

January 12, 2020

Legislature expected to act quickly in 60-day session

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The second year of the 66th Legislature will convene Monday, January 13, with Democrats holding the Governor's office and majorities in the House and Senate. The Senate will swear in one new member, Republican Ron Muzzall of Whidbey Island, who replaced former 10th district Senator Barbara Bailey. Bailey resigned effective October 1. In addition, the House will swear in several new members due to resignations and will elect a new Speaker of the House for the first time in 20 years. Speaker-Designee Laurie Jinkins of Tacoma was elected by her Democratic colleagues last July, but the full House will vote on her as speaker Monday. She will be the first woman and first open lesbian to serve as speaker of the House in Washington state. Jinkins was elected to the House in 2010.

This 60-day session will be fast-paced, and legislators look poised to take bill action this week, with the Senate calling a meeting of the Rules Committee on Monday. The legislature will convene Tuesday, January 14 for a joint session to hear Governor Jay Inslee's State of the State address. Inslee released his supplemental budgets December 18, 2019, and is expected to [talk about issues](#) he hopes the legislature will address this session, including affordable housing, homelessness, climate change and early learning.

Legislative committees have scheduled a packed week of work sessions and public hearings, starting Monday with the Governor's budget proposals and continuing throughout the week with policy issues that run the spectrum. Because this is the second year of the biennium, all bills introduced in 2019 but not enacted are eligible to be put in play in 2020. In addition, legislators who want to get a jump on the short session can "pre-file" a bill; by Friday nearly 450 bills had been pre-filed (219 in the House and 214 in the Senate). Keep in mind that policy committees typically will have 12 two-hour meetings to hear and act on all the bills from last session they want to consider and any new bills before February 7, the first cutoff.

What to expect this session

Even-year sessions are scheduled for 60 days, in contrast to odd-year sessions, which run 105 days and whose purpose is to enact two-year operating, capital and transportation budgets. The second, shorter session is typically to make budget adjustments not estimated or planned for in the previous year, or to address emergent issues. Governor Inslee's supplemental budgets did not propose new revenue. A summary of the highlights can be found [here](#). The Governor's proposed operating budget bills are [HB 2325/SB 6168](#), and the capital budget bill is [HB 2324](#). (A Senate version has not been pre-filed yet.)

Committee chairs for most policy and budget committees are unchanged from the 2019 session. Leadership in the Senate and the House, except for the Speaker, remains the same. Legislative rosters can be found [here](#). Committee information, including members and staff, can be found [here](#). To find your legislative district, click [here](#) and type in the relevant information.

2020 is an election year, so while there may be some interest in looking at new revenue or modifying the state’s revenue system, it is unlikely that lawmakers will take on anything too controversial. In public pre-session meetings, Democratic legislators have indicated they don’t know if they have the votes to bring forward a new revenue option, like a capital gains tax.

In addition, with the passage last November of I-976, informally dubbed “\$30 car tabs,” the legislature is likely to struggle with a significant deficit in its revenue for the transportation budget. While the initiative is on hold for now, Governor Inslee has asked the state transportation department to only spend funds on projects that have started. Legislators may feel some pressure to shift operating budget dollars to the transportation budget to support areas like transit, which can’t be supported through gas taxes.

The session is scheduled to end March 12. Over the next three months bills will face a series of deadlines for consideration, with the calendar compressing significantly in mid-February. A “cutoff calendar” will be available soon.

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

Washington State PTA adopts a [two-year platform](#). Issues adopted for the 2019 session carry forward into 2020. Delegates at the 2018 Legislative Assembly adopted five issues as the highest priority issues, and other adopted positions are listed as “Also Supported.” The Advocacy Committee has further refined the 2020 agenda to a handful of “actionable” issues, including the following (linked to informational one-page briefing sheets when available):

Policy

- [Preventing Gun Violence](#)
- [Screening for Highly Capable Students](#)
- [Protecting students from immigration issues](#) (Resolution 18.25)

Budget

- [Paraeducator funding, \\$40 million](#)
- [Dyslexia funding](#) (Resolution 18.32)
- [LEA funding](#)
- [Student safety and well-being](#), and support for a behavioral health specialist at each Educational Service District (ESD)
- [Capital budget: seismic retrofits](#) \$25 million

Look for bills and committee hearings that relate to the above-listed issues, Top 5, and WSPTA’s “Also Supported Positions” in the Week Ahead and Bill Tracking List.

The Week Ahead *(Schedule subject to change, all bills can be founded through this [link](#))*

Monday, January 13

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/13 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2325 - Public Hearing - Making 2019-2021 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Tuesday, January 14

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 1/14 @ 8:00am

- HB 2324 - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/14 @ 3:30pm

- HB 1164 - Public Hearing - Concerning dual credit programs.
- HB 1459 - Public Hearing - Establishing a running start summer school pilot program.
- HB 1191 - Public Hearing - Concerning school notifications. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 1/14 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6168 - Public Hearing - Making 2019-2021 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (If measure is referred to committee.)
- SB 6167 - Public Hearing - Making expenditures from the budget stabilization account to alleviate the issue of homelessness. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Wednesday, January 15

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 1/15 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5834 - Public Hearing - Concerning the immigration status of students.
- SB 6101 - Public Hearing - Concerning statewide implementation of early screening for dyslexia. (If measure is referred to committee.)
- SB 6191 - Public Hearing - Assessing the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences in middle and high school students to inform decision making and improve services.

Thursday, January 16

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/16 @ 8:00am

- HB 2184 - Public Hearing - Requiring comprehensive sexual health education with an affirmative consent curriculum in all public schools by the 2022-23 school year in accordance with the recommendations of the sexual health education work group.

Higher Education & Workforce Development (Senate) - SHR 2, JACB - 1/16 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6141 - Public Hearing - Expanding access to higher education. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Friday, January 17

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 1/17 @ 8:00am

- SB 6067 - Public Hearing - Concerning educator certification assessments. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/17 @ 10:00am

- HB 1671 - Public Hearing - Disposing of confiscated firearms.

Olympia [Capitol Campus Map](#)

HHR refers to hearing rooms in the John L. O'Brien Building

SHR refers to hearing rooms in the John A. Cherberg Building