



Session Watch

Tuesday, January 25, 2021 (day 15 of the 120-day session)

Legislative Session Officially Underway

The 2021 legislative session began January 11 with police and military presence for potential attacks on the Capitol. This legislative session will be one for the history books as lawmakers work from home to conduct this year's session.

This week we learned that the extra security measures around the Capital building will cost taxpayers over \$1.5 million, not including the cost of temporary fencing or the costs related to activating 750 members of the National Guard. All streets within a block of the Capital and Legislative office buildings were blocked off for over a week.

Of great concern to production agriculture and food processing are HB 1285/SB 5281 which would penalize any fruit or vegetable packer or processor by increasing their B&O tax rate if there are any labor related complaints against them. The Department of Labor and Industries oversees enforcing labor laws, and they do a thorough job. Piling on with taxes has the potential to crush businesses. Labor related complaints can include such things as running out of soap in the restroom. The employer could now be penalized with a tax increase. No other industry faces such double jeopardy.

Another bill of concern, SB 5141, creates an environmental justice program. Nearly every decision made by the Departments of Agriculture, Natural Resources, Health, Commerce, Ecology and Transportation would have to be reviewed by a new 15-member Environmental Justice Council. Decisions relating to rules, budget and grants would all have to be reviewed before they could be finalized.

Also, this week, a hearing was held in the House on HB 1135, a \$26 billion transportation package that includes 28 different fees adding up to a total of \$1 per gallon on fuel taxes. The 16-year program includes an 18-cent gas tax boost and carbon fees. A fee of \$15 per ton of carbon dioxide emitted would add an additional 15 cents per gallon to gas. The carbon fee would be imposed in 2023. It would increase to \$20 per ton in 2025, then \$25 in 2027.

Washingtonians would pay a total to 85.4 cents per gallon in taxes on gasoline, the highest in the nation. By comparison, gasoline taxes in Idaho total only 50.4 cents per gallon and 54.4 cents in Oregon. (Diesel would be taxed 3 cents a gallon more.)

The biggest hearing of the week was on SB 5114, concerning safely reopening Washington. Seventeen hundred people signed up.

Looking forward, next Thursday bills increasing pesticide registration and licensing fees and fertilizer registration fees will be heard. These are Department of Agriculture request bills. It has been many years since WSDA increased these fees. The increased revenue will allow WSDA to move to electronic registration, accepting electronic payment and expanding applicator educational program, especially for airblast sprayer operators.

You will note that numerous bills about guns have been introduced. I have not noted positions on those bills. I will wait for input from the Legislative Committee. All positions and priorities are subject to change by the Legislative committee.

New bills will continue to be introduced for another two weeks, then the list will begin to shrink.

Grange Legislative "Zoom" Meeting

Join us February 8th at 10:00am for this year's "Legislative Day". Since we can not meet in person, we will be meeting via Zoom to hear the latest happenings in the legislature as well as learning how to effectively lobby this year.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581
One tap mobile +12532158782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)
Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

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, - 1/26 @ 8:00am

1. HB 1050 - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.

Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual, - 1/26 @ 10:00am

2. HB 1199 - Public Hearing - Providing compensation to department of natural resources lessees whose leases are terminated for reasons other than default. (Support/Medium)

Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual, - 1/26 @ 10:30am

3. SB 5038 - Public Hearing - Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol. (Remote testimony.)

Community & Economic Development (House) - Virtual, - 1/27 @ 10:00am

4. HB 1263 - Public Hearing - Concerning rural infrastructure. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)
5. HB 1336 - Public Hearing - Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Medium)

Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - Virtual, - 1/28 @ 8:00am

6. SB 5172 - Public Hearing - Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases. (Remote testimony.) (Support/High)

Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual, - 1/28 @ 10:30am

7. SB 5038 - Exec Session - Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.

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

8. SB 5159 - Exec Session - Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife. (Support/Medium)
9. SB 5300 - Public Hearing - Prohibiting the feeding of garbage to swine. (Support/Low)
10. SB 5317 - Public Hearing - Concerning pesticide registration and pesticide licensing fees. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.) (Remote testimony.) (Neutral/High)

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual, - 1/28 @ 1:30pm

11. HB 1050 - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.
12. HB 1099 - Exec Session - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Concerns/Medium)
13. HB 1117 - Public Hearing - Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/High)

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual, - 1/29 @ 10:00am

14. HB 1099 - Exec Session - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Concerns/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 1285 (SB 5281) Fruit & vegetable businesses Modifying the business and occupation tax exemption for certain fruit and vegetable businesses.	H Finance	Ormsby	Oppose
SB 5172 (HB 1217) Overtime claim retroactivity Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases.	S Labor, Comm &	King	Support
SB 5231 (HB 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

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
HB 1091 (SB 5231) Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	H Exec Action	Fitzgibbon	Concerns
HB 1099 Comprehensive planning Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	H Env & Energy	Duerr	Concerns

HB 1102	Intrastate meat inspection Establishing an intrastate meat inspection program.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Walsh	Support
HB 1132	Water supply/farming & rural Concerning the protection of water supply for farming and rural economic development.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Kretz	Support
HB 1199	DNR lease termination Providing compensation to department of natural resources lessees whose leases are terminated for reasons other than default.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Corry	Support
HB 1321 (SB 5114)	Reopening/public health Concerning safely reopening Washington.	H HC/Wellness	MacEwen	Support
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
HB 1355	Noxious weeds Concerning noxious weeds.		Dent	Support
SSB 5045	Meat & poultry inspection Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.	S Ways & Means	Warnick	Support
SB 5096	Capital gains tax Concerning an excise tax on gains from the sale or exchange of certain capital assets.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	Oppose
SB 5110	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
SB 5114 (HB 1321)	Reopening/public health Concerning safely reopening Washington.	S State Govt & E	Braun	Support
SB 5126	Climate commitment act Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.	S Environment, E	Carlyle	Oppose
SB 5141	Env. justice task force recs Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.	S Environment, E	Saldaña	Concerns
SB 5159	WDFW payments/property tax Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Warnick	Support
SB 5253	Pollinator health Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Liias	Neutral

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
SB 5063 Invasive species council exp Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council.	S Ways & Means	Honeyford	Support
SB 5300 Feeding of garbage to swine Prohibiting the feeding of garbage to swine.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	Support

Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 1050 Fluorinated gases Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.	H Env & Energy	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	
HB 1229 (SB 5217) Assault weapons Concerning assault weapons.	H Civil R & Judi	Peterson	
HB 1234 Weapons/government buildings Prohibiting weapons in state capitol buildings and grounds and certain other governmental buildings and facilities.	H Civil R & Judi	Senn	
HB 1283 Criminal mischief/weapons Including the open carry or display of weapons within the offense of criminal mischief.	H Civil R & Judi	Senn	
HB 1313 Local gov firearm regulation Relating to local government authority to regulate firearms.	H Civil R & Judi	Hackney	
HB 1340 Pandemic task force Concerning creation of the statewide pandemic preparation and response task force.	H Comm & Econ De	Lovick	
SB 5038 Open carry of weapons	S Law & Justice	Kuderer	

Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.

[SB 5217](#)
(HB 1229)

Assault weapons
Concerning assault weapons.

S Law & Justice

Kuderer

Legislative Department

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