



# SESSION WATCH

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Monday, February 12, 2018 (day 36 of the 60-day session)

This week we passed the halfway point of the 2018 legislative session. Legislators will work on the floor passing bills until valentine's day which is house of origin cutoff.

**SHB 2338** creates a low carbon fuel standard. Lower carbon intensity fuels reduce fuel efficiency, resulting in increasing farm production costs. Because low carbon fuels are less efficient, more fuel is required to conduct the same operations. It is a hidden gas tax. If this bill and the carbon tax in SB 6203 both pass, Washington residents would face 35 to 45 cents more per gallon at the pump — on top of the 68 cents we already pay in federal and state gas taxes.

**2SSB 6529** – Pesticide application safety work group. You may have noticed that the title of this bill has changed every week. This week I changed the position from opposed to support. This is an extremely rare occurrence and reflects how far we have come. This bill started out requiring a 4-day notice before applying a pesticide via air, airblast or fumigation and complete use reporting for all licensed applicators. It is now a work group to develop recommendations for improving the safety of pesticide applications. The work group is to be composed of four legislators, two from each party, and representatives from the following agencies: agriculture, health, labor and industries, natural resources and the commission on Hispanic affairs.

The work group will report to the governor and the legislature by November 1, 2018. We are a long way from finished. The bill must still pass the Senate and the House. The Washington Labor Council may try to add language about pre-notification and use reporting back on. Similar bills have been proposed

each year for the past five years. While we have been able to stop them, it has become clear that many legislators are unfamiliar with pesticide use and regulation. This work group would give legislators the opportunity to learn about pesticide regulation and hopefully, put the issue to rest.

**SB 6609** would narrow the sales tax exemption for pesticides and fertilizer to only those on the organic approved list. Currently, farmers do not pay sales tax on pesticides or fertilizer because they are considered inputs. Manufacturers do not pay sales tax on their inputs either. This tax preference was reviewed in 2010 by a non-partisan committee that recommended it stay in place. Requiring farmers to pay taxes on inputs is bad public policy.

## Things to remember

If you do not know who your legislators are, find out here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/districtfinder>. Find your legislators e-mail address here: <http://app.leg.wa.gov/MemberEmail/Default.aspx?Chamber=H> Legislator phone numbers and office addresses are available on the individual member pages. Links to the member pages can be found on the [House](#) site, the [Senate](#) site or on the [Member Roster lists](#). If you would like to send a message to your legislators regarding a specific bill, you may use the Bill Comments form. Learn more here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/pbc/>.

**Toll-Free Hotline** - 1-800-562-6000 allows you to leave a message for your legislators. When leaving a message with the Hotline, please be prepared to give your name and street address. During the Legislative session, the Hotline is open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Selected Bills of Interest

### High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">2SHB 2338</a> <b>Greenhouse gas/transp. fuels</b> Creates a low carbon fuel standard.	H Rules R	Fitzgibbon	Oppose
<a href="#">2SSB 6529</a> <b>Pesticide application safety</b> Establishing a pesticide application safety work group.	S 2nd Reading	Saldana	Support
<a href="#">SB 6609</a> <b>Revenue</b> Modifies certain revenue provisions to: (1) Repeal the sales and use tax exemption for candy; (2) Limit the limit trade-in exclusion; (3) Narrow the nonresident sales and use tax exemption; (4) Narrow the sales tax exemption for certain fertilizers, sprays, and washes; (5) Reduce the estate tax threshold; (6) Impose a graduated real estate excise tax; (7) Impose a carbonated beverage tax; (8) Impose a luxury tax on expensive passenger motor vehicles; and (9) Reduce the state property tax.	S Ways & Means	Ranker	Oppose

### Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">SHB 1669</a> <a href="#">(SB 5846)</a> <b>Crew size on certain trains</b> Establishing minimum crew size on certain trains. Does not capture any agricultural products but could slow down overall rail traffic.	H Rules R	Farrell	Concerns
<a href="#">SHB 2186</a> <b>Taxes</b> Addresses the state's tax system with regard to: (1) Capital gains taxes; (2) Business and occupation tax rate change and deduction; (3) Eliminating the sales and use tax exemption for bottled water; (4) Repealing the preferential business and occupation tax rate for warehousing and reselling prescription drugs; (5) Narrowing a use tax exemption for self-produced fuel; (6) Eliminating the preferential business and occupation tax rate for international investment management services; (7) Nonresident sales tax exemption remittances; (8) Graduated real estate excise tax rates; (9) Real estate excise tax on foreclosures; (10) Requiring local governments that issue building permits to supply subcontractor information to the department of revenue; (11) Remote sellers, referrers, and marketplace facilitators; (12) The expansion of an individual's liability for an entity's unpaid tax obligations; (13) Reducing interest on tax refunds; and (14) Transfers to the education legacy trust account.	H Finance	Lytton	Oppose
<a href="#">HB 2967</a> <b>Capital gains tax/prop. tax</b> Declares an intent to ask the state's citizens to reduce the state property tax levy and replace it with the capital gains excise tax.	H Finance	Lytton	Oppose
<a href="#">SB 6083</a> <b>Health, safety, and environ.</b> Requires the department of ecology, each regional air pollution control authority, the state board of health, and the attorney general to undertake all feasible efforts using authority under state and federal law to implement and enforce the public health, safety, and environmental standards found in this act.	S Ways & Means	Cleveland	Oppose
<a href="#">SB 6180</a> <b>Planting and harvest dates</b> Defining the planting and harvest dates for purposes of exemptions for agricultural transporters.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Hobbs	Support

## Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 2358</a> <b>Marijuana definitions</b> Clarifies the following terms found in certain marijuana-related statutes: Agricultural product, agriculture, farming, horticulture, horticultural, and horticultural product.	H Rules R	Sawyer	
<a href="#">SHB 2411</a> <b>Food waste reduction</b> Reducing wasted food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts.	H Approps	Doglio	
<a href="#">HB 2602</a> <b>Toxic air pollutants</b> Requires the department of ecology to review and update rules adopted by the department that establish acceptable source impact levels applicable to toxic air pollutants for new sources. Expires July 1, 2022.	H Rules R	Fey	
<a href="#">SHB 2640</a> <b>Apiarist liability</b> Limiting liability for registered apiarists.	H Rules R	Buyts	
<a href="#">HB 2681</a> (SB 6319) <b>Federal produce safety rule</b> Implementing the federal produce safety rule.	H Rules R	Springer	
<a href="#">SB 6032</a> (HB 2299) <b>Supp. operating budget</b> Making supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes	
<a href="#">SB 6278</a> <b>Seed certification fee use</b> Revises the Washington state seed act to authorize the fees, that are collected for the certification of seed, to be used for services involving breeder seed, foundation seed, registered seed, and certified seed.	S Rules 2	Warnick	Support
<a href="#">SSB 6318</a> <b>Intrastate food safety</b> Clarifying existing law by creating a new intrastate food safety and security chapter from existing intrastate food safety laws and moving certain provisions in the intrastate commerce food, drugs, and cosmetics act to the titles of the agencies that administer the provisions.	S Passed 3rd	Takko	Support
<a href="#">SB 6319</a> (HB 2681) <b>Federal produce safety rule</b> Implementing the federal produce safety rule.	S Rules 2	Honeyford	

## *Legislative Department*

*Heather Hansen, Legislative Lobbyist*

*legislative@wa-grange.org*

*(360) 943-9911*