



# Session Watch

Monday, March 25, 2019 (day 64 of the 105-day session)

## **Week Nine Report (Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>)**

March 13 at 5:00 the Legislature passed a significant waypoint. All bills that did not pass their house of origin by that time died. Next week will be hectic with hearings on bills in the opposite house.

## **Year-Round Daylight Savings**

The House and Senate have each passed bills to adopt year-round daylight saving time. But the measures differ from one another in key ways, and either proposal would require approval from Congress.

## **E2SHB 1110 creates a clean fuel standard**

This would increase the cost of fuel which in turn increases the cost of everything that is transported. It would have a significant financial impact on agricultural operations, farm supply companies, and food processors.

## **Pesticides**

Both of the bills that would implement the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group from last summer are still alive. The bills are identical, so only one needs to pass.

SB 5552 requires WSDA to create and lead a pollinator health task force. One of the task forces duties will be to develop a plan to improve communication between beekeepers, landowners, and pesticide applicators, including a draft policy to consider that would allow the release of contact information for registered apiarists when requested by a landowner or pesticide applicator.

2SSB 5947 would require the Department of Agriculture (WSDA) to develop a sustainable farms and fields grant program. This innocuous sounding bill is very problematic. The bill was written by the Carbon WA environmental group with no input from anyone in commercial agriculture. It creates a new grant program that competes for funding with existing programs. It duplicates the structure already in place at the Conservation Commission at the Department of Agriculture. It has language that discriminates against growers who use fossil fuel-based pesticides or fertilizers.

## **Week Ten Report (Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup>)**

The Washington State Revenue Forecast Council released their revenue forecast for the next four years on March 20. The forecast predicts 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. Budget writers will have a total of \$50.6 billion in revenue for the 2019-21 budget cycle. To put that in perspective, in March 2017, budget writers had \$41.6 billion to work with.

The first House budget will be released on Monday. The Senate budget will be out later in the week. In spite of the rosy revenue forecast, more new tax bills have been introduced. (The Governor's budget release in December proposed \$3.7 billion in new taxes.)

## **Carbon Tax**

SB 5971 would impose a carbon tax of \$15/metric ton of CO<sub>2</sub> on gasoline, \$10/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.

## **Real-Estate Tax**

SB 5991 would increase the tax on real-estate transactions. The revenue it generates would supposedly go toward education, but once revenue is in the general fund, it can be used for anything.

## **Repealing Property-Tax limit**

HB 2145 would do away with the 1% annual limit on property-tax growth (approved by the voters through Initiative 747 in 2001).

## **Do Farmers Pay Taxes?**

Of course, if you are one, you know you do, but that's not what some Senators think. During a debate over a senate bill, Senator John McCoy, who represents the area north of Everett, said, "Ag producers in this state do not pay any taxes, none

what so ever, now, they do pay some fees I give you that, but they are not being double taxed.”

McCoy makes the fourth Democrat senator to make a similar statement during this legislative session. Because I do not want to end on that troubling note, here is something positive. The House adopted a resolution this week to begin the process of allowing remote testimony for public hearings and committee meetings. The state Senate already allows remote testimony on a limited basis.

Rep. Bruce Chandler, one of the sponsors of the resolution, said it was time to allow all Washingtonians, especially those living in central and eastern Washington, to have more of a voice in the legislative process. “We need to do all we can to make sure people from every corner of the state have

the same opportunity to participate in their state government.

### **Quote of the Week**

*“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

-Margaret Mead

### **Trivia Question of the Week**

In what town will the 2020 convention be held?

### **Last Week’s Trivia Answer (Week 7)**

Approved by well more than a two-to-one margin on November 8, 1932.

## **Upcoming Hearings of Interest**

### **Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, - 3/25 @ 10:00am**

- EHB 1465 - Public Hearing - Concerning requirements for pistol sales or transfers. (Medium)

### **Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 3/26 @ 8:00am**

- E2SSB 5116 - Exec Session - Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future. (Oppose/Medium)

### **Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1, - 3/26 @ 10:00am**

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

### **Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/26 @ 10:00am**

- SSB 5552 - Exec Session - Concerning the protection of all pollinators, including honey bees. (Support/Medium)

### **Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 3/26 @ 1:30pm**

- HB 1187 - Public Hearing - Revising hydraulic project eligibility standards under RCW 77.55.181 for conservation district-sponsored fish habitat enhancement projects. (Support/Low)
- HB 1429 - Public Hearing - Extending the dairy milk assessment fee to June 30, 2025. (Neutral/Monitoring)
- ESHB 1622 - Public Hearing - Concerning drought preparedness and response. (Concerns/Medium)
- 2SHB 1784 - Public Hearing - Concerning wildfire prevention. (Support/Medium)

