

WSCA Legislative Report

February 27th (Week 7)

The past week was packed with every type of session activity. The Senate released their proposed supplemental operating and transportation budgets, and the House released their proposed operating, capital and transportation budgets (the Senate had already released their capital budget the week before). All budget proposals had hearings and executive sessions throughout the week with some committee meetings running late into the night. Each chamber passed their operating budgets over the weekend, and the primary budget negotiators will soon begin conference committee discussions.

In addition to the activity around budgets, it was also a busy week of committee hearings. The opposite house policy cutoff was Thursday, February 24th, but fewer than 40 bills failed to advance, meaning there are still about 400 bills in play for the final weeks of session.

After Thursday's policy cutoff, attention quickly shifted to fiscal committees. Opposite house fiscal cutoff is on Monday, February 28th, which means there were just four days to hear and move bills referred from a policy committee to a fiscal committee. The House Appropriations committee had their marathon of bill hearings on Friday and the Senate Ways & Means had theirs on Saturday. No committees met on Sunday, so both fiscal committees will hold lengthy meetings on Monday focused on executive sessions to move bills out by the deadline.

Following Monday's fiscal cutoff, the focus for the rest of the week will turn to floor action where both chambers will work to pass bills by Friday March 4th by 5pm, which is opposite house floor cutoff. There are just four days to debate, potentially amend, and pass bills off the floor by the deadline, so it is anticipated that there will be long days on the floor, potentially running late into the night.

With less than two weeks left in session, budget writers from both chambers will also be doing a lot of work behind the scenes as the House and Senate work towards a final compromise budget.

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

Budget Proposals

Both the House and Senate budgets translate higher-than-expected state tax collections into increased spending on a variety of caucus priorities including healthcare, affordable housing and homelessness, education, the environment, and infrastructure. The House budget proposes increasing the budget to \$65 billion, while the Senate budget proposes \$63.4 billion. Minority Republicans were quick to criticize, arguing neither budget proposes broad tax cuts.

Both budgets propose:

- Transferring \$2 billion from the general fund to Move Ahead Washington, the \$16 billion, 16-year transportation package.

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- Keeping the state paid family leave program solvent through June 30, 2023. The House spends \$397 million, and the Senate spends \$350 million.
- Substantial investments in K-12 public schools, with most of the funding going toward stabilizing school enrollment (\$315 million in House, and \$345 million in Senate). Funding for K-12 proposed by the House and Senate also would include money to fund additional counselors, nurses, and psychologists in schools (as outlined in 2SHB 1664).
- Providing a 3.25% pay raise for state workers on July 1, per a collective bargaining agreement. Most will also receive a one-time payment of \$3,400. The tab for wages and benefits is \$232 million in the Senate budget, \$276 million in the House's.
- Assistance for utilities such as broadband, energy, garbage, water, and recycling
- Immediate shelter needs for the state's homeless population

The House operating budget (HB 1816) passed out of House Appropriations on February 23rd and passed off the House floor on February 26th with a vote of 56 to 37. Documents related to the House operating budget can be found [here](#).

The Senate operating budget (SB 5693) passed out of Senate Ways & Means on February 23rd and passed off the Senate floor on February 25th with a vote of 29 to 10. Documents related to the Senate operating budget can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Dates:

- February 28th - Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
- March 4th - Opposite House Floor Cutoff
- March 10th - Sine Die

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/28 @ 10:00am

- [SHB 1590](#) - Exec Session - Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [2SHB 1664](#) - Exec Session - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.
- [ESHB 1699](#) - Exec Session - 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.
- [E2SHB 1760](#) - Exec Session - Expanding access to dual credit programs.
- [SHB 1800](#) - Exec Session - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors.
- [HB 1805](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the opportunity scholarship program.

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- [2SHB 1890](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group.
- [2SHB 2078](#) - Exec Session - Establishing the outdoor learning grant program.

Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 2/28 @ 11:00am

- [E2SSB 5600](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs.
- [2SSB 5720](#) - Exec Session - Providing student financial literacy education.

| <u>Bill Details</u> | <u>Status</u> | <u>Sponsor</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|
| E2SHB 1162 (Dead) | High school graduation Concerning high school graduation credit and pathway options. | S EL/K-12 Stonier |
| SHB 1590 | Enrollment stabilization Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. | S Ways & Means Dolan |
| HB 1601 (Dead) | Student homelessness pilot Expanding the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth pilot program. | H Approps Leavitt |
| HB 1611 | Highly capable students Advancing equity in programs for highly capable students. | S Rules 2 Dolan |
| 2SHB 1664 | Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. | S Ways & Means Rule |
| ESHB 1699 | Work in retirement/schools 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. | S Ways & Means Bergquist |
| SHB 1746 (Dead) | Students/COVID-19 pandemic 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. | S EL/K-12 Ortiz-Self |
| SHB 1759 | School websites/drug info. | S Rules 2 Callan |

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.

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| <u>E2SHB 1760</u> | Dual credit program access Expanding access to dual credit programs. | S Ways & Means | Paul |
| <u>SHB 1791 (Dead)</u> | Prof. educator reprimands Concerning reprimands for professional educators. | H Rules C | Harris |
| <u>SHB 1800</u> | Behavioral health/minors Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors. | S Ways & Means | Eslick |
| <u>HB 1805 (SB 5797)</u> | Opportunity scholarship prog Concerning the opportunity scholarship program. | S Ways & Means | Paul |
| <u>HB 1834</u> | Student absences/mental hlth Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons. | S 2nd Reading | Callan |
| <u>HB 1836 (Dead)</u> | Scholarships/disadv. groups Awarding academic scholarships to members of underprivileged or disadvantaged groups. | H Civil R & Judi | Shewmake |
| <u>SHB 1867</u> | Dual credit program data Concerning dual credit program data. | S Rules 2 | Paul |
| <u>HB 1883 (Dead)</u> | Youth lifeline 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 |
| <u>2SHB 1890</u> | Children behavioral health Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group. | S Ways & Means | Callan |
| <u>HB 1900 (Dead)</u> | Schools/discrimination, etc. Improving school districts' responses to complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying. | H Education | Senn |
| <u>SHB 1941</u> | Active shooter drills Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills. | S Rules 2 | Walén |

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| <u>HB 1985</u> (2SSB 5595) | Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. | H Education | Dolan |
| <u>HB 2000</u> | OSPI basic education funds Clarifying the duty of the superintendent of public instruction to distribute federal and state basic education funds. | H Approps | Rule |
| <u>HB 2011</u> | Skill center funding Funding for skill center students for classes in sending school districts with less than 3,000 students and significant participation in skill centers. | H Approps | Rule |
| <u>HB 2014</u> (Dead) | Outdoor school Establishing the outdoor school for all program. | H Education | Rule |
| <u>HB 2041</u> (Dead) | Health care for minors Concerning greater consistency in the provision of health care services for minors under the age of 16. | H HC/Wellness | Walsh |
| <u>HB 2053</u> (Dead) | Behavioral health work group Creating a behavioral health work group to study the root causes of rising behavioral health issues in Washington communities. | H HC/Wellness | Dent |
| <u>HB 2056</u> (Dead) | K-12 instructional materials Promoting academic transparency in public schools. | H Education | Steele |
| <u>2SHB 2078</u> (SB 5925) | Outdoor learning grant prg. Establishing the outdoor school for all program. | S Ways & Means | Rule |
| <u>HJR 4200</u> (Dead) | School district bonds Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds. | H Cap Budget | Stonier |
| <u>SB 5043</u> (Dead) | School employee housing Providing housing to school district employees. | S Rules X | Salomon |
| <u>2SSB 5147</u> (Dead) | Learning stabilization, etc. Exploring alternative school calendars. | S Rules X | Hawkins |
| <u>2SSB 5327</u> | Youth safety tip line Creating a confidential youth safety and well-being tip line. | S Rules X | Brown |

