

# WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2025 Legislative Session | April 3, 2025

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The legislature had one of the most consequential weeks of the session with bill hearings being played out simultaneously with budget negotiations and a public battle brewing between a new governor and a legislature with near veto-proof majorities.

Lawmakers are finishing their twelfth week of the legislative session in Olympia, with today being day 84 of the 105-day regular session. This means we just passed the first second half policy deadline, with April 2 being the Policy Committee Cutoff for bills in the opposite house. That was the final day for committee reports from the opposite house to be considered, with exceptions for the House fiscal committees and the Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

Ahead of the House passing their version of the budget on Monday, last week legislators primarily focused on working through budget proposals and holding public hearings on policy-related bills. Much of the Senate's time was spent on reviewing both the operating and transportation budgets, including an extensive hearing on the Senate Operating Budget. Hearings on the House Operating Budget and related tax proposals from both the House and Senate will continue next week. On Saturday, the Senate debated its Operating and Transportation budget bills, and the Senate Operating Budget passed.

The House's proposed Operating Budget for the 2025-27 biennium totals \$77 billion, while the Senate's proposal is slightly higher at over \$78 billion. There were many tax packages proposed this last week and we are in wait and see mode where some of the proposals will pass legal and legislative muster while others will not. A full wrap-up of the new taxes will be in a future version of the *WOVE* after the dust settles on those.

## Controversial Tax Package:

Governor Ferguson has been very vocal this week with his displeasure for certain measures of the House and Senate budgets. The Governor stated that he will not sign a budget that includes the controversial wealth tax. The current wealth tax proposal includes, in part, the following:

- **Tax Rate:** The proposal imposes a 1% tax on personal wealth exceeding \$50 million. This means individuals with wealth above this threshold would be taxed on the amount surpassing \$50 million.
- **Estimated Impact:** Approximately 3,400 residents, including high-profile billionaires, would be subject to this tax. The tax is projected to generate \$10.3 billion over a four-year period, contributing significantly to closing the state's budget gap.
- **The Risks:** Opponents warn that balancing a four-year budget on the back of such a fluid tax base is risky. The \$10 billion collection is a major percentage of the total budget gap, and this tax will never be fully implemented. Opponents also warn of a deeper budget gap in 2027 if the budget is balanced on this tax and revenues fall short.

## **Gubernatorial Powers:**

The governor of Washington State has line-item veto power over the state budget. This means the governor can veto specific items or sections of the budget, rather than having to approve or reject the entire budget. The line-item veto authority is granted by the state constitution, specifically Article III, Section 12. However, the line-item veto can only be exercised on budget-related items (such as appropriations). The governor cannot use the line-item veto to reject non-budgetary provisions, such as policy language or bills unrelated to funding.

When the governor exercises the line-item veto, the state legislature can attempt to override the veto, but this requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and the Senate. This would require bipartisan agreement by lawmakers.

## **Education Funding in Budget Proposals:**

Each year our friends at the League of Education Voters put out a great side-by-side focusing in directly on the K-12 portion of the budget. It's a great comparison tool for big bucket expenditures and how they have changed from the previous biennium to current proposals. [You can view that document here.](#)

## **Bill Highlights:**

[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.

[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 will vote this bill out and send it to Rules 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 will continue to move as it is scheduled to be voted out of Appropriations on April 5.

[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 will be voted out of Senate Ways and Means on April 7.

[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 has already been sent to Rules Committee.

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 & Upcoming Events Report

### Upcoming Events

#### Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 4/3 @ 9:00am

#### Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/3 @ 1:30pm

- [2SHB 1273](#) - Public Hearing - Improving student access to dual credit programs. (Remote Testimony Available). (Concerns)
- [SB 5195](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

#### Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 4/4 @ 9:00am

- [HB 1216](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

#### Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/4 @ 1:30pm

- [SB 5189](#) - Exec Session - Supporting the implementation of competency-based education.
- [2SSB 5358](#) - Exec Session - Concerning career and technical education in sixth grade. (Support)

#### Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/5 @ 9:00am

- [ESSB 5009](#) - Public Hearing - Accommodating multiple vehicle types for transporting students. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [ESSB 5192](#) - Exec Session - Concerning school district materials, supplies, and operating costs. (Support/Medium)
- [SSB 5738](#) - Exec Session - Permitting individuals retired from the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, the school employees' retirement system, and the public safety employees' retirement system additional opportunities to work for up to 1,040 hours per year while in receipt of pension benefits.

#### Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/7 @ 1:30pm

- [ESSB 5009](#) - Exec Session - Accommodating multiple vehicle types for transporting students.

#### Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/7 @ 1:30pm


- [2SHB 1273](#) - Exec Session - Improving student access to dual credit programs. (Concerns)

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 Rules 2	Shavers	Support	
<a href="#">SHB 1198</a> (ESSB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
<a href="#">HB 1216</a> (SB 5195)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
<a href="#">2SHB 1273</a>	Dual credit program access	Improving student access to dual credit programs.	S Ways & Means	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 2nd Reading	Connors		
<a href="#">HB 1556</a> (SB 5542)	HS completers/CTC tuition	Expanding tuition waivers for high school completers at community and technical colleges.	S Passed 3rd	Entenman		
<a href="#">ESSB 5009</a>	Student transp. vehicles	Modifying the student transportation allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting students.	H Approps	Braun		

<a href="#">ESSB 5167</a> (SHB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Passed 3rd	Robinson		
<a href="#">SB 5189</a>	Competency-based education	Supporting the implementation of competency-based education.	H Approps	Wellman		
<a href="#">ESSB 5192</a>	School district materials	Concerning school district materials, supplies, and operating costs.	H Approps	Nobles	Support	Medium
<a href="#">SB 5195</a> (HB 1216)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau		
<a href="#">SSSB 5358</a> (HB 1280)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	Concerning career and technical education in sixth grade.	H Approps	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 Approps	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 8</b>	<b>Fiscal Committee Cutoff - Opposite House:</b> Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
<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.

	<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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