### **State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 3/26 @ 1:30pm**

- 2SSB 5489 - Exec Session - Establishing a healthy environment for all by addressing environmental health disparities. (Oppose/High)

### **Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/26 @ 3:30pm**

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

### **Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (House) - HHR C, JLOB - 3/27 @ 8:00am**

- 2SSB 5511 - Exec Session - Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities. (Support/High)

### **State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 3/27 @ 1:30pm**

- ESSB 5139 - Public Hearing - Concerning daylight saving time in Washington state. (Oppose/Low)

### **Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 3/28 @ 8:00am**

- E2SSB 5438 - Public Hearing - Establishing the office of agricultural and seasonal workforce services within the employment security department. (Oppose/High)

### **Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, - 3/28 @ 10:00am**

- EHB 1465 - Exec Session - Concerning requirements for pistol sales or transfers. (Medium)

### Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 3/28 @ 1:30pm

- 2SHB 1579 - Exec Session - Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance. (Oppose/Medium)
- HB 1516 - Exec Session - Establishing a department of fish and wildlife directed nonlethal program for the purpose of training dogs. (Support/Medium)
- HB 1187 - Exec Session - Revising hydraulic project eligibility standards under RCW 77.55.181 for conservation district-sponsored fish habitat enhancement projects. (Support/Low)
- HB 1429 - Exec Session - Extending the dairy milk assessment fee to June 30, 2025. (Neutral/Monitoring)
- E2SHB 1114 - Exec Session - Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts. (Support/Low)

### Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (House) - HHR C, JLOB - 3/28 @ 3:30pm

- 2SSB 5511 - Exec Session - Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities. (Support/High)

### Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 3/28 @ 3:30pm

- 2SSB 5947 - Public Hearing - Establishing the sustainable farms and fields grant program. (Oppose/High)

### Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 3/29 @ 8:00am

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

E2SSB 5116 - Exec Session - Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future. (Oppose/Medium)

## Selected Bills of Interest

### High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<b><u>3SHB 1498</u></b> <b>(2SSB 5511)</b>	<b>Broadband service</b> Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities.	S Environment, E Hudgins	Support
<b><u>2SHB 1725</u></b> <b>(SSB 5550)</b>	<b>Pesticide application safety</b> Implementing the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group.	S Labor & Commerc Dent	Support
<b><u>HB 2075</u></b> <b>(SB 5967)</b>	<b>Livestock brand inspections</b> Removing the authority of the department of agriculture to conduct livestock brand inspections.	S Ag/Water/Natura Chandler	Oppose
<b><u>ESHB 2097</u></b>	<b>Statewide wolf recovery</b> Addressing statewide wolf recovery.	S Ag/Water/Natura Kretz	Support
<b><u>ESSB 5434</u></b> <b>(HB 1530)</b>	<b>Weapons in certain locations</b> Restricting possession of weapons in certain locations.	H Civil R & Judi Wilson	Oppose
<b><u>E2SSB 5438</u></b> <b>(HB 1398)</b>	<b>Ag &amp; seasonal workforce srv</b> Establishing the office of agricultural and seasonal workforce services within the employment security department.	H Labor & Workpla McCoy	Oppose
<b><u>2SSB 5489</u></b>	<b>Environ. health disparities</b> 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. 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 State Govt & Tr Saldana	Oppose

<b><u>2SSB 5511</u></b> <b>(3SHB 1498)</b>	<b>Broadband service</b> Expanding affordable, resilient broadband service to enable economic development, public safety, health care, and education in Washington's communities.	H Inn, Tech & E	Wellman	Support
<b><u>SSB 5550</u></b> <b>(2SHB 1725)</b>	<b>Pesticide application safety</b> Implementing the recommendations of the pesticide application safety work group.	H Labor & Workpl	Saldana	Support
<b><u>2SSB 5947</u></b> <b>(HB 2095)</b>	<b>Sustainable farms and fields</b> Establishing the sustainable farms and fields grant program.	H RDev, Ag&NR	McCoy	Oppose

