



WACD Legislative Update

February 06, 2023

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

1. HB 1720 Testimony

The successor to HB 1215 heard earlier this session, [HB 1720](#) would create a voluntary riparian grant program within the Commission. WACD plans to testify in support of this bill because of the strong endorsement of the voluntary conservation approach and the recognition that the Commission is the right entity to create and manage a voluntary riparian grant program.

HB 1720 is being heard in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 10:30 AM on Tuesday, February 7th.

2. HB 1567 Testimony

The other bill WACD plans to testify on this week is [HB 1567](#) to study the cost of putting all five supervisor positions on the general election ballot. WACD's testimony will remind the committee of the JCE's good work and express our desire that those recommendations be incorporated into legislation.

HB 1567 is scheduled for a public hearing at 1:30 PM on Tuesday, February 7th and is already scheduled for a vote on Friday the 10th.

3. WACD Legislative Day is Wednesday, Feb 8

We will be providing breakfast and a legislative briefing for those coming to Olympia.

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

Ryan and Tom will be posted in the Pritchard Building cafeteria most of the day Wednesday to assist districts as needed. For those coming to Olympia for the first time, the legislature has [eight paid parking lots](#) for visitors plus a [free shuttle that runs through downtown Olympia](#). There will not be a WACD shuttle from the Ramada Inn to the Capitol. And if you haven't been to Olympia since the pandemic, be aware most legislators will not accept paper handouts, so be prepared to email them to the legislators you meet with in advance or afterward.

4. Legislative Overview

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

- Doxxing
- The "Nothing About Us Without Us" Act
- Right to Repair

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

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 is the penultimate week for bills to be heard in committee, as all bills must be voted out by Friday, February 17th to stay alive in the legislative process. Among the bills we're tracking up for a hearing this week include:

- [HB 1735](#) (Adding net ecological gain as a voluntary element of comprehensive plans under the Growth Management Act) is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Committee on Environment and Energy at 4 PM on Tuesday, February 7th.
- [HB 1740](#) (Concerning eligibility, enrollment, and compensation of small forestland owners volunteering for participation in the forestry riparian easement program) is being heard in the House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources at 10:30 AM on February 10th.

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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