE Aid**

Appropriates \$684.203 million in FY 2016 and \$699.997 million in FY 2017 for K-12 BASE aid. The distributions to school districts that are included in the K-12 BASE aid appropriations are direct state aid, guaranteed tax base aid, quality educator payments, Indian Education for All payments, American Indian achievement gap payments, data for achievement payments, natural resource development K-12 funding payment, and school district audit payments. The statutory basis for the K-12 BASE aid funding formula can found in HB 27 where the inflationary increases were provided for the basic and per-ANB entitlements, quality educator payment, Indian Education for All payment, American Indian achievement gap payment, and data for achievement payment. HB 2 increased funding for school district audit fees by \$11,396 in FY 2016 and \$17,352 in FY 2017.

- **At-Risk Student Payment**

Appropriates \$5.269 million in FY 2016 and \$5.363 million in FY 2017 for at-risk student payments under 20-9-328, MCA, to the school district general funds. The appropriations increase funding \$226,458 in FY 2016 and \$320,780 in FY 2017 above the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- **Special Education**

Appropriates \$42.892 million in each of FY 2016 and FY 2017 for state special education payments to schools. These appropriations are \$838,000 above the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- **Transportation Aid**

Appropriates \$12.167 million in FY 2016 and \$12.267 million in FY 2017 for state reimbursements to school districts for pupil transportation. These appropriations increase transportation reimbursements by \$100,000 in FY 2016 and \$200,000 in FY 2017 above the FY 2014 base expenditure level. The additional funding is needed to fund costs of bus routes and individual transportation contracts under the current statutory mileage reimbursement rates.

- **In-State Treatment**

Appropriates \$787,800 in each year of the 2017 biennium for education services for students in in-state

psychiatric residential treatment facilities. The appropriations maintain the state funding for in-state treatment at the FY 2014 base expenditure level. However, language included in HB 2 in the past, which allowed unspent funds to be directed to schools, was removed this year.

- Career and Technical Education

Appropriates \$1.5 million in each year of the 2017 biennium for secondary vocational education programs. These appropriations maintain the state funding at the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- Adult Basic Education

Appropriates \$525,000 in each year of the 2017 biennium for adult basic education programs. The appropriations maintain the state funding for adult basic education at the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- Gifted and Talented Grant Program

Appropriates \$250,000 in each year of the 2017 biennium for school district gifted and talented programs. The appropriations increase the funding for gifted and talented programs by \$29,159 from the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- School Foods

Appropriates \$663,861 in each year of the 2017 biennium for school nutrition programs. The appropriations maintain the state funding for school nutrition programs at the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- Reimbursement Block Grants

Appropriates \$68.752 million in FY 2016 and \$68.769 million in FY 2017 for block grants to schools and counties.

- State Tuition Payments

Appropriates \$577,675 in each year of the 2017 biennium for tuition payments to schools that enroll students placed by state agencies or courts under mandatory attendance agreements. The appropriations maintain the state funding for state tuition programs at the FY 2014 base expenditure level.

- Advancing Agricultural Education in Montana

Appropriates \$127,393 in FY 2015 and \$127,395 in FY 2016 from the state general fund to school districts to support secondary agricultural education programs and to implement 20-7-334, MCA.

- Traffic and Safety Education

Appropriates \$750,000 in each year of the 2017 biennium for driver's education programs provided by school districts. The appropriations maintain the state funding for traffic education programs at the FY 2014 base expenditure level. Traffic and Safety Education revenues are generated from a percentage of the drivers' license fee and commercial drivers' license fee. Should these revenues exceed the appropriation, OPI can distribute the additional revenues so long as the total expended does not exceed \$1.1 million.

- School Facility Payments

Appropriates \$8.586 million in each year of the 2017 biennium for school facility payments to school districts that are eligible for guaranteed tax base aid and have outstanding bonded indebtedness. The appropriations maintain the state funding for school facility payments at the FY 2014 base expenditure level. These payments will be paid from the school facility and technology account established in 20-9-516, MCA.

- State School Oil and Natural Gas Impact Account

Appropriates \$67,125 in each of FY 2016 and FY 2017 for distribution of discretionary grants to school districts that are receiving oil and natural gas production taxes in an amount less than 20 percent of the district's maximum general fund budget and are impacted by oil and natural gas development. The actual amount available for distribution to schools is determined by the revenues deposited into the state school oil and natural gas impact account.

- Federal Grant Awards

Appropriates \$149.093 million in FY 2016 and \$150.237 million in FY 2017 for distribution of federal education grant monies to school districts. This spending authority represents an increase of \$5.272 million in FY 2016 and \$6.414 million in FY 2017 over the FY 2014 base expenditure level. Increases are projected for federal school foods programs, Title I – School Improvement and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

- Guarantee Account Funding

Monies from the guarantee account are statutorily appropriated. The amount available for distribution is estimated to be \$48.825 million in FY 2016 and \$49.362 million in FY 2017 for K-12 BASE aid payments and \$1.0 million in FY 2016 and \$1.0 million in FY 2017 for grants for school technology purchases. Revenues for the state guarantee account are generated from state school trust lands and streambed rent payments. The guarantee account is the first source of funding for the K-12 BASE aid. Funds from the guarantee account offset expenditures that would otherwise be paid from the state general fund.

OFFICE OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION (OPI) OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SCHOOLS, HB 2:

- OPI Agency Budget

Appropriates \$10.898 million in FY 2016 and \$10.894 million in FY 2017 from state general fund dollars for OPI state level activities. The Legislature funded the statewide present law adjustment for the agency and imposed a 2 percent vacancy savings requirement for personal services.

- Montana Digital Academy

The appropriations are increased over the FY 2014 base by \$732,000 in FY 2016 and \$732,000 in FY 2017 for operation of the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA), which is located on the campus of the University of Montana. If enrollments exceed 6,000 in each year, an additional \$100,500 is available in each year. The digital academy makes distance learning opportunities available to K-12 students through public school districts. The FY 2014 base expenditure level for MTDA is \$1,168,000 and is included as a line item in the

OPI agency budget.

- **Audiological Services**

Appropriates \$86,907 in FY 2016 and \$101,308 in FY 2017 of one-time-only funds in addition to the base. The OPI agency budget line item includes \$390,474 in each year of the 2017 biennium to fund the Hearing Conservation Program, which contracts with audiology service providers to screen and identify children with hearing impairments.

- **Federal Grant Adjustment**

Appropriates an additional \$1.2 million in FY 2016 and \$1.4 million in FY 2017 in federal spending authority to the existing authorization. The increase is driven by additional funds flowing to schools for Title I, School Foods, and IDEA B. OPI retains a small percentage of grants to schools to pay for the administrative costs associated with the grants.

- **GEMS High School Transcript Staffing**

Appropriates \$230,000 in each of FY 2016 and FY 2017 to fund 3.0 FTE to support the continuation of GEMS and the development of the High School Transcript project. These positions had been federally funded during GEMS development.

