

February 16, 2020

## Lawmakers expect positive revenues February 19

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Wednesday, February 19 is the next revenue forecast. Budget writers will meet to hear the most recent revenue projections for the 2019-21 and 2021-23 budget years. At this time, lawmakers are expecting a positive difference for the 2019-21 biennium, which could mean additional funding for new policy objectives. Senator Christine Rolfes and Representative Timm Ormsby will use the next few days to adjust their proposed supplemental budgets, which are expected to be released the following week.

This past week was a flurry of activity, with the fiscal cutoff on February 11, and floor action starting in earnest on February 12. Legislators worked most evenings and the Senate worked a full day on February 14. The House returned at noon on Sunday and worked more than 12 hours straight. The Senate and House both worked Monday February 17. Committee work on bills that passed out of the chamber in which they started begins again on February 20, with the policy cutoff scheduled for Friday, February 28.

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

### Policy

- [Preventing Gun Violence.](#)
  - SB 5434, banning weapons in daycares, passed the Senate February 13.
  - Time is starting to run out for HB 2240, the high capacity magazine bill. Weighing in as Pro to as many legislators as possible is encouraged.
  - Other bills we are tracking include concealed pistol training (HB 1315, SB 6294, still in Rules); creating an Office of Firearm Violence (SB 6288, on the Senate floor calendar); and prohibiting certain individuals from having guns (HB 2623, on the House floor calendar).
- [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 passed the Senate 29-17.

## 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. WSPTA joined a group of other advocates in a letter to all 147 legislators in support of the 4 days of training.
- Dyslexia funding (Resolution 18.32). SB 6101 passed the Senate and is in House Education. The bill does not include funding but updates the schedule for screening.
- [LEA funding](#) All bills that would have modified the \$1,550 cap on LEA have died. With property values increasing, LEA is also expected to decline in the current budget.
- [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. A proposed substitute capital budget to SB 6248 has a public hearing February 20, but the proposed substitute hasn't been released yet.

### ***Other bills of interest still moving:***

- SB 5389, a bill to authorize telehealth in school districts, had a public hearing last week.
- SB 6505 is Superintendent Chris Reykdal's signature bill this session, designed to improve access to dual credit programs (Running Start, College in the High School, and exam fees for AP/IB and Cambridge). A proposed substitute that eliminates the unfunded mandates from the original bill has been circulated. The requirements would start with the 2022-23 school year.
- HB 2660 would require districts with 62.5% of "identified students" to provide meals at no cost to all students through the federal Community Eligibility Provision. The bill passed the House February 17.
- SB 6117 would increase the special education multiplier for students who are in general education classrooms 80% or more of their time. It is likely this is the only K-12 education funding for 2020.

### ***Bills that are dead at fiscal cutoff***

- HB 2237 would have changed the local effort assistance limit to \$2,500 per student.
- HB 2581 would have removed the 13.5% special education enrollment limit.
- HB 2661 and SB 6253 would have created comprehensive early learning programs.

- HB 2719 would have addressed the use of K-3 class size funding for student supports.
- HB 2788 would have extended local effort assistance to charter schools.
- HB 2791 would have eliminated the reduction in state basic education funding that occurs in counties with federal and state forestlands.
- HB 2897 would have increased staffing enrichment ratios based on recommendations from the School Staffing Enrichment Work Group.
- SB 6254 would have enhanced regulation of vapor products.

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 found through this [link](#))*

*Thursday, February 20*

**Education (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am**

- ESSB 5395 - Public Hearing - Concerning comprehensive sexual health education.
- SSB 6191 - Public Hearing - Assessing the prevalence of adverse childhood experiences in middle and high school students to inform decision making and improve services.

**Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/20 @ 10:00am**

- SHB 1010 - Exec Session - Concerning the disposition of forfeited firearms by the Washington state patrol.

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/20 @ 3:30pm**

- SB 6248 - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

**Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/21 @ 8:00am**

- ESHB 2551 - Public Hearing - Permitting students to wear traditional tribal regalia and objects of cultural significance at graduation ceremonies and related events.
- SHB 2589 - Public Hearing - Requiring contact information for suicide prevention and crisis intervention organizations on student and staff identification cards.
- SHB 2711 - Public Hearing - Increasing equitable educational outcomes for foster care and homeless children and youth from prekindergarten to postsecondary education.

*Friday, February 21*

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/21 @ 11:00am**

- SB 6248 - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

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