

January 31, 2022

Whose bills are on the chopping block?

Prepared by Marie Sullivan, WSPTA Legislative Consultant, legconsultant@wastatepta.org

During 60-day sessions, deadlines to move legislation out of policy and fiscal committees are compressed. February 3 represents the day bills need to pass out of policy committees to remain under consideration this session. While there are always exceptions, some bills won't be advancing. Bills that pass the policy committee are sent to a budget committee, usually if there's a fiscal impact to the state of more than \$50,000, or directly to the Rules Committee. Bills sent to budget committees (Appropriations, Finance, Capital Budget and Ways & Means) must pass the fiscal committee by February 7. And all bills must be voted out of the chamber in which they started by February 15.

What we're watching

Bills to stabilize school district funding due to enrollment decline, increase school staffing ratios for school counselors, nurses, psychiatrists, and social workers, and improved funding to support transportation for students with disabilities or highly mobile students all will have hearings this coming week.

- SSB 5563/HB 1590 would stabilize enrollment funding from the state and local levies;
- SSB 5595/SB 1664 increases staffing ratios (HB 1664 includes one school nurse and one school counselor in every school building); and
- SHB 1808/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.

In addition to the bills above, these bills from our 2022 legislative priorities have passed their policy committee prior to the cutoff:

- SHB 1723 is aligned with Closing the Digital Divide, Legislative Priority #3. The bill would:
 - establish the Washington Broadband Assistance Program to provide low-income persons with reduced rates for eligible voice and broadband services;
 - create the "Anchor Institution Digital Equity Program," for the purpose of providing discounted rates for telecommunications services, including broadband services to public schools, libraries, early learning centers, and others with a goal of bridging the digital divide; and
 - create the "Digital Equity Opportunity Program," to provide grants for community technology programs to advance digital equity and digital inclusion.
- SSB 5078 would prohibit the manufacture, possession, distribution, importation, selling, offering for sale, purchase, or transfer of large capacity magazines with the capacity of holding more than 17 rounds of ammunition, unless the weapon meets one of the stated exemptions. The bill is on the Senate floor calendar, ready for a vote.
- On our "Also Supported" list, HB 1611 would require school districts to offer universal screening for students at least once in or before 2nd grade and again in or before 6th grade; and

- SB 5933/HB 2095 would establish a school seismic safety grant program, capitalized by a vote of Washington voters to support a \$500 million program, with \$100 million per year for five years, to address retrofits and upgrades for school buildings at imminent risk due to seismic disasters.

Making dual credit more affordable and accessible

WSPTA has a strong interest in promoting accessibility and affordability of dual credit and post-secondary pursuits. Among the many bills being considered this session, SHB 1760 would:

- subsidize credit costs for eligible students with financial need for College in the High School programs, with a maximum per credit fee of \$42.50;
- revise eligibility for the Running Start Program tuition fee waiver, among other changes;
- make the Running Start Summer Pilot Program permanent and expand it to six institutions of higher education; and
- expand the requirements to notify students and their parents or legal guardians about dual credit programs and the dual credit subsidy program.

A similar bill, SB 5719, would also create a subsidy program – changing the maximum per college credit tuition fee for a program course from \$65 per credit to \$35 per credit. OSPI is directed to create and administer a grant program to provide funding to school districts, charter schools, tribal compact schools to cover the credit tuition fee for College in the High School students. For purposes of the grant program, low-income students are defined as students who are eligible for free and reduced-price meals.

WSPTA testified on both bills, making requests for changes that were adopted in both substitute bills.

Advocacy in Action

- Advocacy Committee member Natalya Yudkovsky [testified in favor](#) of [HB 1760](#), regarding dual credit program subsidies for low-income students. Her comments helped lead to a change in the definition of low-income student. No wrong way to PTA!
- Rene Price testified for Washington State PTA in support of [HB 1611](#), a bill that would require universal screening for highly capable programs. Listen [here as Rene testifies and fields a question](#) from House Education Chair Sharon Tomiko Santos.
- Also a member of the WSPTA Advocacy Committee and co-President of the Washington Coalition for Gifted Education, Austina De Bonte [spoke in favor](#) of [HB 1611](#) and the need to pass the bill this session. Austina and other WSPTA parents were instrumental in getting the issue adopted at Legislative Assembly in fall 2020.

The Week Ahead

(Schedule subject to change)

Monday, January 31

Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 1/31 @ 1:30pm

- [HB 2068](#) - Public Hearing - Creating the imagination library of Washington program. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Low)

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 1/31 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5790](#) - Exec Session - Strengthening critical community support services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 1/31 @ 3:30pm

- [HB 1736](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a state student loan program. (Remote testimony.)
- [HB 1835](#) - Public Hearing - Creating outreach and completion initiatives to increase postsecondary enrollment. (Remote testimony.)

Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual - 1/31 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5563](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning enrollment stabilization funding to address enrollment declines due to the COVID-19 pandemic. (Remote testimony.)
- [SB 5581](#) - Public Hearing - Addressing pupil transportation allocations. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.) (Remote testimony.)
- [SSB 5595](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. (Remote testimony.)
- [SB 5933](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a school seismic safety grant program. (Remote testimony.)

Tuesday, February 1

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1536](#) - Exec Session - Establishing regional apprenticeship programs through educational service districts.
- [HB 1867](#) - Exec Session - Concerning dual credit program data.
- [HB 1900](#) - Exec Session - Improving school districts' responses to complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
- [HB 1941](#) - Exec Session - Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills.
- [HB 1942](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the provision of the paraeducator fundamental course of study.
- [HB 1955](#) - Exec Session - Creating uniformity in education requirements for students who are the subject of a dependency proceeding. (Support/Low)
- [HB 2078](#) - Exec Session - Establishing the outdoor school for all program.

Housing & Local Government (Senate) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 8:00am

- [E2SHB 1099](#) - Public Hearing - Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 10:30am

- [HB 1280](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning greenhouse gas emissions reductions in the design of public facilities. (Remote testimony.) (Support/Monitoring)

Appropriations (House) - Virtual - 2/1 @ 3:30pm

- [HB 1664](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning prototypical school formulas for physical, social, and emotional support in schools. (Remote testimony.)
- [HB 1723](#) - Exec Session - Closing the digital equity divide by increasing the accessibility and affordability of telecommunications services, devices, and training.

- [HB 1746](#) - Public Hearing - Updating the 2015 report and recommendations for supporting student success through measuring and mitigating community risk and protective predictors since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic. (Remote testimony.)
- [HB 1800](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing access to behavioral health services for minors. (Remote testimony.)
- [HB 1890](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the children and youth behavioral health work group. (Remote testimony.)

Wednesday, February 2

Children, Youth & Families (House) - Virtual - 2/2 @ 8:00am

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

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

- [SB 5842](#) - Exec Session - Concerning state laws that address climate change.

Thursday, February 3

Education (House) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 10:00am

- [HB 1900](#) - Exec Session - Improving school districts' responses to complaints of discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying.
- [HB 1941](#) - Exec Session - Prohibiting active shooter scenarios for school safety-related drills.
- [HB 1942](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the provision of the paraeducator fundamental course of study.
- [HB 1955](#) - Exec Session - Creating uniformity in education requirements for students who are the subject of a dependency proceeding. (Support/Low)
- [HB 2078](#) - Exec Session - Establishing the outdoor school for all program.

Public Safety (House) - Virtual - 2/3 @ 10:00am

- [HB 2037](#) - Exec Session - Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers.