

MPMCSA-LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
February 2, 2013

IMPORTANT DATE

Please put this date on your calendar – March 12th, Helena-Legislative Reception
The Association will again host a legislative reception in Helena at the Montana City Grill – 5:30 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. on March 12th. In the past the event has been well attended by legislators so it's important that we have as many members there as possible. A block of rooms will be reserved at the Colonial Hotel for those who wish to spend the evening. We will also plan a trip up to the Capitol either the day of or, morning after or...both. Stay tuned for more details.

HOUSE BILL 316-Fuel Tax Increase

House Bill 316 introduced by Representative Nancy Wilson-Missoula would increase the gasoline tax from 27 cents per gallon to 29 cents per gallon. The first 1 cent p.g. collected would go to highway maintenance; the second 1 cent p.g. would go to local public transportation and DUI task enforcement. This bill will have its first hearing February 5th in the House Taxation Committee. POSITION: Monitor

HOUSE BILL 346-Dyed Fuel Permits

House Bill 346 introduced by Representative Dan Salomon-Ronan would allow vehicles designed or modified for primary use as a farm or ranch vehicle and used primarily in off-highway farming or ranching, to operate on public roads and highways with dyed fuel. The vehicle may be driven on public roads & highways for repairs, to pick up farm or ranch supplies, or when crossing from one side of a public road or highway to the other. These sections of fuel tax/use law are enforced by the Motor Carrier Services and the Highway Patrol. Also currently in law is the caveat that if the vehicle operator violates the law, and the seller of the fuel knew the fuel was being used for illegal purposes, the seller of the fuel may be held liable for the unpaid tax. POSITION: Monitor

HOUSE BILL 347-Transportation Contract Indemnification

House Bill 347 introduced by Steve Fitzpatrick-Great Falls – at the request of the Motor Carriers Association, would void certain types of cross-party indemnification from transportation contracts. The bill will have its first hearing on February 5, in the House Business & Labor Committee. POSITION: Undetermined

SENATE BILL 116-Special Fuel Permits

Senate Bill 116 by Senator Ron Arthun-Wilsaw, repeals the controversial legislation passed by the MT Contractors Association in 2009 that requires small contractors to secure a temporary special fuel permit and file a \$500 bond. The legislation in fact, repeals the temporary permits in total unless the vehicle (over 26,000 lbs. gvw) is not covered under the International Fuel Tax Agreement. The bill has passed the Senate. POSITION: Monitor

SENATE BILL 226-Dyed Fuel

Senator Bill 226 introduced by Eric Moore-Miles City would allow vehicles that are equipped with a feed-delivery box to operate on public roads and highways with dyed fuel, without being assessed the fuel tax. The feed-delivery box must be permanently affixed to the vehicle; be used exclusively for the feeding of livestock; and the GVW must be greater than 12,000 lbs. The same enforcement and liability criteria apply as in HB346. POSITION: Monitor

GENERAL BUSINESS BILLS

SENATE BILL 96: By Senator Bruce Tudvedt-Kalispell. Would lower the business equipment tax to 1.5% for property assessed up to \$10 million; over \$10 million in assessed property would be taxed at 3%. The bill has passed the Senate Taxation Committee.

Please contact me at the Email address listed below if there are questions or concerns.

Submitted by
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