

Capitol Tracker: Assemblyman Wood coming to Eureka in March

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North Coast Assemblyman Jim Wood has a Eureka Town Hall planned for late next month. He is set to appear at Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center on March 24 from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

“I look forward to sharing the latest from Sacramento and hearing about the issues important to you,” he stated in an event announcement on his website.

The town hall will allow for a question-and-answer period addressing issues affecting the community.

Here’s a look at the status of some of the bills Wood has authored or sponsored:

Sugary drinks >> Wood is a co-author of SB 300, which would mandate sugar-sweetened drinks have a health warning on sealed containers. Vending machines that dispense unsealed drinks would also have to have the health warning. Failure to provide the health warning could result in fines of \$50-\$500. The funds collected from violations would finance enforcement. The bill was referred to the Senate Health Committee.

Prescriptions >> AB 265, which was introduced by Wood in January, would prohibit pharmaceutical manufacturers from providing discounts or coupons on medications when a lower-cost alternative, such as a generic version, is available. The bill was sent to the Assembly Health Committee, of which Wood is the chair.

Nursing homes >> AB 275, which was introduced by Wood at the beginning of February in direct response to the “roller coaster ride” Rockport Healthcare Service put Humboldt County residents through last year, has been sent to the Assembly Health Committee. A hearing is set for March 21 at 2 p.m.

Wildlife management >> SB 58, which was introduced by North Coast state Sen. Mike McGuire and co-authored by Wood, would mandate counties be paid annually by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife for properties located in the counties but managed by Fish and Wildlife. Payments in Lieu of Taxes — or PILT — would account for about \$45,000 to Humboldt County, according to 1st District Supervisor Rex Bohn, who also is a vice chairman of the Rural County Representatives of California, which is sponsoring the legislation. The bill was referred to the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee for a hearing March 14 at 9:30 a.m. Last year’s version of the bill passed through both houses of the Legislature before being vetoed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Cannabis advertising >> AB 420, which was introduced by Wood, would require that advertising for medical or recreational marijuana sales include the license number of the vendor. The bill might be heard in committee March 12.

Electoral college >> Wood is a co-author of Assembly Joint Resolution 1, which urges abolishing the electoral college and making the election of the president and vice president a decision made by the popular vote. AJR 1 was referred to the Assembly Elections and Redistricting Committee.

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