



TWIO

This Week In Olympia

WEEK 6—IN THIS ISSUE:

February 21, 2025



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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/TWIO>.



The legislative process is designed to make it difficult to adopt a new law, whether that be amending current law or creating an entirely new act. Imagine the chaos (and controversy) if bills were easily able to become law—every year, there would be thousands of new laws being enacted, likely with many of them overlapping or even contradicting other adopted laws. Even the most simple, noncontroversial bills often take two or three years to be enacted because of the built-in roadblocks to easy adoption. In a typical session, 20-30 percent of legislation is enacted.

One of the legislative roadblocks is the annual “[Cutoff Calendar](#),” adopted each year to establish a set of “gates” that all legislation must pass through to remain active. If a bill fails to pass through one of these gates in the allotted time, the bill will die. In addition to streamlining lawmaking, these filters also force legislators to prioritize and narrow their focus; there simply is not enough time to hear and move ALL of the legislation that legislators may want to pass. (That’s a good thing.)

This afternoon, the Legislature passed its first major milestone: the House of Origin Policy Committee Cutoff. All bills that failed to be adopted by their original house Policy Committee (that is, House bills out of House Policy Committees; Senate Bills out of Senate Policy Committees) by today are considered dead—hundreds of the nearly 1,800 bills introduced quickly died an unceremonial death.

The next gate is the House of Origin Fiscal Committee Cutoff. All bills with fiscal implications have one more week to be adopted by their original house Fiscal Committee (that is, House bills out of the House Appropriations, Finance, Capital Budget, or Transportation Committees; Senate bills out of the Senate Ways & Means, or Transportation Committees). All bills with fiscal impacts must pass this gate by Friday, February 28, in order to remain alive.

After next Friday, the action moves to the House and Senate Chambers, as each body holds lengthy Floor sessions (along with closed door caucus meetings) to move bills out of their original house. All bills must be out of their House of Origin by 5:00 p.m., March 12. Starting March 13, legislative committees resume meeting—this time taking public testimony and acting on opposite house bills.

Remember, budget bills and budget-related bills considered to be “Necessary to Implement the Budget” (NITB) are exempt from these early cutoff dates. It is also important to remember that there are multiple ways to revive dead bills—and no

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WASA Legislative Report Podcast



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bill is truly dead until the final gavel comes down on the last day of session. Until the end, we will continue to keep a close eye on all bills (dead or alive) that have impacts—or potential impacts—on K–12 education to ensure something does not slip passed us.

Budget Update

Preliminary budget discussions are ongoing, mostly behind-the-scenes, although there have been a handful of budget-related bills and potential revenue legislation that are being heard in legislative committees. It appears that budget-writers are setting the table with a series of potential options, and nothing is yet set in stone. In fact, while a handful of budget-related bills have been heard (for example, adjusting the Working Families Tax Credit, and increasing the Property Tax growth rate), most of those potential options are not being adopted—at least not yet. And it is interesting to note, most of the potential revenue options that received heavy discussion before the Legislature even convened have mostly been avoided, such as the Wealth Tax, B&O Tax Surcharges, Employer Payroll Taxes, and increasing the Capital Gains Tax.

One major bill, which falls on the “savings” side of the budget ledger, that has not only been heard, but is also moving, is [HB 1489](#). This bill would delay implementation dates for programs related to early childhood education and child care. Under current law, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP) is set to expand and become an entitlement program, beginning in the 2026–27 School Year. Additionally: income eligibility for the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program is set to expand July 1, 2025; and individuals in a state registered apprenticeship program (under certain conditions) are set to be eligible for WCCC program benefits beginning July 1, 2027.

As introduced, HB 1489 would have delayed these implementation dates:

- ECEAP’s entitlement would be delayed until the 2030–31 School Year;
- WCCC program income eligibility expansions would be delayed to July 1, 2029; and
- WCCC program eligibility for individuals in a state registered apprenticeship program would be delayed until July 1, 2032.

These delays [would save](#) \$265.4 million in 2025–27 and \$468.6 million in 2027–29—\$734.0 million over four years. As amended and adopted by the House Appropriations Committee, however, the ECEAP entitlement date would be further delayed—until the 2034–35 School Year—expanding the savings beyond the Four-year Outlook. (NOTE: Although there is some dispute about it, one rationale for implementing the Capital Gains Tax was to provide a revenue source for the upcoming ECEAP entitlement. Capital Gains, however, is a volatile revenue source and tax receipts recently have been significantly below need—and, of course, the General Fund has a multi-billion dollar shortfall.)

As we have discussed here before, public budget discussions will be triggered when the [Economic & Revenue Forecast Council](#) (ERFC) releases its revenue update, scheduled for March 18. This will provide more clarity about how much money is really available for the 2025–27 Operating Budget (and additional necessary projections for 2027–29) and legislative budget proposals will begin to roll out.

Typically, legislative proposals are introduced early in the week following the revenue update; however, there is a debate about whether there will be enough

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agreement in the Majority Caucuses to release a budget package by the week of March 24. Some legislators are expressing frustration that conversations are moving so slowly (potentially evidenced by a lack of action on budget-related bills in Committee) and questioning when a budget might be able to be released. At the same time, we have heard March 24 (the Monday after the ERFC update) is a “target date” for release. Regardless of the when budgets come, we will dive in to provide you with details as soon as possible.

