

Fire Chiefs Association Legislative Report

Budget Overview

Senate Operating Budget

The Senate Operating Budget proposal was released on 2/23, with a public hearing on 3/24. It was voted out of the Ways & Means Committee on 3/27 after the committee considered over 130 amendments.

The Senate budget includes language directing the creation of a Fire Service Delivery Workgroup (Section 918) to evaluate existing funding and fire service delivery models. A report is due by December 1, 2023.

The Senate budget also includes funding for the JATC program, with a baseline of \$700,000. An amendment to increase this by another \$300,000 was adopted, though discussions are ongoing about the source of this additional funding.

The Senate proposal also includes \$2 million in FY 24 and another \$2 million in FY 25 to the Association of Washington Cities for co-responder training grants. This was requested by CROA.

Also of note is the increase in provider rates under the Health Care Authority for ALS, BLS, and non-emergency transports, as well as air ambulance transport services.

Lastly, the Senate budget also includes \$100K for a review of the smoke control system & damper issue.

House Operating Budget

The House released its budget proposal on 3/27, holding a hearing the same day. Similar to the Senate budget, the House proposal includes increases for the ambulance transport rates under the HCA.

Also similar to the Senate, the House also provides \$2 million to create a grant program to support local initiatives to include behavioral health co-responders on emergency medical services teams operated by local and regional fire departments and authorities.

The House also provides one-time funding to the Washington State Patrol for a feasibility study to determine technology needs in the State Fire Marshal's Fire Protection Bureau.

Additional funding is provided in both the House and Senate proposals to implement many of the pieces of legislation that contain a fiscal note.

Differences between the two budgets will have to be reconciled prior to the end of the legislative session.

A) Priority Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
EHB 1336 (SB 5567)	Vol. firefighter pensions	Splitting the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension principal fund into two accounts.	S 2nd Reading	Stokesbary		
HB 1670	Property tax limit factor	Raising the limit factor for property taxes.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
E2SSB 5236	Hospital staffing standards	Concerning hospital staffing standards.	H Approps	Robinson		
SB 5520	Fire service policy board	Establishing the fire service policy board and improving fire service training and mobilization.	S Ways & Means	Liias		

B) Operations

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
ESHB 1048 (SSB 5047)	Voting rights act	Enhancing the Washington voting rights act.	S SGEDP	Mena		
SHB 1105	Public comment notice	Requiring public agencies to provide notice for public comment that includes the last date by which such public comment must be submitted.	S State Govt & El	Kloba		
SHB 1621	Local government procurement	Concerning standardizing local government procurement rules among special purpose districts, first-class and second-class cities, and public utility districts.	S Loc Gov, Land	Ryu		
ESSB 5186	Contracting/discrimination	Requiring antidiscrimination clauses in public contracting.	H State Govt & Tr	Liias		
2SSB 5268 (SHB 1306)	Public works procurement	Addressing equity and efficiencies in public works procurement including modifying small works roster requirements.	H Approps	Hasegawa		
SB 5421	Benefit enrollment info.	Exempting benefit enrollment information collected and maintained by the health care authority from public inspection and copying	H Passed 3rd	Conway		

		under the public records act.				
SSB 5437	Special districts/vacancies	Concerning vacancies of the governing body of special purpose districts.	H Exec Action	MacEwen		

C) EMS, Hospitals & Behavioral Health

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
E2SHB 1134	988 system	Implementing the 988 behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention system.	S Health & Long	Orwall		
2SHB 1452	Medical reserve corps	Establishing a state medical reserve corps.	S Ways & Means	Timmons		
SHB 1493	Impaired driving	Concerning impaired driving.	S Law & Justice	Goodman		
HB 1542	AEDs/high voltage work	Requiring automated external defibrillators to be available and accessible when work is being performed on high voltage lines and equipment.	S Rules 2	Bronoske		
ESHB 1547	Out-of-state health prov.	Increasing the health care workforce by authorizing out-of-state providers to practice immediately.	S Rules 2	Caldier		
2SHB 1724	Behavioral health workforce	Increasing the trained behavioral health workforce.	S Health & Long	Bateman		
SB 5036 (HB 1027)	Audio-only telemedicine	Concerning telemedicine.	Del to Gov	Muzzall		
2SSB 5120	Crisis relief centers	Establishing 23-hour crisis relief centers in Washington state.	H Approps	Dhingra		
SB 5122 (HB 1321)	Ambulance transport fund	Extending the expiration date of the ambulance transport fund.	Del to Gov	Cleveland		
ESB 5130	Assisted outpatient treat.	Concerning assisted outpatient treatment.	H Civil R & Judi	Frame		
SSB 5189 (HB 1348)	Behavioral health support	Establishing behavioral health support specialists.	H Approps	Trudeau		
E2SSB 5236	Hospital staffing standards	Concerning hospital staffing standards.	H Approps	Robinson		
SB 5497	Medicaid expenditures	Concerning medicaid expenditures.	H HCWDP	Wilson		
SSB 5499	Multistate nurse licensure	Concerning the multistate nurse licensure compact.	H Exec Action	Mullet		
2SSB 5532 (HB 1748)	Small rural hospital payment	Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.	H Approps	King		
E2SSB 5582	Nurse supply	Reducing barriers and expanding educational opportunities to increase the supply of nurses in Washington.	H Exec Action	Holy		

