WASHINGTON LIBRARY ASSOCIATION LEGISLATIVE REPORT – February 23, 2024

We just passed the fourth cut off of the session (opposite house policy committee) and are marching toward the opposite house fiscal cut off on February 26. Then bills have until March 1 to be off the opposite house floor if they are going to stay alive (if not necessary for the budget).

Budgets are already moving toward passage in each house and then will go to conference committees for reconciliation. Below is a summary of the budgets including specific library funding.

**2024 Supplemental Budget Proposals**

There are 3 budgets for Washington State: operating, capital and transportation. The budgets are approved every odd year, but supplemental budgets are approved every even year.

Operating budget is the “main” budget, as it funds K-12 education; higher education; health care; social services; public safety and prisons; natural resources and recreation programs; government operations; and debt services on bonds for capital projects.

Capital budget funds state-owned facilities and land; grants and loans; and K-12 school facilities partnership.

Transportation budget funds construct, preserve, operate, finance, and administer: roads and bridges; ferries and terminals; State Patrol; Amtrak Cascades and freight rail; motor vehicle registration and driver licensing; and public transportation and mobility grants.

The budget proposals will discuss the initial proposals, not the amended ones that will be done in committee. Some changes will occur during the committee action as well as on the floor. Both the Senate and the House will pass their own budgets. From there, they will negotiate a final budget. For the 2024 year, we are passing a supplemental operating, capital and transportation budget.

**Operating**

In April 2023, The Legislature adopted $133.6 billion budget for the 2023-25 biennium. The 2024 legislative session is spent on supplemental budgets, where more money is added to supplement the already adopted budget, increasing the budget for the 2023-25 biennium. Near general fund outlook revenue has increased from $65.8 billion to $67.0 billion due to the February 2024 revenue forecast, so there is an assumed “maintenance” of $1.1 billion are the ongoing expenses of what the government already has underway.

**House**

PSHB 2104 provides for the funds below:

* K-12 education total: 256,475,00 total
* Higher education: 141,792,00 total
* Behavioral Health: 471,283,000 total
* Homelessness: 250,007,000 total
* Health Care & Public Health: $783,781,000 total
* Long term care: 53,080,000 total

Specific things of note in the budget -

* Special education funding: related to increasing funds for providing extra K-12 dollars for students with special education needs, its budget contains $32.3 million to cover that cost, plus paying for teaming special education teachers with mentors to work on coursework.
* Education operating costs: The House proposes an additional $43.4 million for K-12 materials, supplies and operating costs, pointing to utilities, insurance and security.
* Mental Health: $140 million for the Olympic Heritage Behavioral Health Facility, which would include an increase of 72 civil conversion beds. It also includes 30 new beds at Western State Hospital and 8 new beds at Eastern.
* Homeless grant program: $70 million total, $30 million for grants to maintain affordable housing and $40 million for maintaining homeless services, such as shelters and temporary housing for local governments.
* Climate Commitment Act: This act has brought in significantly more money than anticipated, so there is more money to spend. Some of the costs include:
  + $150 million to provide a one-time $200 credit on residential electricity bills for an estimated 750,000 low- and moderate-income Washington families.
  + $30 million is provided for payments to support farm fuel users and transporters who purchased fuel for agricultural purposes exempt from requirements of the Climate Commitment Act.
* Apprenticeships: $9.6 million increase to expand access to apprenticeship opportunities in nursing, construction, manufacturing, the electrical trades, and other industries.

**Senate**

PSSB 5950 provides for the funds below:

* K-12 education total: 244,092,00 total
* Higher education: 34,987,549 total
* Behavioral Health: 261,262,000 total
* Homelessness: 192,950,000 total
* Health Care & Public Health: 871,058,000 total
* Long term care: 15,791,000 total

Specific things of note in the budget -

* Education: $45 million is provided Funding is provided to reimburse additional school districts required to participate in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).
* Healthcare: $390.7 million is provided for Medicaid Transformation Project. Under this federal waiver project, the Health Care Authority, in collaboration with community and state agency partners, will create and continue to develop projects, activities and services aimed at improving Washington's health care system, such as supportive housing and employment, health-related social needs programs, and reentry services.
* Homelessness: $31.9 million provided to local governments for grants to support individuals or to prevent closures of affordable housing or homelessness programs.
* Apprenticeships: $7.2 million provided within the Department of Labor and Industries (LNI) are intended to expand the workforce of various trades.
* Climate Commitment Act: $279.6 million: Funding is provided for various grants and assistance for climate and clean energy-related services and projects from the Climate Commitment Act.

**Capital**

Proposed Substitute House Bill (PSHB) 2089 appropriates $1.3 billion in total funds, of which $101.5 million is from debt limit bonds and $1.2 billion is from other state and federal accounts. Proposed Substitute Senate Bill (PSSB) 5949 appropriates PSSB 5949 authorizes $1.3 billion in total budgeted funds, of which $117.7 million is debt limit bonds, and the rest from other state and federal accounts.

