Washington Library Association Legislative Report – Last Week of Session – March 4, 2024

Last week, the Senate and House had two very important deadlines which resulted in many bills failing to pass. Monday, February 26th, was the fiscal committee cut off for the opposite house. That means all bills that had a fiscal note must have passed out of Senate Ways and Means, Senate Transportation, House Appropriations, and House Finance. Then, March 1st was the last day to consider bills from the opposite house. The House and Senate both spent many late nights debating bills before 5:00 PM on Friday, March 1st.

This week will be spent focusing on bills that need concurrence, voting on the final budgets (Supplemental operating, transportation and capital), and conference committees on a bill if the original house does not agree with changes made in the opposite house. The Washington State Legislature Sie Die on March 7th, which leaves very little time for final negotiations over the final days.

High Priority

* [ESHB 2331](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2331) - Anti-Book Ban Bill
  + Summary:
    - Prohibits Washington schools from banning books solely because they were written by or about members of a protected class unless the content contains discriminatory bias.
    - Directs the Instructional Materials Committee to include recommendations for culturally and experientially representative instructional materials
    - Requires school district Instructional Materials Committees to include at least one parent member.
    - Requires policies and procedures governing requested reviews and removals of instructional and supplemental instructional materials.
  + Status: Needs a concurrence from the House
    - Passed House 58-39 with 1 excused, Passed Senate 29-20.
* [ESHB 2494](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2494) - Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools.
  + Summary: Updates and increases per pupil amounts for materials, supplies, and operating costs in state prototypical school funding formulas beginning in the 2023-24 school year
  + Status: Needs a concurrence from the House
    - Passed House 80-17 with 1 excused; Passed Senate 48-1 with a committee amendment adopted.
* [HJR 4207](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=4207) - Amending the Constitution to allow 55 percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.
  + Summary: Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow school districts to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, levy taxes to make payments on those bonds, and exceed the constitutional debt limit with approval of 55 percent of the voters.
  + Status: Done for session. Last public hearing on January 15th in House Education.
* [ESB 5824](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5824&Initiative=false&Year=2023) - Concerning the dissolution of libraries and library districts.
  + Summary:
    - Increases the signature threshold for filing petitions to dissolve libraries from 100 taxpayers to 25 percent of eligible voters in the district.
    - Increases the signature threshold for filing petitions to dissolve library districts from 10 percent of voters residing outside of incorporated cities or towns to 25 percent of eligible voters in the district.
    - Expands voter eligibility to allow all qualified electors of a library district to participate in a vote on propositions for library district dissolution.
  + Status: Head back to Senate for concurrence, floor amendment adopted.
    - Passed Senate 49-0; Passed House 90-5, with 3 excused.
* [2SSB 5882](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=5882&Initiative=false&Year=2023) - Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs.
  + Summary:
    - Increases staff allocations for paraeducators, office support staff, and noninstructional aides in the prototypical school funding model.
    - Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop rules that require school districts to use the additional funding to support increased staffing, prevent layoffs, or increase salaries for those staff types in the 2024-25 school year and collect data on how the increased allocations are used.
  + Status: Head back to Senate for concurrence, committee amendment adopted.
    - Passed Senate 37-11; Passed House 90-2.

* [SJR 8207](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=8207&Initiative=false&Year=2023) - Amending the Constitution to allow a majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds.
  + Summary: Proposes a constitutional amendment to allow school districts to issue general obligation bonds for capital purposes, levy taxes to make payments on those bonds, and exceed the constitutional debt limit with majority voter approval.
  + Status: Dead for session. Passed Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education and referred to Senate Ways and Means. Did not receive any additional hearings.

**Citizen Initiatives to be voted on before end of Session**

The three citizen initiatives that received hearings in the Washington State Legislature last week are headed to the floor for votes after gaining committee approval on Friday, March 1st . Both bills had hearings in the House and Senate and passed their respective committees. They will be voted on the Senate and House floors over the next two days. These are the measures that would lift restrictions on police vehicle pursuits ([Initiative 2113)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2113&Year=2023&Initiative=True), prohibit state and local income taxes ([Initiative 2111)](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2111&Year=2023&Initiative=True), and establish a “parents’ bill of rights” for the parents of K-12 school students ([Initiative 2081](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2081&Year=2023&Initiative=True)).

