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Week 3 – January 26–30, 2015

This Week in Review

During the third week of the legislative session, there were a handful of work sessions; however, most legislative committees focused on a rapidly expanding list of bills. It appears that legislators are attempting to break some records with over 1,500 bills, resolutions and memorials being introduced in the first 19 days of session—and it feels like there is no end in sight. WASA is **actively tracking** over 200 bills with direct or potential indirect impacts on K–12 education (along with **another 30-40 bills** that could end up being vehicles for K–12 action).

While the number of bills continues to grow, most of those bills—education-related or not—are really distractions from the real meat of this session: the 2015–17 Operating Budget. Of course, there is little public discussion about the budget, and there likely won't be much budget talk until sometime after the Economic & Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) releases its update of the state Revenue Forecast; that is not scheduled until March 18 (with a possible release of a Forecast on Feb. 20; see below). So legislators, understanding their job is to “legislate,” will continue to spin their wheels dealing with a whole slew of legislation, many of which have no chance of passage. And they'll deal with perhaps an equal number of bills that are not even intended to be adopted, but make great fodder for press releases and newsletters.

WASA will continue to track all of those education-related (or potentially education-related) bills; however, **our focus** will remain on the budget. Every opportunity, in private meetings or in public hearings, we try to drive the conversation back to basic education funding and the Legislature's obligation to comply with *McCleary*. The constant refrain from us is that NOW is the time to address the full funding of Maintenance, Supplies & Operating Costs (MSOC) by 2015–16, as required under HB 2776, but at the same time address the often-ignored HB 2261, which calls for, among other things, an enhancement of the educator salary allocation model. This may sound like a bit of hyperbole, but the vast majority of the legislation being discussed now means very little if our overall education system is suffocated from ongoing underfunding, forcing a continued overreliance on local levies.

Rules Committee Update: For those of you who have been watching the political intrigue involving the Senate Rules Committee, you'll be interested to know that the issue has been resolved. Leadership in the Majority Coalition Caucus became concerned about the composition of the Committee following the Democrat-assisted election of Senator Pam Roach (R-Auburn) to the post of President Pro Tempore. Under Senate Rules, the President

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Pro Tempore is automatically made the Vice Chair of the Committee. Because there is some obvious trust issues, MCC Leadership wanted to ensure they had sufficient votes to effectively maintain control the Committee. Following negotiations with the Senate Democrats, this week the full Senate adopted an amendment to Senate Rules (via **SR 8609**), expanding the Rules Committee from 17 members (plus the Lt. Governor, who is automatically Chair of the Committee) to 20 members (plus the Lt. Gov.). Both sides apparently got what they wanted and members were appointed to the **Senate Rules Committee**.

2015 Supplemental Operating Budget

The new two-year Operating Budget that the Legislature must adopt this session will be in effect from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2017; the current budget runs through June 30 of this year. In recent years, it has been standard operating procedure for the Legislature to adopt a Supplemental Budget alongside—and often a part of—the two-year Operating Budget. This year, budget-writers in the House decided to move a Supplemental Budget early to address series of issues that need more immediate attention. Those issues include: a pair of lawsuits (regarding mental health treatment and in-home care workers); child abuse caseload increases that have been significantly larger than expected; and natural disasters (including this summer’s wildfires in Eastern Washington and the Oso landslide).

A substitute version of **HB 1105** was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, quickly moved out of Committee on Wednesday and then was adopted by the full House on Thursday (with a strong 83-15 vote). The **revised budget**, jointly sponsored by Representatives Ross Hunter (D-Medina) and Bruce Chandler (R-Granger), Appropriations Committee Chair and Ranking Minority Member, respectively, is a relatively small \$299 million package. If adopted by the Senate and signed by the governor, the 2013–15 budget would close the biennium with \$637.2 million in the Ending Fund Balance (along with another \$492.2 million in the harder-to-access Budget Stabilization Account).

As adopted by the House, SHB 1105 makes no changes—positively or negatively—to the K–12 portion of the underlying budget. Even though there are no changes to education, early adoption of this budget is important to K–12. Dealing with a series of emergency issues now will allow budget-writers a clearer picture of exactly how much revenue is available for the 2015–17 Operating Budget and also allow them to focus on more important issues (read: *McCleary* compliance).

There is one additional non-appropriation piece in the budget to note. Each year the ERFC provides quarterly updates of the state Revenue Forecast. Currently, in odd-numbered “long” sessions, the Forecast is updated in March; in even-numbered “short” sessions, the Forecast is updated in February. Senate budget-writers have stated the Forecast should be updated in February in both long, budget-writing sessions and short, non-budget sessions, in order to start the budget writing process earlier. **SB 5064**, which has already moved out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee and awaits action in the Senate Rules Committee, would make that change. The Supplemental Budget, as adopted by the House, includes similar language making the change specifically for 2015 (only). If adopted, the ERFC would be required to provide an updated Revenue Forecast by February 20 this year. As it is written, it appears that in 2015 the currently scheduled March Forecast would still be required, along with the earlier February Forecast.

