

January 23, 2011

TO: MPMCSA MEMBERS

FROM: RONNA ALEXANDER, E.D.

LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN:

Week Three: Well, you of course saw all the news regarding the Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee...yes, it is Senator Shockley who had introduced the ethanol labeling bill. (He has since pulled that bill out of consideration). On Friday a medical marijuana bill created most of the excitement; this bill would regulate the drug similar to how alcohol is regulated putting it under the control of the Department of Revenue. They didn't look too happy about that possibility. While we're on the subject; the Chamber's bill, House Bill 43 by Gary MacLaren/Victor, will be heard Monday the 24th in the Health Human Services Committee. A few of you sent details about an experience you've had as an employer with MM; we will be supporting the bill. I sent details about the content of the bill last report but if you have questions, please send me a message.

BILLS REPORT

Every week we will send a legislative update to your inboxes; the report will be available on the Montana/WPMA website. You can also monitor bills yourself by creating a preference list on the Legislative website; http://leg.mt.gov/css/Sessions/62nd/laws_pref.asp.

SENATE BILL 9: *Senator Keane/Butte* To allow mixing zones at petroleum contaminated sites; resulting in a closure (no further action) letter from the DEQ and releasing the site from any further cleanup or monitoring action. The bill had its' first hearing last Wednesday in the Senate Natural Resources Committee. There was only one opponent via a letter from the Missoula County Sanitarian. It would appear the bill is in good position to pass the Committee's vote where it will then go to the full Senate. We would ask that you take ten minutes and send the members of the Natural Resource Committee a message asking them to support the bill. Those members of the Committee are:

Debby Barrett, Chair-Dillon
Greg Hinkle-Thompson Falls
John Brenden-Scobey
Brad Hamlett-Cascade
Verdell Jackson-Kalispell
Christine Kaufman-Helena
Cliff Larsen-Missoula
Jim Peterson-Buffalo
Don Steinbeisser-Sidney
Mitch Tropila-Great Falls
Chas Vincent-Libby
Ed Walker-Billings
Dave Wanzanreid-Missoula

You can do this easily by going to this link and following the directions.

<http://leg.mt.gov/css/sessions/62nd/legwebmessage.asp>.

SENATE BILL 20: *Senator Jim Shockley/Victor.* The bill would require labels on retail dispensers indicating the percentage of ethanol present in a particular grade of fuel and; require that a label be placed on the dispenser stating that the fuel grade did NOT contain ethanol if no blend was present. Hearing was cancelled. POSITION: OPPOSE

SENATE BILL 29: *Senator Lynda Moss/Billings.* This is the bill that was endorsed by the Interim Law & Justice Committee to require mandatory training of employees in the sales/service of alcohol.

The Association along with other affected organizations is negotiating with the sponsor for certain amendments that if accepted, would insure our support for the bill. The amendments include; a three-year certification, statewide pre-emption to local governments seeking to pass similar ordinances and, assurance that the State/Department of Revenue is not a provider of certified training. The bill will be heard on January 25th in the Senate Business Committee. POSITION: NEGOTIATE

BILLS TO BE MONITORED:

HOUSE BILL 112: *Representative Tim Furey/Missoula* The bill was requested by the Department of Revenue and would put in law the types of legal identification to be used in conducting sales/service of alcohol. **Bill was heard in the House Judiciary Committee and tabled on Friday.**

HOUSE BILL 201: *Representative Wendy Warbuton/Havre* This bill would allow guns in a business parking lot, affecting your property rights and opening exposure to frivolous lawsuits. It would essentially ban any employer from prohibiting firearms in employee vehicles that are parked on company property. The Montana Chamber will be opposing this bill. The bill has not been scheduled yet; I would like to know if the membership thinks we should oppose this bill.....????? Please send me your thoughts.