- **FY 2015 Supplemental Appropriation**

HB 3 usually contains all supplemental funding for the current year, but HB 3 was tabled by the House Appropriations committee. As a result, the supplemental appropriations were added to HB 2 in the Senate. HB 2 appropriates \$7.5 million for direct state aid and \$0.40 million for school block grants to meet the state's obligations for school funding in FY 2015.

HB 4 Nancy Ballance

Appropriations by budget amendment

Chapter: 298 Effective Date: April 27, 2015

HB 4 extends spending authority into the 2017 biennium for the \$10 million preschool development grant, which OPI received from the U.S. Department of Education. The FY 2015 spending authority for this grant was approved in advance of the legislative session by the office of budget and program planning. HB 4 authorizes the appropriation to continue through FY 2016.

HB 356 Don Jones

Revise funding for career and vocational/technical education

Chapter: 350 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 356 appropriates \$1 million per year from the general fund for the 2017 biennium. These funds will increase total state funding for career and technical education (CTE) from \$1.5 million per year to \$2.5 million. The money is distributed through the state CTE distribution formula and all of the funding goes

to districts. The funding must be used for the expansion and enhancement of CTE programs and may not be used to reduce previous district spending on CTE programs.

HB 588 Rob Cook

Revise laws related to a reduction in funding

Chapter: 165 Effective Date: April 1, 2015

HB 588 amends 17-7-140, MCA, which directs the Governor to make reductions in spending in the event of a projected general fund budget deficit. If conditions for a reduction in spending occur, the governor must direct agencies to reduce spending in an amount that ensures that the projected ending general fund balance for the biennium will be at least:

- 3.5 percent of all general fund appropriations for the biennium prior to October of the year preceding a legislative session;
- 1.875 percent of all general fund appropriations for the biennium in October of the year preceding a legislative session;
- 1.25 percent of all general fund appropriations for the biennium in January of the year in which a legislative session is convened; and
- 0.625 percent of all general fund appropriations for the biennium in March of the year in which a legislative session is convened.

The governor may not direct reductions in spending for payment of interest and principal on state debt; the legislative branch; the judicial branch; the school BASE funding program, including special education; salaries of elected officials during their terms of office; and the Montana School for the Deaf and Blind.

AT-RISK YOUTH

HB 47 Carolyn Pease-Lopez

Appropriate money for youth crisis diversion pilot projects

Chapter: 208 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 47 appropriates \$1.2 million in the 2017 biennium for up to six licensed children's mental health providers to develop community-based mental health crisis diversion services for youth. Activities must include a community component, and funds may be used to pay for a part-time coordinator for coalition-building activities.

HB 422 Ron Ehli

Improve outcomes for youth in the children's mental health system

Chapter: 265 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 422 creates a pilot project to improve outcomes for youth in the children's mental health system, including an interim study of evidence-based outcomes. The purpose of the pilot project is to improve youth outcomes by stabilizing youth and their families with appropriate services and supports; improve the collaborative efforts between DPHHS and providers of children's mental health services; and link documented outcomes to performance-based reimbursement options for providers. The interim study will include the development of options for performance-based reimbursements: linking provider payments to outcomes, improved access to care, and better integration and coordination of services.

SB 240 Edward Buttrey

Revise Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children

Chapter: 277 Effective Date: April 23, 2015

SB 240 continues Montana's participation in the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children beyond June 30, 2015. On or before September 15 of even-numbered years, representatives of the Great Falls school district, the Helena school district and a member of the military, as specified by the adjutant general, must provide a report to the Legislature regarding the state's participation in the interstate compact.

ELECTIONS

HB 69 Geraldine Custer

Update training requirements for election administrators

Chapter: 209 Effective Date: January 1, 2016

HB 69 requires the Secretary of State to provide training sessions in various locations around the state and online and through teleconference at least every two years for election administrators. Additionally, the bill requires election administrators to complete six hours of election-related continuing education each year that is approved by the Secretary of State.

HB 84 Bryce Bennett

Generally revise election laws

Chapter: 49 Effective Date: November 4, 2015

HB 84 provides for the general revision of election laws. With respect to school district elections, the law includes the following:

- Entity calling school election must follow specific revised notice and publication requirements (20-20-204, MCA).
- School elections are subject to the provisions for late registration (13-2-304, MCA).
- Districts must publish notice of close of late registration (13-2-301 and 20-20-311, MCA).
- Candidate filing opens 145 days and closes 40 days before an election (13-10-201, MCA).
- Write-in candidates must file no later than 5 p.m. on day before ballot certification deadline, which is 30 days before election (20-3-305, MCA).
- Candidates may not withdraw after 5pm on day before ballot certification deadline (20-3-305, MCA).
- Election administrator must file a separate plan for each type of election conducted by mail, even if held on the same day (13-19-205, MCA).
- Ballots must be mailed 15-20 days before an election (13-19-207, MCA).
- Candidate for school trustee must file a declaration of intent with district clerk at least 40 days before the regular school election day (20-3-305, MCA).
- If notice of election by acclamation is given, notice must be given 30 days before the election (20-3-313, MCA).
- Separate ballots for more than one bond purpose are no longer required (20-9-426, MCA).
- Absentee ballots for all elections, including bond elections, must be available 20 days before the election (20-9-426, MCA).
- County election administrators (not regents) are responsible for community college elections (20-15-203, MCA).
- All school elections (mail or ballot) must be called by resolution 70 days before the election. Resolution must indicate whether the election will be by mail. District clerk must submit a copy of

written mail ballot plan to the county election administrator upon approval by the Secretary of State (20-20-201, MCA).

- Election resolution must be transmitted to the county election administrator three days after passage of the resolution (20-20-201, MCA).
- Notice of a school election must be given 10-40 days prior to election. Notice must be published in a newspaper and posted in at least three public places and on the district website for the 10 days prior to the election, with supplemental publication/broadcast as appropriate (20-20-204, MCA).
- Ballot certification must be 30 days prior to the election (20-20-401, MCA).
- A school district request that the county conduct certain elections during the ensuing school year must be made by resolution by June 1 (20-20-417, MCA).
- County superintendent takes oath on or before the last business day of December following an election and assumes office at 12:01 a.m. on January 1 following an election (20-3-202, MCA).

HB 198 Keith Regier

Revise election laws related to names on the ballot

Chapter: 214 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 198 prohibits information about a candidate, other than the candidate's name, from appearing on a ballot. The bill specifically prohibits the inclusion of a title, accomplishment, award, or degree.

HB 400 Geraldine Custer

Allow electronic ballot for disabled voters

Chapter: 247 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 400 requires that upon request of a registered elector with a disability, the election administrator must provide the elector with an electronic ballot.

HB 529 Virginia Court

Prohibit candidate from serving as a poll watcher at certain polling places

Chapter: 240 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 529 prohibits a candidate from acting as a poll watcher at a polling place where the candidate's name is on a ballot.