These initiatives are three of six that are backed by GOP-backed Let’s Go Washington as part of a suite of measures pushing against legislation passed by the democratic controlled trifecta House of Representatives, Senate and Governor. The other three initiatives would repeal the Climate Commitment Act ([Initiative 2117](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2117&Initiative=true)), repeal the newly passed capital gains tax ([Initiative 2109](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2109&Initiative=true)), and the state long-term care insurance opt out ([Initiative 2124](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2124&Initiative=true)). The summary of each initiative follows:

* [Initiative 2113](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2113&Year=2023&Initiative=True) - Police Vehicle Pursuits
  + Expands authorization for vehicular pursuits by allowing an officer to conduct a vehicular pursuit where there is reasonable suspicion a person has violated the law.
  + Modifies the risk assessment for engaging in vehicular pursuits by providing that an officer may not engage in a vehicular pursuit unless the person poses a threat to the safety of others and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit under the circumstances.
* [Initiative 2111](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2111&Year=2023&Initiative=True) - State and Local Income Taxes
  + Prohibits the state and local jurisdictions from imposing tax on any individual person on any form of personal income.
* [Initiative 2081](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?BillNumber=2081&Year=2023&Initiative=True) - Parents’ Bill of Rights
  + Declares 15 rights that parents and guardians of public school children have, including rights to receive or be notified of academic, medical, safety, and law enforcement matters, rights to examine and inspect certain materials and records, and rights to opt their children out of certain activities.

## Academic Library Division (ALD)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Passed 3rd | Lovick | Monitoring |  |

## Public Library Division (PLA)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [E2SHB 2354](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2354) (SB 6230) | Tax increment areas | Creating an option for impacted taxing districts to provide a portion of their new revenue to support any tax increment area proposed within their jurisdiction. | S Passed 3rd | Street | Monitoring |  |
| [HJR 4209](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=4209) (SJR 8209) | Residential ex./property tax | Concerning a constitutional amendment providing for a residential real property exemption from property taxes levied for state purposes. | H Finance | Berg | Monitoring |  |
| [2SSB 5444](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5444) | Firearms/certain premises | Concerning firearm sensitive places. | H Passed 3rd | Valdez | Medium | Concerns |
| [ESSB 5788](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5788) | Service animal training | Concerning service animal training. | H Passed 3rd | Pedersen | Medium |  |
| [ESB 5824](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5824) | Dissolution of libraries | Concerning the dissolution of libraries and library districts. | H Passed 3rd | Hunt | High | Support |
| [SJR 8209](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8209) (HJR 4209) | Residential ex./property tax | Concerning a constitutional amendment providing for a residential real property exemption from property taxes levied for state purposes. | S Ways & Means | Robinson | Monitoring |  |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Passed 3rd | Lovick | Monitoring |  |

## School Library Division (ScLD)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [SHB 1044](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1044) | Capital assistance/schools | Providing capital financial assistance to small school districts with demonstrated funding challenges. | S Passed 3rd | McEntire | Medium | Support |
| [ESHB 1277](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1277) | Paraeducator course of study | Establishing rules to improve the consistency and quality of the implementation of the fundamental courses of study for paraeducators. | S Passed 3rd | Donaghy | Low |  |
| [ESHB 2331](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2331) (SB 6208) | Public school materials | Bars school district boards of directors (school boards) from refusing to approve or prohibiting the use of an educational material on the basis that it relates to or includes the study of the role and contributions of individuals or groups that are part of a protected class as established in public school nondiscrimination provisions. Directs school boards to adopt or revise policies and procedures for reviews and removals of supplemental instructional materials and establishes related requirements. Establishes new requirements for written complaints about instructional materials. Requires recommendations of instructional materials committees to include recommendations for culturally and experientially representative materials. Directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop rules and guidelines related to the instructional materials and supplemental instructional materials provisions | S Passed 3rd | Stonier | High | Support |
| [ESHB 2494](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2494) | School operating costs | Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools. | S Passed 3rd | Bergquist | High | Support |
| [HJR 4209](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=4209) (SJR 8209) | Residential ex./property tax | Concerning a constitutional amendment providing for a residential real property exemption from property taxes levied for state purposes. | H Finance | Berg | Monitoring |  |
| [ESB 5462](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5462) | Inclusive learning standards | Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools. | H Passed 3rd | Liias | Monitoring |  |
| [SSB 5804](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5804) (HB 2029) | Opioid overdose med./schools | Concerning opioid overdose reversal medication in high schools. | H Passed 3rd | Kuderer | Medium |  |
| [2SSB 5882](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5882) (SHB 1960) | Prototypical school staffing | Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs. | H Passed 3rd | Stanford | High |  |
| [SJR 8207](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8207) | School district bonds | Amending the Constitution to allow a majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds. | S Ways & Means | Hunt | High | Support |
| [SJR 8209](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8209) (HJR 4209) | Residential ex./property tax | Concerning a constitutional amendment providing for a residential real property exemption from property taxes levied for state purposes. | S Ways & Means | Robinson | Monitoring |  |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Passed 3rd | Lovick | Monitoring |  |

## Special Library Division (SpLD)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Passed 3rd | Lovick | Monitoring |  |

## State Library

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Passed 3rd | Lovick | Monitoring |  |

## Uncategorized Bills

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Priority** | **Position** |
| [E2SHB 1956](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1956) (SSB 5923) | Substance use prevention ed. | Addressing fentanyl and other substance use prevention education. | S Passed 3rd | Leavitt | Monitoring |  |
| [HJR 4207](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=4207) | School district bond voting | Amending the Constitution to allow 55 percent of voters voting to authorize school district bonds. | H Education | Harris | High | Support |