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Week 7 – February 23–27, 2015

2015 Legislative Conference

Final preparations are being made for the annual **WSSDA/WASA/WASBO Legislative Conference** to be held this weekend, March 1-2, at the Olympia Red Lion Hotel and at the State Capital. It appears that our attendance will again be close to standing room only and we are set to have another powerful event. The main focus of the collective associations' legislative platforms this year is the 2015–17 budget and the required basic education enhancements necessary to comply with the Supreme Court's *McCleary* decision—and that will be a major focus of the Legislative Conference. Registration opens Sunday at 11:30 a.m. and the program will start at 1:00 p.m. The **Conference program** includes invited legislative leaders, and addresses from State Superintendent Randy Dorn and Office of Financial Management Director David Schumacher. The program will close with a presentation of the annual Hot Topics briefing, providing attendees with a concise and common message to take to legislators when attendees rush the Capital for Monday's "Day on the Hill."

If you are coming to the Conference, please attend your region's caucus meeting to ensure you know when and where legislator appointments will be held and coordinate your messages with your colleagues. We also encourage you to stay for the evening reception—good food and good drink with some good friends and maybe one of your legislators (they have all been invited). Governor Jay Inslee will also provide a few remarks during the reception.

We have again reserved the Columbia Room (1st floor in the center of the Legislative Building, directly below the Rotunda) on Monday morning. There will be a short kick-off event at 7:30 a.m. and the room will be available for you to meet with legislators, network with colleagues or to just stop and take a minute to rest (refreshments will be available until noon). We'll also use that room to discuss any feedback from your legislator visits and have a closing event at 11:30 a.m.; however, the room will be available for your use until 4:00 p.m.

Please be aware that both the House and Senate are scheduled to be in their respective chambers and/or private caucus rooms acting on legislation most of the day on Monday, beginning at 10:00 a.m. It is possible your scheduled meetings may be moved or even cancelled. If that happens, attempt to meet with the legislators' legislative assistants and/or try to pull your legislators off the floor to discuss your issues. You can even ask the member's assistant if they might be willing to assist to you in getting the legislator off the floor—they can call their bosses, send them an e-mail or text, or even escort you to the chambers. It can't hurt to simply ask. As a last resort, if you are completely shut-out of a meeting, at least leave your Hot Topics briefing documents—with your contact information—at your

About TWIO

This Week in Olympia is emailed to active WASA and AEA members each Friday during the Legislative Session and is posted on WASA's website at www.wasa-oly.org/TWIO.

Join us at the 2015 WASA/WSSDA/WASBO Legislative Conference, March 1-2. Red Lion Hotel in Olympia.

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legislator’s office, perhaps with a hand-written “Sorry to have missed you” message. Even without a face-to-face meeting, you have an opportunity to have an impact.

This Week in Review

With last week’s house of origin policy committee “cut-off” deadline on Friday and the arrival of the house of origin fiscal committee cut-off occurring today, the vast majority of legislative activity took place in the House and Senate fiscal committees (House Appropriations, House Finance, House Capital Budget, House Transportation, Senate Ways & Means, and Senate Transportation). The House Appropriations Committee held public hearings on over 75 bills and took executive action on over 100 bills. The Senate Ways & Means Committee matched its House counterpart, taking testimony on over 75 bills and taking executive action on over 100 bills.

The flurry of activity to adopt money-related bills by today’s cut-off deadline is a precursor to a week-and-a-half of lengthy floor sessions in the House and Senate, as legislators shift their focus from committee action to moving bills from their own house to the opposite house before another major cut-off arrives. Wednesday, March 11, 5:00 p.m., is the deadline to consider bills in their house of origin (that is, Senate bills must be out of the Senate and House bills must be out of the House in order to stay alive). Budgets and bills considered “Necessary to Implement the Budget” continue to be exempt from these early deadlines—and, of course, no bill is truly dead until the final gavel falls to adjourn the session.

Budget Update

With the release of an updated state **Revenue Forecast** last week and with the Legislature rapidly progressing through the process (two major deadlines down and 47 of 105 days done), the focus has somewhat shifted to the budget. Most of that focus, however, is behind-the-scenes and all we are really seeing is an uptick in “talk” with not much real action, yet. Most of the budget action, in fact, continues to be on the 2015–17 Transportation Budget. As we have discussed previously, other than some minor funding adjustments to the Safe Routes to Schools Grant Program, the Transportation Budget has little direct impact on K–12 education. The greatest connection between the Transportation Budget and K–12 is the proposed revenue package. First, is the proposed 11.7 cent gas tax increase. This is a double-edged sword. Bi-partisan adoption of a gas tax increase could show that revenue increases ARE possible this session. On the other hand, with a tax-averse Legislature and a tax-averse citizenry, every increase in any tax makes it less viable to raise other revenue. Second, one of the specific funding mechanisms is sales tax revenue raised from transportation construction projects. As proposed, in **SB 5990**, this sales tax revenue would be diverted from the General Fund to a new “Connecting Washington Account” established specifically to fund transportation projects. Of course, the state’s General Fund is the main source of funding for schools.

