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WYOMING STATE AFL-CIO
2017 MID-SESSION LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The 2017 General Session of the Wyoming Legislature reached its halfway point on Tuesday, February 07, 2017. The following is a list of bills from both the House and Senate that the Wyoming State AFL-CIO has been following and their status as of Wednesday, February 08, 2017. The 2017 General Session is scheduled to end on March 03, 2017. To view copies of proposed and introduced legislation or to track bills as they make their way through the process please go to www.legisweb.state.wy.us/.

LABOR BILLS

HB0070 – OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS - Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee. This Bill relates to the administration of government; recognizes limitations on the regulatory authority of the occupational safety and health administration; provides legislative findings in relation to those limitations; specifies the policy of the state in regard to actions of the occupational safety and health administration; authorizes intervention by the attorney general to protect the interests of the state as specified; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 56-3-1 vote and was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0071 – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS – Sponsored by: Joint Labor, Health & Social Services Interim Committee. This Bill relates to unemployment compensation; allows electronic communications as specified; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 58-1-1 vote; it was introduced in the Senate and has passed 2nd reading. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0073 – INTERFERENCE WITH A PERSON PROVIDING EMERGENCY SERVICES. Sponsored by: Representative(s) Steinmetz, Blackburn, Hallinan and Salazar and Senator(s) Anderson and Baldwin. This Bill relates to crimes and offenses; establishes the crime of interference with a person providing emergency services; provides penalties; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 34-25-1 vote and is waiting introduction in the Senate. POSITION: SUPPORT
HB0084 – WORKERS COMPENSATION – DELINQUENT EMPLOYERS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Barlow, Larsen and Sweeney and Senator(s) Von Flatern. This Bill relates to labor and employment; provides for the discretionary recovery of delinquent worker’s compensation payments by civil action; provides for the recovery of delinquent payments through installment agreements as specified; modifies the interest rate for delinquent premiums; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 54-3-3 vote; it was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Labor, Health & Social Services Committee. POSITION: NEUTRAL

HR0085 – UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION – DELINQUENT EMPLOYERS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Barlow, Larsen and Sweeney and Senator(s) Von Flatern. This Bill relates to labor and employment; modifies the delinquency rate for unpaid employment wage contributions; allows employers to enter into installment payment agreements with the department to repay delinquent contributions as specified; provides for the suspension of new penalties and interest when an employer complies with terms of a payment agreement; and provides for an effective date. This Bill died due to not being heard before the Committee of the whole cutoff date. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0092 – PAYMENT OF WAGES UPON TERMINATION – TIME LIMITS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Larsen and Senator(s) Burns. This Bill relates to labor and employment; permits the time period for payment of wages upon termination of employment to be specified in a collective bargaining agreement; and providing for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 58-0-2 vote; it was introduced in the Senate and is on second reading. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0171 – UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE-DELINQUENCY CONTRIBUTIONS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Barlow and Larsen and Senator(s) Von Flatern. This Bill relates to unemployment compensation; provides for the department of workforce services to reduce contributions for delinquent employers as specified; provides requirements; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 57-0-3 vote; it was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0181 – GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS - LABOR ORGANIZATIONS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Larsen. This Bill relates to public works and contracts; provides for procurement of construction goods and services by the state and its subdivisions as market participants; provides for fair and open competition; provides for exemptions; provides legislature findings; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced and assigned to the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. It was killed in committee on a 5-4 vote. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0233 – STATE OR SCHOOL EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT – COMPENSATION REDUCTION - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Miller, Allen, Clem, Larsen and Salazar and Senator(s) Driskill. This Bill relates to state, University of Wyoming, community college and school district employees; requires salaries and benefits to be subject to any general compensation reduction approved by the legislature; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced in the House and was assigned to the Minerals Committee. This Bill died due to no report prior to Committee of the Whole Cutoff. POSITION: OPPOSE
SF0089 – PRESUMPTIVE DISABILITY FOR FIREFIGHTERS - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Landen and Representative(s) Walters. This File relates to public health and safety; provides for a rebuttable presumption of disabilities for firefighters; lists subject diseases; provides eligibility for specified benefits to which the presumption applies; outlines criteria for presumptions; provides rulemaking authority; specifies applicability; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 28-2-0 vote; it was introduced in the House and assigned to the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. POSITION: SUPPORT

