



2015 End of Session Report

Final state budget increases K-12 funding, but shortchanges compensation and class size, and fails to amply fund K-12 public education

It took a record three special sessions for Washington legislators to write and pass a two-year state operating budget.

And while the budget includes more than \$1 billion in new K-12 funding, it fails to fully fund K-12 public schools as required by the state Supreme Court's McCleary decision. Later this year, the Washington Supreme Court will decide whether to sanction the Legislature, which is currently in contempt of court for failing to comply with the court's funding orders.

Smaller K-12 class sizes and adequate pay and benefits are crucial parts of the Legislature's constitutional obligation to fully fund basic education – yet the new state budget falls far short in both areas.

Most of the new K-12 funding in the state budget was earmarked for materials, supplies and operating costs but is discretionary. School boards decide how to spend the funding to meet local needs, and local educators are determined to make sure the new money is invested in teachers, support professionals and services that directly benefit students. The budget does not limit local collective bargaining, although WEA helped defeat legislation that would have limited local bargaining over TRI pay.

If it weren't for the ongoing efforts of Washington educators, the Legislature likely would not have provided any new K-12 funding. More than 40,000 WEA members staged one-day strikes or walkouts against the Legislature this spring, the first teacher strikes against the Washington Legislature since 1999. WEA members have played a major role in the McCleary

coalition and the two ballot initiatives that dominated this year's budget discussions, I-732 (COLAs) and I-1351 (smaller K-12 class sizes).

I-732, which has been suspended for six years, is going back into effect beginning with the 2015-16 school year. However, in one of its final acts, the Legislature voted to delay I-1351 implementation, which will not begin until 2019 with full implementation delayed until 2022. This took a two-thirds vote.

On non-budget issues:

- For the second year in a row, WEA members helped block controversial legislation mandating the use of test scores in teacher evaluations.
- As part of a last-minute budget-related deal, legislators passed Senate Bill 6145, which postpones the biology end-of-course test as a graduation requirement from 2015 to 2017.
- WEA strongly supported unsuccessful legislation that would have removed federally mandated tests as a graduation requirement.

WEA's governmental relations team has prepared the following end-of-session report for WEA members, leaders and staff.

2015-17 Biennium Final Budget Agreement

BRIEF SUMMARY

The overall adopted budget for the 2015-17 biennium is \$38.2 billion. That represents a \$4.4 billion increase in resources overall– or 13.1% above the 2013-15 enacted budget. The K-12 portion of the budget increased by \$2.9 billion (up 19%) – and higher education is up \$427 million (up 13.8%) in state funding.

In summary – a significant amount of money is being invested in public education for the next two years. Unfortunately:

- ***The investments aren't always the right ones (investments in supplies instead of people),***
- ***Some of the investments are temporary (a part of the K-12 salary increase and the ability to use local funding for increments at the community colleges), and***
- ***Some very important investments are not made at all (K-12 staffing beyond grades K-3).***

We have work to do at the local level this summer and fall to ensure the investments made by school districts are the right ones for our staff and students.

Higher education funding:

The final budget lowers tuition for undergraduate students and provides \$160 million in state funds to cover the lost revenue to the institutions. This change provides relief for students and families who faced double digit tuition increases during the height of the recession, but it does not make progress toward amply funding our two and four year systems. The tuition reductions are 5% next year at all state colleges and universities, and grow to a total of 20% at regional institutions and 15% at UW and WSU by the 2016-17 academic year. The budget reduces the State Need Grant (SNG) to reflect the reduced tuition instead of taking the opportunity to serve more eligible SNG students with the savings. The following is a list of other major changes within higher education:

- **\$110 million** for ongoing compensation increases, which are funded based on a 4.8% increase for all higher education employees, including CTC faculty and staff covered by the I-732 COLA.
- **\$41 million** to fund Opportunity Scholarships for low-income middle school students who commit to earning a bachelor's degree in high demand fields in STEM and health care.
- **\$13.7 million** targeted to STEM programs, including computer science and aerospace.
- **\$19.5 million** to develop a medical school at WSU and for medical programs at UW.

Higher Education Compensation:

The COLA required under I-732 is 3% over the biennium. The final budget provides additional compensation increases above the I-732 COLA for CTC faculty and staff since all higher education faculty and staff are funded based on a total 4.8% COLA over the biennium. CTC faculty may still bargain the distribution of the COLA on their schedules. UFWS faculty at the regional universities continue to be able to bargain salary above state allocated increases.

The budget notably allows the CTC's to use local funds to provide increment funding during this biennium. This budget proviso provides needed relief on increment funding for the next two years, but will require continued authorization by the legislature for this change to continue in future years.

The budget provides funding to maintain the policy that employees pay a 15% share of the monthly health care premium, as negotiated in the state employee coalition bargaining agreement. The surcharges for tobacco use and for spouse's who waive coverage through their employer continue at the same rates as 2015, and there are no increases to the limitations on spousal coverage that had been proposed earlier by the Senate.

