

Washington Recreation & Park Association

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report End of Week 1 Report - January 13th, 2024

The Washington State Legislature kicked off its business for the 60 day session on Monday, January 8, which is the second year of the state's 23-25 biennium. Legislators got to work right away, as week one was filled with public hearings on bills, executive action (passing bills out of committee), and work sessions in committee. The House of Representatives even passed three bills out of the chamber shortly after opening ceremonies on the first day of session (a rare occurrence). It's important to note that the state operates on two year biennial cycles, and bills that did not pass in the first year (2023 session) are automatically reinstated and eligible in the second year (2024 session).

Monday began with opening ceremonies, and on the second day of session, Governor Inslee gave his State of the State address for the 11th and final time. The Governor highlighted his commitment to "run through the tape" as he finishes his last year in office as governor. In his final session, he committed to working with the legislature on fighting climate change, improving the state's behavioral health system, continued work on the state's homelessness and housing problems, and prioritizing funding for education. To read the full address, [click here](#). To watch his speech on TVW, [click here](#).

As previously mentioned, Democrats continue to drive the agenda on policy making and budget writing in Olympia, as they have the majorities in both the House and Senate. They are:

- Senate: 29 Democrats – 20 Republicans
- House: 58 Democrats – 40 Republicans
- Governor Inslee (D)

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

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 1/15 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5902](#) - Public Hearing - Reinvesting account revenue for the purpose of supporting the state park system. (Remote Testimony Available).

Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade (Senate) - SHR 2 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/16 @ 8:00am

- [SB 6080](#) - Public Hearing - Simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 1/16 @ 10:30am

- [SB 5778](#) - Exec Session - Protecting the rights of workers to refrain from attending meetings or listening to their employer's speech on political or religious matters.

Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/17 @ 8:00am

- [HB 2138](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting outdoor learning in state parks. (Remote Testimony Available).

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 1/18 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 1896](#) - Public Hearing - Simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account. (Remote Testimony Available).

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 1/18 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5770](#) - Public Hearing - Providing state and local property tax reform. (**Support/High**) (Remote Testimony Available).

Agriculture and Natural Resources (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2165](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on agency-managed public lands.

Innovation, Community & Economic Development, & Veterans (House) - HHR C and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 10:30am

- [HB 2257](#) - Public Hearing - Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program. (Remote Testimony Available).

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR D and Virtual JLOB - 1/19 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1940](#) - Exec Session - Protecting the rights of workers to refrain from attending meetings or listening to their employer's speech on political or religious matters.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1896 (SB 6080)	Tourism marketing funding	Simplifying the funding provisions of the	H Approps	Ryu		

		statewide tourism marketing account.				
HB 1940 (SB 5778)	Employer political speech	Protecting the rights of workers to refrain from attending meetings or listening to their employer's speech on political or religious matters.	H Labor & Workpl	Fosse		
HB 2051	Small off-road engines	Reducing emissions from small off-road engines.	H Env & Energy	Walen		Monitoring
HB 2089 (SB 5949)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
HB 2104 (SB 5950)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 2134 (SB 5947)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey		
HB 2138	Outdoor learning/state parks	Promoting outdoor learning in state parks.	H Innov, Comm &	Rule		
HB 2165 (SB 6043)	Recreational use fees	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on agency-managed public lands.	H Ag&Nr	Kloba		
HB 2257	Back country search & rescue	Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.	H Innov, Comm &	Goehner		
SB 5770	Property tax	Providing state and local property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen	Support	High
SB 5778 (HB 1940)	Employer political speech	Protecting the rights of workers to refrain from attending meetings or listening to their employer's speech on political or religious matters.	S Labor & Comm	Keiser		
SB 5902	State park system/accounts	Reinvesting account revenue for the purpose of supporting the state park system.	S Ways & Means	Van De Wege		

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SB 5947 (HB 2134)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Liias		
SB 5949 (HB 2089)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Mullet		
SB 5950 (HB 2104)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 6010	SEPA/trails and paths	Streamlining certain decisions pertaining to the development or extension of a trail or path from the state environmental policy act.	S Loc Gov, Land U	Shewmake	Support	
SB 6080 (HB 1896)	Tourism marketing funding	Simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account.	S Business, Fin S	Boehnke		