Although the revenue update is the trigger for legislative budget proposals, there is another action that provides budget-writers additional clarity about budget details. That is the Entitlement Caseload Update provided by the [Caseload Forecast Council](#). While the ERFC provides information about revenue availability (projections), the Caseload Forecast Council provides information about required expenditures (projections)—or the “demand side of the budget equation” as the Council says. The caseload forecasts are estimated to be the basis for around 80 percent of the Operating Budget, so understanding current projections and forecasted trends is crucial for budget-writers.

On February 14, the Council met to adopt updated [caseload forecasts](#). Overall, the forecast was fairly close to the November forecast—so there were no real surprises (good or bad). Maintenance Level (adjustments for caseloads, inflation, and other costs) changes are the most significant in the Department of Social and Health Services, the Health Care Authority, the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, and K–12 Education. For K–12 Education, Maintenance Level changes are expected to be around \$1.3 billion, of which over \$1.2 billion is for compensation.

Let’s get this on the table now: K–12 Education WILL receive a significant increase in the 2025–27 Operating Budget. When we see budget proposals and the final budget, however, the context will be important. Remember, Maintenance Level spending is REQUIRED—and almost all of that required projected increase is being driven to compensation. Funding for our Big Three priorities is Policy Level—that is, discretionary—spending (although the Big Three are basic education programs constitutionally required to be amply funded and really should be considered Maintenance Level, but that is another issue for another day). Regardless of what investment is provided for the Big Three—no enhancement; a token investment; a substantial increase; or the full package (don’t hold your breath)—legislators will talk about the TOTAL contribution to K–12 Education, which will include over a billion dollars in required spending. (Governor Inslee’s budget request included 2.3 billion in maintenance level costs.) Legislators should not take credit for investing in something in which they are REQUIRED to invest; however, there is little question that they will.

Most of the programs under the K–12 heading (enrollment, special education enrollment, Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program, etc.) have fairly minor changes; however, one program is projected to have a significant increase. Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) is expected to [exponentially increase](#) in the next few years. 2023–24 enrollment was 5,217 (an increase of over 1,000 students above the previous year). Funding was provided in the 2023–25 Operating Budget based on student enrollment of 5,665 students; actual enrollment is over 8,000 (which exceeds the Forecast Council’s projection of 7,266).

(NOTE: Although budget proposals have not been discussed publicly, it is important to remember Superintendent Reykdal [requested \\$21.0 million](#) in his 2025 Supplemental Operating Budget request to cover the shortfall districts are expected to experience. Further, Governor Inslee in his 2025 Supplemental

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Operating Budget proposal, included the [same request](#). While the state’s fiscal situation continues to be dire, there continues to be confidence additional TTK funding will be provided in the Supplemental.)

TTK projected [enrollment increases](#) to 9,451 in 2025–26 (30.1 percent increase), and to 11,636 in 2026–27 (23.1 percent increase). TTK enrollment will continue to explode...unless [HB 1450](#) is adopted. More on that below.

Big Three Update

Our Big Three priorities are still on track; however, we are in a bit of a holding pattern right now. The Senate bills—[SB 5263](#) (Special Education—[amended](#)), [SB 5192](#) (MSOC), and [SB 5187](#) (Pupil Transportation)—were adopted by the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee and were heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The House bills—[HB 1338](#) (MSOC), and [HB 1310](#) (Special Education)—were sent directly to the House Appropriations Committee, and received public hearings there. (NOTE: There is still no action on the House’s Pupil Transportation bill, [HB 1579](#). It is becoming more likely it will not be heard or otherwise be acted upon).

All five bills await executive action in their respective Fiscal Committees. We expected them to be move out of the Committees into the respective houses’ Rules Committee by next Friday’s cutoff. At that point, we will continue to work to get them pulled from the Rules Committee to be debated and voted upon in the respective Chambers’ Floor Action. Dropping a quick e-mail or phone call to your legislators to encourage action could not hurt—especially if your legislators are in House or Senate Leadership. We will keep you posted.

Major Issues Update

Simple Majority for Bonds

As we discussed [last week](#), [SJR 8200/SB 5186](#), were amended and adopted by the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. Remember, originally the Joint Resolution—and its necessary implementing bill—would have authorized school district bonds to be adopted with a 55 percent approval. Before leaving the Committee, it was amended to authorize a simple majority (50 percent +1) vote to approve school district bonds. Additionally, following many conversations behind-the-scenes, language was included in the constitutional amendment and the statutory bill which would eliminate impact fees for school districts.

The “simple majority for impact fees” deal was hammered out in an effort to secure enough Republican votes to reach the necessary two-thirds majority in both houses to pass a constitutional amendment. Democrats have an overwhelming majority in both houses; however, their majority numbers of 30 in the Senate and 59 in the House, do not reach the required 33 and 66 votes to adopt the amendment.

We continue to work with legislators and partners to ensure the language is “right”—while, at the same time, continuing to review the implications of this bargain. There are multiple districts that receive impact fees, and the question is whether receiving the authority for simple majority bond approval is a “good enough” trade. We have clearly told legislators that we do not want to do anything to hurt school districts—or pit school districts against each other. We have been exploring with legislators whether or not there may be an opportunity to provide “bridge” funding for districts that lose impact fees, or perhaps some other

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mechanism to assist districts that lose impact fees.