School Construction

School facilities issues were the focus of a work session in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Thursday. First, Committee staff provided a fairly thorough **overview of school construction**. Following, OSPI staff walked through **Superintendent Dorn’s Capital Budget priorities** and a representative from **North Thurston Public Schools** discussed school construction experiences from a school district perspective. The work session was

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closed out with a discussion of the impacts of school facilities on student achievement from a representative of the **Council of Educational Facility Planners International** (CEFPI).

The school facilities overview is partially a precursor to a discussion of the governor's 2015–17 Capital Budget request next week; **SB 5097** will receive a public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 5. School construction is just one of the many issues in the Capital Budget; however, school facilities continue to be a priority for many legislators. WASA will take a similar approach in testimony regarding the Capital Budget in the Senate as we did in the House Capital Budget Committee last week. We will focus on our major concerns with the budget, rather than addressing the few positive aspects of the request. In short, we will express concerns that the budget includes no increases in the Construction Cost Allowance (CCA) or the Student Space Allocation (SSA) to meet actual costs and space needs (see **TWIO, Week 2** for additional details).

On Thursday, the Ways & Means Committee also held a public hearing on **SB 5478**. The bill would establish a grant program to assist funding of specialized STEM facilities and fund additional classroom space for state-funded all-day kindergarten programs. Grants would cover 100 percent of project costs to assist districts that have had difficulty in passing a bond issue. WASA noted that we appreciated the focus on school construction, especially providing a creative way to assist school districts that cannot get bonds passed. We stopped short of fully supporting the bill, however, because this bill would only assist a limited number of districts with a limited number of specific facilities. WASA, along with WEA and OSPI, noted that updating the antiquated school funding formulas would be a better approach that would help all school districts. We did thank the Committee, however, for beginning the conversation about school construction.

Growth Management Act/Urban Growth Areas

For several years the Bethel School District has worked with its local government partners in an effort to build a new school outside of Pierce County's designated GMA Urban Growth Area. Because Pierce County plans under the Growth Management Act, Bethel has been prohibited from building outside the UGA. The general purpose of GMA is to centralize growth; however, in Bethel's situation, there is growth in "rural" areas and the school district has purchased land in order to serve families where the growth is occurring. **HB 1420** was introduced to address the issue and specifically allows schools to build outside of designated UGA when specific criteria are met. The bill was heard in the House Local Government Committee on Thursday and is scheduled for executive action next week.

HB 1420 was drafted to narrowly apply to Pierce County only. WASA testified in favor of the bill, but requested it be amended to allow the new process to apply to other counties. Bethel has a unique story to tell; however, this is a statewide issue, not just a Pierce County issue. In fact, representatives from Bethel, Eatonville, Moses Lake, Sumner, and Rochester School Districts were all on hand to testify on behalf of the bill and a total of at least 17 other districts have indicated they have similar issues. An almost identical bill, **SB 5110**, was introduced in the Senate, however it too has a narrow impact. While HB 1420 is narrowly drafted to only impact Pierce County, SB 5110 is narrowly drafted to only impact Benton County. The bill has been referred to the Senate Government Operations & State Security Committee, but has not yet been scheduled for a hearing.

Other Committee Action

On Monday, the House Education Committee held a public hearing on **HB 1293**, implementing new certification standards for paraeducators, based on recommendations from a **Paraeducator Workgroup**. This is a companion bill to **SB 5179**, which was heard last week in the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee. WASA provided similar testimony in the House as we did in the Senate. We noted that paraeducators are a key piece of the education system—and providing additional education, training and growth opportunities are

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positive. We noted several concerns, however, that kept us from fully supporting the bill. We expressed concerns the bill includes an aggressive and compressed implementation schedule, while the Paraeducator Workgroup recommended a five year, phased in implementation schedule to ensure implementation was successful. We said we are concerned about the cost of several components of the bill (including assumed additional salary requirements), while there is no discussion of additional funding for districts. Finally, the bill establishes a new Paraeducator Board and delineates the required members. Although administrators were represented on the Workgroup, no central office administrators are contemplated in the membership of the new Board. We argued it would be appropriate for a district administrator to be involved.

