

## Week 7 Addendum: Operating Budget Update



### About TWIO

*This Week in Olympia* (TWIO) is published by WASA in support of our members and members of our partners in WASBO, WSPA, and AEA.

TWIO is emailed each Friday during the Legislative Session and archived on WASA's website at <https://wasa-oly.org/WASA/TWIO>.



The [February 22 Special Edition of TWIO](#) provided a broad review of the Senate and House 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget proposals (and other budget proposals). Last Friday's TWIO ([February 25, Week 7](#)) provided a review of fiscal committee action on the Senate and House 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget proposals ([SB 5693](#) & [HB 1816](#)). This TWIO Week 7 Addendum examines additional budget action following Friday's newsletter distribution.

### Senate Operating Budget Action

In the [Week 7 edition of TWIO](#), we provided a review of the education-related amendments proposed on the Senate Floor; however, the Senate had not yet acted on the budget when TWIO was distributed. The full Senate moved the budget to the Floor on Friday afternoon.

In total, 45 amendments were proposed. Twenty-two of the amendments were adopted, with eighteen failing. Another five were withdrawn before being acted upon. Following below, the education-related amendments, as discussed on Friday, indicate whether they were accepted, rejected, or withdrawn:

- [Amendment 1213](#): This amendment would provide \$40,000 to OSPI to implement [SB 5858](#). The bill would establish a parents' bill of rights related to children's public education and would direct WSSDA to update a model policy and procedure regarding school board of directors meeting conduct, order of business, and quorum. SB 5858 was introduced in the first week of session and has had no movement. **AMENDMENT FAILED**
- [Amendment 1205](#): This amendment is the new approach to [Amendment 70](#), introduced, but withdrawn in the Ways & Means Committee. Amendment 1205 would add language to include "the school bus driving industry" to the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges' grant proviso to promote workforce development and provide program support in the trucking and trucking-related supply chain industries. There is no fiscal impact. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 1243](#): This amendment is essentially a technical amendment, with no policy change, that would shift the fiscal year split for a grant program for teaching certificates in computer science. There is no fiscal impact. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- [Amendment 1242](#): Similar to the previous technical amendment, Amendment 1242 would change the fiscal year split for the paraeducator training grants and allow up to four days of training in the paraeducator certificate program for the 2021–22 school year. There is no fiscal impact. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

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- **[Amendment 1245](#)**: This amendment would provide \$1.96 million to support 1.0 FTE at each ESD to provide regional computer science coordination and professional development support. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- **[Amendment 1244](#)**: This amendment would provide one-time funding (\$100,000) to FIRST Washington to study options and a possible location and/or facility to hold statewide STEM robotics competitions. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**

After all the amendments were dealt with, the newly amended SB 5693 was adopted by the full Senate, 29 to 19. All Democratic members supported the budget and nineteen Republicans voted “No” (one Republican member was absent). The bill was immediately transmitted to the House for its action.

### **House Operating Budget Action**

On Saturday, the House convened for a Floor Session as scheduled—and took action on the budget, as expected. When the House convened, however, the budget that was brought to the Floor was the Senate-adopted budget, SB 5693, not the House’s proposed budget, HB 1816. As we discussed previously, this was not a surprise. With the 2022 Session set to adjourn in less than two weeks, the House’s adoption of its version of the budget on top of the Senate bill (via a **[Striking Amendment](#)**) will streamline the negotiations process and eliminate a step or two as the budget moves towards a final, compromise budget.

Just to note that this strategy is not unusual, in addition to this happening in previous years, there was similar action on the 2022 Supplemental Transportation Budget in the House just prior to the action on the 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget. Although the House Transportation proposal (**[HB 1786](#)**) had progressed to the House Rules Committee and was awaiting adoption by the full House, they instead acted on the Senate proposal (**[SB 5689](#)**), which had passed the full Senate on Friday night with a vote of 41-8. Again, the House overlaid its language on top of the Senate bill, via a **[Striking Amendment](#)**, along with additional Floor Amendments. SB 5689 passed the full House 91-3 and was sent back to the Senate for final negotiations.