HB 580 Bryce Bennett

Prohibit certain persons from distributing things of value at polling places

Chapter: 241 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 580 prohibits a candidate, family member of a candidate, or a worker or volunteer for the candidate's

campaign from distributing alcohol, tobacco, food, drink, or anything of value to a voter at or within 100 feet of a polling location at which an election is being held.

SB 151 Doug Kary

Strike requirement to file campaign reports with election administrators

Chapter: 167 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

SB 151 eliminates the requirements that a candidate or political committee certify the name and address of the campaign treasurer and file campaign finance reports with the election administrator, but retains the requirement that certifications and reports be filed with the Commissioner of Political Practices.

EMPLOYMENT RELATIONS

HB 343 Bryce Bennett

Prohibit request of online passwords as a condition of hiring or employment

Chapter: 263 Effective Date: April 23, 2015

HB 343 prohibits an employer from requesting online passwords or user names for an employee's or job applicant's personal social media accounts. "Personal social media" means a password-protected electronic service or account containing electronic content, including but not limited to e-mail, videos, still photographs, blogs, video blogs, podcasts, instant and text messages, Internet website profiles or locations, and online services or accounts, including password-protected services or accounts to which an employee may post information, data, or pictures.

An employee must provide, if requested, to an employer the employee's user name or password to access personal social media when a) the employer has specific information about an activity by the employee that indicates work-related employee misconduct or criminal defamation; the employer has specific information about the unauthorized transfer by the employee of the employer's proprietary information, confidential information, trade secrets, or financial data to a personal online account or personal online service; or an employer is required to ensure compliance with federal laws or federal regulatory requirements and an investigation is under way; and b) the information requested of the employee is necessary to make a factual determination in the investigation.

SB 141 Llew Jones

Repeal termination of reemployment provision for certain retired TRS members

Chapter: 189 Effective Date: April 2, 2015

SB 141 repeals the termination of the provision in 19-20-732, MCA, which allows certain retired teachers, specialists, and administrators under the teachers' retirement system to be reemployed without being subject to the standard limitations on compensation established in 19-20-731, MCA.

SB 418 Llew Jones

Authorizing transfers to implement provisions of House Bill 2

Chapter: 438 Effective Date: May 5, 2015

SB 418 authorizes transfers and other necessary measures to implement HB2, the general appropriations act. It also revises laws governing state employee compensation. The following is a summary of the sections of SB 418 that affect K-12 education.

SB 418 transfers up to \$2.25 million from the county oil and gas impact account within the state special

revenue fund to the state general fund. The department of revenue must make this transfer by June 30, 2015. As a result of this transfer, no monies are currently available for distribution to the counties for deposit in the county school oil and natural gas impact fund.

SB 418 provides an increase of 50 cents an hour to the base salary of state employees effective January 9, 2016. On the first day of the first complete pay period that includes January 15, 2017, the base salary of each employee will be increased by another 50 cents an hour.

The employer contribution for group benefits is \$887 a month from January 2015 through December 2015, \$976 a month from January 2016 through December 2016, and \$1,054 a month from January 2017 through December 2017.

SB 418 amends 2-18-301, MCA, to state that compensation plans for state employees are intended by the Legislature to be based, in part, on an analysis of the labor markets in a biennial salary survey. SB 418 eliminates the requirement that the labor market analysis and comparison be limited to municipal and state government labor markets in North Dakota, South Dakota, Idaho, and Wyoming. The Department of Administration is required to identify current market rates for all occupations; establish salary ranges for each pay band; recommend competitive pay zones based on the new labor market analysis; and administer the pay program on the basis of competency, internal equity, and competitiveness to the external labor market when fiscally able.

GOVERNANCE

HB 123 Don Jones

Generally revise public records laws

Chapter: 348 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 123 revises the public records laws regarding access to public information, response to requests for public information (including denial and allowable fees/costs), disposal and destruction of records, protection and storage of essential records, and the prohibition on dissemination of distribution lists. Further provisions of the legislation address state and local records management, procedures to protect personal information, and notification of breach of security of a data system. The new law requires minutes be taken at closed sessions of open meetings, but restricts access to the minutes from a closed session. The prevailing party in a court action to enforce or defend constitutional right to know may be awarded attorney fees.

HB 288 Tom Richmond

Repeal law regarding transfer of information technology resources

Chapter: 237 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 288 repeals a section of the Montana Information Technology Act (MITA) that allowed for the transfer of appropriations, funds, and equipment from agencies to the State Information Technology Services Department. The intent of this repeal is to require such actions to be reviewed and approved by the Legislature.

HIGHER EDUCATION

HB 617 Steve Lavin

Provide scholarship opportunities for higher education in Montana

Chapter: 385 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 617 establishes a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) scholarship program funded by Montana lottery revenues and public and private donations. The scholarship program is administered by the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education. In order to be eligible, a student must be a Montana resident graduating from a Montana high school with a cumulative GPA of 3.25 and must have declared a STEM or health care major as the student's intended course of study. Other eligibility requirements are included in HB 617. The scholarship is \$1,000 for the first academic year; students receiving a first year scholarship are eligible to apply for a second year scholarship of \$2,000. In order to receive a scholarship for a second year, the student must maintain a GPA of 3.0, be enrolled as a full time student, and continue to pursue a STEM or health care major.

SAFETY

HB 74 Ryan Lynch

Require data breach notice to attorney general and insurance commissioner

Chapter: 62 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 74 amends 2-6-504, MCA, regarding notification of the unauthorized breach of personal information stored by state agencies. In addition to notifying the individuals whose personal information has been breached, the agency must notify the attorney general's consumer protection office. Any licensee or insurance support organization in Montana must also notify the insurance commissioner in the event of a breach.

HB 158 Margaret McDonald

Revise and modernize immunization laws related to schools

Chapter: 124 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 158 modifies state law to add Varicella (Chicken Pox) to the list of required vaccines for school attendance. The bill also strikes the exemption for the Pertussis (Whooping Cough) after the age of 7. The Pertussis vaccination that was recommended for children older than 7 is now required.

HB 219 Jeff Essman

Geographic restrictions for sex offenders

Chapter: 412 Effective Date: May 5, 2015

HB 219 provides that a high-risk sexual offender may not reside or be employed within 300 feet of a school, day-care center, playground, park, athletic field or facility or business that primarily serves, cares for, educates or entertains minors (with specific exceptions); reside where a minor resides (with exceptions); or knowingly come within 300 feet of a former victim without permission. A high-risk sexual offender is an adult who is designated as a sexually violent predator under 46-23-509, MCA, and has committed a sexual offense against a victim 12-years old or younger.

A high-risk sexual offender who is no longer supervised by the Department of Corrections may be exempted if the offender has an approved safety plan. The safety plan must be reevaluated annually by a sexual offender evaluator to ensure any conditions or requirements are adequate and protect public safety. Violation of the law is a felony.