SB 5990 has been on an interesting journey in the last two weeks. The bill was introduced on February 16 and quickly heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on February 17. The Committee took executive action on the bill on February 19; however, the bill failed to secure the necessary votes to pass. Unlike House committees, Senate committees adopt bills with a “voice vote,” with no oral roll call. If you’ve ever watched a Senate committee executive session you will remember that after a voice vote, the Chair of the Committee will say something like, “By your actions, you have adopted SB 5990, *subject to signatures.*” Because an oral roll call is not taken, it is assumed the bill has enough votes to pass, but only if enough Senators sign the bill’s official tally sheet will the bill be adopted. SB 5990 did not receive a majority of the Committee members’ signatures, technically defeating the bill.

Leaders of the Senate Ways & Means Committee made an erroneous assumption that SB 5990 was adopted and on its way to the next Committee. They quickly scheduled the bill for a public hearing on Monday, but later, realizing the bill failed to be officially adopted, pulled the bill from the agenda. In Olympia, just about any rule can be waived if you’re in

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the majority (you know, the legislative version of the golden rule: “He who has the gold, makes the rules”). Well, even though the time had passed for senators to “sign the sheet,” the necessary signatures were eventually collected and SB 5990 was added to the Ways & Means public hearing agenda on Tuesday. Wasting no time in moving it to executive action, the bill was adopted by the Committee later that evening. A somewhat technical amendment was adopted which delays the transfer of transportation sales tax revenue from the General Fund to the Connecting Washington Account until July 1, 2019, rather than the originally proposed July 1, 2018.

Prior to moving the bill to final passage in the Transportation Committee, four amendments were proposed. Two of them sought to restrict the diversion of the sales tax revenues, while two others attempted to assist K–12. One K–12 **amendment** would have required that sales tax collected on transportation projects be used to fund student transportation, rather than being diverted to the new the Connecting Washington Account. The second K–12 **amendment** would have postponed any transfer of the transportation sales tax from the General Fund to the Connecting Washington Account until the state met its “constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education as set out in Article IX of the State Constitution and further clarified by the Washington Supreme Court decision in *McCleary v. the State of Washington*.” All four amendments were defeated.

While the adoption of a 2015–17 Transportation Budget (and a necessary funding package) could assist K–12 education—by allowing legislators to focus on the 2015–17 Operating Budget and their *McCleary* obligations; by proving the Republican-led Senate and Democratic-led House can come together and solve major issues; and by loosening the anti-tax grip—the transportation package faces major obstacles. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus has been a model of caucus discipline the last two years; however, there apparently is some dissension in the ranks over the proposed package. In Committee, one Republican voted “no” on several of the pieces and another Republican simply abstained from voting on multiple pieces to send a message (he doesn’t believe the package includes enough “reforms.”)

Even if the Senate can move the transportation package, it faces a tough road in the House. Certainly, there are some concerns from House Leadership (and rank-and-file members) about what is in—and what is NOT in—the package; however, they are currently focusing on the “big picture.” Representative Pat Sullivan (D-Covington), House Majority Leader, has publicly stated that the transportation package will not be even heard in the House until the Legislature addresses education funding. Sullivan said, “I think we need to focus on *McCleary* given the fact that we’re under a court contempt order” and noted that he is “not getting the sense of seriousness” about the issue from the Senate. He said that after *McCleary* is addressed, he’d be “happy to pass a transportation package.”

At this point it is somewhat unclear if Sullivan believes a 2015–17 Operating Budget actually needs to be adopted before moving to transportation, or if he simply wants to wait until the Senate engages in the conversation about education funding solutions. Either way, it is very positive that a key legislative leader has so strongly spoken out about the need for action on *McCleary*. We will have to wait and see if this sparks any kind of action.

Substitute Shortage

The substitute teacher shortage, partially due to the prohibition of retired teachers who retired early from returning to a public sector employer without losing early retirement benefits, continues to be a concern across the state. Three bills have been introduced to enhance the substitute teacher pool:

- **SB 5148** would allow retirees who retire early under early retirement provisions to work as a substitute teacher and continue receiving retirement benefits at the same time. This “pure” bill, that school districts requested, was heard last week in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. It was added to the Committee’s executive session list earlier this week, but was later removed. The bill, sponsored by Senator

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Linda Evans Parlette (R-Wenatchee), Chair of the Senate Republican Caucus, was anticipated to be an easy sell in the Senate, but was anticipated to have a tougher road to travel in the House. Unfortunately, it hit a snag in Ways & Means. Two Ways & Means members, who also serve on the Joint Select Committee on Pension Policy, Senators Mark Schoesler (R-Ritzville) and Barbara Bailey (R-Oak Harbor), have come out against the bill. Both senators have expressed concerns that this bill would be a return to the failed “retire-rehire” experiment—a plan that prompted a series of highly publicized abuses, causing the program to be repealed. Although SB 5148 appeared to be the most viable vehicle to address the substitute issue, the bill is likely to die in the Ways & Means Committee. At the time this *TWIO* was being prepared, the bill had not yet been acted upon in executive session—and is not expected to be acted upon.

