



# Session Watch

Monday, February 10, 2025 (day 29 of the 120-day Session)

Week five of the 2025 legislative session will be a full week of policy bill hearings with executive (voting) sessions sprinkled in as we get closer to some of our session cutoffs. As of this writing, there have been 934 House bills, and 721 Senate bills introduced totaling 1,655 policy bills. Committee hearings will be moving at a faster pace as hearing schedules begin to fill up and the threat of the death-by-calendar looms.

Because we are in an “odd” year, the next revenue forecast will come out on March 20<sup>th</sup>. This revenue forecast will give budget writers their final look at what the fiscal landscape will be as they hone-in on writing the final 2025-2027 Operating Budget.

## Bill Action:

### Pesticide Application Safety Committee

HB 1294-Extending the pesticide application safety committee. Bipartisan sponsored by Rep. Dent and Reeves, changes the currently expiring expiration date of the pesticide application safety committee to July 1, 2035. The bill had a public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture and successful executive action was taken on it in committee vote on Friday, February 7.

### Property Tax Increases

[HB 1334](#) -Is scheduled for public hearing in the Finance Committee on February 11<sup>th</sup>. This bill would allow local governments to triple property tax increases from 1% to 3% without a vote. This goes back on long-sought precedent to cap property tax increases in-order to protect fixed income and economically vulnerable citizens. We will continue to see many new versions of revenue-capture by the state this session in order to fill the \$12 billion hole.

### Cattle Methane Emissions Reporting

[HB 1630](#) mandates the reporting of methane emissions from dairy cows & feedlot cattle. After rule implementation, dairy farm or feedlot owners or operators in the state will be required to submit an annual report to the department detailing the total metric tons of methane emitted from their operations during the previous calendar year. For the first report, operators may estimate the total emissions by

multiplying the average monthly emissions over a consecutive three-month period within the reporting year. The department is tasked with establishing rules for this process, including a reporting schedule that allows adequate time for the first report.

Opponents of the bill fear this may be the first step toward a potential per-head cow tax in the future. The bill had a public hearing in the Environment & Energy committee on February 6. It was one of the most effective hearings this session, with roughly 1600 people opposing the bill compared to roughly 400 in support. Look for this bill to be paired down or turned into a study for future legislation as we get closer to policy committee cutoff.

## In The News:

There is a lot of education policy in the news these days around the Parents Bill of Rights policy passed last session and the new bill, [Senate Bill 5181](#). This year’s bill reverses course on some provisions and amends the parent’s rights initiative to bring it into alignment with existing law. Opponents of the bill see this as a bait-and-switch effort as the majority party passed the parental rights bill at the end of session ( [Initiative 2081](#)) in order to keep it from getting an initiative vote on the general election ballot. The Washington State Standard did a great job of summarizing the policy battle brewing right now in Olympia [in this piece](#).

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the [daily schedule of the legislature](#) and see the [Senate Floor Calendar](#) and the [House Floor Calendar](#).

## Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

Monday, February 17 at 6pm  
Monday, March 3 at 6pm  
Monday, March 17 at 6pm  
Monday, April 7 at 6pm  
Monday, April 21 at 6pm

Please feel free to join us while we discuss current legislative activities in the 2025 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/>

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/11 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 1334](#) - Public Hearing - Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/11 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 1588](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding opportunities for organic, regenerative, climate-smart, and sustainable producers. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 2/11 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 1625](#) - Exec Session - Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.

### **Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/11 @ 4:00pm**

- [HB 1150](#) - Exec Session - Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.
- [HB 1071](#) - Exec Session - Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.

### **Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/13 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 1912](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [HB 1906](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing transparency and consumer protection in water system rates. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Agriculture & Natural Resources (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/13 @ 1:30pm**

- [SB 5074](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the payment of turfgrass seed contracts. (Support)
- [SB 5117](#) - Exec Session - Protecting agriculture. (Support)
- [SB 5171](#) - Exec Session - Concerning livestock damage due to wolf predation. (Support)
- [SB 5474](#) - Exec Session - Expanding opportunities for organic, regenerative, climate-smart, and sustainable producers.
- [SB 5485](#) - Exec Session - Concerning livestock identification. (Support)

**Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/14 @ 8:00am**

- [SB 5023](#) - Exec Session - Providing labor market protections for domestic workers.
- [SB 5041](#) - Exec Session - Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.

**Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/14 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 5174](#) - Exec Session - Concerning wood burning devices. (Oppose)
- [SB 5284](#) - Exec Session - Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

## WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT

### Support

| Bill #                               | Abbrev. Title               | Short Description   | Status            | Sponsor  | Priority |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------------|----------|----------|
| <a href="#">HB 1118</a>              | Firearm rights restoration  | Concerning restoration of the right to possess a firearm.   | H Civil R & Judi  | Simmons  |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1597</a><br>(SB 5487) | Agricultural overtime       | Authorizing agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies. | H Labor & Workpl  | Dent     |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5055</a>              | Agritourism                 | Promoting agritourism in Washington.  | S Loc Gov         | Warnick  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5056</a>              | WSP firearms records system | Concerning Washington state patrol providing firearm background checks when state record systems are unavailable.                 | S Law & Justice   | Wagoner  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5057</a>              | Agricultural real estate    | Concerning ownership of agricultural real estate.   | S Law & Justice   | Wagoner  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5074</a>              | Turfgrass seed contracts    | Concerning the payment of turfgrass seed contracts.   | S Ag & Natural R  | Boehnke  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5078</a>              | Agricultural real estate    | Concerning ownership of agricultural real estate.   | S Law & Justice   | Boehnke  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5092</a>              | Farm machinery sales tax    | Providing a sale and use tax exemption for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.   | S Ag & Natural R  | Boehnke  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5117</a>              | Agriculture impacts         | Protecting agriculture.   | S Ag & Natural R  | Muzzall  |          |
| <a href="#">SSB 5165</a>             | Deer and elk damage         | Concerning compensation in frontier counties for deer and elk damage.   | S Rules 2         | Short    |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5171</a>              | Wolf predation              | Concerning livestock damage due to wolf predation.  | S Ag & Natural R  | Short    |          |
| <a href="#">SSB 5252</a>             | Assembly halls/property tax | Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places.                  | S WMDPS           | Shewmake | High     |
| <a href="#">SB 5443</a>              | Fund-raising events         | Concerning requirements for fund-raising events of bona fide charitable or nonprofit organizations.                               | S Business, Fin   | Cortes   |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5485</a>              | Livestock identification    | Concerning livestock identification.  | S Ag & Natural Re | Warnick  |          |
| <a href="#">SB 5487</a><br>(HB 1597) | Agricultural overtime       | Authorizing agricultural employers to select 12 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies. | S Labor & Comm    | King     |          |

### Oppose

| Bill #                   | Abbrev. Title          | Short Description  | Status    | Sponsor | Priority |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------|---------|----------|
| <a href="#">SHB 1132</a> | Bulk firearm purchases | Enhancing public safety by limiting bulk purchases and transfers of firearms and ammunition. | H Rules R | Farivar |          |

|                                       |                             |  |                  |          |  |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------------|----------|--|
| <a href="#">HB 1152</a>               | Firearm storage             | Enhancing public safety by establishing secure storage requirements for firearms in vehicles and residences.   | H Rules R        | Doglio   |  |
| <a href="#">SHB 1163</a><br>(SB 5140) | Firearm purchase            | Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.   | H Approps        | Berry    |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1630</a>               | Livestock methane emissions | Concerning livestock methane emissions.  | H Env & Energy   | Parshley |  |
| <a href="#">SSB 5098</a>              | Weapons in certain areas    | Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities. | S Transportation | Valdez   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5140</a><br>(SHB 1163) | Firearm purchase            | Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.   | S Law & Justice  | Lias     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5174</a>               | Wood burning devices        | Concerning wood burning devices.   | S Environment, E | Shewmake |  |

### Other Bills

| Bill #                                | Abbrev. Title              | Short Description   | Status           | Sponsor    | Priority |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------------|------------|----------|
| <a href="#">HB 1071</a><br>(SB 5058)  | Recycling rates            | Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system. | H Env & Energy   | Fey        |          |
| <a href="#">SHB 1141</a><br>(SB 5468) | Ag. cannabis workers       | Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers.   | H Rules R        | Ortiz-Self |          |
| <a href="#">SHB 1149</a><br>(SB 5376) | Cruelty to animals         | Preventing cruelty to animals.  | H 2nd Reading    | Hackney    |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1150</a><br>(SB 5284)  | Solid waste management     | Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.   | H Env & Energy   | Berry      |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1173</a><br>(SB 5447)  | High-hazard facility wages | Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.  | H Rules R        | Bronoske   |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1181</a>               | Labor standards            | Concerning labor standards and the Washington minimum wage act.   | H Labor & Workpl | Mena       |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1184</a>               | Overtime exemption         | Creating a narrow exemption from overtime provisions for certain nonprofits and small businesses.                     | H Labor & Workpl | Schmidt    |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1197</a><br>(SB 5166)  | Operating budget, supp.    | Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.  | H Approps        | Ormsby     |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1198</a><br>(SB 5167)  | Operating budget           | Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.  | H Approps        | Ormsby     |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1218</a>               | Competency eval. & restor. | Concerning persons referred for competency evaluation and restoration services.                                       | H Civil R & Judi | Farivar    |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1311</a>               | Gray wolves                | Concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the department of fish and wildlife regarding the gray wolf.  | H Ag&Nr          | Engell     |          |
| <a href="#">HB 1320</a>               | Business & occupation tax  | Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.                  | H Finance        | Street     |          |

