

# WSCA Legislative Session Report

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January 16<sup>th</sup> (Week 1)

## ***General Update***

The 2022 legislative session began on Monday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. This is a short session, so it is only scheduled to go for 60 days, ending on March 10<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, Washington runs on a two-year (biennial) cycle. While short sessions typically are focused on making mid-biennium adjustments to the budget for emergent issues, given the increase in revenue as projected by the Economic and Revenue Forecast, we anticipate seeing more budget activity than we normally would expect in a short session.

There was also a larger than normal number of pre-filed bills that were introduced prior to the start of session. While it is normal for there to be bills that are pre-filed throughout December, the number of bills introduced prior to the first day of session was around 700. For perspective, during the entire 2021 legislative session, which is a long session, just over 1,100 bills were introduced. So to have over 700 introduced in a short session before the legislature even convenes was unique.

The [House](#) and [Senate](#) held their opening ceremonies on Monday. While there is normally a bit of fanfare around the first day of session, with the legislature convening in a mostly virtual format again due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the energy was more muted. Work immediately got underway as committees started convening for bill hearings and work sessions.

On Tuesday, Governor Inslee delivered his [State of the State Address](#) where he urged legislators to take action on a number of crucial issues such as homelessness and housing, climate change and protection for salmon. In his speech, Inslee acknowledged the more than 10,000 Washingtonians that have lost their lives to COVID-19, and thanked frontline workers, educators, and childcare workers for their ongoing service.

Senator Gildon (R-Puyallup) provided the [Republican perspective](#) heading into the 2022 legislative session. The speech focused on balance of government, limiting emergency powers, taxes, and addressing crime rates.

With the rapidly rising hospitalization rates due to the Omicron variant surge in Washington State, Governor Inslee [announced](#) to assist hospitals with staff shortages he has called up 100 National Guard personnel to deploy to hospitals in Everett, Yakima, Wenatchee, and Spokane. Guard personnel will also be sent to set up testing centers in Olympia, Richland, Seattle, and Tacoma. To alleviate the demands on hospitals, and increase capacity, they will temporarily suspend non-urgent procedures. This week, The Washington State Department of Health will release details about their portal for rapid in-home delivery of COVID tests through Amazon.

WSCA testified in the Senate last week with concerns about SB 5595, Governor-request legislation sponsored by Senator Lisa Wellman. WSCA strongly supports the bill, which would provide additional staffing for school counselors and other ESAs, but requested an amendment to conform the language with elements from SB 5030, which passed last year. On Thursday, WSCA Board Member Denise Reddinger testified in a House Education Committee [work session](#) about mental health crises in the education system, along with school nurses, social workers and psychologists. Denise also testified on HB 1664, legislation to increase staffing for school counselors and other ESAs.

[Click here](#) to watch this week's TVW Week in Review, which provides a good wrap-up of the past week in Olympia.

### **TVW**

We are fortunate to have a really great resource in Washington with [TVW](#). This a website and an app where you can watch most things related to session including committee hearings and floor sessions. If you know when a bill is scheduled, you can watch that hearing live by going to the '[Schedule](#)' and finding the hearing you are looking for. If you missed being able to watch something live, or if you want to go back and watch it again, you can go to the '[Archives](#)' and search for the hearing or floor action you want to watch. TVW also does shows that highlight some of the activity in Olympia each week. [Legislative Review](#) airs daily during session and also has a weekly wrap-up on Fridays (we always include the link to the weekly wrap-up in the report). [Inside Olympia](#) with Austin Jenkins provides weekly in-depth interviews with legislators and other state leaders. And [The Impact](#) provides weekly episodes that highlight big issues being discussed in Olympia. We try to highlight some of the interesting and relevant pieces from these shows when applicable, but you can always go and find them online to watch each week.

