



# *This Week in Olympia*

## Washington Association of School Administrators

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## Week 7

**February 27, 2009**

**This is the 47th day of  
the  
Jan. 12 through April 26  
2009 Regular Session  
(58 to go).**

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### THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

#### ECONOMIC STIMULUS

On Thursday, Superintendent of Public Instruction Randy Dorn returned from a meeting in Washington, D.C. where he and other state education chiefs met with DOE Secretary Arne Duncan and Vice President Joe Biden. He reported to a group of stakeholders and legislators that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act will provide Washington State with about \$1.2 billion for education. He said that the DOE officials stressed four points: 1.) the dollars are to be used to rejuvenate the education system and not just be a “band-aid,” 2.) the funds are one-time only (although they are hopeful that Congress will consider continuing the allocations sometime in the future), 3.) the dollars will be carefully tracked for accountability and transparency purposes and, 4.) there will be competitive grants for best practices. DOE has an aggressive timeline with the goal of having the money to states in six to eight weeks. However, many details for distributing the funds still need to be worked out.

OSPI’s materials on the K-12 portion of the stimulus package can be found at: <http://www.k12.wa.us/Communications/pubdocs/FederalStimulusPackage.ppt>

#### COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

This week, over sixty more bills related to K-12 were heard in committees and/or scheduled for executive action. Bills that did make it out of the policy committees by the February 25 cut-off must now make it out of the budget committee (if a fiscal note was attached) by March 2 and pass their house of origin by March 16 to “stay alive.” If a bill is needed to “implement the budget” it can still be considered at a later time even if it didn’t meet these cut-off dates.

## THIS WEEK IN REVIEW

(Cont'd)

In many ways, it is almost impossible to understand. There is no “new” money. There is an anticipated \$8 billion deficit (which could mean a \$1B, or more, cut to K-12). Committee chairs warn us every day that we will all feel the pain in the coming budget. And yet, there are over a hundred bills related to K-12 education still “alive.”

While there actually are a few policy-only bills that could be beneficial, most bills will add administrative and record keeping costs and/or more unfunded mandates. WASA’s position on unfunded mandates, referencing the flexibility bills currently being considered by the legislature, can be found [HERE](#).

### BASIC EDUCATION FINANCE BILLS

There are a number of stakeholder/legislator/elected official groups working on the K-12 finance issues embodied in the bills proposed by the Basic Education Finance Task Force (HB 1410/SB 5444) and the Full Funding Coalition (HB 1817/SB 5607). Since none of these bills will move forward this session, work is under way to see what—if anything—can be done in a positive and realistic way to reinvent the K-12 finance system and lay out a clearly delineated plan to fully fund basic education over time. House Education Appropriations is scheduled to hold a public hearing on Monday on HB 2261. Right now, the bill has only an intent section but legislators are working behind the scenes to amend sections on to the bill which reflect some of the proposals put forth in the bills mentioned above. The Senate companion bill, SB 6048 could also become the vehicle for a revised K-12 finance bill.

### SOME OF THE BILLS OF INTEREST STILL ALIVE

All of the bills still alive can be found in the [BILL WATCH](#). For information on bills relating to Retirement and Health Benefits, go to page 4.

SHB 1018	Special election dates	H 2nd Reading
HB 1075	Military children	H Exec Action
HB 1113	School construction grants	C 6 L 09
SHB 1292	180-day school year waivers	H Exec Action
HB 1322	School scoliosis screening	S EL/K-12
SHB 1356	Middle sch student tech edu	H Ways & Means
HB 1383	School salary allocations	H Ways & Means
SHB 1416	Feeding hungry children	H Ways & Means
SHB 1418	Dropout reengagement system	H Ways & Means
HB 1562	Graduating w/out certificate	H 2nd Reading
SHB 1646	WASL/math and science	H Exec Action
SHB 1741	School employees dismissal	H Rules R
HB 1757	Small school district fund	H 2nd Reading
SHB 1758	High school diplomas/options	H Exec Action
SHB 1813	Graduation & reengagement	H Education Apps
HB 1824	Concussion mgmt/youth sports	H 2nd Reading
SHB 1944	Kindergarten assessment	H Exec Action
SHB 1971	School district treasurers	H Rules R
HB 2041	Student trans funding	H Exec Action
HB 2070	School health & safety rules	H Ways & Means
HB 2132	Instruction in civics	H 2nd ReadSCal
SHB 2167	Education system flexibility	H Ways & Means
HB 2261	State’s education system	H Education Apps
SSB 5232	Sexual misconduct/schools	S 2nd Reading
SB 5248	Military children	S Ways & Means
SB 5378	Digital learning programs	S 2nd Reading
SSB 5379	School salary allocations	S Ways & Means
SSB 5410	Online learning	S Rules 2G
SSB 5449	Graduation & reengagement	S Rules 2G
SSB 5624	Student discipline policies	S Ways & Means
SSB 5763	Concussion mgmt/youth sports	S Rules 2G

**THIS WEEK  
IN REVIEW**

(Cont'd)

SSB 5779	School health & safety rules	S Rules 2
SSB 5801	Tribal school basic edu	S Ways & Means
SSB 5881	Truancy	S Rules 2
SSB 5889	Education system flexibility	S Rules 2
SSB 5890	Education system flexibility	S Rules 2
SB 5914	Student trans funding	S Ways & Means
SSB 5924	Running Start provisions	S Ways & Means
SSB 5941	Comprehensive education data	S Ways & Means

**NEXT WEEK ...**

the action shifts from policy to fiscal committees and then to the floor. Floor activity will continue the following week. Tune in to [TVW](#) to see what's happening as bills make their final hurdle to pass their house of origin. Once that happens, hearings will begin on bills that passed the opposite house. (Bills are frequently amended during this process and become substitute bills.)