This week, the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee held public hearings on the following bills:

- **SB 5252**, regarding school safety. The bill would create a pilot program in three ESDs to implement region school safety and security centers.
- **SB 5294**, regarding school libraries. The bill would rename school library media programs as school library information and technology programs, and require school boards to provide resources and materials to operate programs as the board deems necessary for the proper education of students. The bill’s House companion, **HB 1331**, will be heard in the House Education Committee next week.
- **SB 5312**, regarding the educator retooling conditional scholarship. The bill, requested by Governor Inslee, would rename the Retooling to Teach Mathematics and Science Conditional Scholarship Program as the Educator Retooling Conditional Scholarship Program. Current K–12 teachers and individuals holding an elementary school education certificate could receive a conditional scholarship to pursue special education, bilingual education, or English language learner, computer science education, or environmental and sustainability education endorsements, in addition to mathematics and science endorsements.
- **SB 5392**, regarding the Quality Education Council. The QEC was established in HB 2261 (2009) to assist the Legislature in the implementation of an evolving program of basic education and the financing to support it. SB 5392 would eliminate the QEC. Sponsors of the bill indicated “the QEC has run its course.” This is a frustrating bill because the QEC was established to provide recommendations to the Legislature regarding the implementation of a new basic education funding system, but also was intended to be a type of accountability board, overseeing the work of the Legislature. The idea of a QEC was first recommended by WASA and the rest of the Full Funding Coalition (AWSP, WEA, PSE and WSSDA) as the Legislature was crafting HB 2261. We intended the Council to be an independent, nonpartisan (not just bi-partisan) board to monitor and oversee the work of the Legislature and serve as a conduit to the public. The Legislature would not have been bound by the recommendations of the Council; however, the recommendations would have been the point of departure for all budget formulation discussions. The Legislature, of course, rejected our recommended composition of the Council and many of our recommended duties of the Council. If this bill is adopted, we will lose an important oversight group; however, in the last few years, legislators have essentially neutered the QEC by limiting the amount of days it is allowed to meet and by rejecting (in fact, ignoring) virtually all of the recommendations they have provided. It is questionable if the QEC has run its course, but the QEC was never allowed to fully function as intended anyway.

The House Education Committee spent most of its time in work sessions this week:

- On Tuesday, the Committee discussed Expanded Learning Opportunities. They were briefed by the **Expanded Learning Opportunities Council**, established last year to advise

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the Governor, Legislature, and OSPI regarding a comprehensive expanded learning opportunities system, in particular, solutions to summer learning loss. Sandra Hill, Pasco Superintendent, represents WASA on the Council. The Council's initial **Report to the Legislature** was also discussed. Next, **School's Out Washington** briefed the Committee on ELO's that engage the community in an effort to close the achievement/opportunity gap.

- On Thursday, the focus of the House Education Committee's work session was student discipline. First, a representative of TeamChild briefed the Committee on the **history of student discipline** in Washington. Next, OSPI staff provided an update on the work of the **Student Discipline Task Force**. A **Research Blast** on Student Discipline, provided by WSSDA, was also reviewed.
- On Thursday night, the House Education Committee held an additional hearing. Meeting jointly with the House Health Care & Wellness Committee, the focus was an update on two bills adopted in last two sessions:
 - ◇ HB 2739 (2014): Identifying areas where effects of family factors, such as health status and safety, correlate with academic and behavioral indicators of student success. A WSU researcher who compiled a report, as required by HB 2739, provided his **findings**. An **Executive Summary** of the report was also available.
 - ◇ HB 1336 (2013): Increasing capacity of school districts to recognize and respond to troubled youth. Representatives of the **Professional Educator Standards Board**, **OSPI**, and the **Youth Suicide Prevention Program**, joined to provide an update on the implementation of HB 1336. The group also provided a **"Suicide Threat" flowchart** from Issaquah School District.

High School Assessments

The heat around the issue of high school assessments continues to intensify—and there are multiple plans currently on the table. Governor Inslee wants to “adjust” the administration of alternative assessments; Superintendent Dorn wants to eliminate assessment graduation requirements and the Certificate of Academic Achievement; and various legislators want to scale back assessments and repeal the current high stakes nature of assessments. The House Education Committee is scheduled to begin to wade through some of these issues on February 3. Three specific assessment bills are on the docket (and more are sure to be reviewed in the coming weeks):

- **HB 1703** – Requested by Gov. Inslee, this bill would modify the current high school assessment system by changing the administration of alternative assessments and align the assessment system with Career & College Ready graduation requirements. Among other things, the bill would provide for new alternative options for students that fail to pass one of the high school assessments. Districts would be required to offer a college readiness transition course—unless the district offered a Collection of Evidence alternative. School districts, however, would assume the responsibility for evaluating COE materials, if this bill was adopted.
- **HB 1785** – Requested by Supt. Dorn, this bill would eliminate the assessment graduation requirements and the Certificate of Academic Achievement, allowing school districts to focus on keeping students engaged through graduation and preparing them to be college and career ready. Students who fail to meet the standard on the new Smarter Balanced Assessment would be required to take and pass locally determined courses in their senior year that align with their college or career goals, including, when available, high school transition courses.
- **HB 1363** – This bill is more direct and would simply repeal the requirement that students achieve a Certificate of Academic Achievement or Certificate of Individual Achievement in order to graduate. High school assessments would still be used for

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state and federal accountability purposes, but those assessments would no longer be a “high stakes graduation requirement.”

