



Session Watch

Tuesday, February 20, 2024 (day 46 of the 60-day Session)

We have started the second half of the legislative session with February 13th marking the final day for bills to get off their respective floors which turned Monday night into a marathon bill session as the public watched the house of representatives vote on bills until 2:31am. But with that cutoff being passed the lawmakers are now able to go back to committee work and consider the remaining bills.

You will notice a larger-than-usual “upcoming events” section as the next week(s) of the legislature are the most important. Serious bills that made it to the second half will be heard at a feverish pace as the two bodies try to agree on what to pass and what to let expire by fate of the calendar.

The first version of the capital budget was released on Thursday as lawmakers began to see the numbers from the revenue forecast trickle in. The Senate delivered their capital spending document which you can view [here](#). We expect to see the first version of the operating budgets on February 20th and the House of Representatives will hear the first version of the operating budget on February 21st at 4:00pm

Bill	Highlights
------	------------

[SB 5770 - Providing state and local property tax reform.](#)

In the last legislative update this bill was highlighted that it lifts 1% property tax increase lid per year and moves it up to 3% per year. The bill author has decided to pull this bill from consideration, and it is now considered dead for the session. Public input from this was overwhelming and had a major role in slowing this down and leading to its ultimate demise.

[HB 1589- Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.](#)

This is the gas utility connection bill that would impact the offering of natural gas service in Western Washington, and if passed by both chambers, would change the legal requirement of [Puget Sound Energy](#) (PSE) to provide natural gas service to customers when requested. It would impact nearly 800,000 households across six counties in

Washington. Earlier versions of the bill resulted in a ban on natural gas connection, but subsequent substitute versions have pared down the ban into simply relieving the utility of the requirement to connect natural gas to new customers. The Grange team met with the bill’s author, Rep. Doglio, this past week to discuss the potential impacts of the bill on our members. Further discussions are in the works if it appears that this bill will continue to move. We discussed ways to cause no harm to rural construction and utility connection. The bill is designed to meet the clean energy goals set forth in the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) and does not ban natural gas connection like earlier versions did, but it does give the utility the discretion based on profit and loss metrics to the utility company.

Please see the newly updated bill list below for what is still alive and bills that might be of personal or professional interest to you. You might notice that several bills from previous updates have been eliminated from the list. As every “cut off” date comes and goes, more bills are eliminated from the equation and some fiscal bills are added such as the three budget documents.

Remember to find your legislator [here](#). Contact your legislator and their staff member [here](#). And find bill information [here](#).

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

Monday, March 4 at 10am
Monday, March 18 at 10am

Please feel free to join us while we discuss current legislative activities in the 2024 Legislature.

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

As a reminder you can easily participate in the lawmaking process by contacting your elected state representatives through the online legislative tools.

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

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/19 @ 10:30am

- [SHB 1903](#) - Public Hearing - Reporting lost or stolen firearms. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [ESHB 2021](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the disposition of privately owned firearms in the custody of state or local government entities or law enforcement agencies. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [ESHB 2118](#) - Public Hearing - Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 1752](#) - Exec Session - Modifying the application of the annual consumptive quantity calculation to change applications related to certain water rights held by the United States bureau of reclamation.

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 6163](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning biosolids. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 5919](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the sale of biogenic carbon dioxide and other coproducts of biogas processing.
- [E2SSB 6058](#) - Public Hearing - Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 6121](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning agricultural and forestry biomass. (Remote Testimony Available).

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- [SB 5915](#) - Public Hearing - Extending an existing hazardous substance tax exemption for certain agricultural crop protection products that are temporarily warehoused but not otherwise used, manufactured, packaged, or sold in the state of Washington. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:30am

- [SB 6166](#) - Public Hearing - Extending the pesticide application safety committee. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 5667](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SSB 6278](#) - Exec Session - Promoting organic agriculture.
- [2SSB 5784](#) - Exec Session - Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops. (Support/Medium)
- [SSB 5972](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides. (Remote Testimony Available).

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:30am

- [2SSB 5444](#) - Exec Session - Restricting the possession of weapons, excluding carrying a pistol by a person licensed to carry a concealed pistol, on the premises of libraries, zoos, aquariums, and transit facilities. (Oppose)

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual - 2/20 @ 10:30am

- [SHB 1903](#) - Exec Session - Reporting lost or stolen firearms.
- [ESHB 2021](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the disposition of privately owned firearms in the custody of state or local government entities or law enforcement agencies.
- [ESHB 2118](#) - Exec Session - Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers.

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/20 @ 1:30pm

- [E2SHB 2301](#) - Exec Session - Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.
- [SHB 2069](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the sale of biogenic carbon dioxide and other coproducts of biogas processing.

