



Session Watch

Monday, April 8, 2019 (day 78 of the 105-day session)

Another week, another deadline has passed. Any bill that did not pass its opposite house policy committee died last week. Any bill that did not pass its opposite house fiscal committee died on Tuesday, April 9. Often, cutoffs bring relief as bills that would have increased regulation die.

Wolf Recovery

There was good news last week for a bill that did not die. HB 2097 sponsored by Rep. Joel Kretz to address wolf recovery, passed the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee. The bill requires the Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain sufficient staff resources in Ferry and Stevens counties for ongoing response to conflicts between gray wolves and livestock, and for continued implementation of proactive nonlethal deterrents. It also directs the department to develop and implement conflict mitigation guidelines for each wolf recovery region. Cattle producers, tribes, and conservation groups all supported the bill. The Center for Biological Diversity opposed it.

Single Use Plastic Bags

ESB 5323 bans single use plastic bags. It was amended to address multiple concerns including those of the pulp and paper industry. The bill requires retail stores to charge for paper bags. In the original bill, they were required to charge 10 cents per bag. In the amended version, the fee was reduced to 8 cents and only applies to paper bags that are 882 cubic inches or greater. The bill also preempts local governments from establishing local carryout bag ordinances. The pulp and paper industry remain concerned that the fee will cause customers to avoid paper bags thus reducing demand which results in job loss at paper mills in rural areas.

Tax Increases

Both the House and the Senate continue to move forward with proposed tax increases including a tax on capital gains and a graduated real estate excise tax.

If a capital gains tax passes an immediate law suit if guaranteed. The Washington state constitution prohibits income taxes. A capital gains tax is a form of income tax.

Real Estate Excise Tax

The House proposed graduated real estate excise tax bill leaves ag land, timberland and undeveloped land at their current rate. The Senate bill does not, it would increase the tax on sales of ag land based on the sales price. This could have the unintended effect of discouraging the conservation of working lands. As the price on real estate transactions increases, the likelihood that the land converts to development goes up with it. Conversely, the greater the difference in price between keeping lands in working status and the converting to development, the more likely the lands are to stay in ag or forestry.

Quote of the Week

"To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but also dream; not only plan, but also believe". - ANATOLE FRANCE

Trivia Question of the Week

How many Granges are currently in the state of Nevada?

Last Week's Trivia Answer

The current National Grange Overseer is Phil Prelli

Selected Bills of Interest

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
Broadband service	S Ways & Means	Hudgins	Support

3SHB 1498 (2SSB 5511)	Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities.			
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. Includes additional funding for agricultural fairs beginning in 2020.	S Ways & Means	Sullivan	Support
ESHB 2097	Statewide wolf recovery Addressing statewide wolf recovery.	S Ways & Means	Kretz	Support
E2SSB 5438 (HB 1398)	Ag & seasonal workforce srv Establishing the office of agricultural and seasonal workforce services within the employment security department.	H Approps	McCoy	Oppose
2SSB 5489	Environ. health disparities 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. Requires the state agencies that are represented on the task force to adopt rules as recommended in the report. 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 Approps	Saldaña	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 Approps	Wellman	Support
SSB 5550 (2SHB 1725)	Pesticide application safety Implementing the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group.	H Approps	Saldaña	Support
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 Rules 2	Jenkins	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	S Rules 2	Blake	Support

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.

2SHB 1579	Chinook abundance Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.	S Ways & Means	Fitzgibbon	Oppose
ESHB 1622 (SB 5675)	Drought preparedness Concerning drought preparedness and response.	S Ways & Means	Blake	Concerns
2SHB 1784	Wildfire prevention Concerning wildfire prevention.	S Ways & Means	Kretz	Support
HB 2156	Taxes on asset sales, profit Investing in quality prekindergarten, K-12, and postsecondary opportunities throughout Washington with excise taxes on sales and extraordinary profits of high valued assets.	H Finance	Jenkins	Concerns
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 Approps	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 Approps	Liias	Support
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 Establishes 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>
Food waste reduction	S Ways & Means	Doglio	Support

[E2SHB
1114](#)

Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts.

HB 1187	Fish habitat projects	S Rules 2	Dent	Support
-------------------------	------------------------------	-----------	------	---------

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.

HR 4621	Remote testimony	H Adopted	Mead	Support
-------------------------	-------------------------	-----------	------	---------

Requesting information on options and recommendations for a pilot remote testimony program.

SSB 5063 (HB 1209)	Ballots, prepaid postage	H Approps	Nguyen	
----------------------------------------	---------------------------------	-----------	--------	--

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.

ESSB 5148	Hunting/visible clothing	H 2nd Reading	Wilson	
---------------------------	---------------------------------	---------------	--------	--

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.

ESSB 5323 (2SHB 1205)	Plastic bags	H Finance	Das	Concerns
-----------------------------------------------	---------------------	-----------	-----	----------

Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments.

SSB 5723 (ESHB 1966)	Pedestrian, etc. safety	H Trans	Saldaña	
----------------------------------------------	--------------------------------	---------	---------	--

Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, tractors and other roadway users.

Monitoring Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
HB 1429 (SB 5447)	Dairy milk assessment fee	S Rules 2	Shewmake	Neutral

Delays, until June 30, 2025, the expiration date for the dairy milk assessment fee.

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