HB 284 Kimberly Dudik
Generally revise laws related to bullying
Chapter: 253 Effective date: July 1, 2015

HB 284, the Bully-Free Montana Act, defines bullying as any harassment, intimidation, hazing, or threatening, insulting, or demeaning gesture or physical contact, including any intentional written, verbal, or electronic communication or threat directed against a student that is persistent, severe, or repeated and that:

- causes a student physical harm, damages a student's property, or places a student in reasonable fear of harm to the student or the student's property;
- creates a hostile environment by interfering with or denying a student's access to an educational opportunity or benefit; or
- substantially and materially disrupts the orderly operation of a school.

The term includes retaliation against a victim or witness who reports information about an act of bullying and includes acts of hazing associated with athletics or school-sponsored organizations or groups. HB 284 prohibits bullying in a K-12 public school by a student or employee, and clarifies that parents and students may seek further resolution of a bullying violation by appropriate civil or criminal law after exhausting all administrative remedies under the school district policy required by ARM 10.55.719, Student Protection Procedures.

HB 318 Ellie Boldman Hill
Require extended insurance coverage for children with Down syndrome
Chapter: 256 Effective Date: January 1, 2016

HB 318 requires insurance policies to cover certain therapies available to children with Down syndrome.

HB 374 Edith McClafferty
Provide for school suicide prevention awareness training
Chapter: 351 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 374 enacts the Suicide Awareness and Prevention Training Act, in which the Legislature recommends that training be made available annually to each employee of a school district and any staff of the OPI who work directly with students enrolled in Montana public schools. The Legislature recommends that employees take at least two hours of training every five years. The training must be provided at no cost to employees.

The OPI will provide guidance and technical assistance to schools on training materials. All training materials must be approved by OPI, meet the standards for professional development in ARM 10.55.714, and be reviewed periodically by a qualified person or committee. Training may be provided in-person, via

videoconference, through an individual program of study or designated materials, self-review modules, or any other methods chosen by the local school board that are consistent with ARM 10.55.714.

HJ 21 Bryce Bennett
Interim study on ownership of personal information

HJ 21 authorizes an interim study of ownership of personal information including collection, dissemination, and methods to exclude from use. Among the types of personal information included in the study are medical records, purchases, location, identification numbers, internet searches, and passwords. A report of the study will be presented to the next legislature.

SB 66 Diane Sands
Generally revise laws regarding alternative nicotine or vapor products
Chapter: 337 Effective Date: January 1, 2016

SB 66 prohibits a licensed retailer from selling or distributing alternative nicotine products and vapor products to an individual under 18 years of age. The bill amends 45-5-637, MCA, to prohibit a person under 18 years of age from knowingly possessing or consuming an alternative nicotine product or vapor product.

SB 67 Cliff Larsen
General revise laws regarding missing persons
Chapter: 79 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

SB 67 amends the definition of a missing child in 44-2-502, MCA, to a person under 21-years old (rather than 18) and amends 44-2-505, MCA, to require law enforcement to act on a report of a missing child within two hours.

SB 213 Fred Thomas
Provide for school safety
Chapter: 323 Effective Date: April 27, 2015

SB 213 extends the sunset on allowing school districts to transfer funds into the building reserve for school safety and security projects. The new sunset date is June 30, 2019. A district must notify the Office of Public Instruction it has an emergency operations plan in place before the district can use the authority to transfer funds.

SCHOOL FINANCE

HB 27 Denise Hayman
Increase K-12 BASE aid, entitlements, and payments
Chapter: 60 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 27 provides inflationary increases of 2.33 percent for FY 2016 and 1.79 percent for FY 2017 to the funding components of school district general fund budgets. The increases are applied to the basic and per-ANB entitlements, the quality educator payment, the Indian Education for All payment, the at-risk student payment, the American Indian achievement gap payment, and (beginning in FY 2017) the data for achievement payment. (Note: The inflationary increase for the at-risk student payment is not included in HB 27; rather it is a line item appropriation in HB 2.)

The fiscal note for HB 27 shows a biennial cost of \$54 million. This total includes \$41.3 million in new money for schools and \$13 million to fund the natural resource development payment, which is provided to reduce property tax increases in the mandatory BASE budget levies.

HB 31 Kathy Kelker
Revise school finance laws
Chapter: 8 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 31 clarifies and updates provisions related to school funding. The bill amends the definition of the maximum general fund budget to clarify how the special education portion is incorporated into the budget limitation. The special education allowable cost payment is multiplied by the greater of 175 percent or the ratio of the district's special education expenditures to the payment that the district receives from the state, with a maximum allowable ratio of 200 percent.

Section 20-9-366, MCA, is amended to define the term "guaranteed tax base aid budget area" or "GTBA budget area" as the BASE budget minus each of the state funded portions of the BASE budget. The bill also clarifies that budget data and taxable valuation data from the previous school year is used to provide funding for the ensuing school year.

HB 31 expands the authority of school district trustees to purchase or rent communication systems and safety devices for a school bus, in addition to the two-way radios that were allowed previously. Examples of these newer systems include global positioning systems and video cameras.

HB 87 Edith McClafferty
Eliminate the requirement for a third official school enrollment count
Chapter: 157 Effective Date: April 1, 2015

HB 87 amends 20-9-311, MCA, to eliminate the official enrollment count in December that was instituted in SB 175 in the 2013 session. Prior to the passage of SB 175, school districts were required to report student enrollments on two official count dates in October and February. HB 87 reverts to the previous requirement for two official count dates.

HB 114 Mike Miller
Revise tax increment finance district remittance laws for schools
Chapter: 405 Effective Date: May 5, 2015

HB 114 requires a school district that receives a remittance from a tax increment financing district to use the remittance to reduce property taxes or to fund the general fund operating reserve. The district must deposit the remittance in one or more of the following funds provided the fund has a mill levy for the school year in which the revenue is received: general fund, bus depreciation reserve fund, debt service fund, building reserve fund, and/or technology acquisition and depreciation fund. The district may not transfer the remittance to any other fund once the monies have been deposited.

If a district deposits a portion of the remittance in the general fund, the monies may be used to reduce either the BASE budget levy or the over-BASE levy in the following year. Under HB 114, the remittance will not reduce the levy authority of a school district in subsequent years. Any portion of a tax increment deposited in the district's general fund is not subject to the 15 percent fund balance limit established in 20-9-104, MCA.

HB 114 applies to tax increment financing districts created after December 31, 1979. However, a school district that has executed an agreement with a local government before the effective date of HB 114 must prepare a transition plan, which is limited to paying contractual obligations that were incurred prior to the bill's effective date. If the increment was anticipated as a funding source for a contract when the contract was executed, the remittance may be used to pay the contractual obligation. In order to qualify as an obligation, there must be a written signed contract meeting all elements of 28-2-102, MCA, between a school district and a third party. Evidence of a contract does not include the listing of a capital project on a list or plan. If the obligation relates to paying bonded indebtedness, a district may utilize the remittance for the life of the bond issue. If the obligation relates to other contracts, a district may utilize the increment to pay for the contracted project until the end of the contract.

