



TWIO

This Week In Olympia

WEEK 10—IN THIS ISSUE:

March 17, 2023



- Budget Update
- This Week in Review
- The Week Ahead
- WAMOA

- Pensions/Health Benefits
- Useful Links
- Bill Watch

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 WAMOA.

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



Budget Update

In last week's [TWIO, Week 9](#), we provided a broad overview of the state budget situation. There was a wide array of information; however, much of the discussion about what is upcoming included generalities and some speculation. We noted some of the good news—and the bad news—contained in the monthly [Economic & Revenue Update for February](#) and the [March Preliminary Economic Forecast](#). Positively, the February Update continued to show revenue collections above the forecast (almost \$89 million since November; about one percent above forecast) and the March Forecast indicated that payroll employment for all employment sectors was up, with the exception of the federal government, which showed a minor decline. The remainder of the news, however, was mostly negative. For example, the unemployment rate continues to increase; personal income estimates are below forecast; and housing construction is continuing to slow (with building permits declining significantly).

The news we reported last week was reiterated—and solidified—by the [Economic & Revenue Update for March](#), which was just released on Tuesday. Employment continues to increase—while unemployment also continues to increase. In fact, the unemployment numbers were revised, showing a greater increase than previously estimated. Also, personal income continues to increase; however, estimates continue to come in below forecast; and construction continues to slow with building permits continuing to decline.

Even given this troubling news, the March Update again showed revenue collections are above the forecast (almost \$186 million since November; about 2.5 percent higher than forecasted). It should be noted, however, that while revenue continues to come in beyond projections, one of the major revenue drivers is significantly down: Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) collections—and as construction continues to slow, REET collections continue to decline. REET revenues peaked (for the previous year) at \$169 million in May, but has declined every month since, reaching \$55 million this month. As other revenues continue to increase beyond the forecast, REET collections in March are 15.6 percent below forecast.

What all of this means is currently being debated; however, next week, many of our questions will begin to be answered. The [Economic & Revenue Forecast Council](#) will release its first quarterly Revenue Forecast on [Monday afternoon](#). As we have noted before, as budget-writers continue to craft new two-year budgets (Operating, Capital Construction, and Transportation), the release of the updated Revenue Forecast will allow them to tweak and finalize their proposals—and

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

WASA Legislative Report Podcast



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trigger a public release. We understand that the Senate Capital Construction Budget proposal will be released on Monday, with a scheduled public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee later that day (4:00 p.m.). Note that each of the budget proposals will be introduced as a Proposed Substitute (striking amendment) to the underlying budget request introduced by Governor Inslee. In the case of the Capital Construction Budget, it will be a Proposed Substitute to [SB 5200](#). The new proposal is also scheduled for executive action on Wednesday, March 22, 5:00 p.m.

Riding alongside the Capital Construction Budget is a bond authorization bill, necessary to fund much of the budget. Interestingly, the bond bill—introduced as [SB 5201](#)—is not scheduled for a public hearing, but it IS scheduled for executive action in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Wednesday, March 22, immediately following adoption of the Capital Construction Budget proposal. It is unclear what this means. The original SB 5201, as requested by the governor, received a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee at the start of this session (January 12); however, the Capital Construction Budget will be a new proposal, so surely the bond proposal will need to be amended. Not holding a public hearing on a new proposal would break with protocol, so perhaps this is just a mistake? We will find out on Monday.

Senate budget-writers are scheduled to release their Operating Budget proposal—a Proposed Substitute of [SB 5187](#)—on Thursday, March 23. The public hearing on their budget, however, is not scheduled until the next afternoon, Friday, March 24, 2:00 p.m. Budget-writers have been roundly criticized in the past for releasing a budget proposal and hearing it only a few hours later, before anyone (including legislators) has a chance to review the proposal. By waiting a day before holding a hearing, much of any remaining criticism will be unfounded (however, plowing through several hundred pages of budget material takes more than 24 hours to digest; the 2021–23 Operating Budget was over 1,100 pages long).

An executive session has not yet been scheduled on the Senate’s Operating Budget proposal and it is unclear what the strategy will be as the House begins moving its budgets. House budget-writers are tentatively set to release their Operating Budget proposal (a Proposed Substitute to [HB 1140](#)) on Monday, March 27. We have not heard any news about a Capital Construction Budget proposal ([HB 1147](#), along with and a bond bill, [HB 1148](#)).

WASA will review and provide information on these Budget proposals as soon as possible after they are released.

(NOTE: The release of 2023–25 Transportation Budget proposals (Proposed Substitutes to [HB 1125/SB 5162](#) and [HB 1126/SB 5164](#)) have not yet been announced. Other than the positive, indirect impact provided by safe roads, K–12 education is usually not greatly affected by the Transportation Budget; however, we will provide information on those issues that do impact schools—such as Safe Routes to Schools and similar matters.)

This Week in Review

As expected, this week was busy, with lengthy agendas in most legislative committees, as they hurriedly hear and adopt priority bills before the April 4 opposite house policy committee cutoff arrives. Along with a large number of education-related legislation, the bills to advance our two major priorities, Special Education and Pupil Transportation, were acted upon this week.

Special Education

[SB 5311](#), special education funding, as adopted by the full Senate, was heard in the House Education Committee on Tuesday. Early in the session, the House bill dealing with special education funding (HB 1436) was immediately referred to the House Appropriations Committee, bypassing the policy committee. We were hoping the same thing would happen when the Senate bill arrived in the House, but unfortunately it was referred to the House Education Committee instead. This was

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

unfortunate because Representative Sharon Tomiko Santos (D-Seattle), Chair of the Committee, strictly adheres to a self-imposed rule (not required by the House Democratic Caucus or House Rules) that fiscal issues are not to be discussed in her Committee. Those testifying (and members on the Committee) may address their support or opposition on policy issues, but they cannot venture into issues that deal with dollars and cents. This is frustrating in general, but was even more maddening addressing SB 5311 because the underlying concern and the reason for the bill is that special education is underfunded.

As the hearing opened, Rep. Santos reminded everyone about her “no funding discussion” rule and specifically stated that we were not to address the enrollment funding cap, the tiered multipliers, or the safety net threshold. In other words, we were to nix any conversation regarding the heart and soul of the bill. WASA/WASBO were prepared to pare our comments down and speak specifically to policy issues; however, we were unable to testify because time ran short (another frustrating thing about how this Committee is run). With no opportunity to publicly testify, we provided written comments, focusing on two points.

First, as we have discussed previously in *TWIO*, both the Senate and House bill include “accountability” provisions. We stated that we supported the Senate’s bill language (Section 4, Subsection 2) that requires OSPI to develop an allocation and cost accounting methodology to ensure funding flows appropriately. At the same time, we noted that the Senate’s language was more understandable, rational, and appropriate than the House bill’s discussion of diverting up to 50 percent of a school district’s general apportionment if they have excess special education costs.

Second, we noted we supported language from the House bill (Section 5, Subsection 2) that is NOT contained in the Senate bill which requires OSPI to provide technical assistance to school districts regarding disproportionality and provide support for inclusionary teaching practices. We added that we appreciated the support the Legislature has provided for inclusionary practices, saying there is clear evidence that the Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP) is having a positive impact. Because IPP has been funded simply via budget proviso language, we suggested that adding language regarding inclusionary practices into statute would be positive.

We, along with most of the education community, signed in with an “Other” position, with the intent to make it clear that we supported the bill, but it did not go far enough. If we were allowed to testify, that would have been a delicate comment, as it goes directly to the fiscal issue. Because we only provided written comments, we added that note to make sure our position was clear.

Our ongoing message to the Legislature is that we prefer and support SB 5311—for several reasons:

- **Enrollment Funding Cap.** While we support eliminating the 13.5 percent funding cap, we prefer the Senate’s proposal to immediately lift the cap to 15.0 percent, providing additional assistance to school districts in the 2023–24 school year. We are encouraged that the House bill eventually eliminates the funding cap; however, the incremental phase in of increases until 2027–28 leaves students behind. Additionally, given the lengthy runway, this provides too much of an opportunity for the Legislature to change its mind along the way.
- **Tiered Multipliers.** There are three issues here. First, the Senate’s tiered multipliers are higher than the House proposes. Second, funding for the tiered multipliers is accelerated and provided in the 2023–24 school year in the Senate bill. Even though the Senate only funds increases in the first year, their funded level is still higher than the House’s proposal after they phase in increases over four years. Three, the Senate provides increases in the multiplier for PreK students and the House retains the current multiplier, with no increases.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

- **Accountability Provisions.** Both bills include accountability language. As noted above, the House’s proposal to require OSPI to divert “up to 50 percent” of a school district’s general apportionment funding to special education if they have excess special education costs is troubling. We prefer the Senate’s language which requires OSPI to develop an allocation and cost accounting methodology to ensure funding flows appropriately.

