



Session Watch

Monday, March 29, 2021 (day 77 of the 120-day session)

Week 11 Recap

Today is final policy committee cutoff. All bills must have passed out of policy committees by the end of the day or they will be considered dead. Fiscal and transportation committees will continue to meet.

Proposed budgets came out this week. Washington Senate Democrats propose new, \$59.2 billion operating budget that includes a 7% capital-gains tax. It includes funding for forest health and rural broadband, but many legislators believe the tax increase is inappropriate considering that state tax revenue is at an all-time high and federal money is coming. The House proposal is due out later today.

The influx of cash is allowing legislators to fund items that have been on the back burner for years. One of those is funding for agricultural fairs. Increased funding is phased in, reaching \$4 million/year in 2026 and beyond.

Not all that happened this week was good. ESSB 5172 - Providing overtime standards for the agricultural workforce. The amendment to add consideration for seasonal labor failed. House Democrats opposed it. There is still a possibility it can be amended in, but it is not looking good.

SSB 5317 – Pesticide License fee increase (WSDA) was amended to reduce the amount of the increase for pesticide license fees. The private applicator license fee will increase to \$38.

\$4.5 million is provided to create a special compliance unit within the Department of Labor & Industries. Thirteen staff will perform compliance inspections and investigate incidents specific to the agricultural industry, and three staff will provide bilingual outreach to agricultural workers and employers to increase awareness of workplace safety, workers' compensation services, workplace rights, discrimination, and other protections.

\$5 million is provided to the state Conservation Commission to increase the capacity of conservation districts to assist landowners achieve environmental stewardship and agricultural sustainability.

Gypsy Moth Eradication - Funding is provided to conduct eradication treatments and follow-up monitoring to ensure gypsy moths do not reproduce.

Asian Giant Hornets - State and federal funds are provided for the continued detection and eradication of the Asian giant hornet.

Look for more details on the budgets in weeks to come.

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/>

Upcoming Events

Appropriations (House) - Virtual, - 3/27 @ 9:00am

1. HB 1094 - Public Hearing - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/27 @ 10:00am

2. E3SHB 1091 - Public Hearing - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/Medium)
3. E2SHB 1099 - Public Hearing - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/Medium)

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual, - 3/29 @ 10:00am

4. HB 1080 - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Remote testimony.)

Appropriations (House) - Virtual, - 3/29 @ 1:30pm

5. HB 1094 - Exec Session - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.

Transportation (House) - Virtual, - 3/29 @ 1:30pm

6. ESSB 5439 - Exec Session - Facilitating the coordinated installation of broadband along state highways. (Support/Medium)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/29 @ 1:30pm

7. E3SHB 1091 - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel. (Concerns/Medium)
8. E2SHB 1099 - Exec Session - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Concerns/Medium)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/30 @ 1:30pm

9. E2SHB 1050 - Public Hearing - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases. (Remote testimony.)
10. 2SHB 1168 - Public Hearing - Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers. (Remote testimony.) (Neutral/Medium)
11. SHB 1355 - Public Hearing - Concerning noxious weeds. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Medium)

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual, - 3/31 @ 9:00am

12. HB 1080 - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 3/31 @ 1:30pm

13. E2SHB 1117 - Public Hearing - Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/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 Ways & Means	Lekanoff	Oppose
SHB 1135 (SSB 5165) Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	H TRDPS	Fey	Concerns
ESHB 1336 Public telecomm. service Creating and expanding unrestricted authority for public entities to provide telecommunications services to end users.	S Rules 2	Hansen	Support

<u>HB 1465</u>	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, and addressing equity in homeownership and homelessness.	H Finance	Orwall	Concerns
<u>2SSB 5045</u>	Meat & poultry inspection Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.	H RDANDP	Warnick	Support
<u>ESSB 5096</u>	Capital gains tax Concerning an excise tax on gains from the sale or exchange of certain capital assets.	H Finance	Robinson	Oppose
<u>SSB 5165</u> <u>(SHB 1135)</u>	Transp. budget 2021-2023 Making transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	S TRANDPS	Hobbs	Concerns
<u>ESSB 5172</u> <u>(HB 1217)</u>	Agricultural overtime Concerning the retroactivity of overtime claims in exceptional cases.	H LAWSDP	King	Oppose
<u>SSB 5317</u>	Pesticide registration Concerning pesticide registration and pesticide licensing fees.	H RDANDPA	Warnick	Neutral
<u>SB 5373</u>	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>	
<u>E3SHB 1091</u>	Transportation fuel/carbon Reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing the carbon intensity of transportation fuel.	S Ways & Means	Fitzgibbon	Concerns
<u>E2SHB 1099</u>	Comprehensive planning Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Ways & Means	Duerr	Concerns
<u>2SHB 1168</u>	Long-term forest health Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.	S Ways & Means	Springer	Neutral
<u>ESHB 1196</u>	Audio-only telemedicine Concerning audio-only telemedicine.	S RecComm	Riccelli	Support
<u>EHB 1199</u>	DNR lease termination Providing compensation to department of natural resources lessees whose leases are terminated for reasons other than default.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Corry	Support

SHB 1355	Noxious weeds Concerning noxious weeds.	S Ways & Means	Dent	Support
HB 1537	Fossil fuel tax preferences Terminating certain tax preferences for fossil fuel products.	H Finance	Ramel	Oppose
HB 1557	Gubernatorial proclamations Increasing legislative involvement in gubernatorial proclamations relating to a state of emergency.	H State Govt & T	MacEwen	Support
2SSB 5126	Climate commitment act Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.	S Rules 2	Carlyle	Oppose
E2SSB 5141	Env. justice task force recs Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force.	H ENVIDPA	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 Approps	Warnick	Support
2SSB 5253	Pollinator health Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.	H RDANDPA	Lias	Neutral
SSB 5325	Telemedicine Concerning audio-only telemedicine.	H HCWDP	Muzzall	Support
2SSB 5362	Agricultural fair funding Ensuring the funding of agricultural fairs.	H Rules R	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 Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council.	H Approps	Honeyford	Support
SB 5300	Feeding of garbage to swine Prohibiting the feeding of garbage to swine.	H Rules R	Van De Wege	Support

Other Bills

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

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