



Session Watch

Tuesday, February 8, 2022 (day 29 of the 60-day session)

Committee Cutoff began Thursday

That means any bill that did not pass its policy committee is dead. On many issues, we can breathe a sigh of relief. In many cases, bills are introduced in both the House and the Senate. By this point, sponsors have decided to move one and let the companion die. The bill tracking list accompanying this report will be significantly shorter. However, there are caveats. First, nothing is really dead until the last gavel falls on March 10. Bills can and do come back to life. Second, dead bills can be reincarnated as budget provisos. Provisos do not become law, but they can direct agencies to take action.

HB 1838, the Governor's salmon buffer bill, is dead. However, Governor's policy staff stated in a presentation to the AgForestry Leadership class yesterday that the "Governor wants action this session." Without a bill, that means one or more budget provisos. We are hopeful the budget will include more funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). It may also include funding for the department of fish and wildlife to map riparian areas across the state. As of this morning, rumor has it, the Governor wants even more.

HB 1856 allows more counties opt into the voluntary stewardship program (VSP). VSP was created a decade ago to help finance voluntary conservation projects by farmers to enhance riparian habitat. This voluntary program was agreed to in place of mandatory buffers. While most eastern Washington counties opted in, ten western Washington counties did not. Now, several of them are interested. This bill would allow them to join.

New concerns arose this week as two bills that died last year were resurrected. HB 1099 adds planning for climate change to the Growth Management Act. HB 1117 adds net ecological gain to promote salmon recovery to the Growth

Management Act. Both bills could result in new regulations on ag land at the county level. Any time a landowner needs a permit to work in or near water, that permit could come with additional restrictions if the bills pass.

HB 1652 would change the requirements for conservation district elections. Some conservation districts, especially in more populous areas, have faced criticism about poorly publicized elections with very low turnout. Some of these districts handle large sums of money for conservation programs. The bill would allow conservation districts to use the general election ballot in November or continue to organize their own elections. The Washington Association of Conservation Districts and the State Conservation Commission both support the bill.

HB 1727 would eliminate the statewide general election in odd-numbered years. This would also eliminate citizen initiatives in odd numbered years.

SB 5643 supports youth participation in youth development programs focusing on agricultural by having the state pay membership fees. Payments would be channeled through the Fair Fund. The bill adds \$500,000 to the Fair Fund to cover this expense. In order to be reimbursed, the program must submit a roster of participating youth to the State Department of Agriculture.

SB 5882 clarifies that nothing contained in the Water Code shall be construed to modify existing riparian stock watering rights. Requires a riparian landowner who implements a de minimus surface water diversion to water livestock (such as a nose pump) must provide notice of such use to the Department of Ecology within two years of the effective date of the bill or within two years of installation.

How to Testify on Bills this Year

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

Select **House** or **Senate**

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Meetings: **Choose the date of the hearing**

Select the bill you want from the list.

Select:

I would like to submit written testimony.

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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:

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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 F

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
SHB 1727 Odd-numbered year elections Concerning odd-numbered year elections.	H Rules R	Gregerson	Oppose
SSB 5643 Youth development programs Supporting youth development.	S Ways & Means	Schoesler	Support
SB 5653 Pesticide commission name Changing the name of the commission on pesticide registration to the commission on integrated pest management.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Rolfes	Support
SSB 5882 (HB 2106) Riparian stock watering Clarifying the existence of riparian stock watering rights.	S Rules 2	Muzzall	Support

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
E2SHB 1099	Comprehensive planning Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Housing & Local Duerr	Concerns
HB 1544	Ag., food, nat. resource ed. Concerning agriculture, food, and natural resource education.	H Education Klippert	Support
HB 1641	Custom farming, etc./tax Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products.	H Rules R Hoff	Support
SHB 1652	Conserv. district elections Concerning conservation district elections.	H Rules R Dolan	Oppose
HB 1856	Voluntary stewardship prog. Adding counties to the voluntary stewardship program.	H Approps Chambers	Support
HB 1858	B&O tax rates Alleviating consumer inflation by leveraging the state's significant budget surplus to reduce taxes on producers of certain consumer staple goods. Eliminates B&O tax on food processing.	H Finance Stokesbary	Support
HB 1891	Rangeland fire pilot Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.	H Approps Dent	Support
SHB 1918	Power equipment emissions Reducing emissions from outdoor power equipment.	H Finance Macri	Neutral
SHB 1993	Pesticide advisory board Creating the pesticide advisory board.	H Rules R Dent	Support
HB 2026	Vehicle per mile charge Implementing a per mile charge on vehicles.	H Transportation Wicks	
SHB 2051 (SB 5936)	Agricultural disaster assist Providing short-term disaster recovery financial assistance to agricultural producers.	H Rules R Rule	Support
HB 2102	Farmworkers study & audits	H Approps Ortiz-Self	Oppose

Commissioning a study and audits to examine current laws applicable to farmworkers related to workplace health and safety, housing needs, and harassment, discrimination, and retaliation.

SB 5505	Farmers market prop. tax ex. Reinstating a property tax exemption for property owned by certain nonprofit organizations where a portion of the property is used for the purpose of a farmers market.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Rolfes	Support
SB 5624	Livestock identification Extending the expiration date of certain sections of chapter 92, Laws of 2019, regarding livestock identification.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Warnick	Support
SB 5897	Fuel tax suspension Concerning a temporary suspension of the state motor vehicle fuel tax.	S Transportation	Sefzik	Support

Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
HB 1683	Current use classification Concerning involuntary removal of property from current use classification.	H Finance	Corry	Support
HB 1837	Musculoskeletal injuries Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries.	H Rules R	Bronoske	Concerns
SSB 5613	Use of dogs to hunt Concerning the use of dogs to hunt black bear, cougar, or bobcat.	S 2nd Reading	Van De Wege	Oppose
SB 5641	Greenhouses Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses.	H Local Govt	Short	Support
SSB 5746	Drought preparedness Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding.	S Ways & Means	Warnick	Support
SB 5932	Sales and use tax rate Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.	S Ways & Means	Das	Support

Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
SHB 1629 (SB 5538)	Aerial imaging technology Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments.	H Rules R	Dolan	
HB 1631	Food/environmental steward.	H Approps	Shewmake	

Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.

<u>SHB 1653</u>	Anadromous fish recovery Improving statewide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery. Creates a "Salmon Cabinet" to help coordinate salmon recovery efforts.	H Approps	Lekanoff
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<u>SHB 1799</u> (SB 5731)	Organic materials management Concerning organic materials management.	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
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<u>SHB 1812</u>	Energy facility site council Modernizing the energy facility site evaluation council to meet the state's clean energy goals.	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
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<u>HB 1816</u> (SB 5693)	Operating budget, supp. Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. Dept. of Commerce - p. 85 - agrivoltaics DNR - p. 410 (33) \$442,000 of the general fundâstate appropriation for fiscal year 2023 is provided solely for implementation of chapter 316, Laws of 2021 (Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill No. 5126) (climate commitment act).	H Approps	Ormsby
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<u>HB 1823</u>	Climate funding/outdoor rec. Concerning environmental leadership through outdoor recreation and climate adaptation investments.	H Approps	Dye
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<u>SHB 1861</u> (SSB 5752)	Future fund trust fund Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	H Approps	Stonier
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<u>HB 1928</u>	Equine industry support Concerning equine industry support.	H Exec Action	Schmick
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<u>SSB 5752</u> (SHB 1861)	Future fund trust fund Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
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