So, where does WASA stand? Many of you participated in the November Superintendents’ Component Meeting in Spokane where the “delinking” issue was discussed—and many others probably have read the results of that discussion in our *Hotline* newsletter or in *WASA News* at one of the region meetings. For the remaining folks who are unaware of that discussion or the results, the short answer is that our superintendents were split on the issue. On the question of delinking state assessments as a graduation requirement: just over 50 percent (50.1%) indicated they were supportive of delinking; 35.6 percent indicated they opposed delinking; and 13.5 percent were undecided. While obviously not all superintendents participated, the feeling is that those superintendents who took our survey (104) provided a good sampling of our membership. The WASA Board considered the issue at their December meeting and given the results of the survey, they declined to take a position.

On a side note, you may have heard that the **State Democratic Party recently voted** to “condemn Common Core Standards.” Although Common Core has been a white-hot issue in many other states and at the federal level, the issue has not received much play in Washington...yet. Politics makes strange bedfellows and this is a perfect example. Far-left Democrats and far-right Republicans will join hands on this issue—for completely different reasons. You can be sure that this action will spur, at the minimum, a bit of public discussion. Whether it will gain any real traction is unclear at this point. We’ll keep you posted....

AEA

By Mitch Denning

On Monday, WSNA representatives met with Rep. Zack Hudgins (D-Tukwila) regarding our concerns about his bill, **HB 1295**, breakfast after the bell. We were wondering what “financial assistance” referred to in relation to mandating that in the 2016–17 school year, all high-need schools, those with 70 percent or greater enrollment of free/reduced lunch students, would have to begin a breakfast after the bell model as part of the food service program. WSNA had opposed Rep. Hudgins’ similar bill last year, as there was no funding to implement the program.

At the same time, the Governor’s 2015–17 Operating Budget, which proposes the OSPI offer grants to high-need schools for implementing a breakfast after the bell program, offers \$5 million to accomplish this. So, now with a potential funding source, we approached Rep. Hudgins with our recommendations for changes in the wording of OSPI’s responsibilities in the bill, and that Rep. Hudgins add a null and void clause.

On Tuesday, when House Education Committee heard Rep. Hudgins’ bill, they heard a proposed substitute which contained our recommendations. Obviously, we testified in support of the substitute bill. The bill is scheduled to move out of House Education on February 5, and we’ll continue to watch its progress.

On Tuesday, WSNA also testified in Senate Early Learning & K–12 Committee on Sen. Litzow’s companion bill, **SB 5437**, and expressed our original concerns about the bill, but told the committee that we were working with Rep. Hudgins on some possible changes, and that House Education would be hearing a substitute bill later in the afternoon on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, a small group of WASBO legislative leaders met with about 25 key legislators from all four caucuses regarding the underfunding of staff salaries of state-funded basic education staff, certificated instructional, administrative and classified. At the end of Tuesday, we sense that these lawmakers better understood the unforeseen consequences of not recognizing this salary differential which is being paid for by the local levy. The stage

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is now set for further discussions on bills which could increase the state's funding of basic education while reducing the levy authority.

We appreciate the great work that the WASA/WASBO Local Funding Group did throughout the interim period on this very topic. Without their work, we would not be able to address this issue with individual legislators.

On Wednesday, WAMOA representatives met with another set of 25 key legislators on House Capital Budget and Senate Ways & Means to share our support for the Small Repair Program as proposed in the Governor's 2015–17 Capital Budget, along with our concern that his Healthiest Next Generation Grant program be funded in a separate grant process. The members we talked with understood our concerns.

Finally, on Thursday, WSNA representatives met with a third set of 25 legislators, primarily composed of Meals for Kids champions, to thank them for their great support for funding children nutrition, and particularly, the elimination of the copay for K–12 reduced price breakfast and K–3 reduced price lunch. We also shared our support of the SHB 1295/SSB 5437 and **HB 1164**, a competitive grant through OSPI to provide kitchen equipment to schools in order to more effectively provide healthy meals to their students, and funded through the 2015–17 Capital Budget. Sponsored by Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D-Spokane), it's similar to his bill that passed the House last year but died in the Senate as there was not a 2014–15 supplemental Capital Budget.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

Update Regarding Health Benefit Study

In 2012, ESSB 5940 regarding school employee benefits passed. It directed the Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) to collect data on the health plans and costs from all school districts. This phase has been done with 100 percent of districts and carriers submitting the data. The legislation also mandated that school districts must offer a high deductible health plan option with a health savings account similar to that required for state employees.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) is now analyzing the OIC data and has to: 1) determine if districts are making progress toward employee premiums for full family coverage that are not more than three times the premiums for employees purchasing single coverage, and 2) review the advantages and disadvantages to the state, school districts, and school employees of various approaches to consolidated purchasing of school employee health benefits. The HCA has just begun this analysis and a preliminary report is due June 1, 2015.

