



JULY 2019

SUMMARY OF
LEGISLATION



A PUBLICATION OF THE
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Introduction

This document provides a summary of legislation passed and approved during the 2019 session of the Montana Legislature. It is organized by subject, and some legislation appears in more than one subject area, as many pieces of legislation can incorporate a range of subjects. The summary does not include the budget provisions of House Bill 2. A House Bill No. 2 narrative and information on the state’s budget are available [HERE](#).

This compilation includes a concise and objective review of the change in the law included in legislation enacted by the Legislature. For more details on an individual piece of legislation, visit the Montana Legislature’s bill information website. It is available [HERE](#). The website includes the full text of each bill, actions taken on the bill, and fiscal notes prepared for a bill. Montana’s legislative research staff also prepare overviews of legislation for specific interim committees that include much more detail than this summary, and links to those reports and the respective interim committees are included throughout.

During the Montana Legislature’s 2019 session, legislators requested 3,324 drafts. Of that total, legislators introduced 1,308 bills or resolutions, and the outcome resulted in 633 bills or resolutions enrolled.

Agriculture or Livestock Related Legislation

For additional information on Agriculture and Livestock Related Legislation, click [HERE](#) or [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature’s [Economic Affairs Interim Committee](#) and the [Environmental Quality Council](#).

HB 24 Revises irrigation cost deduction for irrigated property to a set amount of \$50 an acre rather than using a combination of labor and energy costs.

HB 50 reduces penalties for agricultural commodity law violations, such as operating without a water operator's or commodity dealer's license, to a civil penalty.

HB 51 repeals the Montana-certified natural beef cattle marketing program.

HB 58 Revises the duties of the Drought and Water Supply Advisory Committee, to include communications with and monitoring of national, local, state, tribal, and federal partners. Also includes assessment of the cumulative water supply status and notification of appropriate authorities of drought potential and possible impacts.

HB 63 extends liability requirement for commercial pesticide operators.

HB 101 Revises to March 31 from January 31 the date by which a livestock owner who has reason to request a refund of per capita fees is to apply for the refund.

HB 102 creates a civil penalty for violation of laws related to wheat and barley research and marketing or pulse crop research and marketing.

HB 124 Authorizes county commissioners to lift agricultural covenants in limited situations.

HB 142 Revises county weed laws. Provides for an integrated weed management program.

HB 151 Doubles the maximum annual assessment on wheat up to 40 mills a bushel and barley up to 60 mills a hundredweight.

HB 221 Revises pesticide applicator laws. Provides for online recertification. Requires report to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee by Sept. 1, 2020, on recertification requirements and the online training program.

HB 327 Clarifies labeling requirements for meat. Includes a definition of "cell-cultured edible products" and clarifies definitions of "hamburger" and "ground beef". Revises terms for misbranding or mislabeling of food and meat.

HB 389 Exempts certain implements or vehicles transporting hay or straw or both for less than 25 miles from height requirements, if overhead obstacles not expected to be encountered.

HB 431 Creates farmer loan assistance program. (See Economic Development)

HB 443 Revises requirements for hobbyist apiaries. Limits from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2021, the amount of registration fees for listing an annual hobbyist apiary site.

HB 520 Increases general fund transfer for livestock loss programs to \$300,000 each fiscal year from \$200,000.

HB 586 Revises laws related to state labs. Exempts from a 2/3 vote of each house of the Legislature and inclusion in the long-range building program a contract with an option to purchase a building for collocated lab space related to facilities that conduct animal testing for pathogens that could affect human health. Provides for an advisory committee to develop lease terms.

HB 607 Allows for the manufacture and sale of pet treats. Exempts from licensure and certain labeling requirements the manufacture of pet treats in this state if total annual sales are \$25,000 or less. Provides for registration and registration fees for pet treats.

HJ 29 Interim study of meat inspection laws, reviewing state and federal laws and inspection practices and regulatory procedures.

HJ 40 Provides an interim study of weather modification and its uses.

SB 56 Revises requirement for a hearing before suspending or revoking a meat establishment license and repeals the meat and poultry inspection appeals process.

SB 57 Removes reference to meat inspection system for home-grown and home-killed meats to conform with federal standards.

SB 69 Revises agricultural classification laws, including provisional 5-year agricultural classification for certain orchards, vineyards, and Christmas tree farms. Provides for submission for regular agricultural classification.

SB 73 revises certain agricultural commodity licensing requirements, such as expanding the definition of “commodity dealer” to include brokering and online transactions, allowing companies to post bonds for subsidiaries, and adding bonding and licensing requirements for commodity dealers acting as brokers.

SB 91 Revises weight limit laws for fertilizer.

SB 116 Revises irrigation district election laws.

SB 133 Revises eligibility for livestock loss payments by requiring certification that a livestock producer eligible for loss coverage has paid per capita fees, with some exceptions.

SB 137 Revises laws related to agricultural use of special fuel.

SB 177 Revises Montana hemp laws.

SB 178 Exempts hemp processing equipment from taxation.

SB 320 Clarifies laws regarding cost of care for animals seized.

SJ 16 Resolution urging federal country of origin labeling legislation.

Alcohol or Gambling Related Legislation

For additional information on Alcohol and Gambling Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature’s [Economic Affairs Interim Committee](#).

HB 35 Revises alcohol laws regarding auctions and quota areas.

HB 84 Revises taxation and reporting laws for wine and hard cider. Clarifies that tax on sacramental wine and table wine as well as hard cider is imposed for direct shipments, whether to consumers or licensed retailers (for wine) or licensed retailers (for hard cider). Differentiates payment schedule by production of 1,000 liters or less and more than 1,000 liters. Requires electronic filing and payments monthly for larger producers and annually for smaller producers.

HB 368 Allows dice games among players if the house does not have a financial interest. Under the bill, the dice game known as cee-lo, four-five-six, or three-dice game may be played in a licensed gambling establishment in either banked games or nonbanked games. Does not allow the establishment in which the game is played to have a financial interest or extend credit to any of the players.

HB 413 Prohibits use of vapor products or alternative nicotine products on public school property, except for educational demonstrations sanctioned by a school administrator or faculty member. Excludes from the prohibition a smoking cessation product used by an employee.

HB 613 Provides a limited all-beverages license for continuing care retirement communities that is exempt from the quota system. The license limits serving hours, requires server and sales training, and limits purchase to residents of the continuing care retirement community or their guests. Sales are not allowed for off-premises consumption. The license application fee is \$500, as is the annual renewal fee.

HB 725 Revises lottery laws by creating a sports wagering option in addition to lottery sales overseen by the newly named State Lottery and Sports Wagering Commission. Limits sports wagering option to licensees at locations licensed as a gambling operator under Title 23, chapter 5. Also imposes other limits on who can be licensed. Allows limited use of debit cards, along with cash or checks. Extends lottery penalties to sports wagering covered by the lottery. Includes distribution, after prize payouts and expenses and once revenue exceeds a general fund cap, to a Montana STEM scholarship program.

HB 727 Revises alcoholic beverage and gambling laws related to approval of certain alcoholic beverage licenses without physical premises, with the license required to be put in nonuse status and the licensee required to apply for premises within 6 months and gain approval in 1 year. Also recognizes the use of concession agreements in which an unlicensed entity may piggyback to serve alcoholic beverages on a licensee's license. Removes need for a conditional approval letter. Also allows approval of a gambling operator license prior to getting premises approved.

SB 1 Exempts the Montana Lottery's description of game parameters from Montana's rulemaking process.

SB 25 Generally revises gambling laws; allows heads-or-tails game by nonprofit organizations at licensed premises. Revises definition and regulations regarding operation of an antique gambling device (one manufactured prior to 1994 or one that is at least 30 years old). Clarifies that a gambling operator license is required to run a sports pool board; allows uses for charity.

SB 119 Allows access control systems for alcohol and gambling licensees. Sets notification requirements for starting and ending use of an access control system. Requires immediate access for regulatory or law enforcement purposes.

SB 182 Revises definition of microdistillery to allow production up to 200,000 proof gallons, up from 25,000 gallons.

SB 183 Recognizes the Board of Horseracing's authority to conduct public hearings and rulemaking aimed at developing a proposal for historical horseracing and to develop legislation for presentation first to the Economic Affairs Interim Committee and then to the 2021 Legislature.

SB 358 Revises resort area alcoholic beverage licensure laws by creating a new approach to resort area determination and new license determinations. For resort not in a quota area and less than 1,000

contiguous acres, the first license is tied to 100 accommodation units, with an additional license for each additional 50 accommodation units if a recreational facility has been completed. A resort with at least 1,000 contiguous acres and actual valuation of not less than \$30 million may receive up to 10 resort retail all-beverages licenses regardless of accommodation units. Limits set on transfers. Pre-existing applications for resort area designations are not subject to new application requirements, may receive one, grandfathered license for \$20,000 but must meet accommodation requirements and license fees for additional licenses.

Education Related Legislation

For additional information on Education Related Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Education Interim Committee](#). The summary information provided in this section was compiled by the Office of Public Instruction.

Accreditation/Curriculum

HB 33 Extends the Montana Indian language preservation program, 20-9-537, MCA, to the end of FY 2023.

HB 41 Extends the Cultural Integrity and Commitment Act passed with SB 272 (2015), which promotes innovative, culturally relevant, Indian language immersion programs for Indian and non-Indian students with the goal of raising student achievement, strengthening families, and preserving and perpetuating Indian language and culture throughout Indian country and Montana.

HB 153 Further specifies the process requirements for schools to apply for and the OPI to approve grants for programs for gifted and talented children. The revision adds a requirement for the OPI to report to the governor and the legislature by September 15 of even-numbered years on the status and effectiveness of programs serving gifted and talented students.

HB 351 Revises education laws to support transformational learning which is defined in the bill as a flexible system of pupil-centered learning that is designed to develop the full educational potential of each pupil that: is customized to address each pupil's strengths, needs, and interests; includes continued focus on each pupil's proficiency over content; and actively engages each pupil in determining what, how, when, and where each pupil learns. Schools will apply to the Board of Public Education for approval.

HB 387 Creates the Montana advanced opportunity act which is defined as any course, exam, experiential, online, or other learning opportunity that is incorporated in a district's advanced opportunity plan and that is designed to advance each qualifying pupil's opportunity for postsecondary career and educational success.

HB 631 Creates a pilot program for public-private partnerships to increase skill training in targeted industries and job-readiness assistance for target populations and provides rulemaking authority to the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI).

At-Risk Youth

SB 197 Allows students, participating in the Montana Youth Challenge Academy (MYCA), to earn a high school diploma.

Elections

HB 166 Changes the requirement regarding the posting of sample ballots at a polling location. A single sample ballot must now be posted only in one conspicuous location at each polling place, rather than in each voting station and in places around the polling place.

HJ 3 Requests an interim study bill designed to examine state and federal laws related to electors with disabilities, regarding accessible voting machines and technology, improving accessibility for electors with disabilities, and conflicts between state and federal laws.

HJ 10 Requests an interim study bill to identify and address barriers to voting by Montana Native Americans.

SB 130 Extends the time to issue certificates of election and hold the school board's annual organizational meeting from 15 to 25 days.

SB 148 Gives an elector who late registers the option of returning the ballot to the county election administrator, or school clerk if the election is administered by the school clerk, or to any polling location within the county or district where the elector is registered, on election day.

SB 162 Establishes an early count process that begins up to 3 days before election day. In counties with 8,000 or more registered electors or 5,000 or more absentee electors as of the close of regular registration, election officials may separate voted ballots from the secrecy envelope in preparation for tabulation.

SB 291 Directs county election administrators to ensure that at least one voter interface device is available at every polling location.

Employment Relations

HB 204 Clarifies employer reporting and contributions, dormant membership status, withdrawal from membership, retirement benefit options, rollover provisions, designation of beneficiaries including when and how beneficiaries are designated and the effect of no designation or an ineffective designation, the order of priority for the payment of beneficiaries and payments to minor children.

HJ 39 Requests that the Legislative audit committee prioritize a performance audit of administrative operations and costs of TRS and MPERA, to evaluate whether combining the two administrative entities into one would save money or result in other operational efficiencies.

SB 139 Revises the return to employment provisions under the teachers' retirement system by revising the criteria to be met for a retiree to return to employment in special circumstances without loss of retirement benefits.

Facilities

HB 247 Revises funding related to major maintenance projects by authorizing district trustees to issue obligations for limited purposes to certain financial institutions, specifically, a bank, building and loan association, savings and loan association, or credit union that is a regulated lender, as defined in 31-1-111, MCA, in addition to the board of investments.

HB 652 Provides for infrastructure funding in the form of general obligation bonds, general fund appropriations, and state special revenues from bonds. This bill specifically appropriates \$10.75 million

to the Department of Commerce for local governments for school district infrastructure projects related to safety or security issues, major repairs or deferred maintenance, and major improvements or enhancements.

Governance

HB 61 Allow the OPI to share a student’s personally identifiable information specifically associated with the ACT or other college entrance exam that is also administered as a state assessment test with accredited postsecondary institutions, testing agencies under contract with the state, or scholarship organizations.

HB 619 Allows the OPI to share student-level information with the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Department of Labor for research. The research must be directed at ensuring that the Montana K-12 education system meets the expectations of the Montana university system and the workforce needs of the state.

HB 715 Revises percentages for reductions in spending and providing for a tax modernization study on the budget stabilization reserve fund. The bill also directs the legislative finance committee to conduct a study on long-term budget stabilization, sets the parameters for the studies, and provides for appropriations.

HB 745 Creates the Montana Pupil Online Personal Information Protection Act which addresses the issue of third party education software providers who collect student information and then sell the data to marketers.

SB 2 Allows an additional financial framework for small government entities.