D) Local Gov Finance

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1265 (SB 5302)	Adult family homes/prop. tax	Establishing a property tax exemption for adult family homes that serve people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and are owned by a nonprofit.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Ramos		
HB 1303 (SB 5407)	Property tax administration	Concerning the administration of property taxes.	H Spkr Signed	Street		
SHB 1355	Property tax exemptions	Updating property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens.	S Ways & Means	Wylie		
2SHB 1425	Municipal annexations	Facilitating municipal annexations.	S Ways & Means	Berg		
SHB 1460	DNR land	Concerning the department of natural resources land transactions, revenue distributions, and creation and management of a trust land transfer program.	S Ways & Means	Hackney		
HB 1670	Property tax limit factor	Raising the limit factor for property taxes.	H Rules R	Ormsby		
SB 5732	Property tax exemptions	Protecting senior citizens' and disabled veterans' property tax exemption eligibility.	H Finance	Randall		

E) Human Resources & Labor

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
ESHB 1050	Apprenticeship utilization	Expanding apprenticeship utilization requirements.	S 2nd Reading	Riccelli		
HB 1055 (SB 5328)	Pub safety telecommunicators	Concerning public safety employees' retirement plan membership for public safety telecommunicators.	S Rules 2	Stokesbary		
SHB 1056 (SB 5349)	Postretirement employment	Repealing some postretirement employment restrictions.	S Ways & Means	Stokesbary		
SHB 1068 (SB 5212)	Injured worker medical exams	Concerning injured workers' rights during compelled medical examinations.	S Rules 2	Bronoske		
ESHB 1106	Unemployment/voluntary	Concerning qualifications for unemployment insurance when an individual voluntarily leaves work.	S Labor & Comm	Fosse		
ESHB 1187 (SB 5706)	Employee-union privilege	Concerning privileged communication between	S Law & Justice	Hackney		

		employees and the unions that represent them.				
HB 1197 (SB 5310)	Workers' comp. providers	Defining attending provider and clarifying other provider functions for workers' compensation claims, and adding psychologists as attending providers for mental health only claims.	S Rules 2	Bronoske		
SHB 1200 (SB 5273)	Employee information/unions	Requiring public employers to provide employee information to exclusive bargaining representatives.	S Labor & Comm	Alvarado		
E2SHB 1320 (SSB 5061)	Personnel records	Concerning access to personnel records.	S RecComm	Reed		
EHB 1336 (SB 5567)	Vol. firefighter pensions	Splitting the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension principal fund into two accounts.	S 2nd Reading	Stokesbary		
SHB 1458	Apprenticeship programs/UI	Concerning unemployment insurance benefits for apprenticeship program participants.	H Spkr Signed	Shavers		
SHB 1521 (SSB 5524)	Industrial insurance/duties	Concerning the duties of industrial insurance self-insured employers and third-party administrators.	S Rules 2	Bronoske		
ESSB 5123	Cannabis/employment	Concerning the employment of individuals who lawfully consume cannabis.	H 2nd Reading	Keiser		
ESSB 5217	Musculoskeletal injuries/L&I	Concerning the state's ability to regulate certain industries and risk classifications to prevent musculoskeletal injuries and disorders.	H Approps	Dhingra		
SSB 5286	Paid leave premiums	Modifying the premium provisions of the paid family and medical leave program.	H Approps	Robinson		
ESSB 5294 (HB 1201)	Retirement system funding	Concerning actuarial funding of state retirement systems.	H Exec Action	Rolfes		
SSB 5524 (SHB 1521)	Industrial insurance/duties	Concerning the duties of industrial insurance self-	S Rules X	Van De Wege		

		insured employers and third-party administrators.				
ESSB 5726	Prevailing wage/public works	Concerning the prevailing wages on public works.	H Labor & Workpla	King		

