



Session Watch

Tuesday, January 31, 2022 (day 22 of the 60-day session)

Committee Cut-off Begins this Week

For those of us involved in the legislative session, there is starting to be a glimmer of light at the end of the tunnel. The first several weeks of session are crazy hectic with new bills being introduced and hearings all day long. By now, most bills have had a hearing and amendments are being drafted. February 3rd is the first committee cutoff. Any bill that has not been passed out of its policy committee by that time will die. Next week's report will be much shorter.

Farmland Bill will not Move out of Committee

The bill everyone with farmland is concerned about, HB 1838, the Governor's salmon buffer bill, will not move out of committee. The issue is far from over, and likely will not be fully resolved for years. For now, we are hoping for more funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program (VSP) and the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). Other aspects of the bill, such as having the department of fish and wildlife map all riparian areas in the state, remain uncertain.

Changes to Washington State Constitution Proposed

Rep. Debra Lekanoff, who sponsored the Governor's buffer bill, sponsored a new bill this week. House joint resolution 4209 would add a new section to the Washington State Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources. It states, in part, "The people of the state, including future generations, have the right to a clean and healthy environment, including pure water, clean air, healthy ecosystems, and a stable climate, and to the preservation of the natural, cultural, scenic, and healthful qualities of the environment. Constitutional amendments require a two-thirds vote of each chamber of the legislature and a vote of the people. That is unlikely to happen this year.

HB 1918 gets Significant Amendments

Last week I wrote about HB 1918 which would have doubled the tax on outdoor power equipment that is not zero emission and prohibited government

entities from purchasing such equipment. The bill was significantly amended. The tax increase was dropped. It now exempts power equipment that is zero emission from all sales tax. It still bans government from purchasing power equipment under 25 horsepower unless it is zero emission. However, agriculture and forestry work and emergency response are exempt. Mosquito districts and irrigation districts remain concerned about how the bill would affect their operations.

Pesticide Advisory Board May Receive Re-Instatement

Rep. Tom Dent sponsored HB 1993 which recreates the Department of Agriculture's Pesticide Advisory Board. The original Pesticide Advisory Board existed for many years but was eliminated in 2010. The new board would advise the department on pesticide-related actions. It would consist of 18 voting members and over 20 non-voting members. Voting members would be appointed by the Director of Agriculture and would include:

- licensed pesticide applicators, pest control professionals, and the agricultural chemical industry.
 - agricultural producers.
 - agricultural labor and farmworker health.
 - the environmental community.
 - one representative from a federally recognized Indian tribe: and
 - state poison control, toxicology, agricultural hygiene, and pesticide management officials.
- Non-voting members would primarily represent government agencies.

HB 1544 Gives Help to Students

I like to end on a positive note so I'll mention HB 1544 which would require the state to pay membership dues for every student enrolled in an approved agriculture, food, and natural resource education course. The primary focus is FFA.

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

Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 10:00am

- [HB 1993](#) - Exec Session - Creating the pesticide advisory board. (Support/Medium)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5643](#) - Public Hearing - Supporting youth development. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.) (Remote testimony.)

State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - Virtual - 2/2 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1652](#) - Exec Session - Concerning conservation district elections. (Oppose/Medium)
- [HB 1910](#) - Exec Session - Concerning conservation district elections. (Support/Medium)

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 10:00am

- [HB 1544](#) - Exec Session - Concerning agriculture, food, and natural resource education. (Support/Medium)

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5643](#) - Exec Session - Supporting youth development.
- [SB 5882](#) - Exec Session - Clarifying the existence of riparian stock watering rights. (Support/High)

Transportation (House) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 2026](#) - Public Hearing - Implementing a per mile charge on vehicles. (Remote testimony.) (Medium)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 4:00pm

- [SSB 5746](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 1750 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
HB 1838 (SB 5727) Salmon habitat Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Lekanoff	Oppose
HB 1847 Farmworker's study Understanding the needs of farmworkers.	H Labor & Workpl	Ortiz-Self	Oppose
HB 1993 Pesticide advisory board Creating the pesticide advisory board.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent	Support
SB 5653 Pesticide commission name Changing the name of the commission on pesticide registration to the commission on integrated pest management.	S 2nd Reading	Rolfes	Support
SB 5665 Salmon habitat Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Rolfes	Concerns

Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
HB 1652 Conserv. district elections Concerning conservation district elections.	H State Govt & T	Dolan	Oppose
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 1910 Conserv. district elections Concerning conservation district elections.	H State Govt & T	Gregerson	Support
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 Ways & Means	Rolfes	Support

SB 5517	Cannabis/employment Concerning employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis.	S Labor, Comm & T	Keiser	Concerns
SB 5769	State tax system 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
SJR 8210 (HJR 4209)	Natural resources 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

Low Priority Bills

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

Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
HB 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 Comm & Econ Dev	Dolan	
HB 1631	Food/environmental steward. Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Shewmake	

<u>HB 1653</u>	Anadromous fish recovery Improving statewide coordination in support of anadromous fish recovery.	H State Govt & T	Lekanoff
<u>HB 1799</u> <u>(SB 5731)</u>	Organic materials management Concerning organic materials management.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon
<u>HB 1816</u> <u>(SB 5693)</u>	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 fund 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
<u>HB 1823</u>	Climate funding/outdoor rec. Concerning environmental leadership through outdoor recreation and climate adaptation investments.	H Approps	Dye
<u>HB 1837</u>	Musculoskeletal injuries Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries.	H Labor & Workpl	Bronoske
<u>HB 1861</u> <u>(SB 5752)</u>	Future fund trust fund Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	H Hous, Human Sv	Stonier
<u>HB 1869</u>	Salmon/voluntary stewardship Encouraging salmon recovery through voluntary stewardship.	H Env & Energy	Klicker
<u>HB 1891</u>	Rangeland fire pilot Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent
<u>HB 1909</u>	Meat and poultry misbranding Concerning the misbranding of meat and poultry products.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Dent
<u>HB 1928</u>	Equine industry support Concerning equine industry support.	H Approps	Schmick
<u>HJR 4209</u> <u>(SJR 8210)</u>	Natural resources 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
<u>SB 5511</u>	Uniform standard time Concerning uniform standard time for the state of Washington.	S State Govt & EI	Honeyford
<u>SB 5538</u> <u>(HB 1629)</u>	Aerial imaging technology 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

<u>SB 5624</u>	Livestock identification Extending the expiration date of certain sections of chapter 92, Laws of 2019, regarding livestock identification.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Warnick
<u>SB 5632</u>	Water infra. projects Concerning investments in critical water infrastructure projects.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Honeyford
<u>SB 5633</u>	Forest loss prevention Planning for the prevention of permanent loss of forests in Washington state.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Rolfes
<u>SB 5643</u>	Youth development programs Supporting youth development.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Schoesler
<u>SB 5721</u>	Natural resource management Consolidating natural resource management under the commissioner of public lands.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Van De Wege
<u>SB 5727</u> (HB 1838)	Salmon habitat Protecting, restoring, and maintaining habitat for salmon recovery.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Rolfes
<u>SB 5731</u> (HB 1799)	Organic materials management Concerning organic materials management.	S Environment, En	Das
<u>SB 5752</u> (HB 1861)	Future fund trust fund Creating the Washington future fund trust fund program.	S Human Svcs, Ree	Trudeau

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