HB 157 Zac Perry
Extend school district leasing authority
Chapter: 66 Effective Date: February 27, 2015

HB 157 amends 20-6-609 and 20-6-625, MCA, to increase the time period for a school district's leasing authority from 3 years to up to 7 years for personal property and up to 15 years for real property.

HB 162 Nicholas Schwaderer
Revise laws related to the Montana Digital Academy
Chapter: 142 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 162 authorizes the Montana Digital Academy (MTDA) to charge school districts a supplemental fee for course delivery costs that exceed the appropriation provided by the Legislature. The board must adopt rules regarding the establishment of any fees. These fees may only be spent on the operating costs of the MTDA. HB 162 also requires the MTDA to publish its policies and guidelines.

School districts are prohibited from charging a fee to a student who enrolls in an MTDA course that the district requires for graduation.

HB 373 Scott Staffanson
Revise school bonding limit laws
Chapter: 307 Effective Date: April 27, 2015

HB 373 increases the maximum amount that a school district may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation debt to 100 percent of the taxable valuation of the district. General obligation debt includes general obligation bonds, registered warrants, outstanding obligations under 20-9-471, MCA, oil and natural gas revenue bonds to which a deficiency tax levy is pledged, and any other loans or notes payable that are held as general obligations of the district. For a K-12 district, the maximum amount for which the district may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation debt is 200 percent of the taxable value of the district regardless of whether the general obligation bonds finance elementary program improvements or high school program improvements.

In lower-wealth school districts, the maximum amount for which an elementary district or a high school district with a district mill value per elementary ANB or per high school ANB that is less than the facility guaranteed mill value per elementary ANB or high school ANB under 20-9-366, MCA, may become indebted by the issuance of general obligation debt is the corresponding facility guaranteed mill value per ANB times 1,000 times the ANB of the district. For a K-12 district, the maximum amount for which the district may become indebted is the sum of the facility guaranteed mill value per elementary ANB times 1,000 times the elementary ANB of the district and the facility guaranteed mill value per high school ANB times 1,000 times the high school ANB of the district. For the purpose of calculating ANB, a district may use the greater of the current year ANB or the 3-year ANB calculated under 20-9-311, MCA.

Ultimately, the bonding capacity of a school district is the greater of 100 percent of the district's taxable valuation (200 percent in the case of K-12 districts) or the amount determined by applying the facility guaranteed mill value.

HB 387 Nate McConnell

Revise county transportation committee laws

Chapter: 128 Effective date: March 27, 2015

HB 387 amends 20-10-132, MCA, to extend the time period that a temporary bus route, approved by the county superintendent, may remain operational before being confirmed by the county transportation committee from 30 days to 90 days.

HB 411 Tom Richmond

Generally revise oil and gas tax laws

Chapter: 301 Effective Date: July 1, 2015

HB 411 amends 15-36-304, MCA, to raise the threshold price needed to qualify oil production for stripper well exemption production from \$38 per barrel to \$54 per barrel. Under HB 411, the tax rate for stripper well exemption production is 0.5% for a working interest if the price of oil is less than \$54 per barrel. Once the price per barrel reaches \$54 or more, the stripper well bonus production tax rate of 6.0% is applied for a working interest. "Stripper well exemption" or "stripper well bonus" means petroleum and other mineral or crude oil produced by a stripper well that produces three barrels a day or less.

SB 128 Kris Hansen

Establish decennial school funding study

Chapter: 359 Effective Date: April 29, 2015

SB 128 establishes a school funding interim commission to reassess the educational needs and costs related to the basic system of free quality public elementary and secondary schools and, if necessary, recommend to the following legislature changes to the state's funding formula. The Legislature must form the school funding interim commission at least every 10 years.

The members of the commission are:

- six members of the House of Representatives, three from the majority party and three from the minority party, appointed by the Speaker of the House in consultation with the house majority leader and the house minority leader;
- six members of the Senate, three from the majority party and three from the minority party, appointed by the President of the Senate in consultation with the senate majority leader and the senate minority leader; and

- four members of the public to be appointed as follows:
 - two public members appointed by the Speaker of the House with the consent of the house minority leader; and
 - two public members appointed by the President of the Senate with the consent of the

The commission will be staffed by the legislative services division and the legislative fiscal division.

The commission will issue a report on its findings and recommendations, including any draft legislation for amending the state school funding formula, by no later than September 15 preceding the next regular legislative session.

SB 128 appropriates \$55,000 for the 2017 biennium for convening the commission. It is intended that the commission will hold a one-week meeting in each year of the biennium.

SB 249 Jill Cohenour
Generally revise energy performance contracting laws
Chapter: 344 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

SB 249 creates an energy performance contract program for governmental entities, including school districts. The bill establishes criteria for the Department of Environmental Quality to use in administering the program and grants the department rulemaking authority for the program. It also establishes criteria for governmental entities to use in administering and funding energy performance contracts and in selecting a qualified energy provider.

An energy performance contract may not exceed 20 years, the cost-weighted average useful life of the cost-saving measure, or the term of financing, whichever is shortest. During the guarantee period, a qualified energy service provider must measure and verify reductions in energy consumption and costs attributable to cost-saving measures implemented pursuant to an energy performance contract; and prepare and provide a measurement and verification report to the governmental entity and to the department documenting the performance of cost-saving measures.

SB 252 Llew Jones
Revise K-12 funding laws related to oil and natural gas production taxes
Chapter: 432 Effective Date: May 5, 2015

SB 252 amends 20-9-310, MCA, to allow a school district to deposit its oil and natural gas production tax revenues in any budgeted fund of the district. If a district allocates an amount to its BASE budget that is less than 12.5 percent of its prior year receipts of oil and natural gas production taxes, the district must levy permissive mills to make up the difference between 12.5 percent of its prior year receipts and the amount allocated to its BASE budget. This portion of the BASE levy will not be matched by guaranteed tax base aid.

SB 252 also amends the mechanism for distribution of oil and natural gas production taxes to the county school impact fund. A county receives funding in proportion to its oil and natural gas production tax revenues for the preceding three years compared to the total of all counties' oil and natural gas production tax revenues for the preceding three years.

Funding distributed from the state school oil and natural gas impact account in 20-9-517, MCA, and the state school oil and natural gas distribution account in 20-9-520, MCA, are statutorily appropriated.

SB 260 Eric Moore

Revise education funding laws related to oil and gas production taxes

Chapter: 433 Effective date: Sec. 1-3 & 5-7, May 5, 2015; Sec. 4, July 1, 2016

SB 260 clarifies that, prior to June 30, 2016, 25 percent of any funds remaining after distribution through the "concentric circles" mechanism described in 20-9-310(4)(a), MCA, will be allocated to a county in proportion to the county's oil and natural gas production taxes for the preceding three years compared to the total of all counties' oil and natural gas production taxes for the preceding three years.

