



2020 Legislative Session Report

Overview

The Legislature adjourned March 12 amidst the threat of the increased Coronavirus spread. The end of session took second stage to the declarations by Governor Inslee and President Trump affecting large groups, school closures and travel. After adjournment, Governor Inslee announced that he was cancelling all public bill signing ceremonies for the [386 bills passed](#) by the Legislature. With potential economic hardship facing the state the Governor vetoed numerous bills and partially vetoed others that created new programs, task forces or tax exemptions. Unless otherwise indicated by an emergency or a specified date, the new laws go into effect 90 days from the end of session on June 11, 2020.

Overall, the maritime industry fared well in the 2020 legislative session. [HB 2265](#) to remove restrictions on firefighting foam and [SB 6210](#) on antifouling paint for vessels were passed by the Legislature while bills to impose net ecological gain environmental requirements, change water policy or prevent ports from using automated marine container cargo handling equipment failed to pass. Disappointingly, legislation to improve economic development tools with the use of tax increment financing failed to pass the Legislature.

As lawmakers concluded session, they voted to increase funding from \$100M to \$200M for emergency response to COVID-19. Their actions included the passage of [HB 2965](#) to direct \$175M to state and local public health agencies and \$25M for a new unemployment insurance account to help employers and employees affected by the virus. The Governor's Office has coordinated agency resources available through his [website](#). Information is provided about financial assistance, exports, insurance, paid medical leave and more.

After lawmakers passed its \$53.4B operating budget in mid-March, the state fiscal outlook has dramatically changed. In response to the growing fiscal threat, Governor Inslee [vetoed](#) 147 items in SB 6168 after consulting with lawmakers. While the budget maintains substantial funding for homelessness and housing, the vetoed items will reduce state spending by nearly \$445 million over the next three years.

The Governor issued a partial veto on [HB 2322](#), the \$10.4B supplemental transportation budget that puts into question the paused projects resulting from the \$30 car tab measure, Initiative 976. The [veto](#) removed language declaring the intent of the Legislature that the projects should not be eliminated or substantially delayed due to revenue reductions. The final budget assumed the passage of the initiative while also releasing the paused projects. In his veto message, the Governor expressed concerns over the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that "it may be necessary to delay or eliminate projects." This is in stark contrast to his [Sine Die message](#) to release the projects on hold and direct WSDOT to move as expeditiously as possible to restart the paused projects.

The controversial legislation to establish a low carbon fuel standard, HB 1110, failed to pass the Legislature. This issue is expected to return next session and remains intertwined with prospects of the next transportation funding package. While [HB 1110](#) did not pass, legislation to update climate change science, [HB 2311](#), has been signed by the Governor in addition to approving [SB 5811](#) to include light duty trucks in the clean car standard, [HB 2528](#) to recognize forest contribution to the response to climate change and [SB 6135](#) to require an assessment of system reliability under the Clean Energy Act. Meanwhile the budget requires state agencies to develop a prioritized list of actions to mitigate the effects of climate change. The list is due in November.

The [Economic and Revenue Forecast](#) is already showing impacts from financial markets and consumer discretionary spending at the start of the pandemic. With the stay at home order in Washington continued through May 4, the next monthly forecast update is also expected to show negative impacts to the economy and revenue collections. The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council will meet on June 2 for the quarterly economic report and June 17 for the quarterly revenue report. If downward financial trends for the state continue, a special session remains a possibility.

2020 Legislative Session – Bills that Passed

Budget

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------|
| HB 2271 (SB 6094) | Transp. bonds/budget ref. | Correcting a reference to an omnibus transportation appropriations act within a prior authorization of general obligation bonds for transportation funding. | C 24 L 20 | Duerr |
| ESHB 2322 (SSB 6497) | Transp. budget, supplemental | Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium. | C 219 L 20 Partial Veto | Fey |
| ESSB 6168 (SHB 2325) | Operating budget, supplement | Making 2019-2021 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations. | Partial Veto | Rolfes |
| ESSB 6248 (SHB 2324) | Capital budget, supplemental | Concerning the capital budget. | C 354 L 20 | Frockett |
| SSB 6660 | Four-year balanced budget | Improving fiscal responsibility and budget discipline by replacing the spending limit with additional four-year balanced budget requirements. | C 218 L 20 | Rolfes |

