



Independent Insurance
Agents of Montana

Big “I” Capitol Report

January 16, 2017

Week three of the 2017 Montana Legislative Session is beginning with bills beginning to come out of drafting, being assigned to committee and scheduled for hearing. Your legislative committee has been reviewing introduced bills and possible issues to come before the legislature. These Committee members efforts and time commitments are very important to your representation during the session and throughout the year. The committee has held two conference calls and been active through email and researching issues.

Your committee and Roger continue to be very active representing you during the session. However, the most important and affective representation of you and your agency/business, is one-on-one contact from a grass roots basis with your legislator. The IIAM Legislative Committee has requested that any member with a relationship with a legislator to please inform your association of that person and your relationship. Please contact Roger or the IIAM office with any contact relationships with legislators that you may have. Roger can be contacted at govrelations@iiamt.org.

If you would like to be added to our data base to receive this newsletter, please email Natalia Rogers at nrogers@iiamt.org.

Bill numbers below are linked to the detailed information page for each bill. View the current bill text by clicking on the links next to the Bill Draft Number. (Look for the pointing finger icon). 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 Heard 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 Heard 1/10/17 (H) Business and Labor

HB 120	Revise insurance laws pertaining to NAIC accreditation Heard 1/12/17 (H) Business and Labor Bill Passed to floor as Amended
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 1/18/17 (H) Transportation
HB 145	Adopt NAIC model legislation regarding Annuities Hearing postponed in (H) Business and Labor
HB 160	Assign warranty responsibility to registered contractor for work under contract Heard 1/13/17 (H) Business and Labor
HB 165	Revise punitive damage laws Heard 1/12/17 (H) Judiciary
HB 194	Prohibit local restrictions on electronic devices while driving Scheduled for hearing 1/17/17 (H) Judiciary
HB 216	Require bonding for wind development Referred to Committee -- (H) Energy, Technology, and Federal Relations
HB 222	Revise laws related to insurance and storm damage repairs Scheduled for hearing 1/17/17 (H) Business & Labor

HB 229	Allowing worker to choose treating physician in workers" compensation cases <i>Scheduled for hearing 1/17/17 (H) Business & Labor</i>
HB 238	Revise penalties for noncompliance with vehicle liability insurance laws <i>Referred to (H) Business and Labor</i>

End of House Bills

Senate Bills

SB 9	Provide for primary enforcement of seatbelt laws <i>Scheduled for hearing on 1/12/17</i>
SB 44	Provide process to hold patients harmless from balance billing by air ambulance <i>Heard in Senate B&L 1/13/17</i>
SB 58	Prohibit the use of \$0 claims for insurance policy cancellation or renewal <i>Tabled in Committee</i>
SB 72	Create presumptive illness for firefighters <i>Heard in (S) Business & Labor 1/13/17</i>
SB 83	Volunteer Health Services Act providing some immunity <i>Hearing scheduled in (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety 1/16/17</i>
SB 96	Right to shop act for health care services <i>Hearing scheduled in (S) Public Health, Welfare and Safety 1/16/17</i>
SB 107	Provide liability limits for emergency care by volunteer emergency responders <i>Hearing scheduled in (S) Judiciary 1/20/17</i>
SB 116	Disallowing workers" compensation benefits for certain false statements <i>Hearing Scheduled for (S) Business & Labor 1/25/17</i>
SB 118	Provide for uniform act regarding fiduciary access to digital assets, providing some immunity <i>Referred to Committee -- (S) Judiciary</i>

End of Senate Bills