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## It's the final countdown

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The 60-day session is set to end by midnight, Thursday, March 10. Legislators appear to be on track to meet that deadline, with budget negotiations continuing through the weekend.

Last week was a flurry of bill action and some late nights for both the House (not unusual) and Senate (highly unusual). Last Friday was the cutoff for bills to pass out of the opposite chamber; look for the list below regarding bills that didn't meet the deadline and are considered "dead" for the session. That said, it's important to know that nothing is truly dead until the sine die gavels fall on March 10.

On Friday, Governor Jay Inslee held his second virtual bill signing of the session. Among the nine bills signed was [SB 5252](#), relating to school district consultation with local tribes. The bill was originally introduced several years ago by former Senator John McCoy, a Tulalip tribal member and long-time legislator. Senator Lisa Wellman, D-Mercer Island, picked up the bill in the 2021 legislative session and it was modified this session to include additional elements including:

- WSSDA, OSPI, and the Tribal Leaders Congress on Education developing a tribal consultation training and schedule for school board and ESD board members, to be finalized by January 1, 2023;
- Requiring school board members, superintendents and any other school district staff required to perform specific additional consultation under federal law to take and certify completion of tribal consultation training by September 1, 2024 (which must be renewed every three years);
- Specifying the types of information to be included in the training and as part of discussions in regional government-to-government meetings; and
- WSSDA hosting annual meetings regionally, beginning in 2023, inviting tribal councils from the federally recognized tribes in the region and school district boards of directors.

The final bill of the night on March 4 in the House was [SB 5078](#), restricting high capacity magazines and limiting ammunition rounds to no more than 10. The final vote count was 55-42. Earlier that week the Senate passed by a margin of 26-23 [HB 1705](#), restricting the manufacture, assembly, sale, transfer, purchase, possession, transport, and receipt of untraceable firearms, informally called "ghost guns." Neither bill was modified in the opposite chamber, which means they will go to the Governor's desk once signatures are secured.

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

Keeping with a spirit of "perfecting the bill," legislation that was modified in the opposite chamber must return to the original chamber for either concurrence (agree with the changes) or dispute (don't agree with the changes). Due to the short timeframe this week, most of the policy bills are expected to get the "a-okay" and then the requisite signatures from the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House before heading off to the Governor's desk for signature.

Here's a list of bills modified by the opposite chamber that need to get concurrence (look up bills [here](#)):

- HB 1153 – language access and interpreters
- HB 1590 – enrollment stabilization
- HB 1664 – school staffing enhancements
- HB 1723 – digital equity
- HB 1736 – state student loan program
- HB 1835 – postsecondary enrollment encouragement
- HB 1890 – Children & Youth Behavioral Health work group
- SB 5376 – Education Ombuds office
- SB 5720 – financial literacy
- SB 5722 – reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings
- SB 5789 – Washington Career and College Pathways Innovation Challenge Program
- SB 5878 – arts instruction in schools

*Bills that missed the March 1 fiscal cutoff or March 4 cutoff:*

- HB 1453 would have, among other things, required the Pro and Con statements in county voter guides to be written by someone in the district.
- HB 1611 would have required universal screening programs for highly capable students.
- HB 1687 would have eliminated the grade point average requirement for all students other than those seeking direct admission to a public or private four-year institution of higher education.
- HB 1699 would have allowed retired educators and, for Class 2 districts, administrators the opportunity to work up to 1,040 hours without penalty to pension.
- HB 1759 would have required school districts to post on websites and social media information regarding safe storage of medications and firearms.
- HB 1760 would have made the Running Start Program a year-round program and would have permitted RS students to be funded up to a combined maximum enrollment of 1.6 full-time equivalents. Would have allowed high school graduates who have 15 or fewer college credits to earn up to 15 college credits during the summer academic term following their high school graduation.
- SB 5264 would have encouraged school districts to designate time for activities to commemorate the lives, history, achievements, and contributions of Americans of Chinese descent.
- SB 5594 would have encouraged school districts to offer bone marrow information to students in a health class.
- SB 5762 would have created an optional purple star award program for schools and districts that work closely with their students from military families.

- SB 5892 would have established a pilot project for using high school student nursing assistant-certified programs to address the nursing workforce shortage and promote nursing careers in rural hospitals.
- SSB 5581 would have required OSPI to reimburse 100 percent of school district costs for transporting students with disabilities, qualifying students who are homeless, and students in foster care, beginning in the 2023-24 school year. Also, would have changed the reporting requirements to receive these reimbursements, and would have authorized State Auditor review under certain circumstances.

### **Advocacy in Action**

- WSPTA sent an Action Alert to House legislators in support of SB 5078, high capacity magazines.
- WSPTA requested bill action before the March 4 cutoff on HB 1611, HB 1759, and HB 1699.

### **The Week Ahead**

*(Schedule subject to change)*

***No committee meetings scheduled.***