



Session Watch

Monday, March 22, 2021 (day 70 of the 120-day session)

Week 10 Recap

Budget writers got a big boost from the state revenue forecast this week. Revenue projections are up \$3.2 billion over expectations for the next four years. The feared shortfall from COVID-19 did not happen.

General Fund revenues are now projected to be \$56.6 billion for the next two-year state budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2021. The increase in projected revenues would leave the state with a net surplus of nearly \$3 billion at the end of current biennium on June 30, 2021.

The state Economic and Revenue Forecast Council did acknowledge there are still dark spots. Some sectors of the economy have not recovered and unemployment is still high. But all total, the 2021-23 budget could be written without deep cuts or new taxes.

Over halfway through session, a new bi-partisan bill to curb the emergency powers of the governor was introduced in the state House of Representatives. Representative Drew MacEwan (R) and Mike Chapman (D) sponsored HB 1557, which would limit the governor's emergency powers to 60 days unless extended by the legislature. Several similar bills were introduced by Republican's earlier in the session but were not heard. This one was scheduled for hearing almost immediately.

A bill that would implement a per mile charge on electric and hybrid vehicles continues to move. SB 5444 requires the Washington State Transportation Commission and the Department of Licensing to develop an implementation plan. The bill includes provisions related to privacy of the new system, including making any related personal information exempt from the public records act.

SB 5300 which prohibits feeding garbage that includes meat to swine continues to move. This is a Department of Agriculture request bill. They note that more and more people are raising pigs. Meat scraps fed to pigs can transit diseases.

On the carbon front, the House passed HB 1091 which would create a low-carbon fuel standard. If it passes the Senate, the LCFS could drive the price of gas up by as much as 57 cents a gallon, and diesel as high as 63 cents a gallon, without generating any new revenue for transportation projects. The California Legislative Analyst's Office recommend to the California Legislature they amend or eliminate their low-carbon fuel standard because it produces very little air quality benefits.

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.

All events listed below can be watched on TVW, <https://www.tvw.org/schedule-main/>. If you don't have time to watch when the committee is live, you can go back later and watch the video. You may sign up to testify, to register your position or submit written comments during a public hearing by using this link;

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

Enter the name of the committee and the date as shown below. Exec Session is when the committee amends and votes on the bill.

Upcoming Events

Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual, - 3/22 @ 1:30pm

1. SSB 5325 - Public Hearing - Concerning telemedicine. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Medium)

Appropriations (House) - Virtual, - 3/22 @ 3:30pm

2. 2SSB 5362 - Exec Session - Ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs. (Support/Medium)

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 8:00am

3. E2SSB 5141 - Exec Session - Reducing environmental and health disparities and improving the health of all Washington state residents by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force. (Concerns/Medium)

Community & Economic Development (House) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 10:00am

4. 2SSB 5383 - Exec Session - Authorizing public utility districts and port districts to provide retail telecommunications services in unserved areas under certain conditions.

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 10:00am

5. ESSB 5172 - Public Hearing - Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Providing overtime standards for the agricultural workforce.) (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/High)

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 10:30am

6. E2SHB 1050 - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 1:30pm

7. 2SHB 1168 - Public Hearing - Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers. (Hearing is on the Proposed Striking Amendment.) (Neutral/Medium)

Transportation (House) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 3:30pm

8. HB 1135 - Public Hearing - *Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/High)

Transportation (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/23 @ 4:00pm

9. SB 5165 - Public Hearing - Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/High)

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/24 @ 8:00am

- 10. ESHB 1336 - Exec Session - Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users. (Support/High)

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - Virtual, - 3/24 @ 10:00am

- 11. ESSB 5172 - Exec Session - Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Providing overtime standards for the agricultural workforce.). (Oppose/High)

Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual, - 3/24 @ 10:00am

- 12. SB 5063 - Exec Session - Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council. (Support/Low)
- 13. SB 5159 - Exec Session - Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife. (Support/Medium)
- 14. 2SSB 5253 - Exec Session - Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force. (Neutral/Medium)

Housing & Local Government (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/24 @ 10:30am

- 15. E2SHB 1099 - Exec Session - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Concerns/Medium)
- 16. E2SHB 1117 - Exec Session - Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Oppose/High)

Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual, - 3/25 @ 10:00am

- 17. SSB 5325 - Exec Session - Concerning telemedicine. (Support/Medium)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/25 @ 1:30pm

- 18. 2SHB 1168 - Exec Session - Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers. (Neutral/Medium)

Transportation (House) - Virtual, - 3/25 @ 3:30pm

- 19. HB 1135 - Exec Session - Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. (Concerns/High)

Transportation (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/25 @ 4:00pm

- 20. SB 5165 - Exec Session - Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. (Concerns/High)

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - Virtual, - 3/26 @ 8:00am

- 21. ESSB 5172 - Exec Session - Providing overtime standards for the agricultural workforce. (High)

Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual, - 3/26 @ 8:00am

- 22. 2SSB 5045 - Exec Session - Expanding opportunities for meat and poultry processing and inspection. (Support/High)
- SSB 5317 - Exec Session - Concerning pesticide registration and pesticide licensing fees. (Neutral/High)

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
E2SHB 1117 Comp. planning/salmon Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Housing & Local	Lekanoff	Oppose
HB 1135 (SB 5165) Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey	Concerns
ESHB 1336 Public telecomm. service Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.	S Environment, En	Hansen	Support

HB 1465	Estate tax Making the estate tax more progressive by exempting small estates, reducing estate taxes on medium estates, increasing the estate tax on larger estates.	H Finance	Orwall	Concerns
2SSB 5045	Meat & poultry inspection Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Warnick	Support
ESSB 5096	Capital gains tax Concerning an excise tax on gains from the sale or exchange of certain capital assets.	H Finance	Robinson	Oppose
SB 5165 (HB 1135)	Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Hobbs	Concerns
ESSB 5172	Agricultural overtime Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases.	H Labor & Workpla	King	
SSB 5317	Pesticide registration Concerning pesticide registration and pesticide licensing fees.	H RDev, Ag&NR	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>
E3SHB 1091 (SB 5231)	Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	S Ways & Means Fitzgibbon	Concerns
E2SHB 1099	Comprehensive planning Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Housing & Loca Duerr	Concerns
2SHB 1168	Long-term forest health Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.	S Ag/Water/Natura Springer	Neutral
ESHB 1196	Audio-only telemedicine Concerning audio-only telemedicine.	S Health & Long T Riccelli	Support

EHB 1199	DNR lease termination Providing compensation to department of natural resources lessees whose leases are terminated for reasons other than default.	S Rules 2	Corry	Support
SHB 1355	Noxious weeds Concerning noxious weeds.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Dent	Support
HB 1557	Gubernatorial proclamations Increasing legislative involvement in gubernatorial proclamations relating to a state of emergency.	H State Govt & Tr	MacEwen	Support
SSB 5126	Climate commitment act Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.	S Ways & Means	Carlyle	Oppose
E2SSB 5141	Env. justice task force recs Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.	H Env & Energy	Saldana	Concerns
SB 5159	WDFW payments/property tax Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of the fish and wildlife.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Warnick	Support
2SSB 5253	Pollinator health Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Liias	Neutral
SSB 5325	Telemedicine Concerning audio-only telemedicine.	H HC/Wellness	Muzzall	Support
2SSB 5362	Agricultural fair funding Ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs.	H Approps	McCune	Support
ESSB 5439	Broadband/state highways Facilitating the coordinated installation of broadband along state highways.	H Transportation	Saldana	Support

Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
SB 5063	Invasive species council exp	H RDev, Ag&NR	Honeyford	Support

Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council.

SB 5300	Feeding of garbage to swine Prohibiting the feeding of garbage to swine.	H Exec Action	Van De Wege	Support
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Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
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E2SHB 1050	Fluorinated gases Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.	S Environment, En	Fitzgibbon
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HB 1080 (SB 5083)	Capital budget 2021-2023 Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
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HB 1094 (SB 5092)	Operating budget 2021-2023 Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby
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ESSB 5038	Open carry of weapons Prohibiting the open carry of certain weapons at public demonstrations and the state capitol.	H Exec Action	Kuderer
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2SSB 5383	Public telecomm. services Authorizing a public utility district to provide retail telecommunications services in unserved areas under certain conditions.	H Comm & Econ Dev	Wellman
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SSB 5444	Electric vehicles/per mile Implementing a per mile charge on electric and hybrid vehicles.	S Rules 2	Saldana
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Legislative Department

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