K-12 funding:

No matter how you slice it \$2.9 billion for K-12 is a lot of money. But, before the legislature started the session the so-called “maintenance level” – or the amount of money to fund current law and maintain current programs – required an additional \$4.2 billion. That means the legislature actually cut \$1.4 billion from where they started.

Since the overall budget increased by \$4 billion overall – one could easily argue that they had the money to fund everything in current law...including I-1351. But – it was also clear that in order to provide other necessary services – additional revenue was going to be needed.

That is why WEA supported several pieces of legislation that would have provided both sufficient revenue and supported a more fair and balanced approach to revenue. Those proposals included a tax on the state’s wealthiest investors and a tax on the state’s largest polluters. Both proposals had significant funds targeted to education – but neither of these proposals could make it through the Senate. WEA also supported the reduction or elimination of over a dozen tax breaks – such as a tax break for oil refineries.

In the end – the Senate Republicans successfully blocked all efforts to implement any significant additional revenue. While they did agree to eliminate a few tax breaks – they also negotiated extending or increasing others. The lack of new revenue led Republicans and Democrats alike to back away from the requirements to make significant progress on total compensation and their obligations under Initiative 1351. There is a lot of money in K-12 (\$2.9 billion over last biennium) – but unfortunately not nearly enough in the two highest priority areas for WEA members.

From a K-12 perspective, the final adopted budget looked much like the original Senate proposal from April which was the lowest among all budget proposals for the year – and took a step backwards in terms of take home pay for many educators. The major changes in the final budget – when compared to the prior biennium include:

- **\$231 million** additional funding for the COLA of 3.0% over two years (I-732 only) which will continue beyond the 2016-17 school year
- **\$152 million** additional funding for a one biennium salary increase (1.8% over two years) which will go away after the 2016-17 school year
- **\$350 million** to reduce class sizes in grades K through 3, with a plan to phase in additional K-3 class size reductions in the 2017-18 school year
- **\$180 million** to provide full day Kindergarten to all elementary schools

- **\$741 million** increase in maintenance, supplies and operating costs (MSOC) funding to fund 100 percent of the funding levels required by law in both the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years
- **\$5.0 million** for expanding the BEST teacher mentoring program
- **\$3.2 million** for school turnaround programs in required action districts
- **\$2.8 million** for WaKIDS implementation and training grants to schools implementing the assessment for the first time.
- **\$2.0 million** for the Microsoft IT academy grants

What is significantly missing from this list is any funding to implement lower class sizes in grades 4 through 12, provide any additional staffing to support students and schools, and any sustained funding to provide for the competitive, professional wages that are required to attract and retain educators. The legislature provided more funding - but entirely missed the mark when it comes to funding the most important element in the education system....our educators.

K-12 compensation:

While the budget provides the first COLA in six years, it is nowhere near enough to address the state's obligation to pay competitive salaries to attract and retain quality educators in every school. The budget provides the 3% COLA mandated by I-732, and also provides a 1.8% one-time salary increase over the upcoming biennium. While this will total a 4.8% compensation increase, which is similar to state employees' salary increases – there is a distinct difference that is only applied to K-12 employees. In the state budget, only K-12 employees have part of their compensation increases that are considered one-time in the state budget. Whether 3% or 4.8%, these numbers are well below the 11.2% COLA that legislators will receive next biennium – which is permanent and on-going.

The amount of funding for a K-12 COLA was at the center of budget debates between the House and the Senate. The House Democrats proposed and worked diligently to keep at least a 4.8% COLA for K-12 employees over the biennium. The Senate Republicans, however, proposed that K-12 salary increases be limited to the I-732 COLA, which is 3% over the next two years. The Senate's steadfast opposition to any COLA above the I-732 COLA is the reason why the final budget agreement had to settle for the higher raise, but on a one-time basis.

The final budget includes a small increase for rising health care costs, but not at the rate provided to address the rising health care costs, and nowhere near the increases provided for state employees and legislators. The K-12 health care allocation will increase by \$12 per month from \$768 per month to \$780 per month, which is the first increase since the 2010-11 school year. The monthly premiums for state employees will rise to \$894 per month by the second year of the biennium. State employee PEBB plans will continue surcharges from 2015 for

tobacco use and for spousal coverage when the spouse waives their employer's coverage. But, the increases in these surcharges that the Senate proposed for state and K-12 employees are not part of the final budget.

The HCA retiree subsidy (the monthly remittance to the Health Care Authority to support retiree health benefits) is currently \$66.64 per month. That amount is reduced slightly in the first year to \$65.25 per month in 2015-16 and then increased to \$70.45 per month in 2016-17.

The monthly subsidy for retirees eligible for Medicare is maintained at the current rate of \$150 per month. Originally, the Senate had proposed reducing that rate to \$110 per month, but that proposed cut to retiree health care did not remain in the final budget.

