



TWIO

This Week In Olympia

March 5, 2021

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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>.



This Week in Review

Both the House and Senate continued lengthy (most virtual) Floor sessions this week—and will continue until the house of origin [cut-off deadline](#) arrives next Tuesday, March 9. All House bills must be adopted by the full House and all Senate bills must be passed out of the full Senate by Tuesday (5:00 p.m.) in order to remain alive. Budget bills and bills related to the budget continue to be exempt from these early deadlines.

After Tuesday, the Committee process resumes, this time with Committees hearing and acting on “opposite house” bills; that is, House Committees reviewing Senate bills and Senate Committees reviewing House bills. Committees will move quickly because there is less than three weeks until the opposite house policy committee cut-off on Friday, March 26. Of course, the number of bills available to address continues to dwindle, so for most Committees it will be easier to focus on priorities.

To see the impact of the cut-off process, consider that, as of today, there have been 1,302 bills (682 House; 620 Senate) introduced. Currently, there are 542 bills still living (not counting budget bills that have not moved, but continue to live). 173 House bills have passed the House and are ready for action in Senate Committees; while 149 Senate bills have passed the Senate and are in House Committees waiting for action. The remaining live bills sit in the House or Senate Rules Committee (26 and 35, respectively), or on the Chambers’ Floor Calendars, ready to move at any time (60 in the House; 59 in the Senate). Just because a bill has moved to the Second Reading Calendar (that is, the Floor Calendar) and it is eligible for amendment and then Third Reading and Final Passage, does not mean it will ever reach that final step. In the next four days (including today), the action will be centered around those 160 bills (86 in the House and 74 in the Senate), as legislators rush to adopt as many as they can before the bell strikes at 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday.

SB 5128—Pupil Transportation Funding

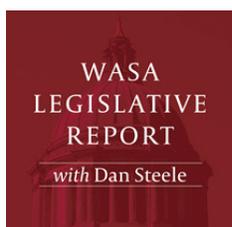
This week, there has been a lot of movement (whether behind-the-scenes or in public) our two major priorities. Let’s start with [SB 5128](#), pupil transportation funding. Since the bill’s introduction, it has taken a bit of a wild ride. It was prefiled before session began and was quickly heard the first week of the session. The original bill essentially did three things:

- An “alternative” student transportation allocation formula would have been established and, similar to the governor’s proclamation last summer, would have allowed expanded transportation services (including delivery of meals,

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WASA Legislative Report Podcast



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instructional packets, and technology hardware) when a school district is providing remote instruction during an emergency;

- Under the alternative allocation formula, school districts would have received 70 percent of the district's estimated allocation for that school year assuming full in-person instruction; and
- Provisions would have allowed OSPI to use student transportation data from prior reporting periods to calculate transportation allocations immediately following an emergency (to ensure sufficient funds were available next year).

There was some disappointment that the bill only provided for 70 percent of a district's transportation allocation; however, early on in session legislators were reticent to provide ongoing state funds for transportation services when student ridership was low (or nonexistent). WASA supported the 70 percent allocation to keep the conversation moving.

When SB 5128 came up for executive action in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee, a Proposed Substitute was waiting. The new bill clarified that districts would receive 70 percent of its estimated allocation assuming full in-person attendance, or the amount that would ordinarily be generated by the transportation formula, whichever is greater. Additionally, the 70 percent allocation would have been increased to 80 percent if the district provided in-person instruction to at least 50 percent of enrolled students. (This was one of the first shots across the bow regarding incentives to get schools to reopen. Since this initial shot, we have seen multiple efforts, via bills or amendments, to incentivize districts to reopen—or conversely, penalize districts that do not reopen). The new bill also provided “safety net” funds for which districts could apply to supplement the 70 or 80 percent allocation—if a district provided expanded services (meal, instructional packet delivery, etc.) and that caused the district's total transportation expenditures to exceed its budgeted allocation, they could apply for the safety net funds. Finally, in addition to expanded services to students, the new bill would have also allowed districts to use allocations for transportation services for fixed transportation costs such as school bus maintenance and basic administrative, regulatory, safety, and operational expenses.

The Substitute Bill was adopted and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, which gave the bill a hearing in fairly short order. After the hearing, however, the bill sat dormant for two weeks. The education community put on a full court press to get the bill moving and the ice broke. The bill moved forward quickly, with one technical amendment (it simply clarified the bill was applicable to charter schools and tribal-compact schools).

