



Session Watch

Tuesday, February 21, 2023 (day 44 of the 120-day session)

We have reached day forty four of the 2023 legislative session which also happened to be the first cutoff day. February 17th was the final day for bills to be passed out of policy committee. The “cutoff” marks the first sifting of the bills from “alive” to “dead” for the rest of the session. The next bill report will look very different as the “dead” bills will be removed from our tracking list. While we await the House and Senate budgets, many other policies of interest are making their way through the process.

Transportation

- Mileage Tax – [HB 1832](#) – This piece of legislation was a late drop in the session and has been referred to the Transportation committee. The bill is a voluntary road usage charge program that places a per mile fee on motor vehicle usage of public roadways in the state. The target date for implementation of a comprehensive, mandatory road usage charge program is January 1, 2030 within this bill. The road usage charge rate for the voluntary road usage charge program is 2.5 cents per mile. We are opposed to this in its current form without changes to current tax code.
- Odometer Bill – [HB 1736](#) – This is another late drop and part of the per mile taxation effort by the legislature. This bill requires the department of licensing to collect vehicle odometer readings at the time of original vehicle registration and registration renewal.
- [SB 5251](#) – Commercial Drivers Licenses. This is a good bill that we have been publicly supporting to help the authors of the bill get it passed. This bill streamlines 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. This bipartisan bill has already cleared policy committee well ahead of the cutoff and is in the Rules committee awaiting a floor vote.

Riparian

On Wednesday the House Agriculture committee voted to move [HB 1720](#) one step closer to passage in the House chamber. This is the volunteer riparian habit development grant program that is a Voluntary Stewardship Program under the State Conservation Commission. This is a bipartisan bill that stemmed from a joint cooperation of the tribes, agriculture, ecology, DNR and other stakeholders. We continue to support this bipartisan bill.

Local Government

[HB 1705](#) - Concerning stormwater control facilities and county jurisdiction is a small bill that the Grange has supported for a member in Thurston County. The impetus for this bill stemmed around sub accounts within county jurisdictions around diking/drainage/ditch districts. The bill allows a county and a diking or drainage district to enter into an agreement that the district will operate a stormwater control facility constructed by the county. It also provides that a diking district that operates a stormwater control facility is eligible to receive a portion of the stormwater rates and service charges collected by the county. This bill cleared the cutoff and made it out of the House Local Government Committee by a 6-0 vote.

Greenhouse Production

On Monday the Senate Agriculture Committee heard [SB 5508](#) -promoting local agriculture through greenhouses. The Grange publicly supported this bill as it provides that the State Building Code does not apply to any temporary growing structures used solely for the production of horticultural plants. It also establishes that a temporary growing structure is not considered a structure under the State Building Code. This is a no-cost bill with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, this bill was scheduled for a vote on 2/17 but no action was taken. Based on the cut-off calendar this bill may be done for this legislative session.

Pesticide

Representative Tom Dent's [HB 1019](#) – Establishing a pesticide advisory board – is still making it's way through the process with much support. His bill's intent is to create a formal and permanent advisory board to advise the Washington State Department of Agriculture (Department) on pesticide-related actions that are not considered by the Pesticide Application Safety Committee. We continue to support this bipartisan work.

Fuel Tax

Nearly halfway through the legislative session and we still don't have answers from the Governor's office or Ecology regarding the carbon fee fuel cost increase. These increased costs to the end user in 2023 have stemmed from anticipated costs from the new cap-and-invest carbon credit purchase, swap and auction program. The first of these auctions will take place in the second half of February 2023. Negotiations are happening between ecology and cooperative fuel suppliers to figure out an equitable remedy to the problem.

Budgets

The House and Senate budget will be released in the coming weeks as the two bodies face off over how to spend a record \$70 billion. The Governor released his \$70B budget proposal in December and the two chambers will consider aspects of that proposal with their own to finalize a new two-year budget.

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

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/20 @ 9:00am

- [SSB 5093](#) - Exec Session - Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy. (Neutral/Low)

Transportation (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 1832](#) - Public Hearing - Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways. (Remote Testimony Available). (Oppose/High)

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
HB 1736	Vehicle odometer readings	Requiring the department of licensing to collect vehicle odometer readings at the time of original vehicle registration and registration renewal.	H Transportation	Cortes	Oppose
HB 1832	Vehicle per mile charge	Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways.	H Transportation	Fey	Oppose
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.	S Transportation	Paul	Support
SHB 1095 (SSB 5109)	Wage replacement	Creating a wage replacement program for certain Washington workers excluded from unemployment insurance.	H Approps	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 Exec Action	Goehner	Concerns
HB 1603	Agricultural products promo.	Creating a location-based promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products.	H Ag&Nr	Morgan	Support

SHB 1705 (SB 5645)	Stormwater facilities/county	Concerning stormwater control facilities and county jurisdiction.	H LGDPS	Griffey	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 Exec Action	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 Exec Action	Orcutt	Support
SSB 5109 (SHB 1095)	Wage replacement	Creating a wage replacement program for certain Washington workers excluded from unemployment insurance.	S Ways & Means	Saldana	Neutral
SSB 5143	Pesticide registration comm.	Changing the name of and adding a member to the commission on pesticide registration.	S Rules 2G	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 Rules 2G	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
SSB 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 Ways & Means	Braun	Concerns

SB 5628	Water right transfers	Preserving water rights for farmland and economic development.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Torres	Support
SB 5645 (SHB 1705)	Stormwater facilities/county	Concerning stormwater control facilities and county jurisdiction.	S Loc Gov, Land U	MacEwen	Support
SB 5667 (HB 1740)	Forestry riparian easements	Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Muzzall	Support

Low Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
2SHB 1170 (SSB 5093)	Climate response strategy	Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy.	H Rules R	Street	Concerns
2SHB 1181 (SSB 5203)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	H Rules R	Duerr	Concerns
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
HB 1645 (SB 5067)	County legislative meetings	Concerning meetings of county legislative authorities.	H Exec Action	Barnard	Neutral
SB 5067 (HB 1645)	County legislative meetings	Concerning meetings of county legislative authorities.	H Local Govt	Dozier	Neutral
SSB 5093 (2SHB 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
SSB 5203 (2SHB 1181)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	S Ways & Means	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 Rules 2	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/Natur	Torres	Neutral
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Legislative Department

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