While we continue to review and explore, legislators continue to move. **SJR 8200/SB 5186 are scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday, February 24, 1:30 p.m.**

Conversations about the appropriate solution will continue; however, it is important to keep the legislation moving, so we can have that conversation. Later in the process if it is determined a proposed deal is unworkable, it will be easier to skuttle the bills than revive them if they fail to move out of the Ways & Means Committee by next week’s cutoff. We encourage you to provide testimony on the legislation or simply sign in to support. **Remember to sign in for BOTH SJR 8200 and SB 5186. They are a package deal; you cannot pass one without the other.**

Please sign in “PRO” on SJR 8200 (Simple Majority Constitutional Amendment), Monday before 12:30 p.m.:

- Click this link: [SJR 8200 position](#)
- Note your position in the first box: “Pro”
- Fill in you contact information
- Click on the CAPTCHA box (“not a robot”)
- Click the green “Submit Registration Button”

Please sign in “PRO” on SB 5186 (Simple Majority implementing bill), Monday before 12:30 p.m.:

- Click this link: [SB 5186 position](#)
- Note your position in the first box: “Pro”
- Fill in you contact information
- Click on the CAPTCHA box (“not a robot”)
- Click the green “Submit Registration Button”

Transition to Kindergarten

Even though Transitional Kindergarten (TK) had been operating for a number of years, legislators who were upset, believing OSPI had “overstepped,” intervened by introducing [HB 1550](#) (2023). The argument was the Legislature never adopted, referenced, or defined “transitional kindergarten” in any statutes and OSPI had never adopted any rules for TK programs. Legislators also were concerned that TK was not a basic education program, but because TK students were reported as kindergarten students, they generated state basic education allocations, including transportation funding, additional Transitional Bilingual Instructional Program funding, additional Learning Assistance Program funding, among other things.

The 2023 legislation created the Transition to Kindergarten (TTK) program to clarify and adjust TK. The law stated TTK was established to assist eligible children in need of additional preparation to be successful kindergarten students in the following school year. The bill also explicitly declared that the program was not a part of basic education.

Under the new law, OSPI was to adopt emergency rules for the program for the 2023–24 School Year, then adopt permanent rules for the 2024–25 School Year. The law detailed what the new rules must entail, including minimum requirements for school districts, such as limiting TTK enrollment to eligible children, defined as those who: “have been determined to benefit from additional preparation for kindergarten; and are at least four years old by August 31 of the school year they enroll in the program.”

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Legislators that drafted 2023’s HB 1550 were forced to compromise in order to successfully adopt their bill. Because those legislators continued to have concerns, legislation was introduced this year to further clarify (and restrict) TTK. [HB 1450](#) declares the state policy for TTK, which is to: “support children, families, and communities by providing high-quality early learning within the public school system to 4-year-old children who either: need additional preparation for kindergarten, or are living in extreme child care access deserts and, despite qualifying, do not have access to certain federal and state early learning and child care programs.”

HB 1450 specifically restricts the number of students allowed to participate in TTK. Beginning in the 2025–26 School Year, the annual average number of eligible children enrolled in the TTK program statewide may not exceed the 2023–24 school year’s annual average eligible children enrollment. “Eligible children” are defined as those who are at least four years old by August 31 of the school year they enroll in school under the state TTK policy and who either: (1) need additional preparation for kindergarten; or (2) qualify for enrollment in, but do not have access to, the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), the federal Head Start program, or the Working Connections Child Care (WCCC) program, due to living in an “extreme child care access desert.”

Because apparently the HB 1550 (2023) declaration that TTK was not a basic education program was not clear enough, this bill reaffirms and more emphatically states: “The Legislature does not intend to include funding for the state Transition to Kindergarten policy within the state’s obligation for basic education funding under Article IX of the state Constitution.”

The new bill includes multiple new duties for OSPI. OSPI is directed, in collaboration with the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF), and in accordance with the Operating Budget, to regulate the enrollment of eligible children under the state TTK policy. OSPI is required to “support the equitable and effective distribution of high-quality early learning programs” by:

- Limiting the number of sites approved to enroll eligible children under the state TTK policy;
- Distributing approved sites across the state, prioritizing areas classified as extreme child care access deserts; and
- Restricting the number of state-funded eligible children permitted to enroll at each approved site

OSPI must also implement a process for school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal education compact schools to request advance approval—including confirming approval every year—to enroll state-funded eligible children under the state TTK policy. Applications for approval must include specific elements:

- The number of sites sought, along with the projected number of state-funded children will be enrolled at each site;
- A description of a screening process to evaluate prospective children;
- A statement verifying that the applicant is located in an extreme child care access desert;
- Results of a local child care and early learning needs assessment; and
- Verification from a statewide child care resource and referral organization that the applicant has worked in collaboration with and does not adversely impact enrollment in regional early learning and child care programs

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OSPI is also required to: conduct site visits of school districts, charter schools, and state-tribal compact schools approved to enroll eligible children under the state TTK policy; and, in collaboration with the DCYF, develop best practices and provide technical assistance to those exploring enrollment of eligible students under the state TTK policy.

The bill was [amended](#) and adopted by the House Education Committee and awaits action by the full House. If adopted by the full House, it is unclear if the Senate will support. Given the onerous requirements and potential unfunded mandates embedded in this bill, you are encouraged to express your opinion to your legislators.

AEA

By Mitch Denning

With the deadline for policy bills to be out of their House of Origin policy committee today, this week AEA did not testify on any bills. All fiscal bills must be out of the House of Origin fiscal committee by February 28.

Here's the status of our primary bills:

One, [HB 1338](#), **school operating costs**, which was heard in House Appropriations Committee on February 3, needs to move out by February 28.

Two, [SB 5192](#), **school operating costs**, has already moved out of Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee and was heard on February 11 in Senate Ways & Means Committee, and needs to move out by February 28.

Three, [SSB 5263](#), **special education funding**, and four, [SB 5187](#), **providing predictable student transportation**, were also heard in Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 11. They also need to move out of Ways & Means Committee by February 28.

