

SAMLN17 Legislative Update 1: 11-7-17



Greetings SAM Legislative Network Special Session 2017 (SAMLN17) Members!

This is the first SAMLN17 Update of call to the 65th legislative for a special session. The SAM Delegate Assembly Steering Committee decided that keeping our SAMLN17 group together for the Special Session would be the best way to communicate and to potentially create “Calls to Action” if necessary during the Special Session. SAM’s advocacy team in Helena (Kirk and Pat) intends to use Updates and the SAMLN17 to communicate the issues happening with the legislature and our members through the Network. Thank you for using this information to keep your region’s members informed and for your past agreement to serve on the SAMLN17.

General Information

- SAM has created the [2017 Special Session](#) webpage to assist all SAM members with resources during the Special Session.
- The [2017 November Special Legislative Session](#) webpage is activated on the www.leg.mt.gov website.
- The [LAWS](#) special session information page to look up bills and hearing is activated on the www.leg.mt.gov website.
- Click on the items in [blue underline font](#) as they are links that will go directly to the item.
- All Bills being tracked by SAM can be found on the [2017 Special Session](#) webpage under [SAM General Bills](#). It is likely that all bills from the Special Session will be tracked.
- The [Contact a Legislator](#) site is on the [Legislative Session](#) webpage is not activated yet but we will get you that information in a ‘Call to Action’ if it becomes necessary.
- You may also watch or listen to [Live & Upcoming](#) meeting and hearings. Just click on the meeting or hearing that is on the schedule.
- [SAMLN17 Rules of Conduct for Political Activity and Advocacy](#).
- [SAM "How To" Video - Providing Testimony at a Legislative Hearing](#).

Information about the Call of the Special Session

On November 6, 2017 at 2:00 Governor Steve Bullock announced the call for a Special Session of the Legislature to begin at noon on Tuesday, November 14, with hearings beginning on November 13. For background read [Special Session Call Governor Remarks 11-6-17](#) and [Proclamation - Call for 2017 Special Session](#). Click [IR Article - Governor calls lawmakers back for special session, releases list of cuts to state agencies 11-6-17](#) to read about the announcement.

The MT-PEC partners met with the Governor on November 3, 2017 to understand the state-wide issues and the need for the special session. The MT-PEC partners have adopted a unified position statement, [MT-PEC Partners Special Session Statement 11-6-17](#), to assist our collective members in understanding the issues and to assist in the effort that will be necessary during the special legislative session.

The proposed budget reductions impacting the state are found in [Balancing Montana's Budget Legislative Proposals Special Session 2017 11-6-17](#) with the details of all of the proposed cuts outlined in [2017 Special Session Proposed Cuts Equals 76 million 11-6-17](#).

SAM intends to keep the [2017 Special Session](#) webpage updated throughout the 2017 Special Session and to assist our SAM members with their understanding of the issues and the advocacy necessary to maintain quality public schools during the shortfall in state revenue.

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SAM General Bills

As of 11-7-17 here are the Bill Drafts that have been introduced by the Governor. As the bill draft is available the LC live links will allow you to review the content of the bill draft (these bill drafts are not yet marked up as of 5:00 PM on 11-7-17).

Bill Draft (LC No.)	Request Date	Requestor	Status	Status Date	Short Title	Notes
LC0001	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Legislation approving fund balance and other transfers as submitted by OBPP	
LC0002	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Providing a two month state employer contribution holiday	
LC0003	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/7/2017	Temporarily suspend employer share contributions to judges' retirement	
LC0004	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Eliminate K-12 transportation and combined block grant payments	Key K-12 Bill
LC0005	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Revise state fire assessment to apply to all parcels	
LC0006	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/7/2017	Revising the sale of new liquor licenses by requiring an auction of new licenses	
LC0007	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Temporarily increase accommodations/rental car tax rates to offset fire costs	
LC0008	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft to Requester for Review	11/7/2017	Authorize management fee on excess investment holdings of the state fund	
LC0009	11/6/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/6/2017	Appropriations for fire suppression costs and emergency funds for FY 2018/ FY19	
LC0010	11/7/2017	Governor	(C) Draft Request Received	11/7/2017	Suspend the coal fired generating unit payment for the current biennium	Key K-12 Bill

Schedule of Events

Monday, November 13, 2017

10:00 a.m.

Joint hearing of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Claims Standing Committees, Room 317

Joint hearing of the House Taxation and Senate Taxation Standing Committees, Room 303

Joint hearing of the House Business and Labor and Senate Business, Labor and Economic Affairs Standing Committees, Room 172

Noon

House Rules Committee, Room 102

Senate Rules Committee, Room 405

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

8:00 a.m.

Joint hearing of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance and Claims Standing Committees, Room 317

Joint hearing of the House Taxation and Senate Taxation Standing Committees, Room 303

Joint hearing of the House Business and Labor and Senate Business, Labor, and Economic Affairs Standing Committees, Room 172

Wednesday, November 14, 2017

House Floor session at 1 o'clock

Senate Floor session at 1 o'clock

Each of the links in this Update are on the [2017 Special Session](#) webpage. We hope this background is helpful to you as you share information with your colleagues in your area! Thanks in advance for your commitment to the SAMLNSS17!

Kirk and Pat