The bill waited its turn in the Senate Rules Committee, but eventually was moved to the Floor for action. Unfortunately, SB 5128, twice amended, ran into another set of amendments that were waiting on the bar. First, a [striking amendment](#) was introduced that completely rewrote the bill. The amendment removed the alternative transportation allocation formula, as well as the “safety net” process and replaced the underlying funding mechanisms with a \$100 million appropriation from the General Fund to a new Public Schools Emergency Transportation Relief Account. The new bill clarifies that expenditures from the account will backfill reductions in state funding allocations resulting from transportation declines caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; however, expenditures from the new funds will only be allowed if reductions have not been backfilled by federal ESSER relief funds. If there still is a transportation funding loss after backfilling the hole with federal funds, expenditures from the new account must be attributable to documented allowable uses for transportation-related services.

Prior to adopting this striking amendment, three amendments adjusted the underlying striker. The [first amendment](#) further clarifies that federal funds are intended to address the transportation backfill. The language states the new Relief Account is a “payor of last resort.” Further, it requires school districts to demonstrate there are no available

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federal relief funds that can be used to address allowable transportation costs before receiving Relief Account expenditures.

The [second amendment](#) requires any remaining funds in the Public Schools Emergency Transportation Relief Account at the end of the 2021–23 fiscal biennia to be deposited into the state General Fund.

The [third amendment](#) is another one of those shots across the bow regarding schools reopening. The language prohibits school districts from receiving expenditures from the Transportation Relief Account if the school or school district meets the minimum parameters for in-person learning recommended by the Department of Health, but does not offer in-person learning at or above the recommended level.

All three amendments (each sponsored by a Republican member) were adopted on a voice vote, so it is unclear which members supported and which members opposed the amendments. Ultimately, all three were adopted and the newly amended striking amendment was adopted. The final vote, 35–14, was an interesting mix of supporters and opponents. While the bill was adopted in a “bi-partisan” manner, more Republican members supported the bill than Democratic members (19–R, 16–D); and only two Republicans opposed the bill, compared to 12 Democratic members who opposed. Sometimes it is hard to decipher intentions; however, it appears the Republicans supported the bill to advance the reopening amendment and it appears some of the more progressive Democrats opposed the bill either because of the lack of funding and/or the directed use of federal funds, rather than state funds.

While we are concerned about the new striking amendment and the added amendments, remember—as we have mentioned here multiple times—this may end up being strictly a budget issue. And we encourage you to continue to remind your legislators about the need for this transportation funding. For now, SB 5128 lives. There are sure to be interesting discussions in the House.

HB 1476—Enrollment Stabilization

Similar to SB 5128, we were anticipating that [HB 1476](#), enrollment stabilization funding, would end up being a budget issue. Unlike pupil transportation funding, which continues to move as part of a bill (SB 5128, discussed above), enrollment stabilization has already shifted to a budget discussion. We won’t rehash the full movement of HB 1476. In short, HB 1476 was adopted by the House Appropriations Committee with a major amendment. The amendment did four things: 1) It stripped out all of the provisions requiring stabilization funding; 2) The amendment codifies changes to levy formulas that were in the underlying bill for the 2022 and 2023 Calendar Years, requiring 2019–20 School Year enrollment to be used in place of 2020–21 or 2021–22 for each year 2019–20 enrollment is greater; 3) Intent language was added, stating the Legislature intends to provide stabilization funding in the Operating Budget; and 4) The emergency clause was removed. (For a full discussion of the amendment and its ramifications, see last week’s [TWIO, Week 7](#).)

With the need to secure levy capacity, adoption of HB 1476 is still a priority. Discussions with legislators, however, have mostly shifted to the 2021 Supplemental Operating Budget. We are specifically asking for language similar to the original HB 1476, which would provide enrollment stabilization funds to districts if enrollment declines resulted in less funding in the 2020–21 and 2021–22 school years, than the district received in 2019–20 school year. In addition to providing stabilization for general apportionment, school districts also require stabilization funding for education programs that are funded based on enrollment, including Alternative Learning Experience (ALE) programs, special education, the Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program (TBIP), the Learning Assistance Program (LAP), highly capable programs, Career and Technical Education

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(CTE), Skills Centers, dropout reengagement programs, institutional education, and Local Effort Assistance (LEA or “levy equalization”).

