

Washington Recreation & Park Association

End of Week 7 Report – February 28, 2026

Less than two weeks remain in the 2026 Legislative Session and work continues on bills and budgets as lawmakers need to finalize their work before the regular session concludes on March 12th. Legislators spent this past week in committees, holding public hearings and voting on bills. Another key deadline passed on Wednesday, February 25th where bills needed to advance out of the opposite chamber’s policy committee. Once advanced, bills with a fiscal impact are sent to a fiscal committee, and bills without fiscal implications are sent to their respective Rules committee. Fiscal committees include Ways & Means, Appropriations, Transportation, Capital, and Finance.

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**

Looking ahead, Monday, March 2nd is the next important deadline where bills need to advance out of the opposite chamber’s fiscal committee to remain alive this session. Lawmakers will work long days and are working over the weekend to continue to advance bills prior to Monday’s cutoff.

Budgets

Within days of releasing budget proposals, the House and Senate have now held public hearings and passed their respective budgets out of committee, and most have already been approved on the floor by the full chamber. Once each chamber approves their own proposals, budget writers will then negotiate the differences between their budgets to produce agreed to final proposals before the end of session.

Below is the latest on budget releases, votes out of committee, and approval by the full chamber.

Budget	Release Date	Public Hearing	Vote out of Committee	Approved by full Chamber
Senate Operating	2/22	2/23	2/25	2/27
Senate Transportation	2/23	2/24	2/26	2/27
Senate Capital	2/23	2/24	2/26	2/27
House Operating	2/22	2/23	2/25	2/28
House Transportation	2/23	2/23	2/25	2/28
House Capital	2/23	2/24	2/26	TBD

All proposed budgets can be found [linked here](#).

Operating Budget

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

March 1, 2026

Page 1 of 8

When lawmakers adjourned in 2025, they approved a two-year \$77.9 billion Operating Budget. As a reminder, the operating budget pays for the day-to-day operations of state government, including K-12 schools, human services, higher education, prison system, public safety, and more.

1. The Senate operating budget proposal proposes to spend roughly \$79.3 billion that continues key investments in health care, education, and behavioral health while maintaining access to essential services. Click here for the [Senate Democrat press release](#) and budget highlights.
2. The House operating budget proposal proposes to spend \$79.9 billion in their supplemental budget that funds existing services like Apple Health (Medicaid), childcare, and housing while asking for a reduction in state agency costs. Click here for the [House Democrat press release](#) and budget highlights.

Transportation Budget

The Transportation Budget pays for both day-to-day operations of state transportation agencies, the construction and preservation of state highways and roads, and public transportation. Most of the revenue that supports the transportation budget comes from the state gas tax, and other transportation related taxes and fees.

1. The Senate proposes spending \$17 billion in their supplemental transportation budget, which increases investments in preservation and maintenance, strengthens the ferry system, improves traffic safety, increases State Patrol staffing levels and advances climate goals. Click here for the [Senate Democrat press release](#) and highlights after the senate passed their transportation budget off the senate floor on Friday.
2. The House proposes to spend \$16.5 billion in their proposed budget, and prioritizes preservation and maintenance, continues investments to strengthen the ferry system, improves system reliability and makes travel safer, and protects investments in climate programs. Click here for the [House Democrat press release](#) and budget highlights.

Capital Budget

The Capital Budget is the state's construction budget, and typically includes investments to state and local agencies for buildings and infrastructure projects, such as public schools and universities, parks, prisons, etc. When lawmakers adjourned in 2025, they approved a \$7.5 billion Capital Budget. In supplemental years, spending is significantly less.

1. The Senate proposes to spend \$723m in the supplemental Capital Budget. [Click here](#) for the Senate's Capital Budget overview and highlights.
2. The House proposes to spend \$910m in their supplemental Capital Budget. [Click here](#) for the House's Capital Budget overview and highlights.

Upcoming Events

Finance (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/2 @ 8:00am

- [ESSB 6113](#) - Exec Session - Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue. (Support)
- [ESSB 6162](#) - Exec Session - Concerning property tax reform.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/2 @ 10:30am

- [E2SSB 6026](#) - Exec Session - Concerning residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 3/2 @ 10:30am

- [ESHB 2442](#) - Exec Session - Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility. (Support/Monitoring)
- [E2SHB 2451](#) - Exec Session - Concerning local tax increment financing.
- [SB 6351](#) - Exec Session - Increasing fiscal resources for students and children by providing targeted sales tax exemptions for schools and certain before-and-after school care programs and arts and cultural classes.

Transportation (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 3/2 @ 1:00pm

- [ESSB 6110](#) - Exec Session - Addressing electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles. (Support)
- [ESSB 6311](#) - Exec Session - Providing for continuous, safe, and accessible pedestrian passage during certain construction projects.

Transportation (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/2 @ 1:30pm

- [ESHB 2711](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning transportation resources. (Remote Testimony Available). (If measure is referred to committee.)

