



# Session Watch

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Tuesday, January 18, 2022 (day 9 of the 60-day session)

## **Legislative Session Officially Underway**

The Washington State legislative session began Monday, January 10 with a slew of bills already pre-filed. Once again, from the public's perspective, the session will be virtual. All hearings will be remote. It does appear there are more legislators in town than there were a year ago, but all offices remain closed to the public. This is a 60-day session that will conclude March 10.

Overall, the biggest issues are anticipated to be reforming the long-term care act passed last year, reforming police accountability passed last year, affordable housing, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and saving salmon.

State revenue growth has remained strong through the pandemic. Tax collections have doubled since before the recession and are currently the second strongest in the country. The state has a four-year surplus of \$8.8 billion, the highest in at least 20 years. Governor Inslee is proposing to spend \$626 million on efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, \$800 million to help combat homelessness and \$187 million to save salmon.

The governor's salmon proposal includes creating new buffers along waterways that run through ag land. The proposal permanently removes land from production with limited compensation for the owner. Some funding would be available to help establish buffers. Forest land is exempt because the Forest and Fish law already includes riparian buffers. Land with buildings or roads is also exempt. The proposal was developed without any input from the agricultural industry.

The governor's proposal was introduced as Senate Bill 5727 by Senator Rolfes and House Bill 1838 by Rep. Lekanoff. The width of the buffer would be site potential tree height which

is 100-240 feet on either side of every stream in western Washington and 75-80 feet in dry areas of the state. The land must be taken out of production and planted with riparian plants as determined by the department of fish and wildlife, who is responsible for enforcement. If the department determines that a landowner is not in compliance, they must provide the landowner with a list of corrective actions. If the landowner does not complete the actions on the department's timeline, the bill specifies fines of \$10,000-a-day per violation. These bills are among the most harmful Washington agriculture has seen in decades. HB 1828 is schedule for hearing on January 19.

Another horrible bill is the Farmworker study outlined in House Bill 1847 sponsored by Rep. Ortiz. It directs advocacy organizations to interview farmworkers about how they are treated. It assumes the advocacy organizations represent all farmworkers. It fails to recognize that is a very narrow viewpoint. It also requires performance audits on the department of labor and industries' administration of wage and hour laws, health and safety standards, harassment, and retaliation. This duplicates recently completed work. It is scheduled for hearing January 21.

House Bill 1918 sponsored by Rep. Macri would double the sales tax on outdoor power equipment that is not emission free. It also prohibits state and local governments from buying outdoor power equipment that is not emission free. It includes chainsaws, power sprayers, lawn care equipment and all other outdoor power equipment less than 25 horsepower. If this passes, the next time a tree falls over the road, the county would have to remove it using a battery powered chain saw that most likely stops working when it gets cold. This bill has not yet been scheduled for hearing.

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## Grange Legislative Committee "Zoom" Workshop

Join us January 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am for this years' "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

### Finance (House) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 10:00am

1. HB 1641 - Public Hearing - Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

### Housing, Human Services & Veterans (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 8:00am

2. HB 1861 - Public Hearing - Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program. (Remote testimony.)

### Community & Economic Development (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 10:00am

3. HB 1629 - Public Hearing - Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments. (Remote testimony.)

### Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 10:00am

4. HB 1837 - Public Hearing - Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries. (Remote testimony.)

### Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 10:00am

5. HB 1631 - Exec Session - Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.

**Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 1:30pm**

- 6. SB 5624 - Public Hearing - Extending the expiration date of certain sections of chapter 92, Laws of 2019, regarding livestock identification. (Remote testimony.)
- 7. SB 5632 - Public Hearing - Concerning investments in critical water infrastructure projects. (Remote testimony.)
- 8. SB 5641 - Public Hearing - Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

**Finance (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 1:30pm**

- 9. HB 1683 - Public Hearing - Concerning involuntary removal of property from current use classification. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

**Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 10:00am**

- 10. HB 1838 - Public Hearing - Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery. (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/High)
- 11. HB 1891 - Public Hearing - Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project. (Remote testimony.)

**Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 10:30am**

- 12. SB 5517 - Public Hearing - Concerning employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis. (Remote testimony.) (Concerns/Medium)

**State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 10:00am**

- 13. HB 1653 - Public Hearing - Improving statewide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery. (Remote testimony.)

**Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 1:30pm**

- 14. SB 5624 - Exec Session - Extending the expiration date of certain sections of chapter 92, Laws of 2019, regarding livestock identification.
- 15. SB 5633 - Public Hearing - Planning for the prevention of permanent loss of forests in Washington state. (Remote testimony.)
- 16. SB 5641 - Exec Session - Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses. (Support/Low)
- 17. SB 5746 - Exec Session - Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding. (Support/Low)

**Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 1:30pm**

- 18. HB 1799 - Public Hearing - Concerning organic materials management. (Remote testimony.)

**Community & Economic Development (House) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

- 19. HB 1629 - Exec Session - Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments.

**Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

- 20. HB 1847 - Public Hearing - Understanding the needs of farmworkers. (Remote testimony.) (Oppose/High)

**Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

- 21. HB 1909 - Public Hearing - Concerning the misbranding of meat and poultry products. (Remote testimony.)

**Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (Senate) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 10:30am**

- 22. SB 5752 - Exec Session - Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.