- **HB 1737** would also allow retirees who retire early under early retirement provisions to work as a substitute teacher and continue receiving retirement benefits at the same time; however, the bill would limit this post-retirement employment to two hundred sixteen hours per school year (27 days). Additionally, these post-retirement provisions would sunset on August 1, 2019. The bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee last week and was not expected to move. This week, however, the bill was added to the executive action list and was adopted with a strong 30-3 vote. Prior to being adopted, the bill was amended to expand the number of hours a retiree could work and still collect early retirement benefits from two hundred sixteen hours per school year to six hundred thirty hours or ninety days. Additionally, school districts that employ retired substitute teachers under the bill must have a documented shortage of certificated substitute teachers. With the apparent failure of SB 5148, HB 1737 becomes the vehicle of choice—even though it does not address the issue as fully as the Senate bill. There are still concerns this issue may get hung up by House Leadership; however, with strong support from the Appropriations Committee the bill may have some momentum.
- **SB 5941** takes a different tact and would allow adjunct faculty currently employed in higher education institutions, under certain circumstances, to serve as substitute teachers. The bill would require the Professional Educator Standards Board to adopt rules to provide for a new certification allowing adjunct faculty to serve as substitutes. This bill would not open the door for early retirees to return to work; however, it clearly is intended to enhance the current pool of substitutes. The bill was heard and adopted by the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee last week and awaits action by the full Senate.

School Construction

The Legislature has historically done an admirable job of providing “full funding” of School Construction Assistance Program requests; however, that funding does not reflect the actual cost of construction or the true space needed for learning because of the state’s antiquated funding formulas. For several years, WASA has advocated for significant increases in the Construction Cost Allowance (CCA) and the Student Space Allocation (SSA) to meet actual costs and space needs. In recent years there have been occasional bills introduced to enhance those formulas, but they have never gone very far. This year, two bills have been introduced:

- **SB 5859** would provide enhanced Student Space Allocations, as follows:
 - o 140 square feet for students in kindergarten through grade six;
 - o 155 square feet for students in grades seven through eight;
 - o 165 square feet for students in grades nine through twelve; and
 - o 165 square feet for students with disabilities in any grade.

The bill would also require the State Operating Budget to identify the Construction Cost Allowance, with the minimum CCA to be calculated based on a three-year rolling average of actual new public K–12 school construction costs per square

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- foot. Finally, the bill would increase the “floor” of state funding assistance for eligible projects from the current 20 percent to 30 percent. This would increase minimum funding for **58 districts**.
- **HB 2161** includes the same minimum funding increase (from 20 to 30 percent) and similar SSA and CCA provisions as SB 5859. Similar to SB 5859, HB 2161 requires the minimum CCA to be calculated based on a three-year rolling average of actual new public K–12 construction costs; however, the bill specifies that actual K–12 renovations costs may also be included, when the purpose of the renovations is either: (1) to increase capacity due to significant increases in enrollment which have resulted in the schools in a geographic subarea exceeding capacity; or (2) to meet class size reduction and full-day kindergarten goals. The bill also allows Seattle School District to be divided by up to four geographic areas for the purpose of calculating eligible space for state funding assistance. Finally, the bill establishes the Overcrowded Schools and Class Size Reduction Fund, an appropriated account, to provide construction assistance to support statewide implementation of full-day kindergarten and early elementary class size reduction in high growth school districts.

Both bills were heard this week, in the Senate Ways & Means Committee and the House Capital Budget Committee, respectively. Neither bill, however, was scheduled for executive action, although either could likely be considered “Necessary to Implement the Budget.” Both bills might be considered to be too “rich,” depending on how large the 2015–17 Capital Budget turns out to be. SB 5859 has a total of 35 co-sponsors—well-over a majority of the Senate. Although that is never a guarantee of success, it does look good.

Educator Compensation

This past summer and fall, WASBO and WASA formed a Local Funding Workgroup to review and analyze the use of local levy funds. The Legislature continues to wrestle with the Supreme Court’s *McCleary* ruling that the overreliance on local levies is unconstitutional. It has been a major topic of discussion, but has yet to result in any type of consensus on a solution. Legislative conversations continue to come back to a “levy swap” or at least some type of state property tax revision—with a presumed reduction of local school district levies.

The original purpose of the Local Funding Workgroup was to prepare for the presumed legislative discussion of a “levy swap” in 2015. Ultimately, the work led to the overwhelming conclusion that the majority of local levy funds are used to fill the gap between actual labor costs and the amount funded by the state. The **Workgroup released a “white paper”** in November with its proposed solution: for the Legislature to fund the full cost of basic education *labor* first, followed by other improvements as adopted in HB 2261 and HB 2776. If the state requires additional staff units (for class size reduction, for example) or additional salary (with an I-732 or other adopted COLA, which must be provided to all staff) before the funding shortfall in the underlying compensation system is addressed, school district reliance on local levy funding will actually *increase*, further exacerbating the problem. Any proposal to reduce local levy funding, via a “levy swap” or any similar plan, without first funding current basic education labor costs, will severely impair school districts’ ability to meet their financial obligations. (Note: **Talking points** on the WASBO/WASA Local Funding Workgroup are also available.)

WASBO has been meeting with key legislators, legislative staff, and OSPI representatives to spread the word and spark the conversation on compensation. At the same time, WASA has been spreading the word externally, making the rounds with editorial boards. The message has resonated. To date, both *The Olympian* (**Feb. 12**) and the *Everett Herald* (**Feb. 16 & Feb. 17**) have responded with very positive editorial comments (additional editorial board meetings are on tap soon).

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The individual legislator meetings and the outside pressure from the press appears to be having an impact. Recently, budget-writers in both houses have publicly stated they recognize that the Legislature needs to address the state's underfunding of salaries—and key legislators in both houses continue to meet behind-the-scenes to craft a solution. As budget proposals begin to be crafted, the hope is that compensation proposals begin to be floated, too.

