



February 11, 2018

Another deadline passed last Tuesday, with bills required to move out of fiscal committees unless they had a direct impact on the budget. Failing to make it out of the House Appropriations Committee were any of the 2242 fix bills. Also failing were the two IB bills in the House (although SB 5917 is still alive in the Senate), and HB 2927 regarding Highly Capable students.

Wednesday, Feb. 14 is the next big cutoff for Washington lawmakers, who must pass bills from the chamber in which they started before the 5 p.m. deadline. Legislators worked late into the evening this past week, with the Senate working a half day on Saturday, to clear the calendar of less controversial bills.

The 60-day session is past the half-way point.

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

- Social and Emotional Learning:
 - HB 1377 has passed the House 64-34, and has been referred to Senate education.
- Ample Funding Basic Education
 - *2242 Fixes: See attached comparison chart.*
 - [2SSB 6362](#) barely made it out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee, with seven Democrats voting against it or without recommendation. According to several education negotiators, the bill was being worked this weekend to determine if they had enough votes to pass it off the floor by Wednesday. Regarding the cutoff, legislators said the bill didn't generate revenue so was subject to cutoffs like other bills. Also, enhanced investments like special education, LAP or LEA could be done in the budget without a bill.
- Closing the Opportunity Gap
 - Nothing new this week.
- Standards for Paraeducators
 - SB 6388 is on the Senate floor calendar and available for a vote.
- Breakfast after the Bell
 - The bill has been sent to the House and is awaiting concurrence. Bill sponsor Monica Stonier indicated she has signed the concurrence paperwork, so all that's left is for it to be scheduled for a vote. The bill is not subject to Wednesday's cutoff since it has already made it through the process of both the House and Senate.

Here's a quick look at bills that relate to WSPTA's "Also Supported Positions" adopted at Legislative Assembly and WSPTA resolutions:

- **Dual Credit, Equity & Support.** [SB 5917](#) is in Senate Rules.
- **Family & Community Engagement.** HB 1618 is scheduled for a public hearing Thursday at 1:30 p.m.
- **Teacher Shortage.** [4SHB 1827](#) passed out of the House 97-1. A floor amendment was adopted on Friday that would eliminate the restrictions on retired teachers to be rehired only if employed in an

instructional capacity and the 85 percent compensation requirement for substitute pay. The section that capped the retire/rehire options to July 1, 2021 was repealed.

- **Early Learning Levies.** As passed out of Senate Ways & Means, school districts would be authorized to run a .25/\$1000 AV levy for early learning, with up to 25 percent of the funds raised to be used for capital expenditures.
- **School Construction.** [SB 6531](#) passed out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee with a couple of changes: the roll-out for actual costs would take place over five biennia, and student space allocation would ramp up first for K-6, going from 90 sq. ft. to 140 sq. ft. Space allocation would change for grades 7-8 and 9-12 starting in 2020. The bill was pulled from Rules Saturday, so is eligible for a floor vote.
- **School Meals.** [HB 2610](#) would eliminate meal shaming, among other issues. The bill passed out of the House Appropriations committee and is in the Rules Committee.
- **Post-secondary/Higher Education Access & Affordability.** Several bills related to access and affordability are still active (see the bill tracking list) including [2SSB 6101](#), the Evergreen Free College Program. The bill would provide free college tuition and fees to eligible residents seeking a bachelor's degree, associate degree, or a certificate from state college or university. The program would be phased in, depending on when a student received a high school diploma and family income.
- **Dyslexia.** A modified bill passed Senate Ways & Means last week. The bill would start universal screening in the 2020-21 school year and would reconvene a dyslexia advisory committee to work on screening tools and identify best practices for conducting the screening. Also added was the opportunity to use LAP funds for screening if a district wanted.
- **Assessments.** [ESHB 1046](#) would delink the requirement to pass state assessments to graduate. Rep. Monica Stonier has a striker in the House that refines the bill slightly. She expects a vote this week.
- **Majority Plus.** Like the little engine that could, [SSB 6246](#) and [SJR 8213](#) passed out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The bills would seek a constitutional amendment to allow voters to approve school district bonds by a 55 percent majority.
- **Foster Youth.** Several bills are still alive that would address health benefits and education outcomes for foster youth, including [SSB 6223](#) and [HB 2832](#). Rep. Ruth Kagi, D-Shoreline, introduced a new bill last week, [HB 2985](#). The bill was introduced after the fiscal cutoff but relates directly to a funding source so it may be considered this late in the process. It has not been scheduled for a hearing yet.

WSPTA's Week in Review

WSPTA signed in Pro for [SSB 5766](#), an anti-bullying bill specifically for transgender students. The bill would require school districts to adopt policies protecting transgender students, establish a liaison at the district, and require training.

The Week Ahead (Schedule subject to change)

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

Thursday, February 15

1:30 PM, Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education - SHR 1

- ESHB 1618 - Public Hearing - Concerning family and community engagement coordinators.
- SHB 2685 - Public Hearing - Promoting pre-apprenticeship opportunities for high school students.

Friday, February 16

8 AM, House Finance, HHR A

- HB 2967 - Public Hearing - Assisting Washington families by improving the fairness of the state's tax system by enacting a capital gains tax and providing property tax relief.