

2022 State Legislative Session Update

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March 7, 2022



Why we're here today

- Provide an end of session summary
- Identify issues that may return in 2023

For Board information only – no decisions

Overview

- Feb. 3 - Committee of origin policy bill cutoff
 - Feb. 7 - Policy bills out of fiscal committees
 - Feb. 15 - Bills out of House of origin
 - Feb.22 – Last Board Update
 - Feb. 24 – Bills out of committee
 - Feb. 28 – Bills out of opposite committee, fiscal, and Ways and Means
 - March 4 – Opposite house cutoff deadline (budget bills are not subject to the cutoff)
- End of session - March 10
 - Governor has 20 days to sign or veto legislation

Budget Issues

Item	Position	Note
Utility Arrearages	Support	Passed - \$100M was included in budget.
Snake River Dam Study Funding	Oppose	Passed - \$350k in both budgets (Details TBD)
Broadband Funding	Support	Passed - Both versions of the capital budget provide broadband funding.
Transportation Revenue Diversion from Public Works Assistance Account	WPUDA Opposed	Passed - Transportation was partially funded with \$57M from the Public Works Assistance Account (original request \$1.6B). Model Toxics Control Account not used.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Funding

- More details to come
- Operating Budget
 - \$25 million to incent buyers to go with EV
 - \$69 million for Commerce to work on getting EV charging infrastructure in rural areas
 - \$3 million for EV Supply Equipment at state facilities
 - \$120 million in a newly created EV Incentive Account to fund programs and incentives that promote the purchase or conversion to alternative fuel vehicles
- Transportation Budget
 - TBD
- Assessing what all this means for us

Top 2022 Legislative Priorities

Item	Position	Status
Wildfire Liability – SB 5803	Support	Dead - Died on House floor calendar.
Waterpower License Fees – HB 1931	Support	Passed - Defers the sunset to 2029. Next stop is Governor Inslee’s desk for signing.
Net Ecological Gain – HB 1117	Other	Passed - WDFW study required to assess how to incorporate net ecological gain standard into state land use, development and environmental laws and rules to achieve a goal of better statewide performance on endangered species recovery.

Energy Issues

Item	Position	Status/Interest
Hydrogen SB 5910	Neutral	Passed - Creates definition of Green Hydrogen creating alignment with CETA. Also makes WA one of the federally designated hydrogen hubs with State funding to support.

Telecom Issues

Item	Position	Status
Public Works Board grants and loans – HB 1673	Support	Passed - awaiting governor action.

Human Resources & Safety

Item	Position	Status/Intent
Paid family and medical leave operational changes, legislative reporting – SB 5649	Support	Passed - awaiting governor action

2023 Session

Item	Position	Status
Wildfire		Sponsor is open to working with utilities in the interim
Net Ecological Gain		Interest to align with existing PUD natural resource programs
Building Energy Use		High interest to the Governor

Questions?