Next week, the House will open the public conversation on compensation. In adopting HB 2261 in 2009, the Legislature stated it recognized that “providing students with the opportunity to access a world-class educational system depends on our continuing ability to provide students with access to world-class educators.” They further noted that “continuing to attract and retain the highest quality educators will require increased investments.” A Compensation Technical Working Group was established to recommend the details of an enhanced salary allocation model that aligns state expectations for educator development and certification with the compensation system. The Working Group completed its work and submitted a **final report** with a series of recommendations to the Legislature on June 30, 2012.

Even though the Working Group's report was submitted over two-and-a-half years ago, there has not yet been any discussion of the report in any public hearing. That silence finally ends next week (Tuesday, March 3) as the House Education Committee will hold a work session on the Working Group's recommendations. Let's hope the conversation continues beyond this work session.

AEA

By Mitch Denning

On Monday, we submitted written testimony on two important bills heard in Senate Ways & Means, **SB 5859** and **SB 5437**, as the first one supports some of the OSPI capital budget request for the School Construction Assistance Program by raising the threshold of state funding assistance percentage from 20 percent to 30 percent of the approved cost of the project costs. It also increases area cost allowance by basing it on a three-year rolling average on actual new K–12 school construction costs per square foot. Finally, it increases the minimum state student space allocation per grade level per Superintendent Dorn's request. The bill did not move out of Senate Ways & Means yesterday, and is not scheduled for an executive session today. However, as it is a budget bill, it would be exempt from the established cutoff dates.

The second bill, the Senate version of the Breakfast After the Bell bill (SB 5437), was also heard on Monday. WSNA supports the bill with two changes: (1) make the start-up grants an even \$6,000 rather than “up to” \$6,000, as they are funded up front with the even amount, and become reimbursement grants if they are “up to.” In the latter case, many schools would not institute the program as they can't afford the start-up costs; and (2) change the instructional hour wording to agree with the House version (**SHB 1295**) to allow breakfast in the classroom to be considered part of instructional time if the students are engaged in an instructional activity under the direction of the teacher. Yesterday, Senate Ways & Means took executive action, and we will know about any specific changes they made in the bill in a few days.

On Tuesday, Jan Campbell-Aikens from the Auburn School District testified in strong support of SHB 1295, as her district has had breakfast in the classroom for a number of years. Yesterday, House Appropriations took executive action, and we'll have to wait until next week to see if the bill was changed.

WASBO is getting ready for the annual WSSDA/WASA/WASBO Legislative Conference to be held on Sunday and Monday at the Red Lion Hotel in Olympia. A number of business managers are coming to the conference with their superintendent and board members. On

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Monday, they will meet with their respective legislators regarding key K–12 issues discussed at the conference on Sunday.

Pensions/Health Benefits

By Fred Yancey – The Nexus Group

February 27 is the deadline for all bills from fiscal committees to have passed. Attention will then focus on floor action. All bills will then have until March 11 to clear their house of origin.

One issue of major concern to school districts has been the lack of substitute teachers. There are three proposals that have received attention that are meant to help address that shortage. Each has differences.

HB 1737, addressing the availability of retired teachers as substitutes.

Sponsors: Representatives Orcutt, Santos, Magendanz, Bergquist, Ortiz-Self, Kilduff, Kagi, Zeiger, Tarleton, Muri, Condotta, Pollet

The original bill stated that a teacher in Plan 2 or Plan 3 that has retired under the ERF factors may be employed with an employer for up to two hundred sixteen hours per school year (27 days) without suspension of his/her benefits.

The bill was scheduled for Executive Session action at the February 25 House Appropriations Committee meeting. Representative Sam Hunt proposed an amendment that made two basic changes from the original bill: 1) Districts must document a shortage of certificated substitute teachers, and 2) The number of hours a retired teacher may work without suspension of retirement benefits was increased from 216 hours to 630 hours. (The intent was to basically allow up to a semester of substitute availability, but this would vary depending on the length of an individual school day.) The bill as amended was adopted by a 30 to 3 vote.

Although WASA's position continues to favor the bill (SB 5148), this bill represents a strong step in a desired direction and keeps the issue of increasing the pool of qualified substitutes alive.

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.

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

This bill directly addressed the need for substitutes and had no limit as to hours. WASA testified in support of the bill at the February 16 public hearing before the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The bill was scheduled for Executive Session action by the same committee on February 23, but upon returning from caucus the bill did not come before the committee for a vote. There is strong opposition by Senators Bailey and Schoesler to this bill, and the chair of the committee chose to not bring the bill before the committee even though its two prime sponsors were Republican Senators Parlette and Dammeier. At this point, the bill is presumed dead.

SB 5941, concerning certification of adjunct faculty as common school substitute teachers.

Sponsors: Senators Rivers, Rolfes, Litzow, Dammeier, Angel

This bill requires the professional educator standards board to amend or adopt rules that provide for issuance of the certification necessary to serve as substitute teachers, other than emergency substitute certification, to adjunct faculty currently employed in institutions of higher education who meet certain criteria.

The bill was voted out of the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee by a vote of 9 to 0. It has been sent to Rules for Second Reading.

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Another bill of note and potential impact to school districts is SB 5976.

SSB 5976, establishing a consolidating purchasing system for public school employees.