Prior to the House’s final adoption of SB 5693—with the House’s proposal in place—additional amendments were introduced on the Floor. A total of 34 amendments were acted upon (in addition to the Striking Amendment). Following debate and voting, sixteen amendments were adopted and eleven were defeated. Five amendments were withdrawn, along with two amendments that were rejected after being ruled “out of scope.” Amendments that impact K–12 education follow below, along with the action on the amendment:

- **[Amendment 1160](#)** and **[Amendment 1174](#)**: Although these amendments were not specifically education-related, there would be potential indirect impacts. The bi-cameral Transportation Revenue and Spending Package (**[SB 5974/HB 2119](#)**—concerning resources; and **[SB 5975/HB 2118](#)**—concerning appropriations) include a \$2.0 billion transfer from the state’s General Fund to the help fund new transportation projects. This does not immediately impact education; however, this sets a very troubling precedent by shifting General Fund revenues to transportation (budget proposals also include General Fund transfers to capital projects in the Capital Budget). Bottom line: every dollar that is taken out of the General Fund is one more dollar that we cannot access, further enhancing the already fierce competition of resources.

**[Amendment 1160](#)** would have eliminated the \$2.0 billion transfer to the Transportation Budget and, instead, shifted the funding to the Motor Vehicle Fund within the General Fund. **AMENDMENT FAILED**

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**Amendment 1174** would have eliminated the \$2.0 billion shift to the Transportation Budget, but would have replaced the funding with a \$625.0 million appropriation from the Motor Vehicle Fund along with an intent to continue this appropriation in the future, adjusted by inflation. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**

- **Amendment 1211**: This amendment would provide \$48.0 million to the State Broadband Office to implement a program to provide eligible households with assistance to defray the cost of broadband services. Additionally, \$2.0 million is appropriated to the State Broadband Office to implement a program to expand internet access for eligible households by offsetting the costs of purchasing and installing equipment to access a low-orbit satellite broadband network. While not a specific impact to K–12 education, expanding affordable access to broadband service will positively impact students. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- **Amendment 1178**: This amendment would provide funding (\$80,000) for OSPI to: research best practices for responding to sexual assault survivors in schools; conduct listening sessions across the state; update model protocols; develop a plan for training for school administrators and counselors; and review current legal reporting requirements concerning suspected sexual assault. OSPI is required to submit a report to the Legislature by December 1, 2022. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- **Amendment 1190**: This amendment would have provided an enrichment grant under Local Effort Assistance of \$1,550 per pupil, increased for inflation, to public charter schools. Necessary funding (\$6.5 million) would have been provided from the Opportunity Pathways Account, rather than the General Fund. **AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**
- **Amendment 1163**: This amendment provides funding (\$15,000) for the State Board of Education to implement **HB 1162**. The bill establishes an additional graduation pathway option that enables students to meet graduation pathway requirements by completing a performance exhibition meeting specified criteria. HB 1162 died, failing to pass out of the Senate Early Learning & K–12 Education Committee by the opposite house policy committee cut-off. Through this amendment, HB 1162 has been revived as a bill “Necessary to Implement the Budget.” There is a difference of opinion about this bill between the House and Senate, so it is unclear if this bill will survive or not; the amendment includes a “null and void” clause, so the bill must be adopted to maintain the funding proposed. **AMENDMENT ADOPTED**
- **Amendment 1171**: This amendment would have provided a \$1,587 stipend to all classroom teachers who annually post online their syllabi and instructional materials selected and used for each quarter or semester of instruction. (This is based on **HB 2056**, which died in the House Education Committee. The bill would have required school districts to post teachers’ syllabi and instructional materials. This amendment shifts the focus to individual teachers and provides an incentive to act.) To fund this program, funding in the budget to implement **HB 1736**, which funds a student loan program, would have been eliminated. **AMENDMENT FAILED**
- **Amendment 1210**: This amendment is an effort to broadly reduce the overall size of the budget (eliminating over \$1.6 billion in proposed expenditures). Among the proposed reductions is the complete elimination of enrollment stabilization funding. **AMENDMENT FAILED**
- **Amendment 1192**: An **amendment** adopted by the House Appropriations Committee provided \$7.0 million to support: small districts, with less than 800 students, located in urban and suburban areas; public charter schools; and state-tribal compact schools. Amendment 1192 was an effort to revise this proposal by including ALL small school districts under 800 students (not just “in urban and suburban areas”) and limiting the funding to districts