The House proposal also requires the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct a performance audit of the state’s system of providing special education. A JLARC audit is unnecessary; however, if this is a sticking point, fine. The Legislature, however, should not use this as a stall tactic to delay providing adequate resources. As we discussed in [TWIO, Week 8](#), House Democratic budget-writers, in debate on the House Floor, admitted they were not going to fully fund the Paramount Duty and argued a performance audit was necessary before additional funding is provided. Representative Timm Ormsby (D-Spokane), Chair of the House Appropriations Committee, argued, “*we need the performance audit to determine how well districts are spending their money; when we get that [audit] report we will have the justification to move forward to do a better job of funding special education.*” Really? That’s why you are blatantly disregarding your constitutional obligation? What about the oath you swore to uphold the constitution?

- **Inclusionary Practices.** This is one area where the House got it right (mainly because this provision was included in the original bill, as requested by Superintendent Reykdal, and they have not stripped the language—although there was an amendment on the table in the House Education Committee to remove the language, but it was amended to retain the language before being adopted). As noted above, the one provision we support in the House bill and not contained in the Senate bill is language which requires OSPI to provide technical assistance to school districts regarding disproportionality and provide support for inclusionary teaching practices. The Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP) is having a positive impact and additional support can only increase success.
- **Funding Levels.** Given the provisions above, you can only imagine that the funding to support each bill is drastically different. Again, we support the Senate proposal and hope budget-writers will at least meet—if not exceed—the current projected costs of SB 5311. The current version of SB 5311 would require \$359 million in the 2023–25 biennium and a total of \$785 million over four years. The current version of HB 1436 would require \$177 million in 2023–25 and a total of \$429 million over four years (this is slightly better than what we have been hearing all session from the House—that their target was \$400 million over four years). While we support the Senate level, we have consistently reminded legislators our funding NEED for special education in 2023–25 is \$803 million (and a total of \$1.9 billion over four years). As we have discussed all session, we never expected to achieve the total requested level of funding, but we wanted to clearly explain what our need is—and then work to maximize the level of funding legislators are willing to support. The Senate’s \$359 million offer is disappointing, but would be a positive, significant investment. The House’s \$177 million offer is embarrassing and unacceptable.

After the House’s hearing on SB 5311, on Wednesday, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee held a public hearing on the House special education bill, [HB 1436](#). Although we were disappointed in the Senate’s level of funding, there are numerous positive (not perfect, but positive) aspects of SB 5311, so we signed in as “Other” to express our concerns that the bill did not go far enough. To differentiate our opinion between SB 5311 and HB 1436, WASA/WASBO signed in as “Con,” on HB 1436 along with several other education associations.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

We had the opportunity to testify in the Senate Committee (and we were not prohibited from talking about money); however, each person only had 90-seconds to provide testimony. In our 90-seconds, we noted our appreciation for the conversation and the attention special education has received this session, noting this is our highest priority. Even so, we signed in as “Con” on HB 1436 because it just did not go far enough. We noted we supported the House’s proposed elimination of the enrollment funding cap, but stated we preferred the Senate’s proposal to increase the cap to 15.0 percent in the 2023–24 school year, which would immediately provide relief. We expressed concerns about the House’s minor increases in the tiered multipliers, indicating we supported the Senate’s proposal. We noted our concern about the House’s proposed “accountability” language (as discussed above) and stated we preferred the Senate’s language. And, finally, we discussed the one piece of the House bill we supported and requested the Senate to embrace: a provision requiring OSPI to provide technical assist and support for issues of disproportionality and to provide support for inclusionary teaching practices. We quickly added our thanks for the Legislature’s support for the Inclusionary Practices Project (IPP) and encouraged continued support for a program that has proven it works.

We did not have time to add anything else; however, if given the opportunity we would have addressed one more issue. Another reason for strongly opposing HB 1436 is the glowing intent section in the bill. Intent sections have no force of law (and this author dislikes them), but the intent section for HB 1436 makes almost all of our arguments for supporting an enhanced investment in special education. Among other things, it: eloquently makes the point about special education being a legal obligation and a firm part of basic education, falling under the state’s Paramount Duty; clearly describes the arbitrary enrollment funding cap as being a civil rights violation; and notes current underfunding forces local levies to backfill funding gaps.

If legislation was adopted strictly on the basis of its intent section, we would strongly support HB 1436. Unfortunately, the intent is wonderful, but it is not aligned with what the bill would actually do.

So, what happens now? We fully expect that special education funding will be a budget end-game issue and may not be finally addressed until the close of this session. In the next two weeks, as budgets are released, we will get a better understand where each house expects to go. Of course, as noted before, we hope that the Senate will stand firm and maintain its position—and this is what we will be advocating. If you’re looking to engage and you want a quick and easy message—that’s it. In short form: **“We support the Senate policy and funding level for special education.”**

As the budgets move, these budget-related bills (likely “Necessary to Implement the Budget”) will continue to move through the process. SB 5311 has been scheduled for executive action in the House Education Committee on Tuesday, March 21. Yesterday, HB 1436 was added to the executive action list in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee on Monday, March 20; however, by the end of the day, it was removed from the list and has not yet been rescheduled. The assumption is that amendments are being drafted. Additionally, the hearing and executive session list is already fairly long on Monday, so it may have been a timing issue.

When the two bills are adopted, we expect both sides to overlay their own bill language on top of the other house’s bill. So, when SB 5311 is adopted, it will likely carry the House’s language; and similarly, when HB 1436 is adopted, expect it to carry the Senate’s language. At some point the two sides will have to negotiate a final bill—and much of the conversation will be about the cost of the bills, which is why we believe this will ultimately be a budget end-game issue.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

Pupil Transportation

On Wednesday, [SB 5174](#) was heard in the House Appropriations Committee. Remember this bill has been dramatically altered from what was originally introduced. In its current version, this bare-bones bill would do two things:

1. A Special Passenger Safety Net Program would be created to provide awards to school districts with a “convincingly demonstrated need” for additional funding for special passengers. As in previous versions, “special passengers” are defined as: special education students that require transportation as a related service of their Individualized Education Program; homeless students requiring transportation under the McKinney-Vento Act; and foster students receiving transportation as required under the Every Student Succeeds Act.
2. OSPI would be required to conduct an analysis of school district transportation costs and allocations following the 2024–25 school year, along with recommendations for how to incorporate geographic differences faced by rural and high population-density urban school districts into the transportation formula. A report would be due to the Legislature by June 1, 2026.

As the bill moved out of the Senate, there was an effort to reinsert previous language that would have required any pupil transportation service contract to require the contractor to provide health and retirement benefits to its employees that are comparable to benefits provided to school employees. The amendment was ultimately withdrawn; however, the Teamsters Union is pressing hard on this issue and, given similar language was in the Houses of a pupil transportation funding bill, it could be return.

What is strange however, is the lack of enthusiasm about fixing pupil transportation. [HB 1248](#), the House’s version, died prior to the house of origin cutoff—not even making it out of the House Rules Committee. This could be a budget issue and could be revived; however, if the House intends to act on this, they likely will use the Senate bill as a vehicle.

Like last year, the Legislature could drop some funding in the Operating Budget and not even adopt a bill. Hopefully, we will get a clue about how serious this issue is when budget proposals are introduced.

We had high hopes that this Legislature was going to make substantive changes to the pupil transportation funding model—especially after legislators made a commitment to us last year. SB 5174 and HB 1248 started out as promising bills that would have made a substantial difference, but it did not take very long for each bill to be gutted—and then the full House would not even move its own scaled down bill. This has been a major disappointment.

Educator Compensation

Legislation to alter the process of calculating IPD continues to advance. Both [SB 5650](#) and [HB 1732](#) were heard in their opposite house fiscal committees this week and continue to look like they are ready for primetime. It is still not guaranteed one of them will be adopted, but budgets being released will tell the tale.

As originally introduced, both bills do two specific things:

- For the 2023–24 school year, IPD would be locked in at 3.8 percent; and
- Beginning with the 2024–25 school year, the K–12 inflationary factor is calculated as “IPD for the calendar year prior to the beginning of the school year” (the 2024–25 IPD is expected to be 3.6 percent).