SB 58 Revises terms to exclude a reference to 32-1-115, MCA, which defines a student financial institution. Instead, a school or education service is added to 32-1-115, MCA; therefore, the reference to 32-1-115, MCA in 20-3-324, MCA is no longer necessary.

SB 302 Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to monitor and investigate non-compliance of local government entities regarding timely submission of financial reports and audits to the state.

SB 325 Creates the Montana Business Corporation Act. In this bill, definitions in section 35-1-113, MCA, are repealed and replaced with Section 14 of SB 325. In 20-5-320 (9)(b), MCA, the reference to the repealed section has been removed and replaced with the new definition of domestic corporation. This definition is applied to the “parent or guardian” in relation to a discretionary attendance agreement.

Higher Education

HB 176 Clarifies laws governing the creation of new community college districts. The key new provision gives the legislature the sole authority to approve a new community college district.

HB 212 Clarifies the general fund appropriation for each full-time equivalent resident student at a community college.

HB 657 Provides for a legislative study of education-related topics to be conducted by a bipartisan subcommittee of the legislative finance committee. The topics include K-12 special education funding, the community college funding formula, and postsecondary career and technical education credit values.

HB 716 Authorizes the establishment of the Idaho College of Osteopathic Medicine Cooperative Medical Education Program. The bill establishes the contract requirements of the program and requires the board of regents to request funding for all available slots in the program.

HB 754 Creates the Montana University System 2-Year Education Restructuring Review Commission.

SB 60 Revises undergraduate financial aid laws, revises the Montana resident student financial aid program, revises the Montana STEM scholarship program, extends eligibility for the STEM scholarship program to four years, eliminates the Governor's postsecondary scholarship council, and repeals the Governor's postsecondary scholarship program.

SB 212 Revises the payment made to tribal colleges. The bill also requires the tribal college to submit current academic year eligible enrollment numbers for the calculation of the state payment.

Safety

HB 173 Provides protections for students in school, whether public or private. The law states that students cannot consent to a sexual relationship with a teacher due to the authority that the teacher holds over the student.

HB 190 Allows local authorities to adjust the speed limit in a school zone. This bill change will allow the county commissioners to set the limit of school zones to no less than 15 miles per hour.

HB 413 Prohibits the use of tobacco products on public school property. The amended language extends the prohibition on the use of tobacco products on public school property to vapor products, or alternative nicotine products.

HB 601 Provides sideboards to an allocation made in HB 2. The bill moves \$100,000 from the section 6 budget to the section 9 budget for distribution to schools for professional development grants.

SB 35 Revises county interdisciplinary teams in the state.

SB 40 Directs the OPI to create and maintain an electronic directory photograph repository of individual students for the purposes of providing photographs to law enforcement for any student who has been identified as a missing child.

SB 92 Clarifies permissible expenditures for school and student safety and security within the school safety sub-fund of the building reserve fund to include staffing for or services provided by architects, engineers, school resource officers, counselors, and other staff or consultants assisting the district with improvements to school and student safety and security to include, programs to support school and student safety and security, including but not limited to active shooter training, threat assessments, and restorative justice.

SB 132 Provides protections for students in school, whether public or private. The law states that students cannot consent to a sexual relationship with a teacher due to the authority that the teacher holds over the student.

SB 140 Establishes the Montana Dyslexia Screening and Intervention Act. SB 140 requires school districts to identify children with disabilities and evaluate for special education as early as possible.

School Finance

HB 127 Adjusts the state school payment schedule. The Guaranteed Tax Base Aid (GTB) payment currently distributed in November will be paid in December; and the Direct State Aid, Quality Educator Component, At Risk Component, Indian Education for All, Student Achievement Gap, Special Education, and Data for Achievement payments normally distributed in December will be paid in November.

HB 159 Provides inflationary increases of 0.91 percent for FY 2020 and 1.83 percent for FY 2021 to the funding components of school district general fund budgets.

HB 237 Allows school districts to issue a bond for up to 30 years without restrictions related to comparable bond rates on 20-year loans.

HB 319 Aligns state finance law with financial standards by renaming the agency fund the more appropriate custodial fund.

HB 388 Allows the Superintendent of Public Instruction to distribute funds appropriated for contracts with in-state children's psychiatric hospitals or residential treatment facilities to public school districts.

HB 403 Modifies granted tax abatements for new or expanding underground mines at 2.5% against the value of coal as provided in 15-23-701(4), MCA, for tax years beginning on or after January 1, 2011, and ending December 31, 2030.

HB 576 Relates to donations made to the endowment fund in school districts. This change in law allows school districts to deposit donations in any budgeted or non-budgeted fund if the donor does not specify the purpose of the funds.

HB 633 Establishes a state special revenue account for the state library to use for the provision of digital library services throughout the state. The new account can receive payments for the use the natural resource information system, legislative transfers to the account, and any funds allocated to the account.

HB 636 Relates to payment of protested taxes or fees under protest. This change requires centrally assessed and industrial property taxpayers that protest more than 40% of their property tax bill deposit an additional 2.5% of the protested tax amount into a new local protested tax mitigation fund.

HB 643 Extends the state lands reimbursement block grant for schools through the end of FY 2021 and provides an annual appropriation of \$100,000 for the 2021 biennium.

HB 656 Provides a fixed tax rate for the privilege and license tax and the tax for the oil and gas natural resource distribution account as well as provides for the allocation of privilege and license tax revenue and revenue from the tax for the oil and gas natural resource distribution account.

SB 9 Revises laws related to overpayments of school district property taxes, ensuring that overpayments of school district general fund property taxes resulting from anticipated unusual enrollment increases that are not realized are fully returned to local taxpayers.

SB 10 Corrects errors related to the calculation of school major maintenance aid and the natural resource development k-12 school facilities payment.

SB 11 Updates laws related to pupil minimum age, clarifying that a 5-year-old child enrolled in a public school is considered a pupil.

SB 12 Repeals outdated statutes related to oil and gas accounts.

SB 16 Clarifies laws related to special education cooperatives and joint boards, removing language related to special education funding for joint boards.

SB 292 Allows the Office of Public Instruction to remit transportation and debt service payments directly to school districts with investment accounts separate from the county.

SB 321 Provides that the tax increment that is not utilized to pay costs or bonds by a targeted economic district that has issued bonds must be remitted to taxing jurisdictions in the same manner as it would have been distributed without tax increment financing.

SB 328 Authorizes a board of county commissioners to authorize a local abatement of the coal gross proceeds tax from a new or expanding surface coal mine and utilizes the same abatement provisions for surface mining as underground mining.

Teachers

HB 211 Renews the quality educator loan assistance program as a teacher recruitment and retention aid for rural schools and moves the responsibility for administering the program from the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education to the OPI. In addition, the bill substantially changes the program.

Employment and Insurance Related Legislation

For additional information on Employment Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Economic Affairs Interim Committee](#).

Corporations, Partnerships, Etc.

HB 108 Revises the regulation of escrow businesses, including the review by a certified public accountant of a licensee's financial statement. Removes requirement for certified mail and allows sending by common courier with tracking capability.

HB 160 Revises the Montana Self-Storage Facilities Act. Expands the definition of "emergency" to any suspected use of a premises for residential or unlawful purposes. Provides terms for contacting renter. Expands reasons for denying access to a renter. Allows purchaser buying goods put up for sale to absolve lien have lawful sale even if operator selling the goods is not in compliance with statutes.

HB 370 Revises laws related to notarial officers and notarial acts. Allows electronic notarization systems. Generally, updates options for remote notarization. Provides for 10-year retention of the notary public's journal and, upon revocation of a notary's commission and requires transmission of the journal and related audio-visual recordings to a repository approved by the secretary of state. Establishes continuing education requirements. Adds to actions for which a fee may be charged. Expands identity verification and fraud prevention measures.

HB 450 Revises motor vehicle laws and dealer license requirements. (See Transportation)

HB 617 Revises franchise laws, particularly automobile franchise laws. Provides circumstances in which a manufacturer can add a franchisee in a community. Addresses protected dealer data, authorized

integrators of dealer data, and dealer data vendors. Adds provisions for payment of warranty labor and for parts and supplies. Revises repurchase terms for inventory when dealership or distribution contract is canceled. Allows a retiring franchisee to designate a family member successor who meets certain qualifications and requires good cause for not honoring the succession. Provides procedures related to succession.

SB 325 Replaces previous statutes regarding corporate formation with new statutes based on the American Bar Association's 2016 revision of the model Business Corporation Act. Allows for electronic filing of documents with the Secretary of State's Office. Allows (for the following) a vote by an absolute majority rather than a 2/3 vote of shareholders, unless revised by the articles of incorporation: a merger or a share exchange, dissolution, and disposition of assets. Adopts new procedures for changing a home state or entity type. Allows mergers and share exchanges between corporations and other entity types, such as a limited liability company.

Economic Development

HB 19 Revises definition of "high-poverty" county for Big Sky Economic Development grants to U.S. Census definition.

HB 52 Revises funding for various economic development programs and repeals activities related to the Board of Research and Commercialization Technology.

HB 428 Allows Board of Investments to extend infrastructure loan programs and the InterCap Loan Program to Indian tribal governments for any public or governmental purpose.

HB 431 Creates a Montana farmer educational loan repayment assistance program through the Montana Growth Through Agriculture Act in conjunction with Montana State University Cooperative Extension Service. Sets criteria for loan assistance and distribution of funding. Limits available biennial funding to \$100,000 for loan assistance. Sunsets June 30, 2029.

HB 523 Revises trade and promotion activities carried out by the Department of Commerce. Specifies promotion activities allowed regionally, nationally, and globally. Directs the Department of Commerce to work with other state agencies on promotion and marketing activities.

HB 558 Eliminates the Economic Development Advisory Council, which was attached to the Department of Commerce.

HB 631 Creates a pilot program for public-private partnerships to increase skills training in targeted industries and job-readiness assistance for target populations. Provides an appropriation of \$45,000 for the biennium to be used for grants under the Montana Employment Advancement Right Now Program Act.

HB 632 Requires a decennial report on the economic contributions and impacts of Indian reservations to Montana, starting in 2020. Assigns task to the Bureau of Business and Economic Research at the University of Montana. Provides an appropriation.

SB 321 Revises laws related to targeted economic development districts eligible for tax increment financing. Includes the cost of issuing bonds or payment of premium or interest on bonds as eligible expenditures.

Financial Institutions, Trusts

HB 107 Revises Montana Mortgage Act relating to disclosures, surety bonds, and other requirements. Adds capital requirements for mortgage servicers and net worth requirements for mortgage lenders. Revises designated manager and branch office requirements. Allows service by common carrier with tracking capability. Provides penalties and restitution in relation to service providers. Authorizes investigation of service providers and information sharing with licensees. Amends mortgage servicer costs and fee schedule filing requirements.

HB 108 Clarifies reporting requirements for escrow businesses. Allows review by independent public accountant every odd-numbered year rather than a certified financial statement. Allows service by common carrier with tracking capability.

HB 162 Revises banking laws to allow the Department of Administration to furnish examination reports to a federal home loan bank and a federal reserve bank. Allows examination reports for banks and credit unions to be given in a timelier way to a federal reserve bank or a federal home loan bank.

HB 163 Allows certificates of deposit fully insured by the federal deposit insurance corporation to serve as a type of security used to guarantee public fund deposits.

HB 320 Revises laws related to tax-advantaged savings plans, allowing \$100,000 of assets and earnings to be exempt from creditor claims. Includes qualified tuition program accounts held by a Montana resident.

HB 584 Allows cryptocurrency transactions by defining and exempting from securities regulation the use of a utility token for consumptive purposes. Provides parameters for utility token uses. Sunset date set for Sept. 30, 2023.

HB 694 Revises fees for broker-dealers, investment advisers, and federal covered advisers to \$400 from \$200 for both the original and renewal applications. Doubles the current \$50 registration for an out-of-state salesperson or investment adviser but maintains the \$50 registration, renewal, and transfer costs for in-state sales persons or investment adviser representatives.

HB 731 Revises credit union laws to provide penalties for directors and others in position of responsibility for false statements, fraud, or other acts of deception. Also provides for removal of directors, officers, or employees for certain actions. States that if losses accrue because of incompetence, negligence, dishonesty, or recklessness of a director, officer, or employee and the supervisory committee failed to remove that official, then the department's written order requiring removal is conclusive evidence of negligence if an action is brought against the credit union board.

SB 58 Revises the Montana Bank Act. Defines "regional banking organization", "loan production office", and "service provider" and provides regulations regarding each. Specifies terms for acquiring control or acquisition over a bank and what happens if the department disapproves of the acquisition or change in control. Revises how student financial institutions are formed and operated. Revises duties of the State Banking Board. Allows the Department of Administration to accept examinations of a bank and other entities made by a federal agency or insuring agency of the United States and to conduct joint examination and enforcement. Revises scope of conflicts of interest provisions for state financial institutions staff. Revises terms for dividends, bylaws, recordkeeping, and the amount of deposits

controlled by a merged bank. Revises terms for branch banks, including closure notifications. Revises terms related to capital stock of a bank. Revises enforcement terms for removal of key bank officers.

SB 311 Provides protections to covered financial institutions that report financial exploitation of older persons or persons with a developmental disability. Allows a delay in transactions in certain circumstances. Provides immunity from criminal, civil, or administrative liability for not acting if financial exploitation suspected. Similar immunity provided if actions taken, unless the actions were done in bad faith and caused pecuniary loss to the older person or person with a developmental disability. Effective Oct. 1, 2019.

Housing

HB 16 Provides funding for low-income and moderate-income housing loans with money from the permanent coal severance tax trust fund.

SB 269 Establishes a registration program for home inspectors within the Department of Labor and Industry, running parallel to the contractor registration program. Sets fees and minimum requirements. Provides for listing registered home inspectors on the department website.

