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About TWIO

This Week in Olympia (TWIO) is published by WASA in support of our members and members of our partners in WASBO, WSPA, and AEA.

TWIO is emailed each Friday during the Legislative Session and archived on WASA's website at <https://wasa-oly.org/WASA/TWIO>.

2021 WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference

Final preparations are being made for the annual [WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference](#) to be held this Sunday, February 21. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's Conference will be a "virtual" event, with a mix of both live and recorded presentations. Even though we will not be together face-to-face, we once again will have a strong turn-out—evidence that our collective members understand the need to engage in the legislative process.

The [Conference program](#) will begin with an address from State Superintendent Chris Reykdal. He will present his annual State of the State of Education and outline his OSPI priorities and vision for this session, as well as his [long-term priorities](#) for K–12 education. In recent years, it has been difficult scheduling Governor Jay Inslee's participation in our Conference; however, this year he has provided us with a pre-recorded message and we are pleased he will be able to "attend" in this virtual manner.

A major focus of this legislative session is on budget issues, in particular the 2021 Supplemental Operating Budget and a new 2021–23 Operating Budget. Although the state today is not facing an \$8.8 billion hole like we were this past June, difficult budget decisions will still have to be made (more discussion of budget matters later in this newsletter). Providing us with a "deeper dive" on the state budget will be Emily Makings, representing the [Washington Research Council](#). Regular readers of TWIO know that we often cite the Research Council's work in explaining budget issues. Ms. Makings will be with us "live" and has agreed to take questions from attendees.

Each Conference, one of the consistent requests from our members is the inclusion of legislators in the program. Last year, unfortunately, we were only able to secure one legislator—Senator Lisa Wellman (D-Mercer Island), Chair of the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. While it was an excellent opportunity to spend a larger amount of time with her, with a lot of productive dialogue, it was disappointing not to have representatives from the three other Caucuses. We decided to give it another go this year; however, the four Caucus education leads will be with us via pre-recorded interviews. While there will not be an opportunity to have a back-and-forth with attendees, we captured their thoughts on priorities for the session, and each provided some insights into how you can more effectively engage in the legislative process. In addition to Sen. Wellman, we'll be hearing from Senator Brad Hawkins (R-East Wenatchee), Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee; Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos (D-Seattle), Chair of the House Education Committee, and Representative Alex Ybarra (R-Quincy), Ranking Minority Member of the House Education Committee.

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WASA Legislative Report Podcast



The Podcast will be available on a regular basis on the [WASA website](#), or [subscribe to the Report](#) via multiple podcast apps.

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WASA•WSSDA•WASBO
Legislative Conference,
February 21. Register now
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Because this virtual Conference will be different than anything we have ever done before, the Conference Planning Team decided it would be beneficial to provide some additional content, which in a normal situation we would not have the capacity to provide. Sunday's program will include a live [keynote presentation](#) from [Dr. John Draper](#), a consultant with the National School Public Relations Association. Dr. Draper's presentation will focus on communications and "how to tell your story"—which is especially pertinent to your advocacy work. Many of you have seen Dr. Draper in previous WASA workshops—and if you have, you know that he will provide our attendees with the necessary tools to effectively engage with your legislators.

Your government relations staff will close the afternoon program with a presentation of the annual Hot Topics—the set of common priorities which attendees will meet with legislators about. Advocacy for education funding (specifically, enrollment stabilization, pupil transportation, and federal ESSER II funds) will be the focal point. The two other Hot Topics are: Graduation Flexibility and Career Options; and Student Well-Being (with the reminder to legislators that staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model need to be enhanced, providing more realistic funding support for additional staff positions). The Hot Topics briefing will provide attendees with concise and common messages to use as you talk with your legislators.

If you want a preview of the Hot Topics, the documents are available online—both the [Large version](#), which provides background information and context to the issues, as well as the [Small version](#), which summarizes our collective stance on the issues.

Of course, our collective members will not “rush the Hill” on Monday morning. With the Capital Campus being closed and most legislators working remotely, the traditional Day on the Hill was just not a possibility. Originally, we scheduled a “Week on the Hill” (to allow for more time and flexibility in meeting virtually with legislators) and planned to have our members meet collectively with legislators from Monday through Friday, February 22–26. Because of circumstances out of our control, however, we have moved the Week on the Hill activities to March 15–19.

[Regional Planning Meetings](#), traditionally held Sunday night after the program, will now take place March 8–12. These important meetings will help prepare you for the Week on the Hill meetings with legislators; you are encouraged to attend. Participation details will be delivered to Conference attendees via email next week. If you have questions related to the Week on the Hill meetings, however, please contact: onthehill@wssda.org

The Week on the Hill will be an opportunity to advocate on a common set of issues with your colleagues; however, we encourage you not to wait to meet with your legislators until mid-March. Continue to engage with them NOW and use the Week on the Hill meetings as an additional opportunity to build your relationships with legislators, this time arm-in-arm with your colleagues addressing a common set of priorities.

This Week in Review

Last week there was a rush of activity in legislative Committees, as legislators attempted to adopt priority bills before the Legislature's first self-imposed [“cut-off” deadline](#) arrived on Monday, February 15. With Monday's original house policy committee cut-off, last week's activity was no match for the frenetic pace on Monday. Any bill that failed to pass out of its original house policy committee by Monday is now technically dead (understanding that dead bills can be revived).

