



# TWIO

## This Week In Olympia

Week 6 | February 19, 2010

### IN THIS ISSUE:

## Week 6 - February 15–19, 2010

### This Week in Review

The “**tax debate**” took most of the week. The question before the House was whether or not it would approve the Senate’s bill suspending the I-960 requirement that two-thirds of both houses must approve tax increases ([SB 6130](#)). (I-960 was approved by fifty one percent of the voters in 2007.) It took over ten hours of floor time with Democrats arguing that without increased revenue, they have no choice but to enact an “all cuts” supplemental budget to cover a \$2.8 billion deficit for **this** year. Republicans argued that we must live within our means to save taxpayers and businesses and to honor the “will of the people”. Democrats countered with the fact that the “will of the people” in approving initiatives like I-728 (approved by seventy-one percent) and I-732 (approved by sixty-two percent) had been overturned to balance the budget in previous bienniums with bipartisan support. The Republicans countered with-we wouldn’t be in this situation if the previous budgets had been fiscally responsible. In the end, SB 6130 passed the House 51–47, clearing the way for the budgets.

The **Senate’s supplemental budget** (which was supposed to be released this week) is now supposed to be out Monday, February 22.

The **House** has scheduled a hearing for its **supplemental budget** ([HB 2824](#)) for Wednesday, February 24.

The **Governor** unveiled her **tax increase proposal** on Thursday which, in addition to closing tax loopholes, includes tax increases in fourteen areas like pop, candy, cigarettes and bottled water. When the legislative budgets are released, we’ll know what *they* plan to use as revenue sources.

The **Senate** education committee passed three levy bills: [2SHB 2767](#)-expanding the levy base to include lost funding for I-728, I-732 and K–4; [2SHB 2893](#)-which includes the levy base provision (above): four percent levy lid increase, fourteen percent LEA in 2011, and authority to run a mid-cycle supplemental levy (see the [Bill Report](#)); and [2SHB 2759](#)-which removes students enrolled in online learning from the levy base beginning with levies collected in 2012. The bills were referred to Ways and Means.

The committee heard a number of bills including [2SHB 3026](#)-which prohibits discrimination in Washington public

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This is the 40th day of the Jan. 11 through March 11 2010 Legislative Session.  
20 to go

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This Week In Olympia is emailed to active WASA and AEA members every Friday and is posted on WASA’s [website](#). TWIO provides schedules for committee hearings, a Bill Watch (which tracks bills as they move through the legislature) and information on legislative issues important to school administrators.

schools and gives OSPI the power to enforce and obtain compliance with the act and other state and federal laws prohibiting discrimination. It requires OSPI to develop rules and guidelines related to the act and monitor local school districts' compliance. It requires OSPI to post on its website monthly, and issue a statewide press release, reports of any violations subject to corrective action and the nature and extent of educational disparities evident in student outcome data reported by each district. It provides that the act is null and void if appropriations are not approved. WASA and WASPA testified that this is not the right way to address discrimination in our schools. Increased litigation is expensive and it doesn't address the underlying issues of fostering respect for everyone—a guiding principle for our public schools.

In a surprise move, the committee will hear a bill (SB 6858) proposed by Senate Republicans next Tuesday (which is after both the policy and house of origin cutoffs) relating to **increasing the state property tax for education and reducing levies to twelve percent.**

*Summary of Bill: State Property Tax.* An additional state property tax at the rate of 88 cents per \$1,000 assessed property value is established and dedicated to the support of common schools.

*School District Property Levy:* A school district's levy base continues to include amounts districts would have received if I-728 and I-732 were and continue to be fully funded. The expiration date for this inclusion is extended to December 2017. In addition, if the K-4 enhancement dollars are eliminated by the Legislature, the lost funds are included in the base in the same manner as I-728 and I-732. The bill creates definitions of the I-728 and I-732 levy base, and specifies the calculation of the I-728 levy base use the allocation rate, rather than total allocation amount, that a district would have received per student.

*School District Levy Lid:* Beginning in 2011, the maximum levy percentage for a school district is reduced to 12 percent of the levy base for all school districts.

*Student Transportation:* The new student transportation funding formula is implemented beginning in the 2011-12 school year.

*Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC):* Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the MSOC allocations will be fully funded based upon data from the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and adjusted annually for inflation as specified in the appropriations act.

*Hold Harmless:* Beginning in the 2011-12 school year, the Legislature must ensure that no school district receives a total revenue that is less than the total revenue that the school district received in the 2010-11 school year through local school district levies, state levy equalization funds, state funds for student transportation, and for MSOC.