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**High Priority Bills**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 1750</a> Agricultural overtime Authorizing an agricultural employer to select any 12 weeks in a calendar year as special circumstance weeks for labor demand, during which in each of the selected 12 weeks, the agricultural employer may employ agricultural employees for up to 50 hours before the requirement to pay overtime applies under RCW 49.46.130.	H Labor & Workpl	Hoff	Support

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<a href="#">HB 1838</a> (SB 5727)	<b>Salmon habitat</b> Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Lekanoff	Oppose
<a href="#">HB 1847</a>	<b>Farmworkers study</b> Understanding the needs of farmworkers.	H Labor & Workpl	Ortiz-Self	Oppose
<a href="#">HB 1993</a>	<b>Pesticide advisory board</b> Creating the pesticide advisory board.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	Support
<a href="#">SB 5653</a>	<b>Pesticide commission name</b> Changing the name of the commission on pesticide registration to the commission on integrated pest management.	S 2nd Reading	Rolfes	Support
<a href="#">SB 5665</a>	<b>Salmon habitat</b> Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Rolfes	Concerns
<b>Medium Priority Bills</b>				
<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>		<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
<a href="#">HB 1652</a>	<b>Conserv. district elections</b> Concerning conservation district elections.	H State Govt & T	Dolan	Oppose
<a href="#">HB 1858</a>	<b>B&amp;O tax rates</b> 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
<a href="#">HB 1910</a>	<b>Conserv. district elections</b> Concerning conservation district elections.	H State Govt & T	Gregerson	Support
<a href="#">SB 5505</a>	<b>Farmers market prop. tax ex.</b> 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 Ways & Means	Rolfes	Support
<a href="#">SB 5517</a>	<b>Cannabis/employment</b> Concerning employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis.	S Labor, Comm & T	Keiser	Concerns
<a href="#">SB 5769</a>	<b>State tax system</b> Reforming the state tax system by providing tax relief to residents, employees, and employers.  Reduced property taxes and B&O tax.	S Business, Fina	Wilson	Support
<a href="#">SJR 8210</a> (HJR 4209)	<b>Natural resources</b> Adding a new section to the Washington state Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Das	Oppose

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## Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 1641</a> <b>Custom farming, etc./tax</b> Restoring the business and occupation and public utility tax exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products.	H Finance	Hoff	Support
<a href="#">HB 1683</a> <b>Current use classification</b> Concerning involuntary removal of property from current use classification.	H Finance	Corry	Support
<a href="#">SB 5557</a> <b>New businesses/B&amp;O tax</b> Providing sustainable support for new businesses.  Supports an income tax. Calls for an increase in the B&O tax.	S Business, Finan	Hasegawa	Concerns
<a href="#">SB 5641</a> <b>Greenhouses</b> Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Short	Support
<a href="#">SB 5746</a> <b>Drought preparedness</b> Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Warnick	Support

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## Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 1629</a> (SB 5538) <b>Aerial imaging technology</b> Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments.	H Comm & Econ Dev	Dolan	
<a href="#">HB 1631</a> <b>Food/environmental steward.</b> Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Shewmake	
<a href="#">HB 1653</a> <b>Anadromous fish recovery</b> Improving statewide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery.	H State Govt & T	Lekanoff	
<a href="#">HB 1799</a> (SB 5731) <b>Organic materials management</b> Concerning organic materials management.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon	
<a href="#">HB 1816</a> (SB 5693) <b>Operating budget, supp.</b> 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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<a href="#"><u>HB 1823</u></a>	<b>Climate funding/outdoor rec.</b> Concerning environmental leadership through outdoor recreation and climate adaptation investments.	H Approps	Dye	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1837</u></a>	<b>Musculoskeletal injuries</b> Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries.	H Labor & Workpl	Bronoske	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1861</u></a> (SB 5752)	<b>Future fund trust fund</b> Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	H Hous, Human Sv	Stonier	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1869</u></a>	<b>Salmon/voluntary stewardship</b> Encouraging salmon recovery through voluntary stewardship.	H Env & Energy	Klicker	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1891</u></a>	<b>Rangeland fire pilot</b> Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1909</u></a>	<b>Meat and poultry misbranding</b> Concerning the misbranding of meat and poultry products.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1928</u></a>	<b>Equine industry support</b> Concerning equine industry support.	H Approps	Schmick	
<a href="#"><u>HJR 4209</u></a> (SJR 8210)	<b>Natural resources</b> Adding a new section to the Washington state Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>SB 5511</u></a>	<b>Uniform standard time</b> Concerning uniform standard time for the state of Washington.	S State Govt & EI	Honeyford	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5538</u></a> (HB 1629)	<b>Aerial imaging technology</b> Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments.	S State Govt & EI	Hunt	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5624</u></a>	<b>Livestock identification</b> Extending the expiration date of certain sections of chapter 92, Laws of 2019, regarding livestock identification.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Warnick	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5632</u></a>	<b>Water infra. projects</b> Concerning investments in critical water infrastructure projects.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Honeyford	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5633</u></a>	<b>Forest loss prevention</b> Planning for the prevention of permanent loss of forests in Washington state.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Rolfes	
<a href="#"><u>SB 5643</u></a>	<b>Youth development programs</b> Supporting youth development.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Schoesler	

<a href="#"><u>SB 5721</u></a>	<b>Natural resource management</b> Consolidating natural resource management under the commissioner of public lands.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Van De Wege
<a href="#"><u>SB 5727</u></a> (HB 1838)	<b>Salmon habitat</b> Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Rolfes
<a href="#"><u>SB 5731</u></a> (HB 1799)	<b>Organic materials management</b> Concerning organic materials management.	S Environment, En	Das
<a href="#"><u>SB 5752</u></a> (HB 1861)	<b>Future fund trust fund</b> Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	S Human Svcs, Ree	Trudeau

**Legislative Department**  
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