

Big “I” Capitol Report

March 5, 2015

We have hit the halfway point in the 64th Legislative session. Since several of the bills the Big “I” has been tracking and involved in did not make it past the transmittal date, the list of bills will be shorter than the previous legislative bulletin. Our focus now shifts to making sure the bills that we have supported remain intact and accomplishes what they were meant to do. There are a few potentially harmful bills in the mix, but most of our concerns were alleviated with the defeat of several bills and friendly amendments on others.

As previously reported the most harmful bill to Montana agents was [SB 254](#), which would have required the Montana State Fund to pay \$50 million towards the Old Fund liability. This bill made it out of committee, but was *defeated* on the Senate floor. This bill is listed as “probably dead”, however, I have learned from past experiences that “probably dead” is a relative term in regards to the legislative process. The grassroots effort by our member agents to oppose this bill was fantastic. The strong response definitely contributed to the defeat of this bill.

The second key bill of interest is [HB 453](#), which revised the state hail program. We strongly opposed this bill in the House. After several *very favorable* amendments, the bill passed to the Senate. As currently drafted, this bill will be supported by the Big “I”. We suspect new amendments will be offered, thus we will monitor this bill closely.

I want to personally thank the Legislative Committee for their participation in the process. We are much stronger as group! Obviously we are only halfway done and there is more work and surprises in store for us.

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 53	Permits discounts to military or veterans by P&C carriers Passed Senate committee; waiting to be heard on floor
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HB 57	Strengthen security protections against financial abuse Bill Passed both houses and signed by Governor
HB 74	Requires data breach notice to attorney general and insurance commissioner Bill Passed both houses and signed by Governor
HB 78	Clarifies vehicle owner’s privacy rights for event data recorders Amended bill concurred in Senate committee; waiting to be heard on floor
HB 90	Revise worker’s compensation law regarding claims examiners and fee schedules Amended bill concurred in Senate committee; waiting to be heard on floor
HB 94	Allows for combined coverage policies in surplus lines Signed by Governor
HB 95	Revises public adjuster laws Amended bill concurred in Senate committee; waiting to be heard on floor
HB 103	Revise duties of state auditor office related to insurance and security laws; Housekeeping bill Signed by Governor
HB 118	Allows for electronic delivery of policies Passed House, Senate hearing scheduled for 3/12/15
HB 119	Update insurance laws to meet NAIC accreditation Passed House, scheduled in Senate committee on 3/13/15
HB 204	Revising laws relating to liability waivers and releases Scheduled in Senate Judiciary on 3/5/15

HB 207	Prohibiting disclosure of media from electronic communications services Awaiting executive action by Senate Judiciary committee
HB 240	Allows for policy fees in surplus lines Scheduled for Senate hearing on 3/13/15
HB 267	Authorizing ride share (Uber) arrangements and issues involving insurance Tabled in committee; probably dead
HB 297	Prohibits Texting and cell phone use while driving Passed out of committee
HB 375	Increases minimum limits of liability for property damage to \$20,000 Hearing scheduled 3/5/15
HB 413	Create OSHA laws applicable to private employers In first house, passed out of committee
HB 453	Revises State Hail Program allowing board to borrow money from Board of Investments We strongly opposed this bill as drafted. Bill was killed on the House floor, but later amended and passed on to the Senate. The amendment is very favorable to agents. Our goal will be to keep the bill intact as it moves through the process.
HB 503	Clarify loss run insurance laws Scheduled in Senate committee on 3/17/15

End of House Bills

Senate Bills

SB 4	<p>Authorize temporary appointment in vacancy of worker's compensation judge</p> <p>Signed by Governor</p>
SB 52	<p>Revise captive insurance laws</p> <p>Passed out of House committee, waiting for floor discussion</p>
SB 83	<p>Adopt health insurance appeals/external review laws of NAIC</p> <p>Scheduled for hearing in House committee on 3/10/15</p>
SB 84	<p>Revise claims considerations in insurance policies</p> <p>In second house, tabled in committee; probably dead</p>
SB 99	<p>Revise Insure Montana small business health insurance laws</p> <p>In first house, passed out of committee</p>
SB 103	<p>Provide presumptive disease coverage for paid firefighters</p> <p>Tabled in committee; probably dead</p>
SB 123	<p>Revises regulatory authority over the Montana State Fund</p> <p>Transmitted to House, waiting for committee hearing</p>
SB 184	<p>Allow for display of electronic proof of motor vehicle insurance</p> <p>Concurred in House committee; waiting for floor discussion</p>
SB 209	<p>Regulate vehicle event data</p> <p>Scheduled in House Judiciary on 3/11/15</p>
SB 234	<p>Revise tax and fees for professional liability insurance</p> <p>Hearing scheduled on 2/12/15</p>

SB 254	<p>Revise workers compensation laws relating to Montana State Fund</p> <p>Probably Dead</p>
SB 259	<p>Revises workers compensation and occupational health and safety assessments</p> <p>In first house – passed out of committee</p>
SB 288	<p>Allows for medical recovery related to worker’s compensation</p> <p>Passed Senate; awaiting House committee hearing</p>
SB 292	<p>Creates drug formulary for workers compensation</p> <p>Passed Senate; awaiting House committee hearing</p>

End of Senate Bills