The final budget makes a sizeable required investment for pensions due to an actuarial assumption change that anticipates people living longer in retirement. For educators in TRS, SERS, or PERS Plans 2, the employees' deduction for pensions will increase by about 1 percent next year – meaning employees will pay more each month toward their retirement benefits. Employer contributions are also increasing at a similar rate to meet the new actuarial estimates.

The combined impact of minimal salary increases, small recognition of rising health care costs, and higher pension contributions for plan 2 members means that many educators will go backward on take home pay.

2015 Policy Bills

The 2015 Session brought us some old worn-out policy negativity and fresh attacks from an activated far-right base led by the Freedom Foundation, formerly the Evergreen Freedom Foundation.

Senator Litzow

Senator Litzow, along with his Republican colleagues Hill, Dammeier, Fain and Rivers, as well as Sen. Mullet from the Democrat side of the aisle, once again attacked the teacher evaluation system by sponsoring legislation, SB 5748, tying the state standardized tests to the evaluations of certain teachers. Although they tried to soften the implementation by delaying it until certain issues were resolved, they continued to ignore current research proving that standardized tests scores do not measure the effectiveness of a teacher. They still do not understand that valid, authentic student growth measurements are a required part of our law. Mandating false science is not going to improve any educator's performance.

Unfortunately the bill passed the Senate this year but it hit a resounding brick wall in the House. Chair Sharon Tomiko-Santos (D) did have a hearing on the bill. Hundreds of educators, parents and public school supporters attended the hearing. Superintendents, college professors, parents and teachers spoke to the harm the legislation would cause to our current evaluation system. Although Rep. Magendanz (R) attempted a procedural motion to move the bill forward; it failed on a party line vote. Speaker Chopp spoke eloquently against this bill at the huge WEA rally in April. He understands responding to bureaucratic nonsense from Washington DC with permanent policy in our state is ridiculous.

Because SB 5748 languished in the House, Sen. Litzow chose to kill almost 30 education policy bills originating in the House. Some of the Senate versions had successfully passed through his committee. Although some of the bills were more housekeeping in nature, one would have helped homeless students and another would have provided research and resources for teachers and school districts interested in social emotional learning. It is disappointing that a legislator would choose to shut down the legislative process because a policy bill opposed by most died two sessions in a row.

Freedom Foundation and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC)

After working behind the scenes for many years, the Freedom Foundation supported the introduction of several bills attacking the basic rights of public sector unions. Many of the bills brought forth were drafted by ALEC, a long-standing conservative public policy group that works in all states and at the federal level attempting to pass legislation harmful to workers in all sectors. These bills would have reduced bargaining rights, attacked the right of unions to determine the use of their dues money and restricted the political and union voices of thousands of public sector union members across the state of Washington. It was disappointing to see moderates such as Sen. Dammeier (R) sign on to these bills in the Senate and Reps Muri and Magendanz (R) in the House. While they all received a hearing in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee, only two passed on the floor of the Senate. The House Labor Committee chose not to hear the bills or the House versions. Rep. Sells (D) and a former teacher and WEA member understands the importance unions play in the work force.

Policies impacting WEA ESP members

Lastly, it was hoped that positive legislation helping ESP members across our state would be successful this year. Legislation allowing K-12 classified staff access to tuition waivers for college courses pertinent to their work was introduced in both houses. Although the bills had enthusiastic hearings in both Houses with WEA ESP members giving excellent testimony, SB 5559 died in Senate Rules and HB 1592 died in House Appropriations.

WEA members unexpectedly had to lobby in opposition to SB 5179, sponsored by Senator Hill (R). PSE was integral in drafting the bill. The bill would have established a licensing process for paraeducators with required coursework and specific employment standards. WEA and the paraeducators we represent strongly support quality professional development that is pertinent to the work done with students every day. But this legislation would have caused paraeducators to spend up to \$200.00 for a basic license when classroom teachers pay only \$33.00 for a basic certificate; and paraeducators would have had to spend an unknown amount on classes that had yet to be developed. The House Education Committee listened carefully to the many concerns raised by educators. Rep. Bergquist (D) and a WEA member drafted a substitute that greatly improved the bill. Senator Hill refused to accept any compromise and killed the legislation. We anticipate a very similar version of this legislation will reappear in the 2016 Session.

Testing

Delink Bill and Others

With the issue of over-testing and use of tests for high stakes graduation requirements high on our members' list of policy concerns, we started session working with House and Senate legislators to craft a bill that would eliminate any tests not required by the federal DOE and eliminate using tests as graduation requirements. Representative Sam Hunt and Senator John McCoy introduced companion bills that did just that. Later in the session, Senator McAuliffe introduced a similar bill as well.

Besides the three complete delink bills, at least five other bills with various effects were introduced this session. By the end of the session, testing had become one of the final sticking points to a budget agreement.

HB 1785: OSPI proposed legislation, sponsored by Representative Reykdal, to delink the biology end of course test, eliminate the 10th grade test as well as all alternatives, and allow kids who fail the 11th grade test to take locally determined courses in their 12th grade year to satisfy the graduation requirement. This was the only bill that was voted out of the Education committee (on a strong bipartisan vote) but did not receive a hearing in Appropriations.

