

WYOMING ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE #2

January 6, 2016

NEW INFORMATION FROM UPDATE #2 APPEARS IN RED.

Session convenes January 10, 2017

Bill: SF 15 - Special district budget requirements

Link - <http://legisweb.state.wy.us/2017/Introduced/SF0015.pdf>

Sponsor: Joint Corporations

Summary: The bill is as amended by Joint Corporations November 21 and 22 are available on the website. As amended this bill would require some additional budget, notice and reserve policy requirements for specified special districts. Those requirements in the bill, that are not currently already required in statute, include the following:

- At the request of the board of County Commissioners and prior to adopting a budget the special district or other specified entity shall hold a prehearing with the county commissioners. The hearing shall be noticed as required for general open meetings.
- At request of Commissioners and prior to July 1 the special district/other specified entity shall present to the commissioners:
 - i. proposed budget; ii. Verification of elections, public meetings and board member training; and
 - iii. Minutes from any meetings the district held that year. (page 13-14)

Additional new provisions include language pertaining to money in reserves may be allowed to accumulate from year to year until the accumulated total is sufficient for specified purposes in accordance with reserve policy. (page 3 lines 8-11)

Districts included in the above bill are:

Cemetery, fire protection, flood control, housing authorities, improvement and service, joint powers, local improvement, museum, predator management, recreation, recreation joint powers, regional transportation authorities, resort, rural health care, sanitary and improvement, senior citizens, solid waste disposal, water and sewer, water conservancy, watershed improvement, and weed & pest.

Districts specifically exemption as per Joint Corporations action:

Boards of cooperative educational services

Conservation Districts – **As currently worded and interpreted by WACD, Conservation Districts would be exempt from the new requirements related to budgets and budgeting, and the bill specifically references that conservation districts would follow Uniform Municipal Procedures Act provisions as they do now. etc. Districts are still listed in the front of the bill so that they are still subject to the other provisions related to open meetings and public records, etc. as they currently are.**

Downtown development authorities

Drainage districts

Hospital districts

Irrigation districts

Effective date July 1, 2017.

WACD POSITION: Monitor and communicate implications to watershed improvement districts. **WACD IS ASKING THOSE DISTRICTS WHO HAVE WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT DISTRICTS TO PLEASE SHARE A COPY OF THE BILL WITH THE WID BOARDS TO MAKE SURE THEY ARE AWARE OF POTENTIAL NEW REQUIREMENTS.**

STATUS: Pre-filed.

Bill: SF 16 - Special district elections

Sponsor: Joint Corporations

Summary: The bill was requested/advanced by the County Clerks to address some issues in specific special district election processes including fire districts and hospital districts. An amendment was discussed to address term of offices of Watershed Improvement District Boards to eliminate the requirement for Conservation Districts to conduct elections every year. **Based on feedback from districts on modifying the Watershed Improvement District election language, WACD will continue to work with Clerks to get this bill amended to allow for elections to occur every other year versus the current terms which require an election every year.** Effective date of July 1, 2017.

WACD POSITION: SUPPORT

Status: Pre-filed.