One of the bills that made it through this first gate is [SJR 8204](#), the constitutional amendment authorizing school district bonds to pass with a 55 percent approval. The Resolution was adopted in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee (along with its necessary implementing bill, [SB 5386](#).) As we have discussed before, there remain some concerns about stepping forward and supporting the 55 percent

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bond approval, rather than the “clean” simple majority approval; however, it IS positive that doing away with the current supermajority requirement continues to be discussed. With a two-thirds vote by both houses (33 votes in the Senate; 66 votes in the House) necessary to pass a constitutional amendment, the threshold is high. Given the make-up of the house and senate, at least a handful of Republican members—who traditionally have been resistant to the issue—would have to support the Resolution to get over the bar. And this does not seem at all likely anytime soon.

One of the ideas about 55 percent is that it is a “compromise” position and could appease Republicans, convincing them to support the issue. At some point that may be true; however, in the last few years, it appears that the Republican Caucuses in both houses have been “locked down”—and whether that is true or not no Republican has been vocalizing support. If the issue was brought to the Floor in either house and all members had to officially register their “Yea” or “Nay,” it is possible a few closet supporters may vote to approve, but it does not seem very likely. All this to make the point: compromise positions are usually forwarded to garner additional support. And there are two important notes here: (1) it does not appear this “compromise” is increasing support for the measure (so it raises a question about why we would support a compromise that does not gain us anything); and (2) sometimes compromising to turn opposition votes into supporting votes can backfire, causing supporting votes to turn to opposition.

The second note was on display on Monday in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. As expected, all three Republican members opposed the measure; however, the final vote was 5–4. Why? Because one Democratic member voted “No.” Senator Sam Hunt (D-Olympia) voted “No” with the Republicans because he is a strong supporter of the simple majority and dislikes the “compromise” position.

Again, it IS positive legislators keep introducing and hearing these constitutional amendments, whether it be SJR 8204 (55 percent) or [HJR 4200](#) (simple majority), because it gives us a public forum to discuss concerns about capital funding, including the outdated and unrealistic funding formulas for the Construction Cost Allowance and Student Space Allocation (as a part of the School Construction Assistance Program). In fact, if SCAP funding more closely reflected actual construction costs and educational space needs, the number and size of bond issues would likely be smaller and, therefore, probably easier to pass. That pipedream is not as unrealistic as believing a 55 percent or a simple majority amendment has any chance in the near-term, but it is in the same ballpark.

Approximately 1,100 bills have been introduced in the House and Senate combined; following Monday’s cut-off, at least one-third to as much as one-half of those bills died. This weeding-out process allows legislators and lobbyists (and constituents) to more clearly see what legislator priorities are. That picture of priorities will become even clearer following the next cut-off deadline. All bills must be out of their original house fiscal committee by Monday, February 22 in order to remain alive. With the original house policy committee cut-off arriving this past Monday and the original house fiscal committee cut-off coming this next Monday, most of the action took place in fiscal committees this week (that is, the House Appropriations, Capital Budget, Finance, and Transportation Committees and the Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation Committees). The House Appropriations Committee had 110 bills and the Senate Ways & Means Committees had 130 bills residing in those respective committees. Certainly not all of them will be acted upon; however, each day this week, both Committees were hearing up to 20 bills and taking executive action on similar numbers.

This week the House Appropriations Committee acted on these bills of interest:

- [HB 1266](#)—**Salary review/rebase**. In 2017’s “*McCleary* solution” (HB 2242), the Legislature eliminated the state Salary Allocation Model and Staff Mix,

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replacing the system with compensation based on a statewide average allocation, along with regionalization factors (and, in 2018, an experience factor). HB 2242 required a regular review and rebase of the new compensation system, beginning in 2023 and every four years thereafter. Although we advocated for a regular review—and won on that issue—the law was silent on the process to accomplish the review and rebase. HB 1266 would establish a work group, comprised of legislators and stakeholders to undertake a review of compensation issues and forward recommendations in the fall of 2022 to the Legislature, so they can implement necessary changes in 2023. The bill was heard in the Appropriations Committee and has sat dormant since. It has been scheduled for executive action three times (February 1, 11, and 16), but has not yet been acted upon. This is an important bill and appears to have little controversy (both management and labor support it), so it is unclear why it has not moved. Positively, if it does die this year, there is still time to adopt the bill and conduct the review in 2022—although the time available for the required review would be constricted.

- **HB 1500—School district audits.** This is another issue that was adopted as a part of the 2017 “*McCleary* solution.” With the change in the levy system, HB 2242 required school districts’ regular audits to include a review of the use of enrichment levies. If the state auditor found that levy funds were being used inappropriately, the district would have an opportunity to cure the problem. If the auditor found the continued misuse of levy funds, however, the district would be reported to OSPI and OSPI would be required to reduce school district levy collections by the amount of the inappropriate expenditure. When HB 2242 was adopted, OSPI and most of the education stakeholders asked the governor to veto these provisions, but they were maintained.

OSPI continues to say they don’t believe they have the legal or constitutional authority to reduce a district’s levy collections—and even if they did, they don’t want to be put in this position. HB 1500 simply strips out these provisions. The bill was scheduled for executive action yesterday; however, the bill was pulled off the list. There were several amendments introduced and its our understanding there is some negotiating about accepting some of the changes. It is anticipated this bill will move out of the Committee; however, it has not yet been rescheduled for executive action.