If a district lost funding, but their allocation of federal relief “backfills” that loss, they would not be eligible for state stabilization funds, under the original HB 1476. While that language has been removed with the amendment coming out of the House Appropriations Committee, it is likely similar language regarding ESSER II funds will be a part of the equation. We have fought this; however, legislators insist on using those federal funds before they have to dip into state funds. More information on the budget and this growing conundrum later in this newsletter.

HB 1476 is on the House’s Second Reading Calendar—and there are two amendments waiting. The amendments are similar—and they are yet another shot across the bow about reopening.

The [first amendment](#) requires school districts to be open for in-person instruction to all students, defined as at least 15 hours of in-person instruction per week, by the beginning of the 2021–22 school year in order to collect levies based on 2019–20 enrollment in place of 2020–21 or 2021–22 enrollment if 2019–20 enrollment is greater.

The [second amendment](#) is identical to the first, except that “open for in-person instruction” is defined as at least 40 hours of in-person instruction per month.

While HB 1476 is on the House Floor Calendar and could move at any time, it had not been acted upon at the time this *TWIO* was being prepared. We have heard that the bill will likely move tomorrow—and it appears the second amendment will hang.

Floor Action

The following education-related bills were adopted by the full House or Senate since the February 22, house of origin fiscal committee cut-off. This is not a comprehensive list; however, it includes the majority of education-related legislation that have been acted upon in the last two weeks. For additional bills, check the bill tracker at the end of this *TWIO*, or head to WASA’s [Bill Watch](#) page. [HB 1016](#) would make Juneteeth (June 19) a state legal holiday.

- [HB 1028](#) would modify requirements regarding residency teacher certification, including repealing edTPA.
- [HB 1085](#) would require school districts to provide individual health plans (IHPs) for students with epilepsy or other seizure disorders.
- [HB 1113](#) would modify current truancy provisions.
- [HB 1139](#) would require certain schools with buildings built, or with all plumbing replaced, before 2016, to have drinking water outlets tested for lead contamination. Specific action would be required if test results reveal lead concentrations that exceed 5 parts per billion.
- [HB 1162](#) would reduce the number of credits required for high school graduation from 24 to 20, and applies the revised credit requirements to the Class of 2021 and subsequent classes. Additionally, an additional graduation pathway option would be established that enables students to meet graduation pathway requirements by completing a performance exhibition meeting specified criteria.
- [HB 1176](#) would limit the ability of a school district to withhold the grades and transcript of a student who is responsible for damaging or losing property.
- [HB 1189](#) would authorize local governments to designate tax increment financing areas and to use increased local property tax collections to fund public improvements.

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- [HB 1208](#) would modify the Learning Assistance Program (LAP) to enable school districts to focus on identifying and addressing student academic deficits in basic skills.
- [HB 1214](#) would create a category of safety and security staff for public schools and specify requirements staff agreements, data collection, and training.
- [HB 1225](#) would establish the School-Based Health Center Program Office within the Department of Health.
- [HB 1273](#) would require school districts to make menstrual hygiene products available at no cost by the beginning of the 2022–23 school year.
- [HB 1295](#) would specify new or modified duties for OSPI, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, and the State Board of Education to ensure the provision of public education to youth in or released from secure facilities.
- [HB 1302](#) would allow students in the ninth grade to participate in College in the High School programs.
- [HB 1329](#) would modify Open Public Meetings Act provisions, including an encouragement that public agencies provide for remote access to meetings of their governing bodies, and to record and post recordings of meetings online for at least six months, as well as requiring governing bodies to provide an opportunity for public comment at or before every regular meeting at which final action is taken.
- [HB 1356](#) would prohibit the inappropriate use of Native American names, symbols, or images as public-school mascots, logos, or team names.
- [HB 1363](#) would provide resources to address secondary traumatic stress in the K–12 workforce.
- [HB 1365](#) would require: OSPI to develop and administer a technology grant program to achieve a universal 1:1 student to learning device ratio; and ESDs to provide technology consultation, procurement, and training.
- [HB 1373](#) would require public schools to post contact information for behavioral health organizations on their website home pages and to post corresponding information on social media websites used by the school district.
- [HB 1426](#) would specify minimum continuing education requirements for administrator and teacher certificate renewals that focus on equity-based school and classroom practices.
- [HB 1453](#) would make several changes to provisions relating to voters' pamphlets, including the requirement that people appointed to write arguments for and against ballot measures in local voters' pamphlets must reside within the jurisdictional boundaries.
- [SB 5030](#) would require school districts to develop a written plan for a comprehensive school counseling program. The plan would be implemented by school counselors who would be required to spend at least 80 percent of their work time providing direct and indirect services to benefit students.
- [SB 5097](#) would expand the definition of family member in the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) program. Additionally, language was added that requires the state to cover additional leave expenses, if the number of individuals utilizing PFML exceed 500 in a calendar year.
- [SB 5202](#) would: require school districts to establish a depreciation subfund within their general fund; and allow districts to annually deposit up to two percent of their general fund into the depreciation subfund for emergency facility needs and preventative maintenance.

