



Session Watch

Monday, April 1, 2019 (day 71 of the 105-day session)

Both the House and Senate released budget proposals last week. Despite the fact the state revenue forecast included a prediction of an additional \$860 million available to spend for the next state budget on top of the billions that were already available when this year's legislative session began, numerous new tax bills have been introduced. (The Governor's budget release in December proposed \$3.7 billion in new taxes.) New tax proposals include a graduated real estate excise tax that may or may not include farm and forestland, a capital gains income tax, increased B&O tax on services and more. Carbon taxes could have the greatest impact on the most people over time. It wasn't all about taxes, environmental policies are also advancing.

Glyphosate

The Senate operating budget was released Friday. It includes \$10,000 for the Department of Enterprise Services to query and inventory all state agency use of glyphosate. The department must offer to pay state agencies the difference in costs for using alternatives for vegetation control. A report to the appropriate committees of the legislature on the findings of the query and inventory must be made by December 31, 2019.

Low carbon fuel standard – Just like California

[HB 1110](#) would direct the Department of Ecology to adopt standards to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions per unit of fuel energy in transportation fuels. This is something California implemented years ago, and after decades of litigation it has finally gone into effect. As a result, California's gas prices have gone up 16 cents per gallon and will continue to rise. As this program increases the cost of fuel, it results in an increase in the cost of anything that needs to be transported, which is nearly everything you purchase for your business or home. Washington already has some of the highest gas prices in the nation.

Cap and Trade – also like California

[SB 5981](#) would create a cap-and-trade program aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions in

Washington. If it passes, the program would be overseen by the Department of Ecology. The state would set limits on carbon dioxide emission and then sell permits to companies covered by the limits. This is the system used in California and the cost is about \$15 per metric ton of carbon dioxide reduced, the same price as the carbon tax proposed by Initiative 1631 which failed on the November ballot. The cost of the permits would be passed on to consumers, just like a carbon tax.

Transportation funding – with a carbon tax

[SB 5971](#) would impose a carbon tax of \$15 per metric ton of carbon dioxide on gasoline, \$10 per metric ton on electricity and home heating, and add a six-cent-per-gallon gas tax. The tax is structured this way because gas taxes are protected by the 18th Amendment of the state constitution and can be used "exclusively for highway purposes." Carbon taxes, however, would go into the general fund and could be used for anything the legislature chooses.

To end on a positive note, the Senate budget also included funding for non-lethal wolf management.

Quick Reminder

Be sure to email us if your Grange would like to receive this year's resolutions for the 2019 State Grange Convention. email: grange@wa-grange.org

Quote of the Week

"Recognition is the greatest motivator"
-Gerard C. Eakedale

Trivia Question of the Week

Who is the current National Overseer?

Last Week's Trivia Answer

The 2020 convention will be held in Walla Walla.

Week 7 Trivia Answer Correction

Thank you, David Bryant, for pointing out that I mistakenly entered the date for the wrong Initiative. The correct answer should be: Approved on November 8, 1977.

Upcoming Hearings of Interest

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, - 4/1 @ 10:00am

- SHB 1225 - Public Hearing - Establishing policies and requirements regarding law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents to enhance the safety of domestic violence victims, families, and officers. (Oppose/Medium)

Transportation (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 4/1 @ 3:30pm

- SSB 5723 - Public Hearing - Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, tractor drivers and other roadway users. (Low)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 4/1 @ 3:30pm

- SB 5153 - Public Hearing - Making 2019-2021 biennium operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 4/2 @ 8:00am

- ESSB 5323 - Public Hearing - Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments. (Concerns/Low)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 4/2 @ 1:30pm

- ESHB 2097 - Public Hearing - Addressing statewide wolf recovery. (Support/High)

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 4/4 @ 9:00am

- 2SSB 5511 - Public Hearing - Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities. (If measure is referred to committee.) (Support/High)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 4/4 @ 1:30pm

- 3SHB 1498 - Public Hearing - Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities. (Support/High)

Selected Bills of Interest

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
3SHB 1498 (2SSB 5511)	Broadband service Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities.	Hudgins	Support
2SHB 1725 (SSB 5550)	Pesticide application safety Implementing the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group.	Dent	Support
ESHB 1839 (SB 5813)	Arena projects/taxes Requiring eligible arena projects to fully pay the state and local sales tax within ten years of commencing construction.	Sullivan	Support
HB 2075 (SB 5967)	Livestock brand inspections Removing the authority of the department of agriculture to conduct livestock brand inspections.	Chandler	Oppose
ESHB 2097	Statewide wolf recovery	Kretz	Support

Addressing statewide wolf recovery.

