

February 7, 2022

## Half-way there: legislature winnows bills

Prepared by Marie Sullivan, WSPTA Legislative Consultant, [legconsultant@wastatepta.org](mailto:legconsultant@wastatepta.org)

February 3 marked the first deadline for bills to remain under consideration this session. Bills that cleared this hurdle and were sent to a budget committee have until the end of the day February 7 to pass out of those committees, so expect another winnowing before lawmakers turn their attention this week to floor action. Other bills in the Rules committee must move before the next deadline, February 15. As a reminder, House bills need to pass the House and Senate bills need to pass the Senate by 5:00 pm.

Here's a list of the bills we've been tracking that failed to pass out of the policy committee by the cutoff:

- HB 1536 would have required ESDs to establish regional apprenticeship programs in two or more industries of professions.
- HB 1883 would have established the Lifeline for Independent Living program for youth and young adults who have experienced or are at risk of entering into public systems of care.
- HB 1900 would have directed OSPI to update and publicly post model student handbook language to include information about discrimination, sexual harassment, and anti-harassment, intimidation and bullying, and complaint procedures; and for school districts to include the model student handbook language in any student, parent, employee, and volunteer handbook.
- HB 2040 would have streamlined the licensing processes for certain behavioral health professionals.
- HB 2090 would have required school districts to grant credits to students participating in certain activities related to tribal-recognized activities, education, and leadership programs.
- HB 2054 would have required school buses to have video recording devices on all buses.
- HB 2056 would have required teachers to post all syllabus, curriculum, required books and reading, and other materials on the district website.
- SB 5630 would have expanded the statutory program of basic education to including the basic education program of early learning.
- SB 5734 would have required the State Board of Education to adopt rules, starting with the class of 2026, that the statewide minimum graduation requirements include one credit of PE and one credit of health.
- SB 5735 would have allowed school districts to provide up to 20% of the instructional hours per week using asynchronous instructional hours.
- SB 5820 would have abolished the position of separately elected Superintendent of Public Instruction and created a Department of Education as a cabinet-level position under the Governor. The corresponding constitutional amendment is SJR 8212.
- SB 5902 would have added items to a High School and Beyond Plan and would have modified requirements for English Language Arts, social studies, math, and science. (OSPI request)
- SB 5922 would have adjusted the McCleary fix adopted in 2017, including increasing the percentage limit for special education funding; changing the levy and LEA assessed value per

pupil amounts; extending LEA to charter schools; and increased school staffing ratios for school counselors, social workers, nurses, and psychiatrists.

### *What we're watching this week*

The legislature continues to hear and advance bills to stabilize enrollment declines experienced by school districts this school year and to increase school staffing for school counselors, nurses, psychiatrists, and social workers.

In the Senate, [SSB 5563](#) (enrollment) had a hearing last week. It is scheduled for executive action Monday, February 7, in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Based on what happened to [HB 1590](#), and the substitute heard in House Appropriations on Saturday, there likely will be an amendment to remove the enrollment stabilization part of the bill and reduce it to only supporting an additional year of stabilizing school levies and local effort assistance. Lawmakers have said their intention is to address enrollment stabilization in the 2022 supplemental budget.

Also up for executive action on Monday in Senate Ways & Means is [SSB 5595](#), the bill that increases staffing ratios for what legislators are calling “social, emotional and physical health” staff. The companion House bill, [2SHB 1664](#), was scaled back in the House Appropriations Committee: for the 2022-23 school year, school nursing ratios would increase; with ratio increases phased in for school counselors, nurses, psychiatrists, and social workers in the 2023-24 and 2024-25 school years.

Taking a step forward to address the underfunding of student transportation, [SHB 1808](#) and [SB 5581](#) would reimburse districts for additional costs associated with transporting students with disabilities, students falling under the McKinney-Vento federal law, and students in the foster care system. SHB 1808 passed the House and has been referred to the Senate education committee; SB 5581 is scheduled for a vote Monday in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The bill continues to raise some concerns regarding reporting requirements and an automatic trigger that would require State Auditor Office review, which would give the state auditor the authority to determine whether or not trips for these students are “necessary or reasonable.”

