



# Session Watch

Monday, March 7, 2022 (day 57 of the 60-day session)

## **Just days until the legislative session is over**

The 2022 legislative session is in the home stretch, with less than a week to go. Today is opposite House cutoff. Any bill that does not pass its opposite house by 5:00 today will die. But exceptions can be made to that rule. Early next week we should see the final budgets.

The proposed \$16.8 billion transportation budget includes huge increases in the cost of license plates, enhanced driver's licenses and many other fees. The proposal has two parts. One part uses \$5.4 billion from the new carbon tax, passed last spring, for pedestrian, bicycling and transit projects. The second part, focuses on highways, including the ferry system. It proposes spending \$11.4 billion, most of which goes to replacing fish blocking culverts and road maintenance and expansion projects. This would be paid for by money from the federal government, fee increases and a one-time \$2 billion infusion from the state's operating budget. The Senate version of the budget included a fuel export tax, which would have charged neighboring states a tax on fuel they import from Washington. That idea caused a huge blowback causing the House to remove it from their version of the transportation budget. The differences between the version passed by the Senate and the version passed by the House must be resolved by a conference committee over the next few days.

HB 1117, the bill that would have added net ecological gain for the purpose of saving salmon to every project in Washington, died in the Senate Ways and Means committee this week. Although the bill is dead, language and funding remain in the budget for the Department of Fish and wildlife to assess how to incorporate a net ecological gain standard into state land use, development, and environmental laws and rules to achieve a goal of better statewide performance on endangered species recovery. The department

must report to the legislature by December 1, 2022. As this plays out, we anticipate more attempts to place riparian buffers on farmland.

HB 1799 Intends to minimize organic waste going into landfills. Organic waste is defined as: manure, yard waste, food waste, food processing wastes, wood wastes, and garden waste. The bill largely focuses on city and county waste management. There are sections related to farming and food processing. Rural areas are exempt from some sections of the bill. Businesses engaged in the growth, harvest, or processing of food or fiber are exempt if organic waste is managed on-site or sold or donated to another business for use. Waste generated as a result of a natural disaster is exempt. The bill creates the Washington Center for Sustainable Food Management within the Department of Ecology. The purpose of the center is to coordinate statewide food waste reduction. It will begin operations by January 1, 2024.

HB 1837 would allow the state Department of Labor and Industries to impose ergonomics regulations on employers. Twenty years ago, Washington voters passed Initiative 841, repealing the state's burdensome and expensive ergonomics standard. Employers are already required by law to provide a safe working environment for all employees, and L&I can cite employers for ergonomic issues. There is no scientific consensus on causes and cures of repetitive motions and injuries. This bill adds costs for employers.

A wide variety of tax reduction bills were proposed this year. It appears none will pass.

## **Bills that died, but will likely be back next year:**

HB 1993 - Creating the pesticide advisory board. This one may not be back next year because the

department of agriculture has committed to creating it voluntarily.  
 1652 – Conservation district elections  
 5342 – Irrigation district elections  
 1641 – Custom Farming tax, would have restored the business and occupation and public utility tax

exemption for custom farming and hauling farm products. Important for farms that have more than one legal entity such as multiple LLCs.

### High Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>2SSB 5643</u></a> <b>Youth development programs</b> Supporting youth development. – <b>Funding included in the Senate budget.</b>	H Approps	Schoesler	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 5653</u></a> <b>Pesticide commission name</b> Changing the name of the commission on pesticide registration to the commission on integrated pest management.	H Rules R	Rolfes	Support

### Medium Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1099</u></a> <b>Comprehensive planning</b> Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Passed 3rd	Duerr	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1918</u></a> <b>Power equipment emissions</b> Reducing emissions from outdoor power equipment.	H Rules R	Macri	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1967</u></a> <b>Nonprofits/property tax</b> Concerning property tax exemptions for nonprofits.	S 2nd Reading	Steele	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2051</u></a> <b>Agricultural disaster assist</b> Providing short-term disaster recovery financial assistance to agricultural producers.	S 2nd Reading	Rule	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 5505</u></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.	H 2nd Reading	Rolfes	Support
<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.	H 2nd Reading	Warnick	Support

### Low Priority Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>EHB 1837</u></a> <b>Musculoskeletal injuries</b>	S 2nd Reading	Bronoske	Concerns

Restoring the state's ability to address work-related musculoskeletal injuries.

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<a href="#">SB 5641</a>	<b>Greenhouses</b> Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses.	H 2nd Reading	Short	Support
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<a href="#">2SSB 5746</a>	<b>Drought preparedness</b> Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding.	H Approps	Warnick	Support
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### Other Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">ESHB 1629</a>	<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 2nd Reading	Dolan
<a href="#">E2SHB 1799</a>	<b>Organic materials management</b> Concerning organic materials management.	S Passed 3rd	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">E2SHB 1812</a>	<b>Energy facility site council</b> Modernizing the energy facility site evaluation council to meet the state's clean energy goals.	S Passed 3rd	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">HB 1928</a>	<b>Equine industry support</b> Concerning equine industry support.	S 2nd Reading	Schmick

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