

The 69th Legislative Session Roundup

Each legislative session has its own pace and “flavor” and the 2025 session is no exception. When the session began the House was ready to get to work, however, the Senate was full of drama. The Senate was embroiled in controversy from day one, severing the chance of a smooth session. Allegations of multiple ethics violations echoed thru the halls of the Capitol.

These distractions led to a rush of bills prior to the transmittal date. But then again, this happens every session. This session has seen a plethora of social laws tested. Medicare Expansion was renewed after rigorous debates from both sides of the aisle. The remaining bills will continue thru the process; however, the remaining major bills include property tax and income tax relief. HB 2, the state budget bill, is a priority bill at this point.

Most insurance bills have worked thru the process, with a couple important bills still in play.

As far as the Big I efforts during the session, I’ve teamed up with our lobbyist, John Iverson, to push good bills across the line and to oppose bills negatively impacting independent insurance agents and their customers. Our efforts would fall short if it was not for the Big I Legislative Committee. The committee has been very active in bi-weekly Zoom meetings. I personally appreciate that committee members are reading the bills in advance and are prepared for our meetings.

The legislative committee members are listed below. If you have the opportunity to talk to these professionals, please thank them for their volunteer service,

Big I Legislative Committee Members

Tom Chamberlin	Mandeville Agency
Scott Tuxbury	XPT Specialty
Kendall Massey	Montana First Insurance
Perry Wolfe	Wolfe Daniels Agency
Charlie Yegen	Peter Yegen Insurance
Kerri Emmons	Montana Agency Alliance
Levi Downing	MMA - NW
Jodi Tierney	Mid-Montana Insurance Agency
Erica Mercil	Travelers
Alysia Heisdorf	Travelers
Chris Hindoien	Rocky Mountain Insurance Services

Collin Lee	Cogswell
Dara Anderson	Leavitt
Deanna Darnielle	Darneille Insurance
Heath Richman	Richman Insurance
Jeanette Albrecht	Merenz Insurance Agency
Mindy Carver	MMA
Aaron Beard	Beard Insurance Agency
Andrew Brekke	Erickson Insurance Group

I am currently writing the **new** Law/Legislative Changes class. This class will be presented for the first time at the Montana Big I Expo to be in held in Billings on May 14th. I strongly encourage you to register and attend this annual event. The Expo is a great opportunity to network with your peers, sponsors and exhibitors.

Register Here: [2025 Montana Big I Expo](#)

Big “I” Legislation Tracker

Property & Casualty Bills

Bill #	Bill Description	Big I Position
HB 60	Revise insurance laws – CSI Housekeeping Bill Signed by Governor	Support
HB 78	Revise pet insurance laws – NAIC Model Act Scheduled for 2 nd reading in Senate	Support
HB 84	Revise liability, training for prescribed fires Senate hearing on 3/25/25	Support
HB 94	Allow sharing of tax records for securities and insurance fraud investigations Senate- 2 nd indefinitely postponed	No position
HB 114	Holds a formal and recognized financial planning or consultant certification or designation, defines lead generators, Misrepresentation and false advertising of policies prohibited, coercion of loans by requiring insurance purchase Bill concurred by Senate B&L committee	No position

HB 136	Revise property insurance laws relating to preventative measures to reduce damage Transmitted to Governor	Support
HB 195	Revises non-economic damage related to medical malpractice Signed by Senate President – headed to the Governor	No position
HB 533	Wildfire scoring transparency Referred to Senate B&L – Hearing scheduled for 3/21/825	Strongly support
SB 60	Revise insurance premium taxes for certain captive insurers Referred to House B&L	No position
SB 356	Revise insurance laws relating to automobile body repair Hearing schedule in House B&L on 3/20/25	No position

Property and Casualty Bills NOT moving on

SB 197	Generally, revise bail bonds and insurance laws Tabled in Committee	No position
HB 727	Revise workers' compensation laws relating to competitive markets Missed deadline for transmittal	Opposed
SB 530	Generally revise insurance laws relating to non-renewals and cancellation of certain insurance policies Missed deadline for transmittal	Opposed

Workers' Compensation Bills

HB 197	Revising workers' compensation laws relating to when the employee is released to return to work. Awaiting 2 nd reading is Senate	Support
SB 295	Designation of treating physician – would have increased rates Died on Senate floor	Oppose
HB 143	Revises the definition of treating physicians to included physical assistants without regards to the proximity of other providers. Passed House and Senate, returned from enrolling	Support
SB 109	Revise workers' compensation definition of treating physicians to include physical therapists	Support

	Transmitted to Governor	
HB 367	Clarifies course and scope during travel. Passed House	Support
SB 394	Provides for workers compensation coverage for PTSD for first responders (mental – mental claims)	No position
HB 428	Generally, revise workers’ compensation laws; revising definition of employer, revising the frequency of summary reports submitted by insurers Passed House	No position
HB 552	Provides the PTSD is compensable for first responders Passed House Committee	No Position
HB 727	Requires Montana State Fund to decrease market share Failed House B&L Committee 20-0	Oppose

If you have any questions or would like to discuss a bill, please email me at bob@iiamt.org.