Last week I reported on [SHB 1760](#), a dual credit bill designed to subsidize the cost of credits for College in the High School courses and address fees and costs associated with the Running Start program for low-income students. Unfortunately, a striking amendment in House Appropriations on February 5 removed the CHS subsidies and made the bill purely a Running Start vehicle. A similar bill, [SSB 5719](#), is likely to also be scaled back this session.

### *Simple majority for bonds bills advance*

[HB 1226](#) and its companion constitutional amendment [HJR 4200](#) passed out of the House Education Committee Thursday, February 3. The longer than usual debate in committee spelled the demise of about a half dozen bills as time ran out. The simple majority bills passed out of committee by a vote of 7-6 for HB 1226 and 8-5 for HJR 4200. The bills have been scheduled for a public hearing and executive action in the House Capital Budget Committee Monday, February 7 at 8:00 am.

## **Advocacy in Action**

- Monday, January 31, was a big day for testimony on Washington State PTA’s legislative priorities, spanning topics of enrollment stabilization, increasing school staffing, and funding

school seismic safety upgrades. Listen here as WSPTA Parent Advocates spoke in favor of these bills:

- Natalya Yudkovsky on [SB 5563](#), stabilizing funding due to enrollment decline ([listen here](#));
- Heidi Bennett on [SSB 5595](#), increasing staffing ratios for school counselors, nurses, psychiatrists, and social workers ([listen here](#)); and
- DaleAnn Baker on [SB 5933](#), creating a grant program to fund school seismic safety retrofits and upgrades ([listen here](#)).
- Speaking in favor of the bill to phase in funding to support additional school nurses, counselors, psychiatrists, and social workers, WSPTA Advocacy Committee member Mike Uehara-Bingen urged legislators to pass [SHB 1664](#). Listen to Mike's testimony [here](#).
- After waiting four hours (thank goodness committees are virtual this year!), Advocacy Director Lizzy Sebring [testified in favor](#) of [HB 1590](#), the enrollment stabilization bill.
- Seattle PTSA President Samantha Fogg and former Seattle PTSA President Manuela Slye also testified in favor of HB 1590. Listen [here](#) to Samantha and [here](#) to Manuela.

## The Week Ahead

*(Schedule subject to change)*

### Monday, February 7

#### Capital Budget (House) - Virtual - 2/7 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1226](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning school district elections. (Remote testimony.)
- [HB 1226](#) - Exec Session - Concerning school district elections.
- [HJR 4200](#) - Public Hearing - Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds. (Remote testimony.)
- [HJR 4200](#) - Exec Session - Amending the Constitution to allow a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.

#### Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 2/7 @ 10:00am

- [HB 1590](#) - Exec Session - Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [HB 2078](#) - Exec Session - Establishing the outdoor school for all program.

#### Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/7 @ 10:00am

- [SSB 5252](#) - Exec Session - Concerning school district consultation with local tribes.
- [SB 5563](#) - Exec Session - Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- [SB 5581](#) - Exec Session - Addressing pupil transportation allocations.
- [SSB 5595](#) - Exec Session - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools.
- [SSB 5720](#) - Exec Session - Providing student financial literacy education.
- [SSB 5722](#) - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings.
- [SSB 5785](#) - Exec Session - Concerning transitional food assistance.
- [SSB 5789](#) - Exec Session - Creating the Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program.

- [SB 5790](#) - Exec Session - Strengthening critical community support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- [SSB 5842](#) - Exec Session - Concerning state laws that address climate change.
- [SSB 5884](#) - Exec Session - Establishing behavioral health support specialists.
- [SSB 5892](#) - Exec Session - Establishing pilot projects for utilizing high school student nursing assistant-certified programs to address the nursing workforce shortage and promote nursing careers in rural hospitals.

### ***Tuesday, February 8***

#### **Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual - 2/8 @ 8:30am**

- [SHB 1735](#) - Public Hearing - Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers. (Remote testimony.)

### ***Wednesday, February 9***

#### **State Government & Elections (Senate) - Virtual - 2/9 @ 8:30am**

- [EHB 1453](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning voters' pamphlets. (Remote testimony.)