Sponsors: Senators Litzow, Keiser, Becker, Rivers, Hobbs, Hill, Hatfield, Fain, Baumgartner, McAuliffe, Dammeier

This bill creates the school employees' benefits board (SEBB), within the state health care authority (HCA), to design and approve state-wide insurance benefit plans for school employees and to establish eligibility criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans. It would remove health benefits from collective bargaining at a district level and put the responsibility for statewide collective bargaining with the Governor or his designee.

This bill is virtually the same as SB 6442/HB 2724 which was introduced in the 2012 Legislative Session and received no floor action in the Senate, and no hearings in the House.

The stated intent of the bill to create savings through assumed efficiencies to assure equitable access to health care for all eligible employees and their dependents and to assure assumed cost-effectiveness through pooling, leveraged purchasing, and administrative simplification. One of the chief savings would come from an elimination of the broker and administrative fees currently paid in the private plans in place.

This bill was heard on February 24 before the Senate Ways & Means Committee. WASA testified as "Other" on the bill. It was felt that removing the bargaining of health benefits from districts would help alleviate the burden on districts of doing so. However, this bill as proposed is premature. It presupposes that a statewide menu of insurance choices with a K–12 risk pool would be less expensive than what is currently available. No one knows. Furthermore, after its implementation, costs to administer the plan statewide would be added to then establish premiums, an unknown effect on such costs.

In 2012, the legislature passed ESSB 5940 which among other things directed the HCA to do a study of the advantages and disadvantages of a consolidated health purchasing plan. They are to deliver their report on June 30, 2015. They are looking at various models. One is the effect of establishing a K–12 risk pool and its effect on rates. Another is to move the K–12 employees into the already existing Public Employment Benefit Board (PEBB) system. No one yet knows the pluses or minuses of such a change. Hence the earlier mandate to perform study. This proposed bill ignores that and moves ahead at a cost of \$14+ million dollars just to staff the HCA in order to set up the SEBB and begin to gather information and then insurance quotes. All K–12 employees would be in this SEBB model by January 1, 2017. As an aside, this bill only speaks to Health and Dental insurance offerings. Vision, VEBA, Long-term care, and life insurance offerings are left out at this point.

The bill was amended and voted out during Executive Session by the Ways & Means Committee on February 26.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

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 #	Abbreviated Title	Status	Sponsor
HB 1001	Education, funding first	H Appropriations	MacEwen
HB 1003	Schools, disaster recovery	S Early Learning/K–12	Hawkins
SHB 1008	Agency data practices audits	H Rules R	Smith
HB 1028	Court security	H Judiciary	Appleton
SHB 1031	College in the high school	H 2nd Reading	Johnson
HB 1036	Domestic partnerships & PERS	H 2nd Reading	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
SHB 1079	Joint utilization contracts	H 2nd Reading	Kochmar
HB 1081	College in the high school	H Education	Sullivan
SHB 1086	Public record commercial use	H Appropriations	Moeller
HB 1087	Traffic safety cameras	H 2nd Reading	Takko
HB 1101	Conservation districts	H Local Government	Wilcox
SHB 1105	Operating Sup Budget 2015	C 3 L 15	Hunter
HB 1106	Operating Budget 2015–2017	H Appropriations	Hunter
SHB 1109	OSPI certificated employees/TRS	H 2nd Reading	Reykdal
HB 1115	Capital Budget 2015–2017	H Cap Budget	Dunshee
HB 1116	Capital Sup Budget 2015	H Cap Budget	Dunshee
SHB 1120	School bus driver immunity	H Rules R	Wilcox
SHB 1121	Financial education partnership	H 2nd Reading	Parker
HB 1142	Parking fees/high school students	H Rules R	Wilcox
SHB 1149	Students/military families	H Rules R	Muri
SHB 1154	Affordable college grant program	H Appropriations	Bergquist

HB 1163	Paid vacation leave	H Labor	Tarleton
HB 1164	Student nutrition/grant program	H Rules R	Riccelli
HB 1166	State general obligation bonds, accts	H Cap Budget	Dunshee
HB 1168	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	H Rules R	Ormsby
HB 1189	City, district public records	H 2nd Reading	Hunt
HB 1230	Interest arbitration	H Rules R	Sells
SHB 1236	College bound scholarship	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self
HB 1239	Tax exemption accountability	H Finance	Pollet
SHB 1240	Student restraint, isolation	H Rules R	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
SHB 1273	Family & medical leave insurance	H Appropriations	Robinson
HB 1293	Paraeducators	H Education	Bergquist
SHB 1295	Breakfast after the bell	H Appropriations	Hudgins
HB 1297	Trans Sup Budget 2013–2015	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1299	Trans Budget 2015–2017	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1300	Transportation revenue	H Transportation	Clibborn
HB 1322	State retirement plans	H 2nd Reading	Reykdal
SHB 1331	School library & tech programs	H Rules R	Muri
HB 1335	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Condotta
SHB 1345	Professional learning	H Appropriations	Lytton
SHB 1349	Exempted info/public records	H Rules R	Hunt
SHB 1354	Employee anti-retaliation	H Rules R	Ryu
HB 1355	Minimum hourly wage increase	H Rules R	Farrell
HB 1356	Sick & safe employment leave	H Rules R	Jinkins
HB 1363	High school 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
SHB 1408	Family engagement coordinator	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self
HB 1413	Rec. marijuana businesses	H Commerce & Gaming	Moscoco
SHB 1420	School siting task force	H Rules R	Wilcox