Five, [HB 1404](#), **increasing student access to free meals in public schools**, was heard in House Appropriations on February 3, and needs to move out by February 28. In the next several days, members from WSNA's Meals for Kids Committee are sending emails to Rep. Timm Ormsby, chair, Rep. Mia Gregerson, vice chair, and Rep. Nicole Marci, vice chair, urging them to move the bill out of their committee by February 28.

Six, [SB 5352](#), **increasing student access to free meals in public schools**, was heard in Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee on February 3, but Sen. Lisa Wellman, chair, decided not to move it out of the committee by today due to lack of available resources.

Seven, [SSB 5514](#), **increasing compliance pathways for the Clean Buildings Performance Standard with alternative metrics and extensions for reporting**, moved out of Senate Environment, Energy and Technology, yesterday, and was sent to Senate Ways and Means.

Finally, [SSB 5186](#), **local funding for school facilities**, was amended in Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee on February 13 to require only a simple majority for bond issues to be approved. AEA will be testifying PRO in Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday, February 24 on this bill.

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Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey—The Nexus Group

Health, Pension, and Other Benefit Issues

“Democracy is four wolves and a lamb voting on what to have for lunch.”
 — Ambrose Bierce

Committees have been moving bills into their respective Rules’ Committees. The Democrats hold strong majorities, and a number of votes show solid D support over solid, but ineffective R opposition. Only bills selected and voted out of these committees proceed to the floor for debate.

Once on the floor, the House Speaker or Senate Majority Leader decides when a bill will be debated and voted on by the full chamber—98 members in the House and 49 in the Senate. Typically, a bill is only brought to a vote if it has enough support to pass. If approved, the bill moves to the opposite chamber, where the process begins again. The deadline for bills to pass their chamber of origin is March 12.

But the most pressing, immediate concern is for a bill to survive the coming deadlines for policy and fiscal issues. (Of course, any bill necessary to implement the budget (NTIB) stays alive until the end of the session.)

Meanwhile, a brief summary of some selected bills and/or issues is below. There are some bills that may yet reappear but are reported in this issue.

1. [**SSB 5085**](#) seeks to establish a Legacy Retirement System. The bill merges the assets, liabilities, and membership of Law Enforcement Officers’ and Firefighters’ Retirement System Plan 1, Public Employees’ Retirement System Plan 1 (PERS Plan 1), and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1 (TRS Plan 1) retirement systems into the new Legacy Retirement System. The Senate Ways & Means Committee moved the bill out of committee on a 14/9 vote. It now awaits action by the Rules’ Committee.
2. [**SB 5113/HB 1292**](#) creates an annual increase in the retirement benefits of retirees in the Public Employees’ Retirement System and the Teachers’ Retirement System Plan 1, of up to 3 percent. A hearing before the Senate Ways & Means Committee was held January 23. Cost is projected at \$92 Million for 2025–27 rising to \$138 Million in 2027–29 and continuing to increase. (NTIB)
3. [**SB 5114/HB 1312**](#) concerns covering the premium costs of insurance during the month of one’s death. It provides a full month of public pension benefits paid in the month that a retiree dies. Senate Ways and Means held a hearing on the bill January 23 House Appropriations Committee January 27.
 There is much sympathy for the need to do this, however, the cost may make either prohibitive. (NTIB)
4. [**SB 5357/HB 1467**](#) have been introduced. That bill resets rates for past benefit enhancements and amortizes the cost over a 15-year period (instead of the current 10-year period). The Senate bill was heard on January 23; the House Appropriations Committee heard the bill February 19. (NTIB)
5. [**HB 5478**](#): Concerning benefits authorized to be offered by the public employees’ benefits board. This bill would allow HCA to the following employee-paid, voluntary benefit plans: 39 (a) Emergency transportation; (b) Identity protection (c) Legal aid; (d) Long-term care insurance; (e)

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Noncommercial personal automobile insurance; (f) Personal homeowner's or renter's insurance; (g) Pet insurance; (h) Specified disease or illness-triggered fixed payment insurance, hospital confinement fixed payment insurance, (i) Travel insurance. It has been moved to Senate Rules Committee.

6. **[SB 5738](#)**: Permitting individuals retired from the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system additional opportunities to work for up to 1,040 hours per year while in receipt of pension benefits. This bill is similar to HB 1936 below except it sunsets in 2029. It has a public hearing February 20 before Senate Ways & Means Committee.
7. **[HB 1790](#)**: Increasing defined benefit accrual for specified years of service in the state retirement systems. For years of service earned after the effective date of this section, a member of the retirement system shall receive an additional one-half of one percent of such member's average final compensation for each year of service beyond 30 years.

This bill was a request from WSSRA to attract and retain experienced staff while also demonstrating the work of WSSRA to potential members. It is awaiting a hearing before House Appropriations.

8. **[HB 1936](#)**: Extending the expiration of certain school employee postretirement employment restrictions to 2027.

The bill reads: Between March 23, 2022, and July 1, ((2025)) 2027, a retiree that retired before January 1, 2022, and who enters service in a second-class school district, as defined in RCW 28A.300.065, as either a district superintendent or an in-school administrator shall continue to receive pension payments while engaged in such service, until the retiree has rendered service for more than 1,040 hours in a calendar year. It had a public hearing on February 19 before the House Appropriations Committee.

According to DRS about 350 retirees are currently working in 1040 eligible positions. Testimony was "Pro" with a request to amend the bill to meet the 2029 Senate date.

A selected intro to some bills that could have fiscal impact /costs to districts:

[SHB 1213/SB 5539](#): Expanding protections for workers in the state paid family and medical leave program.

