



Session Watch

Monday, March 17, 2025 (day 64 of the 120-day Session)

Lawmakers are entering week ten of work in Olympia, with Monday marking day 64 of the session. As we have discussed in a past version of the legislative report, March 12th was a significant cutoff date for the session, as it was the deadline for House bills to be passed to the Senate and Senate bills to be passed to the House; and any bills not passed by that date are now effectively dead for the rest of the session.

Legislators have now shifted focus back to committee work and public hearings on bills from the other chamber. Committee schedules are less busy than before the opposite house cutoff. Many bills were not passed by the House of Origin cutoff. Let's look at the numbers:

- 1800+ total bills to begin with
- 262 House bills remaining
- 273 Senate bills remaining

The next major cutoff, the Policy Committee Cutoff for the Opposite House, occurs on April 2nd. This marks the second half policy committee cutoff and final day for committees to read in reports from the other chamber, except for House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

Our next Revenue Forecast from the state Economic and Revenue Forecast Council is set to be released on Tuesday, March 18. This update will play a key role as budget writers in both chambers rely on it to determine the available revenue for the upcoming two years. The House and Senate are expected to drop their budget proposals by March 24th. By then, the public will have a better understanding of the new revenue, tax increases, and the spending plans each chamber will propose to balance their two-year budgets. Another reminder from the last legislative update is that bills deemed necessary to implement the budget (NTIB) can still be considered, so there are "dead" bills that can still be considered.

Bill Highlight

[House Bill 1141](#) – Agriculture Cannabis Workers

This bill passed the House March 11 with a vote of 55-40 and aims to extend collective bargaining rights to agricultural workers in the cannabis industry. Introduced by Rep. Ortiz-Self (D) and Rep. Fossee (D) the bill addresses a gap in labor protections for workers involved in cultivating, harvesting, and processing cannabis. Although cannabis workers in Washington have been allowed to unionize, they were previously excluded from the collective bargaining protections afforded to many other industries.

The legislation places Ag Cannabis workers under the jurisdiction of the Public Employment Relations Commission (PERC), enabling them to negotiate—rights they lacked under prior law. It applies specifically to employees on licensed cannabis farms performing tasks like growing, harvesting, drying, and trimming, while excluding managers and supervisors with decision-making authority. The bill also prohibits employers from interfering with unionization efforts or retaliating against workers for organizing, and it establishes binding arbitration as a mechanism to resolve labor disputes.

Supporters argue that the bill recognizes cannabis cultivation as an agricultural activity, deserving of the same labor rights as other farming sectors like wheat or apple production.

Opponents contend that the bill could harm an industry already struggling to compete with the black market. They also express concern that it might set a precedent for broader unionization across all agricultural sectors, a move they fear could disrupt traditional farming operations. The vote largely split along party lines, with one Democrat joining Republicans in opposition.

[Senate Bill 5726](#) – Transportation Revenue

Senate Bill 5726 is aimed at addressing the state's transportation funding challenges by establishing a new revenue source based on motor vehicle use of public roadways. Sponsored by Senator Ramos (D-Issaquah), the bill seeks to replace the state's declining gas tax revenue with a road usage charge (RUC) system, reflecting the shift toward more fuel-efficient and electric vehicles (EVs) that reduce traditional gas tax income.

At this point I see this bill as dead but have left it on our tracking list as a potential NTIB bill and something that will be brought up again in the 2026 session. The core of SB 5726 is a proposed RUC of 2.6 cents per mile for vehicles weighing 10,000 pounds or less, excluding larger commercial trucks. The program would initially be voluntary but transition to mandatory based on vehicle fuel efficiency, with exemptions for certain vehicles like those publicly owned. Again, at this point we don't see this being part of the operating budget for this year.

For your curiosity you can view all of the bills that cleared the first half cut-offs for yourself [in this attached PDF](#).

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the [daily schedule of the legislature](#) and see the [Senate Floor Calendar](#) and the [House Floor Calendar](#).

Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:

Monday, March 17 at 6pm

Monday, April 7 at 6pm

Monday, April 21 at 6pm

Please feel free to join us while we discuss current legislative activities in the 2025 Legislature.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/98036971581>
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

One tap mobile +1-253-215-8782,,98036971581# US (Tacoma)

Dial by your location +1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 980 3697 1581

GRANGE Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

Upcoming Events

Agriculture & Natural Resources (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/17 @ 1:30pm

- [SHB 1261](#) - Public Hearing - Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support)

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 3/17 @ 1:30pm

- [SSB 5033](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals. (Remote Testimony Available).

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/18 @ 10:30am

- [E2SSB 5098](#) - Public Hearing - Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities. (Remote Testimony Available). (Oppose)

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/18 @ 10:30am

- [EHB 1173](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 3/18 @ 10:30am

- [ESSB 5041](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers. (Remote Testimony Available). (Oppose)

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/19 @ 8:00am

- [2SHB 1409](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the clean fuels program. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [E2SHB 1912](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support)

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/20 @ 10:30am

- [ESHB 1296](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting a safe and supportive public education system. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/21 @ 8:00am

- [EHB 1173](#) - Exec Session - Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 3/21 @ 10:30am

- [ESSB 5041](#) - Exec Session - Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers. (Oppose)

WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT

Support

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
2SHB 1912	Agricultural fuel/CCA ex.	Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.	H Rules R	Dent	
SSB 5055	Agritourism	Promoting agritourism in Washington.	H Local Govt	Warnick	
SSB 5252	Assembly halls/property tax	Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places.	S Rules 2	Shewmake	High

Oppose

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
SHB 1132	Bulk firearm purchases	Enhancing public safety by limiting bulk purchases and transfers of firearms and ammunition.	H Rules R	Farivar	
SHB 1141 (SB 5468)	Ag. cannabis workers	Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers.	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self	
HB 1152	Firearm storage	Enhancing public safety by establishing secure storage requirements for firearms in vehicles and residences.	H Rules R	Doglio	
E2SHB 1163 (SB 5140)	Firearm purchase	Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.	H Passed 3rd	Berry	
HB 1921 (SB 5726)	Transportation revenue	Establishing new sources of transportation revenue based on motor vehicle use of public roadways.	H Transportation	Fey	
ESSB 5041	Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.	S Passed 3rd	Riccelli	
E2SSB 5098	Weapons in certain areas	Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.	H Civil R & Judi	Valdez	

SB 5140 (E2SHB 1163)	Firearm purchase	Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.	S Law & Justice	Lias	
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Other Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority
2SHB 1150 (E2SSB 5284)	Solid waste management	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.	H Rules R	Berry	
EHB 1173 (SB 5447)	High-hazard facility wages	Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.	H Passed 3rd	Bronoske	
HB 1197 (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby	
HB 1198 (SB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby	
SHB 1296	Public education system	Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.	H 2nd Reading	Stonier	
HB 1320	Business & occupation tax	Modifying business and occupation tax rates to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	H Finance	Street	
HB 1334	Property tax revenue growth	Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.	H Finance	Pollet	
2SHB 1409	Clean fuels program	Concerning the clean fuels program.	H 2nd Reading	Fitzgibbon	
SSB 5033	Biosolids/PFAS chemicals	Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.	H Env & Energy	Wilson	
SB 5166 (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	
SB 5167 (HB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	

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