



SESSION WATCH 2017 WEEK 8

Friday, February 24th was the fiscal committee cut-off. Bills that did not pass out of their respective fiscal committees by Friday evening are technically dead. The exception to this rule is bills that are considered “necessary to implement the budget.” Between now and March 8th, the focus will be on floor action. That means both the full Senate and House will spend the next several days caucusing and voting on bills. Those bills that do not pass out of their respective chambers by 5 p.m. on March 8th are dead and will not go in further in the process. At that point the Senate will start considering House bills and the House will start considering Senate bills.

After March 8th, the attention also shifts to the release of budgets. The next fiscal forecast is mid-March and the expectation is that the Senate will release its budget proposal around March 20th. The Senate will most likely release a budget that does not include any new revenue sources.

Education proposals continue to be front and center in legislative discussions. Last week the House passed their education proposal on a partisan vote of 50-47. The Senate has already passed its proposal. On Monday, the Senate Ways and Means Committee will hear an alternative proposal sponsored by Senator Mullet (D-Issaquah). Attention is also increasing on the potential levy “cliff” issue. If the Legislature does not pass a bill that prevents an upcoming decrease in local levy rates, school districts will have to start issuing pink slips. For some school districts, that process will start in March. The House has passed HB 1059, the bill that is necessary to prevent the cliff. The Senate incorporates the provisions of HB 1059 in their bigger education funding proposal and argue that it is time to just adopt an overall solution and not just take a band-aid approach to one issue.

The status on specific high priority bills is provided below.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 1132 (SB 5075)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	H 2nd Reading	Buys
SHB 1299 (SSB 5196)	Cattle feedlots/odor & dust	Including cattle feedlots implementing best management practices within the statutory exemption for odor or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity.	H Rules R	Blake
SHB 1404 (2SSB 5285)	Workforce study/ag., etc.	Conducting a workforce study of employment opportunities in the agriculture, environment, and natural resources economic sectors intended to provide educators with the information needed for informing students about employment opportunities in the studied fields.	H Approps	Tarleton

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 1555 (SB 5127)	Carbon pollution tax	Establishing a carbon pollution tax and investment program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate the transition to a clean energy economy, and invest in K-12 education and other vital public services.	H Finance	Lytton
HB 1885	Water resources/local gov.	Clarifying the roles of state and local governments in the regulation and mitigation of water resources.	H Approps	Springer
HB 1918	Groundwater treatment	Addressing treatment of groundwater under state water codes to support rural development while protecting instream flows.	H Approps	Stanford
SSB 5004	Berry growers/burning waste	Concerning outdoor burning of organic waste derived from pruning by commercial berry growers.	S Rules 2	Honeyford
SB 5010	Water rights relinquishment	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	S 2nd Reading	Warnick
SSB 5196 (SHB 1299)	Cattle feedlots/odor & dust	Including cattle feedlots implementing best management practices within the statutory exemption for odor or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity.	S 2nd Reading	Warnick
SSB 5208 (HB 1422)	Rural jobs	Creating the Washington rural jobs act.	S Ways & Means	Warnick
SB 5331	Irrigation district admin.	Concerning irrigation district administration.	S Rules 2	Takko
SB 5720 (HB 2049)	Production-based comp. wages	Addressing the payment of production-based compensation wages for the employment and use of labor in agricultural activities and in the production, handling, and storage of farm products.	S 2nd Reading	Hawkins