This substitute House bill: Extends employment protection rights in the Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) Program to any employee who began employment with their current employer at least 90 calendar days before taking leave, regardless of the size of the employer. • Allows employers to prevent stacking certain employment protection rights by extending employment protection in the PFML Program to periods of unpaid leave protected by the federal Family and Medical Leave Act, so long as the employer provides certain notices to the employee, and providing that employment protection expires after certain periods. • Expands health care coverage protection during any period in which an employee receives PFML Program benefits and is also entitled to employment protection. • Expands access to grants for small employers to offset the costs of employees' use of leave.

SHB 1213 will have a public hearing February 22 before House Appropriations Committee. The Senate bill had a public hearing on February 18 before Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

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Costs to state/employers from fiscal note are indeterminate.

HB 1334: Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit. This bill changes the 101 percent revenue growth limit for state and local property taxes to 100 percent plus population change and inflation, with a capped limit of 103 percent.

Should counties/cities be allowed to increase their taxes from .02 percent to .03 percent, this could affect M & O levy success/asks. This bill had a public hearing on February 11 before House Finance. (NTIB)

SSB 5041: Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.

This bill: Allows individuals unemployed due to a labor strike to receive unemployment insurance (UI) benefits following a specified disqualification period and the waiting week, provided that the labor strike is not found to be prohibited by federal or state law in a final judgment. • Removes the provision disqualifying an individual for UI benefits based on an employer-initiated lockout resulting from a strike against another employer in a multi-employer bargaining unit.

It has been referred to Ways & Means Committee February 18.

SSB 5291: Implementing the recommendations of the long-term services and supports trust commission.

The substitute bill: Prohibits out-of-state participants from withdrawing from the Long-Term Services and Supports Trust Program (Program). • Make the exemption from the Program automatic for active-duty military service members with off-duty civilian work and employees holding a nonimmigrant visa for temporary work. • Allows an exempt employee who previously attested to having long-term care insurance to rescind the exemption prior to July 1, 2028. • Allows for a limited pilot program in 2026 to assess the Program's processes and system capacities. • Creates standards and requirements for supplemental long-term care insurance policies designed for coverage after Program benefits are exhausted.

SB 5291 has been passed to Senate Rules Committee.

SSB 5292: Concerning paid family and medical leave rates.

This bill: Requires the Employment Security Department Commissioner to set the paid family and medical leave program premium rate based on the Office of Actuarial Services annual report. • Mandates the Office of Actuarial Services annual report to provide for a rate to close the rate collection year with a three-month reserve beginning in 2030, in addition to the current requirement to maintain a four-year solvency. • Eliminates the statutory formula used to calculate the rate.

The bill has been referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee February 19.

SB 5422/HB 1622: Allowing bargaining over matters related to the use of artificial intelligence. This bill requires most state and local government public employers to bargain with employees' unions over the use of artificial technology that affects the wages, hours, or terms and conditions of employment.

The Senate bill is scheduled for public hearing February 17 and Executive Session February 21 before Senate Labor & Commerce Committee. The House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee moved the bill out of committee February 18.

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These are interesting bills. Should a district use AI in any fashion that replaces an employee? Unions often file grievances when they feel their work is taken away from a member and absorbed by someone not in union. It is akin to HB 1739 regulating the use of self-service checkout stations. This bill seeks to preserve employee positions by restricting/modifying use of self-checkout stations.

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.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Tuesdays

8–10 a.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Wednesdays

1:30–3:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Thursdays

8–10 a.m.
House Education
HHRA & Virtual

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Senate Early Learning & K–12
SHR1 & Virtual

4–6 p.m.
House Appropriations
HHRA & Virtual

Senate Ways & Means
SHR4 & Virtual

Useful Links

Washington State Government

<http://www.access.wa.gov>

State Legislature

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

Senate

<https://www.leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/senate/>

House of Representatives

<https://www.leg.wa.gov/about-the-legislature/house-of-representatives/>

Legislative Committees

<https://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 13, 2025

First Day of Session.

February 21, 2025

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

February 28, 2025

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

March 12, 2025

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

April 2, 2025

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

April 8, 2025

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

April 16, 2025*

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 27, 2025

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After 5:00 p.m. on the 54th 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 1011	School safety capital grants	H Cap Budget	Jacobsen
HB 1020	Academic reengagement	H Education	Shavers
HB 1021	Military families/education	H Education	Shavers
HB 1028	Child exposure to violence	S Human Services	Goodman
HB 1031	School facility temperatures	H Education	Reeves
HB 1032	School district elections	H Education	Stonier
HB 1042	County treasurer costs	H Finance	Wylie
HB 1051	IEP team meetings/recording	H Education	Walsh
HB 1055	Transparency ombuds study	H Approps	Abbarno
HB 1079 (SSB 5193)	Remote testing	H Education	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1085 (SB 5272)	School safety/penalties	H CSDPS	Schmidt
SHB 1116	Election day	H Rules R	Mena
HB 1120 (SB 5517)	School staff salary alloc.	H Approps	Shavers
HB 1121	Work restrictions/age 16, 17	H Labor & Workpl	McClintock
HB 1122 (SB 5346)	Student mobile device use	H Education	McClintock
HB 1134	Schools/resource conserv.	H Education	Bergquist
SHB 1136	Student navigational support	H Approps	Leavitt
HB 1140	K-12 scholarship program	H Education	Couture
HB 1151 (SB 5210)	Ninth grade success grants	H Approps	Steele
HB 1167	Maritime careers task force	H Education	Shavers
HB 1189	School volunteers/conviction	H Education	Simmons
HB 1197 (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1198 (SB 5167)	Operating budget	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1202 (SB 5194)	State gen. obligation bonds	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1203 (SB 5183)	Tobacco & nicotine products	H ConsPro&Bus	Reeves
SHB 1213 (SB 5539)	Paid family & medical leave	H Approps	Berry
HB 1216 (SB 5195)	Capital budget	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 1225	Budgeting process	H Approps	Couture
HB 1226 (SB 5160)	Transportation budget, supp.	H Transportation	Fey
HB 1227 (SB 5161)	Transportation budget	H Transportation	Fey
HB 1231	Public school starting times	H Education	McEntire
HB 1241	Students with disabilities	H Education	Pollet
HB 1246	Juvenile justice	H EL & Human Svc	Couture
HB 1257 (SSB 5253)	Special education services	H Education	Pollet
HB 1259	Behavioral health/schools	H Postsec Ed & W	Shavers
HB 1266 (SB 5446)	Commission on boys and men	H State Govt & T	Dye
HB 1267	Special education funding	H Approps	Couture
HB 1273	Dual credit program access	H Education	Paul
HB 1280 (SSB 5358)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	H Approps	Shavers