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**FLOOR SESSION  
SCHEDULE  
Week of March 2 - 6**

Monday - Friday	House Session/Caucus	10:00 a.m.
Saturday	Possible House Session/Caucus	10:00 a.m.

**SENATE**

Monday - Wed.	Senate Session/Caucus	10:00 a.m.
Thursday - Friday	Possible Senate Session/Caucus	6:00 p.m.
Saturday	Possible Senate Session/Caucus	10:00 a.m.

**HOUSE CAPITAL BUDGET**

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 2 - 6**

JLOB ROOM C  
3/2/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.  
**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**HOUSE EDUCATION APPROPRIATIONS**

JLOB ROOM A  
3/2/09 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING/POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. HB 2261 - Concerning the state's education system.

**HOUSE FINANCE**

JLOB ROOM C  
3/2/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.  
**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

3/5/09 8:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Agenda: To be announced.

**COMMITTEE  
HEARING SCHEDULE  
Week of March 2 - 6**

**Cont'd.**

**HOUSE WAYS & MEANS**

JLOB ROOM A

3/2/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. TVW

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Bills referred to committee.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**SENATE WAYS & MEANS**

JAC ROOM 4

3/2/09 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. TVW

**PUBLIC HEARING:** To be announced.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

3/2/09 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. TVW

**PUBLIC HEARING:** Continuation of 1:30 p.m. hearing.

**POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Bills previously heard in committee.

**CUT-OFF CALENDAR**

*Click [HERE](#) to see the 2009 Session Cut-off Calendar.*

**RETIREMENT/HEALTH  
BENEFITS**

Early in this past week SSB 5491 (Senator Brandland) passed out of the Senate Health & L-T Care Committee to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. This bill's timeline would now move all K-12 and ESD employees into the Health Care Authority (HCA) health plans by September 1, 2011. The bill has a fiscal note from the HCA; however, a note from OSPI has yet to be posted. This bill and Representative Bailey's HB 1940, which is similar, probably do not need to meet the fiscal bill cut-off since they could be deemed necessary to implement the operating budget.

HB 2245, the Governor's bill making eligibility and other changes to the HCA statutes, was given support by our association; however, the bill has some fiscal problems as it relates to higher education employees. At this point neither this bill nor its companion, SB 5869, has moved out of their Ways and Means Committees.

We, together with other associations and unions, continue to push for a hearing on the Plan 2 & 3 postretirement employment bills, SB5490/HB 1602 and HB 2143. We also are requesting executive action on HB 1601, Plan 2 Access to the PEBB. We testified in support of this bill on February 19th.

The SCPP-recommended bills continue moving and a few have passed their house of origin. For further information see the [Retirement/Health Benefit Bill Watch](#) on our association web site.

## AEA

On Monday, AEA testified in support of SB 6048, the basic education “intent” bill. We told the Senate Early Learning/K-12 Education Committee that we are supporting the bill as well as their continual efforts to come up with a final product that fully funds basic education. We will be working through the remainder of the session toward legislation that builds a foundation for fully funding basic education. Hopefully, that foundation can be built upon in future years.

WAMOA and WASBO representatives met with Rep. Pat Sullivan regarding HB 2070, implementation of the State Board of Health’s Environmental Health and Safety Rule. We are providing him with information he requested about which rules might be able to be implemented without funding and other rules which need additional funding.

WSNA’s two feed hungry kids bills, SHB 1416 and SSB 5361, both moved out of their policy committees of origin and are currently in House and Senate Ways and Means, respectively. They both, if funded, would eliminate the reduced price lunch copay for grades pre-K, four and five. The cost, including an addition for the summer food program, would be about \$2.4M for the 2009-11 biennium.

WASBO has been analyzing two school data bills, SSB 5738, which would extend the work of the OSPI CEDARS school data feasibility work group, and SSB 5941, which would establish the data governance group to develop a comprehensive K-12 education data system. WASBO supports the continuation of the work group and the establishment of the data governance group, but has concerns about the cost of the implementation of the data system when economic times are challenging.

On Tuesday, we testified with concerns on HB 2276, which would establish a safety net program for school construction. In these tough times even for the capital budget, we recommend supporting the school construction programs already in place, rather than starting new programs.

## KEEPING UP WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

You can contact legislators using the Legislative Hotline  
1-800-562-6000 or by going to the legislature’s website:  
<http://www.leg.wa.gov>

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