

Legislative Newsletter

March 3, 2017



First Funnel Ends

Funnel week concluded on Friday, March 3. Any bill that is not an appropriations or ways and means bill, or any bill that is not passed out of its full committee in the originating chamber is dead for the rest of the session. Between the debate on collective bargaining which took a week, and the flurry of bill activity during a typical funnel week, the Legislature has been burning the midnight oil in an attempt to funnel-proof various priorities, many of them a source of contention between the two parties.

The Governor's Office released this week a budget adjustments bill, which are additional budget cuts to certain departments and entities. Senate File 130 has the details. A total of \$11.5 million is proposed to be cut, and cuts will impact the Departments of Agriculture, Education, Health and Human Services, Justice Systems, Economic Development, and Administration and Regulation.

The following priorities have made it through the funnel:

- HSB 169: Workers Comp. Among many changes, this bill would establish a presumption that if a worker tests positive for drugs or alcohol at the time of an injury that the worker was intoxicated, and is not eligible for compensation; the worker would have recourse to overcome the presumption. The bill deems an imposition of liability against an employer does not create a private cause of action for the worker. This bill passed committee 14-9 and will have a public hearing Monday. The Senate companion bill, Senate Study Bill 1170 passed its committee 9-6.

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- SF 316: Community Supported Living Payments. This bill would require DHS to establish a home and community based services waiver to reimburse the costs of community supported living services provided to a person in the home of a family member.
- SF 369: Psych Bed Tracking. This bill directs DHS to require state-run mental health institutions or hospitals licensed for in-patient psychiatric services participate in a bed tracking system.
- SSB 1133: Mental health commitment exams. This bill would permit mental health professionals to, in certain voluntary and involuntary commitment situations, conduct commitment exams, treat patients and prescribe medications if authorized. It would also allow the professional to examine a patient who appears to have a serious mental illness but does not have a filed commitment application.
- Senate Study Bill 1034: Water Quality. This bill appropriates \$229 million from the RIIF budget over 13 years for water quality projects, and creates two programs. This bill also exempts metered water sales to residential customers from the sales tax and establishes a six percent excise tax with sunset provisions.
- SSB 1163/HSB 93: Voter ID. Among the many changes, this bill would require voters to submit a confidential voter ID number from a driver's license, military, or state-issued ID card. However, a voter may attest the identity of another voter who lacks ID. A voter may sign a form attesting to their identity in elections through 2019. The Secretary of State must issue free voter verification cards dependent on appropriations.
- SF 75: Mental Health Disclosures. This bill would allow a mental health professional to disclose the mental health status of an individual to law enforcement to prevent a serious and/or imminent threat on good faith. This bill passed committee 12-0.
- SSB 1145: PLA's. This bill prohibits state agencies, local governments and other entities from entering into a Project Labor Agreement or similar agreement with a union. It limits government requirements that contractors provide any confidential information, as well as other restrictions that can be placed on bidders. This passed committee 7-4.
- SSB 1082: E911 CHANGES. This bill partly is a technical clean-up and makes financial allocations. It requires DHS and emergency services to develop a plan to combine the wireline

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911 network with the next generation 911 network. This bill does not take away the 60 percent wireless surcharge to the PSAP's. This passed committee 11-4.

· HSB 11: COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARDS. This bill abolishes the county compensation boards, and gives the supervisors the responsibility for setting the salaries of elected officials. This passed committee 12-8.

· SSB 1138: SITING WIRELESS FACILITIES. This bill prohibits local authorities from restricting the siting of small wireless facilities. It includes definitions, siting rules, fees, and appeal procedures. The bill strikes provisions on joint financing of facilities. This passed committee 12-1.

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