

# WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2025 Legislative Session | April 10, 2025

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It's cutoff week as the fiscal committees spent Tuesday scrambling to get bills out and alive beyond the final committee cutoff date. The remaining days of session will be spent on long floor hours passing the remaining bills that have been pulled from rules and negotiating the operating budget with the Governor and colleagues.

You have read this week that new revenue and savings proposals are being floated by party leadership as a way to appease the Governor and get the budget closer to his liking. Longtime Olympia gumshoe, Jerry Cornfield, wrote a good piece in the *Washington State Standard* on Wednesday regarding the back and forth with legislative democrats and the Governor. [You can read the piece here.](#)

So, what happens if lawmakers and the Governor can't come to an agreement? Let's dive into that. In Washington State both the legislature and Governor hold emergency powers to call for a special legislative session. In Washington State, a special session of the legislature is an extraordinary meeting convened outside the regular legislative session to address urgent or unfinished business. Here's how it works based on the state's constitution:

The Washington State Constitution (Article II, Section 12) governs special sessions. It allows them to be called in two ways:

- **By the Governor:** The Governor can summon the legislature into a special session "on extraordinary occasions" by issuing a proclamation specifying the session.
- **By the Legislature:** Two-thirds of the members of each chamber (House and Senate) can petition the Governor in writing to convene a special session, also stating the purpose. This is less common but provides a mechanism for lawmakers to act independently.

Regular legislative sessions in Washington State occur annually, starting on the second Monday in January. In odd-numbered years (like 2025), they last 105 days; in even-numbered years, up to 60 days. If they can't come to budget agreements by the session's end (April 27, for the 2025 session), a special session can be called.

- Special sessions may last up to 30 days unless extended.
- The Governor's proclamation defines the scope. For example, it might focus on passing a budget, addressing a natural disaster, or enacting emergency legislation. Lawmakers are technically limited to these topics, though they can sometimes stretch the interpretation (budget talks, etc.).

- **Convening:** Once called, legislative leadership (Speaker of the House, Senate Majority Leader) and committee structures from the regular session typically carry over, but only for legislation that falls within the purpose.
- **Rules:** The legislature operates under its existing rules (House and Senate joint rules), though they can adopt temporary modifications. The pace is often accelerated, with fewer public hearings and expedited committee processes.
- **Legislation:** Bills from the regular session that didn't pass can be revived if they fit the special session's purpose. New bills can also be introduced, but they must align with the stated agenda. Passage requires a simple majority (50 House votes, 25 Senate votes).
- **Governor's Role:** The Governor can veto bills passed in special sessions, just as in regular sessions, with the same 5-day (or 20-day post-adjournment) deadline to act.

## Bill Highlights:

[House Bill 1273](#) - This bill extends a pilot program to increase (CTE) dual credit participation and credit attainment by covering certain expenses of students, colleges, and high schools, and adds additional pilot programs in other educational service districts. It also requires SBCTC to hire a consultant to develop a plan and report to the Legislature for improving its online statewide enrollment and reporting system for CTE dual credit. This bill was voted out of Senate Ways and Means on April 7 and sent to Senate Rules committee on April 8.

[House Bill 1414](#) - This bill directs the statewide CTE task force to recommend changes to laws and practices affecting the training, certification, and employment of 16- and 17-year-olds enrolled in or who completed a CTE program. This bill cleared the Senate K-12 committee on March 27 and passed off the full Senate floor by a vote of 48-1 on April 7.

[House Bill 1167](#) - Directing the statewide Career and Technical Education task force to consider expanding and strengthening certain educational opportunities for careers in maritime professions. We expect this bill to continue a successful journey through the process and get voted out of Senate K-12 in the coming weeks. This bill came off the floor with a 96-0 vote in the first half and has since cleared its second half committee cutoffs. On March 24 this bill was passed and sent to Rules Committee and on April 7 it was "pulled" and placed on second reading. It now awaits a final floor vote and Governor signature.

[Senate Bill 5358](#) - which includes 6<sup>th</sup> graders as part of the CTE enhancement funding as well as other policy items, is clearing the necessary second half hurdles to stay alive. On April 4 the House Committee on Appropriations voted this bill out and sent it to Rules on April 8 for its last set of procedural votes.