- **HB 1139—Lead in school water.** After moving out of the House Education Committee, this bill was heard in the Appropriations Committee yesterday and is on today’s executive action list. Although the Education Committee accepted a striking amendment, this bill still includes onerous reporting requirements and, what we believe to be, a potential for large unfunded costs—the dreaded unfunded mandate. It also requires action if lead levels exceeding 5 parts per billion are found in fixtures, while the federal EPA requires mediation at 15ppb. We have asked for a null and void clause; however, legislators believe grant money provided to OSPI would more than cover the costs of remediation required in the bill. It is a tough argument to fight, given that OSPI supports the bill—and they, too, believe there are sufficient funds available to cover district costs.
- **HB 1365—Providing computers to students.** This bill was heard yesterday and is scheduled to move from the Appropriations Committee today. The ultimate goal of the bill would be implementation of a 1:1 program, wherein every student would be provided a learning device (including computers, tablets, etc.). The bill would require OSPI, subject to funds appropriated, to administer a technology grant program to support the 1:1 goal. ESDs would also be required to provide technology consultation, procurement, and training. The original version of the bill would have required school districts to provide devices to students and also

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included a revenue source (a tax on smart wireless devices). Both provisions weighed the bill down and were removed in the House Education Committee.

- **HB 1476—Enrollment stabilization.** One of our major priority bills, as we have discussed here multiple times, is scheduled for executive action today. There continues to be a high level of conversation about addressing this issue (as well as [SB 5128](#), pupil transportation funding) in the budget, rather than continuing forward with this bill. We recently learned the levy and LEA provisions cannot be adjusted in the budget, so it is likely the bulk of the bill will be stripped down to just address levies and LEA funding, with the remainder of the provisions being embedded in the budget. We will continue to watch this closely.

The House Appropriations Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet tomorrow, but that has not been confirmed, nor is there an agenda posted, yet. Depending on how far they get on their list today will likely dictate whether or how long they meet tomorrow. It is a fairly standard practice for the Appropriations Committee to hold a lengthy Saturday hearing just prior to the house of origin fiscal committee cut-off. It's unclear if the remote nature of the session will alter this tradition, or if they will follow their standard operating procedure. Regardless of whether they meet tomorrow, the Committee is scheduled for a final hearing on Monday.

The Senate Ways & Means Committee also had lengthy agendas; however, less bills of importance or interest to school administrators were addressed. Here are a few:

- **SB 5326—Private transportation contracts.** This is the bill which would prohibit school districts from entering into contracts with private pupil transportation providers unless their employees were provided health and pension benefits equivalent to the benefits school employees receive. This is the third year this issue has been raised and we continue to oppose. Even though there are only a limited number of school district which have private transportation service, the number of students impacted is quite large, with the state's largest districts utilizing contracted services. For all districts with contracted services, this would be a huge financial burden. Additionally, we are very concerned about the “slippery slope” argument—if this bill passes, what's next? Food service? Special education services? Speech or physical therapy services?

The bill was heard on January 28 and was scheduled for executive action on Monday. Just prior to the hearing, the bill was pulled off the list. We had worked with Committee members to introduce a “null and void” amendment and apparently has caused a stir in the Democratic Caucus. Additionally, we understand the bill probably would not have had enough votes to be adopted. Additional conversations about amendments have continued this week and recently the bill was added to the executive action list for Monday. From what we understand, the amendments discussed would make the bill better, but probably would not move us off of our current concern and opposition.

- **SB 5147—Balanced calendars.** This bill was heard a couple of weeks ago and is not scheduled for executive action until Monday, but I'll mention it here anyway. The original bill would have established two pilot programs—one that would extend school years from the current 180 days to 210 days; and a second one to implement a “balanced calendar” with 180 days, but spread across the full calendar year, rather than the traditional September to June calendar. There was some additional funding included to provide an incentive to districts to participate. When the bill left the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee, the first pilot (210 days) was stripped from the bill. The sponsor continues to work on amendments, one of which addresses one of our major concerns. The original bill limited participation to districts with at least 500 students and had at least 50 percent of student participating in the federal Free and Reduced-price Meals program. As we understand it, the 500

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student floor would be dropped and the poverty threshold would be lowered to 35 percent of students. There is also a conversation about using this bill as a vehicle to establish a series of grant programs to address learning stabilization/recovery. With the required learning recovery plans in [HB 1368](#) (Pandemic relief bill) and a focus on learning loss in the potential new influx of cash from the federal government as a part of President Biden’s stimulus package—along with a growing chorus of conversation in Olympia—this may be the way to achieve additional K–12 dollars in the budget.

- **[SB 5096—Capital Gains Tax](#)**. This is not an education issue; however, it is a huge topic of conversation. The bill was adopted by the Committee on Tuesday. It is unclear if it will have enough support to be adopted this session, but it seems to have more momentum than we have seen for a while. Support or oppose, if this gathers a head of steam, it will garner a lot of attention and conversation.

Budget Update

The [Economic and Revenue Forecast Council](#) released its [monthly revenue report](#) this week. Once again, revenues were up above projections. Cumulatively, revenues are up almost \$600 million above projections in November. In June, the state was staring into an \$8.8 billion hole and nobody was exactly panicking, but things appeared fairly desperate. As state agencies were directed to undergo budget cutting exercises, K–12 was looking at enrollment declines, transportation ridership declines, and increased costs for cleaning, PPE, electronic devices, and training—with the assumption K–12 funding from the state would be on the chopping block. With the revenue increases in September, November, and the monthly increases since November, it appears if the Legislature uses some Budget Stabilization Account funds and does not go on a crazy spending spree in the Operating Budget, that previous \$8.8 billion hole is nearly erased.