HB 1285	Financial education	H Education	Rude
HB 1289	Public school survey info.	H Education	McClintock
HB 1292 (SB 5113)	Plan 1 retiree COLAs	H Approps	Leavitt
HB 1295	Reading and writing literacy	H Education	Pollet
SHB 1296	Public education system	H Rules R	Stonier
HB 1298 (SB 5158)	Student athlete insurance	H 2nd Reading	Berg
SHB 1303 (SB 5380)	Environmental justice	H ENVIDPS	Mena
SHB 1308 (SB 5345)	Access to personnel records	H Rules R	Reed
HB 1310 (SB 5307)	Special education funding	H Approps	Pollet
HB 1312 (SB 5114)	Retirement benefits/death	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
HB 1314 (SB 5297)	Early learning facilities	H Rules R	Callan
HB 1330 (SB 5086)	PEBB & SEBB consolidation	H Approps	Lekanoff
HB 1334	Property tax revenue growth	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1338	School operating costs	H Approps	Berg
HB 1339 (SB 5373)	Even-numbered year elections	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1352 (SB 5270)	Educator support/nurses	H Education	Bernbaum
HB 1356	K-12 funding	H Finance	Bergquist
HB 1357	Special education funding	H Approps	Stonier
HB 1387 (SB 5293)	Prevailing wage/public works	H Labor & Workpl	Schmidt
HB 1393	Commencement/cultural exp.	H Education	McEntire
HB 1404 (SB 5352)	Free school meals	H Approps	Berg
HB 1414	CTE careers work group	H Education	Connors
SHB 1434 (SSB 5106)	Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha	H Rules R	Salahuddin
HB 1446	George Washington's birthday	H State Govt & T	Abell
HB 1448	Local elections	H Exec Action	Gregerson
HB 1450	Transition to kindergarten	H Education	Santos
HB 1467 (SB 5357)	Actuarial pension funding	H Approps	Fitzgibbon
HB 1471 (SB 5392)	BSA transfers	H Approps	Ormsby
HB 1473	Wildfire BSA appropriations	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1474	PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1475 (SB 5737)	National board bonuses	H Approps	Gregerson
HB 1479	Office of native ed. grants	H Education	Lekanoff
SHB 1483 (SB 5423)	Digital electronics/repair	H TEDVDPS	Gregerson
HB 1489	Childhood ed./impl. dates	H Exec Action	Ormsby
HB 1503	Digital equity	H Tech, Econ Dev	Gregerson
HB 1517	Digital equity/revenue	H Finance	Gregerson
HB 1528	Special education IEPs	H Education	Pollet
HB 1538	Capital assistance/schools	H Cap Budget	McEntire
SHB 1543 (SB 5514)	Clean buildings standard	H Rules R	Doglio
HB 1547 (SB 5126)	Student mental health net.	H Education	Santos
HB 1549 (SB 5476)	Responsible bidder criteria	H Labor & Workpl	Fosse
HB 1556 (SB 5542)	HS completers/CTC tuition	H PEWDP	Entenman
HB 1557 (SB 5308)	Guaranteed admissions prg.	H Postsec Ed & W	Reed
SHB 1565	Dual enrollment scholarship	H PEWDPS	Paul

