

February 9, 2020

Friday cutoff first of many deadlines to March 12 session end

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Friday, February 7 was the deadline for policy bills to pass out of their respective policy committees. This first deadline usually catches most of the bills not destined to be awarded with enactment into law. The next deadline is Tuesday, February 11, when bills with a fiscal impact to the state must pass the various budget committees (Appropriations, Capital Budget, and Finance in the House; Ways & Means in the Senate). That's also usually a big day for bills to end up on the cutting room floor.

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

Policy

- [Preventing Gun Violence](#). Many bills have been introduced related to guns. Here are some of the ones that track most closely with our platform:
 - HB 2240/SB 6077 is Governor/Attorney General request legislation to restrict high capacity magazines to 10 rounds. The bills are in respective Rules committees.
 - HB 2467 would create a centralized single point of contact background check system for firearms transfers. This bill is waiting in House Appropriations.
 - HB 1010, which would give the Washington State Patrol the same authority as other law enforcement agencies to destroy confiscated weapons, passed the House and is scheduled for a public hearing on Wednesday, February 12 at 9 AM.
 - SB 5434, banning weapons in daycares has not been scheduled for a vote on the Senate floor.
 - Other bills we are tracking include concealed pistol training (HB 1315, SB 6294); creating an Office of Firearm Violence (SB 6288); and prohibiting certain individuals from having guns (HB 2623).
- [Screening for Highly Capable Students](#).
 - No word yet on SB 5354, the universal screening bill from the 2019 session.
 - SB 6282 was amended in the Senate education committee and passed to Rules.
- Protecting students from immigration issues (Resolution 18.25)
 - SB 5834 would protect student information so it couldn't be used for immigration purposes and would require school districts to adopt model policies. The bill is in Senate Rules.

Budget

- [Paraeducator funding, \\$26 million](#). Advocates are seeking funding for four days in the 2020-21 school year, at a total cost of \$26 million. Funding was provided in the budget for two days, so the additional request would be for about \$14 million.

- Dyslexia funding (Resolution 18.32). Dyslexia bills are moving, and we have discussed this proviso with budget leaders.
- [LEA funding](#). Unfortunately, most of the levy and LEA bills died in the Senate education committee. While some levy and LEA bills remain in the House Appropriations Committee, they haven't been scheduled for a public hearing and are unlikely to move by Tuesday, February 11.
- [Student safety and well-being](#) and support for a behavioral health specialist at each Educational Service District (ESD). The Governor's proposed supplemental operating budget included funding to support one behavioral health specialist per ESD. No word on if the budget writers will include.
- [Capital budget: seismic retrofits](#) \$25 million OSPI request. The Governor's proposed supplemental capital budget included \$10 million in support of seismic work. With a debt capacity of \$70 million in the supplemental capital budget, the amount is likely to stay at \$10 million, not the \$25 million requested by OSPI last fall.

Other bills of interest:

- HB 2661 and SB 6253, comprehensive early learning bills, are still under consideration.
- SB 5389, a bill to authorize telehealth in school districts, has a public hearing February 13 at 8 a.m.
- SB 6505 would require school districts to cover the cost of books, fees and tuition for College in the High School, and exam fees for AP, IB and Cambridge dual credit tests. It also would direct community colleges to not charge fees or for books to Running Start students. The bill passed out of the Senate education committee on February 7, with commitments from the sponsor that funding would be provided to implement the bill.
- SB 6101/HB 2290, updating dates for dyslexia screening implementation, are still moving.
- HB 2660, which would require districts with 62.5% of "identified students" to provide meals at no cost to all students through the federal Community Eligibility Provision, passed out of House Education and was sent to House Appropriations.
- SB 6117 would increase the special education multiplier for students who are in general education classrooms 80% or more of their time.
- Two vaping restriction bills remain: SB 6254 and SB 6489.

Bills that are dead at policy cutoff

- HB 2631 would have created a work group to create a framework on family engagement. The bill may become a budget proviso.
- HB 2241/SB 6076 would have put limits on assault weapons and large capacity magazines.
- SB 6615 would have increased staffing ratios to support student safety and well-being (see below).

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 Previous Week

- Advocacy Director Sherry Rudolph testified in support of [SB 6615](#), increasing staffing ratios in the prototypical school funding formula, and adding days for professional development.

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

Monday, February 10

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

- SSB 5607 - Exec Session - Concerning dual language learning in early learning and K-12 education. (Monitoring)
- SSB 5908 - Exec Session - Providing training for equity and cultural competency in the public-school system.
- SSB 6117 - Exec Session - Concerning appropriations for special education programs.
- SSB 6141 - Public Hearing - Expanding access to higher education.
- SB 6189 - Exec Session - Clarifying eligibility for school employees' benefits board coverage.
- SSB 6511 - Public Hearing - Increasing equitable educational outcomes for foster care and homeless children and youth from prekindergarten to postsecondary education.
- SSB 6518 - Public Hearing - Reducing prenatal exposure and harm to children by limiting environmental exposure to certain pesticides.
- SSB 6521 - Public Hearing - Creating an innovative learning pilot program.
- SSB 6561 - Public Hearing - Creating the undocumented student support loan program

Appropriations (House) – HHR A, JLOB – 2/10 @ 1:00 pm

- Schedule to be announced

Tuesday, February 11

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/11 @ 10:00am

- SSB 5908 - Exec Session - Providing training for equity and cultural competency in the public school system.
- SSB 6141 - Exec Session - Expanding access to higher education.
- SSB 6511 - Exec Session - Increasing equitable educational outcomes for foster care and homeless children and youth from prekindergarten to postsecondary education.

- SSB 6518 - Exec Session - Reducing prenatal exposure and harm to children by limiting environmental exposure to certain pesticides.
- SSB 6521 - Exec Session - Creating an innovative learning pilot program.
- SSB 6561 - Exec Session - Creating the undocumented student support loan program.

Appropriations (House) – HHR A, JLOB – 2/10 @ 9:00 am

- Schedule to be announced

Wednesday, February 12

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/12 @ 9:00am

- SHB 1010 - Public Hearing - Concerning the disposition of forfeited firearms by the Washington state patrol.

Thursday, February 13

Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/13 @ 8:00am

- HB 2844 - Public Hearing - Promoting a safe learning environment for students with seizure disorders.
- 2ESSB 5389 - Public Hearing - Establishing a telehealth training and treatment program to assist youth.

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