They will be looking at the advantages/disadvantages in various consolidation models. For example, what would happen to costs if all K–12 employees (classified/certificated) are put into the current Public Employment Benefit Plans (PEBB) offerings? What if it's only classified employees? What if all K–12 have a separate combined pool?

At this point, there have been no specific data answering these questions. OIC is still gathering information about the various projected models.

Meanwhile, the list below may look familiar. It is a repeat from last week with the exception of updates on certain bills.

This week the most active committee hearings were before the House Labor Committee concerning various proposals for establishing minimum requirements for employers to meet on providing sick, safe, family, medical and vacation leaves. Updates on the committee's action are given below.

No hearings have yet been scheduled on any of the proposed changes in pensions or return to work provisions that affect future and present retirees.

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Selected Bills of Note

HB 1109, authorizing membership in the teachers' retirement system for certificated employees of the superintendent of public instruction.

(Self-explanatory. Scheduled for Executive Session by the House Appropriations Committee on Feb. 5.)

Sponsors: Representatives Reykdal, Wilcox, Bergquist

HB 1163, concerning paid vacation leave.

(This bill would compel an employer to grant two hours of vacation leave for every 40 hours an employee worked. As written, it explicitly exempts school districts. This bill was heard before the House Committee on Labor on January 29, 2014 at 8 AM.)

Sponsors: Representatives Tarleton, Walkinshaw, Moeller, Ortiz-Self, Gregerson, Pollet, S. Hunt, Appleton, Ormsby, Goodman

HB 1273, implementing family and medical leave insurance.

(This bill, as written, establishes a family and medical insurance program in partnership with the Employment Security Department. Employees could take up to 12 weeks of paid leave. It would be funded by charging an employer 2/10th of 1 percent of an employee's wage. This charge would rise to 4/10th of 1 percent in 2018. Those collected dollars would fund the program. Of course, this overlooks the additional cost to a district of a substitute if needed. This bill had a public hearing before the House Committee on Labor on Jan. 29, at 8 a.m. WASA testified in opposition to the bill. It is an unfunded mandate and not sensitive to the fact that current collective bargaining agreements already provide for this type of leave. It is scheduled for Executive Session on Feb. 3.)

Sponsors: Representatives Robinson, Sells, Farrell, Hudgins, Kagi, Wylie, Sawyer, Walkinshaw, Moscoso, Ryu, Ormsby, Riccelli, Jinkins, Senn, McBride, Gregerson, Fitzgibbon, Moeller, Reykdal, S. Hunt, Stanford, Bergquist, Santos, Pollet, Fey, Tarleton

HB 1356 (SB 5306), establishing minimum standards for sick and safe leave from employment.

(This bill was heard before the House Committee on Labor and passed out of Executive Session on Jan. 29, on a vote of 4/3. WASA signed in "Pro with concerns" on this bill.)

Sponsors: Representatives Jinkins, Riccelli, S. Hunt, Farrell, Stanford, McBride, Cody, Tharinger, Goodman, Ortiz-Self, Sullivan, Bergquist, Pettigrew, Dunshee, Fitzgibbon, Peterson, Moscoso, Ryu, Appleton, Sells, Pollet, Robinson, Reykdal, Walkinshaw, Senn, Wylie, Ormsby, Lytton, Moeller, Kagi, Hansen, Hudgins, Tarleton, Sawyer, Fey, Gregerson, Gregory, Van De Wege, Kilduff, Blake, Kirby, Orwall, Clibborn

HB 1542 (SB 5473), providing retirement benefits at earlier ages in the Plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system.

("Rule of 85" When your minimum age of 55 and years of experience total 85, you could retire with full benefits.)

Sponsors: Representatives S. Hunt, Moscoso, Reykdal, Sells, Pollet, Dunshee

HB 1615 (SB 5545), concerning postretirement employment.

(Allows all certificated and classified retirees who used 2008 ERF's (Age 62 and 30 years of experience) to retire early with full benefits to return to work as substitutes, contract and/or project employees.)

Sponsors: Representatives Appleton, Santos, Pollet, Moscoso, Reykdal, Sells, S. Hunt, Dunshee, Ormsby, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Fitzgibbon

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SB 5473 (HB 1542), providing retirement benefits at earlier ages in the Plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system.

(Rule of 85. Companion bill to HB 1542 cited above.)

Sponsors: Senators Chase, Hasegawa, McAuliffe, Rolfes, Conway

SB 5148, allowing members who retire early under alternate early retirement provisions as set forth in RCW 41.32.765(3) and 41.32.875(3) to work as substitute teachers and continue receiving retirement benefits at the same time.

(The title says it all. "Beginning July 1, 2015, employment with an employer for the purposes of this subsection shall not include employment as a substitute teacher as defined in RCW 41.32.010.")

