



SESSION WATCH 2017 WEEK 12

Last week, the Legislature's focus shifted from policy bills to budget discussions. The Senate Republicans released their general fund budget proposal on Tuesday, passed it out of Committee on Wednesday and passed it off the floor on a partisan vote of 25-24 on Thursday. The Senate budget proposal does not assume any new taxes.

The Senate budget proposal provides a significant increase in education funding. The total amount of K-12 funding increases from \$13.2 billion currently to \$27.6 billion, with a total per student funding model dedicating \$12,500 to each student. The budget does this by setting a statewide levy for education at \$1.55 per thousand. This approach increases the school levy rates in "property rich" districts like Seattle and Bellevue, while reducing school levy rates in "property poor" districts, mostly outside of King County. The current levy rates vary from a low of just over \$1.00 per thousand to a high of more than \$9.00 per thousand.

The total 2017-19 budget proposal is \$43 billion, which represents a \$5 billion increase from current spending levels. The Senate budget meets the four-year balanced budget spending requirement by leaving an unrestricted balance of \$860 million the Budget Stabilization Account in 2017-19 and \$127 million in the Account in 2019-21.

The House will release a Democratic general budget proposal tomorrow, with a plan to vote it out of the Appropriations Committee on Tuesday. The expectation is that the House proposal will include the assumption of new taxes or tax increases.

The Senate Republicans also released their Transportation Budget proposal last week. Generally speaking, the budget did not include many significant changes. Overall, the Senate's proposed budget includes about \$8.4 billion in total appropriations, including \$1.6 billion for Connecting Washington expenditures. The Senate does make some specific changes to the Connecting Washington project list, which include advancing \$7.5 million to leverage federal emergency relief funds for the I-5/Rebuild Chambers Way Interchange Improvements near Chehalis and advancing \$10 million for the North Spokane Corridor project to keep the project on track related to adjustments that have been made for the black tank site clean-up. Finally, the proposal includes an additional \$60 million in Transportation Partnership Funding for the Alaskan Way Deep Bore Tunnel project, as well as \$10 million of transit mitigation funding for the project. The House will release their Transportation Budget proposal on Monday.

The regular legislative session is scheduled to end April 23rd. Based on the current version of the Senate's general fund budget proposal and the expected version of the House budget proposal, it appears unlikely that the Legislature will be able to reach an agreement by the end of April.

Upcoming Hearings

Environment (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/27 @ 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.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/28 @ 10:00am

- SB 5010 - Public Hearing - Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.

Environment (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/28 @ 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.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/29 @ 8:00am

- SB 5010 - Exec Session - Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 1132 (SB 5075)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	S Rules 2	Buys
SHB 1404 (Dead) (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
ESHB 1465	Wolf depredation/public recs	Exempting from public disclosure certain information regarding reports on wolf depredations.	S Natural Resourc	Short
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 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

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
SB 5010	Water rights relinquishment	Promoting water conservation by protecting certain water rights from relinquishment.	H Ag & Nat Res	Warnick
SB 5075 (HB 1132)	Seed buyer & dealer disputes	Concerning dispute resolution between seed buyers and dealers.	H Rules R	Takko
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 for the education legacy trust account.	S 2nd Reading	Braun
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
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
SB 5331	Irrigation district admin.	Concerning irrigation district administration.	H LGDP	Takko
SB 5385	Carbon pollution tax	Creating a fossil fuel carbon pollution tax.	S Energy, Enviro	Hobbs
SSB 5607	Education	Concerning education.	H Approps	Braun
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