At this late date, it's not clear what action, if any, will be taken on the bill. While we strongly support the direction of this bill, we take exception to the **title** of the bill "providing **"ample"** funding for basic education".

The **House** education committee heard the following bills sent over from the Senate but has not taken executive action on them so far: ESSB 6403-regarding accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts; ESSB 6604-providing flexibility in the education system; ESB 6643-regarding compliance reports for second-class school districts; SSB 6629-convening a working group to make recommendations defining a basic education program for highly capable students; 2SSB 6702-providing education programs for juveniles in adult jails; ESSB 6533-granting high school credit for learning experiences; ESSB 6778-establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.

The education reform bill E2SSB 6696 was also heard. A comparison of the Senate bill and the House bill is provided here. Superintendent Mary Alice Heuschel (Renton School District) and OSPI are circulating a letter relating to the Race To The Top "evaluations" portion of this bill. Superintendents who would like to sign on to the letter can contact Dr. Heuschel, maryalice.heuschel@rentonschools.us.

**We will send a special TWIO with information on the supplemental budget as soon as possible after its release.**

## Town Hall Meetings

Legislators from across the state are taking off time from the session to hold town hall meetings in their home districts. *This is a great opportunity to tell legislators YOUR DISTRICT'S STORY about how budget cuts are affecting your programs.*

View the town hall meeting schedule and have your say!

## Tracking "Tell Your Story"

Make sure *your* legislators know what impact the cuts proposed in the Governor's Books 1 and 2 Budgets would have on *your* district.

Tally: 18 school districts-84 legislators

View the stories.

## Retirement and Health Benefits

After the house of origin floor cutoff on Tuesday, there are four pension bills and two health benefit bills alive that could impact some school employees. These bills are: HB 1541-Past Part-Time Service Credit, 2EHB 1547-Death Benefit, \$214,000, HB 2877- Stock in Lieu of Salary, ESSB 6426-Eliminating Certain Boards; includes SCPP, SHB 2875-Health Savings Accounts, and SSB 6584-Review of HCA Complaint Resolution.

The Public Employees for Pension Reform (PEPR) coalition

has mixed feelings concerning the possible loss until 2012 of the Select Committee for Pension Policy, found within [ESSB 6426](#). It will be interesting to see what the House Ways and Means Committee does with this part of the bill. The SCPP has provided a platform for pension issues to be given a thorough review; however, it also has often made it difficult to have new issues presented to the entire legislature.

We were disappointed that [2SSB 5491-K-12](#) health benefit study did not get action on the Senate floor by Tuesday's cutoff. A striker amendment developed by Senator Keiser, with our input, was posted on the Senate Calendar. The revised study would have been connected with a Select Committee on Health Care (SCHC) that is proposed in [SSCR 8409](#). School employee health insurers would be responsible for the bulk of the reporting to an advisory committee of the SCHC.

The PEPR coalition is continuing to advocate for [SB 6516](#)-change Plans 2/3 Default since this pension bill has the potential of generating over \$60 million in employer pension savings over 25 years. The bill presently appears dead. However, any bill that could impact the budget has possible life.

Again, additional updated information on pension and health benefit bills can be found on our association's website in the "Retirement/Health Benefit" [bill watch](#).

## AEA

On Wednesday, AEA testified in the Senate Early Learning/K-12 Education Committee in favor of [SHB 2776](#)-K-12 funding formulas and QEC recommendations. In particular, we shared that we support the bill's language to expand the duties of the Local Funding Working Group (of which WASBO is a member) to examine school districts' facility capacity to handle the eventual full implementation of all-day kindergarten and lower class sizes in grades K-3. WAMOA has knowledge of these capacities, and plans to support the Working Group's activities later on this spring.

AEA submitted written testimony to the same Senate committee regarding our support for [SHB 2670](#)-expansion of the levy base.

Later in the day, AEA testified in the House Education Committee meeting in favor of [SSB 6604](#)-which eliminates certain unfunded mandates.

On Thursday, AEA testified in opposition to [SHB 1162](#)-social and emotional learning. Though we believe that this type of learning has a distinct place in our curriculum, we feel that now is not the right time to give OSPI the responsibility- if funds are available-to encourage school districts to incorporate this learning in their basic education instructional programs. We feel that the Legislature should first fully fund the current definition of basic education before expanding the basic education instructional program.

Finally, on Friday, AEA testified in support of [SSB 6343](#)-WA Food Policy Forum which would be established to examine and improve the state's policy on food-related programs and issues. OSPI Child Nutrition Services would be a part of the forum.

