



# Session Watch

Monday, February 12, 2024 (day 38 of the 60-day Session)

February 5<sup>th</sup> marked the final day for all bills to be out of policy and fiscal committees. The 5pm deadline ended the barrage of committee hearings that make up the first cutoff series of the session. For those of us at the capitol every day, the action turns to the marble floors of the legislative building as floor action voting will be taking place for the next week leading up to the February 13<sup>th</sup> floor cutoff date.

By February 13<sup>th</sup> all bills must be successfully passed off of their respective “house of origin” floor in order to play in the second half of the game. The next week is often filled with late nights and political gamesmanship as there is a limited supply of time to pass all of the bills left to be considered. This week we also see a lot of action from the Rules committee.

The **House** and **Senate** Rules committee are little known bodies that carry a lot of power. These committees are the step between the policy committees and floor vote where senior members of the legislature approve bills to be considered on the house and senate floor. The rules committee is generally chaired by the state Lieutenant Governor and the body sets the schedule for the floor calendar of consideration.

## Bill Highlight

### SB 5770 - Providing state and local property tax reform.

The meat and potatoes of this bill is that it lifts the 1% property tax increase lid per year and moves it up to 3% per year. While property tax revenue organically grows on its own through valuation increases, the majority party is seeking to increase that lid from 1% per year to 3% per year, having an effect of a 300% jump in the amount your property taxes can increase each year.

For background on this, the voters of Washington State approved Initiative-747 in 2001 capping the property tax increase at 1%. The initiative won approval by a wide 15-point margin. Then in 2007 our state supreme court ruled the initiative to be unconstitutional which prompted Governor Gregoire

to call a special session for the purpose of codifying the 1% cap into law through statute. The legislature passed that bill in a one-day session by a vote count of 86-8 in the House, and 39-9 in the Senate making the law part of statute. Senate Bill 5770 seeks to overturn this initiative and implement the new tax rates. During testimony of the bill 7,529 individuals across the state signed in “con” which represented 94% all of people who signed in on the bill.

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:**

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

Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/14 @ 8:00am

- [2ESSB 5150](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.) (Remote Testimony Available). (Support)

Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/16 @ 10:30am

- [2ESSB 5150](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.) (Support)

## WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT

### Support

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
<a href="#">2ESSB 5150</a>	Beef commission	Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.)	H Ag&Nr	Shewmake	
<a href="#">2SSB 5784</a>	Deer & elk crop damage	Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops.	S Passed 3rd	Van De Wege	Medium

### Oppose

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
<a href="#">ESHB 1589</a> (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
<a href="#">2SSB 5444</a>	Firearm sensitive places	Concerning firearm sensitive places.	S 2nd Reading	Valdez	

<a href="#">SSB 6304</a>	Transp. electrification	Implementing certain recommendations of the transportation electrification strategy.	S 2nd Reading	Lias	
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## Other Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
<a href="#">SHB 1903</a>	Lost or stolen firearms	Reporting lost or stolen firearms.	H 2nd Reading	Berry	
<a href="#">SHB 2021</a> (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 2nd Reading	Senn	
<a href="#">2SHB 2049</a> (SB 6005)	Solid waste management	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	H Rules R	Berry	
<a href="#">SHB 2118</a> (SB 6266)	Firearms dealers	Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers.	H 2nd Reading	Walen	
<a href="#">SHB 2147</a> (SSB 6036)	Agriculture pests & diseases	Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.	H Rules R	Dent	
<a href="#">SHB 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.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Kloba	
<a href="#">2SHB 2201</a> (2SSB 6058)	Carbon market linkage	Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.	H 2nd Reading	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 Rules R	Goehner	
<a href="#">SHB 2258</a>	Regional 911 funding	Providing funding for municipalities participating in the regional 911 emergency communications system.	H 2nd Reading	Ormsby	
<a href="#">2SHB 2301</a> (SSB 6180)	Waste material management	Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.	H Rules R	Doglio	
<a href="#">HB 2302</a> (SB 6166)	Pesticide application comm.	Extending the pesticide application safety committee.	H Passed 3rd	Dent	
<a href="#">SHB 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 Cap Budget	Reeves	
<a href="#">HJR 4210</a>	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	
<a href="#">SSB 5770</a>	Property tax	Providing state and local property tax reform.	S 2nd Reading	Pedersen	

<a href="#">SB 5915</a> (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 2nd Reading	Torres	
<a href="#">SSB 5972</a>	Neonicotinoid pesticides	Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.	S 2nd Reading	Liias	
<a href="#">SB 6005</a> (2SHB 2049)	Solid waste management	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	S Environment, E	Lovelett	
<a href="#">SSB 6036</a> (SHB 2147)	Agriculture pests & diseases	Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.	S Passed 3rd	Muzzall	
<a href="#">SSB 6052</a> (HB 2232)	Petroleum product supply	Concerning petroleum products supply and pricing.	S Ways & Means	Nguyen	
<a href="#">2SSB 6058</a> (2SHB 2201)	Carbon market linkage	Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.	S 2nd Reading	Nguyen	
<a href="#">SSB 6121</a> (HB 2483)	Ag. and forestry biomass	Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass.	S 2nd Reading	Van De Wege	
<a href="#">SSB 6140</a>	Intensive rural development	Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.	H Local Govt	Short	
<a href="#">SB 6166</a> (HB 2302)	Pesticide application comm.	Extending the pesticide application safety committee.	H Ag&Nr	Saldana	
<a href="#">SSB 6180</a> (2SHB 2301)	Waste material management	Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.	S Ways & Means	Lovick	

## Legislative Department

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