SF0095 – EARLY RETIREMENT - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Meier, Driskill, Pappas and Perkins and Representative(s) Haley, Hunt, Jennings, Miller, Steinmetz and Zwonitzer. This File relates to retirement; creates an early retirement option for state employees to be administered by the Wyoming retirement board; specifies qualifications of state employees eligible for early retirement; specifies payments and benefits for early retirement; provides for restrictions on filling vacant positions; requires reports; providing for an appropriation; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 28-2-0 vote. It is waiting introduction in the House. POSITION: OPPOSE

SF0101 – UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXEMPTION – SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT. Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks, Driskill and Kinskey and Representative(s) Laursen, Lindholm, Madden and Sweeney. This File relates to unemployment insurance; establishes a system for employers to exempt seasonal employees from coverage under the unemployment insurance system; requires rulemaking; and provides for an effective date. This Fill was introduced and was assigned to the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. This File died due to no report prior to Committee of the Whole Cutoff. POSITION: OPPOSE

SF0153 – EMPLOYMENT NONDISCRIMINATION - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Rothfuss, Coe, Pappas, Perkins and Von Flaten and Representative(s) Barlow, Connolly, Furphy, Madden, Pelkey and Zwonitzer. This File relates to labor and employment; prohibits discriminatory payment and employment practices based on sexual orientation or gender identity; provides exemptions; and provides for an effective date. This File was introduced in the Senate; it was assigned to the Minerals Committee where it passed on a 4-1 vote; but was killed on first reading on a 13-17-0 vote. POSITION: SUPPORT

SOCIAL JUSTICE

HB0140 – MINIMUM WAGE - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Byrd. This Bill relates to labor and employment; increases minimum hourly wages; provides for a training wage; increases minimum wage for tipped employees; requires employers to pay underpaid tipped wages in a specified time; provides for treble damages, minimum recovery, court costs and attorney fees as specified; repeals an obsolete provision; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced in the House; it was assigned to the Labor, Health and Social Services Committee where it passed on a 5-4 vote; but was killed on first reading on a 20-40-0 vote. POSITION: SUPPORT
HB0207 – RESTRICTIONS ON PUBLIC BENEFITS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Jennings, Biteman, Blackburn, Clem, Court, Edwards, Gray, Halverson, Lone, Madden, McKim, Miller, Pownall, Salazar, Steinmetz and Winters and Senator(s) Dockstader and Meier. This Bill relates to public benefits; conditions eligibility for public benefits on lawful presence in the United States; requires verification of lawful presence in the United States upon application for public benefits; provides a penalty; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced and assigned to the House Labor, Health and Social Services Committee. It died by not being heard by that committee. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0209 – DISPARITY IN WAGES AND BENEFITS BETWEEN MEN AND WOMEN - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Connolly and Halverson. This Bill relates to employment; provides for a study and a report on wage and benefit disparities; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 37-23-0 vote; it has been received by the Senate and is waiting introduction. POSITION: SUPPORT