## Hearing Schedule Week of February 22-26

*Hearing schedules and meeting times listed are current at time of publication but are subject to change daily. Please confirm [meeting times and agendas](#) if you are travelling to the Capitol to attend a hearing.*

### Monday, February 22

#### SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K-12

1:30-3:30 p.m. JAC Room 1

##### Public Hearing:

1. [2SHB 2731](#)-Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.
2. [3SHB 2687](#)-Creating the home visiting services account.
3. [2SHB 2867](#)-Promoting early learning.
4. [HB 3068](#)-Providing access to alternative routes to certification for the recruiting Washington teachers program.
5. [SB 6858](#)-Providing ample funding for basic education.

##### Possible Executive Session:

1. [SHB 3036](#)-Requiring a public meeting before a school district contracts for nonvoter-approved debt.
2. [HB 1757](#)-Establishing a small school district contingency fund.

#### SENATE WAYS & MEANS

3:30-5:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

##### Public Hearing:

To be announced.

##### Possible Executive Session:

Bills heard in committee.

#### HOUSE WAYS & MEANS

3:30-5:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

##### Public Hearing:

Bills referred to committee.

##### Possible Executive Session:

Bills referred to committee.

### Tuesday, February 23

#### HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS

8:00-10:00 a.m. JLOB Room A

##### Public Hearing:

1. [2SSB 6760](#)-Regarding the basic education instructional allocation distribution formula.
2. Bills referred to committee.

**Tuesday, February 23 cont'd****HOUSE EDUCATION**

10:00–12:00 noon JLOB Room D

*Work Session:*

Issues relating to National Certification for Educational staff associates.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Senate bills previously heard in committee.

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

3:30–5:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

*Public Hearing:*

To be announced.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

6:00–8:00 p.m. JLOB Room A

*Public Hearing:*

HB 2824-Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations. The hearing is on the proposed substitute bill by Rep. Linville.

**Wednesday, February 24****SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K–12**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JAC Room 1

*Public Hearing:*

1. HB 2621-Designating resource programs for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics instruction in K–12 schools.
2. SHB 2852-Concerning college-level online learning by high school students.
3. ESHB 2913-Authorizing innovative interdistrict cooperative high school programs.
4. HB 1697-Regarding career and technical student organizations.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

*Public Hearing:*

Bills referred to committee.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills previously heard in committee.

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

*Public Hearing:*

To be announced.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

3:30–5:30 p.m. JLOB Room A

*Possible Executive Session:*

HB 2824-Making 2010 operating supplemental appropriations.

**Thursday, February 25****SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K–12**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JAC Room 1

*Public Hearing:*

To be announced.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

8:00–10:00 a.m. JLOB Room A

*Public Hearing:*

Bills referred to committee.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills previously heard in committee.

**SENATE EARLY LEARNING & K–12**

10:00–12:00 noon JAC Room 1

*Public Hearing:*

To be announced.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

1:30–3:30 p.m. JAC Room 4

*Public Hearing:*

To be announced.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills heard in committee.

**Saturday, February 27****HOUSE EDUCATION**

9:00–11:00 a.m. JLOB Room A

*Public Hearing:*

Bills referred to committee.

*Possible Executive Session:*

Bills referred to committee.

**Committee Members/Keeping up with the Legislative Session-Useful Links**[Washington State Government](#)[State Legislature](#)[Senate](#)[House of Representatives](#)[Office of the Governor](#)[OSPI](#)[Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education](#)[House Education](#)[Senate Ways and Means](#)[House Ways and Means](#)[House Education Appropriations](#)[House Capital Budget](#)[TVW](#)

## Bill Watch

Each week in TWIO, we track bills that are moving through the legislature. A bill's "status" changes as it is heard in committees and then either dies or moves on to the floor of the House or Senate. It then crosses over to the opposite house and goes through the same process. Bills, including sponsors, amendments, actions and history can be found by clicking on the bill number. In the bill page, scroll down and click on the last item under "Bill Documents". You can view a shorter bill analysis under "Bill Reports". Again, the last item relates to the bill in its *current* status.

February 23 is the House Policy Committee deadline.

February 25 is the House Appropriations committees deadline. February 26 is the cutoff for House bills to be out of the Senate policy committee in the opposite house. The bills in **Bill Watch** are still moving.

**WASA's 2010 Legislative Session Guide, which includes legislator's phone numbers and email addresses, is available online at [www.wasa-oly.org/2010sessionguide](http://www.wasa-oly.org/2010sessionguide)**



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