The definition of 'teacher' as cited in the bill is: "Substitute teacher" means:

- a. A teacher who is hired by an employer to work as a temporary teacher, except for teachers who are annual contract employees of an employer and are guaranteed a minimum number of hours; or*
- b. Teachers who either (i) work in ineligible positions for more than one employer or (ii) work in an ineligible position or positions together with an eligible position.)*

Sponsors: Senators Parlette, Dammeier, Chase, Conway, McAuliffe, O'Ban

SB 5435, expanding participation in the Washington state deferred compensation program.

(Let me apologize for an earlier error in reporting on this bill. If passed, school districts must offer deferred compensation to employees, but there is no requirement for an employee to participate. The opt-out language in the bill only relates to state employees, not school employees.

"Beginning no later than January 1, 2017, all subdivisions of the state that participate in one or more the state retirement systems listed in RCS 41.50.030 must offer the state deferred compensation program as an option to all employees...."

Beginning no later than January 1, 2016, all persons newly employed by the state who are eligible to participate in a deferred compensation plan shall be enrolled in the state deferred compensation plan unless the employee affirmatively elects to waive participation in the plan. Persons who participate in the plan without having selected a deferral amount or investment option shall contribute three percent of taxable compensation to their plan account which shall be invested in a default option selected by the state investment board in consultation with the director...."

Sponsors: Senators Bailey, Schoesler

SB 5545 (HB 1615), ERF certificated and classified employees may return to part-time work.

(Companion bill to HB 1615 cited above.)

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Chase, Liias, Conway

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

1:30–3:25 p.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Tuesdays

1:30–3:25 p.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

Wednesdays

1:30–3:25 a.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

Thursdays

8–9:55 a.m.

Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education
Senate Hearing Room 1

House Education
House Hearing Room A

3:30–5:30 p.m.

Senate Ways & Means
Senate Hearing Room 4

House Appropriations
House Hearing Room A

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 Cutoff Calendar

January 12, 2015

First Day of Session.

February 20, 2015

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

February 27, 2015

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

March 11, 2015

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

April 1, 2015

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

April 7, 2015

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

April 15, 2015*

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 26, 2015

Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

*After the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, 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 1001	Education, funding first	H Appropriations	MacEwen
HB 1003	Schools, disaster recovery	H Rules R	Hawkins
HB 1028	Court security	H Judiciary	Appleton
HB 1031	College in the high school	H Education	Johnson
HB 1036	Domestic partnerships & PERS	H Appropriations	Moeller
HB 1050	Annual leave payments	H State Government	Hunt
HB 1051	Supreme court elections	H Judiciary	DeBolt
HB 1058	Lobbyists, electronic filing	H State Government	Moeller
HB 1072	Prevailing wage surveys	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1073	Prevailing rate of wage	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1074	Prevailing wage survey data	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1075	Prevailing wages, paying of	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1081	College in the high school	H Education	Sullivan
HB 1086	Public record commercial use	H State Government	Moeller
HB 1087	Traffic safety cameras	H Rules R	Takko
HB 1101	Conservation districts	H Local Government	Wilcox
SHB 1105	Operating Supplemental Budget 2015	H Passed 3rd	Hunter
HB 1106	Operating Budget 2015–2017	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 1109	OSPI certificated employees/TRS	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 1115	Capital Budget 2015–2017	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
HB 1116	Capital Supplemental Budget 2015	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
HB 1120	School bus driver immunity	H Judiciary	Wilcox
HB 1121	Financial education partnership	H Education	Parker
HB 1142	Parking fees/H.S. students	H Education	Wilcox
HB 1149	Students/military families	H Education	Muri
HB 1154	Affordable college grant program	H Higher Education	Bergquist
HB 1163	Paid vacation leave	H Labor	Tarleton
HB 1164	Student nutrition/grant program	H Capital Budget	Riccelli

HB 1166	State general obligation bonds, accts	H Capital Budget	Dunshee
HB 1168	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 1189	City, district publ. records	H LGDP	Hunt
HB 1230	Interest arbitration	H Labor	Sells
HB 1236	College bound scholarship	H Higher Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1239	Tax exemption accountability	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1240	Student restraint, isolation	H Education	Pollet
HB 1242	Educational employee strikes	H Labor	Muri
HB 1243	Truancy of students	H Judiciary	Muri
HB 1254	Prevailing wages/pilot project	H Labor	Manweller
HB 1273	Family & medical leave insurance	H Labor	Robinson
HB 1293	Paraeducators	H Education	Bergquist
HB 1295	Breakfast after the bell	H Education	Hudgins
HB 1297	Transportation Sup. Budget 2013–2015	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1299	Transportation Budget 2015–2017	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1300	Transportation revenue	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1322	State retirement plans	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 1331	School library & tech programs	H Education	Muri
HB 1335	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Condotta
HB 1345	Professional learning	H Education	Lytton
HB 1349	Exempted info/public records	H State Government	Hunt
HB 1354	Employee anti-retaliation	H Exec Action	Ryu
HB 1355	Minimum hourly wage increase	H Exec Action	Farrell
HB 1356	Sick & safe employment leave	H Exec Action	Jinkins
HB 1363	H.S. certificates/graduation	H Education	Hunt
HB 1379	Feb, April special elections	H State Government	Shea
HB 1385	Revenue growth for education	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 1386	School employees/reductions	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1408	Family engagement coordinator	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1413	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Moscoso
HB 1420	School siting and aid	H Local Government	Wilcox
HB 1433	Firearms in school zones	H Judiciary	Scott
HB 1436	Homeless youth	H Early Learning/Human Services	Kagi