GAME AND FISH, RECREATION AND PUBLIC LANDS

HB0034 – TRAPS – REMOVAL OF CERTAIN ANIMALS - Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee. This Bill relates to game and fish; exempts persons removing certain animals caught in traps or snares from penalties relates to interfering with lawful trapping; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was received for introduction but was withdrawn by the sponsor before it was assigned to committee. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0061 – COLLECTION OF ANTLERS AND HORNS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Clausen, Allen, Berlow, Kirkbride, Lindholm and Steinmetz and Senator(s) Boner and Driskill. This Bill relates to game and fish; prohibits collection of antlers and horns on private property as specified; provides a penalty; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 58-2-0 vote; it was assigned to the Senate Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee where it passed on a 4-1 vote and is on General File. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0063 – GAME ANIMAL LICENSES – LIMITATIONS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Barlow, Allen and Haley and Senator(s) Driskill. This Bill relates to game and fish; modifies restrictions imposed on applications for certain game animal licenses; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced and passed the House on a 47-12-1 vote and has been received by the Senate for introduction. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0069 – COUNTY RESOLUTION – FEEDING WILDLIFE - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Schwartz, Barlow and Kirkbride. This Bill relates to county commissioners’ regulatory authority; authorizes counties to prohibit or regulate the feeding of wildlife as specified; provides for penalties; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was received for introduction in the House and was assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It died in committee on a 3-5-1 vote. POSITION: OPPOSE
HB0121 – FISHING LICENSES - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Allen and Barlow and Senator(s) Baldwin and Emerich. This Bill relates to game and fish; provides for nonresident five day fishing licenses; exempts holders of such licenses from conservation stamp purchase requirement; provides for fees; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 57-3-0 vote; was introduced in the Senate where it was assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It passed that committee on a 5-0 vote and has been placed on General File. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0130 – HARVEST OF TROPHY GAME AND FURBEARING ANIMALS - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Lindholm and Hunt and Senator(s) Emerich. This Bill Relates to game and fish; specifies determinations of allowable harvests for mountain lions and bobcats; reserves a certain percentage of mountain lion licenses for residents as specified; allows regulation of use of dogs for residents and nonresidents; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 60-0-0 vote; was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It passed that committee on a 5-0 vote and is on General File. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0205 – GAME AND FISH – ANIMAL AGE MANAGEMENT FEES - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Hunt, Allen, Laursen, McKim, Northrup and Paxton and Senator(s) Hicks. This Bill relates to game and fish; provides additional application and license fees as specified; provides for distribution of fees; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It was killed in committee on a 2-7-0 vote. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0214 – GAME AND FISH LIFETIME PIONEER LICENSE - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Henderson, Barlow and Blake and Senator(s) Driskill and Meier. This Bill relates to game and fish; amends requirements and fees for certain hunting licenses issued based on age and residency; authorizes issuance of lifetime pioneer licenses; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced in the House and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It was killed in committee by not being heard. POSITION: OPPOSE

HB0235 – MENTOR SMALL GAME AND GAME BIRD HUNTING - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Miller, Allen, Jennings, Kirkbride, Larsen and Salazar and Senator(s) Meier. This Bill relates to game and fish; provides an exception to the hunter safety certificate requirement for hunting small game and game birds with a mentor; specifies requirements; provides rulemaking authority; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 58-2 vote. It was introduced in the Senate and was assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It passed the committee on a 5-0 vote and was placed on General File. POSITION: SUPPORT
HB0257 – COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL ACCESS TO PUBLIC LANDS – 2 - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Henderson, Barlow and Connolly and Senator(s) Hicks and Scott. This Bill relates to state lands; specifies that school or community needs for public land exchanges shall include community and economic impacts of public access to adjacent public lands; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was introduced and assigned to the Agriculture, Water and Public Lands Committee where it died on a 3-6-0 vote. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0288 – GAME AND FISH FEES - Sponsored by: House Appropriations Committee. This Bill relates to game and fish; increases certain fees relating to game and fish licenses, preference points, permits, applications, and stamps; increases certain watercraft fees administered by the game and fish department; and provides for an effective date. This Bill passed the House on a 40-18-2 vote; was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. POSITION: SUPPORT

HB0293 – PUBLIC LANDS MANAGEMENT EXTENSION - Sponsored by: Representative(s) Miller and Halverson. This Bill relates to federal lands; provides for a time extension for the development of a plan for the management of transferred federal lands to the state; and provides for an effective date. This Bill was received for introduction in the House but was withdrawn by the sponsor. POSITION: OPPOSE

SF0025 – WILDLIFE LOCATION AND RESEARCH INFORMATION – CONFIDENTIALITY - Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee. This File relates to game and fish; provides for confidentiality of research and studies on wildlife issues as specified; authorizes disclosure of research and studies on wildlife issues as specified; limits inspection of sensitive geospatial information on wildlife for purposes of public records provisions as specified; provides a definition; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 26-3-1 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee where it passed on an 8-1-0 vote. It was killed on General File in the House on a 4-54-2 vote POSITION: SUPPORT