In addition to airing hearings and floor action on the TVW website, they are also available on YouTube channels for each chamber. The YouTube channels tend to be more stable and you can pause and jump back in the hearing even while it is airing live. The three different TVW YouTube channels can be found here:

[House YouTube Channel](#)

[Senate YouTube Channel](#)

[TVW YouTube Channel](#) (this is where you can find things like Governor press conferences)

### **Budget**

The Governor's proposed budget ([HB 1816/SB 5693](#)) was heard by the House Appropriations Committee on Jan 10<sup>th</sup> and the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Jan 11<sup>th</sup>. Governor Inslee released his proposed 2022 biennial operating, transportation, and capital budgets in December. Governor Inslee's proposed 2022 supplemental operating budget would bring total appropriations for the current 2021-23 biennium to \$61.794 billion. While large spending increases are fairly uncommon in supplemental budgets, that total amount includes \$4.2 billion in proposed new spending due to the significant increase in available revenue as described above. Overall, education is the largest area of total spending (\$28.3 billion), followed by social and health services (\$7.6 billion), and the Health Care Authority (\$6.8 billion). More than 100 people testified on the budget proposal in each committee, with hearings running for over two and a half hours.

The Governor's proposed 2022 Supplemental Capital Budget ([HB 1781/SB 5651](#)) was heard by the House Capital Budget committee on Jan 11<sup>th</sup> and the Senate Ways & Means committee on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's Capital Budget proposal appropriates \$4.1 billion for new projects centered around affordable housing, homelessness, salmon recovery, and climate mitigation policies.

The Governor's 2022 supplemental transportation budget ([HB 1786/SB 5689](#)) was heard by the House and Senate Transportation committees on Jan 10<sup>th</sup>. The Governor's budget proposes significant new spending in transportation in the hopes we will emerge from the pandemic stronger and more resilient. The

supplemental transportation budget focuses new investments in clean transportation, ferry reliability, preservation, and increasing diversity, equity, and inclusion in transportation

Now that public hearings have been held on the Governor's proposed budgets by both chambers, budget writers will work on comparing the Governor's proposal with legislative priorities and funding requests advanced by advocates. House and Senate budget proposals will be released later in February.

### ***Electeds & Elections***

[Simon Sefzik](#) of Ferndale has been named to replace the late Republican Sen. Doug Ericksen in the Washington Senate. Sefzik was appointed following a 4-2 vote by the Whatcom County Council and will serve the remainder of Ericksen's term representing the 42nd District through the next general election in November. At 22, Sefzik is the youngest current senator.

As the 2022 session kicked off, several legislators announced they had tested positive for COVID. Legislators that have announced a positive diagnosis include Senators Lovick, Billig, Trudeau, Mullet and Short, and Representative Leavitt.

### ***Looking Ahead***

This week will see more public hearings and movement of bills out of committee.

#### Upcoming Dates:

- February 3<sup>rd</sup> - House of Origin Policy Cutoff
- February 7<sup>th</sup> - House of Origin Fiscal Cutoff
- February 15<sup>th</sup> - House of Origin Floor Cutoff
- February 24<sup>th</sup> - Opposite House Policy Cutoff
- February 28<sup>th</sup> - Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
- March 4<sup>th</sup> - Opposite House Floor Cutoff
- March 10<sup>th</sup> - Sine Die

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

HB 1800 - Public Hearing - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.

HB 1890 - Public Hearing - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.

### **College & Workforce Development (House) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

HB 1805 - Public Hearing - Concerning the opportunity scholarship program.

### **Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 1/17 @ 1:30pm**

SB 5594 - Public Hearing - Concerning public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.

SB 5595 - Exec Session - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.

SB 5719 - Public Hearing - Concerning dual credit costs.

**Education (House) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 8:00am**

HJR 4200 - Public Hearing - Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

**Higher Education & Workforce Development (Senate) - Virtual - 1/18 @ 1:30pm**

SB 5854 - Exec Session - Concerning ethical performance of faculty duties.

**Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 8:00am**

HB 1883 - Public Hearing - Establishing a lifeline for youth and young adults who have experienced or are at risk of entering into public systems of care.

**Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 1/19 @ 10:30am**

SB 5720 - Public Hearing - Providing student financial literacy education.

SB 5735 - Public Hearing - Counting asynchronous instructional hours towards those required by the instructional program of basic education.

**Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs (Senate) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 8:00am**

SB 5600 - Exec Session - Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs.

**Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 10:00am**

HB 1800 - Exec Session - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.

HB 1890 - Exec Session - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.

**Education (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 1:30pm**

HB 1664 - Exec Session - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.

HB 1746 - Exec Session - Updating the 2015 report and recommendations for supporting student success through measuring and mitigating community risk and protective predictors since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

HB 1759 - Public Hearing - Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition, available through their websites and other communication resources.

HB 1834 - Public Hearing - Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons.

**Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 1/20 @ 3:30pm**

January 16, 2022

Page 4 of 9

HB 1699 - Public Hearing - Permitting individuals retired from the public employees retirement system, the teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system additional opportunities to work for a school district for up to 1,040 hours per school year while in receipt of pension benefits until July 1, 2025.

**Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

SB 5820 - Public Hearing - Appointing the superintendent of public instruction.

**Education (House) - Virtual - 1/21 @ 10:00am**

HB 1611 - Public Hearing - Advancing equity in programs for highly capable students.

HB 1760 - Public Hearing - Expanding access to dual credit programs.

HB 1867 - Public Hearing - Concerning dual credit program data.

HJR 4200 - Exec Session - Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

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<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1162</u></a> <b>High school graduation</b> Concerning high school graduation credit and pathway options.	H Education	Stonier
<a href="#"><u>HB 1590</u></a> <b>Enrollment stabilization</b> (SB 5563) Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	H Approps	Dolan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1601</u></a> <b>Student homelessness pilot</b> Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program.	H CWDDP	Leavitt
<a href="#"><u>HB 1611</u></a> <b>Highly capable students</b> Advancing equity in programs for highly capable students.	H Education	Dolan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1664</u></a> <b>Schools/support funding</b> Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	H Education	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 1699</u></a> <b>Work in retirement/schools</b> Permitting individuals retired from the public employees retirement system, the teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system additional opportunities to work for a school district for up to 1,040 hours per school year while in receipt of pension benefits until July 1, 2025.	H Approps	Bergquist

<a href="#"><u>HB 1746</u></a>	<b>Students/COVID-19 pandemic</b> Updating the 2015 report and recommendations for supporting student success through measuring and mitigating community risk and protective predictors since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.	H Education	Ortiz-Self
<a href="#"><u>HB 1759</u></a>	<b>School websites/drug info.</b> Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition, available through their websites and other communication resources.	H Education	Callan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1760</u></a>	<b>Dual credit program access</b> Expanding access to dual credit programs.	H Education	Paul
<a href="#"><u>HB 1791</u></a>	<b>Prof. educator reprimands</b> Concerning reprimands for professional educators.	H Education	Harris
<a href="#"><u>HB 1800</u></a>	<b>Behavioral health/minors</b> Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.	H Children, Yout	Eslick
<a href="#"><u>HB 1805</u></a> (SB 5797)	<b>Opportunity scholarship prog</b> Concerning the opportunity scholarship program.	H Coll & Wkf Dev	Paul
<a href="#"><u>HB 1834</u></a>	<b>Student absences/mental hlth</b> Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons.	H Education	Callan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1836</u></a>	<b>Scholarships/disadv. groups</b> Awarding academic scholarships to members of underprivileged or disadvantaged groups.	H Civil R & Judi	Shewmake
<a href="#"><u>HB 1867</u></a>	<b>Dual credit program data</b> Concerning dual credit program data.	H Education	Paul
<a href="#"><u>HB 1883</u></a>	<b>Youth lifeline</b> Establishing a lifeline for youth and young adults who have experienced or are at risk of entering into public systems of care.	H Children, Yout	Chopp
<a href="#"><u>HB 1890</u></a>	<b>Children behavioral health</b> Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.	H Children, Yout	Callan
<a href="#"><u>HB 1900</u></a>	<b>Schools/discrimination, etc.</b>	H Education	Senn

Improving school districts' responses to complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.

