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Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Legislative Update

February 14, 2022

Happy Valentine's Day.

This is WACD's fourth week of subscription-only legislative updates. These weekly updates contains timely information about legislative activities that may affect conservation districts in Washington State.

1. WACD's Opposed to Amendment on Elections Bill

Last Thursday, WACD sent a call to action to Association members and partners on HB Bill 1652, the bill containing the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Elections. After it's passage in committee, an amendment to strike everything out of HB 1652 was introduced by Rep. Gregerson, to turn it into a version of a previous bill that WACD opposed in committee.

WACD is opposed to this amendment, which [the text of](#) is available on the bill's webpage.

2. Approaching the Next Cutoff

During the Legislative session, proposals must reach specific checkmarks at certain times in order to continue along the process to becoming a law. We have now hurdled two benchmarks and are coming on a third in the House of Origin cut-off, where legislation in the House or Senate must be adopted by the respective body by 5 PM on Tuesday, February 15th.

WACD gathered all the bills from our [watch list](#) that are still standing and put them in [one place](#) on our website, which is updates as bills are adopted.

3. General Legislative Review

As part of her services, WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a summary of the previous week's major legislative activity. This week's coverage includes:

- Easing COVID restrictions
- High profile legislation still advancing
- Transportation Budget Package Details

You can read [her full review](#) on the WACD Hub website.

4. Looking Ahead

Once the legislature passes Tuesday's cut-off, committees will hear testimony this week on legislation from the other side of the capitol rotunda. Bills are already being scheduled that are on WACD's watchlist, including:

- [HB 1117](#) (Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework) will be heard at 10:30 on February 16th in the Senate Committee on Housing & Local Government.
- [HB 1799](#) (Concerning organic materials management) will be heard at 10:30 on February 17th in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy, and Technology.
- [HB 1953](#) (Exempting sensitive voter information...) will be heard at 10:30 AM on February 18th by the Senate Committee on State Government & Elections.
- [SB 5641](#) (Promoting local agriculture through greenhouses) will be heard at 8 AM on February 18th by the House Committee on Local Government.
- [SB 5476](#) (Concerning drought preparedness, response, and funding) will be heard at 8 AM on February 18th by the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources.

5. Budget Handouts

WACD expects both the Operating and Capital Supplemental Budgets to roll out this week. We want to ensure districts have access to budget handouts that tell the story of programs important to district priorities. The Conservation Commission has several excellent one-pagers on their requests for this session. WACD also has a budget one-pager [with its priorities](#) for this session

- [Conservation Equity and Engagement](#)
- [Sustainable Farms and Fields](#)
- [Farmland Preservation](#)

Ryan's Random Bill of the Week

A moment occurred on the floor of the House of Representatives this afternoon that perfectly fits this column's theme of finding whimsical and lightheaded moments amid the serious deliberations that take place here in Olympia. During testimony on [HB 1928](#), Rep Ed Orcutt (R-Cathlamet) took the floor in support of the proposal to modify the rules regarding the competitive equine industry. In his 90 seconds, which was conducted with a straight-face, I counted at least eleven horse racing puns. Throughout his speech and afterwards, you could heard laughter coming from the Representatives on the floor and online.

Unfortunately, TVW has not uploaded the video yet. I plan on including the clip in all its glory in next week's newsletter. Consider it a teaser.



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