



DEPARTMENT OF
ECOLOGY
State of Washington

CRPAG Legislative Update

Noah Wentzel

April 6, 2023

Agenda

- 1** Session Overview
- 2** Agency Request Bills
- 3** Water Resource Bills
- 4** Other Notable Bills

Session Calendar

CUTOFF	DATE
Policy cutoff, house of origin	February 17 th
Fiscal cutoff, house of origin	February 24 th
House of origin cutoff	March 8 th
Policy cutoff, opposite house	March 29 th
Fiscal cutoff, opposite house	April 4 th
Opposite house cutoff	April 12 th
Last day of session	April 23 rd

Session Overview

2089 bills introduced

230 bills tracked by Ecology

10 bills tracked by WRP/OCR

- *Three currently active*
- No bills passed (so far)

Agency Request Bills

- SHB 1138
- 2SHB 1322
- E2SHB 1170

SHB 1138

Drought Preparedness and Response

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Chapman

- Creates separate accounts for drought prep/planning and emergency response.
- Appropriates \$2.5M/biennium funding for prep/planning and \$3M for emergency response upon issuance of drought emergency order

Substitute Bill (passed House 96-1) removed appropriations for both prep/planning and emergency response

Senate striking amendment restored emergency response funding

Current Status: Senate Rules Committee

2SHB 1322/SB 5384

Walla Walla Water 2050 Plan

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Rude/Sen. Dozier

- Authorizes Ecology to implement the Walla Walla 2050 plan.
- Directs Ecology to develop intergovernmental agreements with Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation to manage new water supplies developed under the plan.
- Authorizes Ecology to fund new water supply projects located outside of Washington within the Walla Walla River basin.

Second substitute bill passed House 96-0

Current Status: Senate Rules Committee

E2SHB 1170/SSB 5093

Climate Resilience Planning

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Street/Sen. Rolfes

- Directs Ecology to update the statewide strategy for climate resilience and make regular future reporting updates.
- Strengthens requirements for incorporating climate impacts in agency decision-making and improves interagency coordination and reporting.
- Identifies the UW Climate Impacts Group as the primary partner for technical and scientific information on climate impacts.

Engrossed second substitute bill passed House 82-14

Current Status: Senate Floor

Other Water Resource Bills

- HB 1285
- HB 1752
- HB 1792
- SB 5157
- SB 5517
- SB 5622
- SB 5628

SHB 1285

Family Farm Water Right Transfers

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Goehner

- Allows family farm permits to be transferred for use in a limited area of more intensive rural development or master planned resort.
- Substitute Bill: Removed master planned resort provision.

Current Status: Inactive

HB 1752

Bureau of Reclamation Water Right Transfers

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Dye

- Provides a narrow exemption to ACQ requirement under RCW 90.03.380 for water right changes to spread Bureau of Reclamation water rights held within the Columbia Basin Project

Current Status: Inactive

HB 1792

Water Rights Adjudication Procedure

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Timmons

- Makes procedural changes to the process for water right adjudications filed in WRIA 1 (Nooksack Basin).
- Defines minimum periods for claimants to file claims in court and directs Ecology to publish the draft adjudication form for public comment.

Original bill passed House 97-0

Current Status: Senate Floor

SB 5157

Water Infrastructure Projects

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Torres

- Establishes a large-scale water infrastructure program to fund projects that promote water availability, flood protection, fish passage, and stormwater management.
- Commits to appropriating at least \$50 million per biennium up to a total program funding limit (including federal funding) of \$5 billion.

Current Status: Inactive

SB 5517

Water Resource Mitigation

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Warnick

- Establishes a mitigation sequencing standard for new groundwater right applications in basins with regulated surface flows wherein applicants must avoid, minimize, and then compensate for impacts to through in-kind or out-of-kind mitigation.
- Directs Ecology to establish standards for groundwater modeling through rulemaking.

Current Status: Inactive

SB 5622

Municipal Water Right Transfers

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Torres

- Enables transfer of alternate (non-additive) water rights.
- Enables transfer of inchoate quantities of “pumps and pipes” municipal certificates and permits outside the service area of the original project.

Current Status: Inactive

SB 5628

Family Farm Water Right Transfers

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Torres

- Allows family farm permits to be transferred for use outside of their WRIA of origin within the mainstem corridors of the Columbia and lower Snake rivers.

Current Status: Inactive

Other Notable Bills

- SHB 1216/HB 5380
- SB 5094

SHB 1216/SB 5380

Clean Energy Project Siting

Prime Sponsor: Rep. Fitzgibbon/Sen. Nguyen

- Creates a new interagency clean energy siting council.
- Creates a new designation for "clean energy projects of statewide significance" and defines non-project environmental impact statement requirements for these sites.
- Directs WSU to conduct a statewide survey of least-conflict siting opportunities for pumped storage facilities.

Substitute bill passed House 75-20

Current Status: Senate Rules Committee

SSB 5094

Water System Planning

Prime Sponsor: Sen. Rolfes

- Requires Class A water systems (1000+ connections) to include climate resilience in water system plans.

Substitute bill passed Senate 43-5

Current Status: Inactive



Thank you

Noah Wentzel

(360) 522-2777

noah.wentzel@ecy.wa.gov