



# Session Watch

Wednesday, January 17, 2024 (day 10 of the 60-day Session)

## **Legislative Session Officially Underway**

The 2024 legislative session is upon us with January 8<sup>th</sup> marking day-one of the 60-day short session. The first week on ‘the hill’ has been filled with member meetings, stakeholder discussions, bill negotiations, and committee hearings. This is the supplemental or “even” year of the biennium which means a lot fewer bills get passed and a lot less money gets spent. But that doesn’t mean meaningful policy doesn’t get deliberated, heard, and sometimes even passed into law.

Governor Inslee has released his supplemental state operating budget as well as capital and transportation budgets. These are not final budgets but instead a starting point for the House and Senate to begin crafting their versions of the spending packages for the remainder of the biennium which ends June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

## **Bill Highlights**

**House Bill 2051** - “Reducing emissions from small off-road engines” is the small gas engines bill which has been publicized since before the holidays. This bill seeks to ban all gas-powered engines of 25 horsepower and less to include lawn mowers, leaf blowers, chainsaws, weed eaters, generators, and others. The House Environment and Energy Committee heard the bill on Thursday morning with mixed reviews on both sides. The committee room was full with an overflow room for viewing which showed strong feelings on both sides of the matter.

While the bill is still technically “alive” this session, it’s beginning to look like the process might be slowing down and leaning towards a deliberate approach in the interim to bring stakeholders together for a better solution. Stay tuned for more on this bill as the session moves ahead.

Please see the bill list below for all legislation we are following or participating in this session. Also, please send any legislation of interest to us with questions or comments.

## **Capital “Improvement” Projects Update**

Grange members from across the state have been meeting with legislators regarding their capital budget requests. This year being a supplemental year there are less dollars to spread around the state for capital projects, but we are getting some traction on several of the asks and getting great engagement on many of the projects. This sets us up well for more of these projects in the full budget cycle of 2025.

As a reminder you can easily participate in the lawmaking process by contacting your elected state representatives through the online legislative tools.

## **Grange Legislative Day and Youth Legislative Experience**

Join us February 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am for this year’s Legislative Day. This should be another great year for Legislative Day! We will have a full day of meetings with legislators, hearings, capital tours, and maybe even some floor action. If you have never been, please think about joining us. If you have been before, you know there is always something new, please think about joining us once again. Our Youth will have an extra ½ day on Tuesday February 6<sup>th</sup>. The youth had such a great time last year, we hope to have many more come join us this year! Attached you will find a registration form in case you are interested in joining us.

## **Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:**

Monday, January 22 at 10am  
Wednesday, February 7 at 10am  
Monday, February 19 at 10am  
Monday, March 4 at 10am  
Monday, March 18 at 10am

Please feel free to join us while we discuss current legislative activities in the 2024 Legislature.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>  
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581  
One tap mobile +12532158782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)  
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

### **How to Testify on Bills this Year**

As a reminder you can easily participate in the lawmaking process by contacting your elected state representatives through the online legislative tools.

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

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

Committee: **Choose the committee where you 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**

### **Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/17 @ 8:00am**

- [SB 6052](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/17 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 5813](#) - Public Hearing - Mandating instruction on agricultural literacy for students in grades seven through 12. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 1/18 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 6140](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 1/18 @ 1:30pm**

- [SB 5784](#) - Exec Session - Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops. (Support/Medium)
- [SB 5939](#) - Public Hearing - Protecting livestock from wolf predation. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5972](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.
- [SB 6036](#) - Exec Session - Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 1/18 @ 4:00pm**

- [SB 5770](#) - Public Hearing - Providing state and local property tax reform. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5915](#) - Public Hearing - Extending an existing hazardous substance tax exemption for certain agricultural crop protection products that are temporarily warehoused but not otherwise used, manufactured, packaged, or sold in the state of Washington. (Remote Testimony Available).

- [SB 6112](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing a business and occupation tax credit for the cost of donated food items by grocery stores and other food retailers. (Remote Testimony Available).

**Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/19 @ 8:00am**

- [SB 6121](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass. (Remote Testimony Available).

**Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2147](#) - Exec Session - Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.

**Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2258](#) - Exec Session - Providing funding for municipalities participating in the regional 911 emergency communications system.

**WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT**

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
<a href="#">HB 2051</a>	Small off-road engines	Reducing emissions from small off-road engines.	H Env & Energy	Walen		
<a href="#">HB 2147</a> (SB 6036)	Agriculture pests & diseases	Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.	H Ag&Nr	Dent		
<a href="#">HB 2165</a> (SB 6043)	Recreational use fees	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on agency-managed public lands.	H Ag&Nr	Kloba		
<a href="#">HB 2201</a> (SB 6058)	Carbon market linkage	Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.	H Env & Energy	Doglio		
<a href="#">HB 2232</a> (SB 6052)	Petroleum product supply	Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing.	H Env & Energy	Doglio		
<a href="#">HB 2257</a>	Back country search & rescue	Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.	H Innov, Comm &	Goehner		
<a href="#">HB 2258</a>	Regional 911 funding	Providing funding for municipalities participating in the regional 911 emergency communications system.	H Local Govt	Ormsby		
<a href="#">HB 2288</a>	Agriculture/water pollution	Promoting Washington agriculture through regulatory reforms.	H Env & Energy	Schmick		
<a href="#">HB 2291</a>	Riparian programs review	Conducting a review of Washington's riparian programs.	H Ag&Nr	Wilcox		
<a href="#">HB 2302</a> (SB 6166)	Pesticide application comm.	Extending the pesticide application safety committee.	H Ag&Nr	Dent		

<a href="#">HB 2333</a>	Carbon seq./state lands	Assessing the carbon sequestration potential of state-owned lands for the purpose of generating offset credits under the climate commitment act.	H Env & Energy	Reeves		
<a href="#">HB 2336</a>	Suitability of lands	Assessing the suitability of lands in Washington for agricultural and renewable energy purposes.	H Ag&Nr	Morgan		
<a href="#">SB 5770</a>	Property tax	Providing state and local property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen		
<a href="#">SB 5784</a>	Deer & elk crop damage	Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Van De Wege	Support	Medium
<a href="#">SB 5813</a>	Agricultural instruction	Mandating instruction on agricultural literacy for students in grades seven through 12.	S EL/K-12	Dozier		
<a href="#">SB 5915</a>	Ag. crop products/tax ex.	Extending an existing hazardous substance tax exemption for certain agricultural crop protection products that are temporarily warehoused but not otherwise used, manufactured, packaged, or sold in the state of Washington.	S Ways & Means	Torres		
<a href="#">SB 5939</a>	Livestock wolf predation	Protecting livestock from wolf predation.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Wagoner		
<a href="#">SB 5972</a>	Neonicotinoid pesticides	Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Lias		
<a href="#">SB 6036</a> (HB 2147)	Agriculture pests & diseases	Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Muzzall		
<a href="#">SB 6043</a> (HB 2165)	Recreational use fees	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on agency-managed public lands.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Salomon		
<a href="#">SB 6052</a> (HB 2232)	Petroleum product supply	Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing.	S Environment, En	Nguyen		
<a href="#">SB 6058</a> (HB 2201)	Carbon market linkage	Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.	S Environment, E	Nguyen		
<a href="#">SB 6112</a>	Donated food items/B&O tax	Authorizing a business and occupation tax credit for the cost of donated food items by grocery stores and other food retailers.	S Ways & Means	Lovick		

<a href="#">SB 6121</a>	Biochar production	Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass.	S Environment, E	Van De Wege		
<a href="#">SB 6140</a>	Intensive rural development	Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.	S Loc Gov, Land	Short		
<a href="#">SB 6143</a>	Salmon habitat planning	Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Salomon		
<a href="#">SB 6166</a> (HB 2302)	Pesticide application comm.	Extending the pesticide application safety committee.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana		

## Legislative Department

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