Effective July 1, 2016, the concentric circles mechanism is eliminated, and any monies deposited in the state school oil and natural gas distribution account will be distributed to school districts that are directly impacted by oil and natural gas development but that receive insufficient oil and natural gas production taxes to address the impacts. The Office of Public Instruction will adopt administrative rules through the negotiated rulemaking process to establish a process, criteria, and a mechanism for distribution of the monies. The negotiated rulemaking process is set forth in Title 2, chapter 5, part 1, MCA.

In developing the administrative rules, the Office of Public Instruction must establish two independent negotiated rulemaking committees. The members of the first committee must include 1) public school officials and public school employees from school districts that are located in or are immediately adjacent to a county in which oil and natural gas production taxes are generated, and 2) professional organizations representing these public school officials and employees. This first committee will propose rules for distribution of 50 percent of the available funds.

The members of the second committee must include 1) public school officials and public school employees from school districts around the state, and 2) professional organizations representing these public school officials and employees. This second committee will propose rules for distribution of the remaining 50 percent of the available funds.

SB 260 creates statutory appropriations for the state school oil and natural gas impact account established in 20-9-517, MCA, and the state school oil and natural gas distribution account established in 20-9-520, MCA.

Sections 20-9-310, 20-9-517, and 20-9-518, MCA, terminate June 30, 2019.

SB 410 Llew Jones

Provide tax credits for contributions to public and private schools

Chapter: 457

Effective Date: January 1, 2016

SB 410 provides tax credits for individuals and corporations for charitable donations to 1) an educational improvement account for the purpose of funding innovative educational programs and technology deficiencies in public schools or 2) non-profit, private school student scholarship organizations. The amount of the tax credit is equal to the amount of the donation, not to exceed \$150. The aggregate amount of tax credits for donations to the education improvement account is limited to \$3 million in tax year 2016. If the limit is reached in a year, the aggregate amount will increase by 10 percent in the succeeding tax year. Likewise, the aggregate amount of tax credits for donations to student scholarship organizations is limited to \$3 million in tax year 2016. If the limit is reached in a year, the aggregate amount will increase by 10 percent in the succeeding year.

Donations made to the educational improvement account will be distributed to public schools by the Office of Public Instruction. A taxpayer may designate a donation among 11 geographic areas in the state and/or the seven largest school districts. Donations to geographic areas will be distributed to the school districts in the area in proportion to the number of quality educators in a school district compared to the number of quality educators in the area. The monies must be deposited in the district's school flexibility fund, and the district is required to report the expenditure of supplemental funding for specific schools to the Superintendent of Public Instruction. SB 410 provides the Superintendent of Public Instruction with rulemaking authority to implement and administer these duties.

For the student scholarship organizations, an individual or corporation that makes a donation to a scholarship organization will receive a tax credit equal to the donation, but not to exceed \$150. The scholarship organization provides scholarships to eligible students to attend private school instruction offered by a qualified education provider, who is selected by the student's parent or legal guardian. The qualified education provider cannot be a public school or a home school. The provider must be either an accredited program or must inform the child's parents or legal guardian in writing in the time of enrollment that the provider is not accredited and is not seeking accreditation.

A student scholarship organization:

- may not restrict or reserve scholarships for use at a particular education provider or any particular type of education provider;
- may not provide a scholarship to an eligible student for an academic year that exceeds 50 percent of the per-pupil average of total public school expenditures as calculated by the Office of Public Instruction; and
- must ensure that the organization's average scholarship for an academic year does not exceed 30 percent of the per-pupil average of total public school expenditures.

The Office of Public Instruction will calculate the per-pupil average of total public school expenditures in Montana for the second most recently completed school year by August 1 and make the calculation

available to the public. Expenditures in 20 school district funds are included in the calculation of per-pupil expenditures. The total pupil count is based on enrollment, not average number belonging.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) will adopt rules and administer the private school student scholarship organization program in compliance with Montana's constitutional prohibition of direct or indirect public funding of sectarian education. DOR will maintain on its website a list of all student scholarship organizations and qualified education providers that have accepted scholarship funds.

SJ 10 Llew Jones

Resolution requesting performance audit of data collection by OPI

SJ 10 is a joint resolution for the Legislative Audit Committee to prioritize a performance audit of the school data collections systems and procedures of the OPI. In conducting the audit, the legislative audit committee is to review the history of efforts by OPI to improve efficiency of data collections, investigate data collections in other states to determine whether OPI is adhering to best practices of data collection, and assess whether data collection and sharing methods maintain individual privacy of students and their families. The findings of the performance audit are to be made accessible to the Legislature and interested parties.

STATE LANDS

HB 49 Zac Perry

Revise reporting on state trust lands

Chapter: 195 Effective Date: October 1, 2015

HB 49 revises the requirement that the Board of Land Commissioners prepare an annual report on state land trusts. As amended, 77-1-223, MCA, requires the report to summarize the land held in trust for each beneficiary by land classification and include the asset value and financial performance for each beneficiary.

SB 34 Tom Facey

Facilitate cabin and home-site sales

Chapter: 268 Effective Date: April 23, 2015

SB 34 amends 77-2-318, MCA, and other statutes relating to the sale of state-owned cabin or home sites by the Board of Land Commissioners, the cost of surveying the land, and easements associated with the land.

SB 56 Bradley Hamlett

Revise river bed laws

Chapter: 108 Effective Date: March 23, 2015

SB 56 extends the sunset on the authorization for a person to establish a historic use of a navigable river bed from July 15, 2017 to July 15, 2021. A person using the bed of a navigable river below the low-water mark without written authorization prior to October 1, 2011, who wants to continue use of the bed of a navigable river after October 1, 2011, must file for authorization of the use for a lease, license, or easement by July 15, 2021. Monies from these leases are deposited into the guarantee account.

SB 326 Jedediah Hinkle

Revise state land laws

Chapter: 394 Effective Date: May 4, 2015

SB 326 amends 77-1-804, MCA, relating to recreational use of state lands and the posting notice of proposed restrictions on recreational use of parcels of state land.

SJ 20 Bruce Tutvedt
Interim study on historic road right-of-way acquisition

SJ 20 requests an interim study to review challenges counties encounter in identifying roads on state trust lands, determining the legal status of the roads, and paying full market value for road rights-of-way on state trust land. The results of the study will be reported to the 65th Legislature.