The Forecast Council will release its quarterly Revenue Forecast—which the Legislature will use to determine the level of funding they have available to spend in the 2021–23 Operating Budget—on March 17. Traditions are for “normal” times, but if tradition holds, we will see a House Democratic Operating Budget proposal the week of March 22 (it’s the Senate’s “turn” to start the budget process this biennium).

Assuming the revenue trend holds for another month, and projections beyond are positive, the state will not exactly be flush with cash; however, the idea of gutting state programs or drastically reducing K–12 funding does not appear to be a major concern. And, in fact, there may be some extra cash available to provide for some needed, targeted increases. How about addressing that special education underfunding? Or what about starting down the long-term road of updating staffing ratios in the Prototypical School Funding Model and provide funding to increase the number nurses, counselors, and social workers? “Learning Loss/Recovery” as noted above is rising to the top of everyone’s priority list—how about providing resources to school districts to address those needs?

And speaking of budgets, [last week](#) we discussed the somewhat surprising [budget release from Minority Republicans in the Senate](#)—and this week, their GOP colleagues in the House released an [Operating Budget proposal](#).

The House plan in many ways is similar to the Senate plan; however, there are also major differences. Both plans spend similar amounts—Senate, \$55.5 billion; House, \$55.4 billion. Both plans drain the Budget Stabilization Account, increasing available revenue by \$1.8 billion. Neither plan increases taxes. The Senate plan provides a little more than \$1.0 billion to K–12; however, almost that entire amount is federal funds—most of which have already been allocated in HB 1368 (Pandemic relief). When the governor signs that bill today, those funds are “locked in.” If you subtract those funds from the Senate plan, K–12 receives almost no additional support.

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For K–12, the House plan is much better (although certainly not great, or everything we want and/or need). The House plan accounts for the adoption of HB 1368 and doesn't try and reallocate those federal funds. The plan does, however, provide the remaining ESSER II dollars that were not allocated in HB 1368—remember, Congress dedicated \$742 million for K–12, but HB 1368 only provides \$668 million. The House plan provides the remaining \$74 million AND the \$82 million that is supposed to be provided to OSPI; total provided to K–12 is \$157 million. Similar to the Senate plan, however, these funds are contingent on schools reopening. The House also provides \$500 million (\$350 million in FY 21; \$150 million in 2021–23) for accelerated learning opportunities and \$160 million in a high poverty stipend—cash payments to parents of kids in poverty. For the 2021–23 biennium, the House plan also provides funding for paraeducator training (\$14 million) that was cut last year; and funding to cover higher School Employees' Benefits Board (SEBB) rates (\$85 million). The plan also includes a savings of \$118 million by eliminating National Board bonuses for teachers.

As we noted last week about the Senate plan, the House plan will not be going anywhere either. Neither budget was introduced with the belief that they could be adopted; however, some of the issues may put pressure on Democratic budget-writers. The real reason for releasing these budgets is fairly clear: Republican budget-writers wanted to publicly display a complete budget package that funded essential services, along with some targeted policy increases, that was accomplished without raising taxes. Additional details of the House plan are available from the [Legislative Evaluation & Accountability Program \(LEAP\) Committee](#).

AEA

By Mitch Denning

Our Annual AEA Day on the Hill was held on Monday, which initiated an AEA virtual “Week on the Hill” which continues through today. At Monday's opening meeting, Joel Aune welcomed our 20 members of Washington Association of Maintenance and Operation Administrators and Washington School Nutrition Association, and Dan Steele gave us a legislative update.

Following a discussion of our two associations' talking points on our key issues, several AEA members joined me as we met with caucus leaders from all four caucuses to explain each association's 2021 legislative priorities. We met with Rep. J.T. Wilcox, House minority leader, Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self's, legislative assistant, who is the House Democratic caucus chair, Sen. Christine Rolfes, chair, Senate Ways & Means Committee, and Sen. John Braun, Senate Republican leader.

All four meetings went quite well from AEA's view. Our WAMOA members discussed our opposition to [SHB 1139, lead in school drinking water](#), support for [SB 5202, a school district subfund for preventative maintenance](#), and support for [HB 1080/SB 5083, the governor's proposed 2021–23 K–12 Capital Budget](#), which contains several grants that WAMOA supports and is working with OSPI on their implementation.

Our WSNA members discussed our support for [SHB 1342, extending the reduced-price lunch copay to grades Pre–K and grades 4–12](#), support for retaining [OSPI's food services funding in the 2021–23 Operating Budget](#), and support for [SSB 5128, which expands student transportation funding and services during an emergency](#) to allow school meals to be delivered to students attending hybrid and remote schools. WSNA members then discussed legislative support for our [PPE funding request](#) for masks and

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gloves, specifically. School nutrition staff whose district budgets have been depleted due to lower federal reimbursement and less student participation clearly need this state funding support for the remainder of this fiscal year.

Throughout the week, AEA members participating in our virtual Week on the Hill have been meeting with their respective local senators and representatives discussing each association's 2021 priorities. On Monday, February 22, each of the members will be sending the results of their meetings to Donna Parsons, WSNA's public and policy legislative chair, for tabulation purposes.