SF0026 – GAME AND FISH LICENSES – CONFIDENTIALITY - Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Interim Committee. This File relates to game and fish; provides for the designation of personally identifiable information required for applicants to purchase game and fish licenses, permits or tags as confidential information; exempts inspection of personally identifiable information of the applicants for purposes of public records provisions as specified; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 29-0-1 vote. It was introduced in the House and was assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. POSITION: SUPPORT

SF0060 – ANTELOPE HUNTS – COMPLIMENTARY LICENSES - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Anderson and Ellis and Representative(s) Byrd, Larsen and Walters. This File relates to game and fish; provides that the commission may issue licenses for one (1) additional special antelope hunt per year; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 29-0-1 vote. It was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. POSITION: SUPPORT
SF0072 – 2017 LARGE PROJECT FUNDING - Sponsored by: Select Natural Resource Funding Committee. This File relates to the Wyoming Wildlife and Natural Resource Funding Act; provides for funding of large projects under that act; specifies large projects approved for funding in 2017; requires certifications regarding kickbacks and gifts; provides appropriations; provides for reversion of funds; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 30-0-0 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Appropriations Committee. **POSITION: SUPPORT**

SF0090 – ALLOCATION OF COMPLIMENTARY HUNTING LICENSES - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks and Representative(s) Allen. This File relates game and fish; limits allocation of certain complimentary licenses as specified; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 23-7 0 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. **POSITION: SUPPORT**

SF0078 – FEDERAL NATURAL RESOURCE POLICY ACCOUNT - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Bebout. This File relates to public funds; amends the purposes of the federal natural resource policy account; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 30-0-0 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Minerals Committee where it passed on an 8-1 vote. It has been placed on General File. **POSITION: OPPOSE**

SF0086 – GAME AND FISH PERMITS - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Emerich and Representative(s) Allen and Barlow. Sponsored by: Senator(s) Emerich and Representative(s) Allen and Barlow. This File relates to game and fish; requires the game and fish commission to regulate the possession and importation of certain fur-bearing animals; authorizes fees for issuance of certain permits; and provides for an effective date. This File passed the Senate on a 19-11-0 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. **POSITION: SUPPORT**

SF0120 – MENTOR ANTELOPE HUNTING VOUCHER - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Bouchard, Barnard, Meier, Perkins and Scott and Representative(s) Biteman, Jennings and Miller. This File relates to game and fish; authorizes issuance of mentor antelope hunting vouchers and antelope licenses as specified; establishes a fee; provides for a penalty; and provides for effective dates. This File was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee. It passed the committee on a 3-2 vote but was killed on General File on an 8-21-1 vote **POSITION: OPPOSE**

SF0139 – GAME AND FISH LICENSES - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Pappas, Hicks and Meier and Representative(s) Kinner, Piiparinen and Sweeney. This File relates to game and fish licenses; amends provisions related to license expirations; requires rulemaking; amends provisions related to reservations of certain unused licenses; makes conforming amendments; and provides for effective dates. This File passed the Senate on a 29-1-0 vote. It was introduced in the House and assigned to the Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural Resources Committee where it passed on a 6-3 vote. It is currently sitting on General File. **POSITION: SUPPORT**
SF0161 – ACQUISITION, EXCHANGE AND SALE OF TRUST LANDS - Sponsored by: Senator(s) Hicks. This File relates to state lands; provides for the acquisition, exchange or sale of trust lands as specified; and provides for an effective date. This File was introduced in the Senate and assigned to the Agriculture, water and Public Lands Committee. It died in committee as it was not heard. POSITION: OPPOSE

SJ0003 – PUBLIC LANDS – CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT - Sponsored by: Select Federal Natural Resource Management Committee. This JOINT RESOLUTION proposes to amend the Wyoming Constitution to provide for the management of and public access to lands granted by the federal government to the state after January 1, 2019. This Joint Resolution was not considered for introduction and therefore died. POSITION: OPPOSE