WACD Week 6 Legislative Update

February 12, 2024

Welcome to Day 36 of the legislative session. We are crossed the halfway point and now on the (proverbial) downhill slide. Legislators spent most of last week and this weekend voting on legislation and will begin committee meetings again on Wednesday. Supplemental budget information is due out soon, so budget conversations will start overlapping with policy conversations in the coming days.

Continuing our practice to consolidate during this short but busy session, WACD is keeping all our 2024 Advocacy information in one place. On that page you will be able to view past Legislative Newsletters and our bill tracker, among other resources. If there are additional ways WACD can be of service to our membership during session, all you have to do is pick up the phone or write to Tom, Heather, or Ryan

1. Legislative General Review

As part of her services, WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a general review of major legislative topics covering the previous week. We share it with our membership so you are informed of non-district topics that are being discussed in Olympia. You can find her update on the WACD Hub breaking down highlights from this fast paced legislative session.

This week's review is heavy on law and justice bills, with information on legislation related to hate crimes, penalties for graffiti, and potential changes to the state statute for clergy requirements for reporting child abuse.

2. Bills yet to clear the hurdle

Tuesday is another legislative cut-off, all bills must be voted out of the House or the Senate by 5 PM. Here are some of the bills from our bill tracker that are in danger of being left behind for this session.

- **HB 1365** Improving Puget Sound water quality.

- **HB 1952** Concerning long-term community recovery after disasters.

- **HB 2293** Studying the effects of avian predation of salmon.

- **SB 5972** Concerning the use of neonicotinoid pesticides.

3. Committee Testimony This Week

Subject to any changes because of bills adopted on Tuesday, below are some of the bills on our watch list that will be heard in committee this week.

- SB 5921 Concerning tribal representation on the state conservation commission. (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, February 14)

- SB 5884 Concerning court-ordered restitution in environmental criminal cases. (Scheduled for public hearing in the House Committee on Environment & Energy at 10:30 AM on Wednesday, February 14)

- **HB 1752** Modifying the application of the annual consumptive quantity calculation to change applications related to certain water rights held by the United States bureau of reclamation. (Scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks at 1:30 PM on Thursday, Feb 15)

4. Revenue Forecast due out Wednesday

The Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council, the government entity responsible for predicting government revenue for tax purposes, meets on Wednesday morning. This is a noteworthy meeting because it gives budget writers an official estimate for how much room might be the supplemental budgets for new government programs. The Senate's draft capital budget is due out soon after, with a public hearing scheduled at 4 PM that day in Senate's Ways & Means Committee on their proposed supplemental capital budget (SB 5949). We will be in touch with budget information as it becomes available to us.

5. WACD's Legislative Priority Sheet

If you are looking for an overview of WACD's budget and policy priorities this session you can find our legislative priority sheet here.

"Foggy Snow in the Valley", courtesy of WSCC's Flicker account,
a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.
Photo by Megan Martin Aust, Grays Harbor & Pacific CD.

MailPoet