Prior to moving out of their respective houses, both bills were amended, adjusting the 2023–24 school year IPD to 3.7 percent, rather than 3.8 percent.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

Remember that, while providing some clarity and predictability to IPD (for both the Legislature and school districts) is very positive, there are some concerns with how these bills are moving. In short, the IPD included in these bills are expected to result in state savings compared to the current methodology of calculating IPD. WEA is asking the Legislature that this savings be captured and directed towards additional salary increases for paraeducators and classified staff. The projection is savings that would allow for an 8.0 percent increase (4.0 percent each year) for these employees (on top of the 3.7 percent and 3.6 percent).

Additionally, WEA has asked the Legislature to adopt language “encouraging districts to bargain increases that target the lowest wage and highest turnover job classifications” AND requiring district compensation reports to ensure “transparency and accountability.” This additional language is not a part of SB 5650 or HB 1732; however, it could be inserted in the Operating Budget as a proviso. When budgets are released, we will be looking for the IPD numbers included—and whether or not additional language is attached.

For more details, you are encouraged to read the longer discussion in [TWIO Week 4](#) (pages 9-10).

The Week Ahead

Much of the focus next week will turn to the budgets; however, other legislative committees will continue working through their hearing and executive action lists. Below are some of the key bills scheduled to be acted upon next week.

Transitional Kindergarten

[HB 1550](#), changing Transitional Kindergarten to a Transition to Kindergarten program, will be heard on **Wednesday, March 22, 1:30 p.m.** in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. As we discussed last week, this bill was passed overwhelmingly by the full House, with no changes on the House Floor. The bill to be heard will be the same bill as adopted by the House Appropriations Committee; however, there is a caveat. We are expecting a striking amendment to be introduced—and the hearing may be on the new bill. If you are planning on testifying, make sure you are aware of what bill the Committee will be addressing.

Early on in the session, we were banking on the Senate to scuttle this bill if it passed the House. Unfortunately, that strategy (or hope) is unlikely. First, given that the bill received as much support as it did moving through the House (being approved by a vote of 74-22), it has a lot of momentum. Second, this continues to be a MAJOR priority for Representative Santos, and we are in the stage of the session where legislators may start to play political games. Sometimes there is horse-trading (“I’ll vote for this, if you vote for that”), but there is also occasional hostage-taking (“If you don’t vote for this, I won’t vote for that”). Horse-trading is looked down upon (especially by those who live and work outside the legislative arena); however, it is a part of the process. Not all bills are voted upon based solely on its merits and sometimes there are deals struck to advance an issue. Hostage-taking is a more serious matter. “I’ll scratch your back, if you’ll scratch my back” may not be the best course of action; however, both sides of the equation generally gain something. With hostage-taking both sides usually lose.

Understand, we are not saying this is happening or is going to happen; however, there is an open fear that killing HB 1550 will result in some type of retaliation. So, at this point, there are ongoing negotiations about the bill, specifically between the two Education Committee Chairs, but also including OSPI, DCYF, the governor’s office, and as we understand it, likely legislative leaders. All this activity is part of the reason we believe a striking amendment is being crafted. The attempt will be to appease “both sides,” by advancing a bill, but a bill that is more palatable to opponents.

We have not been privy to these conversations; however, one of the major issues is the question about basic education being used for Transitional Kindergarten or

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

the new Transition to Kindergarten. We do not have a solid answer, but the belief is we have lost this round. The backup plan is an attempt to craft a funding plan that would ensure TTK students continue to have access to transportation, Learning Assistance Program resources, and other components that a basic education student would have.

Other issues that continue to be discussed are student eligibility issues; teacher certification; and the claiming of TTK students as “Kindergarten students.” Currently TK students can be claimed as kindergarten students for state funding. This issue is linked with the basic education issue above. If TTK students cannot be counted as kindergarten students, they will not have access to the resources noted above and if a district shifts from TK to TTK, under the current proposal, a district would lose enrollment, which could impact levy collections, among other things.

Again, the public hearing is next Wednesday; however, we would encourage you to contact your own local legislators AND all of the members of the [Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee](#) BEFORE the hearing. At this point, we don’t know what exactly will be heard, so focus on your stories—talk about the success of your current programs; talk about how your TK programs are the “only game in town” and without your TK program, students would not have any other options (if this is true in your situation, obviously). Of course, you can mention some of the concerns of the current HB 1550, but understand this is a moving target.

Principal Bills

AWSP requested two bills to support principals this session. [SB 5085](#), which originally included collective bargaining expansions (among other things), is technically dead. It advanced to the Senate Floor Calendar, but was never acted upon. Their second bill, however, is alive and moving. [SB 5175](#), which allows principals to have up to three-year contracts, was adopted by the full Senate and is scheduled to be heard in the House Education Committee on **Tuesday, March 21, 4:00 p.m.**

While SB 5175 is not as troublesome as SB 5085, it is still concerning—and WASA continues to oppose the bill.

One of the major arguments in favor of this bill is that superintendents have three-year contracts—so building leaders should also have three-year contracts. Unfortunately, this is an apples-to-oranges comparison. Superintendents, the district’s CEO, have no specific employment protections and no job security. All it takes is three board members to change their minds about the superintendent (for whatever reason) and he or she is done, with no recourse. Principals, on the other hand, have tenure and due process rights (similar to teachers), which protect principals and prevents a superintendent from arbitrarily terminating them.

There is also an argument this bill should not be of concern because the provisions are permissive—districts are not required to offer two- or three-year contracts; they can do so at their option. But what kind of pressure can a principal bring to bear if there is an allowance for a three-year contract and you are not willing to offer it? Or what about the neighboring district that offers a three-year contract to principals—in which case there is tremendous pressure to follow/align with the neighbor. While this is a local decision, sometimes, because of pressure, it is in reality, not.

AWSP’s effort is to ensure consistent building leadership. This is a laudable goal, and we would concur this is valuable, but offering three-year contracts does not enhance the necessary relationship between a building leader and the district leader. In fact, it sets up a potential for an extremely divisive relationship.

WASA understands the pressure principals are under and we understand the workload issues. And we know how important principals are to the education system. SB 5175, however, is the wrong approach. We would suggest instead that the Legislature support principals by enhancing funding to hire additional

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

principals, providing additional professional development, and enhancing funding for principal interns.

WASA will continue to oppose SB 5175—and we encourage superintendents to engage on the issue. You may be uncomfortable publicly speaking against this bill, as it could harm relationships with your building administrators. We understand that hesitation; however, you can still engage on this issue behind-the-scenes by connecting directly with legislators. We would encourage you to make your feelings known, especially if you have a relationship with your local legislators. If you want to take an extra step, contacting members of the [House Education Committee](#) would also have an impact.

School Construction

Although the Legislature continues to be a thick, brick wall when it comes to a discussion about updating our antiquated school construction formulas and advancing a constitutional amendment to allow our voters to decide whether they would support a simple majority approval of school district bonds, they have stepped up for small school districts.

Two key bills continue to advance in the process. [SB 5126](#), requested by Superintendent Reykdal, to provide Common School Trust revenue to small school districts, will be heard in the House Capital Budget Committee on Tuesday, March 21, 9:00 a.m.; and [HB 1044](#), to provide capital funding assistance to small school districts with funding challenges is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee on Thursday, March 23, 1:30 p.m.

As originally introduced, SB 5126 would have required the Common School Construction Fund to finance the prioritized project list of the Small School District Modernization Grant Program before appropriating funds for other capital projects. As amended, the bill is not as robust; however, it would still provide needed assistance to small school districts. In its current form, the bill makes the prioritized project list of the Small School District Modernization Grant Program the first priority of the Common School Construction Fund—after payment of principal and interest for Skills Center bonds. Starting in 2025–27, no less than \$60 million in new appropriations in the Capital Budget must be used to fund the small school district prioritized list, and any remaining amounts in the Common School Construction Fund may be appropriated for other common school construction purposes. Increased funding is phased in, increasing to \$70 million in 2027–29 and to \$80 million in 2029–31 and every biennium thereafter.

HB 1044, as introduced would have created a supplementary capital grant program for school districts with less than 1,000 students to support facility modernization or replacement. To be eligible for a grant, the school district would have been required to fund 30 percent of the project cost from local resources. As amended, like SB 5126, it is not as robust, but should provide needed assistance to small school districts. Current language would require a district to provide a share equal to 50 percent of the district's remaining debt capacity for capital purposes, capped at an estimated property tax rate increment of \$1.75 per thousand of assessed district value.

There have been questions about whether the Wahkiakum School District school construction lawsuit is impacting legislators. It seems clear it is on their minds. If you did not watch the [oral arguments](#) on Tuesday, the hearing was interesting. At one point, one of the Justices noted that the state might be able to avoid losing the lawsuit (and potential future lawsuits) by bolstering the Small District Modernization Grant Program and other school district capital grant programs. Interestingly enough, SB 5126 would double the state's investment in the Small District Modernization Grant Program.

