



Session Watch

Friday, March 9, 2026 (day 57 of the 60-day Session)

The final cutoff of session came and went last week as floor action concluded on Friday, and all eyes turned toward the reconciliation process, the income tax vote and the budget bills. Monday, March 9 is the date scheduled for the final income tax bill floor debate, but at this point that remains to be seen. Deliberations could leak into Tuesday and even Wednesday.

The reconciliation process is one that gets very little attention in the press and isn't mentioned much in teachings like "schoolhouse rock" or civics textbooks.

In basic terms, here's how the reconciliation (also called concurrence or settling differences) process works for bills in the Washington State Legislature: A bill must pass both the House and Senate in the same version before it can go to the Governor. If the two chambers pass different versions (usually because the second chamber makes changes/amendments), they have to resolve those differences.

The process usually goes like this:

1. The bill starts in one chamber (say, the House passes it first). It then goes to the other chamber (the Senate).
2. The second chamber can pass it as-is → Great! The bill is done and heads to the Governor (after signing by leaders).
3. But often, the second chamber amends/changes it and passes their version. The bill goes back to the first chamber (the "house of origin") for them to review the changes.
4. The first chamber decides what to do with those changes:
 - Concur (agree): They vote to accept the changes. → The bill passes the legislature in the amended form.

- Do not concur (disagree): They reject the changes. Then they can ask the second chamber to recede (drop their changes and go back to the original version). If the second chamber agrees to recede → bill passes.

5. If neither side budgets (they still disagree after back-and-forth), either chamber can request a conference committee.

- Leaders appoint a small group of members from both the House and Senate (conferees).
- They meet to negotiate and try to find a compromise version that both sides can accept.
- If they agree, they write a "conference report" with the final agreed-upon language.
- Both the House and Senate then vote on that report (no further amendments usually allowed).
- If both adopt it → the bill passes the legislature.

This step is often called "reconciliation," "concurrence," or "conference" in legislative tracking and news. It's one of the last big hurdles before a bill reaches the Governor.

(Note: This is different from the federal "budget reconciliation" process, which is a special fast-track for budget-related bills in Congress. Washington state uses the term more generally for resolving House-Senate differences on any bill.)

Grange

Bills!!

[House Bill 2431](#) and [Senate Bill 5252](#) have both passed, have been signed by the Speaker and President of their respective chambers and have been delivered to the Governor for autograph or veto. We fully expect the Governor to sign these bills with no

issue whatsoever. These are the two bills that extend allowable fundraising days from 15 to 50 and increase the cap on the Grange property tax exemption from 1 acre to 50 acres. I want to thank Grangers Russ Weston and Steve Singhose for testifying on these bills and helping to push them across the finish line. I also want to thank all of you Grangers out there that signed in support of these bills every time we requested the help! That is real grassroots action!! These are great wins for the Grange and shows the support and impact we are making on capitol hill.

Budget

As mentioned last week, the supplemental budgets are all being deliberated this week starting with the operating budget then the Transportation and Capital Budget. These budget bills can be viewed in the following links. These budgets are set to head to conference committee over the next several days with a concurrent vote to pass them expected on March 12th

[House Operating Budget](#)
[Senate Operating Budget](#)
[House Capital Budget](#)

[Senate Capital Budget](#)
[House Transportation Budget](#)
[Senate Transportation Budget](#)

As the cutoffs come and go the bill list gets trimmed down and right now the current standing bill list of policy proposals is down to 327 Bills in total all of which can be [viewed here](#).

There is one day and evening of floor action left before conference reports come to the floor. You can follow along here at www.tvw.org

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:
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

Legislative Department

Jesse Taylor, Legislative Lobbyist

legislative@wa-grange.org

253-208-9071