

Session Watch 2017 - Week 2

Background

The first week of the legislative session started slowly. The week's activities included swearing in legislators, justices and statewide elected officials; the Governor's Inaugural Address; and several educational work sessions in multiple legislative committees. There are three items worth mentioning from the week. First, the legislative task force on education funding met on Monday and did not reach an agreement on legislative recommendations for fully funding education. Second, the Senate retained its rule requiring a 2/3 vote for any new taxes or tax increases. Finally, the Senate Agriculture, Water, Trade and Economic Development Committee held a public hearing on multiple bills regarding water resources, including Senator Honeyford's bill that would clarify the Department of Ecology's authority regarding minimum flows. The expectation is that the same Committee will consider bills related to the *Whatcom County v. Hirst* decision within the next two weeks.

Below is a summary of high priority bills and upcoming hearings that I am tracking. **Also, don't forget to sign up for the Washington State Grange Annual "Legislative Day" on March 16th.** This will be a great opportunity to talk directly with our legislators!

Upcoming Events

Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 1/17 @ 8:00am

- SB 5004 - Public Hearing - Concerning outdoor burning of organic waste derived from pruning by commercial berry growers.

Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 1/19 @ 8:00am

- SB 5051 - Public Hearing - Concerning nondefault termination provisions in state land leases for agricultural or grazing purposes.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1132 (SB 5075)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	H Ag & Nat Res	Buys		High
HB 1245	Product labeling tax incent.	Providing a tax incentive for the labeling of products.		Taylor		High
HB 1299	Cattle feedlots/odor & dust	Including cattle feedlots implementing best management practices		Blake		High

		within the statutory exemption for odor or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity.				
SB 5002	Water banks/permanent avail.	Requiring certain water banks to replace leased water rights provided for mitigation with water rights that will be permanently available.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Honeyford		High
SB 5003	Minimum flows/ecology auth.	Clarifying the authority of the department of ecology regarding minimum flows.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Honeyford		High
SB 5004	Berry growers/burning waste	Concerning outdoor burning of organic waste derived from pruning by commercial berry growers.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Honeyford		High
SB 5010	Water rights relinquishment	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Warnick		High
SB 5024	Groundwater supply avail.	Concerning groundwater supply availability in areas with ground and surface water interaction.	S Ag/Water/Trade	McCoy		High
SB 5051	State land lease termination	Concerning nondefault termination provisions in state land leases for agricultural or grazing purposes.	S Ag/Water/Trade	Brown		High
SB 5075 (HB 1132)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Takko		High
SB 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.		Warnick		High