



# SESSION WATCH

Monday, January 29, 2018 (day 22 of the 60-day session)

## Legislature Hard at Work

A record number of new bills have been introduced for a 60-day session. Next Friday is policy committee cutoff, meaning any bill that has not passed out of its subject matter committee by then, is dead.

Last week, I testified in support of Rep. JT Wilcox's bill to improve the behavioral health of people in the agricultural industry. It is aimed at suicide prevention.

## Pesticides

Washington agricultural producers showed up in force this week when the Senate Labor committee held a public hearing on senate bill 6529, titled - protecting agricultural workers and community members from pesticide exposure. Fifty-one people from across the state signed in to oppose the bill, twenty-seven, nearly all paid lobbyists, signed in support. Testifying on behalf of agriculture were: Flor Maldonado - organic tree fruit grower from Tonasket; Nicole Berg - wheat grower from Paterson; Rob Dhaliwal - blueberry grower from Lynden; Bill Zimmerman - small farmer from Vancouver; Stacy Kniveton - potato grower from Connell and Gavin Morse - aerial applicator from Warden.

Each one effectively made the point that our growers are professionals who understand and follow the law. They train their employees properly. They care about their neighbors and the understand the intricacies of producing high quality food.

It appears the Senators understood. They are indicating that rather than the draconian and costly measures the bill would require, they will instead set up a process for further conversation. We agree, we need to keep telling our story and help our urban citizens gain a better understanding of food production.

Among the those who signed in to support the bill were lobbyists from the Washington Education Association, Washington State Labor Council, Washington Environmental Council, Columbia Legal Services, OneAmerica, Washington community Action

Network; Futurewise, Washington Public Employees Association, and the Washington Alliance of YMCAs.

## Sale of Horses

SB 6295 is up for public hearing on Monday. It requires the seller of a horse, to include on the bill of sale, a list of any medications given to the horse during the previous 180 days. Additionally, the seller must include on the bill of sale a list of any medications prescribed or given to the horse at any point since the seller has owned the horse that would cause the horse to be excluded from being suitable for human consumption. The buyer must include on the bill of sale whether the horse is being sold for slaughter and if the horse will be slaughtered in a country that allows horse meat to be used for human consumption. Both statements on the bill of sale must be made under the penalties of perjury

## Grange Legislative Day

Don't forget to sign up for the Washington State Grange Annual "Legislative Day" on February 6th. Look for the sign-up sheet either on our website or in the January Grange News. This will be a great opportunity to talk directly with your legislators!

## 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

### Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/29 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6295 - Public Hearing - Concerning the sale of horses.

### Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/29 @ 3:30pm

- SHB 2177 - Public Hearing - Creating a rural county jobs program.

### Transportation (Senate) - SHR 1, - 1/30 @ 3:30pm

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

### Judiciary (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/31 @ 8:00am

- HB 2640 - Public Hearing - Limiting liability for registered apiarists.

### State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (Senate) - SHR 2, - 1/31 @ 8:00am

- SB 5386 - Exec Session - Strengthening the initiative process by providing for more comprehensive review before initiatives receive ballot titles.

## Selected Bills of Interest

### High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<p><b>Fairs, youth shows, &amp; expos</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>HB 2725</u></a> (SB 6368)</p> <p>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.</p>	H Ag & Nat Res	Blake	Support
<p><b>Ag. fair funding/sales taxes</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>HB 2765</u></a> (SB 6386)</p> <p>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.</p>	H Approps	Blake	Support
<p><b>Voter registration deadlines</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SB 6249</u></a> (HB 2680)</p> <p>Modifies voter registration provisions regarding timelines in which to register, registering in person, the statewide voter registration database, and changes in residence.</p>	S State Govt/Tri	Zeiger	
<p><b>Fairs, youth shows, &amp; expos</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SB 6368</u></a> (HB 2725)</p> <p>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.</p>	S 2nd Reading	Warnick	Support
<p><b>Ag. fair funding/sales taxes</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SB 6386</u></a> (HB 2765)</p> <p>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.</p>	S Ag/Water/Natur	Warnick	Support
<p><b>Pesticides/ag. workers</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SB 6529</u></a></p> <p>Requires a pesticide user to provide written notice of an intended pesticide application in accordance with certain requirements provided by the department of health. Requires the department of health to develop a list of individuals who apply to receive notification of pesticide applications on adjacent property. Authorizes the department of health and the department of labor and industries to investigate and assess a civil fine in accordance with administrative procedures for certain violations of this act. Prohibits the civil fine from exceeding seven thousand five hundred dollars.</p>	S Labor & Commer	Saldaña	Oppose

## Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2177</u></a> <b>Rural county jobs program</b> Creating a rural county jobs program.	H Approps	Chapman	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2312</u></a> <b>Rural internet access</b> 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
<a href="#"><u>HB 2499</u></a> <b>Seeds and plants/sales tax</b> Provides a sales and use tax exemption for seeds and plants used to grow food and food ingredients.	H Finance	Caldier	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 2640</u></a> <b>Apiarist liability</b> Provides immunity from liability, to a person who owns or operates an apiary, is a registered apiarist, abides by all applicable ordinances, and operates the apiary as required, for civil damages that occur in connection with the keeping and maintaining of bees, bee equipment, queen breeding equipment, apiaries, and appliances.	H Judiciary	Buys	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 2671</u></a> <b>Ag industry behavioral hlth</b> Requires the department of health to: (1) Establish a pilot program for behavioral health and suicide prevention for members of the agricultural industry workforce; and (2) Contract with an entity that has behavioral health and suicide prevention expertise to develop a free resource for workers in the agricultural industry. Requires the state office of rural health to convene a task force on behavioral health and suicide prevention in the agricultural industry and requires the task force to review the following issues: (1) Data related to the behavioral health status of persons associated with the agricultural industry, including suicide rates, substance use rates, and availability and use of behavioral health services; (2) Factors unique to the agricultural industry that affect the behavioral health of persons working in those industries; (3) Components that should be addressed in the pilot program; and (4) Options to improve the behavioral health and reduce suicide risk among agricultural workers and their families, including individual focused and community focused strategies.	H HC/Wellness	Wilcox	Support
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 6002</u></a> <b>Voting rights act</b> 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, Ele	Saldana	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>SB 6083</u></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 Energy, Enviro	Cleveland	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>SB 6180</u></a> <b>Planting and harvest dates</b> States that the planting and harvesting seasons are January 1st through December 31st of each year, with regard to the exemption for agricultural transporters.	S Transportation	Hobbs	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 6279</u></a> <a href="#"><u>(HB 2916)</u></a> <b>Landowner's lessee/penalties</b> Prohibits the department of ecology from levying a civil penalty against a landowner if the actions of the landowner's lessee are the basis for the violation; in that case, the department may levy the civil penalty against the lessee.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Warnick	Support

<a href="#"><u>SB 6295</u></a>	<b>Sale of horses</b> Requires a seller, in a transaction for the sale of a horse, to include on a bill of sale, a list of any medications prescribed and given to the horse: (1) During the previous one hundred eighty days from the date of the sale; and (2) At any point since he or she has owned the horse that would cause the horse to be unsuitable for human consumption. Requires the buyer in the transaction to include on a bill of sale: (1) If the horse is being sold for slaughter; and (2) If the horse will be slaughtered in a country that allows horse meat to be used for human consumption.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Kuderer	
<a href="#"><u>SB 6315</u></a>	<b>Wildlife transfer notice</b> Requires the department of fish and wildlife to provide notice and hold a public hearing before department personnel transfer, relocate, or introduce wildlife into a different location in the state.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Wagoner	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 6545</u></a>	<b>CERB broadband infra.</b> Revises section 1021, chapter 2, Laws of 2018, which was adopted in the capital budget, and relates to broadband infrastructure administered by the community economic revitalization board.	S Energy, Enviro	Chase	Support

### Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
<a href="#"><u>HB 2882</u></a>	<b>Agricultural activity odors</b> Modifies the Washington clean air act to: (1) Provide a definition for "produce facility" which is a state-licensed marijuana facility; (2) Include in the definition of "agricultural activity," the growing, raising, or production of flowers, fruit trees, vegetables, marijuana, usable marijuana, marijuana-infused products, and honey; and (3) Exempt from clean air act provisions, odors or fugitive dust caused by agricultural activity consistent with good agricultural practices on produce facilities, unless they have a substantial adverse effect on public health.	H Environment	Kloba	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>SB 6278</u></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="#"><u>SB 6318</u></a>	<b>Intrastate food safety</b> Establishes the food safety and security act. Protects the public from adulteration, misbranding, and false advertisement of food in intrastate commerce; and promotes uniformity with federal law, governmental transparency, and regulatory fairness. Clarifies 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 in food, drugs, and cosmetics act to the titles of the agencies that administer the provisions.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Takko	Support

### Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5386</u></a>	<b>Initiative review</b> Provides for more comprehensive review before initiatives receive ballot titles in order to strengthen the initiative process.	S State Govt/Trib	Pedersen	
<a href="#"><u>HB 2524</u></a>	<b>Soil samples</b> Requires the department of commerce, in consultation with the department of agriculture, to adopt guidelines establishing a procedure for a person to remove a local jurisdiction's designation of agricultural lands or forestlands where soil surveys indicate that the composition of the soil is not suitable to support activities or crops in accordance with the local jurisdiction's designation.	H Environment	Pike	

**Federal produce safety rule**

H Ag &amp; Nat Res

Springer

**HB 2681**  
**(SB 6319)**

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.

**Broadband & telecom service**

S Energy, Environ

Sheldon

Support

**SB 5935**

Addresses broadband and advanced telecommunications services. Creates the governor's office on broadband access and requires the office to: (1) Serve as the coordinating body for public and private efforts to ensure statewide broadband access and deployment; (2) Coordinate with communities, public and private entities, and consumer-owned and investor-owned utilities to develop strategies and plans for deployment of broadband infrastructure and access to broadband services; (3) Review existing broadband initiatives, policies, and public and private investments and make comprehensive recommendations to advance the state's broadband access goals; (4) Update the state's goals and standards for broadband service as technological advances become available; and (5) Establish a competitive grant program to assist qualified local governments and public entities to deploy broadband services in unserved and underserved areas of the state. Creates the broadband access task force to assist the governor's office on broadband access for the purpose of reviewing existing broadband initiatives, policies, and public and private investments and providing a comprehensive set of recommendations to advance the state's broadband deployment, services, and access goals. Creates the broadband deployment partnership initiative for the purpose of initiating and fostering partnerships between entities that facilitate deployment of broadband to enhance and expand broadband services in underserved and unserved areas of the state. Creates the broadband access account.

**Carbon pollution tax**

S Energy, Enviro

Hobbs

**SB 6335**

Imposes a fossil fuel carbon pollution tax on the carbon content of fossil fuels extracted, manufactured, or introduced into the state. Requires the department of revenue to: (1) Calculate the carbon content of fossil fuels, in consultation with the department of ecology; and (2) If practical, integrate the administration and collection of the fossil fuel carbon pollution taxes with the administration and collection of other taxes imposed on the taxpayer. Exempts certain fossil fuels from the tax. Creates the carbon pollution revenues account. Requires the joint legislative audit and review committee, in consultation with the department of revenue, the department of commerce, and the department of ecology, to conduct a review of the imposed tax which will be submitted to the governor and the appropriate legislative committees.

*Legislative Department*

*Heather Hansen, Legislative Lobbyist*

*legislative@wa-grange.org*

*(360) 943-9911*