



Session Watch

Tuesday, February 16, 2021 (day 36 of the 120-day session)

Week 5 Recap

February 15 is policy committee cutoff. This is a big event because it means that any bill that has not passed out of its policy committee by Monday is dead. After this week, the bill tracking list will be much shorter. Of course, nothing in the legislative process is that simple. Bills with significant financial consequences are exempt from cutoff and dead bills can come back to life if leadership wants them to.

House Joint Resolution 4205 would add a new section to the Washington State Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources. It is co-sponsored by fourteen Democratic legislators. It is scheduled for public hearing on February 15 at 1:30.

Constitutional amendments require a 2/3s vote of both the House and the Senate as well as a vote of the people.

This week, Senate Republicans released a 2021-23 budget proposal aimed at restarting schools and bringing jobs back, while saving money for lower-income families. Since Republicans are in the minority, we will have to wait and see if the majority party uses any of the ideas put forward. The majority party budget proposal is not expected for several weeks.

State revenue has continued to grow during the pandemic. State revenues are expected to climb an additional 7% over the next two-year budget period under the current tax system.

Numerous proposals for new taxes have been put forward including an income tax on capital gains, a wealth tax, an increased estate tax, a carbon tax and a tax on health insurance.

Highlights of the Senate Republican plan include:

- More than \$1 billion aimed at encouraging school districts to get children back into classrooms, of which \$200 million will go toward safety measures.
- \$333 million in additional assistance for small employers.

- More support for behavioral health.
- \$200 million to support efforts to expand broadband access.
- Eliminating the business-and-occupation (B&O) tax on manufacturing.
- Gradually shifting tax revenue from vehicle sales for use on transportation projects; and
- Full funding for improving forest health to reduce catastrophic wildfires.

In addition to new taxes, the cost of doing business in Washington could increase due to increases in the cost of fuel from the low carbon fuel standard moving through the legislature. Increasing the cost of fuel increases the cost of all goods due to transportation.

Negotiations continue on overtime for ag labor. It is far too soon to know how this issue will develop.

How to Testify on Bills this Year

Start here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csiremote/>

Select House or Senate

Committee: Choose the committee where your bill is being heard

Meetings: Choose the date of the hearing

Select the bill you want from the list.

Select:

I would like to submit written testimony.

I would like to testify live during the hearing.

I would like my position noted for the legislative record.

You may check to see who else has signed in to testify.

On the next screen, fill in all the blanks and submit.

You will receive an email with a link for the hearing. At the appropriate time, join the meeting and wait to be admitted.

When you are called to speak, introduce yourself and speak for 1-2 minutes.

To prepare, write down what you want to say. Read it aloud several times. Time yourself.

To find hearings not listed below, look here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/>

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 Events

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual, - 2/15 @ 1:30pm

1. HJR 4205 - Public Hearing - Adding a new section to the Washington state Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources. (Oppose/High)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 2/15 @ 4:00pm

2. SSB 5045 - Exec Session - Expanding opportunities for meat and poultry processing and inspection. (Support/High)
3. SB 5063 - Exec Session - Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council. (Support/Low)

Appropriations (House) - Virtual, - 2/16 @ 1:30pm

4. SHB 1099 - Public Hearing - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/Medium)
5. SHB 1117 - Public Hearing - Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/High)

Transportation (House) - Virtual, - 2/16 @ 1:30pm

6. 2SHB 1091 - Public Hearing - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/Medium)

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual, - 2/17 @ 8:00am

7. SHB 1263 - Public Hearing - Concerning rural infrastructure. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

Finance (House) - Virtual, - 2/17 @ 8:00am

8. HB 1380 - Public Hearing - Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Medium)

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 1036 Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon	Concerns

HB 1117	Comp. planning/salmon Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff	Oppose
HB 1135 (SB 5165)	Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey	Concerns
HB 1285 (SB 5281)	Fruit & vegetable businesses Modifying the business and occupation tax exemption for certain fruit and vegetable businesses.	H Finance	Ormsby	Oppose
HB 1336	Public telecomm. service Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.	H Comm & Econ De	Hansen	Support
SSB 5045	Meat & poultry inspection Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.	S Ways & Means	Warnick	Support
SB 5165 (HB 1135)	Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Hobbs	Concerns
SB 5172 (HB 1217)	Overtime claim retroactivity Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases.	S Labor, Comm &	King	Support
SB 5231 (SHB 1091)	Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	S Environment, E	Stanford	Concerns
SB 5281 (HB 1285)	Fruit & vegetable businesses Modifying the business and occupation tax exemption for certain fruit and vegetable businesses.	S Labor, Comm &	Rolfes	Oppose
SB 5317	Pesticide registration Concerning pesticide registration and pesticide licensing fees.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Warnick	Neutral
SB 5373	Carbon pollution Concerning carbon pollution.	S Environment, E	Lovelett	Concerns