*This Week in Olympia:***Week 10, March 13–17, 2023***Continued***WAMOA**

By Mitch Denning

Here is the latest update on WAMOA priority bills:

- [ESHB 1436](#), **funding special education**—was heard on Wednesday in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee. The bill increases the special ed multiplier over the next four years to 1.059 for special ed students who are in the regular classroom more than 80 percent of the time, and to 1.043 for those students who spend less than 80 percent of the time in the regular classroom. The enrollment limit for K–21 students would be gradually increased until it is removed in SY 2027–28. OSPI is required to review district data for disproportionate identification and to support district’s efforts in using inclusionary teaching practices. Beginning July 1, 2025, OSPI would be required to redirect up to 50 percent of the district’s special ed students’ basic ed allocations for special ed if the special ed expenditures exceed revenues in the previous school year. A null and void clause is added. The fiscal impact is estimated to be \$168 million.

Joint Legislature Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) and the State Auditor’s Office (SAO) are required to do a special ed performance audit. Both agencies can use a sample of school districts in their audit. Any state or local agency is required to provide records to both agencies upon request, and JLARC and SAO are authorized as representatives of state education agencies for the purpose of evaluation. The agencies are required to provide notice if record requests don’t comply with federal privacy laws.

WAMOA testified OTHER, as the PreK multiplier is eliminated, the funding cap isn’t removed until SY 2027–28, and OSPI’s redirection of special funds could result in levy funds going to fund special ed and less levy funds for school and district maintenance. WAMOA told the committee that instead of the OSPI redirection of funds, we prefer the language in SSB 5311 which directs OSPI and SAO to develop an allocation and cost accounting methodology for special ed.

- [E2SHB 1238](#), **providing free school meals for all students**—was heard yesterday in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee, and is scheduled to move out of this committee on March 20. The bill removes the language that would make it a part of the State’s program of basic education. In 2023–24, it requires districts in their schools which contain grades K–4, and in which 40 percent or more of the students meet federal eligibility for free or reduced-price lunches, to serve their K–4 students for free. Then in SY 2024–25, a qualifying K–4 school would become one in which 30 percent of the students meet federal eligibility for free or reduced school lunches.

It also specifies that schools who are participating in the federal Community Eligibility Provision program (CEP) and who have not completed the CEP four year program would not be eligible for universal free meals under this bill. The threshold of 40 percent free and reduced-price lunch eligibility for the mandatory establishment of the school breakfast program is restored. Beginning in SY 2024–25, districts are required to implement school breakfast in schools that are required to provide meals to students at no charge. Also, the bill limits the applicability of LAP and National Board bonus provisions to qualifying schools that are required to provide meals to students at no charge.

Further, schools who are required to provide free meals in qualifying schools, but don’t participate in the federal meal program would be reimbursed at the whole amount of what USDA reimburses plus the difference between that rate and the free rate. Thus, these schools, since they have to serve all free meals if they are at 30–40 percent F/R, would be able to do so without having to comply with federal meal program

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

requirements. Also, public schools are encouraged to provide school meals to students by serving WA produced food whenever practicable and the cost is comparable on non-WA produced food. A fiscal note for this version of the bill has yet to be released.

WAMOA testified PRO on the bill as the process of universal free meals would be started in the highest need school districts which serve grades K–4. Also, in SY 2024–25, school districts with 30 percent free/reduced price lunch counts would begin free meals for all in these new qualifying K–4 schools. Also, qualifying K–4 schools whose districts are not participating in the federal lunch program would also be able to serve K–4 students for free, without having to comply with the federal meal requirements.

- [2SSB 5311](#), **special education funding formula**—was heard on Tuesday in the House Education Committee, and is scheduled to move out of this committee on Tuesday, March 21. The bill increases the special ed funding cap from 13.5 percent to 15 percent. The special ed multiplier in SY 2023–24 to PreK (1.2); K–12 > 80 percent (1.12); K–12 <80 percent (1.06). Beginning in SY 2023–24, a high-need student is eligible for safety-net award if the student’s IEP costs exceed (a) 2 times the average per-pupil expenditure of districts with fewer than 1,000 FTE enrollment, or (b) 2.2 times the average per-pupil expenditure of districts with more than 1,000 FTE enrollment. OSPI and the State Auditor are directed to develop an allocation cost accounting methodology that ensures state apportionment funding is allocated to a student’s spec ed program and accounted for as excess costs when these basic ed services are providing in an alternative setting. The Office of Education Ombuds must certify a special ed ombudsman in each ESD to provide resource assistance to special ed students and their parents in the IEP process. The fiscal impact of the bill is expected to be \$351 million.

WAMOA’s written testimony included WAMOA supports the increase in the cost multipliers and to the funding cap, the work of the Safety Net Oversight Committee, the tasks of the Office of the Education Ombuds, and OSPI and SAO’s work to develop an allocation cost accounting methodology.

- [2SSB 5126](#), **common school trust revenue to small school districts**—is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Capital Budget Committee on March 21. The small district priority list would be the first priority of the Common School Construction Fund (CSCF) appropriations after payment of principal and interest in skill center bonds. Starting in 2025–27, no less than \$60 million in new appropriations in the capital budget must be used to fund small districts on the prioritized list. This amount would increase to \$70 million in 2027–29, and to \$80 million in 2029–31.

This week WAMOA sent emails to WAMOA members working in districts which have 1,000 FTE or less requesting they send emails to Rep. Steve Tharinger, chair of House Capital Budget, urging him to hear this bill and move it out of his committee. A number of these WAMOA members sent emails to Rep. Tharinger, and the bills now scheduled for a public hearing.

- [E2SSB 5174](#), **pupil transportation funding**—was heard Wednesday in the House Appropriations Committee. The bill directs OSPI to gather additional data to develop a new pupil transportation formula that adequately funds current transportation services. It provides funding on an excess cost basis to districts who demonstrate a need to serve special passengers. Public charter and tribal compact schools would also be eligible, and such funding is not part of basic education. By July 1, 2026, OSPI will provide the Legislature with a cost analysis from SY 2024–25, including mileage, ridership, and costs for each type of special students, and for all other to

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

and from pupil transportation. OSPI will also include recommendations on how to incorporate geographic differences faced by rural and high population density urban districts in the transportation funding model. The fiscal impact of the bill is yet to be determined.

WAMOA submitted written testimony in support of the bill. WAMOA supports requiring OSPI to provide transportation safety net awards to districts which have excess special passenger costs for special education, homeless and foster care students. WAMOA also supports requiring OSPI by June 1, 2026, to give the Legislature an analysis of school district costs and allocations.

- [SHB 1044](#), **capital financial assistance to small school districts with demonstrated financial challenges**—is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee on March 23. WAMOA will be testifying PRO. This bill creates a supplementary capital grant program for districts with enrollments of 1,000 students or fewer for comprehensive instructional facility modernization or replacement. It requires that the grants be coordinated with the SCAP program to the extent that the district has program eligibility. Further, it requires the district awarded the grant to provide a district share equal to 50 percent of the district’s remaining debt capacity for capital purposes, capped at an estimated property tax rate increment of \$1.75 per \$1,000 of assessed district value. According to the fiscal note, OSPI’s cost would be \$137 million.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey—The Nexus Group

Health, Pension, and Other Benefit Issues

Appropriation:

“The bill contains a null and void clause requiring specific funding be provided in an omnibus appropriation act.”

The revenue forecast is set to be released on the afternoon of March 20th. Budget releases and hearings follow shortly after. Therein lies the importance of the null and void clause. As Casey Stengel might have said, “If it cost somethin’ and ain’t in the budget, it ain’t going to happen.”

Listed below are bills that appear still ‘alive’ remembering that negotiations are expected between both houses as they work out differences between the competing budgets. And as always, NTIB bills remain in the background and may come forward at any time.

Retirement Related Proposals

As a repeat of a repeat: Previous reports have covered the bills related to addressing the lack of a cost-of-living increase (COLA) for members in TRS/PERS Plan 1 and requesting a COLA for members of those plans. They are [ESHB 1057](#), [ESSB 5294](#), and [HB 1201](#).

There are three basic bills currently moving that deal with pensions. These address the request for a one-time 3 percent COLA, employer rates, and how to deal with the \$800 million the Legislature set aside last session to lower the unfunded liability within TRS Plan 1.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

[ESHB 1057](#), would grant a one-time, capped 3 percent COLA for TRS1/PERS1 Plan members. It also directed the SPP to recommend a path to regaining a permanent COLA for these retirees. Unlike its companion, an adopted amendment froze current rates until 2027.

