

Washington Recreation & Park Association End of Week 1 Report – Sunday January 19th, 2025

The Washington State Legislature convened for the 105-day regular legislative session on Monday, January 13. This is the start of a new biennium, where the legislature is tasked with passing a balanced budget, and will also debate policies on important topics like housing and homelessness, education, human services, behavioral health, the environment, and public safety. The 2025 legislative session will be particularly challenging, as the state is facing a projected shortfall of \$12 – 16 billion dollars over the four-year outlook.

The week started with opening ceremonies on Monday, as dozens of new legislators were sworn in and welcomed to Olympia, and legislators officially elected leadership positions and approved chamber rules. On Tuesday, Governor Inslee gave his outgoing [State of the State address](#), speaking to achievements made over the last 12 years and encouraging legislators to continue progress on important issues ahead. On Wednesday, all nine statewide officials were sworn into office, including Governor Ferguson, who gave his [inaugural address](#) to a joint session of the legislature. Governor Ferguson laid out many of his priorities including public safety, housing affordability, and free lunches for all students. Governor Ferguson even called out specific pieces of legislation on these topics and others – that are prime sponsored by both democrats and republican legislators alike – that he hopes to sign into law later this session, indicating his willingness to work in a bipartisan fashion.

As he laid out his priorities, it was apparent that the new Governor will be taking a different approach than his predecessor. In his inaugural speech, Governor Ferguson said “I’m not here to defend government. I’m here to reform it” – a line that gained applause from republicans. Governor Ferguson has also been clear that he favors agency efficiencies and even budget cuts before exploring new taxes, and has said publicly that new taxes should be a last resort (this Seattle Times [article](#) also covers some of these highlights). Many expect that Governor Ferguson will be very active and engaged in the legislative process throughout the session and beyond.

In addition to these opening ceremonies, legislators got right down to business in week 1, introducing hundreds of bills, scheduling work sessions in committee, and holding public hearings on legislation. As the session progresses, there are key cutoffs that bills need to meet to remain under consideration by the legislature (special exceptions apply). The first legislative deadline is February 21st, when bills must pass out of their respective policy committees to remain alive. See below for important cutoff dates for the 2025 session.

Feb. 21 - Day 40	Policy cutoff in house of origin - last day to pass bills out of the policy committees in the chamber they were introduced
Feb. 28 - Day 47	Fiscal cutoff in house of origin - last day to pass bills out of fiscal committees in the chamber they were introduced
Mar. 12 - Day 59	House of origin cutoff - last day to pass bills out of the chamber they were introduced (House bills out of House, Senate bills out of Senate). 5pm deadline
Apr. 2 - Day 80	Opposite house policy cutoff – all bills from the other chamber must pass out of the policy committees

Apr. 8 - Day 86	Opposite house fiscal cutoff – all bills from other chamber must pass out of the fiscal committees
Apr. 16 - Day 94	Last day to pass opposite chamber bills. 5pm deadline
Apr. 27 - Day 105	Last day of the regular session - Sine Die!

Please see below for a list of bills I am tracking for you, as well as a list of when those bills are scheduled for official action.

Upcoming Events

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1182](#) - Public Hearing - Granting interest arbitration to certain parks and recreation commission employees. (Remote Testimony Available).

Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1057](#) - Exec Session - Promoting economic development by increasing support for local communities to access federal funds.

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1024](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the leasing authority of the state parks and recreation commission at St. Edward State Park.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1024 (SB 5300)	St. Edward state park	Concerning the leasing authority of the state parks and recreation commission at St. Edward State Park.	H Env & Energy	Kloba		
HB 1057	Access to federal funds	Promoting economic development by increasing support for local communities to access federal funds.	H Tech, Econ Dev	Barnard		
HB 1182	Parks & rec./interest arb.	Granting interest arbitration to certain parks and recreation commission employees.	H Labor & Workpl	Paul		

HB 1197 (SB 5166)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 1198 (SB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 1216 (SB 5195)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger	Other	
HB 1227 (SB 5161)	Transportation budget	Making transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey		
HB 1288	Climate funding/outdoor rec.	Concerning environmental leadership through outdoor recreation and climate adaptation investments.	H Env & Energy	Dye		
SSB 5098	Weapons in certain areas	Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.	S Ways & Means	Valdez		
SB 5161 (HB 1227)	Transportation budget	Making transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Liias		
SB 5166 (HB 1197)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 5167 (HB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 5195 (HB 1216)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau	Other	

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

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