The proposed capital budget lists specific projects, grants, and loans that are funded, which can be found [here](https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2024proposals/Documents/hc/hcPSHB2089BudgetSummary.pdf) in the budget summary. The proposed senate capital budget can be found [here](https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2024proposals/Documents/sc/SummaryAndProjectLists.pdf). These projects are very important to individual districts.

**Transportation**

PSHB 2134, the proposed house supplemental transportation budget spends $14.3 billion, an increase of $838 million from the enacted biennial budget. PSSB 5947, the proposed senate supplemental transportation budget provides $14.6 billion in appropriation authority, which is an increase of $1 billion over the 2023 enacted transportation budget.

Some key aspects of the proposed house budget:

* The House budget includes $50 million for $50 million in additional CERA funding for the programs at the WSDOT Public-Private Partnership program, which includes Zero-emission Vehicle Infrastructure Partnerships Grant Program alternative fuel charging infrastructure grants for the deployment of alternative fuel vehicle charging and refueling infrastructure on state highways and a medium- and heavy-duty zero-emission vehicle voucher program.
* The House budget includes $45 million for additional zero-emission transit grants. In addition, $900,000 is provided to implement certain recommendations from the 2023 frequent transit service study with a focus on accessibility for underserved communities.
* The House budget includes increased monies for highway improvements due to higher than anticipated bid proposals projects already underway such as SR 18, SR 520, I-405, SR 167, and USR 395.
* The House proposal also includes additional funding for cost increases on projects concerning fleet electrification in Washington State Ferries.

Some key aspects of the Senate budget:

* The Senate proposed budget emphasizes traffic safety investments and includes approximately $31 million for a variety of traffic safety activities
* The Senate proposed budget includes about $6.2 billion in expenditures in operating programs. This in a net increase of about $45 million over 2023 levels.
* The ferry operating funding is increased by $32.5 million.
* $15.7 million for grants to transition diesel school buses and other student transport vehicles to zero emissions vehicles, and funds necessary infrastructure work.
* The Senate budget includes increased monies for highway improvements due to higher than anticipated bid proposals projects already underway such as SR 18, SR 520, I-405, SR 167, and USR 395.

Specific Library funding (as of 2/22/24):

**Operating Budget**

* **House -** [**link**](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%20Bills/2104-S.pdf?q=20240222165747)
  + P. 30 – Secretary of State
    - Washington State Library Account – increased to $14,668,000
  + P. 36 – Secretary of State
    - $198,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and $154,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely to establish a Washington state library branch at Green Hill school. No change from original operating budget.
  + P. 460 – Dept. Of Health
    - $133,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 is provided solely for the department to maintain a supply of naloxone in public libraries for emergency response. This funding may be used
      * (a) To supply naloxone directly to libraries; or
      * (b) As pass-through grants to libraries, for:
        + (i) The development of partnerships with local public health agencies or other governmental entities;
        + (ii) Purchases, delivery, and replacements of naloxone supply;
        + (iii) Training employees; or
        + (iv) Other activities and items that would ensure the availability of naloxone in the library.
  + P. 523 – Dept. Of Children, Youth & Families – early learning program
    - Increase from $1,000,000 to $2,200,000 for the year 2025 for the imagination library
  + P. 643 – Superintendent of Public Instruction – General Apportionment
    - Library materials MSOC rates increased from $22.65 in 23-24 school year to $23.09 in 24-25 school year.
  + P. 644 – Superintendent of Public Instruction – General Apportionment
    - For 9-12 grades, rates increased from $6.05 in 23-24 school year to $6.18 in 24-25 school year.
  + P.807-808 – creates Washington State Library Operations Account.
    - $2,000,000
* **Senate -** [**link**](https://lawfilesext.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5950-S.pdf?q=20240222165730)
  + P. 29 – Secretary of State
    - Washington State Library Account – increased to $14,659,000
  + P. 35 – Secretary of State
    - $198,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2024 and $154,000 of the general fund—state appropriation for fiscal year 2025 are provided solely to establish a Washington state library branch at Green Hill school. No change from original operating budget.
  + P. 489 -Dept. Of Children, Youth & Families – early learning program
    - imagination library stays at $1,000,000 for both 2024 and 2025.
  + P. 602 – Superintendent of Public Instruction – General Apportionment
    - Library materials MSOC rates increased from $22.65 in 23-24 school year to $23.09 in 24-25 school year.
  + P. 603– Superintendent of Public Instruction – General Apportionment
    - For 9-12 grades, rates increased from $6.05 in 23-24 school year to $6.18 in 24-25 school year.
  + P. 680 - $500,000 for labor archives. May not be used to supplant or supplement other activities of UW libraries unrelated to collection of labor archives.
  + P. 763 – Under Office of Financial Management – Washington State Library Operations Account
    - $2,000,000

