



Session Watch

Monday, March 6, 2023 (day 57 of the 120-day session)

This past week has been “floor action” as it is called at the legislature. The policy and fiscal committees have done their work for the first half and now bills are being deliberated for the final time in their “house of origin”. A total of 2,021 bills have been introduced this legislative session.

The House of Representatives burned the midnight oil on Thursday staying on the floor until 1:30AM and passing 31 bills in total. During the March 2nd floor session twelve of the thirty-one bills cleared the House floor on unanimous votes. Half of the bills cleared the floor by 90% vote or greater. In a polarized political culture, it’s important to point out that most of the work the legislature does is very bipartisan, and the two sides work together on much of our state policy.

Another illustration of this is the Senate calendar from Thursday. A total of 24 bills came across the Senate floor and of those, fifteen of them passed unanimously by a 49-0 vote. We often hear about the partisan divide among the legislature, and those are the topics that get the most ink and online headlines. But most of the work done is in a bipartisan nature.

March 8th marks the final day for House of Origin bill meaning it will be “floor action” until then. As of Friday morning March 3rd, the House has now passed a total of 194 bills. The Senate has completed work on fewer bills as they are a more deliberate body and spend more time on the floor voting on bills.

As we closer to the March 8th deadline there is more urgency in getting votes across the floor. This week the House didn’t adjourn its work until 2:18am on Sunday morning.

Bills of interest:

Plastics

HB 1131 is a solid waste bill around recycling requirements of PPP producers. The bill requires producers of certain paper products and packaging (covered PPP) to participate in and fund the operations of a producer responsibility

organization (PRO) to collect and manage covered PPP from consumers and carry out other specified activities. Pesticide, herbicide, and other federally regulated packing materials are exempt as part of the compromise in this bill, but we are continuing to make our case for that and encouraging the legislature to keep that exemption in the bill should it pass. This bill has been pulled from the Rules committee and is awaiting a floor vote before the March 8th deadline.

HB 1240 - Establishing firearms-related safety measures to increase public safety
This bill prohibits the manufacture, importation, distribution, sale, or offer for sale of any assault weapon, subject to various exceptions for licensed firearm manufacturers and dealers, and for individuals who inherit an assault weapon. It also provides a violation of these restrictions constitutes a gross misdemeanor and is actionable under the Consumer Protection Act

Transportation

Mileage Tracking HB 1736

Requiring the department of licensing to collect vehicle odometer readings at the time of original vehicle registration and registration renewal. This bill was passed off the House floor on Saturday night by a vote of 53-43 and will now go to the Senate.

HB 1832 - Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways.

This bill failed to make it through the cut-off but could still be considered as part of the budget process.

Education

HB 1658 - Authorizing public high school students to earn elective credit for paid work experience.

This bill Authorizes high school students aged 16 and over to earn up to two elective credits through paid work experience if specified requirements are met. It also provides that proposals for earning elective high school credit through paid work

experience may only be approved at high schools that provide students with the opportunity to learn and master the state financial education learning standards. The vote was 93-4 in favor of this policy.

HB 1013 - Establishing regional apprenticeship programs- This bill Directs OSPI and ESD’s to establish the Regional Apprenticeship Preparation Pilot Program with five program sites located statewide. Three located west of the crest of the Cascade mountains; and two located east of the crest of the Cascade mountains. This passed the House Floor by a vote of 97-0. This is an apprenticeship program that can be used by current high school students in partner schools with the goal of growing the program state-wide.

Local Agriculture

A nice bill we are supporting this session is SB 5431. This legislation directs the Washington State Department of Agriculture to establish an advisory committee of food production organizations for a

voluntary location-based program to promote local food and agricultural products. This bill cleared the Senate 47-0 and will be considered in the House during the second half of the session. We continue to support and engage in this policy.

Budget

The final budget forecast will be presented by the WA State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council around March 20th of this year. This will be the final forecast before the House and Senate budgets are introduced and debated in committee. The previous forecast in the February 2023 showed an adjustment of \$88 million to the high side, or about a 1.1% increase in total receipts above expected revenue. The expectation remains that the biennium budget passed will be around \$70 billion.

Please see our current bill tracking list for a comprehensive list of bills still up for consideration.

Upcoming Events

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 3/9 @ 1:30pm

- [SHB 1500](#) - Exec Session - Increasing the cap on gross sales for cottage food operations. (Support/Medium)

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/9 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 1757](#) - Exec Session - Providing a sales and use tax remittance to qualified farmers. (Support/Medium)

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/10 @ 8:00am

- [E2SHB 1170](#) - Public Hearing - Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy. (Remote Testimony Available). (Concerns/Low)

High Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
SHB 1019	Pesticide advisory board	Creating the pesticide advisory board.	H 2nd Reading	Dent	Support
SHB 1720	Riparian grant program	Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas through the establishment of a fully voluntary, regionally focused riparian grant program designed to improve the ecological functions of critical riparian management zones.	H Cap Budget	Chapman	Support
SB 5251 (HB 1058)	Commercial driver's licenses	Streamlining the licensing process for a commercial driver's license by allowing the department to waive requirements for applicants that previously surrendered the license, allowing the license to be renewed online, and modifying the license test fees.	S Rules 2	Valdez	Support