WSNA is pleased that [SHB 1342](#) passed the House on February 12, with a vote of 95–1! Approved also was Rep. Drew Stokesbary's amendment which directs OSPI to fund this measure. The original bill had called for the measure to be subject to the availability of funds appropriated for this specific purpose. Now the bill moves to the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee.

Further, in Rep. Stokesbary's House Republican 2021–23 Operating Budget which was released earlier this week, there is additional \$8.6 million appropriated to OSPI food services allocation to cover the cost of the copay elimination.

Yesterday, House Appropriations held a public hearing on [SHB 1139](#). WAMOA testified in opposition to the bill based on these two points. One, the federal EPA level of 15 PPB is sufficient as well as the standard for water purveyors, and the lower level of 5 PPB should not be mandated for school districts.

Two, the bill's fiscal note contains reference to the Healthy Kids/Healthy Schools grant of \$3 million in [HB 1080](#). This budget bill allocates said funds for the replacement of lead-contaminated pipes and drinking water fixtures. WAMOA maintenance and operation directors believe, at the 5 PPB level, additional funds will be needed, especially with the SHB 1139 language that states that a school's remediation plan may be based on the availability of funding. WAMOA opposes all unfunded and underfunded mandates.

The bill is scheduled for executive session today in the House Appropriations, and WAMOA will continue to follow it very closely.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

Health, Pension, and Other Benefit Issues

*“A deadline is negative inspiration.
 Still, it's better than no inspiration at all.”*
 Rita Mae Brown

The deadline for policy bills has come and gone, and the deadline for fiscal bills is imminent. Both Houses will now focus on 'floor' action, or in this case 'zoom' action.

Simply stated, at this point, bills will have either been moved out of the policy and fiscal by end of day, February 22, moved out of the respective Rules Committee, placed on the floor calendar awaiting action, passed by the bodies, and sent to the opposite house by the March 9 or they are 'dead'. The cycle then repeats in the opposite chamber.

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(Just FYI: Being on a floor calendar only means the bill can be bought up for a vote by the whole body. However, there is no guarantee that a bill will so move off the calendar. Many bills die at this point as well.)

Here is a summary of what is still in obvious play. And even though some bills have dropped off the radar, any of them can come back either because they are ‘Necessary to Implement the Budget’ or just because leadership is persuaded to revive them.

Retirement Related Proposals

HB 1032: Concerning early retirement options for members of the teachers’ retirement system and school employees’ retirement system Plans 2 and 3. This bill has apparently died. WSSRA (Washington State School Retirees’ Association) was the lead on this bill and although WEA-Retired and RPEC (Retired Public Employees’ Council) supported the bill, their organizations did not prioritize it for public support.

(“Dead”)

SB 5021: Concerning the effect of expenditure reduction efforts on retirement benefits for public employees, including those participating in the shared work program.

This bill provides that specified public pension and retirement calculations will not be reduced as a result of state mandated furloughs.

(Senate floor calendar).

SB 5352: Allowing new government employees the option of opting out of retirement system membership if the employee is age 60 or older when first hired or when the employee’s employer opts into retirement plan participation.

(Senate floor calendar).

SB 5367: Directing the department of retirement systems to create rules regarding automatic refunds of retirement contributions in the retirement systems listed in RCW 41.50.030.

(Senate floor calendar).

SB 5453: Concerning Plans 1 and 2 of the state retirement systems. This bill by Senator Schoesler was introduced on February 12, and assigned to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Although no hearing to date has been set, this bill is NTIB.

It is a 137-page proposal whose most significant feature is a proposed plan merger and transfer of excess cash assets from the LEOFF 1 (Law Enforcement/Fire Fighters) retirement plan into the TRS 1 plan. This would allow the unfunded liability of TRS 1 to shrink, lowering employer costs. (Employers currently pay a surcharge to help decrease the TRS and PERS liability. This surcharge would be lowered as the unfunded liability decreases.) As an FYI, LEOFF 1 is the older plan and was replaced by LEOFF 2. Presently, LEOFF 1 has a decreasing number of recipients while maintaining a cash balance in excess of \$1.5 billion dollars. Thus, there is money to be had, as Sen. Schoesler and others would claim. The House Republicans placed this merger in their recently released budget.

School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB)

SB 5322: Prohibiting dual enrollment between School Employees’ Benefits Board and Public Employees’ Benefits Board programs (PEBB).

(Senate floor calendar).

SB 5326: Concerning health and pension benefits for school bus drivers employed by private nongovernmental entities.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Session on February 15 before the Senate Ways & Means Committee and there was no action taken then. However, it is rescheduled for

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Executive Session on February 22 before the Senate Ways & Means Committee. This is viewed as a ‘pro-Union’ bill and both houses with Democratic majorities favor union issues. There is a proposed amendment that would make the bill null and void if funding is not provided.

(Executive Session Senate Ways & Means Committee).

Other Bills

There remain a diminishing number of bills proposed primarily dealing with expanding various employee benefits and qualifications. They address such areas as unemployment compensation, family and medical leave, and workmen’s compensation. These proposals may or may not apply to school districts and represent potential added costs to a district’s operations.

Two bills ([SHB 1073](#) and [SSB 5097](#)) in the 2021 virtual legislative session are proposing changes.

SHB1073 expands coverage of the paid family and medical leave program. It modifies the definition of “family member” for Paid Family and Medical Leave and provides temporary alternate eligibility for claims through June 30, 2022.