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 1004 Emergency health orders/leg. Concerning legislative oversight of emergency health orders.	H State Govt & Tr	Klippert	Support
SHB 1091 (SB 5231) Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	H Approps	Fitzgibbon	Concerns

<u>HB 1099</u>	Comprehensive planning Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	H Exec Action	Duerr	Concerns
<u>HB 1102</u>	Intrastate meat inspection Establishing an intrastate meat inspection program.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Walsh	Support
<u>HB 1132</u>	Water supply/farming & rural Concerning the protection of water supply for farming and rural economic development.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Kretz	Support
<u>HB 1199</u>	DNR lease termination Providing compensation to department of natural resources lessees whose leases are terminated for reasons other than default.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Corry	Support
<u>HB 1321</u> (SB 5114)	Reopening/public health Concerning safely reopening Washington.	H HC/Wellness	MacEwen	Support
<u>HB 1355</u>	Noxious weeds Concerning noxious weeds.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Dent	Support
<u>HB 1380</u>	Custom farming, etc./tax Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products.	H Finance	Dufault	Support
<u>HB 1434</u>	Ag. mental health hotline Concerning agricultural community mental health hotline services.		Dent	Support
<u>SB 5096</u>	Capital gains tax Concerning an excise tax on gains from the sale or exchange of certain capital assets.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	Oppose
<u>SB 5110</u>	Telecommunications companies Promoting greater access to the internet by modifying permitting, taxation, and other standards for telecommunications companies and facilities.	S Environment, E	Ericksen	Support
<u>SB 5114</u> (HB 1321)	Reopening/public health Concerning safely reopening Washington.	S State Govt & E	Braun	Support
<u>SB 5126</u>	Climate commitment act Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.	S Environment, E	Carlyle	Oppose
<u>SB 5141</u>	Env. justice task force recs Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.	S Environment, E	Salda	Concerns
<u>SB 5159</u>	WDFW payments/property tax Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife.	S Ways & Means	Warnick	Support

SB 5253	Pollinator health Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Lias	Neutral
SB 5362	Agricultural fair funding Ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs.	S Ag/Water/Natur	McCune	Support

Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
HB 1185	Discounted hunting licenses Providing discounted hunting licenses to seniors.	H Approps	Sutherland	Support
HB 1263	Rural infrastructure Concerning rural infrastructure.	H Comm & Econ De	Abbarno	Support
HB 1395	Equity in farming Ensuring equity in farming.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Morgan	Support
SB 5063	Invasive species council exp Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council.	S Ways & Means	Honeyford	Support
SB 5081	Regulatory enforce. /burden Concerning the burden of proof in disputes involving enforcement actions by certain regulatory agencies.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Wagoner	Support
SB 5300	Feeding of garbage to swine Prohibiting the feeding of garbage to swine.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	Support
SB 5306	Salmon habitat planning Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Salomon	Concerns
SB 5359	Motor vehicle sales tax Dedicating the state sales tax on motor vehicles to transportation improvements.	S Ways & Means	Braun	Support

Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
SHB 1050	Fluorinated gases Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.	H Approps	Fitzgibbon	
HB 1080 (SB 5083)	Capital budget 2021-2023 Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger	
HB 1094 (SB 5092)	Operating budget 2021-2023 Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby	

<u>HB 1229</u> (SB 5217)	Assault weapons Concerning assault weapons.	H Civil R & Judi	Peterson
<u>HB 1234</u>	Weapons/government buildings Prohibiting weapons in state capitol buildings and grounds and certain other governmental buildings and facilities.	H Civil R & Judi	Senn
<u>HB 1283</u>	Criminal mischief/weapons Including the open carry or display of weapons within the offense of criminal mischief.	H Civil R & Judi	Senn
<u>HB 1313</u>	Local gov firearm regulation Relating to local government authority to regulate firearms.	H Civil R & Judi	Hackney
<u>HB 1340</u>	Pandemic task force Concerning creation of the statewide pandemic preparation and response task force.	H Comm & Econ De	Lovick
<u>HB 1385</u>	Water rights transfers Limiting transfers of water rights out of their original water resource inventory area.	H R Dev, Ag & NR	Goehner
<u>SSB 5038</u>	Open carry of weapons Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.	S Rules 2	Kuderer
<u>SB 5217</u> (HB 1229)	Assault weapons Concerning assault weapons.	S Law & Justice	Kuderer

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