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- [SB 5242](#) would: require OSPI to establish a grant program for supporting media literacy and digital citizenship; and require OSPI to convene two regional conferences on the subject of media literacy and digital citizenship.
- [SB 5249](#) would require the Mastery-Based Learning Work Group to develop a Washington State profile of a high school graduate, in consultation with the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee. Additionally, SBE would be directed to develop recommendations relating to the profile of a graduate; and would require SBE to perform a survey on graduation pathways that includes high school students and recent graduates.
- [SB 5265](#) would require OSPI to administer a Bridge Year pilot program that allows students in the Classes of 2021 and 2022 an additional year to take courses at the student's high school, an institution of higher education, or a combination. Further, would allow bridge year students to participate in Running Start and take College in the High School courses.
- [SB 5299](#) would allow a student to substitute an approved computer science course for a third-year math or science credit for graduation purposes.
- [SB 5327](#) would create a confidential youth safety and well-being tip line.
- [SB 5383](#) would authorize a public utility district or port district to provide retail telecommunication services in an unserved area.

Budget Update

Earlier this week, the [Economic & Revenue Forecast Council](#) released its [quarterly Economic Review and Forecast](#). This is the precursor to the quarterly Revenue Forecast, which is set to be released on March 17. Each quarter, the Council prepares an Economic Forecast that lays the groundwork for the Revenue Forecast. While you should not confuse the Economic Forecast with the Revenue Forecast, the economic review can provide strong signals about what may be coming in regard to revenue. Already revenue collections have been coming in much stronger than anticipated in the last quarterly Revenue Forecast in November—almost \$600 million above forecast. And the Economic Review provides further indications that the Revenue Forecast will include projections of a significant increase in available revenue.

When the Revenue Forecast is released on March 17, if tradition holds, this will trigger the release of legislative budget proposals. As we have discussed before, Minority Republicans in both the Senate and House have already released their own budget proposals; however, neither budget is expected to be heard or otherwise be acted upon—but they do provide clues about what they will be fighting for when Democratic budget-writers release their plans.

Each biennium, the House and Senate alternate as the body to initiate the legislative budget process. This biennium, it is the Senate's "turn" to start the process. It is assumed Senate Democratic budget-writers are in the process of crafting a 2021 Supplemental Operating Budget and a 2021–23 Operating Budget—potentially with their House counterparts—which is why we continue to encourage you to engage with legislators NOW, before they lock in their decisions. The March 17 Revenue Forecast will be used to help budget-writers refine their proposals before release. Unless there is any unexpected news in the Forecast, we anticipate we will see a Senate Democratic budget as early as the week following the Revenue Forecast.

One issue that will have impacts on the Revenue Forecast, which will have impacts on budget decisions, is the expected adoption of President Biden's American Rescue Plan. The \$1.9 Trillion stimulus package passed the House last week and is being worked on in the Senate right now, with expected approval by this weekend. Because amendments will be adopted in the Senate, the bill will have to return to the House, where they are

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expected to fast-track the bill in order to get a final package on the president's desk by March 14, when unemployment benefits expire. By the way, the planned "fast-track" may run into roadblocks as a group of progressive Democrats have threatened to vote against the package, mostly because the Senate was forced to remove the planned \$15 minimum wage hike (the Senate parliamentarian ruled the issue out of order because it was not in line with the guidelines of reconciliation—which is the process the Senate is using to get around the normally required 60–vote threshold to bring bills before the full Senate). Nevertheless, the bill is expected to be adopted and signed soon, notwithstanding any theatre in the House.

