

# Washington Recreation & Park Association

## End of Week 1 Report – Sunday January 18, 2026

The Washington State Legislature convened for the 60-day regular legislative session on Monday, January 12. This is the second year of the 25-27 legislative biennium, where the legislature will pass supplemental budgets that are generally minor adjustments to the biennial budgets passed in the previous long session. The legislature will also debate various policy topics, with proposals expected on revenue, affordable housing, artificial intelligence, energy production and transmission, transportation preservation and maintenance, and many others. Also, bills that did not pass in the 2025 session will be automatically reinstated and alive again in 2026. The legislature will face similar challenges that they faced last year as the state continues to grapple with fiscal challenges, facing a projected state budget shortfall of roughly \$2 billion that will need to be addressed in the supplemental budget.

The week started with opening ceremonies on Monday, as the nine legislators who won special elections last fall were sworn in, and legislators approved chamber rules. On Tuesday, Governor Ferguson gave his [State of the State address](#), and highlighted recent challenges the state has faced, but also expressed optimism about the state's future. The Governor addressed the state's historic flooding in December, noting the hardship to thousands of Washingtonians, while thanking first responders for all their great work. The Governor also called for bold action during the 60 day session, encouraging infrastructure investment, continuing progress on affordable housing, and calling for a fairer tax code expressing his support for a "millionaires' tax", which is a tax on income of more than one million a year. The Governor spoke to external challenges facing the state but also called on legislators to work in a bi-partisan fashion noting that half of the bi-partisan proposals from last year became law. To watch the Governor's full address, [click here](#).

In addition to these opening ceremonies, legislators got right down to business in week one, 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 coming up quickly on February 4, when bills must pass out of their respective policy committees to remain alive. See below for important cutoff dates for the 2026 session.

### 2026 Session Cutoff Dates

- **February 4, 2026:** House of Origin Policy Cutoff
- **February 9, 2026:** House of Origin Fiscal Cutoff
- **February 17, 2026:** House of Origin Floor Cutoff
- **February 25, 2026:** Opposite House Policy Cutoff
- **March 2, 2026:** Opposite House Fiscal Cutoff
- **March 6, 2026:** Opposite House Floor Cutoff
- **March 12, 2026:** Last Day of Session

Please see below for a list of bills that are being tracked for you, as well as a list of when those bills are scheduled for official action.

## Upcoming Events

### **Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 1/19 @ 1:30pm**

- [SB 6013](#) - Public Hearing - Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/20 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 2442](#) - Public Hearing - Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 2278](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning tourism promotion areas. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Consumer Protection & Business (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2128](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning alcohol service at facilities with sports, amusement, or recreational activities engaged in by patrons. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Transportation (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/21 @ 4:00pm**

- [HB 2374](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning electric-assisted bicycle and electric motorcycle regulation. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support)

### **Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/22 @ 8:00am**

- [HB 2272](#) - Exec Session - Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.

### **Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/22 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2100](#) - Public Hearing - Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians and establishing the Well Washington fund account. (Remote Testimony Available).

### **Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3 and Virtual JACB - 1/22 @ 1:30pm**

- [SB 6189](#) - Public Hearing - Changing the deadline for forming a public facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 6013](#) - Exec Session - Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.

#### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 1/22 @ 4:00pm**

- [SB 6113](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 6162](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning property tax reform. (Remote Testimony Available).

#### **Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 10:30am**

- [HB 2095](#) - Exec Session - Protecting vulnerable users of public ways.

#### **State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections (Senate) - SHR 2 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/23 @ 10:30am**

- [SB 6123](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the protection of voluntary supplied personal information of local government employees. (Remote Testimony Available).

#### **Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/23 @ 1:30pm**

- [HB 2258](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing cities and counties the ability to levy a household excise tax for the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of animal control and shelter systems. (Remote Testimony Available).

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Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
<a href="#">HB 2095</a>	Public way vulnerable users	Protecting vulnerable users of public ways.	H Civil R & Judi	Reed		
<a href="#">HB 2100</a> (SB 6093)	Payroll expense tax	Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians	H Finance	Scott		

		and establishing the Well Washington fund account.				
<a href="#">HB 2101</a>	Live presentations/sales tax	Exempting live presentations from retail sales and use tax.	H Finance	Dufault		
<a href="#">HB 2121</a>	Nonprofits, schools/taxes	Exempting nonprofits and schools from certain sales and use taxes on services.	H Finance	Walsh		
<a href="#">HB 2128</a>	Alcohol service/recreational	Concerning alcohol service at facilities with sports, amusement, or recreational activities engaged in by patrons.	H ConsPro&Bus	Steele		
<a href="#">HB 2130</a>	New 2025 taxes repeal	Repealing new taxes imposed by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5814 during the 2025 regular legislative session.	H Finance	Orcutt		
<a href="#">HB 2257</a> (SB 6113)	Tax administration	Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue.	H Finance	Berg		
<a href="#">HB 2258</a>	Animal control excise tax	Authorizing cities and counties the ability to levy a household excise tax for the operation, maintenance, and capital needs of animal control and shelter systems.	H Finance	Parshley		
<a href="#">HB 2272</a> (SB 6013)	Ski areas and winter sports	Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.	H Env & Energy	Hall		
<a href="#">HB 2278</a>	Tourism promotion areas	Concerning tourism promotion areas.	H Tech, Econ Dev	Barnard		
<a href="#">HB 2289</a> (SB 5998)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
<a href="#">HB 2295</a> (SB 6003)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
<a href="#">HB 2306</a> (SB 6005)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey		
<a href="#">HB 2374</a>	Electric motorcycle, bicycle	Concerning electric-assisted bicycle and electric motorcycle regulation.	H Transportation	Zahn	Support	

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<a href="#">HB 2442</a>	Local government fund use	Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.	H Finance	Berg		
<a href="#">HB 2502</a>	Local gov./sales & use tax	Improving local government funding by removing certain sales and use tax exemptions.	H Finance	Wylie		
<a href="#">HB 2530</a> (SB 6189)	Aquatics/sports PFD deadline	Changing the deadline for forming a public facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities.	H Local Govt	Doglio		
<a href="#">SB 5980</a>	Live presentations/sales tax	Exempting live presentations from retail sales and use tax.	S Ways & Means	Torres		
<a href="#">SB 5998</a> (HB 2289)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 6003</a> (HB 2295)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau		
<a href="#">SB 6005</a> (HB 2306)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Liias		
<a href="#">SB 6013</a> (HB 2272)	Ski areas and winter sports	Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.	S Loc Gov	Torres		
<a href="#">SB 6093</a> (HB 2100)	Payroll expense tax	Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the amount of payroll expenses above the minimum wage threshold of the additional medicare tax to fund services to benefit Washingtonians and establishing the Well Washington fund account.	S Ways & Means	Saldana		
<a href="#">SB 6110</a>	Electric bicycle, motorcycle	Addressing electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles.	S Transportation	Shewmake		
<a href="#">SB 6113</a> (HB 2257)	Tax administration	Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue.	S Ways & Means	Frame		
<a href="#">SB 6123</a>	Local gov. employees/PRA	Concerning the protection of voluntary supplied personal	S State Gov/Trib	Conway		

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		information of local government employees.				
<a href="#">SB 6162</a>	Property tax	Concerning property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Krishnadasan		
<a href="#">SB 6189</a> (HB 2530)	Aquatics/sports PFD deadline	Changing the deadline for forming a public facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities.	S Loc Gov	Bateman		