Insurance (includes pharmacy-related insurance interactions)

HB 64 Revises life and health guaranty association laws. Includes health service corporations and health maintenance organizations as members of the guaranty association. Incorporates model act from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners. Revises an assessment for certain long-term care insurance.

HB 65 Revises laws related to service of process with the insurance commissioner. Removes the commissioner from service of process unless no registered agent is provided, and certain conditions are met. Separates service of process requirements for domestic insurers and for foreign or alien insurers.

HB 66 Revises or repeals insurance laws relating to the State Auditor, including removal of most references to benevolent societies, which by existing law no longer can be formed. Also removes references to charitable annuities, over which the State Auditor has no authority. Removes a reference in health insurance statutes to alcohol and narcotics, which is preempted by federal law. Removes other references that no longer serve a purpose.

HB 85 Revises laws relating to insurance entity organizational filings, allows insurance commissioner to provide in cases of dissolution of an authorized insurer a certificate verifying that taxes have been paid, and revises terms for articles of incorporation to coordinate with secretary of state business filings. Clarifies incorporation terms for farm mutual insurers and organizational review for captive insurers.

HB 91 Revises laws related to independent review organizations, including specifying fees for original applications and for renewals. Allows the commissioner to terminate listing of an independent review organization that does not fulfill reporting requirements. Removes language related to rotating use of independent review organizations.

HB 92 Generally revises insurance laws and laws affecting the insurance commissioner's office. Revises conflict of interest statute for insurance commissioner's office. Revises service of process fees. Revises penalty interest calculation for certain violations. Revises laws related to the commissioner's request for biographical information for certain insurers. Provides for electronic copies of proposed articles of

incorporation. Revises voluntary dissolution for for-profit domestic mutual insurers. Revises laws on mid-term premium increases. Clarifies grievance reporting requirements.

HB 373 Revises insurance producer affiliation regulatory requirements, as related to appointment of insurance producers and of business entity insurance producers. Also requires insurers to file appointment notice with the insurance commissioner.

HB 382 Revises requirements for automobile traffic safety insurance discounts by extending to 3 years from 2 years the period for which a discount applies for drivers older than 55 or for military who have completed defensive driving classes.

HB 578 Allows surplus lines insurance to cover certain disability situations, specifically providing for disability income insurance for individuals in professional sports, the entertainment industry or a business entity insuring a principal for liability and loan/insurance guarantees.

SB 39 Revises surplus lines insurance requirements to redefine “natural disaster multiperil insurance” and include marine insurance with surplus lines insurance. Provides terms for procurement of surplus lines insurance.

SB 55 Generally revises captive insurance laws. Recognizes that some captive insurers can be limited liability companies. Eliminates and revises certain filing requirements for captives. Allows use of an irrevocable letter of credit issued in another state for capital and surplus requirements. Revises requirement for one in state manager for a captive risk retention group formed as a limited liability company. Addresses merger terms for various captives.

SB 83 Establishes allowable and prohibited practices for pharmacy benefit managers and other third-party payers. Prohibits certain direct or indirect charges on pharmacies to assure fee transparency. Prohibits copayments that exceed the cost of the prescription drug. Allows the dispensing provider or pharmacy to retain the adjudicated reimbursement. Provides criteria and limits regarding what pharmacy benefit managers or third-party payers can require of pharmacies.

SB 270 Revises reimbursement conditions for network pharmacies, pharmacists. Allows pharmacists to discuss and disclose reimbursement criteria. Limits insurance plan sponsors, issuers, or pharmacy benefit managers from requiring a pharmacy to collect copayments that exceed total charges.

SB 125 Establishes the Montana reinsurance association and mandatory reinsurance program for all Montana health insurers, except those covered by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, long-term care insurance, and a few other specific types of health insurance policies. The reinsurance component is paid from a 1.2% assessment on total premium volume.

SB 240 Restores the term rescission to a statute that says if misrepresentations, omissions, incorrect statements are included in applications for an insurance policy or annuity, or if facts are concealed, the insurer can preclude benefits and allow rescission under certain circumstances. Provides for jurisdiction in Montana courts to determine the rights of the parties under the Uniform Declaratory Judgments Act.

SB 335 Prohibits an insurer or PBM from paying health care facilities that offer prescription drugs through the federal 340B program less than the amount set for a drug in established national or state standards and prohibits insurers and PBMs from charging those facilities an additional fee or other charge for the drugs if the fee or charge is not imposed on other health care.

Labor, Employment, and Unemployment

HB 67 Revises unemployment insurance benefits to make military members' benefits uniform.

HB 566 Establishes a requirement for background employment checks for employees in assisted living facilities and prohibits employment under certain circumstances. Allows the Department of Public Health and Human Services to revoke an assisted living facility license if employees in that facility did not undergo background checks.

HB 732 Provides for the Department of Labor and Industry to reimburse under certain circumstances an employer's increase in workers' compensation premium that is related to the employer's hiring of a student in certain work-based learning opportunities. Allows the reimbursement from the workers' compensation administration fund.

SB 77 Implements audit recommendations for certain licensing boards, voc rehab, UI. Repeals the Athletics program (for boxing). Eliminates the industrial accident rehabilitation account and transfers remaining funds to the uninsured employer fund. Provides details for a real estate salesperson's classroom hours and moves rookie course for new real estate salespersons to a pre-licensing requirement. Conforms unemployment insurance withholding with federal income tax laws. Provides that maps of mines be made available to the department upon request. All these issues were related to areas of concern described by legislative auditors.

SB 218 Exempts from minimum wage and overtime requirements a student enrolled in postsecondary educational institutions who assists with student housing programs and receives full or partial reimbursement related to free or reduced housing in a campus-owned facility.

SB 264 Establishes contract requirements, including payment of the standard prevailing rate of wages and terms for apprentice wages, for work completed to implement remediation plans.

SB 269 Establishes a registration program for home inspectors within the Department of Labor and Industry, running parallel to the contractor registration program. Sets fees and minimum requirements. Provides for listing registered home inspectors on the department website.

SB 271 Revises laws related to boilers and steam engines. A boiler does not need to be inspected if used as a hobby for exhibition, education, or historical but not commercial purposes under certain limitations. The bill also says the department may accept a valid inspection of a steam engine conducted in another state.

SB 305 Revises the unemployment insurance appeals board membership to require one member from the private business sector who owns or is employed by an entity with more than 10 employees.

Occupational and Professional Licensing, Regulation

HB 68 Revises electrician licensing regarding nonrenewal to match other boards.

HB 105 Revises process for out-of-state licensure for professional licensing boards by stating that an occupational and professional licensing board "shall" (rather than "may") issue a license in this state without examination if the applicant is licensed in another state under standards like those used in Montana and if no other reason is found to deny a license.

HB 196 Clarifies educational requirements for the Board of Funeral Service by removing a requirement for additional credits for board-approved subjects that are not specific to mortuary science.

HB 376 Repeals the real estate recovery account. Provides a transition period and a transfer of funds to the housing Montana fund on Feb. 1, 2021.

HB 416 Requires professional liability coverage for certain real estate licensees. The Board of Realty Regulation can provide a policy with individual or group policy limits per-claim of \$100,000, a minimum annual aggregate limit of \$300,000, and a maximum deductible of \$2,500 a claim. A policy issued to a firm is to have higher minimum annual aggregate limits and deductibles.

HB 518 Authorizes physical therapy assistants to be supervised using telemedicine.

HB 566 Requires background checks for employees of assisted living facilities.

HB 581 Requires timely response to license applications for all professional and occupational licensing boards, whether through licensure or notification of missing items or an explanation for delay. Revises requirements for licensed clinical social workers or professional counselors to obtain a license if they are practicing for 45 consecutive days or more (retains 60 days if not consecutive).

HB 599 Allows for a community health aide program for tribal facilities under the auspices of the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services. Provides licensing exception if aides have appropriate federal certification and are working on behalf of the U.S. government for Indian health-related services. Allows aides to work in behavioral health, dental health, and community health.

HB 626 Revises social worker licensing laws. Creates two new licensure levels, adding to existing licensed clinical social worker. The new licenses are for a licensed baccalaureate social worker and a master's level social worker.

HB 751 Revises licensure of plumbers by requiring the supervising master plumber to sign off on experience obtained in the field by applicants to be journeyman plumbers or master plumbers. Allows the board to determine the periods for which observation is required. Provides a penalty for false swearing.

SB 61 Revises the Prescription Drug Registry. Describes a health information system. Provides for registration and payment of an annual fee for the Prescription Drug Registry by a licensee under Title 37 with prescriptive or dispensing authority.

SB 63 Revises funeral, mortuary, and cemetery laws, related to terms like undertakers and funeral directors. Provides a student exemption from licensing under certain conditions. Expands laws related to perpetually maintained cemeteries to include funeral and cemetery trusts.

SB 74 Revises authorization language on fingerprinting under certain licensing, unemployment insurance laws.

SB 75 Revises laws related to the Board of Public Accountants, expanding the number of audits of continuing education credits that can be done and extending use of the board's enterprise fund through Sept. 30, 2023. Also streamlines reference to a professional ethics course.

SB 77 Implements audit recommendations for certain licensing boards and Department of Labor and Industry. Repeals the Athletics program (for boxing). Provides details for a real estate salesperson's classroom hours and moves rookie course for new real estate salespersons to a pre-licensing requirement. See Labor for additional information.

SB 94 Provides signature authority to advanced practice registered nurses when a law or rule requires a signature or verification by a physician.

SB 157 Revises dental auxiliary laws to allow a dental assistant certified by the Dental Assisting National Board to be supervised under general, rather than direct, supervision.

SB 267 Removes regulation of private alternative adolescent residential and outdoor programs from a licensing board under the Department of Labor and Industry and puts the licensing under the Department of Public Health and Human Services. Rules may be adopted to ensure the health and safety of program participants. A transition lets existing rules stay in place until new rules are adopted.

SB 269 Establishes a registration program for home inspectors within the Department of Labor and Industry, running parallel to the contractor registration program. Sets fees and minimum requirements. Provides for listing registered home inspectors on the department website.

SB 270 Revises reimbursement conditions for network pharmacies, pharmacists. Allows pharmacists to discuss and disclose reimbursement criteria. Limits insurance plan sponsors, issuers, or pharmacy benefit managers from requiring a pharmacy to collect copayments that exceed total charges.

SB 271 Revises laws related to boiler traction engines.

SB 288 Revises determination of audit timing for the Montana Chiropractic Legal Panel to the discretion of the legislative auditor.

SJ 18 Interim study of occupational licensing barriers for criminal convictions.

Public Employees

HB 343 Revises retention to 20 years for records related to a compromise or settlement of a claim against the state, including by an employee.

SB 295 Provides for conversion of a public employee's sick leave, annual leave, and compensatory time off to death benefits if the public employee dies in an accident while on the job.

Securities

HB 90 Generally revises securities regulations. Expands definition of compensation to include money or a thing of purposed value under the definition of a pyramid promotional scheme.

HB 694 Revises licensing fees for investment-related advisors.

Workers' Compensation

HB 732 Provides workers' compensation premium offset in certain work-based learning programs. Provides for payment out of the workers' compensation administration fund. Taps the Employment Security Account for administration.

HB 757 Revises workers' compensation laws by requiring (rather than allowing) certification of workers' compensation examiners and removing a termination date on a statute that allows Montana employers with workers working entirely in North Dakota to obtain North Dakota workers' compensation insurance instead of carrying separate insurance under Montana law.

SB 160 Provides a presumptive occupational disease determination of eligibility for workers' compensation benefits for firefighters under certain circumstances. Lists types of diseases eligible for presumption. Requires periodic physicals of firefighters to obtain presumption. Allows insurers to rebut the presumption. Provides opt-in choice for volunteer firefighters. Effective July 1, 2019. SB 160 tied to SB 171's passage.

SB 171 Requires paid firefighters to be tobacco-free if hired on or after July 1, 2019. Provides tobacco cessation courses to paid firefighters currently using tobacco products. Prohibits collective bargaining agreements from provisions allowing tobacco use.

SB 351 Revises Montana State Fund board composition and term requirements by setting an April 1 date for starting a term and requiring the governor to appoint board members on or before February 1 in odd-numbered years. The bill also requires the State Fund to pay \$100 a year toward compensation for legislative liaisons, to be paid into the general fund.

Energy Related Legislation

For additional information on Energy and Telecommunications Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Energy and Telecommunications Interim Committee](#).

HB 206 Clarifies rural electric cooperative's authority to retain and retire capital credits.

HB 267 Requires a utility to notify a customer prior to installation of advanced metering devices.

HB 411 Revises aquatic invasive species program funding, extending and revising fees for hydroelectric facilities, decreasing prevention pass fee for nonresident anglers, and increasing registration fees for resident motorized vessels.

HB 456 grants public utilities the right to sell electricity for electric vehicle charging service. HB 467 allows utilities to apply with the Public Service Commission for the issuance of bonds to lower costs when retiring or replacing electric infrastructure or facilities.

HB 467 Allows electric utilities to apply to the Public Service Commission for the issuance of bonds to lower costs when retiring or replacing electric infrastructure or facilities. Authorize the issuance of energy impact assistance bonds. Passed and approved.

HB 476 Revises board of investment loans from the Montana Permanent Coal Tax Trust to a public utility for coal, coal improvements, additional coal interests, and associated transmission.

HB 525 Revises the termination date for the high-performance building program to June 30, 2029.

HB 535 Clarifies notice requirements for the commencement of acquisition of rights-of-way under the Major Facility Siting Act.

HB 597 Revises utility regulation establishing an advisory committee for resource planning, requiring a utility to seek approval to acquire, construct, or purchase a resource to conduct a competitive solicitation process, allowing the public service commission to establish energy savings and peak demand reduction goals, allowing demand-side management to be included in utility rates, requiring utilities to hold public meetings when developing resource plans and providing for the use of hearings examiners at the commission.

