

February 21, 2022

It's "budget release" week!

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Buoyed by another positive revenue forecast on February 16, lawmakers began releasing their budgets last week. It started last Thursday with the Senate 2022 supplemental capital budget, continued on Sunday with the Senate 2022 supplemental transportation budget, and culminated with releases of 2022 supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets today (Monday, February 21).

2022 supplemental Operating Budget comparison – High-level summary

- [Senate Operating Budget Highlights](#)
- [House Operating Budget Highlights](#)

Topic	House	Senate
Enrollment Stabilization	\$314.7 million	\$345 million
School Staffing Enrichment	\$107.9 million	\$172 million
Transportation (HS has \$39.6 million for 2023-24 SY)	\$63,000	
Inflation Rebasing (increase to 5.5% IPD) 2022-23 SY	\$236.5 million	
Additional Substitute Days	\$40.4 million	
Career Connect Washington Grants Expansion		\$4 million
Outdoor School	\$20 million	\$10 million
Community Eligibility/Student Meals	\$21.7 million	
ECEAP Program Enhancements	\$14.1 million	\$17 million
Transitional Kindergarten		\$13 million
Plan 1 Retiree Benefit Increase (SB 5676) PERS 1, TRS 1		\$18 million
Commercial Driver's License Financial Assistance		\$5 million
Transfer from Op Budget to School Seismic Safety Grant Program		\$400 million

2022 supplemental Capital Budget comparison

- [Senate Capital Budget Highlights](#)
- [House Capital Budget Highlights](#)

Topic	House	Senate
SCAP Funding Authority Reduced by \$195 Million	\$537.8 million	
Seismic Safety	\$76.5 million	\$115.0 million
Early Learning Facility Grants	\$61.5 million	\$25.2 million
Small District Modernization Grants	\$5.019 million	\$2.5 million

Bills that didn't make it

The Legislature is continuing to winnow bills as we enter the final three weeks of session. Here's the bill that failed to meet the 5:00 PM cutoff on February 15:

- [HB 1802](#) would have added certain membership requirements for any statutorily created or mandated task force, work group, advisory committee, or other entity that is tasked with examining policies and issues directly related to people with disabilities.

What we're watching this week

- [SHB 1590](#) is scheduled for a public hearing in Senate Ways & Means February 22. The bill was stripped of the enrollment stabilization aspects, which are being handled in the budget; it still includes stabilizing enrichment levies and LEA for calendar years 2023 and 2024.
- [2SHB 1664](#) is also scheduled for a public hearing on February 22 in the Senate budget committee. As reported last week, the Senate ratios would begin phasing in all four categories of staffing in the 2022-23 school year.
- Making transportation enhancements for certain categories of students, [HB 1808](#) passed the House last month and was referred to the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee. It will not receive a hearing. Rather, [SSB 5581](#) looks to be the vehicle; it is in the House Appropriations Committee but hasn't been scheduled for a vote at this time.
- [E2SHB 1162](#) would create another pathway to graduation, called the performance exhibition. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate education committee Monday, February 21 at 1:30 PM.
- [ESHB 1699](#) dubbed the retire/rehire bill, was scheduled for executive action in the Senate Ways & Means Committee for February 22 but was removed from the list. We are asking why.
- [E2SHB 1153](#) directs OSPI to implement a Language Access Technical Assistance program, subject to state funding, and requires school districts, starting in the 2022-23 school year, to collect data on language access and language access services and implement language access programs to meet stated requirements. The bill had a public hearing last week in the Senate education

committee. It was amended in committee to start with the 2023-24 school year and to exclude school districts with fewer than 1,000 students and less than 10% ELL students.

