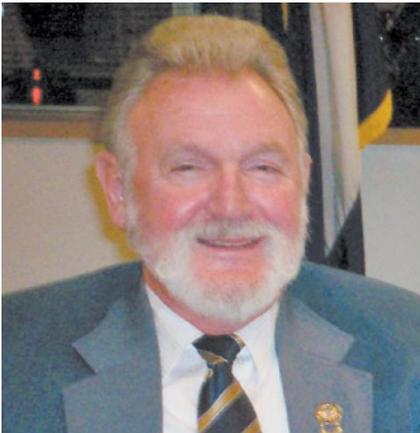


From: Representative Jim Wilson – HD 60

April 8, 2018



If you have ever watched the Summer Olympics, you have probably seen an event called the 400 Meter Hurdles. Participants line up, charge out of the blocks and run as hard as they can toward the finish line. Standing in their way are a number of hurdles – 10 in fact. If the participants make it over every hurdle, stay in the proper lane and finish the race, they end up right back where they started...after running around in a circle. That is similar to the way it works at the Capitol – we take off in a hurry, leap the first hurdles quickly, round the final turn looking down the straightaway (wondering if we have the energy and stamina to make it over the last few hurdles) and cross the finish line. Then the realization sinks in...we have to “run the circle” next session.

In this second session of the 71<sup>st</sup> General Assembly, we are rounding the final turn and looking for the finish line to come into view. Monday marked the 90<sup>th</sup> day of the session – only 30 more days remain. Several hurdles have been cleared with many bills signed into law already. However, the truly gut-wrenching obstacles lie ahead. Some major hurdles remaining in the race for the finish line include:

- Finalizing the \$30+ Billion state budget. The Long Bill has moved through both chambers and is now back in the hands of the Joint Budget Committee for final adjustments before returning to the Senate and House for a final vote. (Included in the adjustments will be finding \$35 M to fund my school safety amendment to the Long Bill.)
- SB 18-001 – the Transportation Bill. \$500 Million has been set aside to leverage against bonding \$3.5 Billion for roads and bridges. The bill now comes to the House where the D’s want to include “multi-modal” forms of transportation in the bill.
- SB 18-200: the PERA bill. The Senate has put forward an aggressive bill to address PERA. Two major points of contention are the Annual Increase percentage and the defined benefit vs. defined contribution issue. Look for a “softened” version of the bill to exit the House with the final decision coming from a Conference Committee. \$225 M has been set aside to soften the increased employee/employer contributions.
- School Finance – the 2018 School Finance Bill was scheduled to be filed last Friday. House Education Chair Petterson and I are co-sponsoring this bill. With more money going toward education this year than any other year I have been in the House, this bill should move forward rather easily. \$266.6 M goes to fund inflation and growth, \$150 M has been set aside to lower the Budget Stabilization (formally the Negative Factor) and \$4 M for 1,000 additional ECARE (early childhood and kindergarten) slots. The \$30 M set aside for rural schools and the \$8 M set aside to address the teacher shortage are still in flux.

The finish line may be in sight, but the race is far from over. Hopefully, the Legislature will not trip over one of the hurdles down the stretch...

Several of my personal bills cleared significant hurdles this past week. Included in those bills were:

- HB 18-1284: Disclosure Of Prescription Costs At Pharmacies, giving the consumer the option of paying the insurance price (which would apply to the deductible) or the cash price – whichever is less, passed the House 57-5 and is headed to the Senate.

- SB 18-143, the CPW License Increase Bill, passed the Senate 35-0 as well as passing the House Ag and Appropriations Committees and will be on the House floor soon for final approval.
- HB 18 1252: Unlawful Sale of Academic Assignments passed the House 37-27; SB 18-151: CDE Bullying Policy Research passed the House 40-24; and, SB 18-162: Substitute Placement Agency Licensure passed the House 39-25. Bills 151 and 162 will head to the Governor's desk.
- The Governor has also signed SB 18-104 into law -- another rural broadband bill to expand service in rural service areas. I signed on as a co-sponsor to SB 18-104.

The race is on, the finish line is in sight but the toughest part of the race is still to come. Legislators will have to reach down for that final measure of strength to break the tape. Ironically, for those of us running again (and are successful), we will find ourselves back where we started – preparing for another lap around the same track...

Please stay in touch as the session attacks the final hurdles. My office number in the Capitol is 303-866-2747, or you can e-mail me at: [wilsonforhd60@gmail.com](mailto:wilsonforhd60@gmail.com) or [james.wilson.house@state.co.us](mailto:james.wilson.house@state.co.us) if you have questions about bills or committee hearings, or would like to schedule a visit to the Golden Dome.

Yours for HD 60,

Representative, Jim Wilson