HB 1703: The Governor proposed a bill, sponsored by Rep. Santos, added some alternatives, but did not delink any tests or solve problems of complexity.

HB 1743 and HB 2184: The State Board of Education worked with Representative Lytton on a bill to only eliminate the biology end of course test as a graduation requirement but it was introduced too late to be heard in House Education.

However, a new bill, HB 2214, based on OSPI's HB 1785, was introduced and co-sponsored by Representative Chris Reykdal (D) and Chad Magendanz (R). Rep. Magendanz had not supported HB 1785 but was able to fully support this version with some amendments that did not substantially change the bill's policy. The bill sponsors were very persistent and finally Rep. Ross Hunter gave it a hearing in Appropriations—the only testing bill heard in that committee. While the bill did not pass out of Appropriations, it was referenced in the first House budget bill with a \$29 million cost savings.

HB 2214 went to the floor and was voted out three times, once in each of the three special sessions, receiving a resounding 92 – 6 vote on June 29th. Senator Litzow, chair of Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education, vowed never to hear or support any testing reform that delinked any portion of the tests. True to his word, even though HB 2214 was sent from the House to the Senate three times, he never agreed to hear it in his committee. Senate Democratic efforts to bypass Litzow's committee and get the bill referred directly to Senate Ways and Means failed. In the meantime, Senator Rosemary McAuliffe revived Senator McCoy's original delink bill in a new bill, SB 6122, and a group of Democratic senators, joined by Republican Pam Roach, wrote an op ed in support of the bill.

In a last minute strategy whereby Senate Democrats were asked by the Republican majority to vote with them to attain a 2/3rds majority necessary to pass HB 2266, the Initiative 1351 delay bill, they decided not to give them those votes unless they passed HB 2214 (Rep. Reykdal's comprehensive testing reform bill) on the floor. WEA refused to agree to any trade-offs on delaying, amending, repealing or otherwise obstructing complete funding as legally mandated in I-1351.

The "hostage" strategy resulted in a compromise between Senate Democrats and Republicans on the testing issue. The Republicans would not agree to HB 2214, but agreed to a one year biology end of course reprieve for the 2,000 students who had completed all other graduation requirements satisfactorily but had not passed the biology end of course or the collection of evidence alternatives. The Democrats insisted on at least a two year hiatus on using the biology EoC for graduation and the Republicans finally agreed to that.

The result was SB 6145, sponsored by Senator Karen Fraser (D), not eliminating but postponing the biology End of Course test as a graduation requirement for the classes of 2015 and 2016.

GED Bill

We also crafted a bill that was sponsored by Senator Pam Roach and Representative Kris Lytton that would have required the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges to contract with a second GED testing company to provide a less expensive, more practical and career oriented equivalency test for returning adult students to get their high school diplomas. Both

these bills were heard in the respective Higher Education Committees. In the House, the bill died there, but in the Senate it passed Higher Education and died in Ways and Means.

CTC faculty increments and salary issues:

A priority bill, HB 1863, that would have removed the prohibition for two year colleges to use local/college funds to pay for bargained increments passed through the House, as similar bills have in previous years, on a strong bipartisan vote. The Senate refused to hear it in their Commerce and Labor Committee where it died.

We revived the issue, however, as a budget proviso that would allow colleges to use their own funds to pay for increments for the 2015-2017 biennium. This proviso went into the first House budget and stayed unchanged in every subsequent House budget until the end of session. Fortunately, the Senate accepted this proviso into the final budget which the Governor signed into law late on June 30th.

This is the first time since community and technical colleges have been covered under their collective bargaining law, 28B.52 RCW, that they have secured the right to bargain for salary that was not specifically appropriated by the state for that purpose. (One exception to this was a one-time opportunity to bargain local funds for increments several years ago when the legislature provided funding to compensate for a 3% salary cut the year before.)The right to bargain increments (step movement) and have that paid at the college level is a small but monumental win for college faculty. While it is temporary, it gives our faculty members a chance to begin a bargaining relationship and set new boundaries that can establish a permanent status moving forward.

2015 Legislative Session DRAFT Bill Status Report

Early Learning			
Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
2E2SHB 1491	Kagi	<p>This bill makes comprehensive changes to Early Achievers (EA), Washington's quality rating and improvement system for early care and education programs; Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP), preschool for eligible three to four-year-old children; and Working Connections Child Care (WCCC), subsidized childcare for families that meet certain requirements.</p> <p>It requires the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to make rules and recommendations on specific topics and to create a single set of licensing standards for childcare and ECEAP.</p> <p>And it requires collection of longitudinal, student-level data on children attending WCCC or ECEAP by the Office of Financial Management's Education Research and Data Center (ERDC) and analysis by the Washington State Institute for Public Policy (WSIPP); and additional reports by DEL on the implementation of this legislation.</p> <p><i>This bill was considered controversial as it adds great rigor and much greater use of data collection in the world of child care education. WEA monitored this bill.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 7, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>3rd Special Session</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date:</i></p> <p><i>10/9/2015</i></p>