HB 1433	Firearms in school zones	H Judiciary	Scott
SHB 1436	Homeless youth	H Appropriations	Kagi
HB 1444	Property tax relief	H Finance	Hunt
SHB 1445	Computer science/world languages	H Rules R	Reykdal
HB 1455	Prevailing wage/local governments	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
SHB 1491	Early care & education system	H Appropriations	Kagi
SHB 1492	Technology literacy	H Appropriations	Magendanz
SHB 1495	Student user privacy	H Rules R	Reykdal
HB 1497	School district's board	H Education	Pettigrew
SHB 1511	Tribal history, culture, etc.	H Rules R	Ortiz-Self
HB 1528	Epinephrine autoinjectors	H Health Care/Wellness	Robinson
HB 1538	Education employee COLAs	H Appropriations	Sells
SHB 1541	Educational opportunity gap	H Appropriations	Santos
HB 1542	PERS, TRS, SERS/earlier ages	H Appropriations	Hunt
SHB 1546	Dual credit education opportunities	H Appropriations	Reykdal
SHB 1562	Allergen information in public schools	H Rules R	Sullivan
HB 1568	Dropout prevention/farming	H Appropriations	Reykdal
SHB 1570	Educator retooling/program	H Rules R	Gregory
HB 1583	School construction taxes	H Finance	Young
SHB 1591	High school and beyond plans	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
HB 1592	Tuition waivers/state employees	H Appropriations	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 Rules R	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	State-wide student assessments	H Appropriations	Magendanz

SHB 1682	Homeless students	H Appropriations	Fey
SHB 1684	Public records, charges for	H Appropriations	Takko
HB 1691	Public records act, remedies	H State Government	Van De Wege
HB 1703	High school assessment system	H Education	Santos
SHB 1709	Impact fee payment	H Rules R	Springer
HB 1711	Public works contractors	H Rules R	Senn
SHB 1714	Achievement index rating system	H Rules R	Manweller
SHB 1737	Retired teachers/substitutes		Orcutt
HB 1743	High school equivalency tests	H Higher Education	Lytton
SHB 1745	Voting rights	H Rules R	Moscoso
HB 1750	Sudden cardiac arrest	H Education	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1760	Student skills	H Appropriations	Senn
HB 1770	Teacher certification	H Rules R	Bergquist
HB 1771	Prof. educator standards broad	H Rules R	Gregory
HB 1783	Dual language instruction	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
HB 1785	Academic achievement certificate	H Appropriations	Reykdal
SHB 1790	Nurse in school setting	H Rules R	Springer
HB 1795	Learning assistance program	H Education	Sullivan
HB 1804	Educator professional growth	H Rules R	Springer
HB 1805	“School day” definition	H Education	Magendanz
SHB 1813	Computer science education		MacEwen
HB 1834	Higher education facilities use	H Higher Education	Klippert
HB 1840	Conflict resolution/schools	H Education	Magendanz
HB 1854	Certificated instructional staff	H Education	Magendanz
SHB 1855	Local graduation requirements	H Rules R	Caldier
HB 1860	Large 1st-class school districts	H Education	Santos
HB 1862	School counselors, etc.	H Education	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1864	High school graduation	H Appropriations	Kilduff
HB 1865	Visual screening in schools	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 1867	Classroom teacher evaluation	H Education	Bergquist
HB 1899	Public education system	H Education	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1900	School counselors, etc.	H Appropriations	Ortiz-Self
HB 1902	Spirits retail license tax	H Finance	Harmsworth

SHB 1919	Special elections, timing of	H Rules R	Hunt
HB 1936	Certificated employee contracts	H Labor	Muri
HB 1937	School employee insurance	H Appropriations	Magendanz
HB 1941	School district bonds/voting	H Education	Gregerson
SHB 1947	Students/disability, special need	H Appropriations	Pollet
HB 1950	High school science assessment	H Education	Lytton
HB 1952	School district territory	H Education	Pike
HB 1960	WA community learning centers program	H Education	Sullivan
HB 1971	Charter schools	H Education	Fey
SHB 1974	School safety, security centers	H Appropriations	Stambaugh
HB 1981	Elementary science education program	H Education	Pollet
SHB 1982	Student completion	H Appropriations	Pollet
HB 1983	Teacher financial assistance	H Education	Pollet
HB 1991	Education employee organizatons	H Labor	Muri
HB 1992	Capital budget resources	H Appropriations	Stanford
HB 1996	Music education/elementary schools	H Education	Ortiz-Self
SHB 1999	Foster youth education outcomes	H Appropriations	Carlyle
HB 2003	Retired or disabled/coverage	H Appropriations	Ormsby
HB 2006	Limited-English parents	H Education	Moscoco
HB 2009	Immunization exempts/children	H Rules R	Robinson
HB 2019	Teacher and principal evaluation	H Education	Muri
HB 2023	School employee contracts	H Rules R	Parker
HB 2037	Violence, mental health/K-12	H Education	Klippert
SHB 2048	Large 1st-class school districts	H Rules R	Santos
HB 2072	Excess vacation day transfer	H Appropriations	Hunt
HB 2075	Certification of elections	H State Government	Bergquist
HB 2076	Racial disproportionality	H State Government	Sawyer
HB 2083	State retirement system employers	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2100	School-age childcare programs	H Rules R	Kagi
HB 2117	State board of education	H Education	Pollet
HB 2138	PERS and TRS plan 1 COLAs	H Appropriations	Reykdal
HB 2148	State auditor	H Gen Government & Info	Chandler
HB 2149	Safe school learning climate	H Appropriations	Senn

