



# Session Watch

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Monday, March 31, 2025 (day 78 of the 120-day Session)

Lawmakers have just finished their eleventh week of the legislative session in Olympia, with today being day 78 of the 105-day regular session. The next important deadline is Wednesday, April 2, which marks the Policy Committee Cutoff for bills in the opposite house. This is the final day for committee reports from the opposite house to be considered, with exceptions for the House fiscal committees and the Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

This week, legislators primarily focused on working through budget proposals and holding public hearings on policy-related bills. Much of the Senate's time was spent reviewing both the operating and transportation budgets, including an extensive hearing on the Senate Operating Budget. Hearings on the House Operating Budget and related tax proposals from both the House and Senate will continue next week. On Saturday, the Senate debated its Operating and Transportation budget bills, and the Senate Operating Budget passed with 28 votes in favor and 21 against. Below, you'll find a summary of the tax proposals scheduled for hearings in Week 12.

The House's proposed Operating Budget for the 2025-27 biennium totals \$77.8 billion, while the Senate's proposal is slightly higher, at over \$78.5 billion. The House and Senate have also introduced their Transportation budget plans. The House's proposal stands at \$15.1 billion, while the Senate has offered two versions: one at \$14.4 billion and another, which includes a 6-cent per gallon gas tax, totaling \$16.5 billion over the next biennium. Capital Budget proposals are expected to be released on Monday, March 31.

There were many tax packages proposed this last week and we are in wait and see mode where some of the proposals will pass legal and legislative muster while others will not. A full

wrap up of the new Taxes will be in the future version of the Session Watch once the dust settles.

## Bill Highlights

[HB 1141](#)- Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers. Establishes collective bargaining procedures for certain cannabis agricultural workers. Places cannabis agricultural worker collective bargaining under the jurisdiction of the Public Employment Relations Commission. On April 1 the bill is scheduled for executive session in the Senate Committee on Labor & Commerce.

[HB 1912](#)- Establishes a process by which certain entities may voluntarily notify the Department of Ecology (Ecology) of locations where agricultural fuels exempt from a compliance obligation under the Climate Commitment Act (exempt fuels) are available for purchase. Requires Ecology to publish, by October 1, 2025, certain information on its website to assist individuals seeking to purchase exempt fuels or obtain a remittance from the Department of Licensing. Directs the Department of Commerce to provide, subject to appropriation, financial assistance to retail fuel sellers to facilitate the sale of exempt fuels. Extends the exemption for certain fuels used to transport agricultural products on public highways by two years. On April 1 the bill is scheduled for executive action in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology. This is still expected to pass its committee's hurdles.

[HB 1553](#)- Extending the dairy inspection program until June 30, 2031. Sponsored by freshman legislator Rep. Adison Richards (D-Gig Harbor). The bill does not change the current fee structure and the expiration date for the assessment on milk processed in the state is extended from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2031.

The bill was placed in Rules on March 26.

SB 5360- Concerning environmental crimes. Establish new crimes and provide penalties, and reclassifies existing crimes, for certain violations of the state Water Pollution Control Act and Clean Air Act. Provides first-degree and second-degree felony violations for certain offenses under specified environmental acts in the state sentencing grid as seriousness level V and III offenses, respectively. Repeals certain provisions relating to existing criminal penalties in environmental laws. On March 31 the bill is scheduled for executive action in the House Committee on Environment & Energy. Stakeholder meetings are taking place with House members, Governor's Office and Attorney General's Office.

SB 5041- Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.

Allows individuals unemployed due to a labor strike to receive up to 12 weeks of unemployment insurance (UI) benefits following a specified disqualification period, from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2035. Removes the disqualification from UI benefits based on an employer-initiated lockout resulting from a strike against another employer in a multi-employer bargaining unit, from January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2035. On April 4 the bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations.

HB 1644- Concerning the safety and health of working minors. Establishes minimum penalties for violations of restrictions governing the employment of minors. Requires the Department of Labor and Industries (L&I) to conduct a safety and health consultation at a worksite before granting a student learner variance allowing a minor to perform work typically prohibited based on the minor's age. Requires L&I to revoke an employer's minor work permit for certain violations of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act or laws pertaining to the employment of minors. Expands responsible bidder criteria to include bidders not subject to a revocation of a minor work permit. On March 29 the bill was passed to the Senate Rules committee.

#### **Washington State Grange Legislative Advisory Committee Meetings Set:**

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**

**Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 4/1 @ 10:30am**

• [ESHB 1141](#) - Exec Session - Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers. (Oppose)

**Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 4/1 @ 11:00am**

**Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 4/1 @ 1:30pm**

• [E2SHB 1912](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act. (Support)

**Local Government (House) - HHR E and Virtual JLOB - 4/2 @ 8:00am**

**Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/3 @ 8:00am**

**Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/3 @ 1:30pm**

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

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/3 @ 1:30pm**

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

**Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/4 @ 8:00am**

- [SSB 5252](#) - Exec Session - Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places. (Support/High)

**Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/4 @ 1:30pm**

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

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/4 @ 1:30pm**

- [E2SHB 1163](#) - Public Hearing - Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms. (Remote Testimony Available). (Oppose)
- [ESHB 1296](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting a safe and supportive public education system. (Remote Testimony Available).

## **WASHINGTON STATE GRANGE BILL TRACKING REPORT**

**Support**

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
<a href="#">ESHB 1141</a> (SB 5468)	Ag. cannabis workers	Concerning collective bargaining for agricultural cannabis workers.	S Labor & Comm	Ortiz-Self	Oppose	
<a href="#">E2SHB 1163</a> (SB 5140)	Firearm purchase	Enhancing requirements relating to the purchase, transfer, and possession of firearms.	S Law & Justice	Berry	Oppose	
<a href="#">EHB 1173</a> (SB 5447)	High-hazard facility wages	Concerning wages for journeypersons in high-hazard facilities.	S Labor & Comm	Bronoske		
<a href="#">HB 1197</a> (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
<a href="#">HB 1198</a> (SB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
<a href="#">SHB 1261</a> (SB 5479)	Open space incidental use	Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land.	S Ag & Natural Re	Low	Support	

<a href="#">ESHB 1296</a>	Public education system	Promoting a safe and supportive public education system.	S EL/K-12	Stonier		
<a href="#">2SHB 1409</a>	Clean fuels program	Concerning the clean fuels program.	S Environment, En	Fitzgibbon		
<a href="#">E2SHB 1912</a>	Agricultural fuel/CCA ex.	Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.	S Environment, En	Dent	Support	
<a href="#">SSB 5033</a>	Biosolids/PFAS chemicals	Concerning sampling or testing of biosolids for PFAS chemicals.	H Env & Energy	Wilson		
<a href="#">ESSB 5041</a>	Unemp ins/strikes & lockouts	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for striking or lockout workers.	H LAWSDP	Riccelli	Oppose	
<a href="#">SSB 5055</a>	Agritourism	Promoting agritourism in Washington.	H Local Govt	Warnick	Support	
<a href="#">E2SSB 5098</a>	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	Oppose	
<a href="#">SB 5166</a> (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 5167</a> (HB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
<a href="#">SSB 5252</a>	Assembly halls/property tax	Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places.	H Finance	Shewmake	Support	High

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