<a href="#"><u>HB 1941</u></a>	<b>Active shooter drills</b> Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills.	H Education	Walen
<a href="#"><u>HB 1985</u></a> (SB 5595)	<b>Schools/support funding</b> Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	H Education	Dolan
<a href="#"><u>HB 2000</u></a>	<b>Outdoor school</b> Clarifying the duty of the superintendent of public instruction to distribute federal and state basic education funds.		Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 2011</u></a>	<b>Skill center funding</b> Funding for skill center students for classes in sending school districts with less than 3,000 students and significant participation in skill centers.		Rule
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5376</u></a>	<b>Education ombuds awareness</b> Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds.	H Education	Wilson
<a href="#"><u>SB 5536</u></a>	<b>Collaborative school govern.</b> Establishing a collaborative school-based governance model.	S EL/K-12	Hasegawa
<a href="#"><u>SB 5537</u></a>	<b>Compulsory school attendance</b> Changing compulsory school attendance requirements for children five, six, and seven years of age.	S EL/K-12	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5553</u></a>	<b>Early STEM metrics</b> Providing data regarding early STEM metrics in the STEM education report card.	S EL/K-12	Wilson
<a href="#"><u>SB 5563</u></a> (HB 1590)	<b>Enrollment stabilization</b> Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.	S EL/K-12	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5594</u></a>	<b>Bone marrow donation aware.</b> Concerning public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation.	S EL/K-12	Short
<a href="#"><u>SB 5595</u></a> (HB 1985)	<b>Schools/support funding</b> Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.	S EL/K-12	Wellman
<a href="#"><u>SB 5596</u></a>	<b>Health info. disclosure</b>	S Behavioral Heal	Trudeau

Conforming disclosure restrictions for mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers to the requirements of the Uniform Health Care Information Act.

<a href="#"><u>SB 5600</u></a>	<b>Apprenticeship programs</b> Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs.	S Labor, Comm &	Keiser
<a href="#"><u>SB 5601</u></a> (HB 1986)	<b>School district boards</b> Empowering school district boards of directors.	S EL/K-12	Short
<a href="#"><u>SB 5630</u></a>	<b>Early learning/basic ed.</b> Expanding the statutory program of basic education to include the basic education program of early learning.	S EL/K-12	Hasegawa
<a href="#"><u>SB 5638</u></a>	<b>Mental health prof. licenses</b> Concerning expediting approval for applicants for an associate license as a social worker, mental health counselor, or marriage and family therapist.	S Behavioral Heal	Wagoner
<a href="#"><u>SB 5644</u></a>	<b>Behavioral health coresponse</b> Concerning providing quality behavioral health co-response services	S Behavioral Hea	Wagoner
<a href="#"><u>SB 5719</u></a>	<b>Dual credit costs</b> Concerning dual credit costs.	S EL/K-12	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>SB 5720</u></a>	<b>Student financial literacy</b> Providing student financial literacy education.	S EL/K-12	Mullet
<a href="#"><u>SB 5735</u></a>	<b>Async. instructional hours</b> Counting asynchronous instructional hours towards those required by the instructional program of basic education.	S EL/K-12	Dhingra
<a href="#"><u>SB 5777</u></a>	<b>COVID-19 vaccine/children</b> Addressing the vaccination for COVID-19 requirement for children attending schools or day care centers.	S EL/K-12	Braun
<a href="#"><u>SB 5820</u></a>	<b>Superintendent, appointing</b> Appointing the superintendent of public instruction.	S EL/K-12	Carlyle
<a href="#"><u>SB 5854</u></a>	<b>Faculty duties/ethics</b> Concerning ethical performance of faculty duties.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Randall

[SB 5858](#)

**Education/parent rights**

S EL/K-12

Dozier

Establishing parents' bill of rights related to their child's public education.

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[SB 5883](#)

**Homeless youth/health care**

Trudeau

Concerning an unaccompanied homeless youth's ability to provide informed consent for that minor patient's own health care, including nonemergency, outpatient, and primary care services, including physical examinations, vision examinations and eyeglasses, dental examinations, hearing examinations and hearing aids, immunizations, treatments for illnesses and conditions, and routine follow-up care customarily provided by a health care provider in an outpatient setting, excluding elective surgeries.

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