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| <u>SSB 5376</u> | Education ombuds awareness Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds. | H Passed 3rd | Wilson |
| <u>SB 5536</u> (Dead) | Collaborative school govern. Establishing a collaborative school-based governance model. | S EL/K-12 | Hasegawa |
| <u>SSB 5537</u> | Compulsory school attendance Changing compulsory school attendance requirements for children five, six, and seven years of age. | S Ways & Means | Wellman |
| <u>SSB 5553</u> | Early STEM metrics Providing data regarding early STEM metrics in the STEM education report card. | H Rules R | Wilson |
| <u>SSB 5563</u> (SHB 1590) | Enrollment stabilization Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. | S Rules X | Wellman |
| <u>SSB 5594</u> | Bone marrow donation aware. Concerning public school instruction in awareness of bone marrow donation. | H 2nd Reading | Short |
| <u>2SSB 5595</u> (HB 1985) | Schools/support funding Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. | S Rules X | Wellman |
| <u>SB 5596</u> | Health info. disclosure Conforming disclosure restrictions for mental health counselors, marriage and family therapists, and social workers to the requirements of the Uniform Health Care Information Act. | H Rules R | Trudeau |
| <u>E2SSB 5600</u> | Apprenticeship programs Concerning the sustainability and expansion of state registered apprenticeship programs. | H Approps | Keiser |
| <u>SB 5601</u> (Dead) | School district boards Empowering school district boards of directors. | S EL/K-12 | Short |
| <u>SB 5630</u> (Dead) | Early learning/basic ed. Expanding the statutory program of basic education to include the basic education program of early learning. | S EL/K-12 | Hasegawa |
| <u>SSB 5638</u> (Dead) | Mental health prof. licenses Concerning expediting approval for applicants for an associate license as a social worker, mental health counselor, or marriage and family therapist. | H HC/Wellness | Wagoner |

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| <u>SSB 5644</u> | Behavioral health coresponse Concerning providing quality behavioral health co-response services | H Rules R | Wagoner |
| <u>SSB 5719</u> | Dual credit costs Concerning dual credit costs. | S Ways & Means | Mullet |
| <u>2SSB 5720</u> | Student financial literacy Providing student financial literacy education. | H Approps | Mullet |
| <u>SB 5735</u> (Dead) | Async. instructional hours Counting asynchronous instructional hours towards those required by the instructional program of basic education. | S EL/K-12 | Dhingra |
| <u>SB 5777</u> (Dead) | COVID-19 vaccine/children Addressing the vaccination for COVID-19 requirement for children attending schools or day care centers. | S EL/K-12 | Braun |
| <u>SB 5820</u> (Dead) | Superintendent, appointing Appointing the superintendent of public instruction. | S EL/K-12 | Carlyle |
| <u>SB 5854</u> | Faculty duties/ethics Concerning ethical performance of faculty duties. | H 2nd Reading | Randall |
| <u>SB 5858</u> (Dead) | Education/parent rights Establishing parents' bill of rights related to their child's public education. | S EL/K-12 | Dozier |
| <u>SSB 5883</u> | Homeless youth/health care 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. | H 2nd Reading | Trudeau |
| <u>SB 5902</u> (Dead) | High school grad. credits Concerning the implementation of high school graduation credit requirements. | S EL/K-12 | Wellman |
| <u>SB 5905</u> (Dead) | Outdoor school Establishing the outdoor school for all program. | S EL/K-12 | Hunt |

[SB 5922](#)
(Dead)

K-12 education funding
Concerning K-12 education funding.

S EL/K-12

Braun

[SB 5925](#)
(Dead)

Outdoor school
Establishing the outdoor school for all program.

S EL/K-12

Hunt
