



Session Watch

Monday, January 19, 2025 (day 8 of the 90-day Session)

Legislative Session Officially Underway

The first week of session has come and gone with a lot of new bills being introduced into the second half of the biennium. We have seen over 500 new bill introductions bringing the total for the biennium to over 2700 bills. The Legislature began its 60-day supplemental session on January 12, set to adjourn March 12. As of the beginning of session, Democrats hold majorities in the House (59-39) and Senate (30-19).

Opening day featured swearing-in, rule adoption, and majority party leaders highlighting priorities: budget talks, public safety, a wealth tax on millionaires, and housing initiatives. House Speaker Laurie Jinkins even emphasized bipartisan cooperation before committees began.

Governor Ferguson's State of the State Address

In his recent State of the State speech, Gov. Bob Ferguson emphasized Democratic priorities, including support for a new state income tax on individuals earning over \$1 million annually. He proposed pairing it with expanded tax credits for lower-income families via the Working Families Tax Credit and some relief for small businesses. The governor also committed to signing a bill banning law enforcement from wearing masks. He highlighted efforts to speed up licensing, respond to recent flooding, and boost infrastructure and housing investments, while not addressing the Climate Commitment Act. Overall, Ferguson praised the state's handling of crises and called for recognition of its achievements. The struggling agriculture industry was not mentioned.

Governor Ferguson Proposed Budget

- Operating Budget: The Governor's proposed budget would increase the total state operating budget to about \$79 billion (1.2% increase), and would reduce the \$2.3 billion projected deficit via cuts, rainy-day drawdown, and Climate Commitment Act fund redirection. The governor supports a future millionaires' tax which is a 9.9% tax on earnings greater than \$1 million which is expected to raise about \$3 billion by 2029.

- Transportation Budget: Additional \$3 billion for roads, bridges, ferries including Columbia River dredging, bridge preservation and new ferries.
- Capital Budget: Includes \$237 million in new money for housing and a proposed \$2.2M for WSU plant sciences lab.

Bills of Interest:

- [HB 2279](#): Directs Dept. of Agriculture to evaluate/regulate PFAS (forever chemicals) in fertilizers and pesticides, with potential to deny/cancel registrations starting 2027.
- [SB 5360](#): Strengthens environmental crimes (Clean Water/Air Act, hazardous waste), elevating some violations to felonies; mirrors federal law but lacks individual liability protections.
- [HB 2516](#) — Proposes a moratorium on certain rodenticides (rat/mouse poisons), with no current agriculture exemption.

Bills on collective bargaining for uncovered employees (including agricultural workers):

- [SB 6045 & HB 2409](#) — Extend collective bargaining rights to agricultural employees under the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC).
- [SB 6117](#) — Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act. Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce.

This session is off to a feverish start, and the pace will only pickup as we get closer to the first cutoffs. You can follow the legislative session cut off calendar [linked here](#).

You can also follow along with the weekly schedule of events here [Committee Schedules, Agendas, and Documents](#) and log on to view committee hearings,

floor debates and legislator interviews at
<https://tvw.org/>.

Please see the complete list of bills we are tracking with upcoming events below.

Grange Legislative Day

Join us Monday, January 26th at 8:00am for this years' Legislative Day. We will have a full day of speakers, meetings with legislators, hearings, capital tours, and much more. If you have never been, please think about joining us. If you have been before, you know there is always something new, please think about joining us once again. Registration closes this Friday so please do not wait!

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

Monday, January 19 at 6pm

Monday, February 2 at 6pm

Monday, February 16 at 6pm

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 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/>

GRANGE Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/19 @ 10:30am

- [SB 6117](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture & Natural Resources (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/19 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5960](#) - Public Hearing - Restoring and sustaining healthy ungulate populations. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/20 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2279](#) - Public Hearing - Evaluating the use of PFAS chemicals in agriculture. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/20 @ 10:30am

- [SB 6045](#) - Public Hearing - Placing agricultural employees under the jurisdiction of the public employment relations commission for the purpose of collective bargaining. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 6053](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing labor protections for domestic workers. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5852](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning immigrant worker protections. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/20 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2355](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing labor protections for domestic workers. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [HB 2372](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning workers' compensation benefits. (Remote Testimony Available).

Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 1/20 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2388](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the siting of distributed energy generation resources on agricultural lands. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 8:00am

- [HB 2471](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act. (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture & Natural Resources (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/22 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 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 - 1/23 @ 8:00am

- [SB 6067](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning workers' compensation benefits. (Remote Testimony Available).

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/23 @ 10:30am

- [SB 5965](#) - Exec Session - Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments.
- [SB 6050](#) - Exec Session - Expanding the use of distributed energy resources.

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2105](#) - Exec Session - Concerning immigrant worker protections.

Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2388](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the siting of distributed energy generation resources on agricultural lands.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1311	Gray wolves	Concerning the implementation of the recommendations of the department of fish and wildlife regarding the gray wolf.	H Ag&Nr	Engell	Support	
HB 1825	Grizzly bear management	Concerning grizzly bear management.	H Ag&Nr	Springer		
HB 2105 (SB 5852)	Immigrant workers	Concerning immigrant worker protections.	H Labor & Workpl	Ortiz-Self		
HB 2129	Agritourism	Fortifying agritourism.	H Local Govt	Low		
HB 2215	Fuels/climate commitment act	Concerning climate commitment act compliance obligations for fuels supplied or otherwise sold into Washington.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon		
HB 2221 (SB 5960)	Ungulate populations	Restoring and sustaining healthy ungulate populations.	H Ag&Nr	Abell		
HB 2233 (SB 5965)	Retail bags	Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments.	H Env & Energy	Parshley		
HB 2264	Unemployment ins./layoffs	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for workers separated from employment as	H Exec Action	Berry		

		a result of employer-initiated layoffs or workforce reductions.				
<u>HB 2279</u>	Agriculture/PFAS chemicals	Evaluating the use of PFAS chemicals in agriculture.	H Ag&Nr	Parshley		
<u>HB 2295</u> (SB 6003)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
<u>HB 2296</u> (SB 6050)	Distributed energy resources	Expanding the use of distributed energy resources.	H Env & Energy	Hall		
<u>HB 2355</u> (SB 6053)	Domestic workers	Establishing labor protections for domestic workers.	H Labor & Workpl	Thomas		
<u>HB 2372</u> (SB 6067)	Workers' compensation	Concerning workers' compensation benefits.	H Labor & Workpl	Salahuddin		
<u>HB 2388</u>	Distributed energy/ag. lands	Concerning the siting of distributed energy generation resources on agricultural lands.	H Local Govt	Hall		
<u>HB 2431</u>	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.	H Finance	Shavers		
<u>HB 2471</u> (SB 6117)	Collective bargaining	Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act.	H Labor & Workpl	Scott		
<u>HB 2521</u> (SB 6055)	Firearms background checks	Concerning firearms background check.	H Approps	Ormsby		
<u>SB 5092</u>	Farm machinery sales tax	Providing a sales and use tax exemption for qualifying farm machinery and equipment.	S Ag & Natural R	Boehnke		
<u>SSB 5252</u>	Assembly halls/property tax	Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places.	S 3rd Reading	Shewmake		
<u>SB 5852</u> (HB 2105)	Immigrant workers	Concerning immigrant worker protections.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana		
<u>SB 5856</u>	Lubricant emissions	Exempting emissions associated with lubricants from coverage under the cap and invest program.	S Environment, E	Schoesler		
<u>SB 5896</u>	Water quality pollution	Modifying the standards for determining water quality pollution.	S Environment, E	Short		
<u>SB 5960</u> (HB 2221)	Ungulate populations	Restoring and sustaining healthy ungulate populations.	S Ag & Natural Re	Short		
<u>SB 5965</u> (HB 2233)	Retail bags	Reducing environmental impacts associated with bags provided to customers at retail establishments.	S Environment, E	Bateman		
<u>SB 5971</u>	Green fertilizer incentives	Establishing a green fertilizer incentive program to support the production and adoption of	S Ag & Natural R	Boehnke		

		low-carbon nitrogen fertilizer in Washington state.				
<u>SB 6003</u> (HB 2295)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau		
<u>SB 6006</u>	Food banks/sales tax	Exempting food banks from the retail sales tax imposed on certain services.	S Ways & Means	Gildon		
<u>SB 6030</u>	Plastic carryout bags	Repealing restrictions and fees on plastic carryout bags.	S Environment, E	Braun		
<u>SB 6045</u> (HB 2409)	Agricultural employees/PERC	Placing agricultural employees under the jurisdiction of the public employment relations commission for the purpose of collective bargaining.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana		
<u>SB 6050</u> (HB 2296)	Distributed energy resources	Expanding the use of distributed energy resources.	S Environment, E	Lias		
<u>SB 6053</u> (HB 2355)	Domestic workers	Establishing labor protections for domestic workers.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana		
<u>SB 6055</u> (HB 2521)	Firearms background checks	Concerning firearms background check.	S Law & Justice	Nobles		
<u>SB 6067</u> (HB 2372)	Workers' compensation	Concerning workers' compensation benefits.	S Labor & Comm	Alvarado		
<u>SB 6104</u>	Agriculture impacts	Protecting agriculture.	S Ag & Natural R	Muzzall		
<u>SB 6117</u> (HB 2471)	Collective bargaining	Concerning collective bargaining for employees not covered by the national labor relations act.	S Labor & Comm	Saldana		

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