HJ 4 Requests the federal government act to protect Montana's right to export coal.

HJ 12 Requests an interim study on the state's ability to defend its energy infrastructure.

HJ 38 Requests an interim study of bonding and reclamation requirements for energy generation facilities.

SB 93 Revises solar facility decommissioning and bonding laws requiring owners of solar facilities to submit a decommissioning plan and bond to the Department of Environmental Quality.

SB 191 Allows the establishment of county coal mine trust reserve funds for county governments.

SB 195 Revises laws related to energy performance contracting.

SB 244 Revises public utility electricity cost recovery providing a cost-tracking adjustment for public utilities.

SB 264 Establishes contract requirements for work completed to implement a remediation plan.

SB 337 Revises the income tax credit for alternative energy generation, extending the availability of the tax credit for investment income related to a hydroelectric source that produces 1 megawatt or more when installed on dams that don't produce power.

Coal

HB 403 Revises the coal gross proceeds tax rate on coal mined from an underground mine.

HB 292 Temporarily increases the coal severance tax allocation to the coal natural resource account. Expires June 2023. Passed and approved. SB 191 Allow for establishment of a county coal mine trust reserve fund for county governments.

SB 328 Authorizes a board of county commissioners to authorize a local abatement of the coal gross proceeds tax from a new or expanding surface coal mine. Utilizes the same abatement provisions for surface mining as underground mining.

HB 476 Revises Board of Investment loans for coal-fired generation and associated transmission. Allow the Board of Investments to make loans from the Montana Permanent Coal Tax Trust to a public utility. Allow the use of loans for coal, coal improvements, additional coal interests, and associated transmission.

SB 264 Establishes contract requirements for work completed to implement remediation plans at coal-fired electric generation facilities.

HB 467 Allows electric utilities to apply to the Public Service Commission for the issuance of bonds to lower costs when retiring or replacing electric infrastructure or facilities. Authorize the issuance of energy impact assistance bonds. Passed and approved.

SB 201 Revises qualifications necessary to hold a mining permit. Revise requirements for coal mine permittees to provide certain financial assurances to the Department of Environmental Quality. Passed and approved.

Health and Human Services Related Legislation

For additional information on Health and Human Services Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee](#).

Children's Issues: Abuse/Neglect/Foster Care/Child Support

HB 347 Establishes that existing laws on grandparent-grandchild contact are not the sole remedy for grandparents, clarifying that grandparents have the right to seek a parental interest, visitation, parenting plan, authority as a caretaker relative, or custody, adoption, or guardianship of a child as allowed under other Montana statutes.

HB 502 Revises child abuse and neglect statutes to reflect the current practices of the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) in investigating reports and handling cases of suspected child abuse or neglect; the changes were recommended as part of a legislative audit of the DPHHS Child and Family Services Division.

HB 604 Requires the Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) to develop a strategic plan for applying for and using funding available under the federal Family First Prevention Services Act relating to at-risk children and families; the plan must be provided to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee by September 15, 2020.

HB 726 Continues the obligation of a noncustodial parent to pay child support for a child with a disability past the age of 18 when the custodial parent is the primary caretaker; the child support obligation continues until a court finds that the child is either no longer disabled or no longer financially dependent on the custodial parent.

SB 64 Expands the forms of income from which child support may be withheld, provides payor guidance on the allocation of income withholding, revises the definition of a health benefit plan for medical support enforcement, and revises the Uniform Interstate Family Support Act to conform with uniform laws.

Developmental and Physical Disabilities

HB 288 Revises the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program to allow additional family members to receive a tax deduction for contributing to a disabled individual's ABLE account, allow residents of other states to set up accounts under Montana's ABLE program, and require that one member of the state's ABLE program oversight committee is a person with a disability.

HB 356 Revises the membership of the Committee on Telecommunications Access Services for Persons with Disabilities, replacing a representative from the largest telecommunications provider in the state

with a person from a public safety answering point who has experience with emergency communications issues for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing.

HB 439 Establishes that an emotional support animal is not a service animal, requires that service animals be in the handler's control, allows a business owner to file a complaint with law enforcement if the owners suspects a person is misrepresenting an animal as a service animal, and creates a misdemeanor offense for people who continue to misrepresent an animal after being given a written warning.

HB 680 Requires that a contract for targeted case management services for people with developmental disabilities must include funding to allow for an average caseload of no more than 35 clients per case manager; appropriates about \$1.5 million in each year of the biennium for contracted case management services.

SB 5 Requires the DPHHS Developmental Services Division to work with providers to identify areas in which administrative rules, policies, or procedures are duplicative, contradictory, or a waste of resources and eliminate those that are not cost effective or that duplicate other oversight and monitoring requirements; DPHHS must provide the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee, by January 1, 2020, with its draft plan for carrying out the review.

Health Care/Health Insurance

HB 231 Allows immunization-certified pharmacists to provide immunizations to individuals 7 years of age or older.

HB 489 Repeals the certificate of public advantage laws, which require the Department of Justice to review and approve proposed mergers of health care facilities and to monitor, for a period of 10 years, any mergers that are approved.

HB 598 Requires the DPHHS environmental laboratory to license, inspect, and adopt administrative rules for medical marijuana testing laboratories and establishes certain testing procedures and requirements for the testing laboratories.

HB 599 Allows individuals who have been certified under federal community health aide certification standards to work as a dental health aide, behavioral health aide, or community health aide without obtaining state licensure if the individuals are practicing within the scope of their certification and in a setting operated by the Indian Health Service or a tribal health program.

HB 669 Reduces the Medicaid reimbursement rate for physicians by \$600,000 over the biennium to fund the development of a health information exchange that will allow the electronic sharing of patient data among health care providers, facilities, and insurers.

SB 38 Allows emergency care providers to obtain an endorsement that will allow them to provide nonemergency, community-based health care services in accordance with rules adopted by the Board of Medical Examiners.

SB 157 Allows a dental auxiliary to perform certain tasks without being directly supervised by a dentist.

SB 265 Makes numerous changes to the Montana Medical Marijuana Act, including establishing new licensing requirements and fees for medical marijuana providers, dispensaries, and testing laboratories;

prohibiting use of third parties to manufacture marijuana-infused products; revising requirements for inspections of medical marijuana premises and testing laboratories; allowing medical marijuana cardholders to purchase marijuana products from any provider by July 1, 2020; temporarily increasing the tax on gross sales from 2% to 4%; establishing a monthly limit on the amount of marijuana that a cardholder can purchase; and allowing use of telemedicine for a physician to provide the written certification of a cardholder's medical condition.

HB 555 Revises requirements for utilization review by insurers, including reducing the time periods for determining whether payment will be authorized for certain services.

SB 125 Establishes a reinsurance program to help insurers pay for high-cost medical claims, with the program funded through a combination of a premium tax on participating insurers and federal funds that would become available if the state applies for and receives a waiver from the federal government.

Medicaid/Healthy Montana Kids Plan

HB 83 Eliminates the Health and Economic Livelihood Partnership (HELP) Act Oversight Committee, which was created in 2015 to review matters related to the Medicaid expansion program that was approved in that session.

HB 433 Requires DPHHS to provide the Legislative Fiscal Division with direct access to its secure data warehouse as the project becomes implemented, so the Fiscal Division can obtain information about recipients of public assistance, including Medicaid; DPHHS must report quarterly to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee on implementation of the project and the status of the Fiscal Division's access to data.

HB 529 Requires DPHHS to establish by administrative rule the procedures for moving individuals off waiting lists for Medicaid home and community-based waiver services and into waiver services.

HB 658 Extends the HELP ACT (Medicaid expansion) program for six years while also making several changes to the law, including: adding requirements for certain individuals to participate in at least 80 hours of community engagement activities; revising the premium structure so individuals on the program for more than two years pay higher premiums; eliminating copayments for services; establishing stricter requirements for verifying eligibility; and revising the list of assets that may subject someone to a fee on assets above those allowed under HB 658. The state will need to apply for a waiver from the federal government to allow the community engagement and premium requirements to go into effect.

Mental Health/Substance Abuse

HB 103 Expands the types of health care providers who can confirm that a person is chemically dependent and in need of medically monitored or managed inpatient care; physicians, naturopathic physicians, and advanced practice registered nurses will be able to make that determination, in addition to licensed addiction counselors.

HB 388 Allows the use of funds appropriated to in-state psychiatric hospitals and residential treatment facilities for student education to be distributed to public school districts to support students with significant behavioral or physical needs.

HB 626 Creates two new levels of social worker licensure, in addition to the existing licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) level – a licensed baccalaureate social worker and a licensed master’s social worker.

HB 654 Creates a \$500 annual licensing fee on wholesale distributors of opioid prescription drugs and requires revenue from the new fee to be used to expand the capacity of existing mental health and drug treatment courts and to extend treatment courts to unserved areas of the state.

HB 660 Establishes a two-year \$500,000 grant program for creating create mobile crisis units, consisting of a mental health professional and a support person, in up to four locations in the state.

HB 669 Transfers \$3.5 million over the biennium from the telecommunications access special revenue account to a new special revenue account to pay for extended employment services for people with disabilities and for targeted case management services for adults and children with mental illness.

HB 696 Appropriates \$500,000 of interest earnings on the tobacco settlement trust fund for suicide prevention grants during the next biennium; grant activities must be focused on reducing suicide among veterans and youth.

SB 30 Allows for Medicaid coverage of mental health peer support services, using \$2.5 million in medical marijuana taxes and fees to cover the costs.

SB 267 Transfers the responsibility for licensing and inspecting private alternative adolescent residential or outdoor programs from the Department of Labor and Industry to DPHHS and requires DPHHS to report to the Children, Families, Health, and Human Services Interim Committee on its efforts to license and adopt rules for the programs.

SB 289 Exempts a pregnant woman who seeks or receives evaluation, treatment, or support services for a substance use disorder from prosecution for criminal possession of dangerous drugs, precursors to dangerous drugs, or drug paraphernalia.

Prescription Drugs

HB 86 Establishes new requirements for prescribing and dispensing opioid prescriptions, including requiring a patient to provide photo identification to receive an opioid; limiting opioid-naïve patients to a 7-day supply of opioids; and beginning July 1, 2021, requiring prescribers to check the Montana Prescription Drug Registry before issuing a prescription for an opioid.

HB 137 Establishes an annual, statewide prescription drug take-back day to coincide with the day in October that is designated as a national prescription drug take-back day.

SB 61 Revises the Montana Prescription Drug Registry laws to: require all licensed health care providers who prescribe or dispense prescription drugs to register to use the registry; allow additional sharing of registry information; and remove the \$30 cap and the sunset date on the registry fee that helps fund the database.

SB 83 Establishes allowable and prohibited practices for PBMs and other third-party payers of prescription drug benefits; among other things, a PBM or other payer may not charge a patient a copayment that exceeds the cost of the prescription drug being dispensed and may not prohibit a

pharmacy or pharmacist from disclosing information regarding the amount the PBM or other payer is reimbursing the pharmacy for the drug.

SB 270 Prohibits an insurer or PBM from penalizing a pharmacy or pharmacist for providing prescription drug reimbursement criteria to a patient or from requiring a pharmacy to charge or collect a copayment that exceeds the total charges submitted by the pharmacy for the prescribed drug.

SB 274 Makes various revisions to Montana’s dangerous drug scheduling laws, including a requirement Montana automatically reschedule any drug that contains specified tetrahydrocannabinols from Schedule I to the same schedule it is placed in by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration once the drug is federally authorized under the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

SB 335 Prohibits an insurer or PBM from paying health care facilities that offer prescription drugs through the federal 340B program less than the amount set for a drug in established national or state standards and prohibits insurers and PBMs from charging those facilities an additional fee or other charge for the drugs if the fee or charge is not imposed on other health care facilities.

Public Health

HB 413 Prohibits the use of a vapor product or e-cigarette in a public school building or on public school property.

Senior Citizens

HB 334 Requires that the criminal offense of exploitation of an older, incapacitated, or developmentally disabled person requires the use of deception, duress, menace, fraud, undue influence, or intimidation.

HB 566 Requires assisted living facilities to conduct a background check on all individuals who have accepted employment and prohibits facilities from employing anyone who has been professionally disciplined or found guilty of a crime if the matter involved abuse, neglect, exploitation, mistreatment, or misappropriation of property.

HB 669 Transfers about \$1 million over the biennium from the Older Montanans Trust Found account to DPHHS to create 100 new Medicaid home and community-based waiver slots for the elderly and physically disabled.

SB 205 Prohibits a person who has participated in the financial exploitation of a senior citizen or developmentally disabled or incapacitated person from obtaining benefits from the exploited individual’s estate.

SB 324 Revises the definition of abuse in the Montana Elder and Persons with Developmental Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act to include the act of causing personal degradation of a person by distributing photos or videos meant to demean or humiliate the person if the photos or videos were taken in a place where the person has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Law and Justice Related Legislation

For additional information on Law and Justice Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature’s [Law and Justice Interim Committee](#).

Civil Procedure

HB 615 Modernizes claim and delivery law. Confirms that Uniform Commercial Code Revised Article Nine remedies are available in a claim and delivery action.

Corrections

HB 369 Creates a Criminal Justice Oversight Council. Eliminates the Multiagency Reentry Task Force.

HB 463 Revises laws on supervision of certain probationers or defendants serving a deferred or suspended sentence. Revises laws related to termination of a deferred or suspended sentence. Revises procedures related to conditional discharge of supervision.

HB 763 Provides a state policy on restrictive housing. Creates requirements for restrictive housing units. Creates specific requirements for youth facilities. Requires step-down programs. Requires notification when an offender is released to the community directly from restrictive housing.