INDEX OF K-12 EDUCATION-RELATED BILLS

Bill	Sponsor	Short Title	Pass/ Fail	Category
HB 2	Nancy Ballance	General Appropriations Act	Pass	Appropriations
HB 3	Pat Noonan	Supplemental Appropriations	Fail	Appropriations
HB 4	Nancy Ballance	Appropriations by budget amendment	Pass	Appropriations
HB 13	Kathy Swanson	State employee pay plan	Fail	Employment
HB 15	Mike Cuffe	Provide for school facility grant program	Fail	School Finance
HB 18	Bryce Bennett	Authorize student election judges	Fail	Elections
HB 27	Denise Hayman	Increase K-12 BASE aid, entitlements, and payments	Pass	School Finance
HB 31	Kathy Kelker	Revise school finance laws	Pass	School Finance
HB 46	Mitch Tropila	Revise rental payment calculation for commercial lease of state trust land	Fail	State Lands
HB 47	Carolyn Pease-Lopez	Appropriate money for youth crisis diversion pilot projects	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 48	Geraldine Custer	Establish on-line voter registration	Fail	Elections
HB 49	Zac Perry	Revise reporting on state trust lands	Pass	State Lands
HB 58	Geraldine Custer	Generally revise election laws	Fail	Elections
HB 62	Virginia Court	Revise penalty for unauthorized use of state trust lands	Fail	State Lands
HB 69	Geraldine Custer	Update training requirements for election administrators	Pass	Elections
HB 73	Casey Schreiner	Revise requirements related to release of patient immunization information	Fail	Safety
HB 74	Ryan Lynch	Require data breach notice to attorney general and insurance commissioner	Pass	Safety
HB 76	Janet Ellis	Expand election day to voting days	Fail	Elections
HB 84	Bryce Bennett	Generally revise election laws	Pass	Elections
HB 86	Geraldine Custer	Revising the date absentee ballots are available in certain elections	Fail	Elections
HB 87	Edith McClafferty	Eliminate the requirement for a third official school enrollment count	Pass	School Finance
HB 114	Mike Miller	Revise tax increment finance district remittance laws for schools	Pass	School Finance
HB 123	Donald Jones	Generally revise public records laws	Pass	Governance
HB 148	Ellie Boldman Hill	Revise supplemental nutrition assistance laws to provide statutory appropriation	Fail	Appropriations
HB 157	Zac Perry	Extend school district leasing authority	Pass	School Finance
HB 158	Margaret MacDonald	Revise and modernize immunization laws related to schools	Pass	Safety
HB 162	Nicholas Schwaderer	Revise laws related to the Montana Digital Academy	Pass	School Finance
HB 163	Nicholas Schwaderer	Prohibit limitation of certain schools participation in high school sports	Fail	Accreditation
HB 185	Jean Price	Revise driver license fee allocations to increase traffic education account funding	Fail	School Finance
HB 198	Keith Regier	Revise election laws related to names on the ballot	Pass	Elections

HB 201	Keith Regier	Lower state property tax mills	Fail	School Finance
HB 219	Jeff Essmann	Geographic restrictions for sex offenders	Pass	Safety
HB 231	Pat Noonan	Revise information technology laws	Fail	Appropriations
HB 235	Ryan Lynch	Revise disposition of metalliferous mines license tax	Fail	School Finance
HB 283	Keith Regier	Revise absentee and mail ballot laws	Fail	Elections
HB 284	Kimberly Dudik	Generally revise laws related to bullying	Pass	Safety
HB 288	Tom Richmond	Repeal law regarding transfer of information technology resources	Pass	Governance
HB 295	Carolyn Pease-Lopez	Revise law for signage warning drivers of a school bus stop ahead	Fail	Safety
HB 297	Virginia Court	Prohibit texting while driving	Fail	Safety
HB 303	Willis Curdy	Revise laws related to recall petitions for school board members	Fail	Elections
HB 313	Edith McClafferty	Revise education laws	Fail	School Finance
HB 314	Carolyn Pease-Lopez	Expand Montana Schools of Promise initiative	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 315	Bill Harris	Revise the Montana Federal Mandates Act	Fail	Appropriations
HB 316	Ellie Boldman Hill	Prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for juveniles	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 318	Ellie Boldman Hill	Require insurance coverage for children with Down Syndrome	Pass	Safety
HB 320	Carl Glimm	Revise laws regarding firearms on school grounds	Fail	Governance
HB 321	Clayton Fiscus	Emphasize critical thinking in science education	Fail	Accreditation
HB 322	Donald Jones	Create education savings accounts for children with disabilities	Fail	School Finance
HB 329	Jeffrey Welborn	Generally revise laws related to state lands	Fail	State Lands
HB 339	Ryan Lynch	Clarify school district open meeting laws	Fail	Governance
HB 341	Bill Harris	Provide tax benefits to employers and students for higher education expenses	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 343	Bryce Bennett	Prohibit request of online passwords as a condition of hiring or employment	Pass	Employment
HB 352	Tom Jacobson	Prohibit outfitting on state lands inaccessible to public	Fail	State Lands
HB 356	Donald Jones	Revise funding for career and vocational/technical education	Pass	Appropriations
HB 373	Scott Staffanson	Revise school bonding limit laws	Pass	School Finance
HB 374	Edith McClafferty	Provide for school suicide prevention awareness training	Pass	Safety
HB 376	Debra Lamm	Clarifying state control of K-12 education and assessment	Fail	Accreditation
HB 377	Debra Lamm	Revise laws related to K-12 accreditation standards	Fail	Accreditation
HB 381	Tom Burnett	Require certain state agencies to report on federal receipts	Fail	Governance
HB 383	Mary Ann Dunwell	Provide for mental and behavioral health screening for public school students	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 384	Mary Ann Dunwell	Increase Montana's minimum wage	Fail	Employment
HB 387	Nate McConnell	Revise county transportation committee laws	Pass	School Finance
HB 400	Geraldine Custer	Allow electronic ballot for disabled voters	Pass	Elections

HB 402	Austin Knudsen	Generally revise laws related to oil and gas development	Fail	School Finance
HB 404	Art Wittich	Provide income tax credit for engineering and science tuition	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 408	Greg Hertz	Revise contract rights for new members of public employee retirement plans	Fail	Employment
HB 411	Tom Richmond	Generally revise oil and gas tax laws	Pass	School Finance
HB 418	Mary Ann Dunwell	Establish child care facility for state employees	Fail	Employment
HB 420	Mary Ann Dunwell	Revise oil and gas tax rates and increase distributions to local governments	Fail	School Finance
HB 422	Ron Ehli	Improve outcomes for youth in the children's mental health system	Pass	At-Risk Youth
HB 423	Scott Staffanson	Revise education funding laws related to oil and natural gas production taxes	Fail	School Finance
HB 433	Seth Berglee	Providing a tuition tax credit for K-12 education	Fail	School Finance
HB 451	Christopher Pope	Revise funding for students with disabilities	Fail	School Finance
HB 455	Nancy Ballance	Generally revise Medicaid laws	Fail	At-Risk Youth
HB 462	Art Wittich	Allow free association by public employees	Fail	Employment
HB 474	Jennifer Eck	Require child sexual abuse and child sex trafficking prevention efforts	Fail	Safety
HB 475	Randy Brodehl	Revise statutory reimbursement schedule for school transportation funding	Fail	School Finance
HB 501	Debra Lamm	Revise laws related to student data collection and privacy	Fail	Governance
HB 511	Brad Tschida	Provide tax credits for contributions to scholarship organizations	Fail	School Finance
HB 520	Debra Lamm	Revise graduation requirements to include civics examination	Fail	Accreditation
HB 521	Debra Lamm	Ensure local control of schools	Fail	Governance
HB 524	Kathy Kelker	Require publishing of vaccine schedule and reporting to Legislature	Fail	Safety
HB 529	Virginia Court	Prohibit candidate from serving as poll watcher	Pass	Elections
HB 540	Daniel Salomon	Revise natural resource development K-12 funding payment	Fail	School Finance
HB 559	George Kipp	Promote Montana Indian languages	Pass	Accreditation
HB 562	Bruce Meyers	Require agency reporting on financial assistance to tribes	Fail	Appropriations
HB 563	Frank Garner	Provide for a rainy day reserve fund	Fail	Appropriations
HB 575	Tom Burnett	Providing transparency for state-administered grants	Fail	Governance
HB 579	Nancy Wilson	Provide for a tax on e-cigarettes	Fail	Safety
HB 580	Bryce Bennett	Prohibit certain persons from distributing things of value at polling places	Pass	Elections
HB 588	Rob Cook	Revise laws related to a reduction in funding	Pass	Appropriations
HB 589	Jessica Karjala	Revise laws related to adverse childhood experiences	Fail	Safety
HB 591	Christopher Pope	Revise oil and gas tax laws	Fail	School Finance
HB 596	Austin Knudsen	Establish public charter schools	Fail	School Finance
HB 607	Kirk Wagoner	Revise anti-corruption and state employee		

