



Session Watch

Monday, February 5, 2024 (day 30 of the 60-day Session)

The first of many milestones was reached this week when the policy committee cutoff came and went. The first sifting of bills is the longest stretch of the session followed by a fury of cutoff dates that lead to the March 8th adjournment.

This weekend the fiscal committees will be working to consider all recently passed policy bills that made it through the aforementioned cutoff date. As the legislature begins to move towards a fiscal frame of mind, the policy bills with fiscal ramifications begin to build the operating budget bill document. Fiscal policy that gets passed ahead of the budget have to be incorporated into the agreed upon operating budget.

The final piece of the budget puzzle is the revenue forecast. In even numbered years the revenue forecast comes out on February 20th and in odd years it is delivered on March 20th. These dates give lawmakers the ability to integrate timely budget data into their final bill. As a reminder, Washington State has a balanced budget mandate so we cannot spend into deficit. Our biennial budgets have to balance over a four-year outlook based on the non-partisan budget forecast data.

Please see below for the list of bills remaining after the first policy committee cutoff. This list has been paired down to reflect the legislation that is still “alive” this session.

Bill Highlights -

[SB 5972 - 2023-24 - Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.](#)

The neonic bill we have been engaged in has made another step in the process as it had a bill hearing in Senate Ways and Means on February 1st. As a reminder, this bill bans consumer retail use of neonic pesticide applications but still allows for licensed applicators to apply the products outdoors. A group representing chemical manufacturers testified against the bill on Thursday and other entities submitted concerns or

“other” comments. SB 5972 has until Monday night (2/5) to be successfully voted out of Ways and Means. The feeling is that it may get out of committee depending on the amount of time left on cutoff day.

[HB 1589 - Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future](#)

The bill would ban any gas company that serves more than 500,000 customers from connecting new natural gas lines to new residential or commercial buildings — with limited exemptions for certain manufacturing, medical care, correctional, and military facilities. The 2024 version of this bill reads very similar to the 2023 version that was passed off the House floor. This bill, as written, is a detriment to our rural areas with respect to construction and expansion.

When this bill came off the House floor in 2023 the vote count was 52-44 and interestingly the bipartisan side was against the bill. With the new version in 2024 they hoped to garner more support but the vote count in 2024 was 52-45 and again the bipartisan side was against the bill.

There are also federal implications to this policy. In April of 2023, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit held that the city of Berkeley, CA passed a similar law (EPCA) which preempts state and local building codes concerning the energy use of natural gas appliances, including Berkeley’s building code which prohibits natural gas piping into new buildings and thereby prevents those appliances from *using* natural gas. On January 2, 2024, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit denied Berkeley’s request for review by the full Ninth Circuit and the panel’s decision was reaffirmed. What that means is that the court reaffirmed the notion that local or state authority cannot preempt federal law on these matters and that the Berkeley policy is unlawful. More to come on this policy as it plays out.

Remember to find your legislator [here](#). Contact your legislator and their staff member [here](#). And find bill information [here](#).

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

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

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/2 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 6058](#) - Public Hearing - Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/3 @ 9:00am

- [HB 2257](#) - Exec Session - Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/3 @ 9:00am

- [SSB 6052](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 5444](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning firearm sensitive places. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 6121](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning agricultural and forestry biomass. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/5 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2147](#) - Exec Session - Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.
- [SHB 2201](#) - Exec Session - Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT

Support

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor | Priority |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|----------------|-------------|----------|
| 2ESSB 5150 | Beef commission | Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.) | H Ag&Nr | Shewmake | |
| SSB 5784 | Deer & elk crop damage | Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops. | S Ways & Means | Van De Wege | Medium |

Oppose

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor | Priority |
|---|---------------|--|-------------------|---------|----------|
| ESHB 1589 (SSB 5562) | Clean energy | Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future. | S Environment, En | Doglio | High |
| SSB 5562 (ESHB 1589) | Clean energy | Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future. | S Ways & Means | Nguyen | |

Other Bills

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor | Priority |
|--|------------------------------|---|-----------|---------|----------|
| SHB 1903 | Lost or stolen firearms | Reporting lost or stolen firearms. | H Rules R | Berry | |
| SHB 2021 (SB 6001) | Firearm disposition | Concerning the disposition of privately owned firearms in the custody of state or local government entities or law enforcement agencies. | H Rules R | Senn | |
| SHB 2118 (SB 6266) | Firearms dealers | Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers. | H Rules R | Walen | |
| HB 2147 (SB 6036) | Agriculture pests & diseases | Concerning agriculture pest and disease response. | H Approps | Dent | |
| SHB 2165 (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 Rules R | Kloba | |
| SHB 2201 (SSB 6058) | Carbon market linkage | Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market. | H Approps | Doglio | |
| HB 2257 | 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 Approps | Goehner | |
| SHB 2258 | Regional 911 funding | Providing funding for municipalities participating in the regional 911 emergency communications system. | H Rules R | Ormsby | |
| HB 2302 (SB 6166) | Pesticide application comm. | Extending the pesticide application safety committee. | H Rules R | Dent | |

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|--|------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------|--|
| SHB 2333 | 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 Cap Budget | Reeves | |
| SHB 2336 | Suitability of lands | Assessing the suitability of lands in Washington for agricultural and renewable energy purposes. | H Cap Budget | Morgan | |
| HJR 4210 | Natural resources | Adding a new section to the Washington state Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources. | H Env & Energy | Lekanoff | |
| SSB 5444 | Firearm sensitive places | Concerning firearm sensitive places. | S Ways & Means | Valdez | |
| SB 5770 | Property tax | Providing state and local property tax reform. | S Ways & Means | Pedersen | |
| SB 5915 (HB 2454) | 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 WMDP | Torres | |
| SSB 5972 | Neonicotinoid pesticides | Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. | S Ways & Means | Liias | |
| SB 6036 (HB 2147) | Agriculture pests & diseases | Concerning agriculture pest and disease response. | S Ways & Means | Muzzall | |
| SB 6043 (SHB 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/Natur | Salomon | |
| SSB 6052 (HB 2232) | Petroleum product supply | Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing. | S Ways & Means | Nguyen | |
| SSB 6058 (SHB 2201) | Carbon market linkage | Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market. | S Ways & Means | Nguyen | |
| SB 6112 | 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 | |
| SSB 6121 (HB 2483) | Ag. and forestry biomass | Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass. | S Ways & Means | Van De Wege | |
| SSB 6140 | Intensive rural development | Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development. | S Rules 2 | Short | |
| SB 6166 (HB 2302) | Pesticide application comm. | Extending the pesticide application safety committee. | S 2nd RdConsCal | Saldana | |

Legislative Department

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