HB 1578	Long-term care prg. repeal	H EL & Human Svc	Dufault
HB 1579 (SB 5187)	Student transportation	H Approps	Nance
HB 1580	CTE/alt. learning exp. prgs.	H Approps	Nance
HB 1582 (SB 5655)	Child care centers/buildings	H EL & Human Svc	Caldier
HB 1584	In-person voting	H State Govt & T	Marshall
HB 1590	Self-resiliency skills	H Education	Timmons
HB 1593	Social equity land trust	H Ag&Nr	Reeves
HB 1594	School costs/CCA	H Approps	Caldier
HB 1609 (SB 5537)	Natural resources board/OSPI	H Ag&Nr	Waters
HB 1612	High school/AP, IB, CIE exam	H Approps	Doglio
HB 1618	College in HS/private school	H Education	Low
HB 1626 (SB 5378)	PFML grants/school districts	H Labor & Workpl	Timmons
HB 1634	Behavioral health/schools	H Education	Thai
HB 1637	School safety	H Education	McClintock
HB 1642	Pension plan choice	H Approps	Bronoske
HB 1651 (SB 5693)	Teacher residency & apprent.	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1657	Washington 13 free guarantee	H Postsec Ed & W	Bergquist
HB 1662	Education agencies/OSPI	H Education	Santos
HB 1663 (SB 5369)	Youth mental health/schools	H Education	Rule
HB 1676	Charter school contracts	H Education	Rude
HB 1683	School director districts	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1699	Interscholastic sports	H Education	Volz
HB 1709	Adrenal insufficiency care	H Education	Callan
HB 1722	Secondary career education	H Labor & Workpl	Connors
HB 1723 (SB 5572)	School construction projects	H Cap Budget	Fosse
HB 1727	School library info and tech	H Education	Rule
HB 1729	State school levies	H Finance	Orcutt
HB 1734	Outdoor learning grants	H Cap Budget	Rule
HB 1746	School local effort assist.	H Approps	Springer
SHB 1750	Voting rights act claims	H SGOVDPS	Hill
HB 1759	Day of the 12s	H Exec Action	Mena
HB 1767	School enrollment/funding	H Finance	Zahn
HB 1778	State sales tax revenues	H Approps	Dufault
HB 1790	Defined benefit accrual	H Approps	Kloba
HB 1795 (SB 5654)	Student restraint, isolation	H Education	Callan
HB 1796 (SSB 5095)	School construction debt	H Cap Budget	Callan
HB 1803	Safety of youth sports	H EL & Human Svc	Rule
HB 1810	Seismic hazard risk, reduce	H Approps	Donaghy
HB 1817 (SB 5386)	Schools/sexual assault	H Education	Scott
HB 1827	Basic education/juv. justice	H Education	Callan
HB 1830 (SB 5730)	Dev. disabilities/rec checks	H Education	Richards
HB 1832	Student performance	H Education	Keaton
HB 1833	AI grant program	H Approps	Keaton
HB 1853	Green community schoolyards	H Education	Abbarno

HB 1855 (SSB 5123)	Discrimination in schools	H Education	Zahn
HB 1863	Schools/cardiac emergencies	H Education	Rule
HB 1868	Athletic trainers in schools	H Approps	Schmick
HB 1877	Public education system	H State Govt & T	Dufault
HB 1878 (SB 5695)	Young driver safety	H Transportation	Donaghy
HB 1894 (SB 5570)	Tribes/K-12 instruction	H Education	Lekanoff
HB 1910	Teacher-librarian funding	H Approps	Rule
HB 1921 (SB 5726)	Transportation revenue	H Transportation	Fey
HB 1925 (SB 5567)	Natural resources careers	H Education	Rule
HB 1936	Schools/postretirement	H Approps	Chase
HB 1943 (SB 5641)	Blood donation/school instr.	H Education	Obras
HB 1959	Office of equity repeal	H State Govt & T	Dufault
HB 1963 (SB 5637)	Media literacy & civic ed.	H Education	Salahuddin
HJR 4201	School district bonds	H Education	Stonier
SB 5003	School security grants	S EL/K-12	Torres
ESSB 5004	School emergency response	S Passed 3rd	Torres
SB 5007	Chronically absent students	S EL/K-12	Braun
SB 5008	Public school tools	S EL/K-12	Braun
SSB 5009	Student transp. vehicles	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 5012	Interscholastic athletics	S EL/K-12	Fortunato
SSB 5025	Educational interpreters	S 2nd RdConsCal	Lovick
SB 5026	Motor vehicle sales tax	S Ways & Means	King
SSB 5030	Vital records access	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5035	Voter education	S State Gov/Trib	Chapman
SB 5041	Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts	S Labor & Comm	Riccelli
SB 5046	Kimchi day	S State Gov/Trib	Wilson
SB 5073	Motor vehicles sales tax use	S Ways & Means	Fortunato
SB 5080	Financial education	S EL/K-12	Valdez
SB 5085	Closed retirement plans	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5086 (HB 1330)	PEBB & SEBB consolidation	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SSB 5095 (HB 1796)	School construction debt	S Ways & Means	Dhingra
SB 5097	Girls' athletic activities	S EL/K-12	Warnick
SB 5102	Public risk pool records	S Rules 2	Hasegawa
SSB 5106 (SHB 1434)	Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha	S Rules 2	Trudeau
SB 5113 (HB 1292)	Plan 1 retiree COLAs	S Ways & Means	Boehnke
SB 5114 (HB 1312)	Retirement benefits/death	S Ways & Means	Boehnke
SB 5120	Learning assistance program	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SSB 5123 (HB 1855)	Discrimination in schools	S Ways & Means	Nobles
SB 5126 (HB 1547)	Student mental health net.	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5134	Chinese Americans/schools	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5135	Curriculum establishment	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5136	Student given names	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5137	Sex ed./parent approval	S EL/K-12	McCune
SSB 5142	Eminent domain purchase back	S 2nd Reading	Hasegawa