SB 36 Provides exceptions to mandatory inmate savings.

SB 37 Revises laws related to recording of parole board hearings.

SB 62 Revises inmate welfare fund laws to include Pine Hills.

Crimes and Criminal Procedure

HB 46 Revises or eliminates statutory references to Article II, section 36, of Montana Constitution (Marsy's Law).

HB 47 Revises criminal records laws. Revises when an arrestee must be photographed and fingerprinted. Eliminates when photographs and fingerprints must be returned to an individual.

HB 54 Revises laws relating to missing persons reports. Requires all law enforcement authorities to accept a report.

HB 73 Revises laws related to classification of certain public defender employees.

HB 89 Revises public defender fees to provide that fees must be paid to the public defender for deposit in the general fund.

HB 117 Revises laws related to eligibility for public defender services. Allows the public defender to file a motion to rescind appointment for failure to provide financial documentation.

HB 173 Provides that students in a public or nonpublic school are not able to provide consent in a school setting.

HB 192 Revises laws related to privacy in communications.

HB 228 Revises privacy in communications law to reflect Montana Supreme Court decisions. Clarifies the intent requirement by removing the prima facie clause.

HB 233 Revises laws relating to guilty pleas. Eliminates right to appeal to the Montana Supreme Court for certain motions made in lower courts to withdraw guilty pleas.

HB 257 Allows information collected by unmanned aerial vehicle investigating motor vehicle crash scene to be admitted into evidence or to obtain search warrants.

HB 282 Revises who may consent to sexual intercourse or contact. Provides that a participant in an alternative adolescent residential or outdoor program cannot provide consent to a worker in the program. Provides that a person undergoing psychotherapy cannot provide consent to the psychotherapist.

HB 334 Revises criminal intent laws regarding exploitation of an older person, an incapacitated person, or a developmentally disabled person.

HB 421 Revises laws regarding crimes. Revises theft crime to increase penalties for offenders who use an emergency exit in a theft crime. Revises disorderly conduct crime.

HB 439 Revises laws related to misrepresented services animals. Defines types of animals allowed as service animals. Allows certain questions to be asked of person accompanied by a service animal. Requires the service animal to be under the handler's control. Creates misdemeanor offense of misrepresentation of a service animal.

HB 543 Revises laws related to misdemeanor expungement. Clarifies that expungement can cover multiple misdemeanors. Revises provisions related to presumption criteria, expungement procedure, victim notification, and court orders.

HB 549 Revises child sex trafficking laws. Includes child sex trafficking in the definition of "child abuse and neglect". Ensures child victim is eligible to receive access to specialized services.

HB 590 Revises criminal procedure related to sexual offenses. Provides procedure for defendant to move for interview of a child victim of a sexual offense. Provides for a hearing and for reasonable accommodations for the child.

HB 640 Revises laws related to childhood sexual abuse. Revises the statute of limitations for civil liability for childhood sexual abuse. Revises the types of crimes considered childhood sexual abuse for the purposes of civil liability. Revises definitions of "sexual abuse" and "sexual exploitation" for the purpose of child abuse and neglect proceedings. Revises laws related to reporting of suspected child sexual abuse or exploitation. Requires county attorneys and attorney general to provide certain reports. Revises retention laws for certain confidential records. Provides a felony penalty for failure to report child sexual abuse or sexual exploitation. Revises the criminal statute of limitations for sex offenses involving child victims.

HB 749 Revises human trafficking laws to provide requirements for massage therapy businesses.

SB 3 Revises laws related to interim oversight of the office of public defender to clarify that the Law and Justice Interim Committee has oversight authority.

SB 84 Revises laws related to psychosexual evaluations of criminal defendants. Requires the court to select the evaluator. Clarifies payment of costs.

SB 88 Revises laws related to term "crime of violence".

SB 114 Revises stalking and order of protection laws, including penalties and definitions.

SB 147 Revises human trafficking and sex crimes laws. Revises offense of prostitution. Revises penalties for promotion of prostitution. Revises definition of "crime of violence". Provides that consent is not a defense to human trafficking charges.

SB 155 Revises mandatory minimums for certain sexual offenses when the victim is a child.

SB 213 Revises laws regarding photographing evidence in theft cases.

SB 261 Revises consent laws to limit when certain people are capable of consent to sexual contact.

SB 324 Revises definition of "abuse" in the Montana Elder and Persons with Developmental Disabilities Abuse Prevention Act to include causing personal degradation by publishing or distributing certain photographs.

Estates and Trusts

HB 461 Revises the Uniform Powers of Appointment Act. Allows for reappointment of appointive property to permissible appointees. Protects property from unexercised general or nongeneral power from powerholder's creditors.

SB 205 Prevents abusers of vulnerable adults from benefitting financially.

SB 225 Revises probate laws generally.

Family Law and Minors

HB 268 Revises conciliation laws. Allows for a stay of a dissolution, legal separation, or annulment proceeding to allow parties to explore reconciliation.

HB 274 Allows either party to a marriage to restore the party's original name in a dissolution proceeding.

HB 283 Corrects cross-referencing errors in the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

HB 347 Revises laws related to grandparents' rights.

HB 591 Revises laws related to paternity tests. Updates terminology to reflect availability of buccal swab testing in lieu of a blood draw.

SB 40 Requires the Office of Public Instruction to create and maintain electronic photograph repository for law enforcement use.

SB 132 Creates a student safety accountability act. Limits when students may consent to sexual activity. Prohibits job assistance for school employees, contractors, or agents who have engaged in sexual misconduct with students.

SB 255 Revises persons who may prepare a declaration of marriage. Requires the Office of Vital Records to prepare a standard form.

SB 262 Restricts when DNA samples from minors may be collected by a peace officer.

SB 289 Provides pregnant women seeking assistance with substance use disorder a safe harbor from prosecution.

Guns and Weapons

HB 145 Removes requirement to notify local law enforcement when a concealed weapon permit holder moves to a different city or county

HB 155 Prohibiting local government restrictions regarding knives. Repealing ban on switchblade knives.

HB 322 Removes requirement to provide social security number on concealed weapons permit application.

HB 357 Revises concealed carry laws to secure the right to keep and bear arms and to prevent a patchwork of restrictions by local governments across the state. Provides that a local government may not regulate the carrying of concealed weapons. Provides that the act must be submitted to the electors of Montana.

Judges and Justices, Courts

HB 110 Revises the pretrial program administered by the Office of Court Administrator. Includes misdemeanor defendants. Removes requirement for program to use a dangerousness or lethality assessment. Removes limitation on what type of entity may contract with a county to provide services.

HB 111 Revises youth court laws concerning juvenile placement and parole supervision. Transfers parole supervision from Department of Corrections to the youth court. Provides for "conditional release" instead of parole for youth. Allows the establishment of a youth placement committee to be permissive rather than mandatory.

HB 217 Removes suspension of a driver's license as a sentencing option for nonpayment of fines, fees, or restitution. Allows a person whose license has been suspended to be reinstated.

HB 654 Revises laws for funding of treatment courts. Requires sellers of opioids to be licensed. Creates a treatment court support special revenue account for license fee proceeds. Allows the Court Administrator to administer the account to expand and extend treatment court capacity and quality.

SB 26 Removes requirement for court to pay travel costs for prosecution witnesses.

SB 43 Allows omnibus hearings to be conducted remotely.

SB 85 Revises process to refer veterans to treatment court.

SB 220 Revises misdemeanor probation laws to clarify that a local government may contract with a private entity for probation services.

SB 223 Clarifies exemptions from judgment. Provides that rollover contributions are exempt from execution.

SB 254 Revises procedure to select a chief municipal judge in a multi-judge city.

Law Enforcement

HB 20 Revises laws related to the reporting of missing children. Requires reports to be filed in certain custodial interference cases.

HB 21 Establishes "Hanna's Act". Authorizes the Department of Justice to assist with investigation of all missing persons cases. Requires the employment of a missing persons specialist.

HB 71 Revises laws related to the deposit of funds in the medical examiner state special revenue account.

HB 98 Revises peace officer standards and certification laws.

HB 99 Revises laws related to education requirements for coroners.

HB 150 Provides for tribal government participation in the 9-1-1 advisory council, planning activities, and distributions.

HB 165 Establishes qualifications for elected or appointed sheriffs.

HB 198 Allows the Department of Justice to active/deactivate the "blue alert" program when a peace officer is missing or when a credible threat to an officer exists.

HB 348 Revises search powers of game wardens.

SB 52 Revises laws on sexual assault evidence kits. Creates a process for kits to be collected, stored, and delivered to law enforcements. Requires patient consent and notifications. Creates timelines for delivery, testing, and storage of kits. Requires Department of Justice to create statewide tracking system for kits.

SB 312 Creates the Looping in Native Communities Network Grant Program. Creates the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force. Provides a grant program and grant funds.

SB 362 Revises the requirements of the 24/7 sobriety and drug monitoring program to remove the requirement for a pilot program and to allow discretion on the frequency and type of testing methods.

[Mental Illness or Incapacity](#)

HB 660 Creates mobile crisis unit grant program administered by the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

SB 30 Allows peer support services to be reimbursed under Medicaid.

[Privacy](#)

HB 619 Allows Superintendent of Public Instruction to release student-level data to the Commissioner of Higher Education and the Department of Labor and Industry in certain circumstances.

HB 745 Enacts student online personal information protection act. Protects students from certain marketing based on data gathered in relation to online educational activities.

SB 286 Creates a procedure regarding microchip implantation, removal, and data transmission. Prohibits state and local government from requiring microchipping.

[Miscellaneous](#)

HB 684 Implements provisions of HB 2, Section D, subcommittee on justice system. Creates special revenue accounts for pretrial diversion program and legislative committees and activities. Creates a public safety officer standards and training bureau in the Department of Justice. Removes the

administrative attachment of the Public Safety Officer Standards and Training Council to the Department of Justice. Amends the definition of "telework" for certain employees. Revises the Working Interdisciplinary Network of Guardianship Stakeholders. Revises Department of Corrections' rulemaking authority regarding correctional facilities. Transfers funds.

SB 300 Revises real property laws to protect real property rights. Prevents homeowners' associations from imposing more onerous restrictions on a property owner than those restrictions that existing when the property owner acquired the real property.

Local Government Related Legislation

For additional information on Local Government Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Local Government Interim Committee](#).

Budgeting & Accounting

SB 2 Allows the Department of Administration to develop a small government financial reporting framework that a local government may use to govern its accounting system.

SB 302 Provides options for the state to implement corrective measures for local governments in accounting and budgeting distress and allows a right of action to be brought against a local government entity that fails to file an annual financial report, complete an audit, or resolve significant audit findings.

County Officers

HB 154 Allows local governments to dispose of documents in the same manner as other state public officers rather than upon order of a court and allows for the reproduction of records.

HB 164 Establishes additional qualifications for the office of sheriff, requiring that a candidate may not have been convicted of a crime punishable by imprisonment in a federal or state penitentiary and must be eligible to access the criminal justice information network.

SB 104 Allows a county with a population of less than 15,000 to choose whether to establish the county auditor office as a full-time or part-time position.

Elections

HB 129 Allows a county with an elected county official form of government to conduct either partisan or non-partisan elections.

HB 326 Allows a person to run for a position on more than one special purpose district in a small community with fewer than 500 electors.

SB 116 Clarifies the eligibility of electors in an irrigation district, addresses the process to change designated agents, determines the number of electors for land owned by multiple persons or entities, ensures that only one vote may be cast per acre or fraction of acre, and clarifies that an irrigation district must notify the county election office of any elector changes.

SB 232 Allows a county to pay for the use of a polling place if the building regularly used for elections is not available and no other suitable building is available free of charge.

Fire & Emergency Services

SB 20 Allows a fire district in a second-class or third-class town to be annexed to another fire district and allows a municipal fire district to annex a rural fire district for fire protection services.

SB 38 Revises the definition of “emergency medical technicians” to “emergency health care providers” and allows emergency health care providers with appropriate certification to provide community-integrated health care to patients outside of the hospital setting.

SB 160 Provides coverage for presumptive occupational diseases for firefighters who receive worker’s compensation, defines the types of diseases that may be considered presumptive, clarifies the coverage amounts allowable, and defines the process for a firefighter to file a presumptive illness claim.

SB 171 Requires paid firefighters hired after July 1, 2019 be tobacco-free, offers tobacco cessation courses to paid firefighters hired before July 1, 2019 who use tobacco, prohibits the use of tobacco references in any fire department, district, or service area, prohibits accepted use of tobacco in a collective bargaining agreement, and prohibits paid and volunteer firefighters from using tobacco while engaged in firefighting duties.

Land Use Planning

HB 55 Revises the Sanitation in Subdivisions Act to add and amend definitions, remove temporary sections, and revise the approval process for connecting to a municipal or county water and/or sewer facility.

HB 124 Revises the Subdivision and Platting Act to allow county commissioners to lift agricultural covenants in limited circumstances and require or exempt certain divisions from subdivision review.

SB 276 Allows for the conversion of a condominium into a townhome or townhouse with proper noticing and exempts certain conversions from the state and local subdivision review process.

SB 300 Prohibits a homeowners’ association from enacting more onerous restrictions on the types of use of a member’s property than existed when the member first acquired the property.

Miscellaneous

HB 15 Allows a county to use a portion of its junk vehicle budget to dispose of nonmotorized vehicles and mobile homes that are wrecked, ruined, dismantled, or abandoned.

HB 172 Allows multiple counties to create a joint veterans’ service office and establishes a grant program for county veterans’ service offices with established offices, local funding, and at least one certified veterans’ service officer.

HB 190 Allows a local authority to set a speed limit in a school zone or near a senior citizen center without an engineering and traffic investigation if the speed limit is within allowable parameters established by law.

