



# SESSION WATCH 2017 WEEK 10

The Legislature has now passed the House of Origin cut-off. As a reminder, that means that any House bills that have not passed out of the House and Senate bills that have not passed out of the Senate are technically dead. Of course, the exception to that rule are those bills that are “necessary to implement the budget.” There is a designation below besides those bills that are now considered “dead.”

Last week, the Senate brought a Resolution to the floor that would amend the State Constitution to prohibit an income tax. Constitutional amendments require a 2/3 majority to pass. The Resolution failed on a vote of 27-22. The Senate Republicans also attempted to bring Senate Bill 5111, establishing a capital gains tax to the floor. Senate Rules require that there must be a 2/3 vote for the Senate to consider a bill regarding taxes. The procedural motion to consider the bill failed on a vote of 25-22. Senate Republicans have been saying throughout the legislative session that there are not sufficient votes in the Legislature to pass bills that establish new taxes or increase existing taxes. The failure of the procedural vote on SB 5111 occurred to demonstrate that point.

The Legislature also addressed one school funding issue last week. Throughout the legislative session, school districts have expressed concern regarding the upcoming “levy cliff.” Essentially, without the passage of legislation that extends existing levy authority, many school districts would have to make cuts in their 2017-18 school year budgets. Since school districts are building those budgets right now, certainty regarding revenue is important. Both the House and Senate passed SB 5023 last week, which will extend existing maintenance and operation levy authority for one year.

Each chamber’s committees will begin hearing and voting on the opposite chamber’s bills over the next few weeks. The expectation is that the Senate will release its budget proposals the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>.

## Upcoming Hearings Scheduled

### **Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/14 @ 10:00am**

- SB 5075 - Public Hearing - Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.

### **Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/15 @ 8:00am**

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

**Agriculture, Water, Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 3/16 @ 8:00am**

- HB 1132 - Public Hearing - Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.

**Environment (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/16 @ 8:00am**

- SSB 5196 - Public Hearing - Including cattle feedlots implementing best management practices within the statutory exemption for odor or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity.

**Priority Bills**

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
<a href="#">HB 1132</a> (SB 5075)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Buys
<a href="#">ESHB 1465</a>	Wolf depredation/public recs	Exempting from public disclosure certain information regarding reports on wolf depredations.	S Natural Resourc	Short
<a href="#">HB 1555</a> (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
<a href="#">HB 1872</a> (Dead)	Gray wolf partial delisting	Providing for the partial delisting of the gray wolf by the fish and wildlife commission.	H Ag & Nat Res	Kretz
<a href="#">HB 1885</a> (Dead)	Water resources/local gov.	Clarifying the roles of state and local governments in the regulation and mitigation of water resources.	H Approps	Springer
<a href="#">HB 1918</a> (Dead)	Groundwater treatment	Addressing treatment of groundwater under state water codes to support rural development while protecting instream flows.	H Approps	Stanford
<a href="#">SB 5010</a>	Water rights relinquishment	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	H Ag & Nat Res	Warnick

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Abbrev. Title</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<a href="#">SB 5024</a> (Dead)	Groundwater supply avail.	Concerning groundwater supply availability in areas with ground and surface water interaction.	S Ag/Water/Trade	McCoy
<a href="#">SB 5075</a> (HB 1132)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	H Ag & Nat Res	Takko
<a href="#">SB 5111</a> (HB 1730)	Capital gains excise tax	Enacting an excise tax on capital gains to improve the fairness of Washington's tax system and provide funding for the education legacy trust account.	S 2nd Reading	Braun
<a href="#">SB 5113</a> (Dead) (HB 1550)	B&O tax/education	Investing in education by modifying the business and occupation tax and providing small business tax relief.	S 2nd Reading	Braun
<a href="#">SSB 5196</a> (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.	H Environment	Warnick
<a href="#">SB 5331</a>	Irrigation district admin.	Concerning irrigation district administration.	H Local Govt	Takko
<a href="#">SB 5385</a>	Carbon pollution tax	Creating a fossil fuel carbon pollution tax.	S Energy, Enviro	Hobbs
<a href="#">ESB 5720</a> (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.	H Labor & Workpla	Hawkins