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# Washington Association of Conservation Districts

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## WACD Legislative Update

April 17, 2023

This is WACD's fourteenth week of legislative updates for 2023. There are six days left in the legislative session, so by next Monday the House and the Senate should be adjourned for the year.

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### 1. Anticipation for the Final Budget

A final operating budget is expected to be revealed on Thursday, April 20 with a capital and transportation budget unveiled soon thereafter. If you wish to see every detail, there is a website where [all the financial details](#) will be shared with the public when the time comes. Once released, compromise budgets are rarely altered or amended, and the three government budgets are hurriedly pushed through the legislative process. The reasoning behind the apparent need for haste in the final days is so all the necessary negotiated agreements hold together.

### 2. Reconciliation Budget Comments

Since the beginning of the month, multiple entities have weighed in on conservation funding. WACD sent a [letter to the primary budget writers](#) on April 3rd, highlighting our two largest priorities items in CTA and riparian funding. On Wednesday, April 5th, the Washington State Conservation Commission wrote to legislators with the agency's budget remarks. You can read a [copy of their letter](#) on the Commission's website. And at WACD's request, NRCS State Conservationist Roylene Comes at Night [provided details](#) on the impact of Conservation Technical Assistance funding on their programs

for state legislators. We thank her for taking the time to share that information.

### 3. Legislative Overview

This week, WACD Lobbyist Brynn Brady focuses on some of the high-profile bills adopted by the House and Senate as part of her legislative overview. Many of the biggest topics this session saw movement this past week, including votes on vehicular pursuits, drug possession, and "middle housing". You can [read her full review on the WACD Hub website](#).

### 4. Legislative Watch List

Of the 19 bills remaining on WACD's Legislative Watch List, only the budget bills, HB [1578](#), and [SB 5437](#) are not on their way to the Governor's Desk. As long as the House and Senate adopt the same version of a bill before midnight on Sunday, the bill will make it. In most cases, the Governor will have up to twenty days to act.

### 5. Looking Ahead by Looking Back

With the end of session in sight, it is time to look ahead to 2024. Every bill introduced in year one will be automatically rolled over to year two. The bills which couldn't complete the legislative gauntlet this year will have another chance next year. This means all the bills kept on our "Not Alive" [bill tracker](#) will form the nucleus of our 2024 Legislative Watch List.



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