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1001	MacEwen	This is the so-called “Fund Education First” bill. Requires appropriations for K-12 basic education, together with appropriations for other K-12 education programs, to be passed as separate legislation by both houses of the legislature and delivered to the governor at a specified point in the regular legislative session. Directs the legislature to make provision for full funding of these K-12 appropriations from within existing revenue sources without relying on new tax sources or rates.	Died in House Appropriations.
SHB 1105 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5076	Hunter	Makes 2015 supplemental operating appropriations.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 3, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date 2/19/2015</i>
ESHB 1106 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5077	Hunter	Making 2015 fiscal year and 2015-2017 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Died in House Rules.
EHB 1115 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5097	Dunshee	Adopts the 2015-2017 capital budget.	<i>Signed by the Governor,</i> <i>Partially Vetoed.</i> <i>Chapter 3, Laws of 2015</i> <i>3rd Special Session</i> <i>Effective Date 6/30/2015</i>
HB 1116 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5096	Dunshee	Adopts the 2015 supplemental capital budget.	Died in House Capital Budget.

Funding

HB 1164	Riccelli	<p>Establishes the apple a day act of 2015.</p> <p>Creates a competitive equipment assistance grant program, to be known as the apple a day program, to enhance overall student nutrition in public schools.</p> <p>Requires the superintendent of public instruction to establish a competitive process to prioritize applications for state assistance.</p> <p>Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.</p>	Died in House Rules.
HB 1532 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 5562</i>	Smith	<p>Increases the threshold for the requirement to submit design cost estimates to the office of financial management for certain capital construction projects from five million dollars to ten million dollars for institutions of higher education.</p>	Died in House Rules.
HB 1538 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5469</i>	Sells	<p>This WEA bill would restore the I-732 COLA for the years that had been suspended since 2008-09 school year. The COLA restoration would be phased in over four years, beginning in the 2015-16 school year.</p> <p><i>The WEA enthusiastically supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 1614 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5544</i>	Reykdal	<p>This bill phases in recommendations of the compensation technical working group-for comparable, market-based salaries for all K-12 staff and a revised compensation allocation system for certificated instructional staff.</p> <p><i>The WEA proposed and supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations.

Funding

HB 1616 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5546	Riccelli	<p>This bill phases in beginning teacher pay increases by the 2017-18 school year, which will be based on the comparable beginning teacher wage established by the compensation technical work group as adjusted for inflation. Allocations for beginning teachers would increase from \$34,048 to over \$53,000 by the 2017-18 school year.</p> <p><i>The WEA proposed and supported this bill as part of the multi-pronged compensation approach, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations.
EHB 1633 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5578	Zeiger	<p>Requires the department of commerce to give preference to housing trust fund projects involving collaborative partnerships between local school districts and either public housing authorities or nonprofit housing providers, that help children of low-income families succeed in school.</p> <p>Requires a local school district, in order to receive this preference, to provide an opportunity for community members to offer input on the proposed project at the first scheduled school board meeting following submission of the grant application to the department.</p>	<i>Governor Signed.</i> <i>Chapter 155, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date 7/24/2015</i>
HB 1810	Holy	<p>Requires the first one-tenth of one cent of the state portion of the sales and use tax for each dollar on which the tax is applied to be dedicated to and used for funding a public system of higher education within the state.</p>	Died in House Appropriations.

Funding

HB 1854	Magendanz	<p>This bill requires that a new salary allocation schedule for newly hired certificated instructional staff be established in the state budget for the 2017-18 school year. CIS hired before the 2017-18 school year could choose to transfer to the new salary allocation model (SAM) or can remain on the existing SAM, which would no longer receive COLA adjustments. The new SAM does not recognize degrees as part of the compensation system. Bonuses for up to three years are created for teaching in low income schools, teaching math or science in middle or high schools, or for special education educators at any grade level. In addition, school-based bonuses are provided to the top three small, medium, and large schools for demonstrating the highest improvement in the Washington Achievement Index. New restrictions are place on supplemental / TRI contracts to limit them to time or responsibility, with additional reporting required from districts to the state.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation, which received a hearing but did not move out of the House Education Committee.</i></p>	Died in House Education.
HB 2149	Senn	Requires the allocation of an enhancement of 0.5 additional certificated instructional staff per prototypical elementary school for purposes of promoting a safe and healthy school learning climate.	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 2161	Pollet	<p>Authorizes certain school districts to be divided by geographic areas within the school district when calculating eligible space for state funding assistance. This would apply only to the Seattle School District for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Requires the omnibus appropriations act to identify the state construction cost allowance for school districts.</p>	Died in House Capital Budget.

