



Big “I” Capitol Report

The 2017 Montana Legislative Session has begun with very significant changes in the Montana Big “I”. Our Executive Director/CEO Bob Biskupiak has accepted the position of Deputy Insurance Commissioner with the New State Auditor, Commissioner of Securities and Insurance, Matthew M. Rosendale. With short notice our IIAM leadership has made some quick decisions in regard to the folks that will represent you in 2017. Kerri Emmons has been named as your next IIAM Executive Director and the services of old IIAM Executive Director Roger McGlenn has been obtained as your Government Relations/Lobbyist position for the 2017 session. Roger can be contacted at the email address of govrelations@iiamt.org.

The Big “I” Legislative Committee has been assembled and has held their first conference call with Roger to review and evaluate introduced bills that may impact on our industry, our customers and our agency operations. The Committee is also review potential issues and possible legislation along with the numerous bill draft request that have been filed.

2017 Montana Big “I” Legislative Committee

Tom Berry	Key Insurance Agency – Big Timber
Andrew Brekke	Erickson Insurance Group - Havre
Mindy Carver	PayneWest Insurance - Missoula
Tom Chamberlin	Mandeville Insurance - Columbus
Deanna Darnielle	Darnielle Insurance - Billings
Tom Grau	Retired – Great Falls
Chris Hindoién	Rocky Mountain Insurance Svcs- Choteau
Kristy Hodik	Hobson Insurance - Hobson
Chuck Mazurek	Retired - Helena
Clara Mays	PayneWest – Missoula
Richard Miltenberger	Leavitt Great West – Helena
Jeremy Norby	Seitz Insurance - Sidney
Scott Tuxbury	Big Sky Underwriters - Missoula
Perry Wolfe	Wolfe-Daniels Agency – Scobey

More information on the Legislative Committee is located [on our website](#).

During the session we will provide updates on specific bills impacting our industry and possible agency operations through legislative bulletins. If you would like to be added to our data base to receive this newsletter, please email Natalia Rogers at nrogers@iiamt.org.

As in the past, this bulletin provides you with a summary of current insurance related bills. The bill number in the left column is an active link to the actual bill language. The second column contains a short description of the Bill and also the status of the bill.

The bills that are most significant are in “**bold**” and the current status is in “**red**”.

House Bills

HB 46	Generally revising funding for civil legal aid Hearing scheduled for 1/13/17 (H) Judiciary
HB 56	Revise motor carrier laws Heard 1/6/17 in (H) Federal Relations, Energy, and Telecommunications
HB 73	Regulate certain air ambulance memberships as insurance Hearing Scheduled 1/10/17 (H) Business and Labor
HB 120	Revise insurance laws pertaining to NAIC accreditation Hearing scheduled for on 1/12/17 (H) Business and Labor
HB 123	Require certain insurance disclosures to minimize surprise bills Hearing not scheduled yet
HB 137	Generally revise securities and insurance laws pertaining to the State Auditor Hearing not scheduled yet; The Insurance Department Housekeeping Bill
HB 138	Revise licensing of general insurance agent laws Heard on 1/5/17 (H) Business & Labor; Insurance Department bill to clarify MGA language and appointments of producers by affiliation. IIAM is an information source on this bill
HB 142	Revise insurance law to give mental health coverage parity with physical health Hearing not scheduled yet
HB 144	Generally revise motor vehicle laws Scheduled for hearing 1/17/17 (H) Judiciary
HB 145	Adopt NAIC model legislation regarding Annuities Scheduled for hearing 1/12/17 (H) Business and Labor

HB 160	Assign warranty responsibility to registered contractor for work under contract Scheduled for hearing 1/13/17 (H) Business and Labor
HB 165	Revise punitive damage laws Scheduled for hearing 1/12/17 (H) Judiciary
HB 194	Prohibit local restrictions on electronic devices while driving Not scheduled for hearing at this time

End of House Bills

Senate Bills

SB 9	Provide for primary enforcement of seatbelt laws Scheduled for hearing on 1/12/17
SB 58	Prohibit the use of \$0 claims for insurance policy cancellation or renewal Heard 1/6/17 (S) Business and Labor; IIAM is working with Insurance Department and Bill sponsor as an informational source
SB 72	Create presumptive illness for firefighters Not schedule for hearing at this time
SB 83	Volunteer Health Services Act providing some immunity Hearing not scheduled yet

End of Senate Bills