(House Appropriations Executive Session February 18)

SSB 5097 expands coverage of the paid family and medical leave program. This bill, a) changes the definition of family member, b) modifies the requirements for certain employment protections upon return from leave, and c) modifies which employees are eligible for continuation of health benefits during leave.

(Senate Floor Calendar).

[SHB 1363](#): Addressing secondary trauma in the K–12 workforce. It is in House Rules Committee awaiting scheduling for floor action.

(House Floor Calendar).

[HB 1486](#): Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work. This bill, a) adds unemployment insurance good cause quit provisions relating to inaccessibility of certain care and for relocation near a minor child, b) allows individuals with caregiving responsibilities to restrict their availability and have certain responsibilities considered in the determination of suitable work, c) makes benefits paid for inaccessibility of certain care due to shift alteration only chargeable to the separating employer, and d) makes benefits paid related to relocation near a minor child noncharged.

(House Floor Calendar).

[HB 1492](#): Concerning extended benefits in the unemployment insurance system.

(House floor calendar).

[SSB 5064](#): Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.

(Senate floor calendar).

[SSB 5137](#): Suspending workers’ compensation cost-of-living adjustments for fiscal year 2022, changing the basis of certain future adjustments to the consumer price index, and capping the rate of increase for future adjustments.

(Senate floor calendar).

[SSB 5254](#): Concerning the use of protective devices and equipment during a public health emergency. This bill requires an employer that does not require a specific type

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of personal protective equipment (PPE) to accommodate an employee's or contractor's voluntary use of that PPE during a public health emergency, subject to certain conditions. (Senate floor calendar).

SSB 5425: Concerning extended benefits in the unemployment insurance system. This bill, a) allows claimants to be eligible for unemployment insurance extended benefits regardless of whether their 52-week benefit year has expired, b) allows the state's extended benefit program to "trigger on" without having to wait the 13 weeks between extended benefit periods, and c) amends a job search provision, for the purposes of federal conformity, regarding denying extended benefits for failing to accept an offer of, or apply for, suitable work.

(Senate floor calendar).



Dan Steele, Government Relations dstele@wasa-oly.org
Washington Association of School Administrators 825 Fifth Ave SE | Olympia, WA 98501
 P: 800.859.9272 360.489.3642 | F: 360.352.2043 | www.wasa-oly.org

Legislative Resources

Committee Meeting Schedule

Legislative Committees Meetings are scheduled to be held at the following times but are subject to change.

Up-to-date meeting schedules and agendas are available on the [State Legislature website](#).

Mondays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
Senate Hearing Room 1

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

Tuesdays

8–10 a.m.
House Education
House Hearing Room A

1:30–3:30 p.m.
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

Wednesdays

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
Senate Hearing Room 1

Thursdays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

Fridays

8–10 a.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
Senate Hearing Room 1

10–11 a.m.
House Education
House Hearing Room A

Useful Links

Washington State Government
<http://www.access.wa.gov>

State Legislature
<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

Senate
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate>

House of Representatives
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/House>

Legislative Committees
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/committeelisting.aspx>

Legislative Schedules
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/pages/calendar.aspx>

Office of the Governor
<http://www.governor.wa.gov>

OSPI
<http://www.k12.wa.us>

TVW
<http://www.tvw.org>

Session Cut-off Calendar

January 11, 2021
First Day of Session.

February 15, 2021
Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

February 22, 2021
Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees in house of origin.

March 9, 2021
Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

March 26, 2021
Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

April 2, 2021
Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal, Senate Ways & Means, and Transportation committees.

April 11, 2021*
Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

April 25, 2021
Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

*After the 91st day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

Bill Watch

TWIO tracks critical education bills each week as they are introduced. Detailed bill information can be accessed by clicking on the bill number. The following is a list of the bills of highest interest to school administrators. A more comprehensive bill watch list is located on the [WASA website](#).

Bill #	Title	Status	Sponsor
HB 1006	Immunization, declining	H HC/Wellness	Klippert
HB 1010	Motor vehicle sales tax	H Appropriations	MacEwen
SHB 1016	Juneteenth	H 2nd Reading	Morgan
HB 1023	Predesign requirements	H Exec Action	Steele
HB 1024	Sunshine committee/juveniles	H State Govt & Tribal Rel.	Springer
2SHB 1028	Residency teacher cert.	H APPDP2S	Bergquist
HB 1029	Emergency orders and rules	H State Govt & Tribal Rel.	Walsh
HB 1032	TRS & SERS early retirement	H Appropriations	Harris
HB 1039	Bicycle & pedestrian travel	H Transportation	McCaslin
HB 1040	Retired school empl. health	H Appropriations	Dolan
ESHB 1056	Public meetings/emergencies	S State Govt & Elections	Pollet
HB 1065	Epidemic, pandemic vaccines	H HC/Wellness	Eslick
HB 1066	Ed. service district boards	H Education	Stonier
HB 1067	State dinosaur	H Rules R	Morgan
SHB 1073	Paid leave coverage	H Appropriations	Berry
HB 1077	Federal Way school district	H Appropriations	Johnson
HB 1079	Charter schools time frame	H Education	Dolan
HB 1080 (SB 5083)	Capital Budget 2021–23	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1081 (SB 5084)	State gen. obligation bonds	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
SHB 1085	Students w/seizure disorders	H Rules R	Kloba
HB 1087	Family/med leave continuity	S Labor, Comm & Tribal Aff.	Berry
HB 1093 (SB 5091)	Operating Budget, 2nd supp.	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1094 (SB 5092)	Operating Budget 2021–23	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1098 (ESSB 5061)	Unemployment insurance	H Labor & Workplace	Sells
SHB 1113 (SB 5153)	School attendance	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self
EHB 1121	Graduation reqs/emergency	S Pres Signed	Santos
EHB 1131	Private schools/waiver	S Pres Signed	Rude
SHB 1139	Lead in drinking water	H Appropriations	Pollet
HB 1149	Public health education	H Education	Pollet

