



Session Watch

Friday, February 23, 2026 (day 43 of the 90-day Session)

Session hit a major milestone this week with the House of origin cutoff on Tuesday, February 17, at 5 p.m. This deadline required bills to pass out of their chamber of origin (the House for House bills, the Senate for Senate bills) to stay alive for further consideration. Lawmakers hustled through marathon floor sessions, ultimately advancing around 400 bills total between the two chambers before the cutoff. While most coverage focused on broader priorities like budget shortfalls, homelessness, and public safety, the process included some notable drama—particularly on the Senate floor, where procedural maneuvers (like a lengthy bill reading demand by Senator Short) delayed or derailed several last-minute votes, adding tension as time expired.

Ag Labor Bills-

There have been three labor/collective bargaining bills making their way through the process this session. SB 6045 and its companion HB 2409—which aimed to explicitly place agricultural employees under the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC) for collective bargaining rights—both failed to advance past the house of origin cutoff on February 17; SB 6045 stalled on second reading in the Senate without a floor vote and is dead for the session, while HB 2409 remained stuck in the House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee after its public hearing, rendering it dead as well. In contrast, HB 2471, concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the National Labor Relations Act passed the House on February 13 with a 58-35 vote and is now active in the Senate, where the Labor & Commerce Committee advanced it on February 20 (without a public hearing) for potential further action or floor consideration before the session ends on March 12. The Labor committee sent the bill directly to executive session for a vote, bypassing the public hearing and input.

Revenue Forecast

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released its February 2026 revenue forecast on February 16, projecting a modest but welcome uptick in revenues. For the current 2025-27 biennium, near General Fund revenue is now estimated at \$75.3 billion—an increase of \$827

million (about 1.1%) compared to the November 2025 forecast. Looking further out, revenue for the 2027-29 biennium rises by about \$1 billion (1.3%), and the total boost through 2029 exceeds \$1.8 billion. The gains stem from stronger personal income growth, stable employment, higher taxable sales, and some early benefits from 2025 tax changes.

Despite the brighter outlook, the state still grapples with a significant budget shortfall—estimated around \$2.3 billion for the current biennium—driven by rising costs in caseloads, inflation, collective bargaining, and maintaining existing services. The extra revenue helps narrow the gap but doesn't eliminate it, meaning lawmakers will likely still need agency cuts, program trims, or other adjustments in the supplemental operating budget proposals coming soon from the House and Senate. Look for those proposals next week.

SB 5252 and HB 2431

These are our two “Grange bills” this year that have received a favorable process thus far. On Thursday, February 19th our very own Grange member Russ Weston testified on behalf of [SB 5252](#), which removes the acreage limit property tax exemption for Grange Bills all across our state. We expect this bill to move through the process again this year ahead of the fiscal cut off. We have a bill hearing scheduled for Tuesday evening (February 24th) in Senate Ways and Means to advance [HB 2431](#) well ahead of the cutoff calendar.

Firearms

This session several firearm-related bills advanced past the House of Origin cutoff, while others stalled or died there. Key measures that moved forward include [HB 2320](#), which prohibits manufacturing untraceable “ghost guns” via 3D printing or CNC milling, bans possession/sale of related digital files/codes, and passed the House before heading to the Senate.

[SB 5098](#), expanding gun-free zones to include more public parks, playgrounds, and facilities (a carry-over from 2025), passed the Senate and remains active for House consideration.

On the dead side, prominent gun safety priorities failed to advance past House deadlines. [HB 1152](#),

requiring secure/locked storage of firearms in homes and vehicles (with penalties scaling to felonies if unsafe storage causes injury/death), did not reach a House floor vote—mirroring its failure last year—and is now effectively dead for 2026. Similarly, House [HB 1132](#), aimed at limiting bulk purchases/transfers of firearms and ammunition, stalled without floor action (referred to Rules but not advanced).

For a full list of bills that cleared the House of Origin refer to [this list](#). To follow along the rest of the way check www.tvw.org daily for committee hearings and floor action.

This week you will see the bill list whittled down even further as the second half of session has begun.

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

Monday, March 2 at 6pm

Monday, March 16 at 6pm

Please feel free to join us while we discuss current legislative activities in the 2026 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 online legislative tools.

Start here: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csiremote/>

Select **House** or **Senate**

Committee: **Choose the committee where you 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/>

GRANGE Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/23 @ 10:30am

• [EHB 1941](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing agricultural cooperatives for cannabis producers. (Hearing is on the Proposed Striking Amendment.) (Remote Testimony Available).

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/23 @ 10:30am

• [ESHB 2320](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the regulation of firearm manufacturing.

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/24 @ 8:00am

• [HB 2295](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/24 @ 10:30am

• [SSB 5971](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a green fertilizer incentive program to support the production and adoption of low-carbon nitrogen fertilizer in Washington state. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 2/24 @ 10:30am

• [EHB 1941](#) - Exec Session - Authorizing agricultural cooperatives for cannabis producers.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/24 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 2431](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing the maximum annual limit for regularly scheduled fundraising activities for the nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places property tax exemption. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/25 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5971](#) - Exec Session - Establishing a green fertilizer incentive program to support the production and adoption of low-carbon nitrogen fertilizer in Washington state.

Health Care & Wellness (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/25 @ 1:30pm

- [E2SSB 5981](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the 340B drug pricing program.

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 2/26 @ 8:00am

- [HB 2295](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/26 @ 8:00am

- [SB 6244](#) - 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).

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
EHB 1941	Agricultural coops/cannabis	Authorizing agricultural cooperatives for cannabis producers.	S Labor & Comm	Morgan
2SHB 2105 (SSB 5852)	Immigrant workers	Concerning immigrant worker protections.	S RecComm	Ortiz-Self
E2SHB 2215	Fuels/climate commitment act	Concerning climate commitment act compliance obligations for fuels supplied or otherwise sold into Washington.	S RecComm	Fitzgibbon
HB 2295 (SB 6003)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
ESHB 2320 (SB 6314)	Firearm manufacturing	Concerning the regulation of firearm manufacturing.	S Law & Justice	Salahuddin
SHB 2355 (SSB 6053)	Domestic workers	Establishing labor protections for domestic workers.	S LCDP	Thomas
HB 2431	Nonprofit halls/fundraising	Increasing the maximum annual limit for regularly scheduled fundraising activities for the nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places property tax exemption.	S Ways & Means	Shavers
ESHB 2471 (SSB 6117)	Collective bargaining	Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act.	S LCDP	Scott
ESSB 5252	Assembly halls/property tax	Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit	H Finance	Shewmake

		public assembly halls and meeting places.		
2ESSB 5268	Unlawful firearm possession	Imposing community custody after a conviction for unlawful possession of a firearm.	H Approps	Wagoner
SSB 5852 (2SHB 2105)	Immigrant workers	Concerning immigrant worker protections.	S Ways & Means	Saldana
SSB 5971	Green fertilizer incentives	Establishing a green fertilizer incentive program to support the production and adoption of low-carbon nitrogen fertilizer in Washington state.	H Ag&Nr	Boehnke
E2SSB 5981 (2SHB 2145)	340B drug pricing program	Protecting patient access to discounted medications and health care services through Washington's health care safety net by preventing manufacturer limitations on the 340B drug pricing program.	H HC/Wellness	Cleveland
SB 6244	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

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