The bill passed the House 96/0 and is scheduled for Executive Session March 21 before the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

[ESSB 5294](#), was amended. Reduces the minimum contribution rates for the Plan 1 Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability (UAAL) in the Public Employees' and Teachers' Retirement System Plans 1 (PERS 1 and TRS 1) to 0.5 percent. Sets UAAL rates for PERS 1 and TRS 1 for fiscal years 2024 through 2027. Reduces the scheduled payment of \$800 million into the TRS 1 fund to \$250 million.

The Senate passed the bill 48/0. A public hearing was held on March 9 and the bill awaits further action by the House Appropriations Committee.

[HB 1201](#), eliminates the minimum contribution rates for amortizing the unfunded liabilities in the Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS 1), beginning August 31, 2024, and for the Public Employees' Retirement System Plan 1 (PERS 1), beginning June 30, 2025. Fixes the employer contribution rate for the unfunded liabilities in PERS 1 and TRS 1 at zero until 2029, excluding amounts to amortize benefit improvements made after June 30, 2009. Repeals the scheduled payment of \$800 million into the TRS 1 fund scheduled for June 30, 2023.

The bill remains on the floor calendar and may well be NTIB since it deals with what to do with the previously dedicated millions.

Comment: A key difference between 5294 and 1201 deals with the \$800 Million the legislature budgeted last session to pay down the unfunded liability in TRS Plan 1. Do we (legislators/budget writers) take all \$800 million for uses elsewhere? (HB 1201) or, do we legislators/budget writers take all but \$250 million? (ESSB 5294). The soon to be released budgets will tell the tale. The other key difference is the effect on rates both short and long-term. Each deal with these projected rates differently.

[ESHB 1057](#), would grant a one-time, capped 3 percent COLA for TRS1/PERS1 Plan members. It also directed the SPP to recommend a path to regaining a permanent COLA for these retirees. Unlike its companion, an adopted amendment froze current rates until 2027.

The amended bill passed the House 96/0. The Senate Ways & Means Committee passed a strike that made it an identical companion to SB 5350 and struck out the rate freeze language.

[SHB 1007](#): Concerning interruptive military service credit for members of the state retirement systems.

Comment: Retirement credit can be awarded if in any armed conflicts, if the participant was awarded the respective campaign or expeditionary badge or medal.... the 'expeditionary badge qualifier was added.

This bill is on Senate floor calendar awaiting further action.

[HB 1008](#): Concerning participating in insurance plans and contracts by separated Plan 2 members of certain retirement systems.

Comment: This bill would simply make retiree insurance provisions uniform and equitable for Plans 2 and 3 members.

This bill is on Senate floor calendar awaiting further action.

[SHB 1056](#): Repealing some postretirement employment restrictions.

Comment: Changes the postretirement employment restrictions on benefits eligibility for Public Employees' Retirement System, Teachers Retirement System,

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023
Continued

and School Employees Retirement System Plans 2 and 3 members that retired under the 2008 Early Retirement Factors (ERFs). Permits 2008 ERF members to work in retirement system–covered employment for up to 867 hours per year without suspension of retirement benefits. Adjusts benefits for individuals that chose the 3 percent per year early retirement reduction to the level of reduction in the 2008 ERFs for future benefit payments. Effective January 1, 2024.

This bill is scheduled for a public hearing on March 16 before the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

SSB 5121: Extending the expiration date of the joint select committee on health care oversight.

Comment: Extends the expiration date of the Joint Select Committee on Health Care Oversight from December 31, 2022, until December 31, 2026, and renames it as the Joint Select Committee on Health Care & Behavioral Health Oversight.

The bill is in the House Rules Committee awaiting further action.

SSB 5490: Concerning health care coverage for retired or disabled employees denied coverage for failure to timely notify the authority of their intent to defer coverage.

Comment: Allows certain retired public employees who were denied retiree health care coverage by the Public Employees Benefits Board another limited opportunity to enroll. Only retired or disabled employees who were denied coverage for failure to notify the Health Care Authority of their deferral of coverage, and appealed the denial before December 31, 2022, are provided the new opportunity to enroll.

This bill is in the House Rules Committee awaiting further action.

Other areas of potential fiscal (\$\$) impact and (often, unfunded) to districts

SHB 1068: Concerning injured workers' rights during compelled medical examinations.

Comment: Allows an injured worker to make an audio and video recording of a compelled medical examination, and to have one person of the worker's choosing present during the examination.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Session March 21 before the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

SHB 1105: Requiring public agencies to provide notice for public comment that includes the last date by which such public comment must be submitted.

Comment: Mandates a public agency that is required to solicit public comment for a statutorily specified period of time, and to provide notice that it is soliciting public comment, to include in the notice the last day by which written public comment may be submitted. Makes an agency that violates the requirement to include in a notice for public comment the last day by which written comment may be submitted subject to a civil penalty of \$500 for the first violation and \$1000 for any subsequent violation.

A public hearing is scheduled March 24 before the Senate State Government Committee.

SHB 1106: Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.

Comment: Expands access to unemployment insurance benefits by adding circumstances where a person may voluntarily quit for a good cause.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Session March 21 before the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee even before the public hearing on March 16.

SHB 1187: Concerning privileged communication between employees and the unions that represent them.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

Comment: Creates a privilege from examination and disclosure for a union representative and a union employee concerning any communication between the union representative or union employee made during union representation. Applies the privilege from examination and disclosure to the union members and organizations that represent employees of college districts, public employees, faculty at public four-year institutions of higher education, civil service employees, ferry employees, port employees, and labor unions.

A public hearing before the Senate Law & Justice Committee is scheduled for March 23.

SHB 1200: Requiring public employers to provide employee information to exclusive bargaining representatives.

Comment: Requires certain public employers (including school districts) to provide exclusive bargaining representatives information, such as contact information, date of hire, salary, and jobsite location, of employees in bargaining units if the employer has that information in its records. Allows an exclusive bargaining representative to bring a court action if a public employer fails to comply with the requirement to provide information.

The Senate Labor & Commerce Committee has scheduled a public hearing for March 23.

EHB 1210: Concerning the recording of school board meetings.

Comment: Specifies that a public records request for recordings of school district board of directors' meetings must include the date of the meetings requested, or a range of dates. Provides that searches for public records need not include recordings of school district board meetings unless a date is given. Requires all school district board meetings to be audio recorded, subject to exceptions for executive sessions and emergencies, with recordings kept for at least one year. Encourages school districts to make the content of school board of directors' meetings available in formats accessible to individuals who need communication assistance and in languages other than English.

This bill is scheduled for Executive Session before the Senate State Government Committee on March 17.

E2SHB 1320: Concerning access to personnel records.

Comment: Requires an employer to furnish an employee or former employee with a complete copy of their personnel file at no cost within fourteen calendar days of a request. Mandates an employer to furnish a former employee with a signed written statement with the effective date of discharge, whether the employer had a reason for the discharge, and if so, the reasons, within 14 calendar days of the written request. Allows an employee or former employee to bring a private action for violations of certain rights regarding personnel files, discharge information, and redaction logs, and entitles the employee to equitable relief, graduated statutory damages up to \$1,000, and reasonable attorneys' fees and costs of each violation. Allows for redaction of personnel files under certain circumstances. An adopted amendment reads: "Provides that a public employer has the burden of proving that it redacted only information as required and is subject to liability for bad faith redaction."

Scheduled for Executive Session March 21 before the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

2SSB 5048: Eliminating college in the high school fees.

Comment: Requires institutions of higher education to provide enrollment and registration in College in the High School (CHS) courses at no cost to students in grades 9 through 12 at public high schools. Requires the Legislature to appropriate funds to fund CHS courses, at inflation-adjusted rates. Directs high schools that provide a CHS course to include information in the course catalog that there is no fee for students to enroll in a CHS course.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

A public hearing March 21 and Executive Session March 24 has been scheduled before the Senate Post-Secondary Education Committee.

SB 5084: Creating a separate fund for the purposes of self-insured pensions and assessments.

Comment: Creates a self-insurance reserve fund for payments from self-insured employers related to workers' compensation pensions and from the overpayment's reimbursement fund.

A public hearing has been scheduled for March 22 before the House Labor Committee.

ESSB 5123: Concerning the employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis.

Comment: Prohibits employers from discriminating against a person in an initial hiring decision based on the person's use of cannabis outside of work or based on a finding of no psychoactive cannabis metabolites in an employer-required drug screening test, subject to certain exceptions and other limitations.

