



SESSION WATCH 2017 WEEK 11

Last week, the House Committees started hearing Senate bills and Senate Committees began hearing House bills. As a result of the House of Origin cut-off, the volume of bills has decreased.

Also last week, the House Environment Committee held a public hearing on House Bill 1646, establishing a carbon tax. Over 60 people testified. Generally speaking, environmental organizations testified in support while business organizations opposed. In particular, the Washington Environmental Council called the proposal reasonable and balanced and emphasized their preference to address this issue legislatively than at the ballot.

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released the March Revenue Forecast last week. The Council found that Washington's personal income and employment forecasts are slightly higher than they were in November and Washington's economy is continuing to outperform the National economy. General fund state revenues are expected to grow 13.5% between the 2013-15 and 2015-17 biennia and 6.8% between the 2015-17 and 2017-19 biennia. As a result, the 2015-17 forecast is up by \$275 million and the 2017-19 forecast is up by \$303 million over November projections.

Senate leadership has indicated their intent is to release their general fund budget proposal this week and House leadership indicated they would release their proposal the following week. The general expectation is that the Senate proposal will not assume any new sources of revenue, while the expectation is that the House proposal will likely include new revenue. The Senate has already announced that they will release their Transportation budget on Monday, with a public hearing on Tuesday. Legislators have not provided an indication of when they might release capital budget proposals.

We would also like to thank this year's Legislative Day participants. Thursday March 16th was Legislative Day. We had 21 members come to Olympia to learn more about how our state government works. All met with their respective legislators, attended committee meetings and familiarized themselves more with "the hill". We were fortunate enough to have Representative Brian Blake and Representative Vincent Buys come to the Grange for lunch and to talk to our group about various issues currently in the legislature. We also had a very informative Lobbyist panel discussing issues such as water rights, fairs and fair funding and conservation districts. We hope to double those numbers next year with more member involvement.

Upcoming Committee Hearings

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 3/21 @ 10:00am

- SB 5331 - Public Hearing - Concerning irrigation district administration.

Environment (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/21 @ 1:30pm

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

Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, JACB - 3/21 @ 1:30pm

- ESHB 1465 - Public Hearing - Exempting from public disclosure certain information regarding reports on wolf depredations.

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 3/23 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5331 - Exec Session - Concerning irrigation district administration.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
SHB 1299 (Dead) (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 C	Blake		High
ESHB 1465	Wolf depredation/public recs	Exempting from public disclosure certain information regarding reports on wolf depredations.	S Natural Resourc	Short		High
HB 1872 (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		High
SB 5003 (Dead)	Minimum flows/ecology auth.	Clarifying the authority of the department of ecology regarding minimum flows.	S Ag/Water/Trade&	Honeyford		High
SB 5010	Water rights relinquishment	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	H Ag & Nat Res	Warnick		High
SB 5024 (Dead)	Groundwater supply avail.	Concerning groundwater supply availability in areas with ground and surface water interaction.	S Ag/Water/Trade	McCoy		High
SSB 5051	State land lease provisions	Concerning nondefault or early termination provisions in state land leases for agricultural or grazing purposes.	H Ag & Nat Res	Brown		High
SB 5111 (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	S 2nd Reading	Braun		High

		for the education legacy trust account.				
SB 5113 (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		High
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.	H Environment	Warnick		High
SB 5331	Irrigation district admin.	Concerning irrigation district administration.	H Local Govt	Takko		High
SB 5385	Carbon pollution tax	Creating a fossil fuel carbon pollution tax.	S Energy, Enviro	Hobbs		High
SSB 5607	Education	Concerning education.	H Approps	Braun		High
ESB 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.	H Labor & Workpla	Hawkins		High