Carbon, Climate & Energy

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|------------|---------|
| HB 1165 | Low-water landscaping | Encouraging low-water landscaping practices as a drought alleviation tool. | C 9 L 20 | Orwall |
| ESHB 1622 (SB 5675) | Drought preparedness | Concerning drought preparedness and response. | C 168 L 20 | Blake |
| E2SHB 2311 (SB 6272) | Greenhouse gas emissions | Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science. | C 79 L 20 | Slatter |
| E2SHB 2405 (SB 6222) | Comm. property/clean energy | Concerning commercial property assessed clean energy and resilience. | C 27 L 20 | Duerr |
| SB 5811 (HB 1999) | Clean car standards & prog. | Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program. | C 143 L 20 | Nguyen |
| SSB 6135 | System reliability/energy | Concerning system reliability during the clean energy transformation act implementation. | C 63 L 20 | Sheldon |

Economic Development

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|------------|----------|
| ESB 5457 (HB 1571) | Naming of subcontractors | Naming of subcontractors by prime contract bidders on public works contracts. | C 140 L 20 | Keiser |
| 2SSB 6139 (SHB 2721) | Aerospace tech. innovation | Extending the joint center for aerospace technology innovation program. | C 306 L 20 | Mullet |
| ESSB 6473 | Asbestos materials | Concerning asbestos-containing building materials. | C 100 L 20 | Stanford |

Environment

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------|---------|
| EHB 1187 | Fish habitat projects | Revising hydraulic project eligibility standards under RCW 77.55.181 for conservation district-sponsored fish habitat enhancement projects. | C 166 L 20 | Dent |

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|--|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| ESHB 1261 (ESSB 5322) | Clean water act/discharges | Ensuring compliance with the federal clean water act by prohibiting certain discharges into waters of the state. | C 10 L 20 | Peterson |
| SHB 2246 | Environment reorganization | Concerning the reorganization of laws related to environmental health without making any substantive, policy changes. | C 20 L 20 | Fitzgibbon |
| SHB 2250 | Coastal crab derelict gear | Concerning coastal crab derelict gear recovery. | C 172 L 20 | Blake |
| ESHB 2265 (SB 6360) | Firefighting foam | Eliminating exemptions from restrictions on the use of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances in firefighting foam. | C 23 L 20 | Doglio |
| HB 2315 (SB 6214) | Mitigation equipment | Installing, repairing, replacing, and updating mitigation equipment installed within an impacted area. | C 112 L 20 | Orwall |
| ESHB 2571 (SSB 6071) | Fish and wildlife violations | Concerning increased deterrence and meaningful enforcement of fish and wildlife violations. | C 38 L 20 | Goodman |
| SHB 2673 | Infill development | Concerning exemptions for infill development under the state environmental policy act. | C 87 L 20 | Barkis |
| ESHB 2722 (SB 6645) | Minimum recycled content | Concerning minimum recycled content requirements. | Vetoed | Mead |
| EHB 2811 (SB 6124) | Environmental education | Establishing a statewide environmental sustainability education program. | C 292 L 20 | Johnson |
| EHB 2819 (SSB 6578) | Pumped storage projects | Designating pumped storage projects located in a county bordering the Columbia river utilizing statutorily authorized water rights to be projects of statewide significance. | C 46 L 20 | Mosbrucker |
| 2SSB 6027 | Floating residences | Concerning floating residences. | Partial Veto | Pedersen |
| SSB 6210 | Antifouling paints | Concerning antifouling paints on recreational water vessels. | C 67 L 20 | Lovelett |
| SB 6430 | Industrial waste program | Establishing a statewide industrial waste coordination program. | Partial Veto | Brown |

Labor

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--|-----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|------------------|
| HB 1783 | Office of Equity | Creating the Office of Equity | C 332 L 20 Partial Veto | Gregerson |
| SHB 2308 | Job title reporting | Requiring employers to periodically report standard occupational classifications or job titles of workers. | C 334 L 20 | Slatter |
| SHB 2409 | Industrial insur./employers | Concerning industrial insurance employer penalties, duties, and the licensing of third-party administrators. | C 277 L 20 | Kilduff |
| HB 2602 | Hair discrimination | Concerning hair discrimination. | C 85 L 20 | Morgan |
| SHB 2613 (SB 6348) | Unemployment benefits | Granting relief of unemployment benefit charges when discharge is required by law and removing outdated statutory language. | C 86 L 20 | Sells |
| SHB 2614 (SSB 6349) | Paid family & medical leave | Concerning paid family and medical leave. | C 125 L 20 | Robinson |
| HB 2739 | Shared leave program | Adjusting certain requirements of the shared leave program. | C 6 L 20 | Kloba |
| SSB 6037 | Business corporations | Concerning business corporations' requirements for diversity of board members. | C 194 L 20 | Pedersen |