Executive Session before the House Labor Committee has been scheduled for March 21.

E2SSB 5174: Providing adequate and predictable student transportation.

Comment: Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to provide an analysis of school district transportation costs and allocations to the Legislature by June 1, 2026. Creates a special passenger safety net program. (Note: The original bill and withdrawn proposed amendment mandates employees receive same pension/health benefits paid to state employees. This language has been deleted.)

Had a public hearing before the House Appropriations Committee March 15 and is awaiting further action.

SB 5240/HB 1656: Concerning unemployment insurance benefits appeal procedures.

Comment: A dispute of an individual's initial determination, determination of allowance or denial of allowance of benefits, or redetermination of allowance or denial of benefits, all matters covered by such initial determination, determination, redetermination shall be deemed to be in issue subject to appeal.

SB 5240, the House Labor Committee had a public hearing on March 15 and the bill is awaiting further action. HB 1656 passed the House 96/0 and has been moved to the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee awaiting scheduling.

SSB 5275: Expanding access to benefits provided by the School Employees' Benefits Board.

Comment: Allows tribal compact schools, employee organizations representing school employees, and school board directors the option of providing health care through the School Employees Benefits Board through SEBB beginning January 1, 2024. Employers opting into coverage under SEBB may determine the terms of employee and dependent eligibility and must pay premiums set by HCA.

This bill has been sent to the House Rules Committee for further action.

SSB 5286: Modifying the premium provisions of the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

Comment: Modifies the statutory formula for determining the premium rates for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Program.

Scheduled for Executive Session before the House Labor Committee on March 17.

2SSB 5593: Improving equity in the transfer of student data between K–12 schools and institutions of higher education.

This Week in Olympia:
Week 10, March 13–17, 2023

Continued

Comment: Requires institutions of higher education to enter into data-sharing agreements with the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to facilitate the transfer of high school student directory information for purposes of informing students about postsecondary educational opportunities. Requires school districts to annually transmit directory information for all enrolled high school students to the OSPI and directs the OSPI to make that information available to institutions of higher education. Directs the OSPI to identify a process for making information about a student's enrollment in an institution of higher education available to the student's school district.

Scheduled for Executive Session before the House Education Committee March 20.

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
Virtual

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
Virtual

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Virtual

Tuesdays

8–10 a.m.
House Education
Virtual

1:30–3:30 p.m.
House Appropriations
Virtual

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
Virtual

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Virtual

Wednesdays

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
Virtual

Thursdays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
House Appropriations
Virtual

3:30–5:15 p.m.
House Appropriations
Virtual

4–6 p.m.
Senate Ways & Means
Virtual

Fridays

8–10 a.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
Virtual

10–11 a.m.
House Education
Virtual

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 9, 2023

First Day of Session.

February 17, 2023

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

February 24, 2023

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

March 8, 2023

Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

March 29, 2023

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

April 4, 2023

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

April 12, 2023*

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 23, 2023

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After 5:00 p.m. on the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, 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 1000	Working families' tax credit	H Finance	Stokesbary
HB 1001 (SB 5021)	Audiology & speech compact	S Health & Long T	Leavitt
SHB 1003	Dual credit program access	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
HB 1008 (SB 5420)	Plan 2 members/insurance	S Ways & Means	Bronoske
HB 1011	Long-term care/repeal	H HC/Wellness	Abbarno
2SHB 1013	Regional apprenticeship prgs	S EL/K-12	Maycumber
SHB 1015 (SB 5264)	Paraeducator requirements	S EL/K-12	Santos
HB 1020	State dinosaur	S State Govt & El	Morgan
HB 1021 (SB 5354)	Social worker licensing	H Rules R	Thai
HB 1029	Vaccine mandate reemployment	H Labor & Workplace	Jacobsen
SHB 1044	Capital assistance/schools	S EL/K-12	McEntire
ESHB 1048 (SSB 5047)	Voting rights act	S State Govt & El	Mena
HB 1052	Nonprofit housing/tax ex.	S Housing	Ramel
SHB 1056 (SB 5349)	Postretirement employment	S Ways & Means	Stokesbary
ESHB 1057 (SB 5350)	PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase	S Ways & Means	Stokesbary
HB 1064	School safety capital grants	H Cap Budget	Jacobsen
HB 1071	School resource officers	H Education	Walsh
EHB 1086	Community org. contracts	S Loc Gov, Land U	Shavers
HB 1091	Tax increases/voter approval	H State Govt & T	Walsh
HB 1092	State property tax/valuation	H Finance	Walsh
HB 1093	K-12 scholarship program	H Education	Walsh
HB 1096 (SB 5731)	Amateur sports officials	H Community Safe	Low
HB 1099	Public works wages	H Cap Budget	Berry
SHB 1105	Public comment notice	S State Govt & El	Kloba
ESHB 1106	Unemployment/voluntary	S Labor & Comm	Fosse
SHB 1109	Special education funding	S EL/K-12	Senn
SHB 1113	Prof. educator reprimands	S EL/K-12	Harris
SHB 1118	School bus safety	H Appropriations	Mosbrucker
HB 1125 (SB 5162)	Transportation budget	H Transportation	Fey

HB 1126 (SB 5164)	Transportation budget, supp.	H Transportation	Fey
E2SHB 1134	988 system	S Health & Long T	Orwall
HB 1135 (SB 5452)	Impact fee use	H Rules R	Slatter
HB 1140 (SB 5187)	Operating budget	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1141 (SB 5188)	Operating budget, supp.	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1146	Dual credit program notice	S EL/K–12	Paul
HB 1147 (SB 5200)	Capital budget	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1148 (SB 5201)	State gen. obligation bonds	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1149 (SSB 5202)	Housing/capital expenditures	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1156 (SB 5711)	College grant eligibility	H Appropriations	Slatter
ESHB 1187 (SB 5706)	Employee-union privilege	S Law & Justice	Hackney
SHB 1200 (SB 5273)	Employee information/unions	S Labor & Comm	Alvarado
HB 1201 (ESSB 5294)	Retirement system funding	H 2nd Reading	Ormsby
SHB 1207	Harassment/schools	S EL/K–12	Senn
EHB 1210	School board recordings	S State Govt & El	Rude
HB 1211 (E2SSB 5311)	Special education funding	H Appropriations	Bergquist
SHB 1217	Wage complaints	S Labor & Comm	Ortiz-Self
HB 1220 (SB 5209)	Universal civic duty voting	H State Govt & Tr	Mena
SHB 1228	Dual & tribal language edu.	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
HB 1230	School websites/drug info.	S EL/K–12	Callan
HB 1232	College bound scholarship	S Higher Ed & Work	Bergquist
E2SHB 1238 (SSB 5339)	Free school meals	S EL/K–12	Riccelli
2SHB 1239	Educator ethics & complaints	H Rules R	Santos
SHB 1241	Harassment	S Law & Justice	Leavitt
HB 1244 (SB 5692)	Enrichment levy authority	H 2nd Reading	Ramel
HB 1246	Health benefits/SEBB	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1248	Pupil transportation	H Rules R	Stonier
HB 1252	Impact fee deferrals	H 2nd Reading	Bateman
HB 1256	Higher ed. matching grants	H Cap Budget	Steele
2SHB 1272	Voters' pamphlets	H Rules R	Bergquist
SHB 1273 (E2SSB 5243)	High school and beyond plans	H Appropriations	Berg
ESHB 1277	Paraeducator course of study	S EL/K–12	Donaghy
SHB 1289 (SSB 5221)	Opportunity scholarship	S Higher Ed & Work	Reed