SHB 1153	Language access in schools	H Appropriations	Orwall
SHB 1156	Local elections	H Appropriations	Harris-Talley
SHB 1162	High school graduation	H Rules R	Stonier
SHB 1176	Student fines and fees	H 2nd Reading	Paul
HB 1180	Public testimony	H Local Govt	Kraft
HB 1182 (SB 5209)	Crisis response services	H HC/Wellness	Orwall
HB 1189 (2SSB 5211)	Tax increment financing	H Exec Action	Duerr
HB 1195 (SB 5443)	Charter school time frame	H Education	Dolan
SHB 1208	Learning assistance program	H Appropriations	Santos
HB 1212	Repair of electronics	H ConsPro&Bus	Gregerson
SHB 1214	K-12 safety & security serv.	H Appropriations	Senn
HB 1215	K-12 education scholarships	H Education	Kraft
SHB 1225	School-based health centers	H Exec Action	Stonier
HB 1226	School district elections	H Education	Stonier
SHB 1264 (SB 5274)	Equity impact statement	H Appropriations	Thai
HB 1270	Leadership skills grant prg.	H Appropriations	Young
SHB 1273 (SB 5070)	Menstrual products/schools	H Rules R	Berg
SHB 1295	Institutional ed./release	H Appropriations	Callan
SHB 1302	College in the high school	H 2nd Reading	Berg
HB 1305	Right to refuse vaccines	H HC/Wellness	Kraft
SHB 1306	School boards/bond training	H Rules R	Sells
HB 1308	Apprenticeship utilization	H Cap Budget	Riccelli
SHB 1309	Levy certification dates	H 2nd Reading	Eslick
HB 1317	Right to refuse/health	H HC/Wellness	Young
HB 1321 (SB 5114)	Reopening/public health	H HC/Wellness	MacEwen
SHB 1329	Public meetings	H Rules R	Wicks
SHB 1331	Early learning impact fees	H 2nd Reading	Harris-Talley
HB 1334	Appropriations/COVID-19	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
SHB 1336	Public telecomm. service	H 2nd Reading	Hansen
HB 1338	School resources/COVID-19	H Civil R & Judiciary	Harris
SHB 1340	Pandemic task force	H Appropriations	Lovick
EHB 1342	Reduced-price lunch copays	S EL/K-12	Berg
HB 1343	Unemployment ins./employers	H Labor & Workplace	Hoff

SHB 1354	Suicide review teams	H Appropriations	Mosbrucker
SHB 1356	Native American names, etc.	H 2nd Reading	Lekanoff
HB 1358	State school levies	H Finance	Orcutt
SHB 1363	Secondary trauma/K-12	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1365	Schools/computers & devices	H Appropriations	Gregerson
SHB 1366	In-person instruction	H Rules R	Caldier
HB 1367 (SB 5343)	Medicaid appropriations	Del to Gov	Ormsby
ESHB 1368 (SB 5344)	Federal funding/COVID-19	Del to Gov	Ormsby
HB 1370	Early learning fac. grants	H Exec Action	Callan
HB 1371	State property tax levies	H Finance	Sutherland
SHB 1373	Behavioral health/students	H 2nd Reading	Callan
HB 1390	Athletic scholarship funding	H Coll & Workforce Dev.	Walsh
HB 1396	US history & gov/high school	H Education	Dufault
HB 1404	Highly capable student prgs.	H Appropriations	Vick
HB 1410	Home foreclosure/taxes	H Finance	Volz
HB 1415	Skill center class size	H Appropriations	Paul
HB 1419	Certificated staff/factors	H Appropriations	Dolan
HB 1420	School empl/COVID-19 vaccine	H HC/Wellness	MacEwen
HB 1422	Sexual health ed./dates	H Education	MacEwen
SHB 1426	K-12 continuing ed./equity	H Rules R	Santos
HB 1440	Small wireless facilities	H Comm & Economic Dev.	Boehnke
HB 1442	Epidemic preparedness	H HC/Wellness	Chase
HB 1450	School computers/device tax	H Education	Gregerson
SHB 1451	ECEAP entitlement date	H Appropriations	Sullivan
HB 1452	Physical education credit	H Education	Mosbrucker
SHB 1453	Voters' pamphlets	H Rules R	Bergquist
HB 1457	Broadband/limited highways	H Transportation	Wylie
SHB 1460	Telecommunications access	H Appropriations	Gregerson
HB 1466	Outdoor education	H Appropriations	Rule
HB 1476	Enrollment declines/OSPI	H Appropriations	Dolan
HB 1481	School employees/firearms	H Civil R & Judiciary	Chase
SHB 1484	Building mapping system	H Appropriations	Dolan
HB 1500	School district audits	H Appropriations	Sullivan