What does that mean to Washington? In addition to funding for vaccination and testing, other health care issues, unemployment benefits, higher education, child care, and a [slew of other items](#), two specific issues will have a profound impact on the Washington State budget. First, the package includes \$350 billion in direct assistance to state and local governments (the Senate is expected to add some "restrictions" to the use of this money, but at this point it is unclear what those limits are). Washington is [set to receive \\$6.95 billion](#), with \$4.29 billion going to the state and the remainder to metro cities and counties. Second, \$130 billion is included for K–12 education. School districts in Washington will be [allocated \\$1.95 billion](#). It should be noted that ten percent (\$195 million) of the allocation will be dedicated to OSPI, which must reserve at least five percent of its allocation to address learning loss. The remaining 90 percent is dedicated to local school districts (\$1.76 billion). Local school districts must set aside at least twenty percent of the allocation to address learning loss.

Almost \$2 billion to shore up school district budgets is more than welcome; however, legislators who early on were reticent to provide state funds to schools will be even more reluctant to provide assistance, with the assumption that school district fiscal woes are adequately addressed. It is incumbent upon school administrators to dissuade legislators from this line of thinking. There are (at least) two major concerns with this large influx of money. First, the funds (ESSER Round III) are one-time monies. It may get most districts over the hump, but the funding will not provide long-term relief. Second, ESSER III will be distributed via the Title I formula—like ESSER I and ESSER II. As we have said before, this probably makes sense (and the federal government does not really have any other logical mechanism to drive these funds out); however, this will leave some districts behind. Those districts need state funds to provide equity between districts.

Again, the federal relief funds are welcome, but our work will be cut out for us in trying to get state dollars for enrollment stabilization, pupil transportation, and other needs. If we are to have any hope of success, school administrators need to step up to the plate. Legislators need to hear your voice and they need to hear your (stories). Consider this your Call to Action.

AEA

By Mitch Denning

[SHB 1342](#), **elimination of the reduced-price lunch copay for grades PreK and 4–12**, sponsored by Rep. April Berg, has passed the House, and will be heard in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee on Wednesday, March 10. As reported in last week's *TWIO*, the bill would enable reduced-price students in grades PreK and 4–12, to continue to eat for free when they return to school in the fall. Presently, these students are eating for free due to the USDA waiver which expires June 30, 2021. These families are some of the most negatively impacted by the Pandemic. WSNA will be testifying PRO.

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Yesterday, **[SHB 1139](#)**, **taking actions to address lead in drinking water**, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet, passed the House, and now goes to the Senate. Although the bill has been improved somewhat from WAMOA's view in terms of a null and void clause, and stipulation that a faucet may be turned off if its elevated level is above 15 PPB, rather than 5 PPB, WAMOA still has concerns about the funding of the bill, especially as the definition of "elevated lead level" remains at 5 PPB.

OSPI indicates that their fiscal note of \$2.9 million would be sufficient to meet the demands of the remediation called for in the bill. WAMOA maintains that the costs will most likely be higher, and plans to address this issue in the Senate.

The following bills that have passed their respective houses so far this week which WAMOA and WSNA are watching or supporting.

[SB 5202](#), **allowing school districts to establish a depreciation subfund with their general fund budget for preventative maintenance and facility emergencies**, sponsored by Sen. Mark Schoesler, has a public hearing in the House Education Committee on Friday, March 12. WAMOA will be testifying PRO.

[SSB 5030](#), **comprehensive school counseling programs**, sponsored by Sen. Mark Mullet, refines duties of school counselors during a time when student needs are fairly significant. It will be heard in the House Education Committee on Thursday, March 11.

[SSB 5181](#), **providing school districts with low-income communities flexibility in financing school facilities**, sponsored by Sen. Jim Honeyford, would allow districts to finance their capital projects by utilizing federal tax credit programs. It will be heard in the House Capital Budget Committee on Friday, March 12.

[SHB 1363](#), **secondary trauma in the K–12 workforce**, sponsored by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self, requires OSPI to publish resources for K–12 staff which deal with this significant issue. It also requires WSSDA to develop and update a model policy. It has a public hearing on Friday, March 12 in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee.

[ESHB 1214](#), **K–12 school safety and security services by classified staff and contractors**, sponsored by Rep. Tana Senn, passed the House on March 2. This bill would create the category of safety and security staff in K–12 schools, and provide requirements for agreements, data collection and training for ESDs, school districts and charter schools.

