



# Session Watch

Monday, March 10, 2025 (day 57 of the 120-day Session)

Legislators can see “halftime” in the distance as we have entered week 9 of session. Thursday March 13<sup>th</sup> will mark day 60 and officially kick off the second half of session. As we have been discussing, March 12<sup>th</sup> marks House of Origin Cutoff, and the bill list will be severely cut down at that time once again to what is left for the second half and what is still Necessary to Implement the Budget (NTIB) as we discussed last week.

Last week, legislators voted on countless bills during long floor sessions that crept into the AM hours. Contentious debates and marathon amendment sessions from minority members trying to dull the edges of profound policy proposals. That will come to an end on Wednesday night as the two chambers of the legislature finish their work of origin and then begin to consider only policy passed by the opposite chamber. No new bills will be considered for the remainder of the session, unless they are strictly budgetary.

**Agriculture Fuel Exemption:** Stemming from the climate commitment act (CCA), legislators are still grappling with how to exempt fuel in accordance with their promise to the farmers at the time of the bill’s passage. Governor Ferguson has assured agriculture industry partners that he will sign a bill guaranteeing the state's commitment to allow all farmers who wish to purchase CCA fee-exempt fuel to do so. However, majority party leaders are opposed to making the exemption permanent. The Governor’s office and Rep. Tom Dent are actively pushing for the permanent extension of this exemption before it expires after five years.

As of this writing, the policy proposal has several provisions: By July 1, 2025, Ecology must establish a directory of all retail sellers of exempt agricultural fuel under CCA, including those operating through cardholder or membership programs. This directory will help users locate retail sellers offering exempt agricultural fuel statewide. In addition, Ecology must publish a guide on its website by the same date, detailing

how eligible users can obtain a remittance or purchase exempt fuel, including through aggregators or membership-based payment systems offered by private companies.

Retail fuel sellers, including those using exempt fuel purchase aggregators or cardholder/membership programs, will be able to inform Ecology of locations where exempt agricultural fuel is sold. Ecology will list only those entities in the directory that offer exempt agricultural fuel at a differential rate, in line with the rate charged by fuel suppliers with a compliance obligation. If funding allows, Ecology will provide financial incentives or remove barriers for retail fuel sellers to offer exempt agricultural fuel at a differential rate, including supporting the development of cardholder or membership-based payment systems.

The bill defines an “exempt fuel purchase aggregator” as an entity, either for-profit or non-profit, that offers exempt agricultural fuel at a differential rate, with established procedures to verify the exempt status of customers and track fuel sales to covered or opt-in entities. It also clarifies that this provision does not alter any existing obligations under the CCA for covered or opt-in entities, nor does it subject non-covered fuel sellers to penalties.

### **Gun Bills:**

The most talked about firearms bill of the session is [House Bill 1163](#) which aims to enhance regulations surrounding the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms. The bill mandates that individuals obtain a permit before purchasing firearms, which necessitates completing a certified firearms safety training program. It also proposes updates to the components of these training programs and requires the Washington State Patrol to certify them. On March 8 the House passed HB 1163 with a vote of 58-38 against. The bill now moves to the second half of the session. The introduction of HB 1163 aligns with efforts in other states to implement permit-to-purchase systems, aiming to prevent firearms from falling

into the wrong hands and reducing illegal trafficking.

Opponents of the bill have laid out their case using several key points:

- **Second Amendment Concerns:** Some argue that requiring a permit to purchase a firearm infringes on Second Amendment rights, as it places additional burdens on law-abiding citizens wishing to exercise their right to bear arms.
- **Ineffectiveness in Reducing Crime:** Critics contend that the bill will not effectively reduce gun violence or prevent illegal firearms from getting into the wrong hands. They argue that criminals are unlikely to follow these new regulations, and thus, the bill primarily impacts responsible gun owners.
- **Burden on Law-Abiding Citizens:** Some feel that the training and permitting process could be cumbersome, time-consuming, and costly for those who already comply with the law and have a clean criminal record. They believe the measure would impose unnecessary hurdles for lawful gun buyers.
- **Potential for Expanding Government Control:** There is concern that the bill could lead to increased government

involvement in private gun transactions and the creation of databases that could track gun owners, raising fears of surveillance and overreach.

Next session watch will have contained the paired down bill list as well as a list of what's alive, what's dead and what could still leer its ugly head.

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, 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

## **WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT**

### **Support**

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Abbrev. Title</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>	<b>Priority</b>
<a href="#">2SHB 1912</a>	Agricultural fuel/CCA ex.	Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.	H Rules R	Dent	
<a href="#">SSB 5055</a>	Agritourism	Promoting agritourism in Washington.	H Local Govt	Warnick	
<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 Rules 2	Shewmake	High

## 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="#">SHB 1141</a> (SB 5468)	Ag. cannabis workers	Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers.	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self	
<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="#">E2SHB 1163</a> (SB 5140)	Firearm purchase	Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.	H Passed 3rd	Berry	
<a href="#">HB 1921</a> (SB 5726)	Transportation revenue	Establishing new sources of transportation revenue based on motor vehicle use of public roadways.	H Transportation	Fey	
<a href="#">ESSB 5041</a>	Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.	S Passed 3rd	Riccelli	
<a href="#">E2SSB 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.	H Civil R & Judi	Valdez	
<a href="#">SB 5140</a> (E2SHB 1163)	Firearm purchase	Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.	S Law & Justice	Liias	

## Other Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
<a href="#">2SHB 1150</a> (E2SSB 5284)	Solid waste management	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	H Rules R	Berry	
<a href="#">EHB 1173</a> (SB 5447)	High-hazard facility wages	Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.	H Passed 3rd	Bronoske	
<a href="#">HB 1197</a> (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby	
<a href="#">HB 1198</a> (SB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby	
<a href="#">SHB 1296</a>	Public education system	Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.	H 2nd Reading	Stonier	
<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="#">2SHB 1409</a>	Clean fuels program	Concerning the clean fuels program.	H 2nd Reading	Fitzgibbon	
<a href="#">SSB 5033</a>	Biosolids/PFAS chemicals	Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.	H Env & Energy	Wilson	

<a href="#">SB 5166</a> (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	
<a href="#">SB 5167</a> (HB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	

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