

December 18, 2008
Govt. Relations Committee

MSPOA Legislative Priorities. Here's an Updated version of the legislative list.
Here's the list of potential legislative issues and where we're at with them right now....

As of today, there were 1800 + bills and bill draft requests (LCs). To access the legislative branch home page and the bill tracking system, go to: <http://leg.mt.gov/css/default.asp>. From there, to 'Bills' and from there to 2009 regular session. From there go to 'All Introduced and Unintroduced Bills' at the bottom of the page.

1. Qualifications for Sheriff. LC 1874, requested by Rep. Mike Phillips (HD 66, Bozeman) has requested the bill be drafted.

Consensus was to proceed with pre-qualification (as opposed to post election qualification) for the office of Sheriff, as follows:

- a. revise MCA 7-32-303 – add the word 'sheriff' throughout the section. This is the section of MCA that lists qualifications for Undersheriffs and Deputies.
- b. new section requiring a candidate for the Office of sheriff to hold a current Basic Certificate from the Public safety Officers Standards and Training council (POST).

2. 20 Year Retirement for Dispatchers. MSPOA agreed to Support. LC 113. HB 31. Sponsored by Rep. Franke Wilmer (HD 64, Bozeman). Referred to the House State Administration Committee.

3. Other Retirement Issues.

There are many, many bills coming out of the State Administration and Veterans Affairs (SAVA) Interim Committee. LC 109, LC 111, LC 112, LC 258, LC 261.

LC 261. Eliminate automatic trigger that decreases employer contributions to PERS and SRS. Requested by the Gov's office of Budget and Program Planning. MACO not inclined to support this bill.

4. Other SAVA bills.

There are several dealing with 911 funds, primarily LC 250/HB 82, Revise Deposit of stranded 911 funds. Sponsored by Rep. Robyn Driscoll (HD 51, Billings).

LC 252, Revise distribution of 911 funds.

5. Mental Health issues. Appropriations. Funding for Community Services. There are several bills coming from the Law & Justice Interim Committee that MSPOA worked on all during the Interim, including:

- LC 307, Grant program for local crisis services and jail diversion for the mentally ill.
- LC 516, State contracting for mental health emergency detention beds.
- LC 517, Diversion from involuntary commitment to short-term inpatient treatment.

HB 60, Jail mental health crisis network standards pilot program. Sponsored by Rep. Bob Ebinger (HD 62, Livingston).

LC 1702, Funding for community mental health. Requested by rep. Dave McAlpin (HD 94, Missoula).

LC 1319, statutory appropriation to fund mental health crisis centers. Requested by Sen. John Esp (SD 31, Big Timber).

Some of these bills require funding not included in the Gov's budget and are being referred to the House Appropriations Committee. Not good.

SB 35, Committing jurisdiction forward physical and mental health information to prison. Sponsored by Sen. Larry Jent (SD 32, Bozeman)

6. Mental Health. Prisoner Transpo. Inmate Medical.

LC 93, Clarify restraint of suspected mentally ill. Requested by Sen. Jim Shockley (SD 45, Victor).

LC 471, Require state hospital to provide transport for evaluated persons. Requested by Sen. Jim Shockley (SD 45, Victor).

LC 451, Revise and clarify payment for medical costs for arrested person. Requested by Sen. Jim Shockley (SD 45, Victor).

LC 1691, Revise law on transportation of mentally ill. Requested by rep. Dave McAlpin (HD 94, Missoula).

7. Work. Comp. for Detention Officers. LC 1201, Partial salary for detention officer injured in performance of duty. Requested by Sen. Dave Lewis (SD 42, Helena & other areas).

8. Office of Public Defender Issues. Recording of custodial interviews. LC 1274, Require audio-video recording of custodial interrogations. Requested by Rep. Margaret Campbell (HD 31, Poplar).

9. Courtroom Security. LC 578, Provide funding for court security (surcharge). Sponsored by Sen. Larry Jent (SD 32, Bozeman).

10. Include deputy sheriffs in police arbitration act. LC 717, Requested by Sen. Carolyn Squires (SD 48, Missoula).

11. Self-defense, Gun bills. LCs 670, 671, 672. Requested by Sen. Aubyn Curtis (SD 01, Fortine).

HB 36, Revise law on use of force and self defense. Sponsored by Rep. Kenadall Van Dyk (HD 49, Billings).

SB 92, Castle doctrine for use of force in self defense. Sponsored by Sen. Larry Jent (SD 32, Bozeman).

LC 1533, Revise law on self defense. Requested by rep. Mike Jopek (HD 4, Whitefish).

12. Numerous other issues of interest (See MSPOA preference list 09): DUI; Primary seat belt; Youth access to alcohol (esp. LC 614, regulate sale of alcoholic energy drinks; Immigration; Medical Marijuana; ATV registration and use; Invasive species; Livestock; DNA preservation; Abandoned vehicles; Fish & Game, Motor Service Carriers (LC 1613).