SB 191 Allows the governing body of a county receiving funding from coal-related activities to establish a county coal trust fund and allows the funds to be used only after a coal mining or coal-fired electric generation facility has permanently ceased operations or when the number of persons employed by the mining operation or facility is less than 75% of the average number of full time employees during the preceding 5-year period.

SB 320 Revises laws related to the seizure of animals in suspected animal cruelty cases and allows for a cost of care hearing in which a judge can demand the animal's owner post a renewable bond to cover the costs associated with caring for the animal during the duration of the case.

Special Districts

HB 123 Allows for additional assessment methods for costs related to a metropolitan sewer district.

HB 142 Creates a definition for an "integrated weed management program" and replaces references to chemicals or pesticides with herbicide.

HB 259 Allows a special district that existed before July 1, 2009 to remain governed by the statutes under which it was created rather than transition to a newer set of statutes with different requirements that may jeopardize the special district.

HB 299 Removes limits on variable rate bonds sold at a private negotiated sale for rural improvement districts and special improvement districts.

HB 324 Allows a local government to utilize additional assessment methods for property annexed into a county water and/or sewer district, allowing newly annexed benefitted property to be assessed for existing improvements.

SB 163 Removes contract requirements for street lighting districts, removes antiquated language, and allows a city or town council to utilize a public utility for the installation, maintenance, and operation of a lighting system.

SB 243 Provides additional assessment methods for costs related to a maintenance district and allows a local government to enter into loan agreements with any regulated lender rather than only the state or federal government.

Taxes & Fees

HB 126 Increases fees collected by county clerks for birth certificates from \$5 to \$8 and death certificates from \$3 to \$5.

HB 331 Allows a municipality the option to establish, adjust, and collect rates, rentals, and charges for solid waste services.

SB 165 Exempts a house trailer, manufactured home, or mobile home from personal property taxes if the movable housing is determined to be abandoned by the Department of Revenue.

SB 204 Allows a mobile home, manufactured home, or housetrailer to be exempted from property tax if the structure is 28 years old or older, has a recent assessment value of \$10,000 or less, and is not on a foundation.

SB 241 Allows a resort community to provide for an additional 1% resort tax if the revenue from the additional tax is used to provide funding for infrastructure.

SB 321 Mandates that if a targeted economic development district does not utilize a tax increment to pay costs or bonds, the tax increment must be remitted to the taxing jurisdiction in the same manner as it would have been distributed without tax increment financing.

SB 334 Allows a government entity to exceed its levy cap, as defined in 15-10-420, to levy funds for an airport authority.

Natural Resource Related Legislation

For additional information on Natural Resource Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Environmental Quality Council](#).

EQC

HB 29 Revises bird hunting dog laws and requires a permit to for bird hunting dog field trials on public land.

HB 30 Eliminates the liaison position for the Libby Asbestos Superfund Site Cleanup and renamed the advisory team as the oversight committee.

HB 43 Revises laws allowing free elk hunting licenses and permits to landowners who offer free public elk hunting.

HB 586 Requires a quarterly report to EQC on progress of state lab advisory committee and report findings by Sept. 1, 2020.

SB 299 Revises reporting requirements to EQC on staffing needs for effective implementation of the Sage-Grouse Stewardship Act.

Fire and Forestry

HB 441 Eliminates timber conservation licenses on state lands.

HB 119 Increases fees for the Hazard Reduction Agreement Program.

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

HB 143 Removes the sunset on three-day nonresident bird license.

HB 205 Defines a private fish pond and authorizes a temporary fish pond license.

HB 224 Revises reporting requirements for fish pond licensees who sell fish or eggs.

HB 239 Allows special drawing refunds to be redirected to block management program.

HB 275 Removes requirement that active duty Purple Heart recipient must be receiving medical treatment to be issued free license.

HB 280 Offers reduced price wolf licenses to resident combination sports license holders.

HB 281 Offers reduced price wolf licenses to nonresident combination license holders.

HB 291 Establishes a voluntary wolf mitigation account.

HB 311 Establishes nonresident hound handler license for mountain lion hunters.

HB 355 Establishes the summer motorized recreation trail grant program and a summer motorized recreation trail pass for residents.

HB 411 Revises aquatic invasive species program funding, extending and revising fees for hydroelectric facilities, decreasing prevention pass fee for nonresident anglers, and increasing registration fees for resident motorized vessels.

HB 432 Allows bonus points for limited fishing licenses, tags, and permits.

HB 497 Allows additional antlerless elk to be taken during shoulder season.

HB 520 Increases a general fund transfer for livestock loss programs.

HB 585 Requires legislative approval for divestiture of fee-title state park land.

HB 608 Requires decontamination of certain water vessels with ballast or bladders.

HB 695 Provides an appropriation to the DFWP to purchase a recreation easement at Big Arm State Park.

HJ 17 Asks Congress to fund AIS programs.

HJ 18 Urges enhancement of elk management and shoulder seasons.

SB 144 Makes April 1 the sale date for certain combination hunting licenses.

SB 167 Provides an extension of the entitlement period for certain military members to receive certain hunting and fishing licenses for free.

SB 222 Revises rulemaking authority of Board of Outfitters including requirements for operations plans.

SB 247 Extends termination dates for leasing and changing instream flow water rights for DFWP.

SB 256 Revises transfer laws for harvested game animals, including the transfer of a harvested game animal or wolf that requires mandatory department biological inspection.

SB 257 Revises membership of Upper Columbia Conservation Commission.

SB 299 Exempts certain land uses from sage grouse conservation regulations, revises oversight team authority, mitigation requirements, and reporting requirements.

SB 333 Requires retention of sex of animal harvested until the carcass is processed.

SB 341 Allows issuance of public access land agreements by DFWP to landowners for access across private land to public land.

SB 344 Allows recovery and possession of the horns and skull of a mountain sheep that dies naturally.

SB 349 Protects exact coordinate location data of fish and wildlife from misuse and creates penalties for misuse of exact location data.

SJ 6 Support delisting of grizzly bears from Endangered Species Act.

Land Use

HB 124 Revises how agricultural covenants may be revoked for a proposed division of land under the Subdivision and Platting Act.

HB 142 Revises county weed laws, primarily by defining “integrated weed management” to include techniques such as handpulling, cultivations, herbicide, biological control, mechanical treatment, prescribed grazing or burning, education, prevention, and revegetation.

Mining, Permitting, and Remediation

HB 229 Clarifies that dinosaur bones and fossils are part of surface estate.

HB 722 Allows the transfer of a hard rock mining permit.

SB 201 Requires certain coal mining permit holders to provide financial assurances for pensions.

SB 328 Authorizes a board of county commissioners to authorize a local abatement of the coal gross proceeds tax from a new or expanding surface coal mine.

SB 343 Revises opencut mining laws, including clarifying effective and expiration dates for permits, requiring landowners to allow access for reclamation, extending application deadlines for weather or other field conditions, revising the bonding process, establishing fees, allowing limited borrow operation of less than 15 acres, and requiring bonding and reclamation for limited borrow operations.

SJ 4 Urges Congress to reauthorize funding for reclamation of abandoned mine lands.

HB 535 Clarifies notice requirements for the commencement of acquisition of right-of-way under the Major Facility Siting Act.

Oil and Gas

HB 213 Revises the tax rate price trigger for stripper oil well bonus production.

HB 656 Revises oil and gas tax laws, providing a fixed tax rate for the privilege and license tax and the tax for the oil and gas natural resource distribution account.

SB 28 Revises the tax rate for certain incremental oil production.

SJ 12 Declares that the legislature supports compensation for losses incurred and benefits realized due to construction of Libby

Department of Agriculture

HB 50 Reduces penalties for agricultural commodity law violations, such as operating without a water operator’s or commodity dealer’s license, to a civil penalty.

HB 51 Repeals the Montana-certified natural beef cattle marketing program.

HB 63 Extends liability requirement for commercial pesticide operators.

HB 102 Creates a civil penalty for violation of laws related to wheat and barley research and marketing or pulse crop research and marketing.

SB 73 Revises certain agricultural commodity licensing requirements, such as expanding the definition of “commodity dealer” to include brokering and online transactions, allowing companies to post bonds for subsidiaries, and adding bonding and licensing requirements for commodity dealers acting as brokers.

Department of Environmental Quality

HB 55 Revises laws related to subdivision sanitation review, including creating and defining new terms, allowing local entities to review water and sewer plans, and revising exemption and filing requirements.

HB 56 Clarifies certain aspects of cleanup under the Voluntary Cleanup and Redevelopment Act, including clarifying department access to facilities and extending timelines for groundwater cleanup.

SB 48 Creates temporary water quality standards variances.

Department of Fish, Wildlife, & Parks

HB 94 Reorganizes laws related to hunting access programs and provided free license prerequisites to landowners in block management program.

HB 104 Provides necessary license prerequisites for free to landowners who receive a free combination license for cooperating in the hunter management program.

SB 44 Makes a conservation license a standalone prerequisite license.

SB 70 Removes Headwaters State Park from the primitive parks list.

SB 79 Clarifies the squaring of bonus pints for hunting party applicants.

Department of Livestock

HB 101 Revises the refund process for per capita livestock fees.

HB 112 Revises importation requirements for animals, animal semen, and animal biologics.

SB 56 Removes a requirement to hold a Board of Livestock hearing before suspending or revoking a meat establishment license.

SB 57 Removes state authority to inspect home-grown and home-killed meats.

SB 67 Allows Department of Livestock to use aerial predator hunting fees for administrative expenses.

Department of Natural Resources and Conservation

HB 6 Appropriates state funds for renewable resource grants and loans, such as for planning, irrigation development, watersheds, water conservation, and improvements to water and wastewater systems.

HB 7 Appropriates state funds for reclamation and development grants to mitigate non-renewable resource extraction, such as creek restorations, contaminated soils removal, and mine remediation.

HB 8 Authorizes loans to state and local government units for renewable resource projects, such as regional water projects or irrigation system improvements.

HB 11 Appropriates coal tax funds through the Treasure State Endowment Program for regional water system projects, local government infrastructure projects (including bridges).

HB 34 Creates a statutory appropriation for administration of good neighbor forestry projects, which are timber sales on federal lands administered by the DNRC.

HB 57 Clarifies the location in statute of the definitions of “appropriation right,” “nonconsumptive use,” and “water right.”

HB 58 Clarifies content of required reports from the drought and water supply committee and added a July 1 report for “the potential for drought for the remainder of the calendar year.”

HB 70 Allows state timber sales of up to 500,000 board feet without bidding requirements.

HB 114 Increases a fee charged to timber contractor for fire hazard reduction program.

SB 41 Eliminates the requirement that bids for state oil and gas leases must be made orally.

SB 49 Revises the location of where water is measured for when a water right is changed to allow some of the right to be used.

State Administration and Veterans Affairs Related Legislation

For additional information on State Administration and Veterans Affairs Related Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature’s [State Administration and Veterans’ Affairs Interim Committee](#).

Election Administration

HB 129 Allows elections for a county with an elected county official form of government to be conducted on either a partisan or nonpartisan basis and provides that the county governing body may by ordinance submit to the electorate a question on whether to change elections from partisan to nonpartisan or from nonpartisan to partisan.

HB 166 Revises the display of sample ballots at polling places to provide that a sample ballot must be displayed in at least one conspicuous location inside the polling place rather than at each polling station and that if the election administrator has the capacity, the sample ballot must be printed in a larger size than an actual ballot.

HB 244 Submits to electors a constitutional amendment to change the signature requirements for qualifying a constitutional amendment for the ballot from ten percent of the qualified electors in each of at least half of the counties to at least ten percent of the qualified electors in each of two-fifths of the counties, which conforms the state constitution to a federal district court ruling.

HB 245 Submits to electors a constitutional amendment to change the signature requirements for qualifying an initiative for the ballot from five percent of the qualified electors in each of at least half of the counties to at least five percent of the qualified electors in each of one-third of the counties, which conforms the state constitution to a federal district court ruling.

HB 326 Allows a person to serve on more than one special district board if there are fewer than 500 electors in the area.

HJ 3 Interim legislative study resolution on accessibility for disabled electors.

HJ 10 Interim legislative study resolution on barriers to American Indian voting.

SB 14 Conforms state law to U.S. Constitution regarding how a vacancy in U.S. House of Representatives is filled by eliminating the ability of the governor to make a temporary appointment and requiring that a vacancy be filled by election.

SB 101 Eliminates the requirement to return unvoted political party primary election absentee ballots.

SB 116 Revises elector qualifications for voting in irrigation district elections to clarify that electors do not need to meet residency, registration, and signature verification requirements and that a property owner may designate an agent to cast the vote with respect to the acreage.

SB 124 Allows Montana's uniformed and overseas voters with Common Access Cards issued by the U.S. Department of Defense to use the card's digital signature when registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, or returning a voted ballot. (See also Military and Veterans' Affairs topic.)

SB 130 Increases the time by which school district trustees must issue a certificate of election in a school election from 15 days after the election to 25 days after the election.

SB 148 Allows late registrant absentee ballots to be dropped off at polling places.

SB 162 Allows election administrators in counties with more than 8,000 registered electors or more than 5,000 absentee electors to begin preparing voted absentee ballots 3 business days before the election and to begin tabulating votes on absentee ballots 1 day before the election and establishes a penalty for making early vote tally results public.

SB 231 Provides that the primary bill sponsor of a legislative referendum must be appointed to the committee advocating for the referendum's approval.

SB 232 Allows counties to pay for use of a location as a temporary polling place if an unforeseen circumstance prevents the regular designated polling place from being used and another suitable location cannot be found free of charge.