HB 1294	Plan 1 retiree COLAs	H Appropriations	Steele
2SHB 1305	Students with disabilities	H 2nd Reading	Pollet
SHB 1306 (2SSB 5268)	Public works procurement	H 2nd Reading	Tharinger
HB 1308	Graduation pathway options	S EL/K–12	Stonier
2SHB 1316	Dual credit program access	S EL/K–12	Paul
E2SHB 1320 (SSB 5061)	Personnel records	S Labor & Comm	Reed
HB 1328	Schools & families/funding	H Appropriations	Stokesbary
2SHB 1332	Tribes/K–12 instruction	S EL/K–12	Lekanoff
ESHB 1335 (SB 5321)	Personal identifying info.	S Law & Justice	Hansen
2SHB 1338	DOC ed. and vocational prgs.	H Rules R	Reeves
SHB 1346 (2SSB 5071)	Purple star award	S EL/K–12	Shavers
HB 1353	School district elections	H Education	Stonier
HB 1354	School volunteers/conviction	H Education	Stonier
HB 1359	Prof. licenses/new residents	H ConsPro&Bus	Cheney
SHB 1360	Alt. professional licensing	H Appropriations	McClintock
SHB 1368 (SB 5431)	Zero emission school buses	H Appropriations	Senn
HB 1373	Illegal encampment removal	H Housing	Stokesbary
HB 1374 (SSB 5305)	Office of career connect WA	H Postsec Ed & Work	Slatter
HB 1376	School practice standards	H Education	Santos
ESHB 1377	Continuing education/K–12	S EL/K–12	Santos
SHB 1386	Youth development grants	H Appropriations	Rule
2SHB 1390	District energy systems	S Environment, En	Ramel
2SHB 1391	Energy in buildings	S Environment, E	Ramel
E2SHB 1392 (SB 5464)	Electronics repair	S Environment, En	Gregerson
SHB 1399	Native American scholarships	H Appropriations	Lekanoff
SHB 1406	Youth seeking housing assist	S Human Services	Cortes
HB 1411	Cross-sector prof. dev.	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
HB 1418 (SB 5442)	Charter schools/enrichment	H Appropriations	Springer
HB 1423 (SSB 5372)	Trust land transfer program	H Cap Budget	Hackney
HB 1429	Educational employee strikes	H Labor & Workplace	Stokesbary
ESHB 1436	Special education funding	S EL/K–12	Pollet
HB 1444 (SSB 5126)	Common school trust revenue	H Cap Budget	McEntire
HB 1459	PERS & TRS plan 1 adjustment	H Appropriations	Stokesbary

SHB 1460	DNR land	S Ag/Water/Natural	Hackney
HB 1468	Impact fee deferrals	H 2nd Reading	Goehner
HB 1472	Motor vehicle sales tax	H Appropriations	Barkis
HB 1476 (SB 5289)	Impact fees/law enforcement	H Local Govt	Shavers
EHB 1478	Student rights	S EL/K–12	Timmons
E2SHB 1479 (SB 5559)	Student restraint, isolation	S EL/K–12	Callan
HB 1482	Property tax exemptions	H Finance	Orcutt
HB 1483	State school levies	H Finance	Orcutt
HB 1489 (SB 5590)	Mt. St. Helens license plate	H 2nd Reading	Orcutt
HB 1496 (SB 5556)	Naselle Youth Camp property	H State Govt & T	Walsh
HB 1497	Vapor and tobacco/minors	H Reg Subst & Gaming	Harris
HB 1502	PFML job protection study	H Labor & Workplace	Berry
SHB 1504 (ESSB 5257)	Elementary school recess	S EL/K–12	Low
SHB 1516	Lunar new year	H Appropriations	Thai
HB 1527 (SB 5539)	Tax increment financing	S Business, Fin S	Wylie
HB 1536	H.S. diplomas/withholding	S EL/K–12	Timmons
E2SHB 1541 (SB 5616)	Lived experience	S State Govt & El	Farivar
HB 1549	AP course options	H Education	Stonier
2SHB 1550	Transition to kindergarten	S EL/K–12	Santos
HB 1556 (SB 5495)	Property tax rebates	H Finance	Berg
HB 1560	Property tax exemptions	H Finance	Shavers
E2SHB 1565	Prof. education workforce	S EL/K–12	Ortiz-Self
HB 1566	Vacation leave accrual	H Rules R	Bateman
SHB 1590	Oversight board for DCYF	S Human Services	Dent
HB 1605 (SSB 5668)	Small districts/skill center	H Appropriations	Rule
HB 1608	Anaphylaxis meds./schools	H Education	Bronoske
SHB 1609	School library info and tech	H Appropriations	Eslick
HB 1615	Education savings accounts	H Education	Eslick
2SHB 1618	Childhood sexual abuse/SOL	S Law & Justice	Farivar
SHB 1621	Local government procurement	S Loc Gov, Land U	Ryu
HB 1622	Students/homelessness	S EL/K–12	Fey
HB 1624	ESD election administration	S EL/K–12	Ybarra
HB 1649	Prejudgment interest	H Civil R & Judiciary	Hackney

SHB 1658	Work experience/H.S. credit	S EL/K–12	Shavers
HB 1667 (SB 5563)	Prevailing wage	H Labor & Workplace	Schmidt
HB 1670	Property tax limit factor	H Rules R	Ormsby
HB 1675	School safety dashboard	H Education	McEntire
SHB 1676	Special ed. early support	H Appropriations	Senn
HB 1679 (SB 5719)	Student homelessness group	S Human Services	Rule
SHB 1692	Student advisory groups	H Rules R	Bergquist
SHB 1693 (ESSB 5702)	Student homelessness pilot	H Rules R	Lekanoff
HB 1697	Early achievers, voluntary	H Human Svc, You	Walsh
SHB 1701	Institutional ed. programs	S EL/K–12	Callan
HB 1703	Local property tax levies	H Local Govt	Orcutt
HB 1704	Sales and use tax rate	H Finance	Orcutt
HB 1710 (SSB 5248)	Tutoring & extended learning	H Appropriations	Rude
EHB 1714	Financial literacy grants	S EL/K–12	Stonier
HB 1721	Skill center class size	H Appropriations	Paul
ESHB 1732	K–12 inflation adjustments	S Ways & Means	Bergquist
HB 1741	Prototypical school formulas	H Appropriations	Rule
ESHB 1744	Charter school oversight	S EL/K–12	Rude
2SHB 1746 (SB 5718)	State broadband map	S Environment, En	Ryu
HB 1747 (SB 5680)	Seismic safety/schools	H Cap Budget	Chapman
HB 1749	Filipino Americans/schools	H Education	Chandler
HB 1750	Water safety education	S State Govt & El	Berg
HB 1756	Energy/tax	H Exec Action	Ramel
HB 1759	Chinese American month	H State Govt & T	Santos
HB 1793	Wireless devices tax	H Finance	Gregerson
HB 1819	K–12 music instruction	H Education	Reed
HB 1825	Teacher comp./state schools	H Appropriations	Harris
HB 1827	Vaccination status	H Civil R & Judiciary	Walsh
HJR 4203	School district bonds	H Education	Stonier
HJR 4205 (SJR 8206)	Property tax rebates	H Finance	Berg
SB 5000	Americans of Chinese descent	H State Govt & Tr	Wagoner
SB 5008	K–12 instr. materials/access	S EL/K–12	McCune
SB 5009	Sex ed./parent approval	S EL/K–12	McCune

SB 5014	Emergency rules/approval	S State Govt & E	Fortunato
SB 5017	Motor vehicles sales tax use	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SB 5018	Sales tax/transp. projects	S Transportation	Fortunato
SB 5019	School safety staff	H Education	Wellman
SB 5020	Education at 6 years of age	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5021 (HB 1001)	Audiology & speech compact	S Health & Long	Wagoner
SB 5024	K–12 education/parent rights	S EL/K–12	Dozier
SB 5029	School district boards	S EL/K–12	Short
SB 5031	Special ed safety net awards	H Education	Wellman
SB 5037	Natural gas/energy code	S Environment, E	Wilson
SB 5038	K–12 empl. notice deadlines	S EL/K–12	Mullet
SSB 5047 (ESHB 1048)	Voting rights act	S Rules 2	Saldana
2SSB 5048	College in high school fees	H Postsec Ed & Work	Mullet
SSB 5054	Prof. learning communities	H Education	Wellman
SB 5059	Prejudgment interest	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
SSB 5061 (E2SHB 1320)	Personnel records	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
SB 5063	Gubernatorial emergencies	S State Govt & E	Wilson
SB 5064	Special ed. excess costs	S EL/K–12	Wellman
SB 5065	Bone marrow donation/schools	H EDDPA	Short
SB 5068	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	MacEwen
2SSB 5071 (SHB 1346)	Purple star designation	S 2nd Reading	Nobles
SSB 5072	Highly capable students	H EDDPA	Nobles
SB 5073	Three branches/admin. rules	S State Govt & E	Wilson
SSB 5085	School principals/employment	S 2nd Reading	Wellman
ESSB 5102	School library info and tech	H Education	Wellman
ESSB 5123	Cannabis/employment	H Labor & Workplace	Keiser
SSB 5126 (HB 1444)	Common school trust revenue	H Cap Budget	Pedersen
SSB 5127	Student information/PRA	H State Govt & Tr	Wilson
SSB 5133	Responsible bidder criteria	S Ways & Means	Keiser
SB 5136	Sales and use tax exemptions	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SB 5139	Vaccination refusal	S Health & Long	Fortunato
SSB 5158	State & local taxation	S 2nd Reading	Wilson
SB 5162 (HB 1125)	Transportation budget	S Transportation	Liias

