

2009 Legislative Status of Montana Women and Families Report

For the 2009 session, Montana Women Vote (MWV) partner organization's prioritized bills they found most important to women and families. MWV is a coalition of nine non-profit organizations working to involve more women, particularly lower-income women, in the democratic process.

What follows is an overview on the status of bills prioritized by MWV this session. **Items in bold are bills in our agenda that we considered WINS — those *italics are bills we worked to defeat*.** * = bills that weren't on our original agenda but that we worked on during the session.

Bill #	Sponsor	Bill Topic	Current Status
Economic Justice			
HB 396 SB 397	Rep. Bill Wilson Sen. Kim Gillan	Limit interest rate on title and pay day loans	Failed House Bus & Labor on tie, blast motion failed 51-49 Tabled in Sen Bus & Labor on tie, blast motion failed 25-25
HB 360 & SB 259	Rep. Mary Caferro & Sen. Christine Kaufman	State Earned Income Tax Credit	HB 360 made it out of House Tax 14-6 then to the floor with 65-25 2nd reading, but then referred to House Approps where it failed on 10-10 tie, blast failed 49-49 SB 259 tabled in Senate Tax
HB 569 HB 640	Rep Betsy Hands Rep. Art Noonan	Asking for \$10 million general fund into the Housing MT Fund Limit residential interest deduction for Housing MT Fund	Missed transmittal deadline in House Appropriations committee -- was included for a time in stimulus bill but then removed Failed House Tax on tie vote
* HB 435	Rep. Franke Wilmer	Close the gender wage gap	Failed in House Bus & Labor on tie, Failed blast 50-50
<i>Against SB 254 SB 253</i>	<i>Sen. Donald Steinbeisser</i>	<i>Remove inflation from min wage Tips as credit against min. wage</i>	<i>Tabled Senate Bus & Labor Passed Committee, Failed on floor 21-29</i>
Health Care			
HB 2 (main budget)	Rep. Jon Sesso	Main budget funding for Healthy Montana Kids (HMK) Program (voter initiative I-155)	Full funding for passed the House, then Senate Finance Committee cut half the funding, full funding was reinstated in Conference Committee and included in final budget
HB 280	Rep. Chuck Hunter	Community Health Center support act— allow for state funding for 6 more years	Passed House 71-26, passed Senate 50-0 & became law, but included no funding
SB 414	Sen. Christine Kaufmann	Constitutionally declare health care to be a human right	Tabled Senate Health & Welfare
HB 618	Rep. Shannon Augare	Require % of health insurance premiums spent on health care	Tabled House Bus & Labor
<i>Against SB 142</i>	<i>Sen. Gary Perry</i>	<i>Repeal of non-gender insurance laws</i>	<i>Passed Senate 27-23; tied in House Bus & Labor, blast failed 51-49</i>
Environmental Health			
SB 424	Sen. Gregory Barkus	Control disposal of mercury thermostats	Passed Senate 50-0, passed House 64-35, signed by Governor
*HB 454	Rep. Dick Barrett	Regulate bisphenol-A in consumer products intended for children under 3 years old	Tabled House Human Services

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Reproductive Health Care			
HB 596	Rep. Teresa K Henry	Healthy youth sex education	Failed in House Human Services 9-9, blast motion failed 51-49
HB 281	Rep. Chuck Hunter	Remove contraceptive prohibition under CHIP	Died in House Human Services 9-9, added into main budget HB 2 by Sen. Finance and Claims and removed by Conference Committee
HB 284	Rep. Sue Dickenson	Revise law on pharmacy duty to dispense (including birth control)	Tabled House Bus & Labor
HB 257	Rep. Robyn Driscoll	Revise pharmacy laws (non pharmacist dispense certain drugs)	Tabled House Human Services
HB 307	Rep. Don Roberts	Rural access (Prescription exception when drug not available locally)	Passed House 66-34, passed Senate 44-6, signed by Gov.
HB 2	Rep. Jon Sesso	Family Planning Funding	Included in budget HB 2
<i>Against SB 406</i>	<i>Sen. Dan McGee</i>	<i>Constitutionally define person (life begins at conception replica of failed ballot initiative, CI-100)</i>	<i>Passed Senate 26-23, tie 9-9 in House Judiciary, blast motion failed 51-47</i>
<i>Against SB 46</i>	<i>Sen. Dan McGee</i>	<i>Protection of unborn life as compelling state interest</i>	<i>Passed Senate 28-22, tie 9-9 in House Judiciary, blast motion failed 51-47</i>
<i>Against SB 374</i>	<i>Sen. Gary Perry</i>	<i>Amend Judicial Bypass for Parental Notification</i>	<i>Passed Senate 33-17, tie 9-9 in House Judiciary, blast motion failed 52-44</i>
Human/Civil Rights			
SB 223	Sen. Carol Juneau	Inclusion of sexual orientation, gender and disability in Hate Crimes Act	Tabled in Senate Judiciary Committee
HB 252	Rep. Margie Campbell	Inclusion of sexual orientation in the Human Rights Act	Died in House Judiciary on a tie vote
*HB 591	Rep. Carolyn Pease-Lopez	American Indian on the state's Pardons and Parole Board	Passed House 68-32, passed Senate 44-6, signed by Gov.
Violence Against Women			
HB 2	Rep. Jon Sesso	Funding for forensic exams	Included in budget HB 2
*SJ 26	Sen. Carol Juneau	Honor Native women by stopping violence	Passed Senate 47-2, passed House 84-16, signed by Gov.
HB 344	Rep. Cheryl Steenson	Supervised visitation and exchange monitoring pilot program	Missed transmittal deadline sitting in House Appropriations
<i>Against HB 228</i>	<i>Rep. Krayton Kerns</i>	<i>Citizen self-defense and firearm rights (putting burden of proof of self-defense on gov. not citizen)</i>	<i>Passed House 60-40, amended version passed Senate 40-10 and House 73-27, signed by Governor</i>
Voting/Elections			
<i>Against HB 88</i>	<i>Sen. Ted Washburn</i>	<i>End Same-day Voter Registration</i>	<i>Died House State Admin. 9-9</i>
<i>Against SB 394</i>	<i>Sen. Keith Bales</i>	<i>Expand types of elections that may be conducted by mail ballot election</i>	<i>Passed Senate 33-17, tie in House State Admin, blast failed 58-42</i>
HB 18	Rep. Pat Ingraham	Mail ballot pilot project	Died House State Admin 9-9. Blast failed 55-41