### Medium Priority Bills

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	
<b><u>SHB 1196</u></b>	<b>Perm. daylight saving time</b> Allowing for the year round observation of daylight saving time.	S State Govt/Trib	Riccelli	Neutral
<b><u>SHB 1225</u></b>	<b>Domestic violence/law enf.</b> 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
<b><u>EHB 1465</u></b>	<b>Pistol sales or transfers</b> Modifies the requirements of a firearms dealer regarding the delivery of a pistol to a purchaser.	S Law & Justice	Goodman	
<b><u>HB 1516</u></b>	<b>DFW dog training, nonlethal</b> Establishing a department of fish and wildlife directed nonlethal program for the purpose of training dogs. 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
<b><u>2SHB 1579</u></b>	<b>Chinook abundance</b> Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Fitzgibbon	Oppose
<b><u>ESHB 1622</u></b> <b>(SB 5675)</b>	<b>Drought preparedness</b> Concerning drought preparedness and response.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Blake	Concerns
<b><u>2SHB 1784</u></b>	<b>Wildfire prevention</b> Concerning wildfire prevention.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Kretz	Support
<b><u>SSB 5010</u></b>	<b>Protected lands/fire levies</b> Addresses parcels of land that do not pay the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire district levy.	H Rules R	Rolfes	Support
	<b>Clean energy</b>	H Finance	Carlyle	Oppose

**E2SSB 5116**  
**(2SHB**  
**1211)**

Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.

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<b><u>ESB 5273</u></b> <b>(HB 1310)</b>	<b>Presidential primary</b>	C 7 L 19	Hunt	Neutral
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Changes the dates for the presidential primary; and for the secretary of state to propose an alternative date for the primary, including to coordinate a regional primary with Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, or Utah. Prohibits the proposed date from being before the earliest date permitted by the national rules of the major political parties. Requires each party to determine which candidates are to be placed on the presidential primary ballot for that party. Requires a ballot, if requested by a party chair, to contain a place for a voter to indicate a preference for having delegates to the party's national convention remain uncommitted.

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<b><u>SSB 5502</u></b> <b>(HB 1494)</b>	<b>Redistricting deadlines</b>	H SGOVDP	Zeiger	Support
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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.

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<b><u>SSB 5552</u></b>	<b>Pollinators</b>	H RDev, Ag&NR	Liias	Support
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Concerning the protection of native pollinators, including bees.

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<b><u>SSB 5883</u></b>	<b>Farm products/vehicle weight</b>	H Trans	King	Support
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Authorizing vehicles or combinations of vehicles carrying farm products to exceed total gross weight limits.

### Low Priority Bills

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	
<b><u>E2SHB 1114</u></b>	<b>Food waste reduction</b>	S Ag/Water/Natur	Doglio	Support
	Reducing the wasting of food in order to fight hunger and reduce environmental impacts.			
<b><u>HB 1187</u></b>	<b>Fish habitat projects</b>	S Ag/Water/Natura	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.			
<b><u>2SHB 1205</u></b> <b>(ESSB 5323)</b>	<b>Plastic bags</b>	H Rules R	Peterson	Concerns
	Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments.			
<b><u>E2SHB 1401</u></b> <b>(SB 5719)</b>	<b>Hemp production</b>	S Ag/Water/Natura	Shea	Support
	Concerning hemp production.			
<b><u>ESHB 1966</u></b> <b>(SSB 5723)</b>	<b>Pedestrian, etc. safety</b>	S Transportation	Kilduff	
	Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other roadway users.			
<b><u>HR 4611</u></b>	<b>Washington FFA Association</b>	H Adopted	Dye	Support
	Recognizes Washington FFA Association.			

<b><u>SSB 5063</u></b> <b>(HB 1209)</b>	<b>Ballots, prepaid postage</b>	H State Govt & Tr	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.			
<b><u>ESSB 5139</u></b>	<b>Daylight saving time</b>	H State Govt & Tr	Honeyford	Oppose
	Declares an intent to observe daylight saving time year-round, if authorized by the United States congress. Requires the department of commerce to review impacts the state time zone and daylight saving time have on commerce in the state.			
<b><u>ESSB 5148</u></b>	<b>Hunting/visible clothing</b>	H Rules R	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.			
<b><u>ESSB 5323</u></b> <b>(2SHB 1205)</b>	<b>Plastic bags</b>	H Env & Energy	Das	Concerns
	Reducing pollution from plastic bags by establishing minimum state standards for the use of bags at retail establishments.			
<b><u>SSB 5723</u></b> <b>(ESHB 1966)</b>	<b>Pedestrian, etc. safety</b>	H Trans	Saldana	
	Increasing safety on roadways for pedestrians, bicyclists, tractors and other roadway users.			

### Monitoring Bills

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>	
<b><u>HB 1429</u></b> <b>(SB 5447)</b>	<b>Dairy milk assessment fee</b>	S Ag/Water/Natura	Shewmake	Neutral
	Extending the dairy milk assessment fee to June 30, 2025.			
<b><u>SB 5447</u></b> <b>(HB 1429)</b>	<b>Dairy milk assessment fee</b>	H RDev, Ag&NR	Van De Wege	Neutral
	Extending the dairy milk assessment fee to June 30, 2025.			

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