

2022 State Legislative Session Update

Shaun Seaman

Tracy Yount

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Why we're here today

- Update on the 2022 session
- Overview of bills of interest
- What to expect for the remainder of the session

For Board information only – no decisions

Overview

- Day 15 of the session
- 890 bills introduced as of Jan. 19 (1074 bills in 2021)
- Virtual session - workable but with some challenges
- Last day of session - March 10
- Anticipate ending on time

Committee Changes

- Sen. Shelly Short (R-Addy) is the new Ranking Member on the Senate Energy Environment and Technology Committee

Top 2022 Legislative Issues - Recap

- Federal funding allocations from coronavirus and infrastructure laws
- Gov. Inslee climate package
- Telecom funding and policy changes
- Wildfire liability

Top 2022 Legislative Priorities (based on bill introductions)

- SB 5803 - Wildfire liability
- HB 1931 - Water power license fees
- Salmon protection and restoration
 - HB 1838/SB 5727 - Salmon habitat
 - HB 1653 - Improving statewide coordination to support salmon recovery
 - HB 1717 - Tribal participation in local planning

Energy Issues

- HB 1767/SB 5666 - Targeted electrification of buildings
- HB 1774/SB 5722 - Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings
- HB 1814 - Community solar for targeted customers
- SB 5744 - Tax deferrals/credits for clean technology, alternative fuels and renewable energy storage

Telecom Issues

- HB 1723 - Telecommunications access (digital equity)
- HB 1673/SB 5580 - Public Works Board grants and loans
- HB 1740/SB 5586 - CERB authorities for funding for broadband

Human Resources & Safety

- HB 1732 - Long-term care program delay - cleared the House on Jan. 19
 - Scheduled for Ways and Means hearing Jan. 24
 - Premiums would be collected beginning July 1, 2022
 - Includes other changes
- HB 1733 - Long-term care program amendments on same track
- Numerous others bills to repeal and modify the long-term care act not likely to be heard

Other Issues

- \$100M in funding for utility customer arrearages in the governor's budget
- Governor's operating budget includes \$350,000 to analyze options to replace the benefits of lower Snake River dams

Questions?