SB 291 Allows the secretary of state to certify for use in the state a voter interface device with accessible voting technology even if the device requires the use of a nonstandard ballot and establishes procedures for ensuring ballot secrecy for disabled electors who may use the device.

Campaign Finance and Political Practices

HB 181 Revises campaign finance reporting deadlines and the contribution or expenditure amounts that trigger reports for candidates, statewide ballot issue committees, and political committees; requires electronic reporting, with certain exceptions; and requires the Commissioner of Political Practices to post the contribution and expenditure reports on the Commissioner's website.

HB 318 Revises laws related to political party central committees by specifying how a vacancy occurs, how proxies may be voted, how the committee's business name is assumed, and how the committee's mark may be registered.

SB 115 Repeals the campaign finance provision allowing a petty cash fund.

SB 154 Eliminates the requirement that certain information about a candidate's votes be included on printed election material that mentions the candidate's voting record, which the court ruled was unconstitutional.

SB 150 Revises ethics laws for public officials and public employees, clarifies that ethics complaints against public officials are public information, while complaints against a public employee or unelected public officer are confidential, and revises the procedures to be followed by the commissioner of political practices.

SB 258 Allows the attribution on political committee election materials to be the name and address of the committee treasurer, the deputy treasurer, secretary, vice chairperson, or chairperson.

SB 326 Prohibits foreign nationals from making or promising to make disbursements for electioneering communications or making or promising to make campaign contributions or expenditures regarding any candidate election; makes it unlawful for a person to solicit, accept, or receive a contribution, expenditure, or disbursement in a candidate election from a foreign national; and provides a civil penalty.

SB 363 Requires the reporting of contributions and expenditures by individuals and committees spending or receiving money to qualify a minor political party for a primary election ballot.

Disaster and Emergency Services

SB 90 Extends the duration of a declared state of emergency from 20 days to 30 days and the duration of a declared state of disaster from 30 days to 45 days.

Montana National Guard

HB 67 Revises a state unemployment insurance provision applicable to a person who leaves employment due to military service by changing the eligibility criteria from less than six weeks to less than 180 days of military service to match federal law.

HB 297 Repeals an outdated statute authorizing a uniform allowance for an officer of the organized militia and an outdated statute authorizing militia commanders to receive an allowance for incidental expenses.

HB 305 Revises the statutory definition of “state duty for special work” to include cybersecurity training and operations.

SB 89 Allows proceeds from the sale of Montana National Guard armories to help fund construction of new National Guard facilities.

SB 98 Adopts the most recent federal laws applicable to the National Guard.

Veterans’ Affairs

HB 158 Revises the state scholarship for eligible purple heart recipients to include recipients of higher medals for combat-related service and provides a \$50,000 appropriation from the state general fund to a state special revenue account for the purposes of funding the scholarship program.

HB 172 Revises the state statute on county veterans’ service officers to allow multicounty offices, establishes a grant program to be administered by the Montana Veterans’ Affairs Division for single county and multicounty offices, and appropriates \$30,000 from the state general fund for each fiscal year of the next biennium. The bill sunsets on June 30, 2023.

HB 275 Revises the state statute allowing the holder of a hunting license to donate the license to a disabled veteran by striking cumbersome language requiring an active duty purple heart recipient to be receiving medical treatment at a medical facility.

HB 422 Increases the amount available from the permanent coal tax trust fund for the Montana veterans’ home loan program from \$40 million to \$50 million.

HB 423 Provides that a military veteran is eligible for a 50% discount on overnight camping fees at state parks.

HB 515 Allows the motor vehicles division to waive a skills or knowledge test for a commercial driver's license applicant who has passed a knowledge test given by the military.

HB 660 Creates a mobile crisis unit program and provides for local community grants for providing mental health services to a person having a mental health crisis. As enacted, the bill does not specifically mention veterans but would serve anyone, including a veteran, experiencing a mental health crisis. The bill originally provided for a grant selection committee that was to include at least one representative from the veterans' affairs division of the department of military affairs, among other members, but an amendment struck the subsection on the selection committee.

HB 748 Establishes the Minni Spotted-Wolf memorial highway in Pondera County to honor Minni Spotted-Wolf, a member of the Blackfeet Tribe who, among her other accomplishments, was the first Native American woman to serve in the United States Marine Corps.

HJ 23 Joint study resolution on the structure, funding, and outreach of the Montana Veterans' Affairs Division.

HJ 24 Joint resolution honoring the centennial of The American Legion in Montana.

HJ 27 Joint resolution honoring the 70th anniversary of Montana's Merci Car, a box car for the people of Montana that was part of train of box cars that in 1949 was filled with gifts for the people of France thanking the people of the United States for the relief supplies sent to France in the American Friendship Train of 1947.

HR 3 House resolution urging Congress to improve health care services for veterans.

SB 85 Requires a detention center in a county that operates a veterans' treatment court to ask detainees if they are veterans and to notify the treatment court of veterans being detained in the center; and requires the treatment court to provide information to veterans in the detention center. The bill terminates June 30, 2021.

SJ 32 Joint resolution for the awarding of the state Honor and Remember medallion to families of service members killed or missing in action.

[Other Military Affairs Topics](#)

HB 676 Establishes a grant program under the Department of Military Affairs to providing training for the Montana civil air patrol and statutorily appropriates \$45,000 annually from the state general fund for the grants.

SB 124 Allows Montana's uniformed and overseas voters with Common Access Cards issued by the U.S. Department of Defense to use the card's digital signature when registering to vote, requesting an absentee ballot, or returning a voted ballot.

SB 167 Allows for an extension of the entitlement period during which a Montana resident who is a member of the National Guard or federal reserve and who is ordered to active duty may receive certain hunting and fishing licenses for free.

Public Employee Pension Plans

HB 204 Generally revises laws related to the Teachers' Retirement System, revises definitions, and clarifies provisions related to employer reporting, dormant membership, withdrawal from membership, designation of beneficiaries, and the order of priority for paying beneficiaries.

HJ 39 Joint resolution requesting a legislative performance audit on combining the administration of the Teachers' Retirement System and the systems administered by the Montana Public Employees' Retirement Administration.

SB 139 Revises retiree return to work provisions in the Teachers' Retirement System by lowering from 30 years to 27 years the years of service criteria under which a retiree may return to work on a full-time basis without loss of retirement benefits and limits the special return to work provisions to second- and third-class school districts if the district has been unable to fill the position.

Administrative Rules

SB 1 Exempts state lottery game parameters from the Montana Administrative Procedures Act.

SB 72 Revises provisions related to the Montana Administrative Procedures Act, establishes a definition for "supplemental notice" about amendments to proposed rules or changes in the timeline for public participation, and allows a rule review committee to object to a portion of a proposed rule.

Documents and Records

HB 370 Generally revises notary laws to revise and update provisions related to electronic records, remote notarization, training, journal retention, and other matters.

Public Contracts

HB 260 Exempts Montana Community Service Act contracts for \$12,501 or less from the state procurement act, which generally requires a competitive bidding process.

HB 316 Increases the amount of square footage that a state agency may lease without legislative approval from 40,000 square feet to 45,000 square feet.

Public Employees and Ethics

HB 73 Provides that within the Office of State Public Defender, deputy public defenders and the administrators for central services, appellate defender, and conflict defender divisions will no longer be exempt from the state pay and classification plan.

HB 175 Provides appropriations to implement the state employee pay plan, provides a pay increase of 50 cents an hour on January 1, 2020, and January 1, 2021, increases meal reimbursement rates for in-state travel.

HB 343 Extends the retention of employee settlement documents to 20 years.

HB 612 Increases from five to eight the number of professional staff positions at the Board of Investments that are exempt from the state classification and pay plan.

SB 150 Revises ethics laws for public officials and public employees, clarifies that ethics complaints against public officials are public information, while complaints against a public employee or unelected

public officer are confidential, and revises the procedures to be followed by the commissioner of political practices.

SB 295 Provides for the conversion of annual leave, sick leave, and compensatory leave to death benefits if a public employee dies in an accident while on the job.

Other State Government Topics

HB 525 Extends to June 30, 2029, the termination date for the high-performance building program, which is related to energy efficiency.

HB 725 Allows sports wagering through the state lottery.

SB 2 Allows government accounting standards to include a financial reporting framework as defined by the Department of Administration.

SB 46 Allows public agencies to share distribution lists.

SB 236 Requires the Department of Administration to recommend by September 15, 2020, to the State Administration and Veterans' Affairs Interim Committee options for developing a strategy to manage an inventory of real property owned by state agencies.

SB 338 Provides for the funding and construction of the Montana Heritage Center, creates a local museum grant program, increases the sales tax and use tax on accommodations and campgrounds from 3% to 4% and revises the allocation of the proceeds from the taxes, and removes the limitation on vendor allowances.

State-Tribal Relations Related Legislation

For additional information on State-Tribal Relations Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [State-Tribal Relations Interim Committee](#).

*Indicates legislation proposed by the 2017-2018 State-Tribal Relations Committee

Criminal Justice

HB 369 Creates a criminal justice oversight council, the membership of which includes a tribal member with criminal justice expertise.

HB 654 Requires licensing of opioid sellers and appropriates license funds received to expand treatment courts. Tribal treatment courts are eligible to receive funds.

SB 289 Provides safe harbor for pregnant women seeking assistance for substance abuse.

Economic Development

HB 632 Requires the Department of Commerce to publish a decennial report on economic impact of Indian reservations starting in 2020.

Education

SB 212 Revises laws on payments to tribal colleges for enrolled resident nonbeneficiary students.

Elections

HJ 10 Study resolution to address barriers to American Indian voting.

Finance

HB 428 Expands the state infrastructure loan program and the INTERCAP loan program for tribal governments.

Fish, Wildlife, and Parks

HB 411 Revises laws related to aquatic invasive species program funding, requires an AIS prevention pass for nonresident vessels, decreases prevention pass fees for nonresident anglers, increases registration fees for resident motorized vessels, extends and revises hydroelectric fees, reallocates lodging tax revenue, and appropriates funds to the Departments of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks and Natural Resources and Conservation.

HB 608 Requires mandatory aquatic invasive species decontamination of certain vessels with ballast/bladders.

SB 24 Increases the optional light motor vehicle registration fee for parks and recreation and creates a trails and recreational facilities grant program for which tribal governments are eligible.

Government

HB 524 Revises laws related to the installation of an American Indian monument and tribal flag circle on the Capitol Complex in Helena.

HB 632 Requires the Department of Commerce to publish a decennial report on economic impact of Indian reservations starting in 2020.

Healthcare

HB 599 Recognizes federal authority to establish a community health aide program for tribal facilities in Montana and allows those services to be reimbursed under the state Medicaid plan if the services are provided by those meeting federal certification standards.

HB 658 Revises healthcare laws and permanently expands Medicaid.

HB 696 Appropriates \$500,000 for suicide prevention efforts, including implementation of the Montana native youth suicide reduction strategic plan published in January 2017.

SB 30* Allows adult peer support services to be reimbursed under Medicaid and appropriates \$7.1 million.

SB 289 Provides safe harbor for pregnant women seeking assistance for substance abuse.

Language

HB 33* Extends the Montana Indian Language Preservation Program by 4 years to June 30, 2023.

HB 41* Extends the Cultural Integrity and Commitment Act by 4 years to June 30, 2023.

HJ 20 Resolution supporting the United Nations International Year of Indigenous Languages.

Missing Persons

HB 20* Requires a missing persons report to be filed in custodial interference cases if the whereabouts of the involved child is unknown.

HB 21* Establishes “Hanna’s Act”, authorizes the Montana Department of Justice to assist with the investigation of all missing persons cases, requires the department to employ a missing persons specialist, provides specialist duties, and appropriates \$205,000 for the biennium.

HB 54* Requires all law enforcement authorities in the state to accept, without delay, any report of a missing person unless there are certain extenuating circumstances.

SB 40* Requires the Office of Public Instruction to create and maintain an electronic repository of school photos of students whose parents give permission for the photo to be kept and released to law enforcement if a student is identified as missing.

SB 312 Creates the Looping in Native Communities Network grant program in support of tribes’ efforts to identify, report, and find missing American Indians, creates the Missing Indigenous Persons Task Force to administer the grant program, and appropriates \$25,000.

Tax Related Legislation

For additional information on Tax Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature’s [Revenue Interim Committee](#).

Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee Requested Bills

The two committee bills requested by the 2017-2018 Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee (See name change under Transportation) both became law:

HB 24 Revises allowable water costs used for valuing irrigated agricultural property.

SB 69 Revises agricultural classification laws; provides provisional agricultural classification for certain orchards, vineyards, and Christmas tree farms; requires application for agricultural classification after the expiration of provisional classification.

Individual Income Tax and Corporate Income Tax

HB 88 Revises laws related to Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) accounts; continues the deduction for contributions to ABLE accounts maintained by another state; allows residents of another state to use Montana’s ABLE program.

HB 288 Generally revises the requirements of the Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) program; expands the family members eligible for a tax deduction for contributions to ABLE accounts; revises requirements for opening an account.

HB 293 Creates the “Montana Economic Development Industry Advancement Act” (MEDIA) to provide income tax incentives for certain expenditures related to film, television, and related media production; provides a tax credit to production companies for certain media production expenditures made in Montana; provides that the credit may be carried forward or transferred to a Montana taxpayer; requires the Department of Revenue to administer the transfer of the tax credits; provides for a transfer fee; provides a tax credit for Montana wage expenditures incurred in Montana, requires a production company to apply to the Department of Commerce for state certification to qualify for the media production tax credit; requires an application and an application fee for a production company or postproduction company to claim a tax credit; provides limits on the amount of credits that may be claimed each year; provides a statutory appropriation; provides rulemaking authority.

HB 320 Revises laws related to tax-advantaged savings plans; provides an exemption from claims of creditors for assets held in or distributed from a family education savings account or an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account.

