

# Memorandum

**REPORT TO:** Community Development Board

**FROM:** Chris Saunders, Community Development Manager  
Erin George, Director of Community Development

**SUBJECT:** Update on the 2025 Montana Legislature Actions Affecting the Update to the Unified Development Code and Existing Regulations

**MEETING DATE:** May 19, 2025

**AGENDA ITEM TYPE:** Community Development - Legislative

**RECOMMENDATION:** Receive information

**STRATEGIC PLAN:** 4.1 Informed Conversation on Growth: Continue developing an in-depth understanding of how Bozeman is growing and changing and proactively address change in a balanced and coordinated manner.

**BACKGROUND:** The City conducts land use planning and regulations within the framework established by the State of Montana. The 2025 legislative session concluded on April 30th. Several bills were passed that affect areas of responsibility of the Community Development Board and impact the ongoing update to the Unified Development Code. This item is to provide an update on the bills, identify substantive changes that will need to be addressed, and identify areas where issues under discussion may have been settled by action of the state.

The legislature's website is <https://www.legmt.gov/> [External link]. The [Bill Explorer](#) [External link] tool allows you to search for bills, review text and status, and see the various steps a bill takes moving through the legislative process. There are a robust set of filters available to help narrow down a search. Thousands of bill drafts are requested each session and over a thousand bills actually begin the process of review. Eleven bills related to the UDC were introduced and failed at some point in the process. Seventeen bills completed the process and will become law at different times ranging from immediately on passage to October 2026. These different effective dates make development review a dynamic process as different standards apply.

A list of bill numbers and subject, status as of the completion of this cover memo, effective dates and whether edits to the UDC are required is attached. Exact changes will be identified during the overall code review process. [Article VI, Section 10](#) [External link] of the state constitution specifies that the governor has 10 days to either sign or veto a bill after it is

delivered. If no action is taken after 10 days the bill automatically becomes law.

**UNRESOLVED ISSUES:** None.

**ALTERNATIVES:** Some bills provide for a range of options which will be further considered as the UDC update proceeds.

**FISCAL EFFECTS:** No specific budgeted funds are expended with this item.

Attachments:

[2025 MT Legislative Session - Status.pdf](#)

Report compiled on: May 14, 2025