ESSB 5434 (HB 1530)	Weapons in certain locations Restricting possession of weapons in certain locations.	H Civil R & Judi	Wilson	Oppose
E2SSB 5438 (HB 1398)	Ag & seasonal workforce srv Establishing the office of agricultural and seasonal workforce services within the employment security department.	H Labor & Workpl	McCoy	Oppose
2SSB 5489	Environ. health disparities Establishing a healthy environment for all by creating a definition of environmental justice, directing agencies to address environmental health disparities, and creating a task force. Creates a task force to recommend how best to incorporate environmental justice principles into how state agencies discharge their responsibilities. Declares that the legislature establishes that state agencies will use all practicable means and measures to promote environmental justice and fair treatment, to ensure implementation and adherence to state policies of fostering and promoting the general welfare by assuring the people of this state have a safe and healthful environment and serving as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations. Requires the state agencies that are represented on the task force, after issuance of the task force report, to adopt rules as recommended in the report. Authorizes the state agencies to adopt interim guidelines and practices before the adoption of rules. Requires the department of ecology to adopt rules implementing the task force recommendations to provide uniform rules and guidelines to state agencies serving on the task force.	H SGOVDPA	Saldana	Oppose
2SSB 5511 (3SHB 1498)	Broadband service Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities.	H ITEDDPA	Wellman	Support
SSB 5550 (2SHB 1725)	Pesticide application safety Implementing the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group.	H Labor & Workpl	Saldana	Support
2SSB 5947 (HB 2095)	Sustainable farms and fields Establishing the sustainable farms and fields grant program.	H RDev, Ag&NR	McCoy	Oppose
SB 5998	Grad. real estate excise tax Establishing a graduated real estate excise tax.	S Ways & Means	Nguyen	Oppose

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
SHB 1196 Perm. daylight saving time Allowing for the year round observation of daylight saving time.	S Rules 2	Riccelli	Neutral
SHB 1225 Domestic violence/law enf. Establishing policies and requirements regarding law enforcement response to domestic violence incidents to enhance the safety of domestic violence victims, families, and officers.	S Law & Justice	Jinkins	Oppose

EHB 1465	Pistol sales or transfers Modifies the requirements of a firearms dealer regarding the delivery of a pistol to a purchaser.	S Rules 2	Goodman	
HB 1516	DFW dog training, nonlethal Requires the fish and wildlife commission to adopt by rule: (1) A process and criteria to select persons, who may act as agents of the state, for using one or more dogs to hunt or pursue black bear, cougar, or bobcat to protect livestock, domestic animals, private property, or the public safety; and (2) Requirements an applicant must comply with when applying for the program, including a criminal background check. Requires the department of fish and wildlife to administer a training program that provides dog training opportunities, for selected people, using nonlethal pursuit.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Blake	Support
2SHB 1579	Chinook abundance Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Fitzgibbon	Oppose
ESHB 1622 (SB 5675)	Drought preparedness Concerning drought preparedness and response.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Blake	Concerns
2SHB 1784	Wildfire prevention Concerning wildfire prevention.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Kretz	Support
HB 2145	Property tax revenue growth Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.	H Finance	Pollet	Oppose
SSB 5010	Protected lands/fire levies Addresses parcels of land that do not pay the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire district levy.	H 2nd Reading	Rolfes	Support
E2SSB 5116 (2SHB 1211)	Clean energy Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.	H Finance	Carlyle	Oppose
SSB 5502 (HB 1494)	Redistricting deadlines Changes the deadline, from January 1st of the year ending in two to November 15th of the year ending in one, in which the redistricting commission must submit a redistricting plan to the legislature.	H Rules R	Zeiger	Support
SSB 5552	Pollinators Concerning the protection of native pollinators, including bees.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Liias	Support
SB 5582	Affordable housing/REET Increases the real estate excise taxes on property that sells for one million dollars.	S Ways & Means	Saldana	Oppose
SSB 5883	Farm products/vehicle weight Authorizing vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying farm products to exceed total gross weight limits.	H Trans	King	Support
SB 5991	Grad. real estate excise tax Increasing funding for education by establishing a graduated real estate excise tax.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes	Oppose

Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
E2SHB 1114 Food waste reduction Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Doglio	Support
HB 1187 Fish habitat projects Allows a fish habitat enhancement project to be approved by conservation districts as conservation district-sponsored fish habitat enhancement or restoration projects in order to receive a permit review and approval process.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Dent	Support
2SHB 1205 (ESSB 5323) Plastic bags Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments.	H Rules R	Peterson	Concerns
E2SHB 1401 (SB 5719) Hemp production Concerning hemp production.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Shea	Support
ESHB 1966 (SSB 5723) Pedestrian, etc. safety Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users.	S Transportation	Kilduff	
SSB 5063 (HB 1209) Ballots, prepaid postage Requires the state to reimburse counties for the cost of return postage on mail and absentee ballots for elections. Requires return envelopes for election ballots to include prepaid postage.	H Approps	Nguyen	
ESSB 5139 Daylight saving time Declares an intent to observe daylight saving time year-round, if authorized by the United States congress, and review the potential impact the time zone has on communities along the border between this state and other states to determine whether the state should seek authorization through the United States department of transportation to change the state to mountain standard time year-round if year-round daylight saving time is not authorized by congress. Requires the department of commerce to review impacts the state time zone and daylight saving time have on commerce in the state.	H State Govt & T	Honeyford	Oppose
ESSB 5148 Hunting/visible clothing Requires the fish and wildlife commission to adopt rules determining the times and manner when a person who is hunting must wear fluorescent orange or fluorescent pink clothing.	H 2nd Reading	Wilson	
ESSB 5323 (2SHB 1205) Plastic bags Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments.	H Finance	Das	Concerns
SSB 5723 (ESHB 1966) Pedestrian, etc. safety Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users.	H Trans	Saldana	

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