[SHB 1391](#), **prime contractor bidding submission requirements on public works contracts**, sponsored by Rep. Keith Goehner, passed the House yesterday. The bill includes requirements for prime contractors on projects for public buildings over \$1 million to submit current requirements, and now exempts prime contractors from naming subcontractors for design-build and general contractor/construction manager requests for proposal. It now goes to the Senate.

[E2SHB 1365](#), **procuring appropriate computers for students and instructional staff**, sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson, passed the house on March 1. This bill would direct OSPI to develop a grant program to attain a universal 1:1 student to learning device ratio, expand technical training of school and district staff, and develop district-based capacity to assist students and their families to access technology to support their students' learning. It now goes to the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee.

[2SSB 5265](#), **creation of a bridge year pilot program**, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt, passed the Senate on March 3. This bill would direct OSPI to administer a bridge year pilot program that allows students in the graduating classes of 2021 and 2022 an additional year to take courses at the student's high school, an institution of higher learning or a combination. It now goes to the House.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

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“We have two ears and one mouth, and we should use them proportionally.”

Susan Cain

Debates and voting also known as ‘Floor’ action have continued throughout the week. The pattern seems to be that for every three or four bills a chamber passes with bipartisan support, they then debate for hours on a controversial bill which ends with a partisan vote (28–21 or 57–41).

These floor debates will get even more spirited as all bills have to be out of their houses of origin by the end of the day March 9. An opposition technique comes into play as these floor deadlines near. That is death by amendment. The threat by the opposition of proposing multiple amendments for a bill guarantees to take up time debating thus running the clock and potentially killing other bills awaiting action. This is often a reason a controversial bill may not even come to the floor. As a work-around, the majority party schedules a Saturday session like they did last week to debate (six hours) and then pass the low-carbon fuel bill. Rumor has it, this Saturday, the debate will be over the capital gains bill (SSB 5096).

Next week, committee hearings re-start and the process begins anew.

Meanwhile, here is a summary of what is still in obvious play.

Retirement Related Proposals

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.

(Passed the Senate 29–20. Assigned to the House Appropriations Committee March 11.)

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 Rules Committee.)

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.

(Passed Senate 47–0–2. Scheduled hearing March 11 before the House Appropriations Committee.)

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.

(No movement.)

School Employees’ Benefits Board (SEBB)

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

(Passed the Senate 48–0–1 and scheduled hearing on March 11 before the House Appropriations Committee.)

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

This bill was moved to the Rules Committee after the WM Executive Session on February 22.

(Senate Rules Committee/ No movement.)

Other Bills

There are a number of bills proposed that deal 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.

SHB 1073: Expands coverage of the paid family and medical leave program. The substitute bill removes the modified employee eligibility threshold of \$1,000 earned and the expanded job protection and health benefit continuation provisions. Limited alternate eligibility is provided for claims between January 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022. The expanded definition of "family member" is modified and takes effect September 1, 2021. An intent section and emergency clause are added, with an immediate effective date applicable to the new alternate eligibility provisions. A null and void clause is added, making the bill null and void if funding for the bill is not provided in the operating budget.

(Passed House 56–40–2.)

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.

(Passed Senate 29–19–1. Assigned to hearing before the House Labor Committee on March 4.)

ESHB 1214: Creates the category of safety and security staff for kindergarten through grade 12 public schools. • Provides requirements for safety and security staff agreements, data collection, and training, for educational service districts, school districts, and charter schools.

(Passed House 67–30–1.)

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

((Passed House 58–40. Hearing scheduled March 12 before the Senate Early Learning & Education Committee.)

HB 1486: Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.

(House Rules Committee.)

SHB 1492: Concerning extended benefits in the unemployment insurance system.

This bill: Allows claimants of unemployment insurance to be eligible for extended benefits regardless of whether their 52-week benefit year has expired. • Allows the state's extended benefit program to "trigger on" without having to wait the 13 weeks between extended benefit periods, and • 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.

(Passed the House 94–2–2. Assigned to the House Labor Committee.)

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SSB 5064: Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.

(Senate floor calendar.)

ESSB 5115: Establishing health emergency labor standards. Creates an occupational disease presumption for frontline employees during a public health emergency for the purposes of workers' compensation. • Requires employers to notify L&I when a certain percentage of their workforce becomes infected during a public health emergency. • Requires employers to provide written notice to employees on the premises and their union of potential exposure to the infectious or contagious disease during a public health emergency. • Prohibits discrimination against an employee who is high risk for seeking accommodation that protects them from the disease or using all available leave options if no accommodation is reasonable.