HB 723 Revises income tax credit laws; requires the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee to review tax credits to make a recommendation to the Legislature; provides criteria for the committee to use when reviewing tax credits; repeals expired tax credits.

SB 111 Extends the termination date of the tax credit for contributions to a qualified endowment.

SB 207 Provides a taxpayer election on an income tax return to deposit an income tax refund to specific individual accounts; provides for direct deposit to a family education savings program account or an Achieving a Better Life Experience program account; requires the Department of Revenue to administer the deposit election.

SB 337 Revises the income tax credit for alternative energy generation; extends the availability of the income tax credit for investment income related to a commercial system that generates energy through a hydroelectric source that produces 1 megawatt or more when installed on dams that do not produce power.

Miscellaneous

HB 16 Provides funding for low-income and moderate-income housing loans with money from the permanent coal severance tax trust fund; provides rulemaking authority.

HB 72 Eliminates redundant penalty provisions.

HB 84 Revises taxation and reporting laws for wine and hard cider; revises the process for registered wineries to pay taxes; provides for electronic filing of returns and payment of taxes for wineries.

SB 241 Revises resort tax laws to allow for the imposition of an additional resort tax for infrastructure; provides that up to an additional 1% may be levied for infrastructure; provides that resort communities with a population of greater than 5,500 may not levy the additional resort tax.

SB 265 Generally revises the Montana Medical Marijuana Act; temporarily increases the tax on gross sales to 4%; eliminates the requirement that medical marijuana providers and marijuana-infused product providers be named by a registered cardholder; establishes requirements for issuances of registry identification cards and license; establishes requirements for testing labs and inspection of registered premises; provides for the additional release of information; establishes canopy tiers and licensing fees; establishes a temporary moratorium on provider licensing; establishes limits on cardholder purchases; clarifies the prohibition on physician provider affiliations; allows use of telemedicine for written certifications; clarifies advertising restrictions; establishes penalties; provides rulemaking authority; provides for the transfer of funds.

SB 338 Creates the Montana Museums Act of 2020; provides funding for the Montana Heritage Center; grants authority to construct the Montana Heritage Center; creates the historic preservation grant program; revises the sales tax on accommodations and campgrounds; creates accounts and allocates a portion of tax proceeds to them; provides rulemaking authority related to the historic preservation grant program; allocates grants from the historic preservation grant program; removes the limitation on vendor allowances.

Natural Resource Taxes

HB 213 Revises the tax rate price trigger for stripper oil well bonus production.

HB 292 Temporarily increases the coal severance tax allocation to the coal natural resource account; establishes the increase until June 30, 2023.

HB 403 Revises the coal gross proceeds tax rate on coal mined from an underground mine.

HB 656 Revises oil and gas taxation laws; provides a fixed tax rate for the privilege and license tax and the tax for the oil and gas natural resource distribution account; provides for the allocation of privilege and license tax revenue and revenue from the tax for the oil and gas natural resource distribution account; provides that the tax for the oil and natural gas distribution account be distributed to incorporated cities and towns in which oil production occurs.

SB 28 Revises the tax rate for certain incremental oil production; removes the price trigger for new or expanded tertiary production.

SB 328 Authorizes a board of county commissioners to authorize a local abatement of the coal gross proceeds tax from a new or expanding surface coal mine; utilizes the same abatement provisions for surface mining as underground mining.

Property Tax

HB 24 Revises allowable water costs used for valuing irrigated agricultural property.

HB 200 Revises property tax laws related to the taxation of mobile homes, manufactured homes, and house trailers; standardizes language related to mobile homes, manufactured homes, and house trailers for property tax purposes.

HB 201 Revises tax lien laws; revises the assignment of rights for property tax liens.

HB 386 Revises the provisions for suspension of delinquent property taxes on commercial property.

HB 507 Revises property taxation and classification of qualified data centers and related property; revises the definition of a qualified data center.

HB 514 Revises the property tax appeal process; provides a taxpayer with the option to request informal classification and appraisal review from the Department of Revenue by checking a box on a classification and appraisal notice.

HB 527 Generally revises laws related to affordable housing tax exemptions; provides that qualified property may be owned by certain single-member limited liability companies; removes language that restates federal regulations to ensure future compliance; provides additional clarification of qualified properties and owners.

HB 636 Revises property tax laws related to protested taxes; provides for reimbursement from the general fund to local governments for a portion of protested taxes if the final assessed value is less than 75% of the original assessed value.

SB 69 Revises agricultural classification laws; provides provisional agricultural classification for certain orchards, vineyards, and Christmas tree farms; requires application for agricultural classification after the expiration of provisional classification.

SB 165 Revises property taxes on certain destroyed property and abandoned movable housing; provides an exemption for uninhabitable movable housing; provides definitions.

SB 178 Exempts hemp processing equipment from property taxation.

SB 200 Provides that certain real property improvements may not be classified by state and local government entities as a mobile home.

SB 204 Provides property tax exemptions for certain mobile homes, manufactured homes, or housetrailers; provides exemption criteria.

SB 253 Generally revises tax lien and tax deed laws; revises the tax lien and tax deed process for residential, agricultural, and forest property with a dwelling; requires the assignee to apply to the county treasurer for a tax deed; provides that upon application for a tax deed, the tax deed be auctioned to the highest bidder; provides a required opening bid at tax deed auction that includes half the assessed value of the property; provides that the true property owner and lienholders of a tax deed auctioned property can request funds in excess of the difference between the sale price and the opening bid.

SB 318 Provides for approval of an abatement for new or expanding industry prior to commencement of construction.

SB 321 Revises targeted economic development district laws; provides that the tax increment that is not utilized to pay costs or bonds by a targeted economic district that has issued bonds must be remitted to taxing jurisdictions in the same manner as it would have been distributed without tax increment financing.

SB 334 Revises property tax levies for certain airports; provides that an airport authority is not subject to a local government mill levy cap when a maximum levy amount was established in a resolution creating the airport authority.

Transportation Related Legislation

The 2019 Legislature passed and approved Senate Bill No. 226 establishing a Transportation Interim Committee. Historically, transportation matters were combined with revenue and tax policy and under the authority of the Revenue and Transportation Interim Committee. With the change, transportation topics will be covered by the Legislature's [Transportation Interim Committee](#). For additional information on Transportation Legislation, click [HERE](#).

Requested by Montana Department of Transportation (MDT)

HB 37 Revises time-period in which an appraisal is conducted for MDT property listed for sale.

HB 39 Revises laws related to the taxation of fuel used for public contracts and clarifies that fuel used for public contracts must be fuel on which fuel taxes have been paid.

SB 51 Revises highway laws to clarify highway system definitions, terminology, and the process for allocating primary highway system funds for consistency with current state and federal laws and processes.

SB 76 Revises laws related to occupancy of and encroachment on transportation commission-designated highway systems or state highway rights-of-way. Allows for encroachment permits and revises the encroachment removal process.

Licensing, Insurance, and Registration

HB 62 Revises mandatory automobile insurance requirements. Requested by the State Auditor.

HB 217 Revises laws related to the suspension of a driver's license for nonpayment of fines, fees, or restitution.

HB 450 Revises motor vehicle laws and dealer license requirements. Revises vehicle registration fees and modifies record storage requirements.

HB 515 Revises motor vehicle laws. Provides for revocation of a commercial driver's license for human trafficking. Revises the driver rehabilitation program. Revises license requirements and renewals. Allows a knowledge test regarding military commercial motor vehicle experience. Revises restoration requirements. Revises self-insurance requirements. Eliminates certain indemnity bonds.

HB 624 Restricts the requirement that vehicle titles be notarized for private party transactions.

SB 158 Provides an exemption from the requirement for a motorcycle endorsement for an autocycle. Defines "autocycle".

SB 319 Allows a veteran who is eligible for a special license plate fee waiver to waive the fee for any of the special license plates for which the veteran qualifies.

SB 346 Revises motor vehicle laws to include definition of "manufacturer's suggested retail price." Allows for electronic renewal notices. Increases certain fees for motorcycles and quadricycles. Revises commercial driver reciprocity. Revises the definition of "motor vehicle record". Allows for bioptic lens rulemaking authority.

SB 353 Revises laws related to vehicle license plates. Authorizes the use of reproduction license plates on a general transportation collector's item. Requires the reproduction license plate to meet certain requirements. Revises laws related to sponsorship of generic specialty license plates. Requires the DOJ to revoke sponsorship of a generic specialty license plate in certain circumstances.

Oversize and overweight loads

HB 389 Exempts certain implements of husbandry and vehicles transporting hay or straw from height restrictions.

SB 91 Prohibits a local authority from prohibiting or restricting a vehicle loaded with fertilizer in certain circumstances.

SB 317 Creates a wintertime 10% overweight permit and durational 10% overweight permit. Establishes a fee for the permit.

Traffic control and safety

HB 190 Allows a local authority to set a speed limit in a school zone or near a senior citizen center without an engineering and traffic investigation.

HB 382 Provides for a discount for completing highway traffic safety programs. Increases the time a traffic safety program may be effective for insurance discounts.

HB 393 Revises truck speed limit laws and raises the speed limit for trucks on federal-aid interstate highways to 70 mph at all times.

HB 440 Revises speed zone laws. Allows for special speed limit for high crash frequency corridors. Allows for temporary special reduced limits in event of emergency, adverse weather, or other factors impacting safe travel.

HB 580 Requires public notice for certain rumble strip projects.

Memorial Highways

HB 156 Establishes the Mason Moore Memorial Highway in Broadwater County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

HB 285 Establishes the Pearl Harbor Veterans Memorial Highway in Yellowstone County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

HB 717 Establishes the Louis Charles Charlo Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

HB 719 Establishes the Jeannette Rankin Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

HB 748 Establishes the Minnie Spotted-Wolf Memorial Highway in Pondera County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

HB 756 Establishes the Dolly Smith Akers Memorial Highway in Roosevelt County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

SB 175 Establish the David Thatcher Memorial Highway in Stillwater County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

SB 196 Establishes the Brent Witham Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

SB 260 Establishes the Trenton Johnson Memorial Highway in Missoula County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

SB 268 Establishes the Montana Medal of Honor Highway in Gallatin County. Directs the MDT to install signs.

SB 365 Establishes the Flathead County Veterans Memorial. Directs the MDT to install signs.

Fuel Taxation

HB 661 Increases the aviation fuel tax by 1 cent. Revises the distribution of aviation fuel taxes.

SB 137 allows any type of retail transaction as evidence for estimating agricultural usage of special fuels.

Miscellaneous

HB 15 Revises laws related to nonmotorized vehicle and mobile home disposal.

HB 59 Repeals the Rail Service Competition Council. Requested by the Economic Affairs Interim Committee.

HB 257 Allows information collected by an unmanned aerial vehicle investigating a motor vehicle crash scene to be admitted into evidence or used to obtain search warrants.

HB 355 Revises laws related to motorized recreation. Establishes the summer motorized recreation trail grant program.

HB 456 Allows public utilities to participate in the electric vehicle marketplace. Grants utilities the right to sell electricity to private entities for electric vehicle charging services.

HB 617 Revises automobile franchise laws. Provides circumstances in which a manufacturer is permitted to add an additional franchisee in a community. Requiring disclosure of the additional franchisee.

SB 226 Establishes a Transportation Interim Committee. Requested by the Senate Highways and Transportation Standing Committee.

SB 248 Revises laws regarding abandoned vehicles and authorizes law enforcement to take custody of vehicles abandoned for certain periods of time.

Water Policy Legislation

For additional information on Water Legislation, click [HERE](#). These topics are generally covered during the legislative interim by the Legislature's [Water Policy Interim Committee](#).

Water Policy Interim Committee

HB 44 clarifies that the adverse effect analysis for a change of water right is specific to that proposed change in appropriation right. A determination that water is not legally available (85-2-311) does not mean an adverse effect will occur.

HB 45 removes redundant language to clarify criteria for a water rights permit of change application relying on a waiver of adverse effect.

SB 32 creates a stream gauge oversight work group out of the governor's drought and water supply advisory committee. The work group will create an annual stream gauge infrastructure work plan and report to the WPIC.

SB 46 allows a public agency to use distribution lists of personal contact information collected by a public agency.

SB 72 revises the Montana Administrative Procedures Act by defining "supplemental notice" and clarifying the administrative rules objection process.

SB 81 extends the deadline to correct and complete an application for a permit or change in water right.

General Water Policy

HB 220 extends the time in which it is realistic and feasible for the Water Court to issue all preliminary decrees.

HB 286 declares the state does not have an ownership interest in private water rights from a well or developed spring located on private land that is used on state trust lands.

HB 328 exempts a county, incorporated city or town, or conservation district from section 401 water quality authorizations under the Clean Water Act.

HB 341 created a statutory appropriation for the Ground Water Investigation Program.

HB 383 extends the timeline for an appeal to a conservation district decision on an application to alter a streambed under the Natural Streambed and Land Preservation Act of 1975.

HB 505 requires an applicant for a new water right or a change in water right from a shared point of diversion or shared conveyance must provide notice of the application or change to all water rights holders along that canal, ditch, flume, pipeline, or constructed waterway.

HJ 14 requests an interim study of the future of the Montana Water Court.

HJ 40 requests an interim study of weather modification laws.

SB 151 clarifies notice procedures for certain exempt water right claims.

SB 257 revises appointments to the Upper Columbia Conservation Commission.

SB 296 provides that a water right owner may file a lawsuit to protect against unlawful use of water and interference with the use of water.

SJ 3 requests an interim study of alternative septic systems.

SJ 12 declares that the Montana Legislature supports compensation for losses incurred and benefits realized due to construction of Libby Dam and opposes a diversion of Kootenai River water at Canal Flats, British Columbia.