

Legislative Update

February 16, 2012

Week 7 Committee Schedule: February 20- February 26, 2012

The pace is really picking up next week, with the Tuesday deadline for bills to clear House policy committees, and by Thursday for the House appropriations committees. Meanwhile, the Senate has a Friday cutoff for policy committees.

Both chambers have a Monday, February 27 deadline for bills to pass bills out of fiscal committees, with the House Ways & Means Committee working Saturday.

In addition, a House Democratic proposal for the 2011-13 supplemental operating budget is expected to be released this week.

Lawmakers are hoping to meet a March 8 deadline to complete their work in the short 60-day session.

With a slightly better revenue forecast issued <http://www.erfc.wa.gov/publications/documents/feb12.pdf> today, lawmakers may find it easier to bridge a now-projected \$1.1 billion shortfall and still keep some money in the bank.

The outlook remains uncertain for the biennium, which is why Gov. Chris Gregoire wants the Legislature to leave about \$600 million in reserve. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council summed it up with:

“Our current economic forecast is very similar to our November forecast, with the same muddle-through conditions expected for the rest of the biennium, along with a high degree of downside risk.” Click here <http://www.erfc.wa.gov/forecast/revenueForecast.shtml> for more information on the revenue forecast announcement.

In addition, the logjam over repealing some tax exemptions may be broken, with House Republicans announcing some willingness to consider exemptions that have either outlived their usefulness or aren't producing the expected results at this time.

Monday, February 20

1:30 p.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, SHR 1

Public Hearing:

1. SHB 1753<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=1753>> - Clarifying the authority of a nurse working in a school setting.
2. HB 2247<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2247>> - Expanding the types of medications that a public or private school employee may administer to include topical medication, eye drops, and ear drops.
3. ESHB 2586<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2586>> - Phasing-in statewide implementation of the Washington kindergarten inventory of developing skills.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

1:30 p.m., House Higher Education Committee, HHR C

Executive Session:

1. SSB 5217<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=5217>> - Allowing appointment of student members on the boards of trustees of community colleges.
2. SSB 5982<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=5982>> - Creating the joint center for aerospace technology innovation.
3. SSB 5997<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=5997>> - Regarding the Olympic natural resources center.
4. SSB 6121<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6121>> - Requiring the office of student financial assistance to provide a financial aid counseling curriculum for institutions of higher education.
5. E2SSB 6232<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6232>> - Regarding higher education coordination.
6. SSB 6468<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6468>> - Requiring state research universities to adopt policies governing investment of university funds.
7. SJR 8223<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=8223>> - Amending the Constitution to provide clear authority to state research universities to invest funds as authorized by law, including investment in stocks or bonds issued by any company.

1:30 p.m., House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee, HHR E

Public Hearing:

1. ESSB 6009<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6009>> - Regarding ethics in public service.
2. E2SSB 6023<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6023>> - Creating the permit efficiency and accountability committee to select priority economic recovery projects for review by multiagency permitting teams.
3. SB 6046<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6046>> - Addressing the powers and duties of the gambling commission.
4. SB 6109<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6109>> - Exempting video and audio recordings of closed executive session meetings from public inspection and copying.

5. ESSB 6345<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6345>> - Creating a commission to restructure state government.
 6. SB 6498<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6498>> - Modifying write-in voting provisions.
 7. SB 6523<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6523>> - Concerning resident curators of state properties.
 8. ESSB 6477<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6477>> - Concerning liquor licensing, sales, and tasting.
- Executive Session: Senate bills previously heard in committee.

3:30 p.m., House Ways & Means Committee, HHR A
Public Hearing:

1. SSB 5381<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=5381>> - Adjusting voting requirements for the renewal of emergency medical service levies.
2. SSB 6088<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6088>> - Strengthening the review of the legislature's goals for tax preferences by requiring that every new tax preference provide an expiration date and statement of legislative intent.
3. SB 6571<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6571>> - Strengthening the department of revenue's ability to collect spirits taxes imposed under RCW 82.08.150.
4. ESB 6589<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=6589>> - Requiring a direct patient-provider primary care practice services option for public employees.

Possible Executive Session:

3:30 p.m., Senate Ways & Means Committee, SHR 4

Public Hearing: To be announced.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

Tuesday, February 21

8 a.m., House Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee, HHR A
Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

10 a.m., Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, SHR 3
Public Hearing:

1. SHB 2259<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2259>> - Eliminating certain duplicative higher education reporting requirements.

2. SHB 2313<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2313>> - Concerning the meeting procedures of the boards of trustees and boards of regents of institutions of higher education.

3. SHB 2352<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2352>> - Concerning institutions of higher education services and activities fees.

4. SHB 2483<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2483>> - Increasing educational attainment. (If measure is referred to committee.)

5. 3SHB 2585<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2585>> - Creating efficiencies for institutions of higher education.

6. 2SHB 2717<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2717>> - Creating innovations in higher education.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

1:30 p.m., House Education Committee, HHR A

Work Session: Running Start.

Possible Executive Session: Senate bills previously heard in committee.

3:30 p.m., House Ways & Means Committee, HHR A

Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

3:30 p.m., Senate Ways & Means Committee, SHR 1

Public Hearing: To be announced.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

Wednesday, February 22

8 a.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, SHR 1

Public Hearing: SHB 2617<<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?year=2012&bill=2617>> -

Regarding school district financial insolvency.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

8 a.m., House Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee, HHR A

Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

10 a.m., Senate and House Session/Caucus

1:30 p.m., Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, SHR 3

Executive Session: Bills previously heard.

1:30 p.m., House Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee, HHR A

Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

3:30 p.m., Senate Ways & Means Committee, SHR 4

Public Hearing: To be announced.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

Thursday, February 23

8 a.m., House Education Appropriations & Oversight Committee, HHR A

Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

1:30 p.m., Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee, SHR 1

Executive Session: To be announced.

3:30 p.m., Senate Ways & Means Committee, SHR 4

Public Hearing: To be announced.

Possible executive session on bills heard in committee. Other business.

Friday, February 24

8 a.m., House Ways & Means Committee, HHR A

Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

10 a.m., Senate and House Session/Caucus

1:30 p.m., House Ways & Means Committee, HHR A
Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

1:30 p.m., Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee, SHR 3

Executive Session: Bills previously heard.

Saturday, February 25

9 a.m., House Ways & Means Committee, HHR A
Public Hearing: Bills referred to committee.

Possible Executive Session: Bills previously heard in committee.

10 a.m., Senate Possible Session/Caucus

Schedule subject to change; check www.leg.wa.gov<<http://www.leg.wa.gov>> for the most current information

Location of committee meetings are denoted as HHR or SHR.

HHR is the John L. O'Brien Building, House Hearing Room

SHR is the J.A. Cherberg Building, Senate Hearing Room