



SESSION WATCH

Monday, February 19, 2018 (day 43 of the 60-day session)

17 Days Left in Session

The legislative session is now 2/3 over. This week marked an important deadline, any bill not passing its House of Origin by Wednesday was declared dead. Bills necessary to implement the budget are exempt from that cutoff, so all tax related bills remain alive. 317 bills have passed the House of Representatives so far.

State Revenue Forecast Released

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released its quarterly state revenue forecast this week. Because of a strong economy in much of the state, the revenue forecast has been increased by \$647 million for the 2017-19 budget cycle and over \$1.3 billion over the next four years. This level of growth has not been seen for over a decade. Most legislators acknowledge that most of the economic growth is in the greater Puget Sound region, while much of rural Washington has a more stagnant economy.

Tax Bills Have Support from Some Legislators

In spite of the good news on the revenue front, multiple tax bills still appear to have support from some legislators. Governor Inslee continues to push for a carbon tax which would raise in excess of \$3 billion. House Bill 2967 would impose a new capital gains income tax.

Senate Bill 6609 would revoke the sales tax exemption for pesticides, fertilizer and numerous other items.

Supplemental Budget to be Released

Both House and Senate supplemental budget proposals will be released early next week. It will be interesting to see if revenue from new taxes is assumed in the budget calculations.

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.

Upcoming Events

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/19 @ 10:00am

- 2SHB 2671 - Public Hearing - Improving the behavioral health of people in the agricultural industry.

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/19 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2967 - Exec Session - Enacting a capital gains tax and providing property tax relief.

State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/19 @ 6:00pm

- E2SHB 2595 - Exec Session - Concerning procedures in order to automatically register citizens to vote.

State Government, Elections & Information Technology (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- ESSB 5397 - Public Hearing - Concerning disclosure in initiatives, referenda, and recall petitions.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:00am

- SB 6368 - Public Hearing - Updating laws concerning agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions.
- SB 6278 - Public Hearing - Concerning the use of seed certification fees.
- SB 6319 - Public Hearing - Implementing the federal produce safety rule.

Energy, Environment & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/20 @ 10:00am

- SHB 2664 - Public Hearing - Extending existing telecommunications authority to all ports in Washington state in order to facilitate public-private partnerships in wholesale telecommunications services and infrastructure.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- SB 6368 - Exec Session - Updating laws concerning agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions.
- SB 6278 - Exec Session - Concerning the use of seed certification fees.
- SB 6319 - Exec Session - Implementing the federal produce safety rule.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- E2SSB 6529 - Public Hearing - Establishing a pesticide application safety work group.

State Government, Elections & Information Technology (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- ESSB 5397 - Exec Session - Concerning disclosure in initiatives, referenda, and recall petitions.

Transportation (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6180 - Exec Session - Defining the planting and harvest dates for purposes of exemptions for agricultural transporters.

Economic Development & International Trade (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/22 @ 8:00am

- HB 2725 - Public Hearing - Updating laws concerning agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions.

Selected Bills of Interest**High Priority Bills**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
<u>HB 2725</u> (SB 6368)	Fairs, youth shows, & expos	S Econ Developmen	Blake	Support
Modifies provisions regarding agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions on the following: (1) The state fair fund; (2) Categories of agricultural fairs that may be eligible for state allocations; (3) Eligibility requirements for those allocations; (4) Reimbursements for incurred operating expenses; and (5) Terms of the members of the fairs commission.				
<u>SB 6368</u> (HB 2725)	Fairs, youth shows, & expos	H Ag & Nat Res	Warnick	Support
Modifies provisions regarding agricultural fairs, youth shows, and exhibitions on the following: (1) The state fair fund; (2) Categories of agricultural fairs that may be eligible for state allocations; (3) Eligibility requirements for those allocations; (4) Reimbursements for incurred operating expenses; and (5) Terms of the members of the fairs commission.				
<u>E2SSB 6386</u> (HB 2765)	Ag. fair funding/sales taxes	H Approps	Warnick	Support
Requires the money received as the result of the imposition of the state retail sales tax on sales occurring during events held at county fairgrounds or grounds for fairs operated by a nonprofit where agricultural fairs occur, to be deposited into the fair fund. Requires the department of revenue to notify the state treasurer when the money				

collected and deposited for a fiscal year is 2.5 million dollars. Requires any money collected in excess of 2.5 million dollars for the fiscal year to be deposited in the general fund.

