

Washington Recreation & Park Association

End of Week 7 Report – February 24, 2024

Less than two weeks remain in the 2024 Legislative Session and work continues on bills and budgets as lawmakers need to finalize their work before the regular session concludes on March 7th. Legislators spent this past week in committees, holding public hearings and voting on bills. Another key deadline passed on Wednesday, February 21st 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.

Looking ahead, Monday, February 26th 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 over the weekend to continue to advance bills prior to Monday’s cutoff.

Jan. 8 – Day 1	Session begins
Jan. 31 – Day 24	Policy cutoff in house of origin – last day to pass bills out of House policy committees and Senate policy committees in the chamber they were introduced
Feb. 5 – Day 29	Fiscal cutoff in house of origin – last day to pass bills out of fiscal committees in the chamber they were introduced
Feb. 13 – Day 37	House of origin cutoff – Last day to pass bills out of the chamber they were introduced in. house bills out of House, senate bills out of Senate (5pm deadline)
Feb. 21 – Day 45	Opposite house policy cutoff – all bills from the other chamber must pass out of house/senate policy committees
Feb. 26 - Day 50	Opposite house fiscal cutoff – all bills from other chamber must pass out of House/Senate fiscal committees
Mar. 1 - Day 54	Last day to pass opposite house bills (5pm deadline)
Mar. 7 – Day 60	Last day of Session - Sine Die!

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 some 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	Bill	Release Date	Public Hearing	Voted out of Committee	Approved by full Chamber
Senate Capital	SB 5949	2/15	2/15	2/19	2/22
Senate Operating	SB 5950	2/18	2/19	2/21	2/23
Senate Transportation	SB 5947	2/20	2/21	2/23	
House Capital	HB 2089	2/19	2/20	2/23	

House Operating	HB 2140	2/19	2/19	2/21	2/24
House Transportation	HB 2134	2/18	2/19	2/21	2/24

[All proposed budgets and summaries can be found here](#)

Operating

When lawmakers adjourned in 2023, they approved a two-year \$69.8 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 proposes to spend \$71.7 billion; click here for [Senate Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
2. The House proposes to spend \$71 billion; click here for [House Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
3. The House and Senate have allocated \$1.1 billion for maintenance level costs, which cover ongoing government expenses, including increased demand for public services, such as in public schools, correctional facilities, hospitals and negotiated pay raises.
4. Neither budget includes new revenue/taxes.

Recent Media Coverage:

1. [How Washington lawmakers want to spend another \\$2 billion with this year's state budget \(Washington State Standard\)](#)
2. [WA House and Senate lawmakers release \\$71 billion supplemental operating budget plans \(The News Tribune\)](#)
3. [Five takeaways from WA's proposed 2024 budget \(The Seattle Times\)](#)

Transportation

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. For the past several years, transportation leaders have continued to share growing concerns and frustrations with the state of transportation in Washington. Declining gas tax revenues, increased expenses, and cost overruns on large projects are setting up future conversations on how to address budget deficits. This year, budget leaders are both proposing roughly a \$14 billion transportation budget, which is an approximate \$800 million increase from the proposal they approved last year.

1. The Senate proposes to spend \$14.6 billion; click here for [Senate Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
2. The House proposes to spend \$14.3 billion; click here for [House Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
3. Both proposals invest in roadway preservation, fish barrier removal, and increased funding for Washington State Ferries.

Recent Media Coverage:

1. [Washington House, Senate release proposed transportation budgets \(KING TV\)](#)
2. [Proposed Washington transportation budget includes research funding, addresses homelessness \(KHQ TV\)](#)

Capital

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 2023, they approved a \$7.9 billion budget. In supplemental years, spending is significantly less.

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1. The Senate proposes to spend \$1.3 billion; click here for [Senate Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
2. The House proposes to spend \$1.3 billion; click here for [House Democrat press release](#) and highlights.
3. Both proposals called for increase funding for construction for K-12 schools and early learning, behavioral health facilities, and affordable housing. Significant investments are also made to support clean energy and the environment.

Recent Media Coverage:

1. [Senate lawmakers release their supplemental capital budget | Tri-City Herald](#)

Initiative Update

In a turn of events, on Friday February 16th, House and Senate [Democrat leaders announced](#) that they will hold public hearings on three initiatives: [Initiative 2113](#) on police pursuits, [Initiative 2111](#) on state income tax, and [Initiative 2081](#) on parental rights. These hearings will be held on February 27 and 28. They also said that they would not hold public hearings on the other three: [Initiative 2117](#) that would repeal the Climate Commitment Act, [Initiative 2109](#) that would repeal the capital gains tax, and [Initiative 2124](#) on the state’s long-term care program. Ignoring these three will send these initiatives directly to the ballot for voters to decide.