HB 2158	Special purpose tax district T.O.	H Finance	Carlyle
HB 2161	School construction	H Cap Budget	Pollet
HB 2165	Assessments and standards/schools	H Education	Scott
HB 2167	Statewide assessments	H Education	Scott
HB 2168	Fiscal matters T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2169	Fiscal matters T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2177	Education T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2178	Education T.O.	H Appropriations	Hunter
HB 2179	Revenue T.O.	H Finance	Hunter
HB 2180	Revenue T.O.	H Finance	Hunter
HB 2183	Sexual abuse prevention K–12	H Education	McCabe
HB 2184	High school science assessment	H Appropriations	Lytton
HJR 4204	Initiative measures	H State Government	Kagi
HJR 4206	Tax increase restrictions	H Finance	Orcutt
HJR 4209	Balanced budget	H Cap Budget	Scott
HJR 4210	School district bonds/voting	H Education	Gregerson
SB 5045	Union security provisions	S Rules 2	Angel
SSB 5063	Revenue growth for education	S Rules 2	Hill
SB 5064	Quarterly revenue forecasts	H Appropriations	Hill
SSB 5065	Homeless students	S Ways & Means	Froct
SB 5076	Operating Sup Budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5077	Operating Budget 2015–2017	S Ways & Means	Hill
SSB 5080	Dual credit education options	S Ways & Means	Dammeier
SSB 5081	State government expenditures	H State Government	Miloscia
SSB 5082	Career & tech education/elem. school	S Ways & Means	McAuliffe
ESSB 5083	Sudden cardiac arrest	H Education	McAuliffe
SB 5086	Dual credit education opportunities	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SSB 5093	Nuclear energy education program	S Ways & Means	Brown
SB 5095	State general obligation bonds, accts	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5096	Capital Sup Budget 2015	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5097	Capital Budget 2015–2017	S Ways & Means	Honeyford
SB 5102	Rural schools/urban services	S Govt Operations & Security	Padden
SB 5110	School siting outside UGAs	S Govt Operations & Security	Brown

SB 5120	School district dissolutions	S Rules 2G	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	H Education	Hobbs
2SSB 5179	Paraeducators		Hill
SB 5190	Public art and buildings	S Ways & Means	Benton
SSB 5202	Financial education partnership	S 2nd Reading	Mullet
SB 5211	Retiree return-to-work/PERS	S Rules 2G	Bailey
SB 5229	Technology literacy	S Ways & Means	Litzow
SSB 5252	School safety, security centers	S Ways & Means	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 2nd Reading	Mullet
SSB 5294	School library & technical programs	H Education	McAuliffe
SB 5303	Washington AIM program	S Ways & Means	Litzow
SB 5306	Sick & safe employment leave	S Commerce and Labor	Habib
SB 5312	Educator retooling/program	H Education	Litzow
SSB 5316	Identifiable student information	S 2nd Reading	Dammeier
SB 5327	High school certificates/graduation	S Early Learning/K–12	McCoy
SSB 5329	Public employee bargaining	S Rules 2	Braun
SB 5334	Basic education/local levies	S Early Learning/K–12	Mullet
SB 5336	Traffic safety cameras	S 2nd Reading	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	Trans Sup Budget 2013–2015	S Transportation	Hobbs
SB 5360	Trans 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 Govt Operations & Security	Dansel
SB 5391	Teacher certification degree programs	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow
SB 5392	Quality education council	S Rules 2	Litzow
SB 5393	Schools/exemplary performance	S Early Learning/K–12	Litzow

SB 5396	Children/guardians, family	S 2nd Read Consent Calendar	Roach
2SSB 5404	Homeless youth		O'Ban
SB 5415	Professional educator learning days	S Early Learning/K-12	McAuliffe
SB 5419	Student user privacy	S Rules 2	Litzow
SSB 5433	Tribal history, culture, etc.	S Rules 2	Litzow
SSB 5435	State deferred comp program	S Rules 2	Bailey
2SSB 5437	Breakfast after the bell		Litzow
SSB 5452	Early care & education system	S Ways & Means	Litzow
SB 5459	Family & medical leave insurance	S Commerce and Labor	Keiser
SB 5466	PEBB benefits eligibility	S Rules 2	Becker
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	Frocht
SB 5495	Educator professional growth	S Govt Operations & Security	Litzow
SB 5496	Teacher certification	S Rules 2G	Litzow
SB 5497	Professional educator standards board	S Rules 2	Litzow
SB 5500	Firearms at schools/officers	S Rules 2	Roach
SB 5506	Sexual health education/abuse, etc.	S Early Learning/K-12	McAuliffe
SSB 5517	Sexual harassment prevention	S Rules 2G	Kohl-Welles
SB 5520	High school assessment system	S Early Learning/K-12	Rolfes
SB 5526	Bullying, etc., in schools	S Rules 2	Liias
SB 5533	Electronic data, charges for	S Govt 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	Liias
SB 5548	School bus driver immunity	S Early Learning/K-12	Liias
SB 5559	Tuition waivers/state employees	S 2nd Reading	Billig
SB 5578	Housing trust fund projects	S Rules 2	Dammeier
SB 5602	Bargaining unit reps	S Rules 2	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 Ser./Mental Health	Darneille