E2SSB 6529	Pesticide application safety Creates the pesticide application safety work group to develop recommendations for improving the safety of pesticide applications. Expires December 31, 2018.	H HC/Wellness	Saldaña	Oppose
SB 6609	Revenue 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>	
E2SHB 2177	Rural county jobs program Creates the rural county high employer demand jobs program to: (1) Meet the workforce needs of business and industry in rural counties by assisting students in earning certificates, associate degrees, or other industry-recognized credentials necessary for employment in high employer demand fields; and (2) Provide selected students scholarship funds, as determined by the opportunity scholarship board, to help them meet their eligible expenses for up to one year, when they enroll in a community or technical college program that prepares them for a high employer demand field. Requires the opportunity scholarship board to create the rural jobs program account, from which scholarship funds will be disbursed beginning no later than the fall term of the 2020 academic year, if by that date, state matching funds have been received. Creates the rural jobs program match transfer account.	S Higher Ed & Wor	Chapman	Support
SHB 2402	Energy independence act Concerning the energy independence act.	H 2nd Reading	Tarleton	Concerns
E2SHB 2595 (E3SSB 6353)	Automatic voter registration Establishes the automatic voter registration act of 2018. Requires the department of licensing to implement an automatic voter registration system so a person who is eligible to vote and is applying for or renewing an enhanced driver's license or identocard may register to vote or update voter registration at the time of registration or renewal, by an automated process. Prohibits, unless required by law, the department of licensing from: (1) Sharing information used to verify identity with a federal agency or contractual obligation existing as of July 1, 2019; and (2) Collecting records or documentation used to certify eligibility to vote once the certification process has been completed and recorded. Requires the state health benefit exchange to: (1) Provide directly to the secretary of state's office information required to register to vote or transfer a registration for certain consenting persons; and (2) Study the feasibility of implementing automatic voter registration. Requires the office of the secretary of state to conduct a study and prepare recommendations for creating: (1) An automatic voter registration process for residents who recently completed the naturalization process; and (2) For an automatic pending voter registration process at birth. Exempts the following from public inspection and copying under the public records act: Information maintained in the pending voter registration database. Provides that sections 201 and 202 of this act are null and void if appropriations are not approved.	S State Govt/Tri	Hudgins	Oppose
SHB 2664 (SB 6426)	Telecomm. authority/ports Extending existing telecommunications authority to all ports in Washington state in order to facilitate public-private partnerships in wholesale telecommunications services and infrastructure.	S Energy, Environ	Dye	Support
2SHB 2671	Ag industry behavioral hlth Improving the behavioral health of people in the agricultural industry.	S Health & Long T	Wilcox	Support
HB 2967	Capital gains tax/prop. tax	H Finance	Lytton	Oppose

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.