Funding

HB 2201	Reykdal	Requires the department of revenue to create a unique reporting code for interest derived from investments or loans by banking businesses, security businesses, lending businesses, and other financial businesses. Requires tax collections derived from interest on investments or loans by financial firms to be deposited into the education legacy trust account.	Died in House Higher Education.
HB 2218	Hunter	Repeals the state expenditure limit.	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 2219	Hunter	Removes the exception for expenditures related to legislatively enacted basic education enhancements from the four-year balanced budget requirement.	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 2222	Hunter	This bill eliminates most of the key provisions enacted by I-1351. It revises the program of basic education: (1) Changes the schedule for class size reduction, staffing enhancements, and other formula enhancements; and (2) Make allocations for cost-of-living increases and health insurance benefits part of the basic education program.	Died in House Appropriations.

Funding

HB 2239	Hunter	<p>This bill is intended to addresses the supreme court requirement for a plan to implement a constitutionally appropriate program of basic education.</p> <p>Declares an intent to review and enact legislation on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Time, responsibility, or incentive contracts and supplemental contracts; (2) State salary allocations; (3) Proper use of school district levies to supplement the state's program of basic education; (4) The relationship of local effort assistance to the state's program of basic education and state levy laws; and (5) School district levies. <p>Creates the Washington education funding council to advise the legislature as the state moves toward full implementation of the program of basic education and the financing and revenues necessary to support the program.</p> <p>Authorizes the council to establish technical working groups to advise the task force on technical and practical aspects of proposed policies and formulas.</p> <p>Expires August 1, 2019.</p> <p><i>WEA was concerned that this bill predetermined some of the outcomes that were intended to be studied – and was concerned about the unintended consequences of some of those decisions. WEA testified about those concerns in the House Appropriations. The bill passed the House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.</i></p>	Died in House Rules
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Funding

HB 2266	Sullivan	This bill revises the implementation schedule for Initiative 1351, delaying the required funding amounts for four years. With the change, 50% of the required funding would be provided in the 2019-21 biennium and full implementation in the 2021-23 biennium. <i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i>	<i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 38, Laws of 2015, 3rd Special Session Effective Date 7/14/2015</i>
HJR 4209	Scott	Amends the constitution: to establish legislative and executive requirements for enacting a balanced operating budget and preventing budget deficits, to prohibit the legislature from appropriating more than 95 percent of estimated state General Fund resources, to prohibit the state from borrowing to meet temporary budget deficiencies, and to prohibit bond proceeds from being spent for other than capital purposes.	Died in House Capital Budget.
ESSB 5077 <i>Companion Bill HB 1106</i>	Hill	Making 2015 fiscal year and 2015-2017 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	Died in Senate Rules.
SSB 5081	Miloscia	Requires that information regarding collective bargaining agreements, leased facilities, procurement, and employee compensation be posted on websites accessible to the public.	Died in Senate Rules.

Funding

SB 5097 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1115</i>	Honeyford	Adopts the 2015 supplemental capital budget.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5469 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1538</i>	Hasegawa	This WEA bill would restore the I-732 COLA for the years that had been suspended since 2008-09 school year. The COLA restoration would be phased in over four years, beginning in the 2015-16 school year. <i>The WEA enthusiastically supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5478	Dammeier	Provides additional financial assistance to school districts for: (1) The development and modernization of facilities that support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education; and (2) The phase-in of all-day kindergarten. Creates the specialized STEM facility grant program which will be administered by the superintendent of public instruction in consultation with the STEM education innovation alliance and the statewide STEM organization. Creates the all-day kindergarten facility grant program which will be administered by the superintendent of public instruction in consultation with an advisory committee. <i>WEA was concerned that this legislation did not fully support the need for additional classrooms as constitutionally required.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Funding

SB 5544 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1614</i>	McAuliffe	<p>This bill phases in recommendations of the compensation technical working group for comparable, market-based salaries for all K-12 staff and a revised compensation allocation system for certificated instructional staff.</p> <p><i>The WEA proposed and supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	<p>Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12.</p>
SB 5546 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1616</i>	Lias	<p>This bill phases in beginning teacher pay increases by the 2017-18 school year, which will be based on the comparable beginning teacher wage established by the compensation technical work group as adjusted for inflation. Allocations for beginning teachers would increase from \$34,048 to over \$53,000 by the 2017-18 school year.</p> <p><i>The WEA proposed and supported this bill as part of the multi-pronged compensation approach, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	<p>Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12.</p>
SB 5562 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1532</i>	Bailey	<p>Increases the threshold for the requirement to submit design cost estimates to the office of financial management for certain capital construction projects from five million dollars to ten million dollars for institutions of higher education.</p>	<p>Died in Senate Ways & Means.</p>
SB 5594	Becker	<p>Requires the joint legislative audit and review committee to report to the legislature regarding federal funding programs greater than twenty-five million dollars in biennial expenditures affecting the state's health and human services agencies and the common school system that specify conditions requiring changes in state statutes as a condition of receiving federal funding.</p>	<p>Died in Senate Rules.</p>