SSB 5657	School day extension/homework	S Ways & Means	Mullet
SB 5667	Bill & budget fiscal impact	S Ways & Means	Hargrove
SB 5668	Voting rights	S Rules 2	Habib
SB 5675	Dual language instruction	S Early Learning/K-12	Roach
SSB 5676	High school equivalency tests	S Ways & Means	Roach
SSB 5679	Special education students	S Rules 2	McAuliffe
SB 5681	State lottery accounts	S Ways & Means	Hill
2SSB 5688	Student skills		Litzow
SB 5690	Learning assistance program	S Early Learning/K-12	Dammeier
SB 5699	Capital gains excise tax	S Ways & Means	Nelson
SSB 5715	Initiatives, fiscal impact	S 2nd Reading	Fain
SB 5718	Public education system	S Early Learning/K-12	Jayapal
SSB 5721	Expanded learning opportunities council	S Rules 2G	Billig
SB 5724	Safe routes to school program	S Transportation	Billig
SSB 5744	School workforce reductions	S Rules 2	Litzow
SB 5745	Truancy reform	S Rules 2	Hargrove
SSB 5748	Teacher and principal evaluation	S Rules 2	Litzow
SB 5749	Student growth data elements	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 5752	Racial disproportionality	S Ways & Means	Hasegawa
SB 5765	Nurse in school setting	S Early Learning/K-12	Jayapal
SB 5774	Prevailing wage surveys	S Rules 2	Braun
SSB 5775	Prevailing rate of wage	S Rules 2	Braun
SSB 5787	Limited-English parents	S Ways & Means	Jayapal
SB 5791	Charter schools	S Early Learning/K-12	Darneille
SSB 5803	3rd grade English assessment	S 2nd Reading	Dammeier
SB 5805	Conflict resolution/schools	S Rules 2	Rivers
SB 5807	Educator professional development	S Early Learning/K-12	Litzow
SB 5814	WA community learning center program	S Early Learning/K-12	Dammeier
SB 5825	High school science assessment	S Early Learning/K-12	Mullet
SB 5837	School management and performance	S Acct & Reform	Miloscia
SB 5850	Student restraint, isolation	S Early Learning/K-12	Rivers
2SSB 5851	College bound scholarship		Frocht
SB 5854	Employee org. collective bargaining	S Rules 2	Braun

SB 5856	College bound scholarship	S Ways & Means	Frocket
SB 5859	School construction	S Ways & Means	Pedersen
SB 5890	Education employee salaries	S Early Learning/K–12	Rolfes
SB 5905	Special education services	S Early Learning/K–12	McAuliffe
SSB 5907	School technology tax exempt	S Ways & Means	McAuliffe
2SSB 5908	Student restraint, isolation		McAuliffe
SSB 5915	Dynamic fiscal impact statements		Brown
SB 5922	Highly capable students	S Early Learning/K–12	Rolfes
SB 5927	School construction taxes	S Ways & Means	Sheldon
SB 5928	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Dammeier
SB 5930	Music education/elementary schools	S Early Learning/K–12	Chase
SB 5941	Adjuncts/substitute teachers	S Rules 2	Rivers
SSB 5942	National guard youth challenge	S Ways & Means	McAuliffe
SB 5944	State spending programs	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 5946	Students with disabilities	S Early Learning/K–12	Rivers
SB 5966	High school career & technical courses	S Early Learning/K–12	Rolfes
SB 5967	Eliminating board of education	S Early Learning/K–12	McCoy
SSB 5976	School employee insurance		Litzow
SB 5978	Presidential primary	S 2nd Reading	Roach
SSB 5979	Salary increases		Braun
SB 5980	Elected officials retirement	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 5981	State debt limitations	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 5982	Retirement age/state systems	S Ways & Means	Braun
SSB 5990	Trans projects/sales, use tax	S 2nd Reading	King
SB 5999	Caseload forecast council	S Ways & Means	Darneille
SB 6002	Pest management in schools	S Ag/Water/Rural Economic	Chase
SB 6005	Retirement/max compensation	S Ways & Means	Braun
SB 6014	Public records actions remedies	S Govt Operations & Security	Honeyford
SB 6017	PERS and TRS plan 1 COLAs	S Ways & Means	Liias
SB 6030	Assessments in public schools	S Early Learning/K–12	Chase
SB 6035	Public works assistance account	S Ways & Means	Rivers
SB 6040	Educational assessment system	S Early Learning/K–12	Chase
SB 6049	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hill

SB 6050	Fiscal matters T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 6057	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 6059	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hill
SB 6060	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Litzow
SB 6061	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Hargrove
SB 6063	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6064	Revenue T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6069	Education T.O.	S Ways & Means	Ranker
SB 6072	Transportation revenue T.O.	S Transportation	King
SB 6073	Trans funding, appropriations T.O.	S Transportation	King
SJM 8006	Sexual abuse/children, peers	S 2nd Read Consent Calendar	Kohl-Welles
SJR 8200	2/3 vote for tax increases	S Govt Operations & Security	Roach
SJR 8201	Initiative measures	S Ways & Means	Fain
SJR 8202	Income tax	S Ways & Means	Chase
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