- [HB 1973](#) would require all school districts to record school board meetings where action is taken, and public comments are offered. During the public hearing, a request from a school district superintendent was made to make this voluntary, as is the practice in city and council public sessions, or to at least make it voluntary for any district not already recording or live-streaming or posting their board meetings. The bill hasn't been scheduled for a vote yet.
- [ESSB 5878](#) would make changes to arts instruction in grades K-12, starting in the 2023-24 school year. Doing a deeper dive into the bill, it would require districts to only use certificated arts educators or an employee of the district with an arts endorsement, which could be an issue in smaller districts with shortages in core subjects. However, a more challenging aspect for elementary schools is prohibiting the arts course from being incorporated into existing courses and requiring it to occur within the school day, with arts instruction time equal to instruction time devoted to other core subject areas. The bill had a public hearing in House Education on February 18 and is scheduled for a vote on February 22 or 23.
- [SSB 5933](#) passed the Senate 49-0 and has been referred to the House Capital Budget Committee. The bill would establish a school seismic safety grant program for school districts and state tribal compact schools for remediation of seismic or tsunami hazards in qualifying buildings. It is scheduled for a public hearing on Friday, February 25.
- [HB 1611](#) would require universal screening for students to participate in the Highly Capable program; the bill had a strong public hearing last week but has been scheduled for a vote February 23.
- Scheduled for a Monday vote is [SHB 1759](#) which would require safe storage of firearms and medications. The bill was heard in the Senate education committee last week.
- Speaking of gun violence, we'll be watching to see how the House handles [ESSB 5078](#) (high capacity magazines), which passed out of the Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee last Friday but hasn't posted a vote count yet; and [ESHB 1705](#), untraceable or "ghost" guns, which has a public hearing in the Senate Law & Justice Committee on Monday, February 21.
- [E2SHB 1723](#) is Rep. Mia Gregerson's bill to increase digital equity. The bill has a public hearing on February 23, and is scheduled for a vote on February 24, in Senate Environment, Energy & Technology.

Advocacy in Action

- Advocacy Committee member Melissa Stone was scheduled to speak in favor of SB 5078, high capacity magazines, but the session ran out of time.
- Past WSPTA President Michelle Nims spoke in favor of SHB 1759, a bill that would promote sharing information about secure storage of firearms and medications. Listen to Michelle's testimony [here](#).
- Parent Rene Price shared with the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee her support for HB 1611, universal screening of students for highly capable programs. Listen [here](#). Joining her on the panel was WSPTA Advocacy Committee member Austina deBonte. Listen to Austina [here](#).

The Week Ahead

(Schedule subject to change)

Monday, February 21

Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 9:30am

- [ESHB 1630](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing restrictions on the possession of weapons in certain locations. (Remote testimony.)
- [ESHB 1705](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning ghost guns. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)
- [ESHB 2037](#) - Public Hearing - Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers. (Remote testimony.) (Monitoring)

College & Workforce Development (House) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [2SSB 5789](#) - Exec Session - Creating the Washington career and college pathways innovation challenge program. (Support/Monitoring)

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [E2SHB 1153](#) - Exec Session - Addressing language access in public schools. (Support/Medium)
- [E2SHB 1162](#) - Public Hearing - Creating new graduation credit and pathway options. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Medium)
- [SHB 1617](#) - Exec Session - Aligning state and school holidays.
- [SHB 1759](#) - Exec Session - Requiring school districts and other public education entities to make information from the department of health about substance use trends, overdose symptoms and response, and the secure storage of prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications, and firearms and ammunition, available through their websites and other communication resources. (Support/High)
- [HB 1834](#) - Exec Session - Concerning student excused absences for mental health reasons. (Support/Monitoring)
- [SHB 1867](#) - Exec Session - Concerning dual credit program data. (Support/Monitoring)
- [EHB 1942](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the provision of the paraeducator fundamental course of study. (Remote testimony.) (Monitoring)

Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [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. (Support/Monitoring)

State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- [ESB 5264](#) - Exec Session - Declaring January as Chinese American history month and encouraging public schools to commemorate the month. (REVISED FOR ENGROSSED: Recognizing contributions of Americans of Chinese descent.) (Support/Monitoring)

Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- [HB 1816](#) - Public Hearing - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/21 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5651](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.
- [SB 5693](#) - Public Hearing - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Tuesday, February 22

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5181](#) - Exec Session - Providing school districts serving low-income communities with flexibility in financing their facilities.
- [SSB 5252](#) - Exec Session - Concerning school district consultation with local tribes.
- [SSB 5376](#) - Exec Session - Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds. (Support/Monitoring)
- [SSB 5497](#) - Exec Session - Extending voting authority to student members on the state board of education. (Support/Monitoring)
- [2SSB 5720](#) - Exec Session - Providing student financial literacy education. (Support/Monitoring)
- [SSB 5762](#) - Public Hearing - Creating the purple star award. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)
- [ESSB 5878](#) - Exec Session - Clarifying visual and performing arts instruction.