**Capital Budget**

* **Senate –** [**link**](https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2024proposals/Documents/sc/scESSB5949.pdf)
  + p. 37 – Republic Community Library - $183,000
  + p. 37 – Seattle Public Library Holds Pick-Up Locker - $93,000
  + p. 53 - Washington Masonic Services Library & Museum Remodel - $47,000
  + p. 140-141 – Secretary of State: Enter into a financing contract for up to $119,000,000 plus financing expenses, required reserves, and capitalized interest pursuant to chapter 39.94 RCW to construct a new library-archives building.
* **House –** [**link**](https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/2024proposals/Documents/hc/hcPSHB2089BudgetBill.pdf)
  + P. 18 - Republic Library and Community Center - $315,000
  + P. 20 - $600,000 is provided solely for the Langley Library Historic Preservation project
  + P. 52 - Republic Community Library - $183,000
  + p. 37 – Seattle Public Library Holds Pick-Up Locker - $93,000
  + p. 140-141 – Secretary of State: Enter into a financing contract for up to $119,000,000 plus financing expenses, required reserves, and capitalized interest pursuant to chapter 39.94 RCW to construct a new library-archives building.

# Upcoming Events

**Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/23 @ 1:30pm**

• [ESB 5462](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5462) - Public Hearing - Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools. (Remote Testimony Available). (Monitoring)

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/23 @ 1:30pm**

• [ESHB 1932](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1932) - Public Hearing - Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation. (Remote Testimony Available). (Medium)

• [E2SHB 2354](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2354) - Public Hearing - 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 and clarifying that a tax increment area must be dissolved when all bond obligations are paid. (Remote Testimony Available). (Monitoring)

• [ESHB 1277](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1277) - Exec Session - Improving the consistency and quality of the implementation of the fundamental course of study for paraeducators. (Low)

**Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 2/24 @ 9:00am**

• [SHB 1044](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1044) - Public Hearing - Providing capital financial assistance to small school districts with demonstrated funding challenges. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/Medium)

• [ESHB 2494](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=2494) - Public Hearing - Increasing state funding for operating costs in schools. (Remote Testimony Available). (Support/High)

• [E2SHB 1956](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1956) - Public Hearing - Addressing fentanyl and other substance use prevention education. (Remote Testimony Available). (Monitoring)

**Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 2/26 @ 10:30am**

• [ESB 5462](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5462) - Exec Session - Promoting inclusive learning standards and instructional materials in public schools. (Monitoring)

• [2SSB 5882](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5882) - Exec Session - Increasing prototypical school staffing to better meet student needs. (High)

## High Priority Bills

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| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Position** |
| [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 | 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 Ways & Means | Bergquist | Support |
| [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 | Support |
| [ESB 5824](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5824) | Dissolution of libraries | Concerning the dissolution of libraries and library districts. | H Rules R | Hunt | Support |
| [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 Approps | Stanford |  |
| [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 | Support |

## Medium Priority Bills

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| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **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 Ways & Means | McEntire | Support |
| [ESHB 1932](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1932) | Even-numbered year elections | Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation. | S Ways & Means | Gregerson |  |
| [HB 1978](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1978) | Intrastate mutual aid system | Adding special purpose and junior taxing districts to the intrastate mutual aid system. | S Rules 2 | Rule |  |
| [2SSB 5444](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5444) | Firearms/certain premises | Concerning firearm sensitive places. | H Rules R | Valdez | Concerns |
| [ESSB 5788](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5788) | Service animal training | Concerning service animal training. | H Rules R | Pedersen |  |
| [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 Rules R | Kuderer |  |
| [SB 5843](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5843) | Election security breaches | Concerning security breaches of election systems and election-related systems. | H Rules R | Nguyen |  |

## Low Priority Bills

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| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **Position** |
| [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 Ways & Means | Donaghy |  |
| [HB 1962](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=1962) | Voter address changes | Improving voter registration list accuracy by improving voter address change processes for county election offices and voters. | S Rules 2 | Low |  |
| [2ESSB 5284](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5284) | Campaign finance disclosure | Concerning campaign finance disclosure. | H Rules R | Nguyen | Neutral |

## Monitoring Bills

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| **Bill #** | **Abbrev. Title** | **Short Description** | **Status** | **Sponsor** | **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 Ways & Means | Leavitt |  |
| [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 Ways & Means | Street |  |
| [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 |  |
| [ESB 5363](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=5363) | Cannabis advertising | Concerning cannabis retailer advertising. | H Rules R | MacEwen |  |
| [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 Approps | Liias |  |
| [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 |  |
| [SCR 8414](http://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary?Year=2023&BillNumber=8414) | Civic health committee | Creating a joint select committee on civic health. | H Rules R | Lovick |  |

## Other Bills

No bills.