<u>ESSB 5397</u> (SHB 1537)	Petition disclosure Regulates signature gatherers and those who employ signature gatherers.	H State Govt, Ele	Warnick	Support
<u>ESSB 6002</u>	Voting rights act Establishes the Washington voting rights act of 2018 to promote equal voting opportunity in certain political subdivisions and establish a cause of action to redress lack of voter opportunity.	H State Govt, El	Salda?a	Concerns
<u>SB 6180</u>	Planting and harvest dates States that the planting and harvesting seasons are January 1st through December 31st of each year, with regard to the exemption for agricultural transporters.	H Trans	Hobbs	Support
<u>E3SSB 6353</u> (E2SHB 2595)	Automatic voter registration Establishes the automatic voter registration act of 2018 to increase the opportunity to register to vote for qualified persons. Requires the state health benefit exchange to: (1) Provide certain information to the secretary of state's office for healthplanfinder applicants, including applicants who file changes of address, who reside in the state, are eighteen years old or older, are verified citizens, and do not decline the option to register to vote; and (2) Consult with the secretary of state's office to establish automatic voter registration criteria and procedures. Requires a task force to facilitate the implementation of this streamlining technology integration. Requires the office of the secretary of state to conduct a study and prepare recommendations for: (1) Creating an automatic voter registration process for residents who recently completed the naturalization process; and (2) An automatic voter registration process at birth. Prohibits, unless required by law, the department of licensing, the state health benefit exchange, and each qualified voter registration agency from: (1) Sharing information used to verify identity with any federal agency; or (2) Retaining any records or documentation used to certify eligibility to vote once the certification process has been completed and recorded. Exempts the following from public inspection under the public records act: Personal information in files maintained for patients or clients of agencies providing public assistance or services to persons with disabilities.	H State Govt, El	Hunt	Oppose
<u>SB 6426</u> (SHB 2664)	Telecomm. authority/ports Extends, to all ports in the state, the existing telecommunications authority in order to facilitate public-private partnerships in wholesale telecommunications services and infrastructure.	S Energy, Enviro	Wellman	Support

Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SB 6278</u> Seed certification fee use 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.	H Ag & Nat Res	Warnick	Support
<u>SSB 6318</u> Intrastate food safety 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.	H Ag & Nat Res	Takko	Support

Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SHB 2940</u> Business and occupation tax Making the business and occupation tax more progressive.	H Approps	Lytton	
Broadband & telecomm service	H Tech & Econ De	Sheldon	Support

E2SSB
5935

Creates the governor's office on broadband access within the department of commerce, and with the mission of improving economic vitality, health care access, and education through greater access to broadband services. Requires the office to: (1) In collaboration with the utilities and transportation commission, the office of the chief information officer, and the community economic revitalization board, serve as the coordinating body for public and private efforts to ensure statewide broadband access and deployment; (2) Be responsible for all matters regarding the adoption of statewide broadband access and deployment; (3) Establish a competitive grant program to assist qualified local governments and tribes to build infrastructure for open access, high speed broadband services; (4) Study taxes imposed on the capital costs associated with providing retail broadband service, including sales and use taxes; (5) Develop a small cell facility deployment permitting model ordinance for cities and towns; and (6) Consult with cities, counties, and service providers when developing the model ordinance. Authorizes the office to convene an advisory group to: (1) Make recommendations on developing a statewide rural broadband strategy to ensure broadband access statewide by January 1, 2026; and (2) Conduct a gap analysis on the deployment of broadband services in underserved and unserved areas of the state. Creates the broadband access account and requires expenditures from the account to only be used for the expansion of broadband access.

Federal produce safety rule

H Ag & Nat Res

Honeyford

SB 6319
(HB 2681)

Establishes the produce safety rule implementation act to assist state produce farmers in implementation of the produce safety rule adopted by the United States food and drug administration pursuant to the federal food, drug, and cosmetic act. Authorizes the department of agriculture to: (1) Take actions necessary to cooperate in implementation of the produce safety rule, including entering into cooperative agreements with the United States food and drug administration, conducting compliance verification activities, enforcing regulatory compliance, and accepting federal funding to carry out the activities; (2) Cooperate with the United States food and drug administration in implementation of the produce safety rule only to the extent that the department receives federal funding for the activities; and (3) Establish a voluntary program for farms exempt or partially exempt from the produce safety rule to verify that the farms comply with the rule. Exempts the following from disclosure under the public records act: Information obtained from the federal government or others under contract with the federal government or records obtained by the department of agriculture. Creates a produce safety account in the agricultural local fund.

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