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|---|----------------------------|--|------------|----------|
| ESSB 6217 (SHB 2715) | Airport labor standards | Concerning minimum labor standards for certain employees working at an airport or air navigation facility. | C 96 L 20 | Keiser |
| ESSB 6440 (HB 2689) | Workers' comp medical exam | Concerning industrial insurance medical examinations. | C 213 L 20 | Stanford |

Land Use

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| ESHB 2342 | Comprehensive plan updates | Aligning the timing of comprehensive plan updates required by the growth management act with the timing of shoreline master program updates required by the shoreline management act. | C 113 L 20 | Fitzgibbon |
| HB 2640 (SB 6504) | Private detention/GMA | Clarifying that facilities that are operated by a private entity in which persons are detained in custody under process of law pending the outcome of legal proceedings are not essential public facilities under the growth management act. | C 128 L 20 | Fey |

Ports

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|------------|---------|
| E2SHB 1521 (SB 5655) | Government contracting | Providing for accountability and transparency in government contracting. | C 269 L 20 | Dolan |
| ESHB 2588 | Special purpose districts | Improving openness, accountability, and transparency of special purpose districts. | C 179 L 20 | Pollet |

Privacy

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|---------|
| 2SHB 1888 | Employee info. disclosure | Protecting employee information from public disclosure. | C 106 L 20 | Hudgins |
| SB 6187 | Data breaches/SSN | Modifying the definition of personal information for notifying the public about data breaches of a state or local agency system. | C 65 L 20 | Zeiger |
| ESSB 6280 | Facial recognition services | Concerning the use of facial recognition services. | C 257 L 20 Partial Veto | Nguyen |

Rail

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|--|-----------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------|
| HB 1841 (SB 5877) | Crew size on certain trains | Establishing minimum crew size on certain trains. | C 170 L 20 Partial Veto | Riccelli |
| SSB 6208 (SHB 2358) | Bicyclists/stop signs | Increasing mobility through the modification of stop sign requirements for bicyclists. | C 66 L 20 | Billig |

Taxes

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|---|------------|----------|
| SHB 2486 (SB 6318) | Electric marine batteries | Extending the electric marine battery incentive. | C 341 L 20 | Lekanoff |
| HB 2858 | Assessment rolls filing | Concerning requirements for the filing of assessment rolls. | C 134 L 20 | Orcutt |

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|--|------------------------------|---|--------------|-----------|
| HB 2903 (SB 6654) | Auto dealers/cash incentives | Providing that qualified dealer cash incentives paid to auto dealers are bona fide discounts for purposes of the business and occupation tax. | Partial Veto | Chapman |
| SSB 5628 (SHB 1502) | Heavy equipment rental prop. | Concerning heavy equipment rental property taxation. | C 301 L 20 | Cleveland |
| ESSB 6492 | B&O tax/workforce education | Addressing workforce education investment funding through business and occupation tax reform. | C 2 L 20 | Pedersen |
| SSB 6632 (SHB 2840) | Business licensing services | Providing additional funding for the business licensing service program administered by the department of revenue. | C 164 L 20 | Takko |
| ESB 6690 (HB 2945) | Aerospace B&O taxes/WTO | Concerning aerospace business and occupation taxes and world trade organization compliance. | C 165 L 20 | Liias |

Tourism

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|------------|---------|
| ESSB 6592 | Tourism | Concerning tourism authorities. | C 215 L 20 | Holy |

Transportation

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|------------------------------|--|------------|------------|
| ESHB 1793 (SSB 5789) | Auto. traffic safety cameras | Establishing additional uses for automated traffic safety cameras for traffic congestion reduction and increased safety. | C 224 L 20 | Fitzgibbon |
| SSB 6084 (SHB 2245) | Circular intersections | Concerning roundabouts. | C 199 L 20 | Takko |
| ESB 6239 | Public works projects | Addressing compliance with apprenticeship utilization requirements and bidding on public works projects. | C 255 L 20 | Conway |

Vessels

| Bill # | Abbrev. Title | Short Description | Status | Sponsor |
|---|----------------------------|--|----------------------------|----------|
| 2SSB 6528 (SHB 2769) | Derelict vessel prevention | Concerning the prevention of derelict vessels and creation of a grant program. | C 324 L 20 Partial Veto | Lovelett |