



Legislative Update



Washington State
**Conservation
Commission**

*Status of Issues and Topics in the 2021 Legislative
Session*

Ron Shultz, WSCC Policy Director
WSCC Regular Meeting – March 18, 2021

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

March 18 is the 67th legislative day in the 105 day session. There are 38 days left.

Bills have passed their chamber of origin and are now in the opposite chamber policy committees.

There are still several bills alive we're tracking.

Budgets for 2021-23 are expected in the next few weeks.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Revenue Forecast:

Both chambers will build their operating and capital budget proposals based on the March revenue forecast.

Forecast was released yesterday, March 17:

- Revenue (GF-S) for current fiscal year is up \$1.3 billion.
- Revenue (GF-S) for next biennium is up \$1.9 billion.

Unclear impacts to proposed 15% reductions in current FY.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Senate and House Budgets:

The Senate and House will now finalize their operating and capital budget proposals.

Possible release of these proposals will be delayed as they figure out what's in the recent recovery funding passed by Congress.

Washington could potentially receive up to \$7 billion in Recovery Act funding. State and local funding.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Key Bills Still Alive:

Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA)

ESHB 1056 Concerning open public meeting notice requirements and declared emergencies.

SHB 1329 Relating to public meeting accessibility and participation.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Salmon Recovery

E2SHB 1117 Relating to promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.

E2SHB 1382 Streamlining the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects.

ESB 5220 Concerning the taxation of salmon recovery grants

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Food System

2SSB 5045 Establishing a state meat and poultry inspection program.

Habitat Restoration

2SSB 5253 Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Forests and Forest Health

2SHB 1168 Concerning long-term forest health and the reduction of wildfire dangers.

E2SHB 1216 Concerning urban and community forestry.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Carbon and Climate Change

2SHB 1099 Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.

SB 5126 Concerning the Washington climate commitment act.

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Environmental Justice

E2SSB 5141 Implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force

2021 LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATUS

Next Steps:

- Continue to track and engage on the legislation mentioned and whatever might pop-up in the final days of session.
- Watch for budget proposals, particularly for budget provisos.

Questions?



Thank you!

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