SB 5150	Juvenile access to attorney	S Human Services	Gildon
SB 5151	Annual state spending growth	S Ways & Means	Gildon
SB 5158 (HB 1298)	Student athlete insurance	H Postsec Ed & Wk	Valdez
SB 5159	Trick-or-treat day	S State Gov/Trib	Shewmake
SB 5160 (HB 1226)	Transportation budget, supp.	S Transportation	Lias
SB 5161 (HB 1227)	Transportation budget	S Transportation	Lias
SSB 5164	Student navigational support	S Ways & Means	Nobles
SB 5166 (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5167 (HB 1198)	Operating budget	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5177	Professional dev. resources	S Rules 2	Nobles
SSB 5179	Education complaint process	S Ways & Means	Wilson
SB 5180	Schools/gender inclusive	S EL/K-12	Wilson
ESSB 5181	Parents rights in education	H Education	Wilson
SB 5183 (HB 1203)	Tobacco & nicotine products	S Health & Long-	Nobles
SB 5186	School district elections	S EL/K-12	Krishnadasan
SB 5187 (HB 1579)	Student transportation	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5189	Competency-based education	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SSB 5190	School building energy perf.	S Environment, En	Wellman
SB 5192	School district materials	S Ways & Means	Nobles
SSB 5193 (HB 1079)	Remote testing	S Rules 2	Cortes
SB 5194 (HB 1202)	State gen. obligation bonds	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
SB 5195 (HB 1216)	Capital budget	S Ways & Means	Trudeau
SB 5210 (HB 1151)	Ninth grade success grants	S Ways & Means	Lias
SB 5216	Green energy/community	S Environment, E	Shewmake
SB 5230	Juvenile attorney exceptions	S Human Services	Wagoner
SB 5235	Public school statutes	S Rules 2	Wellman
SSB 5240	Anaphylaxis med. in schools	S Rules 2	Wellman
SB 5247	Naselle Youth Camp property	S State Gov/Trib	Wilson
SSB 5253 (HB 1257)	Special education services	S Ways & Means	Cortes
SSB 5263	Special education funding	S Ways & Means	Pedersen
SB 5270 (HB 1352)	Educator support/nurses	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5271	School nurse requirement	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5272 (SHB 1085)	School safety/penalties	S EL/K-12	Lovick
SB 5292	Family & medical leave rates	S Labor & Comm	Conway
SB 5293 (HB 1387)	Prevailing wage/public works	S Labor & Comm	King
SB 5307 (HB 1310)	Special education funding	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5308 (HB 1557)	Guaranteed admissions prg.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Hansen
SSB 5327	Learning standards	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5345 (SHB 1308)	Access to personnel records	S Labor & Comm	Saldana
SB 5346 (HB 1122)	Student mobile device use	S EL/K-12	Lias
SB 5352 (HB 1404)	Free school meals	S EL/K-12	Riccelli
SB 5357 (HB 1467)	Actuarial pension funding	S Ways & Means	Conway
SSB 5358 (HB 1280)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	S RecComm	Braun
SB 5369 (HB 1663)	Youth mental health/schools	S EL/K-12	Orwall

SB 5373 (HB 1339)	Even-numbered year elections	S State Gov/Trib	Ramos
SB 5378 (HB 1626)	PFML grants/school districts	S Labor & Comm	Stanford
SB 5386 (HB 1817)	Schools/sexual assault	S EDUDP	Orwall
SB 5392 (HB 1471)	BSA transfers	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SSB 5412	Interfund loans/schools	S EDUDPS	Robinson
SB 5415	CBA financial feasibility	S Ways & Means	Gildon
SB 5418	Charter school contracts	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5423 (SHB 1483)	Digital electronics/repair	S Environment, E	Stanford
SB 5446 (HB 1266)	Commission on boys and men	S State Gov/Trib	Lovick
SB 5476 (HB 1549)	Responsible bidder criteria	S State Gov/Trib	Hasegawa
SB 5481	Behavioral health/schools	S Health & Long-T	Wilson
SB 5483	History & heritage education	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5503	Public employee bargaining	S Labor & Comm	Valdez
SB 5517 (HB 1120)	School staff salary alloc.	S EL/K-12	Cortes
SB 5537 (HB 1609)	Natural resources board/OSPI	S Ag & Natural R	Chapman
SB 5539 (SHB 1213)	Paid family & medical leave	S Labor & Comm	Alvarado
SB 5546	Solar energy systems/schools	S EL/K-12	Orwall
SB 5551	School library info and tech	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5564	Goals of a basic education	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5567 (HB 1925)	Natural resources careers	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5570 (HB 1894)	Tribes/K-12 instruction	S Ways & Means	Kauffman
SB 5572 (HB 1723)	School construction projects	S Labor & Comm	Conway
SB 5574	History instruction	S EL/K-12	Nobles
SB 5593	School levies & local effort	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5596	Interstate teacher compact	S EL/K-12	Wellman
SB 5614	Impact fees	S Housing	Salomon
SB 5637 (HB 1963)	Media literacy & civic ed.	S EL/K-12	Fortunato
SB 5641 (HB 1943)	Blood donation/school instr.	S EL/K-12	Harris
SB 5654 (HB 1795)	Student restraint, isolation	S EL/K-12	Wilson
SB 5655 (HB 1582)	Child care centers/buildings	S EL/K-12	Krishnadasan
SB 5666	Mental health internships	S Higher Ed & Wo	Slatter
SB 5670	Fuel tax assistance grants	S EL/K-12	McCune
SB 5693 (HB 1651)	Teacher residency & apprent.	S EL/K-12	Cortes
SB 5695 (HB 1878)	Young driver safety	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5718	TRS & SERS/plan 2 transfer	S Ways & Means	Lovick
SB 5724	Dual credit programs	S EL/K-12	Krishnadasan
SB 5726 (HB 1921)	Transportation revenue	S Transportation	Ramos
SB 5730 (HB 1830)	Dev. disabilities/rec checks	S EL/K-12	Liias
SB 5737 (HB 1475)	National board bonuses	S Ways & Means	Robinson
SB 5738	Retired employees/work	S Ways & Means	Wellman
SB 5748	Impact fees	S Housing	Wilson
SJR 8200	School district bond voting	S EL/K-12	Cortes