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5722](#) - Exec Session - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings. (Support/Monitoring)
- [E2SSB 5842](#) - Exec Session - Concerning state laws that address climate change. (Monitoring)

Housing, Human Services & Veterans (House) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5785](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning transitional food assistance. (Remote testimony.)
- [SSB 5790](#) - Public Hearing - Strengthening critical community support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. (Remote testimony.)

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 1781](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the proposed substitute bill).

Higher Education & Workforce Development (Senate) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- [E2SHB 1659](#) - Public Hearing - Making higher education more affordable and accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)
- [EHB 1687](#) - Public Hearing - Enhancing the college bound scholarship program by increasing opportunities for students to attend community and technical colleges. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)
- [E2SHB 1736](#) - Exec Session - Establishing a state student loan program. (Support/Monitoring)
- [2SHB 1835](#) - Exec Session - Creating outreach and completion initiatives to increase postsecondary enrollment.

Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (Senate) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- [SHB 2068](#) - Exec Session - Creating the imagination library of Washington program. (Support/Monitoring)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/22 @ 4:00pm

- [SHB 1590](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Remote testimony.) (Support/High)
- [2SHB 1664](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. (Remote testimony.) (Support/High)
- [ESHB 1699](#) - Exec Session - Permitting individuals retired from the public employees retirement system, the teachers retirement system, and the school employees retirement system additional opportunities to work for a school district for up to 1,040 hours per school year while in receipt of pension benefits until July 1, 2025. (Support/High)

Wednesday, February 23

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1280](#) - Exec Session - Concerning greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the design of public facilities. (Support/Monitoring)
- [E2SHB 1723](#) - Public Hearing - Closing the digital equity divide by increasing the accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services, devices, and training. (Remote testimony.) (Support/High)

Health Care & Wellness (House) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 8:00am

- [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. (Support/Monitoring)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 3:00pm

- [SB 5693](#) - Exec Session - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 3:30pm

- [HB 1816](#) - Exec Session - Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

Thursday, February 24

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1781](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:00am

- [SSB 5181](#) - Exec Session - Providing school districts serving low-income communities with flexibility in financing their facilities.
- [SSB 5252](#) - Exec Session - Concerning school district consultation with local tribes.
- [SSB 5376](#) - Exec Session - Promoting awareness of the governor's office of the education ombuds. (Support/Monitoring)
- [SSB 5497](#) - Exec Session - Extending voting authority to student members on the state board of education. (Support/Monitoring)
- [2SSB 5720](#) - Exec Session - Providing student financial literacy education. (Support/Monitoring)
- [SSB 5762](#) - Exec Session - Creating the purple star award. (Support/Monitoring)
- [ESSB 5878](#) - Exec Session - Clarifying visual and performing arts instruction.

Housing, Human Services & Veterans (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:00am

- [SSB 5785](#) - Exec Session - Concerning transitional food assistance.
- [SSB 5790](#) - Exec Session - Strengthening critical community support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:30am

- [E2SHB 1723](#) - Exec Session - Closing the digital equity divide by increasing the accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services, devices, and training. (Support/High)

Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:30am

- [ESHB 1630](#) - Exec Session - Establishing restrictions on the possession of weapons in certain locations.
- [ESHB 1705](#) - Exec Session - Concerning ghost guns. (Support/Monitoring)
- [ESHB 2037](#) - Exec Session - Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers. (Monitoring)

Behavioral Health Subcommittee to Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 12:30pm

- [SHB 1800](#) - Exec Session - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors. (Support/Monitoring)
- [2SHB 1890](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group. (Support/Monitoring)

Friday, February 25

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual - 2/25 @ 8:00am

- [SSB 5933](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a school seismic safety grant program. (Remote testimony.) (Support/High)