|                                      |                              |  |                   |            |  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|------------|--|
| <a href="#">HB 1334</a>              | Property tax revenue growth  | Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.  | H Finance         | Pollet     |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1409</a>              | Clean fuels program          | Concerning the clean fuels program.  | H Env & Energy    | Fitzgibbon |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1442</a><br>(SB 5354) | Gray wolf management         | Providing flexibility for the department of fish and wildlife to collaborate with local governments to manage gray wolves.   | H Ag&Nr           | Abell      |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1588</a><br>(SB 5474) | Organic, etc. agriculture    | Expanding opportunities for organic, regenerative, climate-smart, and sustainable producers.   | H Ag&Nr           | Bernbaum   |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1603</a>              | Medicare supp. coverage      | Requiring guaranteed issue of Medicare supplemental coverage to an individual who voluntarily disenrolls from a Medicare advantage plan and enrolls in Medicare parts A and B. | H HC/Wellness     | Berg       |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1625</a><br>(SB 5631) | 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.                               | H Tech, Econ Dev  | Stuebe     |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1779</a>              | Ag. employers/overtime       | Authorizing agricultural employers to select 26 weeks a year to employ workers for up to 50 hours a week before overtime applies.  | H Labor & Workpl  | Dufault    |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1906</a>              | Water system rates           | Increasing transparency and consumer protection in water system rates.   | H Env & Energy    | Tharinger  |  |
| <a href="#">HB 1912</a>              | Agricultural fuel/CCA ex.    | Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.   | H Env & Energy    | Dent       |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5023</a><br>(HB 1561) | Domestic workers             | Providing labor market protections for domestic workers.   | S Labor & Comm    | Saldana    |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5033</a>              | Biosolids/PFAS chemicals     | Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.  | S Environment, En | Wilson     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5041</a>              | Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts | Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.  | S Labor & Comm    | Riccelli   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5058</a><br>(HB 1071) | Recycling rates              | Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system.  | S Environment, E  | Chapman    |  |
| <a href="#">SSB 5099</a>             | Firearms dealers             | Protecting the public from gun violence by establishing additional requirements for the business operations of licensed firearms dealers.                                      | S Ways & Means    | Lovick     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5166</a><br>(HB 1197) | Operating budget, supp.      | Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.   | S Ways & Means    | Robinson   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5167</a><br>(HB 1198) | Operating budget             | Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.   | S Ways & Means    | Robinson   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5284</a><br>(HB 1150) | Solid waste management       | Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.  | S Environment, E  | Lovelett   |  |

|                                      |                              |  |                   |           |  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------|--|
| <a href="#">SB 5343</a>              | NE WA wolf-livestock account | Concerning the northeast Washington wolf-livestock management account.   | S 2nd Reading     | Short     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5350</a>              | Firearm background checks    | Concerning background check system for firearms transfers.   | S Law & Justice   | Fortunato |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5354</a><br>(HB 1442) | Gray wolf management         | Providing flexibility for the department of fish and wildlife to collaborate with local governments to manage gray wolves.                       | S Ag & Natural R  | Short     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5384</a>              | Riparian programs review     | Conducting a review of Washington's riparian programs.   | S Ag & Natural R  | Dozier    |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5385</a><br>(HB 1641) | Definition of timberland     | Amending the definition of timberland for purposes of determining the real property excise tax for a governmental entity.                        | S Ag & Natural R  | Chapman   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5447</a><br>(HB 1173) | High-hazard facility wages   | Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.   | S Labor & Comm    | Saldana   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5474</a><br>(HB 1588) | Organic, etc. agriculture    | Expanding opportunities for organic, regenerative, climate-smart, and sustainable producers.   | S Ag & Natural Re | Liias     |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5630</a>              | Farm fuel users              | Continuing to provide payments to support farm fuel users and transporters for exempt fuel under the Washington climate commitment act.          | S Environment, E  | Dozier    |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5631</a><br>(HB 1625) | 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 Gov/Trib  | Goehner   |  |
| <a href="#">SB 5633</a>              | Subdivision of land          | Concerning the subdivision of land.  | S Loc Gov         | Lovelett  |  |

## Legislative Department

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