F) Transportation

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
SHB 1271 (SSB 5177)	Organ transport vehicles	Concerning organ transport vehicles.	S 2nd Reading	Low		
HB 1540 (SB 5603)	Driver training/large veh.	Requiring driver training curriculum to include instruction on sharing the road with large vehicles, including commercial motor vehicles and buses.	H Spkr Signed	Hutchins		
SB 5023 (HB 1485)	Roadside safety measures	Concerning roadside safety measures.	H Passed 3rd	Wilson		

G) Wildland/Disaster/DNR/SFMO

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
2SHB 1032 (SSB 5039)	Wildfires/electric utilities	Mitigating the risk of wildfires through electric utility planning and identification of best management practices appropriate to each electric utility's circumstances.	S Ways & Means	Dent		
EHB 1336 (SB 5567)	Vol. firefighter pensions	Splitting the volunteer firefighters' and reserve officers' relief and pension principal fund into two accounts.	S 2nd Reading	Stokesbary		
ESHB 1498	Aviation assurance funding	Concerning aviation assurance funding in response to wildland fires.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Dye		
2SHB 1578 (SB 5611)	Wildland fire safety	Improving community preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience to wildland fire health and safety impacts in areas of increasing population density, including in the wildland urban interface.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Springer		
SHB 1638	State trooper recruitment	Creating a state trooper expedited recruitment incentive program.	S Transportation	Fey		
SB 5520	Fire service policy board	Establishing the fire service policy board and improving fire service training and mobilization.	S Ways & Means	Liias		

H) WSAFM

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
ESHB 1042	Use of existing buildings	Concerning the use of existing buildings for residential purposes.	S 2nd Reading	Walen		
E2SHB 1167	Residential housing	Concerning residential housing regulations.	S Ways & Means	Duerr		
E2SHB 1181 (SSB 5203)	Climate change/planning	Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.	S Ways & Means	Duerr		
SHB 1323 (SB 5253)	Fire-resistant materials	Requiring a training and certification program for individuals who apply fire-resistant materials.	S Labor & Comm	Bronoske		
EHB 1337	Accessory dwelling units	Expanding housing options by easing barriers to the construction and use of accessory dwelling units.	S Loc Gov, Land U	Gregerson		
2SHB 1391	Energy in buildings	Concerning energy in buildings.	S Environment, E	Ramel		
ESHB 1589 (SSB 5562)	Clean energy	Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future.	S Environment, En	Doglio		
SB 5058	Multiunit res. buildings	Exempting buildings with 12 or fewer units that are no more than two stories from the definition of multiunit residential building.	H Exec Action	Padden		
E2SSB 5144	Batteries/environment	Providing for responsible environmental management of batteries.	H Approps	Stanford		
2SSB 5425	Fire sprinkler contractors	Concerning fire protection sprinkler system contractors.	H Labor & Workpla	Salomon		
SSB 5491	Residential building exits	Allowing for residential buildings of a certain height to be served by a single exit under certain conditions.	H Housing	Salomon		
SB 5553	Temporary emergency shelters	Authorizing standards for temporary emergency shelters for local adoption.	H Passed 3rd	Lovelett		

I) State Budget Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1125 (SB 5162)	Transportation budget	Making transportation appropriations for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey		
HB 1126 (SB 5164)	Transportation budget, supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium.	H Transportation	Fey		
HB 1140 (SB 5187)	Operating budget	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 1141 (SB 5188)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 1147 (ESSB 5200)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
HB 1148 (SSB 5201)	State gen. obligation bonds	Concerning state general obligation bonds and related accounts.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
SB 5187 (HB 1140)	Operating budget	Making 2023-2025 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes		
SB 5188 (HB 1141)	Operating budget, supp.	Making 2021-2023 fiscal biennium second supplemental operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Rolfes		
ESSB 5200 (HB 1147)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H 1st Reading	Mullet		
SSB 5201 (HB 1148)	State gen. obligation bonds	Concerning state general obligation bonds and related accounts.	S Rules 2	Mullet		
SB 5486 (HB 1473)	Wealth/property tax	Investing in Washington families and creating a more fair tax system by enacting a narrowly tailored property tax on extreme wealth derived from the ownership of stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible property.	S Ways & Means	Frame		

Uncategorized Bills

No bills.