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that received less general fund revenues per pupil than the statewide general fund revenues per pupil in the 2020–21 school year. It appeared there was support to clarify the earlier amendment’s language and also extend the funding to small districts in rural areas; however, there was a backlash regarding the further provision of additional funding for charter schools.

**AMENDMENT WITHDRAWN**

- **Amendment 1165:** Similar to an [amendment](#) that was defeated in the House Appropriations Committee, this amendment eliminates language in the budget stating it is the intent of the Legislature to transfer management of the Naselle Youth Camp School to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop into an outdoor school after its closure. Additionally, it eliminates language requiring the Department of Children, Youth, and Families—Juvenile Rehabilitation to assist DNR and OSPI on the use of the Naselle Youth Camp School for an outdoor school.

**AMENDMENT ADOPTED**

After final debate on the budget, the full House adopted the House-amended SB 5693 with a vote of 56-37. All Democratic members supported the budget (with one excused); all Republican members voted “No” on the budget (with four members excused).

As budget-writers and legislative leadership head behind-closed-door to hammer out details for a final, compromise 2022 Supplemental Operating Budget, you still have an opportunity to impact the process—although the window is quickly closing.

There are multiple K–12 priorities you can address. In an effort to “speak with one voice” an easy option is to follow OSPI’s lead. They have notified budget-writers of their [preferred K–12 investments](#) and what methodology legislators should use in providing those investments. In large part, we concur with OSPI’s thinking.

Two of the biggest concerns remain Enrollment Stabilization and Staff Allocations:

- **Enrollment Stabilization**—The Senate’s budget calculates Enrollment Stabilization by comparing a district’s ACTUAL 2019–20 enrollment with a district’s ACTUAL enrollment in 2021–22. After the difference is calculated, the Senate proposal divides the difference in half. Even when only providing stabilization for 50 percent of a district’s enrollment loss, the vast majority of districts still receive much more support than with the House’s proposal. Under the House budget, Enrollment Stabilization funding is calculated by determining the difference between a district’s BUDGETED 2021–22 enrollment and a district’s ACTUAL 2021–22 enrollment. Using this methodology, if a district was “too conservative” in budgeting, there is the potential the district would receive little—or no—stabilization funding. See the [OSPI spreadsheet](#) comparing the estimated Senate and House enrollment stabilization funding by school district.
- **Staffing Allocations**—Both budgets provide for enhanced staffing allocations for Physical, Social, and Emotional support staff. The Senate provides enhanced allocations and funding in Fiscal Year 2023, while the House phases in those enhancements over three years. The Senate’s quicker implementation would better equip our schools to address the immediate, physical, mental, and emotional health needs of our students. It should be noted, however, that some administrators are supporting the phase-in approach because if allocations are ramped up too quickly, it may prove difficult to fill all of the new positions. Regardless of your preferred approach (that is, immediate increases vs. phased-in increases), it is still important to remind legislators that it is vital they provide staffing enhancements as a part of the Prototypical School Funding Model.

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It's never too early to engage in the process—but with the session ending in ten days, budget-writers may quickly lock into decisions. At that point it will be too late to have an impact. We encourage you—sooner than later—to drop a quick e-mail or phone call into your local legislators, budget-writers, and leadership. Every little bit counts.



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