Navigating the State Legislative Session

Legislative session basics

• Each year’s legislative session begins on the 2nd January
• Odd year sessions are 105 calendar days
• Even year sessions are 60 calendar days
• The Legislature’s only job is to pass the state budget (operating, capital & transportation) in odd years and a supplemental budget in even years
• Once adjourned, the governor can call legislators into one or more special sessions or the Legislature can call itself into special session with a 2/3 vote
• The majority party controls each chamber’s schedule, including which bills are heard, and leads each committee

How a bill becomes a law

Red = impactful points in the process

First House
1. Lead sponsor "drops" a bill which gets formally introduced, assigned a number and referred to the appropriate policy committee
   o Co-sponsors can be added
2. Committee chair chooses whether to "hear" the bill through a public hearing and then whether to bring it up for a vote (executive session). If the bill passes the committee:
3. If the bill impacts the budget, it goes to that house’s fiscal committee, where step #2 repeats.
4. The bill advances to the Rules Committee, which decides whether it goes to the floor for a vote by the entire body. If the bill is approved, it moves to the opposite chamber:

Second House
5. Bill advances to the opposite chamber and goes through the same process again (policy committee, fiscal committee, Rules Committee, floor vote)
   ⇒ If it passes the opposite chamber with no amendments, it goes to step #6
   ⇒ If it passes the opposite chamber with amendments, it must go back to the floor of the original chamber for “concurrence.”
2. If the original house does not concur, a conference committee is appointed to develop a compromise version. If they can, the bill goes back to both houses for approval. If they can’t, the bill dies.

Governor

2. Once both houses pass a bill, it goes to the Governor who can sign, veto, or not sign.

⇒ If the Governor does not sign, but bill becomes law.
⇒ If the Governor vetoes a bill, both houses can override the veto by a 2/3 vote.

Fiscal Committees

- House
  - Finance Committee: revenues (taxes)
  - Appropriations Committee: spending (Operating Budget)
- Senate
  - Ways & Means Committee: revenues (taxes); spending (Operating & Capital budgets)

Using the Legislature’s website: Leg.wa.gov

Find your district and legislators

https://leg.wa.gov/
Look up legislators by name or district

https://leg.wa.gov/
Representatives: https://leg.wa.gov/House/Representatives/Pages/default.aspx
Senators: https://leg.wa.gov/Senate/Senators/Pages/default.aspx

Enter name, partial name, or district number:
Determine which committees your legislators sit on

Contact your legislators

Email form (requires you to input your address); navigate here via the Senators or Representatives pages.
Find legislators’ direct email addresses
From the homepage: https://leg.wa.gov/

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<tr>
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<th>Email</th>
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<th>Position</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rep. Sherry Appleton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sherry.appleton@leg.wa.gov">sherry.appleton@leg.wa.gov</a></td>
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<tr>
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Find a bill, including bill text and summary documents

From the homepage: https://leg.wa.gov/

**Bill Information**

**HB 2405 - 2019-20**
Concerning commercial property assessed clean energy and resilience.
Sponsors: Duerr, Barkis, Fitzgibbon, Shewmake, Hoff, Kloba, Corry, Gildon, Ybarra, Jenkin, Pollet, Dogli

Companion Bill: SB 6222

Go to documents...
Go to videos...

**Bill History**

2020 REGULAR SESSION

Jan 14  First reading, referred to Local Government. (View Original Bill)
Jan 21  Public hearing in the House Committee on Local Government at 10:00 AM. (Committee Material)
Jan 21  Executive action taken in the House Committee on Local Government at 10:30 AM.
Available Documents

Fiscal Note

Amendments

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<th>Type</th>
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<td>Committee</td>
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<td>Striker</td>
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Sign up to receive email bill alerts

From the bill tracking page

Bill Information > HB 1050

Search for another bill or initiative:

HB 1050 - 2021-22
Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from fluorinated gases.
Sponsors: Fitzgibbon

Bill Status-at-a-Glance

As of Thursday, January 7, 2021 06:36 PM

Current Version: HB 1050
Current Status: HB Referred

Where is it in the process?

- Introduced
- In Committee
- On Floor Calendar
- Passed Chamber

In the House:
- Passed Legislature
- On Governor's Desk
- Governor Acted
- Session Law

In the Senate:
- Passed Legislature
- On Governor's Desk
- Governor Acted
- Session Law

After Passage:
- Passed Legislature
- On Governor's Desk
- Governor Acted
- Session Law
Determine where the bill is in the legislative process

Bill page (immediately above)

**Bill History**

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**LG - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass.** (View 1st Substitute) (Majority Report)

Minority; do not pass. (Minority Report)

Jan 28  Referred to Appropriations.
Feb 8   Public hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
Feb 11  Executive action taken in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. (Committee Materials)

**APP - Majority; 2nd substitute bill be substituted, do pass.** (View 2nd Substitute) (Majority Report)

Minority; do not pass. (Minority Report)

Minority; without recommendation. (Minority Report)

Referred to Rules 2 Review.

Feb 14  Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. Placed on second reading.
Feb 18  2nd substitute bill substituted (APP 20). (View 2nd Substitute)

Floor amendment(s) adopted.

Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading.

Third reading passed; yeas, 93; nays, 4; absent, 0; excused, 1. (View 1st Engrossed) (View Roll Calls)

Find out how your legislator voted

From the bill tracking page

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Roll calls are floor votes.

Majority and minority reports reflect committee votes. The majority report reflects the Democratic vote because they are in the majority. The Minority report reflects votes by Republican members of the committee.
Look up House or Senate committees

From the homepage: https://leg.wa.gov/
## Legislative Committees

Click the categories in the menus below to see links to the associated committees.

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### House Environment & Energy Committee

Legislature Home > House of Representatives > Committees > Environment & Energy

John L. O'Brien, P.O. Box 40600, Olympia, WA 98504-0600
Committee Hearings & Bill Information: (360) 786-7297
Legislative Hotline Operators: 1-800-562-6000

Committee descriptions shown are for the 2019-20 biennium. Please check back on Monday, Jan...
Testify or comment on a bill

From the committees homepage: [https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/CommitteeListing.aspx](https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/CommitteeListing.aspx)

*Participating in Committee Hearings*

Provide input to legislators on issues in committee. You may provide testimony to a committee, comment on a bill, or contact legislators.

- Register to Testify Remotely During a Hearing
- Submit Written Testimony
- Comment on a Bill
- Find Your Legislators
- Find Committee Members

*Committee Sign In - Remote Testimony*

Select the house where the hearing is being held
Committee Sign In - House Remote Testimony

Return to House Committee Testimony Information

Committee: Please Select  Meetings: Please Select

Instructions on how to connect to the meeting: Instructions

How to Submit Written Testimony

1. Select the committee and meeting date and time, then select the bill for which you would like to submit written testimony.
2. Select “I would like to Submit Written Testimony.” Written testimony will close 24 hours after the start time of the hearing.
3. Provide your written comments in the form. Your comments will be available to legislative members and staff of the committee purposes, but will not be used as part of testimony summary materials on the bill report.

How to Register to Testify Remotely

1. Select the committee and meeting date and time, then select the bill for which you would like to testify remotely.
2. Select “I would like to Testify Live During the Hearing.” Remote testimony registration will close 1 hour before the start time unable to testify before the committee.
3. Ensure your registration information is accurate. It will be a part of the legislative record and used by TVW for online and te

How to State Your Position on a Bill Without Testifying

1. Select the committee and meeting date and time, then select the bill for which you would like to register.
2. Select “I would like my position noted for the legislative record.” Registration will close 1 hour before the start time of the h
3. Ensure your registration information is accurate. Your registered position will be made available to legislative members and me

• Register to testify = speaking to the committee online for up to 3 minutes. You will be emailed instructions on how to log in and be ready.

• Another option under registering to testify allows you to submit your position to the committee without additional comments.

• Submitting written testimony allows you to submit a document that will go in the committee’s briefing materials. (5,000 character limit)

Committee Sign In - House Remote Testimony

Return to House Committee Testimony Information

Committee: Capital Budget  Meetings: 1/26/2021 1:30 PM

Select agenda item

- HB 1101 Unused public buildings
- HB 1103 Building materials
- HB 1154 Building communities fund

Select type of testimony

- I would like to submit written testimony.
- I would like to testify live during the hearing.
- I would like my position noted for the legislative record.

See who has signed in for this agenda item

Select your preference here
Sign up to receive committee and floor information by email

These are email alerts that provide information on committee schedules and House and Senate floor activity. You can choose weekly, daily, or immediate distribution. You may also choose which committees you would like to receive info for.

From the homepage: [https://leg.wa.gov/](https://leg.wa.gov/)

Submit your email and then it will ask for your preferences
The next screen will allow you to choose the content in the emails you receive – which is backward.

New Subscriber
Subscription Type
Email

Primary Email Address
You must enter a primary email address. You will use this to access and update your subscriptions or modify your subscriber preferences.

Email Address *
plawson@ala.org

Confirm Email Address *

Email Delivery Preference
If you would like to change how subscription updates are delivered to you, select an option below:

- Send updates immediately by email
- Send updates daily by email
- Send updates weekly by email

Certain high priority updates may be sent regardless of your delivery preferences.

Optional Password
Enter an optional password to add password protection to your subscriber preferences.

Password

Confirm Password

Privacy
☐ By checking this box, you consent to our data privacy policy.

Submit Cancel
The list keeps going. Select the committees you would like to receive alerts for, whether or not you’d like info about House and Senate floor schedules, etc. You can come back anytime to change your preferences.
Watch legislative hearings

Select the committee from the Legislative Committees page: https://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/CommitteeListing.aspx

Meeting videos are provided by TVW. Live video is available at the stated time. Archived video becomes available approximately two hours after the close of the hearing or floor session. Videos are not available for all meetings.
Floor debate and committee hearings are also aired live at tvw.org.

Questions
Kirsten Smith
Manager of Policy and Advocacy
American Institute of Architects
AIA Seattle + AIA Washington Council
206-957-1926 office | 206-708-3199 cell
kirstens@aiaseattle.org