HB 610	Zach Brown	protection laws Provide for a Montana student loan refinancing program	Fail	Employment
HB 615	Carl Glimm	Revise laws related to the fundamental rights under the Montana Constitution	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 617	Steve Lavin	Provide scholarship opportunities for higher education in Montana	Pass	Higher Ed
HB 635	Tom Jacobson	Provide financial assistance for dual credit courses	Fail	Higher Ed
HB 636	Debra Lamm	Require legislative approval for acceptance of federal assistance funds	Fail	School Finance
HB 642	Edith McClafferty	Revise laws related to school district repayment of protested taxes	Fail	School Finance
HJ 2	Mike Miller	Revenue estimating resolution	Fail	Appropriations
HJ 21	Bryce Bennett	Interim study on ownership of personal information	Pass	Safety
HJ 23	Debra Lamm	Interim study of Montana's election process	Fail	Elections
HJ 26	Gordon Pierson	Interim study of youth concussion protection laws	Fail	Safety
HJ 28	Mike Cuffe	Interim study on collective bargaining process	Fail	Employment
SB 2	Jonathan Windy Boy	Raise state minimum wage	Fail	Employment
SB 12	Mary Sheehy Moe	Provide ANB funding for 19-year olds	Fail	School Finance
SB 14	Robyn Driscoll	Raise the legal dropout age to 18-years old or upon graduation	Fail	At-Risk Youth
SB 34	Tom Facey	Facilitate cabin and home-site sales	Pass	State Lands
SB 56	Bradley Hamlett	Revise river bed laws	Pass	State Lands
SB 65	Robyn Driscoll	Code Commissioner bill	Pass	Accreditation
SB 66	Diane Sands	Generally revise laws regarding alternative nicotine or vapor products	Pass	Safety
SB 67	Cliff Larsen	Generally revise laws regarding missing persons	Pass	Safety
SB 106	Pat Connell	Generally revise education laws	Fail	Accreditation
SB 107	Taylor Brown	Revise K-12 school district expansion laws	Fail	School Finance
SB 128	Kris Hansen	Establish decennial school funding study	Pass	School Finance
SB 141	Llew Jones	Repeal termination of reemployment provision for certain retired TRS members	Pass	Employment
SB 143	Cary Smith	Clarify constitutional provisions and law related to Board of Regents/u-system	Fail	Governance
SB 151	Doug Kary	Strike requirements to file campaign reports with election administrators	Pass	Elections
SB 178	Mary Sheehy Moe	Revise laws regarding vo-tech mill allocation	Fail	Higher Ed
SB 179	Christine Kaufmann	Prohibit discrimination of gender identity/ expression and sexual orientation	Fail	Employment
SB 213	Fred Thomas	Provide for school safety	Pass	Safety
SB 215	Jennifer Fielder	Revise public land laws	Fail	State Lands
SB 240	Edward Buttrey	Revise Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children	Pass	At-Risk Youth
SB 241	Roger Webb	Provide statewide uniformity regarding wages/benefits for political subdivisions	Fail	Employment
SB 246	JP Pomnichowski	Revise laws restricting use of sick leave & vacation time	Fail	Employment

SB 249	Jill Cohenour	Generally revise energy performance contracting laws	Pass	School Finance
SB 250	Jill Cohenour	Expand school transportation funding for academic summer school	Fail	School Finance
SB 251	Dee Brown	Revise prevailing wage laws to match local government contracting	Fail	Employment
SB 252	Llew Jones	Revise K-12 funding laws related to oil and natural gas production taxes	Pass	School Finance
SB 255	Taylor Brown	Revise laws for advancing agricultural education	Pass	Accreditation
SB 260	Frederick Moore	Revise education funding laws related to oil and gas production taxes	Pass	School Finance
SB 272	Jonathan Windy Boy	Encourage Indian language immersion in schools	Pass	Accreditation
SB 275	Roger Webb	Constitutional amendment to elect board of public education	Fail	Governance
SB 304	Robyn Driscoll	Revise protection of youth athlete laws	Fail	Safety
SB 310	Lea Whitford	Provide unemployment benefits to certain school employees	Fail	Employment
SB 324	Jennifer Fielder	Provide for relief to counties containing federal lands	Fail	State Lands
SB 326	Jedediah Hinkle	Revise state land laws	Pass	State Lands
SB 328	Llew Jones	Provide for higher education seeded savings accounts	Fail	Higher Ed
SB 331	Kris Hansen	Revise laws related to employing noncertified teachers	Fail	Employment
SB 345	Elsie Arntzen	Revise process for adoption of accreditation standards	Pass	Accreditation
SB 366	Mary Caferro	Require CHIP coverage of autism spectrum disorder	Fail	At-Risk Youth
SB 376	John Brenden	Revise laws regarding state agency use of recovered indirect costs	Pass	Governance
SB 382	Christine Kaufmann	Revise the revenue estimating process	Fail	Appropriations
SB 404	Elsie Arntzen	Revise education funding laws related to tax increment financing	Fail	School Finance
SB 410	Llew Jones	Provide for tax credits for contributions to public and private schools	Pass	School Finance
SB 412	Llew Jones	Referendum for tax credits for contributions to public and private schools	Fail	School Funding
SB 414	Edward Buttrey	Create seasonal employer and employee designation for unemployment insurance	Fail	Employment
SB 418	Llew Jones	Authorizing transfers to implement provisions of HB 2	Pass	Employment
SJ 10	Llew Jones	Resolution requesting performance audit of data collection by OPI	Pass	School Finance
SJ 20	Bruce Tutvedt	Interim study on historic road right-of-way acquisition	Pass	State Lands