



February 4, 2018

Friday, February 2 marked the first of many deadlines the Legislature has imposed to keep the flow of business moving forward to a March 8th finale. Tuesday, February 6 will be the next cutoff, when bills with a fiscal impact must have passed out of their respective budget committees. After Tuesday, action will turn to the floor with attention on passing bills out of the chamber in which they started by the February 14th, 5 p.m. deadline.

Bills we have been watching continued moving forward, although companion bills (those with a House and Senate version) likely saw one or the other dying in committee. When asked, committee chairs indicated this was to cut down on the need to hear the bills again in a short session.

WSPTA is paying attention to two IB/Cambridge program bills that moved out of their respective policy committees. These are SHB 2656 and SB 5917. A bill that would delink the requirement to pass a high school assessment to graduate has been pulled from the House Rules Committee and awaits floor action.

For education advocates, the Senate State Government, Tribal Affairs & Elections Committee passed out bills that would lower the requirement for passing bonds to 55 percent. SB 6246 and SJR 8213 passed with Senator Hans Zeiger, R-Puyallup, voting in support after his amendment for more transparency on the public notice about the projects to be covered in the bond.

The week was an active one for 2242 fix bills, with the House Appropriations Committee taking public testimony on HB 2721, HB 2717, and HB 2763, and the Senate Ways & Means Committee holding a public hearing on SSB 6362, the proposed vehicle for fixes in the Senate. Senator Christine Rolfes, chair of the Senate Budget Committee, indicated that she was hoping to move the bill with amendments by the Tuesday fiscal committee cutoff. House Chairman Timm Ormsby gave no indication of when he planned to move a bill, although the expectation is that the bill number will be HB 2721, which was introduced at the request of OSPI.

[Status of Legislative Priorities \(all bills may be accessed \[here\]\(#\)\)](#)

- Social and Emotional Learning:
 - The House Appropriations Committee heard public testimony in favor of HB 1377; while the Senate Ways & Means Committee received favorable comments on SB 6141.
- Ample Funding Basic Education
2242 fixes: See attached comparison chart.
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
 - Nothing new this week.
- Standards for Paraeducators
 - Senate and House fiscal committees will take public testimony on the paraeducator bills.

- Breakfast after the Bell
 - The Senate passed 2ESHB 1508 by 43-5. The bill was modified on the Senate floor, so will return to the House for concurrence with the Senate’s changes. Once that occurs, the bill will go to the Governor’s desk for signature; Gov. Inslee will have five days, not counting Sundays, to sign the bill once it arrives on his desk.

Look for bills and committee hearings that relate to WSPTA’s “Also Supported Positions” adopted at Legislative Assembly and WSPTA resolutions on the Bill Status Report.

WSPTA’s Week in Review

WSPTA members were very active again this week. Monday, Jan. 29 was Focus Day in Olympia, and five messages were rolled out over the week regarding specific topics through the Voter Voice system. The goal of this year’s effort was to ensure that every member could reach out to their legislators and engage in timely topics.

President Michelle Nims, Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain, CEO Kathryn Hobbs, and Legislative Consultant Marie Sullivan met with education and budget leadership in support of the Ample Funding provisions included in the one-pager. They also encouraged Senate education chair Lisa Wellman to hear HB 1618, a family and community engagement bill. The team also met with Lt. Governor Cyrus Habib on WSPTA’s position regarding post-secondary/higher education access and affordability.

With policy cutoff on Friday, members also actively testified, including: Nancy Chamberlain and Heidi Bennett on 2242 fixes in the House and Senate budget committees; Aileen Hammar on the dyslexia bill, SB 6162; Sebrena Burr speaking in favor of the highly capable bill, HB 2927; Sara Betnel speaking on school safety, HB 2543; and Sherry Rudolph testifying on the school construction allocation bill, SB 6531.

The Week Ahead (Schedule subject to change)

Interested in testifying? Please contact WSPTA Legislative Director Nancy Chamberlain (ptalegdir@wastatepta.org)

Monday, February 5

10 a.m., Senate Ways & Means, SHR 4

- SSB 6101 - Public Hearing - Establishing the evergreen free college act.
- SSB 6262 - Public Hearing - Establishing pilot programs to plan for the needs of certain college students experiencing homelessness.
- SSB 6388 - Public Hearing - Concerning paraeducators.
- SSB 6529 - Public Hearing - Establishing a modernizing pesticide notification work group.
- SSB 6360 - Public Hearing - Improving transition planning for students in special education who meet criteria for services from the developmental disabilities administration.
- SSB 6246 - Public Hearing - Providing for approval of school district bonds by fifty-five percent of the voters voting.
- SJR 8213 - Public Hearing - Amending the Constitution to allow at least fifty-five percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

1:30 p.m., House Appropriations, HHR A

- SHB 2386 - Public Hearing - Providing room and board for certain college bound scholarship students.
- SHB 2390 - Public Hearing - Regulating opioid medications at educational institutions.

- 3SHB 1488 - Exec Session - Expanding higher education opportunities for certain students.
- SHB 2748 - Exec Session - Modifying the learning assistance program.

Thursday, February 8

8 a.m., House Education, HHR A

- SSB 5766 - Public Hearing - Preventing harassment, intimidation, bullying, and discrimination in public schools.