HB 1444	Property tax relief	H Finance	Hunt
HB 1445	Computer science/world languages	H Higher Education	Reykdal
HB 1455	Prevailing wage/local government	H Labor	Pike
HB 1477	Quarterly revenue forecasts	H Finance	MacEwen
HB 1483	Investment income B&O deduct.	H Finance	Pollet
HB 1484	Capital gains excise tax	H Finance	Jinkins
HB 1491	Early care & education system	H Early Learning/Human Services	Kagi
HB 1492	Technology literacy	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1495	Student user privacy	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1497	School district's board	H Education	Pettigrew
HB 1511	Tribal history, culture, etc.	H Community Dev, Housing	Ortiz-Self
HB 1528	Epinephrine autoinjectors	H Health Care/Wellness	Robinson
HB 1538	Education employee COLAs	H Appropriations	Sells
HB 1541	Educational opportunity gap	H Education	Santos
HB 1542	PERS, TRS, SERS/earlier ages	H Appropriations	Hunt
HB 1546	Dual credit education opportunities	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1562	Allergen info in public schools	H Education	Sullivan
HB 1568	Dropout prevention/farming	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1570	Educator retooling/program	H Education	Gregory
HB 1583	School construction taxes	H Finance	Young
HB 1591	High school and beyond plans	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1592	Tuition waivers/state employees	H Higher Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1614	K-12 employee wages	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 1615	Postretirement employment	H Appropriations	Appleton
HB 1616	Beginning teacher salaries	H Appropriations	Riccelli
HB 1633	Housing trust fund projects	H Capital Budget	Zeiger
HB 1640	School district waivers	H Education	Hargrove
HB 1643	Bill & budget fiscal impact	H Appropriations	Wylie
HB 1661	Capital Budget resources	H Appropriations	Pike
HB 1665	School director compensation	H Education	Carlyle
HB 1666	St-wide student assessments	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1682	Homeless students	H Education	Fey
HB 1684	Public records, charges for	H State Government	Takko

HB 1691	Public records act, remedies	H State Government	Van De Wege
HB 1703	High school assessment system	H Education	Santos
HB 1709	Impact fee payment	H Local Government	Springer
HB 1711	Public works contractors	H Capital Budget	Senn
HB 1714	Achievement index rating system	H Education	Manweller
HB 1737	Retired teachers/substitutes	H Appropriations	Orcutt
HB 1745	Voting rights	H State Government	Moscoso
HB 1750	Sudden cardiac arrest	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1760	Student skills	H Education	Senn
HB 1770	Teacher certification	H Education	Bergquist
HB 1771	Prof. educator standards board	H Education	Gregory
HB 1783	Dual language instruction	H Education	Ortiz-Self
HB 1785	Academic achievement certif.	H Education	Reykdal
HB 1790	Nurse in school setting	H Education	Springer
HB 1795	Learning assistance program	H Education	Sullivan
HB 1804	Educator professional growth	H Education	Springer
HB 1805	“School day” definition	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1813	Computer science education	H Education	MacEwen
HJR 4204	Initiative measures	H State Government	Kagi
HJR 4206	Tax increase restrictions	H Finance	Orcutt
SB 5045	Union security provisions	S Ways & Means	Angel
SSB 5063	Revenue growth for education	S Rules 2	Hill
SB 5064	Quarterly revenue forecasts	S 2nd Reading	Hill
SB 5065	Homeless students	S Early Learning/K–12	Frockt
SB 5076	Operating Supplemental Budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5077	Operating Budget 2015–2017	S Ways & Means	Hill
SSB 5080	Dual credit education options		Dammeier
SSB 5081	State government expenditures	S 2nd Reading	Miloscia
SB 5082	Career & tech education/elem. school	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5083	Sudden cardiac arrest	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5086	Dual credit education opportunities	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5093	Nuclear energy education program	S Energy, Environment	Brown
SB 5095	State gen obligation bonds, accts	S Ways & Means	Honeyford