(Passed Senate 48–1. Hearing on March 12 before the House Labor Committee.)

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 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 Rules Committee.)

SSB 5254: Concerning the use of protective devices and equipment during a public health emergency. Requires an employer that does not require a specific type 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.

(Passed Senate 47–1–1–1. Referred to the House Labor Committee.)

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 Health Care/Wellness	Klippert
HB 1010	Motor vehicle sales tax	H Appropriations	MacEwen
SHB 1016	Juneteenth	S State Govt & Elections	Morgan
HB 1023	Predesign requirements	S Ways & Means	Steele
HB 1024	Sunshine committee/juveniles	H State Govt & Tribal Rel.	Springer
2SHB 1028	Residency teacher cert.	S EL/K-12	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 Health Care/Wellness	Eslick
HB 1066	Ed. service district boards	H Education	Stonier
HB 1067	State dinosaur	H 2nd Reading	Morgan
E2SHB 1073	Paid leave coverage	H Passed 3rd	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	S EL/K-12	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
ESHB 1113 (SB 5153)	School attendance	H Passed 3rd	Ortiz-Self
EHB 1121	Graduation reqs/emergency	Del to Gov	Santos
EHB 1131	Private schools/waiver	Del to Gov	Rude
2SHB 1139	Lead in drinking water	H 2nd Reading	Pollet
HB 1149	Public health education	H Education	Pollet

SHB 1153	Language access in schools	H Appropriations	Orwall
SHB 1156	Local elections	H 2nd Reading	Harris-Talley
SHB 1162	High school graduation	S EL/K-12	Stonier
ESHB 1176	Student fines and fees	S EL/K-12	Paul
HB 1180	Public testimony	H Local Govt	Kraft
HB 1182 (SB 5209)	Crisis response services	H Health Care/Wellness	Orwall
ESHB 1189 (2SSB 5211)	Tax increment financing	H Passed 3rd	Duerr
HB 1195 (SB 5443)	Charter school time frame	H Education	Dolan
SHB 1208	Learning assistance program	S EL/K-12	Santos
HB 1212	Repair of electronics	H ConsPro&Bus	Gregerson
ESHB 1214	K-12 safety & security serv.	H Passed 3rd	Senn
HB 1215	K-12 education scholarships	H Education	Kraft
SHB 1225	School-based health centers	S Health & Long Term	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
ESHB 1273 (SB 5070)	Menstrual products/schools	S EL/K-12	Berg
E2SHB 1295	Institutional ed./release	S EL/K-12	Callan
SHB 1302	College in the high school	S EL/K-12	Berg
HB 1305	Right to refuse vaccines	H Health Care/Wellness	Kraft
SHB 1306	School boards/bond training	H 2nd Reading	Sells
HB 1308	Apprenticeship utilization	H Cap Budget	Riccelli
SHB 1309	Levy certification dates	S Housing & Local	Eslick
HB 1317	Right to refuse/health	H Health Care/Wellness	Young
HB 1321 (SB 5114)	Reopening/public health	H Health Care/Wellness	MacEwen
ESHB 1329	Public meetings	S State Govt & Elections	Wicks
SHB 1331	Early learning impact fees	S Housing & Local	Harris-Talley
HB 1334	Appropriations/COVID-19	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
ESHB 1336	Public telecomm. service	S Environment, Energy & Tech.	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

2SHB 1354	Suicide review teams	H 2nd Reading	Mosbrucker
SHB 1356	Native American names, etc.	S EL/K-12	Lekanoff
HB 1358	State school levies	H Finance	Orcutt
SHB 1363	Secondary trauma/K-12	S EL/K-12	Ortiz-Self
E2SHB 1365	Schools/computers & devices	S EL/K-12	Gregerson
SHB 1366	In-person instruction	H 2nd Reading	Caldier
HB 1367 (SB 5343)	Medicaid appropriations	C 5 L 21	Ormsby
ESHB 1368 (SB 5344)	Federal funding/COVID-19	C 3 L 21	Ormsby
SHB 1370	Early learning fac. grants	H 2nd Reading	Callan
HB 1371	State property tax levies	H Finance	Sutherland
SHB 1373	Behavioral health/students	S EL/K-12	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
SHB 1410	Home foreclosure/taxes	H 2nd Reading	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 Health Care/Wellness	MacEwen
HB 1422	Sexual health ed./dates	H Education	MacEwen
ESHB 1426	K-12 continuing ed./equity	S EL/K-12	Santos
HB 1440	Small wireless facilities	H Comm & Econ De	Boehnke
HB 1442	Epidemic preparedness	H Health Care/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
SHB 1457	Broadband/limited highways	H 2nd Reading	Wylie
2SHB 1460	Telecommunications access	H 2nd Reading	Gregerson
HB 1466	Outdoor education	H Appropriations	Rule
SHB 1476	Enrollment declines/OSPI	H 2nd Reading	Dolan
HB 1481	School employees/firearms	H Civil R & Judiciary	Chase
SHB 1484	Building mapping system	H 2nd Reading	Dolan
HB 1500	School district audits	H Appropriations	Sullivan

