



Washington Association of Conservation Districts

WACD Week 13 Legislative Update

April 14, 2025

There are less than two weeks left of the legislative session. Folks are starting to look towards being done, and being able to go home, after three months of being in Olympia. Unfortunately the final sprint has yet to begun, as the three budgets still have to be reconciled along with hundreds of other bills to be sent to the Governor before April 27th.

As always, 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](#), [Ryan](#) or [Heather](#), who are all working on Olympia activities during budget time.

1. Rates and Charges Bill Update

[House Bill 1488](#) has not moved in the last three weeks, it still waits for reconciliation between the House version passed on March 3 and the Senate version passed on March 26. The simplest path forward would be for the House to concur to the Senate's proposal (with the \$25 cap), after which the bill would be sent on to the Governor's office for his signature or veto. We may not see action on this bill until after Wednesday, when the House and the Senate begin looking at reconciling bills like ours with differences between the versions passed by each chamber.

2. Budget Reconciliation

As the legislators begin to reconcile the differences between the House and Senate versions of the operating, capital, and transportation budgets, there is still time to reach out and educate lawmakers. You can view the [SCC analysis](#) of the different budget

proposals to the biennial operating and capital budgets. You should take a few moments to look over how district programs would be affected under the House and Senate proposals. WACD has template letters if you feel inclined to write to your elected officials on the [overall budget](#) or specific the need to [fund forest health](#) programs.

3. Need to be Approved

Wednesday, April 16, is the deadline for all bills to be passed out of both the House and the Senate. Below are some bills from WACD's [bill tracker](#) that are waiting for a vote:

- [HB 1261](#) (Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land.)
- [HB 1271](#) (Permitting early deployment of state fire service resources.)
- [HB 1912](#) (Concerning the exemption for fuels used for agricultural purposes in the climate commitment act.)
- [SB 5669](#) (Concerning irrigation district elections.)

4. Defunct Bills

Two legislative cut-offs have already occurred this month, requiring all bills to be voted out of any policy committee and financial committee in the opposition chamber (for example: a House bill out of Senate Ag & Natural Resources and Senate Ways & Means). Here are a couple bills from our [defunct bill tracker](#) that succumbed to those deadlines:

- [HB 1758](#) (Calculating the inflation rate for aquatic land leases.)
- [SB 5055](#) (Promoting agritourism in Washington.)
- [SB 5360](#) (Concerning environmental crimes.)

5. General Legislative Update

WACD's Lobbyist Brynn Brady writes a weekly update for those interested in the general happenings of Olympia. [This week](#) she writes about the biggest bill from the previous week - HB 1217 to implement a cap on rent increases - as well as some potential initiatives that could be on the ballot this fall.



"That's a Lot of Lady Beetles", courtesy of [WSCC's Flickr account](#), as a treat for those who read to the bottom of the page.

Taken by Ashley Smithers, Clark Conservation District



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