Funding

SB 5859	Pedersen	Addresses the school construction assistance program. Requires the omnibus appropriations act to identify the state construction cost allowance for school districts and requires the minimum construction cost allowance to be calculated based on a three-year rolling average of actual new public K-12 school construction costs per square foot	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5890	Rolfes	Phases in a revised statewide salary allocation schedule for certificated instructional staff by the 2021-22 school year based on the comparable wage recommendations of the Compensation Technical Working Group in 2012. Starting in 2018, the superintendent of public instruction will conduct or contract for a comparative labor market analysis of salaries and other compensation for school district employees. Limits amount of funds districts can use on TRI contracts to 10 percent of the state allocation to the district.	Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12.
SB 6052	Hill	This bill includes the 2015-17 Biennial Budget and a 2015 supplemental budget.	<i>Governor partially vetoed. Chapter 4, 2015 Laws 3rd Special Session PV Effective date: 6/30/2015</i>

Funding

SB 6059	Hill	<p>This bill, if passed, would have: (1) implemented significant portions of the Early Start Act, (2) amended Initiative 1351 by raising class sizes and eliminating all staffing that was required by the initiative, (3) provided a one-time bonus of 3.753% to all K-12 state funded employees, and (4) reduced tuition for resident undergraduates in higher education – consistent with the Senate budget proposal. All elements of this bill were addressed in the budget and/or other bills that passed both chambers and were signed into law.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules.
SB 6079	Baumgartner	<p>This bill would enact a K-12 voucher program in Washington state. It would require the state, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, to annually provide a K-12 education voucher to every eligible child whose parent applies for the voucher and state expenditures for the vouchers would count toward the minimum state funding requirements for basic education established in the state Constitution.</p>	Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12.
ESSB 6080	Dammeier	<p>Establishes the K-3 class size reduction grant program which must be administered by the office of the superintendent of public instruction. Authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds for the purpose of providing funds for financial assistance to local school districts for capital facilities necessary to provide all-day kindergarten and reduce class size in kindergarten through third grade.</p>	Delivered to Governor for signature.

Funding

SSB 6088	Braun	<p>This bill would send eliminate the major provisions enacted by Initiative 1351 and send the change to the voters through a referendum clause in November 2015.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules.
SB 6097	Ranker	<p>Revises the future teachers conditional scholarship and loan repayment program to increase the number of early elementary teachers teaching in a classroom in any of the grades kindergarten through three.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6104	Rolfes	<p>Begins to phase in a modified version of the Compensation Technical Working Group recommendations for a revised salary allocation model beginning in the 2017-18 school year and completing the phase in by the 2022-23 school year. Comparable wages are readjusted at state level periodically starting in 2027.</p> <p>Caps the use of local funds for salary enhancements (including TRI) to an amount equal to 10 percent of the school district's basic education allocation received from the state.</p> <p>Modifies the I-1351 implementation schedule to begin in the 2017-19 biennium with full funding provided in the 2023-24 school year. The funding for I-1351 will be phased-in at one-third of the total cost in the 2017-19 biennium and two-thirds in the 2019-21 biennium. Phase-in is intended to start at lower grades first for teachers.</p> <p>Creates a capital gains tax consistent with SB 6102.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed some portions of this legislation and supported others. WEA specifically opposed any restrictions to collective bargaining rights and the extended timeline for implementation. WEA supported the implementation of a capital gains tax.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Funding

SB 6109	Dammeier	Eliminates bargaining for salaries for CIS and severely limits TRI pay. Repeals the I-732 COLA. Mandates a statewide salary schedule with localization factors. Caps amounts available for classified (ESP) staff and administrator pay. Eliminates existing health plans and moves all education employees into a state-run School Employee Benefit plan. Reduces school districts authority to collect levies and raises state property taxes. <i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
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Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
ESHB 1349 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5768	Hunt, S.	This legislation would have created civil liability for requesting or using agency employee or volunteer names and contact information to obtain information exempted from disclosure under the Public Records Act for a commercial purpose or to harass, stalk, threaten, or intimidate any person. It would have required a requester of agency employee or volunteer information to swear under oath that such information will not be used to obtain exempted information. It would have included license-exempt in-home child care providers as employees for purposes of exempting public employment and licensing information from public disclosure. <i>This legislation closed an existing loop-hole that allowed groups such as the Freedom Foundation access to home addresses and contact information for some employee groups.</i>	Passed the House, died with no hearing in Senate Commerce and Labor Committee.
ESHB 1745 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5668	Moscoso	This bill would have established the Washington voting rights act of 2015 to: (1) Authorize district-based elections; (2) Require redistricting and new elections in certain circumstances; and (3) Establish a cause of action to redress lack of voter opportunity. <i>WEA supported this legislation by signing in PRO</i>	Passed the House, died in Senate Rules.
HB 1819	Wilson	This bill requires that a person wishing to inspect the books of account of a candidate or political committee must provide his or her telephone number at the time of making an appointment, and photo identification before inspecting the books of account. And it allows a treasurer of a candidate or political committee to refuse to show the books of account to a person who does not make an appointment or provide identification.	<i>Signed by Governor</i> <i>Chpt. 54, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective date: 7/24/15</i>

