



SESSION WATCH

Monday, February 5, 2018 (day 29 of the 60-day session)

First Round of Cutoff's

Friday marked the first major landmark of the legislative session, policy committee cut-off. As of Friday, all bills had to pass their policy committee or be declared dead. This means tracking lists become shorter and more focused. But, nothing is ever completely dead until the session is over.

Fiscal committees will continue to meet until Tuesday, which is their cutoff day, then legislators will work on the floor voting on bills until February 14 which is house of origin cutoff.

Pesticide bill improved slightly, but not enough

SB 6529 would have required pesticide applicators to give a 4-day notification before applying via air, airblast or fumigation. Then, all licensed applicators would have been required to submit their records to the department of health each month. The good news is, that version is dead. The bad news is, it was replaced with a work group directed to make recommendations to next years legislature on how to implement pre-notification and use reporting systems. The proponents continue to ignore that spray drift is illegal and that the Department of Agriculture has regulatory authority to fine and suspend the license of applicators who make mistakes. The new version of the bill will be heard in Senate Ways & Means Monday morning where it may be amended again.

Carbon tax

SB 6203, Governor Inslee's carbon tax bill, passed Senate Energy, Environment and Technology Committee with amendments. It would create a new tax of \$10 per metric ton of carbon emissions beginning in 2019 and would increase \$2 a ton per year in 2021 until the price reached a cap of \$30 a ton. The new version contains 56 separate exemptions but would still result in higher prices for fuel, fertilizer, transportation and processing. It will increase the gas tax by 30 cents a gallon and increase electricity rates by 17 percent.

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 Hearings of Interest

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/5 @ 10:00am

- SSB 5935 - Public Hearing - Enhancing consumer access, affordability, and quality of broadband and advanced telecommunications services.
- SSB 6386 - Public Hearing - Ensuring the funding of fairs.
- SSB 6529 - Public Hearing - Establishing a modernizing pesticide notification work group.

Transportation (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/5 @ 1:30pm

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

State Government, Elections & Information Technology (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/7 @ 8:00am

- ESSB 6002 - Exec Session - Enacting the Washington voting rights act of 2018.

Selected Bills of Interest

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 2725 (SB 6368)	Fairs, youth shows, & expos H Rules R	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.			
HB 2765 (SSB 6386)	Ag. fair funding/sales taxes H Approps	Blake	Support
Requires the money received as the result of the imposition of the state retail sales tax on sales occurring during events held at fairgrounds where agricultural fairs occur, to be deposited into the fair fund. Requires the department of revenue to notify the state treasurer when the collected money for a fiscal year is three million dollars.			
SB 6368 (HB 2725)	Fairs, youth shows, & expos S 2nd Reading	Warnick	Support
SSB 6386 (HB 2765)	Ag. fair funding/sales taxes S Ways & Means	Warnick	Support
Ensuring the funding of fairs.			
2SSB 6529	Pesticide notif. work group	Saldaña	Oppose

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
SHB 1537 (SSB 5397)	Petition disclosure H Rules R	Haler	Support
Concerning disclosure in initiatives, referenda, and recall petitions.			
SHB 2177	Rural county jobs program H Approps	Chapman	Support

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 qualifying student awards in the amount equal to tuition fees and required services and activities fees when the student enrolls in a community or technical college program that prepares him or her for a high employer demand field. Requires the state board for community and technical colleges to: (1) Administer the program and adopt rules necessary to implement the program; (2) In consultation with a community or technical college located in an eligible county, and the county's workforce development council, identify high employer demand fields within the eligible counties; and (3) Award grants to certain students in the amount equal to the cost of tuition fees and required services and activities fees. Creates the rural jobs program account.

<u>SHB 2312</u>	Rural internet access Providing urban levels of internet speed and access in rural areas to secure a brighter more equitable economic future for all Washingtonians without increasing taxes or fees.	H Approps	DeBolt	Support
<u>HB 2499</u>	Seeds and plants/sales tax Provides a sales and use tax exemption for seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients.	H Finance	Caldier	Support
<u>SHB 2562</u>	Rangeland fire associations Concerning rangeland fire protection associations.	H Approps	Dent	Support
<u>SHB 2640</u>	Apiarist liability Limiting liability for registered apiarists.	H Rules R	Buys	Support
<u>SHB 2671</u>	Ag industry behavioral hlth Improving the behavioral health of people in the agricultural industry. (Suicide prevention)	H Approps	Wilcox	Support
<u>HB 2946</u>	Rural small businesses/taxes Provides a business and occupation tax credit to qualified small businesses located in rural counties.	H Finance	Chapman	Support
<u>HB 2967</u>	Capital gains tax/prop. tax 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
<u>SSB 5397</u> <u>(SHB 1537)</u>	Petition disclosure Concerning disclosure in initiatives, referenda, and recall petitions.	S Rules 2	Warnick	Support
<u>ESSB 6002</u>	Voting rights act	H State Govt, Ele	Saldaña	Concerns

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.

<u>SB 6083</u>	Health, safety, and environ.	S Ways & Means	Cleveland	Concerns
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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.

<u>SB 6180</u>	Planting and harvest dates	S Transportation	Hobbs	Support
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States that the planting and harvesting seasons are January 1st through December 31st of each year, with regard to the exemption for agricultural transporters.

Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SSB 5386</u>	Initiative review	S Rules 2	Pedersen

Strengthening the initiative process by providing for more comprehensive review before initiatives receive ballot titles.

<u>SSB 5935</u>	Broadband & telecomm service	S Ways & Means	Sheldon	Support
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Enhancing consumer access, affordability, and quality of broadband and advanced telecommunications services.

Legislative Department
Heather Hansen, Legislative Lobbyist
legislative@wa-grange.org
(360) 943-9911