HB 1519	Levy shifts/court rulings	H Finance	Paul
HB 1536	Regional apprenticeship prgs	H Education	
HB 1544	Ag., food, nat. resource ed.	H Education	Klippert
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	H Appropriations	Hunt
SSB 5030	School counseling programs	H Education	Mullet
SB 5037	School opening metrics	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5043	School employee housing	S 2nd Reading	Salomon
ESSB 5044	Schools/equity training	H Education	Das
ESSB 5061 (HB 1098)	Unemployment insurance	C 2 L 21	Keiser
SB 5070 (ESHB 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	Frocket
SB 5084 (HB 1081)	State gen. obligation bonds	S Ways & Means	Frocket
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 2nd Reading	Robinson
ESSB 5097	Paid leave coverage	H Labor & Workplace	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
ESSB 5115	Health emergency/labor	H Labor & Workplace	Keiser
2SSB 5128	Student transportation funds	S 2nd Reading	Wellman
SSB 5129	Vapor & tobacco/minors	S Rules 2	Saldana
SSB 5130	Personnel files & discipline	S 2nd Reading	Kuderer
SB 5144	COVID-19 vaccine, declining	S Health & Long	Ericksen
2SSB 5147	Learning stabilization, etc.	S 2nd Reading	Hawkins
SSB 5151	Foster care & child care	H Children, Youth & Families	Wilson
SB 5153 (ESHB 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	H Education	Honeyford
SB 5184	K–12 foster care contact	H Education	Nobles
SB 5197	Unemp. contributions/wages	S Labor, Commerce & Tribal Aff.	Schoesler
SB 5200	Scholarships/tax credit	S EL/K–12	Schoesler
SB 5202	School depreciation subfunds	H Education	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 (ESHB 1189)	Tax increment financing	S Rules 2	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 Passed 3rd	Lias
SSB 5249	Mastery-based learning	S Passed 3rd	Wellman
SB 5252	School consultation/tribes	S EL/K–12	Wellman
SSB 5254	Protective devices/health	H Labor & Workplace	Salomon
SB 5257	School levy exemption	S EL/K–12	Fortunato
SB 5264	Chinese American history	S 2nd Reading	Wagoner
2SSB 5265	Bridge year pilot program	S Passed 3rd	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 Passed 3rd	Wellman
SB 5322	SEBB & PEBB dual enrollment	H Appropriations	Robinson
SSB 5326	School bus driver benefits	S Rules 2	Robinson
2SSB 5327	Youth safety tip line	H Children, Youth & Families	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 2nd Reading	Braun
SSB 5357	Capital broadband program	S 2nd Reading	Honeyford
SB 5359	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 5366 (SHB 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	H Education	Wilson
2SSB 5383	Public telecomm. services	H Comm & Economic Dev	Wellman
SB 5386	School district elections	S Ways & Means	Randall
SB 5389	Computer science teaching	S Ways & Means	Wellman
ESSB 5439	Broadband/state highways	H 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
SB 5449	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	King
SB 5450	Native American names, etc.	S EL/K-12	Ericksen
SB 5451	Operating Budget	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5453	Retirement plans 1 & 2	S Ways & Means	Schoesler
SB 5464	In-person learning option	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SB 5466	Sales tax/transp. projects	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SJR 8204	School district bond voting	S Ways & Means	Randall
SJR 8207	Revenue for highway purposes	S Transportation	Fortunato
SJR 8208	Car purchase taxes	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SCR 8400	Special legislative session	S State Govt & Elections	Ericksen