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1526	Snack bar liquor licenses	Modifying the snack bar liquor license.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Schmick		
ESHB 2095 (Inactive)	Public way vulnerable users	Protecting vulnerable users of public ways.	S Law & Justice	Reed		
HB 2100 (Inactive) (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	H Finance	Scott		

		Washingtonians and establishing the Well Washington fund account.				
HB 2101 (Inactive)	Live presentations/sales tax	Exempting live presentations from retail sales and use tax.	H Finance	Dufault		
HB 2121 (Inactive)	Nonprofits, schools/taxes	Exempting nonprofits and schools from certain sales and use taxes on services.	H Finance	Walsh		
HB 2128 (Inactive)	Alcohol service/recreational	Concerning alcohol service at facilities with sports, amusement, or recreational activities engaged in by patrons.	H ConsPro&Bus	Steele		
HB 2130 (Inactive)	New 2025 taxes repeal	Repealing new taxes imposed by Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5814 during the 2025 regular legislative session.	H Finance	Orcutt		
SHB 2224 (Inactive) (2SSB 6037)	Fire protection districts	Concerning fire protection districts.	H Rules R	Stuebe		
SHB 2257 (Inactive) (ESSB 6113)	Tax administration	Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue.	H Rules R	Berg	Support	
HB 2258 (Inactive)	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		
HB 2272 (SB 6013)	Ski areas and winter sports	Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.	S 2nd Reading	Hall		
HB 2278 (Inactive)	Tourism promotion areas	Concerning tourism promotion areas.	H Rules R	Barnard		
SHB 2289 (Inactive)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium	H Rules R	Ormsby		

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

March 1, 2026

Page 4 of 8

(ESSB 5998)		supplemental operating appropriations.				
SHB 2295 (SSB 6003)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H Rules R	Tharinger		
SHB 2306 (ESSB 6005)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	H Rules R	Fey		
SHB 2374	Electric motorcycle, bicycle	Concerning electric-assisted bicycle and electric motorcycle regulation.	S Transportation	Zahn	Support	
ESHB 2442 (SB 6294)	Local government fund use	Providing local governments tax resources and fund flexibility.	S Ways & Means	Berg	Support	Monitoring
E2SHB 2451	Local tax increment fin.	Concerning local tax increment financing.	S Ways & Means	Duerr		
HB 2480 (Inactive) (E2SSB 6026)	Residential dev./zones	Concerning residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones.	H Local Govt	Street		
SHB 2489 (Inactive)	Public space/local use laws	Establishing statewide standards for when local governments may enforce laws regulating the use of public space for life-sustaining activities.	H Rules R	Gregerson		
HB 2502 (Inactive)	Local gov./sales & use tax	Improving local government funding by removing certain sales and use tax exemptions.	H Finance	Wylie		
SHB 2530 (Inactive) (SSB 6189)	Aquatics/sports PFD deadline	Changing the deadline for forming a public facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities.	H Rules R	Doglio		
ESHB 2711 (Inactive)	Transportation resources	Concerning transportation resources.	H Passed 3rd	Fey		
HB 2724 (Inactive) (ESSB 6346)	Tax on millionaires	Establishing a tax on millionaires.	H Finance	Fitzgibbon		

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

March 1, 2026

Page 5 of 8

E2SSB 5098 (Inactive)	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.	H Civil R & Judi	Valdez		
SSB 5379 (Inactive)	Parks & rec./interest arb.	Granting interest arbitration to certain parks and recreation commission employees.	S Ways & Means	Stanford		
SB 5980 (Inactive)	Live presentations/sales tax	Exempting live presentations from retail sales and use tax.	S Ways & Means	Torres		
ESSB 5998 (SHB 2289)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Passed 3rd	Robinson		
SSB 6001 (Inactive) (SHB 2228)	Scissor stairs	Concerning scissor stair regulations in the state building code.	S Rules X	Bateman		
SSB 6003 (SHB 2295)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	S Passed 3rd	Trudeau		
ESSB 6005 (SHB 2306)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	H Passed 3rd	Lias		
SB 6013 (HB 2272)	Ski areas and winter sports	Updating terminology related to ski areas and winter sports activities.	H Rules R	Torres		
E2SSB 6026 (HB 2480)	Residential dev./zones	Concerning residential development in commercial and mixed-use zones.	H Approps	Alvarado		
2SSB 6037 (Inactive) (SHB 2224)	Fire protection districts	Concerning fire protection districts.	S Rules X	Cortes		
SB 6093 (Inactive) (HB 2100)	Payroll expense tax	Enacting an excise tax on large operating companies on the	S Ways & Means	Saldana		

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

March 1, 2026

Page 6 of 8

		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.				
ESSB 6110	Electric bicycle, motorcycle	Addressing electric-assisted bicycles and electric motorcycles.	H Transportation	Shewmake	Support	
ESSB 6113 (SHB 2257)	Tax administration	Concerning taxes administered by the department of revenue.	H Finance	Frame	Support	
SB 6123 (Inactive)	Local gov. employees/PRA	Concerning the protection of voluntary supplied personal information of local government employees.	S State Gov/Trib	Conway		
ESSB 6162 (HB 2621)	Property tax	Concerning property tax reform.	H Finance	Krishnadasan		
SSB 6189 (SHB 2530)	Aquatics/sports PFD deadline	Changing the deadline for forming a public facilities district for regional aquatics and sports facilities.	H 2nd Reading	Bateman		
ESSB 6311	Pedestrian passage	Providing for continuous, safe, and accessible pedestrian passage during certain construction projects.	H Transportation	Lias		
ESSB 6346 (HB 2724)	Tax on millionaires	Establishing a tax on millionaires.	H Exec Action	Pedersen		
SB 6351 (Inactive)	School sales tax exemptions	Increasing fiscal resources for students and children by providing targeted sales tax exemptions for schools and certain before-and-after school care programs and arts and cultural classes.	S Ways & Means	Cortes		

SB 6352 (Inactive)	Transportation resources	Concerning transportation resources.	S Transportation	Liias		
---------------------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------------------	---------------------	-------	--	--