Medium Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
HB 1058 (SB 5251)	Commercial driver's licenses	Streamlining the licensing process for a commercial driver's license by allowing the department to waive requirements for applicants that previously surrendered the license, allowing the license to be renewed online, and modifying the license test fees.	S Transportation	Paul	Support
SHB 1138	Drought preparedness	Concerning drought preparedness.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Chapman	Support
2SHB 1143 (SB 5211)	Firearms/purchase & transfer	Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms.	H 2nd Reading	Berry	Oppose
HB 1144 (SB 5232)	Firearms/purchase & transfer	Enhancing requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms.	H Civil R & Judi	Berry	Oppose
SHB 1285	Family farm permit transfers	Modifying the scope of locations to which a water right established as a family farm permit may be transferred.	H Rules R	Goehner	Concerns
SHB 1371 (SB 5494)	Freight railroad infra.	Providing incentives to improve freight railroad infrastructure.	H Rules R	Barkis	Support
HB 1421	Voluntary stewardship prog.	Adding counties to the voluntary stewardship program.	H Passed 3rd	Chambers	Support
SHB 1494 (SSB 5460)	Irrigation & rehab districts	Concerning collection of assessments for irrigation and rehabilitation districts.	H 2nd Reading	Dent	Support
SHB 1500 (SB 5107)	Cottage food sales cap	Increasing the cap on gross sales for cottage food operations.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Eslick	Support
HB 1573 (SB 5277)	Dairy, etc. tax preferences	Extending tax preferences for dairy, fruit and vegetable, and seafood processors.	H Rules R	Rule	Support
ESHB 1705 (SB 5645)	Stormwater facilities/county	Concerning stormwater control facilities and county jurisdiction.	H Passed 3rd	Griffey	Support
ESHB 1736	Vehicle odometer readings	Requiring the department of licensing to collect vehicle odometer readings at the time of original vehicle registration and registration renewal.	H Passed 3rd	Cortes	Oppose
HB 1740 (SB 5667)	Forestry riparian easements	Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.	H Cap Budget	Orcutt	Support
2SHB 1746 (SB 5718)	State broadband map	Concerning a state broadband map.	H Passed 3rd	Ryu	Support
HB 1757	Farmers/sales tax remittance	Providing a sales and use tax remittance to qualified farmers.	H Finance	Corry	Support

SHB 1789	Ecosystem services	Expanding revenue generation and economic opportunities from natural climate solutions and ecosystem services.	H Rules R	Reeves	Oppose
HB 1832	Vehicle per mile charge	Implementing a per mile charge on vehicle usage of public roadways.	H Transportation	Fey	Oppose
ESSB 5143	Pesticide registration comm.	Changing the name of and adding a member to the commission on pesticide registration.	S Passed 3rd	Torres	Support
SSB 5156	Farm internship program	Expanding the farm internship program.	H Labor & Workpla	Torres	Support
SB 5211 (2SHB 1143)	Firearms/purchase & transfer	Concerning requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms.	S Law & Justice	Lias	Oppose
SB 5232 (HB 1144)	Firearms/purchase & transfer	Enhancing requirements for the purchase or transfer of firearms.	S Ways & Means	Salomon	Oppose
SB 5330	Pesticide application	Concerning the Washington pesticide application act.	S 2nd Reading	Torres	Support
ESB 5341	WA food & ag. products	Creating a location-based branding and promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Creating a location-based promotion program for Washington food and agricultural products.)	H Ag&Nr	Muzzall	Support
SSB 5460 (SHB 1494)	Irrigation & rehab districts	Concerning collection of assessments for irrigation and rehabilitation districts.	S 2nd Reading	Warnick	Support
SB 5484	Food/environmental steward.	Supporting Washington's food production system by providing technical assistance in support of improved voluntary environmental stewardship.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Shewmake	Support
SB 5645 (ESHB 1705)	Stormwater facilities/county	Concerning stormwater control facilities and county jurisdiction.	S Loc Gov, Land U	MacEwen	Support
SB 5667 (HB 1740)	Forestry riparian easements	Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Muzzall	Support

Low Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
E2SHB 1170 (SSB 5093)	Climate response strategy	Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy.	S Environment, En	Street	Concerns

E2SHB 1181 (SSB 5203)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	H Passed 3rd	Duerr	Concerns
HB 1645 (SB 5067)	County legislative meetings	Concerning meetings of county legislative authorities.	H Passed 3rd	Barnard	Neutral
SB 5067 (HB 1645)	County legislative meetings	Concerning meetings of county legislative authorities.	H Local Govt	Dozier	Neutral
SSB 5093 (E2SHB 1170)	Climate response strategy	Improving climate resilience through updates to the state's integrated climate response strategy.	S Rules 2	Rolfes	Neutral
ESSB 5150	Beef commission	Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.)	S Passed 3rd	Shewmake	Support
SSB 5203 (E2SHB 1181)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	S Ways & Means	Lovelett	Neutral
SB 5266 (HB 1215)	Riparian areas	Concerning the protection and restoration of riparian areas.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Shewmake	Concerns
SB 5277 (HB 1573)	Dairy, etc. tax preferences	Extending tax preferences for dairy, fruit and vegetable, and seafood processors.	S Ways & Means	Wilson	Support
SB 5457	Small cities/GMA	Implementing growth management task force legislative recommendations regarding small cities.	H Local Govt	Short	Neutral

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