SB 5164 (HB 1126)	Transportation budget, supp.	S Transportation	Liias
E2SSB 5174	Student transportation	H Appropriations	Wellman
ESB 5175	School principal contracts	H Education	Wellman
SB 5180	Teacher mobility compact	H Education	Hunt
SB 5187 (HB 1140)	Operating budget	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SB 5188 (HB 1141)	Operating budget, supp.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SSB 5189 (HB 1348)	Behavioral health support	H HC/Wellness	Trudeau
SB 5196	OL Reign license plate	S Transportation	Nobles
SB 5200 (HB 1147)	Capital budget	S Ways & Means	Mullet
SB 5201 (HB 1148)	State gen. obligation bonds	S Ways & Means	Mullet
SSB 5202 (HB 1149)	Housing/capital expenditures	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
SB 5209 (HB 1220)	Universal civic duty voting	S Rules 2	Hunt
SSB 5221 (SHB 1289)	Opportunity scholarship	S Rules 2	Liias
2SSB 5225	Working conn. child care	H Human Svc, Youth	Wilson
SSB 5237	Education law noncompliance	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5239	Vapor & tobacco products	S Health & Long	Kuderer
E2SSB 5243 (SHB 1273)	High school and beyond plans	H Education	Wellman
SB 5246	Supreme court fiscal notes	S Law & Justice	Holy
SSB 5248 (HB 1710)	Tutoring & extended learning	S Ways & Means	Braun
2SSB 5268 (SHB 1306)	Public works procurement	H Innov, Comm &	Hasegawa
SB 5273 (SHB 1200)	Employee information/unions	S Labor & Comm	Valdez
SB 5289 (HB 1476)	Impact fees/law enforcement	S Loc Gov, Land	Shewmake
SSB 5304	Language access/testing	H Human Svc, Youth	Saldana
SSB 5305 (HB 1374)	Office of career connect WA	S Ways & Means	Wellman
E2SSB 5311 (HB 1211)	Special education funding	H Education	Wellman
E2SSB 5315	Special education/nonpublic	H Education	Wilson
SB 5321 (ESHB 1335)	Personal identifying info.	S Law & Justice	Valdez
SSB 5322 (ESHB 1282)	Public building materials	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5327	Intern wages	S Labor & Comm	Keiser
SB 5332	Homeless camps/schools, etc.	S Loc Gov, Land	King
SSB 5339 (E2SHB 1238)	Free school meals	S Ways & Means	Nobles
SB 5343	School construction costs	S EL/K-12	Schoesler
SB 5344	Public school revolving fund	S 2nd Reading	Schoesler

SB 5345	School buildings/energy	S Environment, E	Schoesler
SB 5346	Student art/school const.	S EL/K–12	Schoesler
SB 5349 (SHB 1056)	Postretirement employment	S Rules 2	Conway
SB 5350 (ESHB 1057)	PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase	H Appropriations	Conway
SB 5354 (HB 1021)	Social worker licensing	S Health & Long	Trudeau
ESB 5355	Sex trafficking prev. ed.	H Education	Wilson
SB 5359	State spending limit	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5363	Cannabis advertising	H Reg Subst & Gaming	MacEwen
ESSB 5365	Vapor and tobacco/minors	H Reg Subst & Gaming	Saldana
SSB 5372 (HB 1423)	DNR land	S Ways & Means	Rolfes
SSB 5378	Voter education	S Rules 2	Kauffman
SB 5387	Property tax/homestead	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5403	School depreciation subfunds	H Education	Schoesler
SB 5404	Cannabis revenue/local gov.	S Labor & Comm	Wagoner
SB 5408	Ninth grade success grants	S Ways & Means	Liias
SB 5418	Definition of public work	S State Govt & E	Conway
SB 5420 (HB 1008)	Plan 2 members/insurance	S Ways & Means	Conway
SB 5431 (SHB 1368)	Zero emission school buses	S EL/K–12	Shewmake
2SSB 5438	Supportive relationships	H HC/Wellness	Warnick
SSB 5441	School district curricula	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5442 (HB 1418)	Charter schools/enrichment	S EL/K–12	Mullet
SB 5444	Firearm sensitive places	S Law & Justice	Valdez
SB 5449	School buses/other use	S Transportation	Warnick
ESB 5462	Inclusive learning standards	H Education	Liias
SB 5463	Juvenile access to attorney	S Human Services	Lovick
SB 5464 (E2SHB 1392)	Electronics repair	S Environment, E	Stanford
SB 5479	Long-term care/referendum	S Labor & Comm	Schoesler
SB 5485	Public employees/child care	S Ways & Means	Shewmake
SB 5495 (HB 1556)	Property tax rebates	S Ways & Means	Kuderer
SB 5505	School year expansion	S EL/K–12	Hawkins
SB 5511	K–12 education funding	S EL/K–12	Braun
SB 5514 (HB 1582)	Right turns	S Transportation	Lovick
SB 5527	Graduation pathway options	S Rules 2	Mullet

SB 5539 (HB 1527)	Tax increment financing	S Ways & Means	Cleveland
SB 5554	College grant award amounts	S Ways & Means	Nguyen
SB 5556 (HB 1496)	Naselle Youth Camp property	S State Govt & El	Wilson
SB 5558	Rights of parents	S EL/K–12	McCune
SB 5559 (E2SHB 1479)	Student restraint, isolation	S EL/K–12	Wilson
SB 5563 (HB 1667)	Prevailing wage	S Labor & Comm	King
SB 5577	Capital broadband program	S Environment, E	Torres
SSB 5586	Paid leave data	H Labor & Workplace	King
SB 5590 (HB 1489)	Mt. St. Helens license plate	S Transportation	Wilson
2SSB 5593	Student data transfer	H Education	Liias
SB 5595	State nickname	H State Govt & Tr	Wilson
SB 5616 (E2SHB 1541)	Lived experience	S State Govt & E	Valdez
SSB 5617	Career & tech. ed. courses	H Education	Wellman
SB 5618	Local property tax limit	S Loc Gov, Land	Kuderer
SB 5625	Public employee retirees	S Ways & Means	Liias
SSB 5626	K–12 media literacy	H Education	Liias
SB 5641	African heritage week	S State Govt & E	Fortunato
SB 5647	School safety/temp employees	S Rules 2	Torres
SSB 5648	Board of education waivers	H Education	Wellman
ESB 5650	K–12 inflationary increases	H Appropriations	Rolfes
SB 5653	Minors & parents/rights	S EL/K–12	Fortunato
SSB 5655	WA achievers grant program	S Rules 2	Torres
SB 5656	School security grants	S EL/K–12	Torres
SB 5661	Skill center class sizes	S EL/K–12	Boehnke
SSB 5668 (HB 1605)	Small districts/skill center	S Ways & Means	Shewmake
2SSB 5670	Running start/10th grade	S 2nd Reading	Hawkins
SB 5671	K–12 experience factors	S EL/K–12	MacEwen
SB 5678	Firearms safety/K–12	S EL/K–12	Wagoner
SB 5680 (HB 1747)	Seismic safety/schools	S EL/K–12	Schoesler
SSB 5684	Small works rosters	S 2nd Reading	Hasegawa
SB 5688	Public lands/carbon seq.	S Ways & Means	Lovelett
SB 5692 (HB 1244)	Enrichment levy authority	S EL/K–12	Lovelett
SB 5706 (ESHB 1187)	Employee-union privilege	S Law & Justice	Frame

SB 5710	Behavioral health/youth	S Ways & Means	Torres
SB 5711 (HB 1156)	College grant eligibility	H Postsec Ed & Work	Nobles
SB 5712	College grant/promise prg.	S Higher Ed & Work	Liias
SB 5713	Certain schools/reg. factors	S EL/K–12	Wagoner
SB 5718 (2SHB 1746)	State broadband map	S Environment, E	Wellman
SB 5719 (HB 1679)	Student homelessness group	S Ways & Means	Hunt
SSB 5723	Even-numbered year elections	S Rules 2	Valdez
SB 5731 (HB 1096)	Amateur sports officials	S Law & Justice	Lovick
SSB 5743	Transportation resources	H Transportation	Liias
SJM 8007	IDEA funding	S EL/K–12	Kauffman
SJR 8200	Revenue for highway purposes	S Transportation	Fortunato
SJR 8203	Public school revolving fund	S 2nd Reading	Schoesler
SJR 8204	Property taxes/residence	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SJR 8206 (HJR 4205)	Property tax rebates	S Ways & Means	Kuderer