



Session Watch

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 (day 29 of the 120-day session)

The fourth week of this legislative session is in the books with only two more weeks of hearings in the house of origin before policy committee cutoff on Friday, February 17. Over the course of 26 days, we have seen over 1450 bills introduced for consideration.

Riparian Bills

This session we have seen the inclusion of several riparian bills. [House Bill 1720](#) is a bipartisan voluntary stewardship grant program which incentivizes improving the ecological functions of critical riparian zones. This bill will be heard on Tuesday, February 7th with support from us as well as many other groups. [SB 5266/HB 1215](#) is request legislation from the Governor's office. These companion bills form a grant program through the state Conservation Commission, but also yield powers to adopt standards. The bill declares that by December 31, 2023, the commission shall adopt standards to achieve, wherever possible, fully functioning riparian ecosystems in priority critical riparian management zones. The standards must be adopted by the commission after coordination with the department of ecology and the department of fish and wildlife, conservation districts, Indian tribes. We have concerns about the standard making authority and the lack of guardrails therein. These bills have had no further action since the initial hearing on the House Bill on January 18th.

Pesticides

Two friendly pesticide bills have been making their way through the process this year. Representative Tom Dent's [HB 1019](#) creates a balanced pesticide advisory board. This bill has passed the House Ag committee unanimously and now awaits a "pull" from the Rules committee for floor vote. The other is the bipartisan [HB 5143](#) by freshman Senator Nikki Torres. This policy changes the name of the Commission on Pesticide Registration (Commission) to the Commission on Pest Management. It also Adds a representative of the United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, as a non-voting member of the Commission for federal compliance consultation. We support this as well.

Ag Overtime Wages

[SB 5476](#) is a bill that authorizes agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies. In practice this bill will grant an annual overtime pay holiday for agriculture employers. This bill will be heard at 8:00am on February 9th in Labor & Commerce committee.

Other

Several other policies and hearings are happening in the coming week. We will hear bills extending food production tax preferences, climate policy, riparian zones, forestland stewardship as well as many others. Please see our upcoming schedule for a list of this week's bills that we are tracking in entirety.

How to Testify on Bills this Year

Start here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csiremote/>

Select **House** or **Senate**

Committee: **Choose the committee where your bill is being heard.**

Meetings: **Choose the date of the hearing**

Select the bill you want from the list.

Select:

I would like to submit written testimony.

I would like to testify live during the hearing.

I would like my position noted for the legislative record.

You may check to see who else has signed in to testify.

On the next screen, fill in all the blanks and submit.

You will receive an email with a link for the hearing. At the appropriate time, join the meeting and wait to be admitted.

When you are called to speak, introduce yourself and speak for 1-2 minutes.

To prepare, write down what you want to say. Read it aloud several times. Time yourself.

To find hearings not listed below, look here:
<https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/>

Things to remember

If you do not know who your legislators are, find out here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder>. Find your legislators e-mail address here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx?Chamber=H> Legislator phone numbers and office addresses are available on the individual member pages. Links to the member pages can be found on the [House](#) site, the [Senate](#) site or on the [Member](#)

[Roster lists](#). If you would like to send a message to your legislators regarding a specific bill, you may use the Bill Comments form. Learn more here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/>.

Toll-Free Hotline –

1-800-562-6000 allows you to leave a message for your legislators. When leaving a message with the Hotline, please be prepared to give your name and street address. During the Legislative session, the Hotline is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Upcoming Events

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 2/6 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5484](#) - Public Hearing - Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)
- [SB 5622](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the transfer of alternate water rights and water rights for municipal water supply purposes. (Remote Testimony Available). (Neutral/Low)

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/6 @ 4:00pm

- [SHB 1170](#) - Public Hearing - Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy. (Remote Testimony Available). (Neutral/Low)
- [SHB 1181](#) - Public Hearing - Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. (Remote Testimony Available). (Neutral/Low)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/6 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5277](#) - Public Hearing - Extending tax preferences for dairy, fruit and vegetable, and seafood processors. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Low)
- [SB 5341](#) - Public Hearing - Creating a location-based branding and promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)

Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 2/7 @ 8:00am

- [SB 5457](#) - Exec Session - Implementing growth management task force legislative recommendations regarding small cities. (Neutral/Low)

Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/7 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1603](#) - Public Hearing - Creating a location-based promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)
- [HB 1720](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas through the establishment of a fully voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program designed to improve the ecological functions of critical riparian management zones. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/7 @ 10:30am