SB 5096	Capital Supplemental Budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5097	Capital Budget 2015–2017	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5102	Rural schools/urban services	S Government Operations & Security	Padden
SB 5110	School siting outside UGAs	S Government Operations & Security	Brown
SB 5120	School district dissolutions	S Early Learning/K–12	Parlette
SB 5148	TRS early retire/substitutes	S Ways & Means	Parlette
SB 5160	Native early childcare & education	S Early Learning/K–12	McCoy
SSB 5163	Students/military families		Hobbs
SB 5179	Paraeducators	S Early Learning/K–12	Hill
SB 5190	Public art and buildings	S Ways & Means	Benton
SB 5202	Financial education partnership	S Early Learning/K–12	Mullet
SB 5211	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	S Ways & Means	Bailey
SB 5229	Technology literacy	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5252	School safety, security centers	S Early Learning/K–12	Dammeier
SB 5285	Minimum hourly wage increase	S Commerce and Labor	Jayapal
SB 5286	Higher education support	S Higher Education	Baumgartner
SB 5291	Epinephrine autoinjectors	S Health Care	Mullet
SB 5294	School library & tech programs	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5303	Washington AIM program	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5306	Sick & safe employment leave	S Commerce and Labor	Habib
SB 5312	Educator retooling/program	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5316	Identifiable student info	S Early Learning/K–12	Dammeier
SB 5327	H.S. certificates/graduation	S Early Learning/K–12	McCoy
SB 5329	Public employee bargaining	S Commerce and Labor	Braun
SB 5334	Basic education/local levies	S Early Learning/K–12	Mullet
SB 5336	Traffic safety cameras	S Rules 2	Miloscia
SB 5351	Education T.O.	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5352	Education T.O.	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5358	Transportation revenue	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5359	Transportation Sup. Budget 2013–2015	S Transportation	Hobbs
SB 5360	Transportation Budget 2015–2017	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5361	Transportation projects/bonds	S Transportation	Liias
SB 5384	Income to meet basic needs	S Commerce and Labor	Miloscia

SB 5390	Investment pools/state & county	S Government Operations & Security	Dansel
SB 5391	Teacher cert. degree programs	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5392	Quality education council	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5393	Schools/exemplary performance	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5396	Children/guardians, family	S Government Op. & Security	Roach
SB 5404	Homeless youth	S Human Services/Mental Health	O’Ban
SB 5415	Prof. educator learning days	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5419	Student user privacy	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5433	Tribal history, culture, etc.	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5435	State deferred comp program	S Ways & Means	Bailey
SB 5437	Breakfast after the bell	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5452	Early care & education system	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5459	Family & medical leave insurance	S Commerce and Labor	Keiser
SB 5469	Education employee COLAs	S Ways & Means	Hasegawa
SB 5473	PERS, TRS, SERS/earlier ages	S Ways & Means	Chase
SB 5478	Education reform/facilities	S Ways & Means	Dammeier
SB 5492	Tax exemption accountability	S Ways & Means	Frockt
SB 5495	Educator professional growth	S Government Operations & Security	Litzow
SB 5496	Teacher certification	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5497	Prof. educator standards board	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5500	Firearms at schools/officers	S Law & Justice	Roach
SB 5506	Sexual health education/abuse, etc.	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5517	Sexual harassment prevention	S Early Learning/K–12	Kohl-Welles
SB 5520	High school assessment system	S Early Learning/K–12	Rolfes
SB 5526	Bullying, etc., in schools	S Early Learning/K–12	Lias
SB 5533	Electronic data, charges for	S Government Operations & Security	Hobbs
SB 5544	K–12 employee wages	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SB 5545	Postretirement employment	S Ways & Means	McAuliffe
SB 5546	Beginning teacher salaries	S Early Learning/K–12	Lias
SB 5548	School bus driver immunity	S Early Learning/K–12	Lias
SB 5559	Tuition waivers/state employees	S Higher Education	Billig
SB 5578	Housing trust fund projects	S Human Services/Mental Health	Dammeier
SB 5602	Bargaining unit reps	S Commerce and Labor	Warnick

SB 5636	GET ready for college program	S Higher Education	Hasegawa
SB 5637	Peer mentoring program	S Higher Education	Hasegawa
SB 5651	Truant students, detention	S Human Services/Mental Health	Darneille
SB 5657	School day extension/homework	S Early Learning/K-12	Mullet
SB 5667	Bill & budget fiscal impact	S Ways & Means	Hargrove
SB 5668	Voting rights	S Government Operations & Security	Habib
SB 5675	Dual language instruction	S Early Learning/K-12	Roach
SB 5679	Special education students	S Early Learning/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5681	State lottery accounts	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5688	Student skills	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 5690	Learning assistance program	S Early Learning/K-12	Dammeier
SB 5699	Capital gains excise tax	S Ways & Means	Nelson
SB 5715	Initiatives, fiscal impact	S Ways & Means	Fain
SJM 8006	Sexual abuse/children, peers	S Early Learning/K-12	Kohl-Welles
SJR 8200	2/3 vote for tax increases	S Government Operations & Security	Roach
SJR 8201	Initiative measures	S Ways & Means	Fain
SJR 8202	Income tax	S Ways & Means	Chase
SR 8601	Adopting senate rules	S Adopted	Schoesler

