



WACD Legislative Update

January 30, 2023

This is WACD's third week of subscription-only legislative updates for 2023. These weekly updates contain timely information about legislative activities affecting conservation districts in Washington State.

1. WACD Legislative Day

If you need a hotel room for Leg Day, please contact the Ramada Inn directly, identify you are part of WACD Legislative Day 2023, and request the government rate for your room. Please let us know if you are unable to get the government rate.

Ramada Inn: [1-360-459-8866](tel:1-360-459-8866)

We will also be providing breakfast and a legislative briefing the day of those coming to Olympia.

- Date: February 8, 2023
- Location: [Ramada Inn, Lacey, WA](#)
- Legislative Breakfast starts at 7:30 am

We will also be offering an online legislative briefing at Noon on Friday, February 3rd for those participating remotely or not are unable to be in Olympia early Wednesday morning.

- [WACD Virtual Legislative Briefing Zoom link](#)

2. Bill Updates

WACD's two primary focuses this session have been the proposed riparian restoration grant program and conservation district elections. On the riparian side, WACD is aware of ongoing conversations among the bill sponsors of HB 1215 and a few key stakeholders. We know House Ag & Natural Resources Committee chair Mike Chapman is seeking a bipartisan consensus on whatever compromise language comes back to the committee. WACD is hopeful those at the table are thinking about advancing voluntary conservation practices.

On topic of CD elections, [HB 1567](#) was introduced last Wednesday and would order a study of the cost of all five supervisor positions switching to Title 29A elections (among other objectives). WACD had worked with last year's sponsor of the recommendations from the Joint Committee on Elections, the retiring Representative Dolan, in hopes of finding a new sponsor this year but changing political conditions (including a new committee chair) have necessitated shifting our strategy. If HB 1567 is not scheduled for a public hearing, it may signal shifting legislative attention away from the topic of CD elections. WACD continues to support the JCE's work and seeks opportunities to implement Resolutions 2021-17 and 2022-13

Both bills must be voted out committee by Friday, February 17th or are considered dead for the remainder of session.

3. Legislative Overview

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

- Capital Gains Supreme Court Arguments
- B&O Tax Proposals
- Health Care

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

4. Policy Cut-off

As the calendar flips over into February, the countdown can officially start toward the first legislative cut-off. All bills with a policy component must be voted out of committee by Friday, February 17th to continue their advance this session. With this week's committee schedule set, that means only two weeks remain for a bill to be heard in a public hearing and be scheduled for an executive session. The tempo will increase as legislators work to see their bills make it over this hurdle, but less than 20% of introduced legislation will live to see another day.

5. Hearings This Week

[WACD's Legislative Watch List](#) includes information on which of the bills we're following are scheduled for a public hearing. This week, two bills are worth highlighting:

- [HB 1421](#) (Adding counties to the voluntary stewardship program) is being heard in the House Committee on Local Government at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, January 31st.
- [HB 1552](#) (Directing the state conservation commission to conduct a study of urban agricultural opportunities and barriers in the state) is being heard in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, January 31st.

You can sign up to testify on these bills, or any other, at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/> for either remote or in-person testimony.

WACD's 2023 Legislative Priorities

The 2023 WACD legislative priorities were adopted by the WACD Board of Directors at their January meeting. These priorities are based on resolutions adopted by the membership at previous annual meetings and feedback courtesy of our member-districts.

[You can view them on the WACD Hub](#)



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