- [SB 5109](#) - Exec Session - Creating a wage replacement program for certain Washington workers excluded from unemployment insurance. (Neutral/Medium)

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/9 @ 8:00am

- [SB 5476](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/High)

Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 2/9 @ 10:30am

- [SB 5203](#) - Exec Session - Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. (Neutral/Low)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 2/9 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5667](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)

Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/10 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1740](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)

High Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1019	Pesticide advisory board	Creating the pesticide advisory board.	H Rules R	Dent	Support
HB 1215 (SB 5266)	Riparian areas	Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas.	H Ag&Nr	Chapman	Concerns
SB 5251 (HB 1058)	Commercial driver's licenses	Streamlining the licensing process for a commercial driver's license by allowing the department to waive requirements for applicants that previously surrendered the license, allowing the license to be renewed online, and modifying the license test fees.	S Rules 2	Valdez	Support
SB 5476 (HB 1523)	Agricultural overtime	Authorizing agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies.	S Labor & Comm	King	Support

Medium Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
HB 1058 (SB 5251)	Commercial driver's licenses	Streamlining the licensing process for a commercial driver's license by allowing the department to waive requirements for applicants that previously surrendered the license, allowing the license to be renewed online, and modifying the license test fees.	H 2nd ReadSCal	Paul	Support
HB 1095 (SB 5109)	Wage replacement	Creating a wage replacement program for certain Washington workers excluded from unemployment insurance.	H Labor & Workpl	Walen	Neutral
HB 1285	Family farm permit transfers	Modifying the scope of locations to which a water right established as a family farm permit may be transferred.	H Ag&Nr	Goehner	Concerns
HB 1603	Agricultural products promo.	Creating a location-based promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products.	H Ag&Nr	Morgan	Support

HB 1720	Riparian grant program	Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas through the establishment of a fully voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program designed to improve the ecological functions of critical riparian management zones.	H Ag&Nr	Chapman	Support
HB 1740 (SB 5667)	Forestry riparian easements	Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.	H Ag&Nr	Orcutt	Support
SB 5109 (HB 1095)	Wage replacement	Creating a wage replacement program for certain Washington workers excluded from unemployment insurance.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana	Neutral
SSB 5143	Pesticide registration comm.	Changing the name of and adding a member to the commission on pesticide registration.	S Rules 2	Torres	Support
SSB 5156	Farm internship program	Expanding the farm internship program.	H Labor & Workpla	Torres	Support
SB 5330	Pesticide application	Concerning the Washington pesticide application act.	S Rules 2	Torres	Support
SB 5341	WA food & ag. products	Creating a location-based branding and promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products.	S Ways & Means	Muzzall	Support
SB 5484	Food/environmental steward.	Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Shewmake	Support
SB 5579	Hydrofluorocarbons/supply	Expanding the department of ecology's authority to refrain from enforcing chapter 70A.60 RCW to mitigate the effects of supply chain problems or other similar disruptions.	S Environment, E	Braun	Concerns
SB 5628	Water right transfers	Preserving water rights for farmland and economic development.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Torres	Support
SB 5667 (HB 1740)	Forestry riparian easements	Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation	S Ag/Water/Natur	Muzzall	Support

		in the forestry riparian easement program.			
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Low Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1170 (SSB 5093)	Climate response strategy	Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy.	H Approps	Street	Neutral
SHB 1181 (SB 5203)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	H Approps	Duerr	Neutral
HB 1490	Direct sales of milk	Concerning direct sales of milk.	H Ag&Nr	Orcutt	Support
HB 1604	Custom farming/B&O tax	Providing a retroactive business and occupation tax exemption for custom farming.	H Finance	Corry	Support
SSB 5093 (SHB 1170)	Climate response strategy	Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes	Neutral
SSB 5150	Beef levied assessment	Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment.	S Rules 2	Shewmake	Support
SB 5203 (SHB 1181)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	S Loc Gov, Land	Lovelett	Neutral
SB 5266 (HB 1215)	Riparian areas	Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Shewmake	Concerns
SB 5277 (HB 1573)	Dairy, etc. tax preferences	Extending tax preferences for dairy, fruit and vegetable, and seafood processors.	S Ways & Means	Wilson	Support
SB 5457	Small cities/GMA	Implementing growth management task force legislative recommendations regarding small cities.	S Loc Gov, Land	Short	Neutral
SB 5508	Greenhouses	Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Short	Support
SB 5622	Municipal water supply	Concerning the transfer of alternate water rights and water rights for municipal water supply purposes.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Torres	Neutral

Legislative Department

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