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 2/20 @ 4:00pm

- [SSB 6163](#) - Exec Session - Concerning biosolids.
- [E2SSB 6058](#) - Exec Session - Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.
- [SSB 6121](#) - Exec Session - Concerning agricultural and forestry biomass.

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- [SB 6166](#) - Exec Session - Extending the pesticide application safety committee.
- [SSB 5667](#) - Exec Session - Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.
- [SSB 5972](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.
- [SSB 5785](#) - Exec Session - Concerning department of fish and wildlife authority with regard to certain nonprofit and volunteer organizations.
- [SB 5921](#) - Exec Session - Concerning tribal representation on the state conservation commission.

Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 6140](#) - Exec Session - Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
ESHB 1589 (SSB 5562)	Clean energy Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.	S ENETDPA	Doglio	High Oppose
HB 1740 (SSB 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	
HB 1752	Water/consumptive quality Modifying the application of the annual consumptive quantity calculation to change applications related to certain water rights held by the United States bureau of reclamation.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Dye	
SHB 1903	Lost or stolen firearms Reporting lost or stolen firearms.	S Law & Justice	Berry	
ESHB 2021 (SB 6001)	Firearm disposition Concerning the disposition of privately owned firearms in the custody of state or local government entities or law enforcement agencies.	S Law & Justice	Senn	
SHB 2069 (SSB 5919)	Biogenic carbon dioxide Concerning the sale of biogenic carbon dioxide and other coproducts of biogas processing.	S Environment, En	Mosbrucker	
ESHB 2118 (SB 6266)	Firearms dealers Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers.	S Law & Justice	Walén	
SHB 2147 (SSB 6036)	Agriculture pests & diseases Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.	S RecComm	Dent	
SHB 2165 (SB 6043)	Recreational use fees Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on agency-managed public lands.	S AWNPDP	Kloba	
HB 2257	Back country search & rescue Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.	S State Govt & El	Goehner	
SHB 2258	Regional 911 funding Providing funding for municipalities participating in the regional 911 emergency communications system.	H 2nd Reading	Ormsby	

E2SHB 2301 (SSB 6180)	Waste material management Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems.	S Environment, En	Doglio	
HB 2302 (SB 6166)	Pesticide application comm. Extending the pesticide application safety committee.	S Labor & Comm	Dent	
SHB 2333	Carbon seq./state lands Assessing the carbon sequestration potential of state-owned lands for the purpose of generating offset credits under the climate commitment act.	H Cap Budget	Reeves	
HJR 4210	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	
2ESSB 5150	Beef commission Concerning the beef commission's levied assessment. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Concerning the beef commission.)	H Exec Action	Shewmake	Support
2SSB 5444	Firearms/certain premises Concerning firearm sensitive places.	H Civil R & Judi	Valdez	Oppose
SSB 5667 (HB 1740)	Forestry riparian easements Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program.	H Ag&Nr	Muzzall	
2SSB 5784	Deer & elk crop damage Concerning deer and elk damage to commercial crops.	H Ag&Nr	Van De Wege	Medium Support
SSB 5785	WDFW/volunteer organizations Concerning department of fish and wildlife authority with regard to certain nonprofit and volunteer organizations.	H Ag&Nr	Warnick	
SB 5915 (HB 2454)	Ag. crop products/tax ex. Extending an existing hazardous substance tax exemption for certain agricultural crop protection products that are temporarily warehoused but not otherwise used, manufactured, packaged, or sold in the state of Washington.	H Finance	Torres	
SSB 5919 (SHB 2069)	Biogenic carbon dioxide Concerning the sale of biogenic carbon dioxide and other coproducts of biogas processing.	H Env & Energy	King	

[SB 5921](#) **Tribal rep./conserv. comm'n** H Ag&Nr Stanford
Concerning tribal representation on the state conservation commission.

[SSB 5972](#) **Neonicotinoid pesticides** H Ag&Nr Liias
Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

[SSB 6036](#) **Agriculture pests & diseases** H Ag&Nr Muzzall
[\(SHB 2147\)](#) Concerning agriculture pest and disease response.

[E2SSB](#) **Carbon market linkage** H Env & Energy Nguyen
[6058](#)
[\(2SHB](#)
[2201\)](#) Facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market.

[SSB 6121](#) **Ag. and forestry biomass** H Env & Energy Van De Wege
[\(HB 2483\)](#) Concerning biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass.

[SSB 6140](#) **Intensive rural development** H Local Govt Short
Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.

[SSB 6163](#) **Biosolids** H Env & Energy Wilson
Concerning biosolids.

[SB 6166](#) **Pesticide application comm.** H Ag&Nr Saldana
[\(HB 2302\)](#) Extending the pesticide application safety committee.

[SSB 6278](#) **Organic agriculture** H Ag&Nr Liias
Promoting organic agriculture.

Legislative Department
Jesse Taylor, Legislative Lobbyist
legislative@wa-grange.org 253-208-9071