HB 1519	Levy shifts/court rulings	H Finance	Paul
HJR 4200	School district bonds	H Education	Stonier
HJR 4203	2/3rd vote for tax increases	H Finance	Sutherland
SSB 5013	Local redistricting deadline	H State Govt & Tribal Rel.	Hunt
SB 5017	School district procurement	H Cap Budget	Wellman
SB 5021	Retirement benefits/furlough	S 2nd Reading	Hunt
SSB 5030	School counseling programs	S 2nd Reading	Mullet
SB 5037	School opening metrics	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5043	School employee housing	S Ways & Means	Salomon
ESSB 5044	Schools/equity training	H Education	Das
ESSB 5061 (HB 1098)	Unemployment insurance	C 2 L 21	Keiser
SB 5070 (SHB 1273)	Menstrual products/schools	S EL/K-12	Rivers
SSB 5080	Youth ed. programming funds	H Appropriations	Carlyle
SB 5083 (HB 1080)	Capital Budget 2021-23	S Ways & Means	Frockt
SB 5084 (HB 1081)	State gen. obligation bonds	S Ways & Means	Frockt
SB 5091 (HB 1093)	Operating Budget, 2nd supp.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5092 (HB 1094)	Operating Budget 2021-23	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SSB 5096	Capital gains tax	S Rules 2	Robinson
SSB 5097	Paid leave coverage	S 2nd Reading	Robinson
SSB 5105	Office of equity task force	S Ways & Means	Hasegawa
SB 5110	Telecommunications companies	S Environment, Energy & Tech	Ericksen
SB 5111	Public employee independence	S State Govt & Elections	Ericksen
SB 5114 (HB 1321)	Reopening/public health	S State Govt & Elections	Braun
SSB 5115	Health emergency/labor	S 2nd Reading	Keiser
2SSB 5128	Student transportation funds	S Rules 2	Wellman
SSB 5129	Vapor & tobacco/minors	S Rules 2	Saldaña
SSB 5130	Personnel files & discipline	S Rules 2	Kuderer
SB 5144	COVID-19 vaccine, declining	S Health & Long Term Care	Ericksen
SSB 5147	School year/learning loss	S Ways & Means	Hawkins
SSB 5151	Foster care & child care	S Rules 2	Wilson
SB 5153 (SHB 1113)	School attendance	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SB 5156	Budget stabilization approps	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5161	Teaching tribal history, etc	S Rules 2	Wellman

SB 5162	Unanticipated revenue	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5171	Unemployment insurance	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SSB 5181	Low-income school districts	S Passed 3rd	Honeyford
SB 5184	K–12 foster care contact	H Education	Nobles
SB 5197	Unemp. contributions/wages	S Labor, Comm & Tribal Aff	Schoesler
SB 5200	Scholarships/tax credit	S EL/K–12	Schoesler
SB 5202	School depreciation subfunds	S 2nd Reading	Schoesler
SB 5205	K–12 education vouchers	S EL/K–12	Schoesler
SB 5208	Public records fees/approval	S State Govt & Elections	Wilson
SB 5209 (HB 1182)	Crisis response services	S Behavioral Health Care	Dhingra
2SSB 5211 (HB 1189)	Tax increment financing	S WMDP2S	Frocket
SB 5216	Tax preferences	S Ways & Means	Carlyle
SB 5223	Motor vehicles sales tax use	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SB 5242	Media literacy & digital cit	S Ways & Means	Liias
SSB 5249	Mastery-based learning	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5252	School consultation/tribes	S EL/K–12	Wellman
SSB 5254	Protective devices/health	S Rules 2	Salomon
SB 5257	School levy exemption	S EL/K–12	Fortunato
SB 5264	Chinese American history	S Rules 2	Wagoner
SSB 5265	Bridge year pilot program	S Ways & Means	Hunt
SB 5274 (SHB 1264)	Equity impact statement	S State Govt & Elections	Hasegawa
SB 5277	Early achievers prg/suspend	S EL/K–12	Short
SB 5289	Senior citizens/prop. taxes	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SB 5299	Computer science/HS grad.	S Rules 2	Wellman
SB 5322	SEBB & PEBB dual enrollment	S 2nd RdConsCal	Robinson
SB 5326	School bus driver benefits	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SSB 5327	Youth safety tip line	S Ways & Means	Brown
SB 5334	Levy authorization info.	S EL/K–12	Dozier
SSB 5340	School board director qualif	S Rules 2	Salomon
SB 5343 (HB 1367)	Medicaid appropriations	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5344 (ESHB 1368)	Federal funding/COVID-19	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5352	Retirement system opt-out	S Rules 2	Braun
SSB 5357	Capital broadband program	S Rules 2	Honeyford

SB 5359	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 5366 (HB 1103)	Building materials	S State Govt & Elections	Stanford
SB 5374	Political systems/K-12 study	S EL/K-12	Honeyford
SSB 5376	Education ombuds awareness	S Rules 2	Wilson
SSB 5383	PUD telecomm. services	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5386	School district elections	S Ways & Means	Randall
SB 5389	Computer science teaching	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5439	Broadband/state highways	S Transportation	Saldana
SB 5442	Superintendent salaries	S EL/K-12	Van De Wege
SB 5443 (HB 1195)	Charter school time frame	S EL/K-12	Mullet
SJR 8204	School district bond voting	S Ways & Means	Randall
SCR 8400	Special legislative session	S State Govt & Elections	Ericksen