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/26 @ 10:00am

- [E2SHB 2354](#) - Exec Session - Creating an option for impacted taxing districts to provide a portion of their new revenue to support any tax increment area proposed within their jurisdiction and clarifying that a tax increment area must be dissolved when all bond obligations are paid.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1718 (Inactive) (SSB 5095)	Parks/health & wellness	Creating the "parks Rx" health and wellness pilot programs.	H HC/Wellness	Rule		
HB 1896 (Inactive) (SB 6080)	Tourism marketing funding	Simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account.	H Rules X	Ryu		
SHB 1940 (Inactive) (ESSB 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 Rules X	Fosse		
HB 2051 (Inactive)	Small off-road engines	Reducing emissions from small off-road engines.	H Env & Energy	Walen		Monitoring
SHB 2089 (ESSB 5949)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H CBDPS	Tharinger		

SHB 2104 (ESSB 5950)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
ESHB 2134 (SB 5947)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.	H Passed 3rd	Fey		
SHB 2138 (Inactive)	Outdoor learning/state parks	Promoting outdoor learning in state parks.	H Approps	Rule		
SHB 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.	S 2nd RdConsCal	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.	S Ways & Means	Goehner		
E2SHB 2354 (SB 6230)	Tax increment areas	Creating an option for impacted taxing districts to provide a portion of their new revenue to support any tax increment area proposed within their jurisdiction and clarifying that a tax increment area must be dissolved when all bond obligations are paid.	S Ways & Means	Street		
HB 2394 (Inactive)	SEPA/trails and paths	Streamlining certain decisions pertaining to the development or extension of a trail or path from the state environmental policy act.	H Local Govt	Duerr	Support	
HB 2445 (Inactive)	Leasing/state parks comm.	Concerning the leasing authority of the state parks and recreation commission.	H Rules X	Ryu		
HB 2450 (Inactive) (SB 6285)	Use of impact fees	Ensuring the timely and balanced use of impact fees.	H Local Govt	Hutchins	Oppose	
HB 2451 (Inactive) (SB 6284)	Impact fees	Increasing the consistency and	H Local Govt	Hutchins		

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		transparency of impact fees.				
HB 2480 (Inactive)	Recreational use liability	Addressing the liability of owners or others in possession of land and water areas for injuries to recreational users.	H Civil R & Judi	Klicker		
HJR 4210	Natural resources	Adding a new section to the Washington state Constitution regarding the conservation and protection of the state's natural resources.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff		
SSB 5095 (Inactive) (HB 1718)	Parks/health & wellness	Creating the "parks Rx" health and wellness pilot programs.	S Ways & Means	Nobles	Support	
2SSB 5444	Firearms/certain premises	Concerning firearm sensitive places.	H Rules R	Valdez		
SSB 5770 (Inactive)	Property tax	Providing state and local property tax reform.	S Rules X	Pedersen	Support	High
ESSB 5778 (SHB 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.	H Rules R	Keiser		
SSB 5902	State park system/accounts	Reinvesting account revenue for the purpose of supporting the state park system.	H Approps	Van De Wege		
SB 5947 (ESHB 2134)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Liias		
ESSB 5949 (SHB 2089)	Capital budget, supplemental	Concerning the capital budget.	H 2nd Reading	Mullet		
ESSB 5950 (SHB 2104)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	H Passed 3rd	Robinson		
SSB 6010 (Inactive)	SEPA/trails and paths	Streamlining certain decisions pertaining to the development or extension of a trail or path from the state environmental policy act.	H Local Govt	Shewmake	Support	
SB 6043 (Inactive) (SHB 2165)	Recreational use fees	Concerning the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for activities on	S Ag/Water/Natur	Salomon		

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		agency-managed public lands.				
SB 6080 (HB 1896)	Tourism marketing funding	Simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account.	H APPDP	Boehnke		
SB 6230 (Inactive) (E2SHB 2354)	Tax increment areas	Creating an option for impacted taxing districts to provide a portion of their new revenue to support any tax increment area proposed within their jurisdiction.	S Loc Gov, Land	Rivers		
SB 6284 (Inactive) (HB 2451)	Impact fees	Increasing the consistency and transparency of impact fees.	S Ways & Means	Braun		
SB 6285 (Inactive) (HB 2450)	Use of impact fees	Ensuring the timely and balanced use of impact fees.	S Ways & Means	Braun	Oppose	