[Senate Bill 5192](#) - increasing funding school district Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs was voted out of Senate Ways and Means on Thursday, February 27 with minority opposition. The bill will increase allocations for Materials, Supplies, and Operating Costs (MSOC) in the prototypical school model by 10% and provides that increased allocation amounts may only be expended on MSOC. The fiscal note on this is about \$300M for the biennium. This bill was voted out of Appropriations on April 5 and sent to House Rules on April 8.

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the [daily schedule of the legislature](#) and see the [Senate Floor Calendar](#) and the [House Floor Calendar](#).


## WOVE Bill Status

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
<a href="#">SHB 1121</a>	Work restrictions/age 16, 17	Concerning restrictions on the working conditions and hours of sixteen- and seventeen-year olds.	S 2nd Reading	McClintock	Support	
<a href="#">HB 1167</a>	Maritime careers task force	Directing the statewide career and technical education task force to consider educational opportunities for careers in maritime professions.	S 2nd Reading	Shavers	Support	
<a href="#">SHB 1198</a> (ESSB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
<a href="#">SHB 1216</a> (SSB 5195)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H Rules R	Tharinger		
<a href="#">2SHB 1273</a>	Dual credit program access	Improving student access to dual credit programs.	S Rules 2	Paul	Concerns	
<a href="#">2SHB 1285</a>	Financial education	Making financial education instruction a graduation requirement in public schools.	S EL/K-12	Rude	Support	
<a href="#">ESHB 1414</a>	CTE careers work group	Improving access to career opportunities for students.	S Passed 3rd	Connors		
<a href="#">HB 1556</a> (SB 5542)	HS completers/CTC tuition	Expanding tuition waivers for high school completers at community and technical colleges.	Del to Gov	Entenman		
<a href="#">ESSB 5009</a>	Student transp. vehicles	Modifying the student transportation allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting students.	H Rules R	Braun		
<a href="#">ESSB 5167</a> (SHB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Conf appt	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 5189</a>	Competency-based education	Supporting the implementation of competency-based education.	H Rules R	Wellman		
<a href="#">ESSB 5192</a>	School district materials	Concerning school district materials, supplies, and operating costs.	H Rules R	Nobles	Support	Medium
<a href="#">SSB 5195</a> (SHB 1216)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H 2nd Reading	Trudeau		
<a href="#">2SSB 5358</a> (HB 1280)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	Concerning career and technical education in sixth grade.	H Rules R	Braun	Support	
<a href="#">SSB 5738</a> (HB 1988)	Retired employees/work	Permitting individuals retired from the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system additional opportunities to work for up to 1,040 hours per year while in receipt of pension benefits.	H Rules R	Wellman		
<a href="#">SB 5792</a>	State employee compensation	Concerning temporary compensation reductions for state government employees during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 5793</a>	Public employee health plans	Concerning employer contributions and incentives for public and school employee health benefit plans.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 5794</a>	Tax preferences	Adopting recommendations from the tax preference performance review process, eliminating obsolete tax preferences, clarifying legislative intent, and addressing changes in constitutional law.	S Ways & Means	Salomon		
<a href="#">SB 5795</a>	Sales and use tax rate	Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.	S Ways & Means	Krishnadasan		
<a href="#">SB 5796</a>	Payroll expense tax	Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	S Ways & Means	Saldana		
<a href="#">SB 5797</a>	Intangible assets tax	Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools.	S Ways & Means	Frame		
<a href="#">SB 5798</a>	Property tax	Concerning property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen		

[2025 Session Cutoff Calendar](#)

<b>April 16</b>	<b>Opposite House Cutoff:</b> Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, amendments, differences, and business related to the interim or closing the session).
<b>April 27</b>	<b>Sine Die:</b> Last day allowed for regular session under the state constitution.

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	<b>Federal Legislation:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">ACTE Advocacy Webpage</a></li><li>• <a href="#">CTE Policy Watch Blog</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Take Action</a></li><li>• <a href="#">ACTE Policy Agenda</a></li><li>• <a href="#">Advocacy Resources</a></li></ul>
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