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1919	Hunt, S.	This bill changes the deadline for a county, city, town, or district to call for a special election from 45 to 60 days before the designated February or April election dates.	<i>Signed by Governor Chpt. 146, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i>
HB 2055	Johnson	This bill allows responses to fiscal impact statements on ballot measures to be included in a voters' pamphlet. Each committee designated to provide an argument supporting or opposing a ballot measure in the voters' pamphlet must have the Attorney General's explanatory statement and the fiscal impact statement available before preparing their argument statements. The explanatory statement and the fiscal impact statement must be prepared upon request of the Secretary and submitted by the deadline at the Secretary's request. When the fiscal impact statement is filed, the Secretary must send a copy of the statement to the proposing party for a measure initiated by petition, or to the presiding officer of the House of Representatives and the Senate for a measure referred by the Legislature.	<i>Signed by Governor Chpt. 171, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i>
HB 2256	Bergquist	This bill was introduced during the first Special Session. It was identical to ESB 5153 and was an attempt to move the issue forward. It died after a hearing.	Died in House State Government.
ESB 5153	Billig	All nonprofit organizations making contributions or expenditures in Washington election campaigns above specified thresholds must file organizational statements with the PDC and disclose certain contributors, regardless of the organization's primary purpose. <i>This legislation would have caused all organizations who donate money to political campaigns to have the same reporting requirements.</i>	This bill passed the Senate, and was amended in the House. The Senate refused to Concur and the bill died.

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
ESSB 5785	Rivers	<p>The definition of official duty for a state officer holding an elective office is amended in the Ethics Act to mean those duties prescribed in the state Constitution, state statutes, or agency rules, legislatively funded or mandated authority and responsibilities, activities described in an agency's publicly released strategic plan or similar document, and tasks or actions directly related to carrying out the state officer's other official duties.</p> <p><i>The Governor vetoed this bill because it set different ethical standards for different elected offices.</i></p>	<i>Vetoed by the Governor, May 18, 2015</i>
SB 6108	O'Ban	<p>Requiring statewide elected officials and candidates to disclose knowledge of criminal investigations.</p> <p><i>This bill was dropped due to some of the allegations made against the current State Auditor. It died without receiving a hearing.</i></p>	Died in Senate Law & Justice.

Health Care

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1002	DeBolt	Prohibits a health carrier that offers a dental only plan from denying coverage for treatment of emergency dental conditions, that would otherwise be considered a covered service of an existing benefit contract, on the basis that the services were provided on the same day the covered person was examined and diagnosed for the emergency dental condition.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 9, Laws of 2015 Effective 1/1/2017</i>
HB 1005 <i>Companion Bill SB 5011</i>	Cody	Modifies third-party payor provisions regarding the release of health care information.	Passed House Health Care Committee but died in House Rules.
SHB 1010 <i>Companion Bill SB 5034</i>	Johnson	Addresses state-licensed optometrists' referrals of medical cases to occupational therapists.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 10, Laws of 2015 Effective 7/24/2015</i>
HB 1025 <i>Companion Bill SB 5132</i>	Appleton	Creates the Washington health security trust to provide health coverage for all residents. Requires the joint select committee on health care oversight to contract for an actuarial analysis of the funding needs of the Washington health security trust and recommend a funding mechanism to the appropriate legislative standing committees and the governor. Directs the legislature to enact legislation implementing the recommendations of the joint select committee during the 2016 regular legislative session.	Died in House Health Care & Wellness.

Health Care

SHB 1045 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 6152	Tharinger	Creates the Washington state East Asian medicine advisory committee. Requires the committee to advise and make recommendations to the secretary of the department of health on standards for the practice of East Asian medicine. Requires certain procedures be implemented by East Asian medicine practitioners and licensed acupuncturists in an emergency.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 60, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date</i> <i>7/24/2015</i>
SHB 1053 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5023	Kirby	Enhances competition and creates regulatory uniformity in the filing requirements for group plans other than small group health benefit plans, as well as stand-alone dental plan and stand-alone vision plan rates and forms.	Passed unanimously out of the House and did not receive a hearing in the Senate.
HB 1286 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5258	Tharinger	Requiring a study for funding options for long-term care services and supports.	Passed House Health Care and Wellness and then died in House Appropriations.
HB 1321 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5305	Robinson	Declares it is the intent of the legislature that all residents of this state have accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care coverage by 2020.	Died in House Health Care & Wellness.
SHB 1369	Riccelli	Allows students to provide health care services under certain circumstances.	Passed unanimously in House and died in Senate Health Care.

Health Care

[E2SHB 1471](#)

*Companion Bill
SB 5560*

[Cody](#)

Requires a health carrier, and a health plan offered to public employees and their covered dependents, that impose different prior authorization standards and criteria for a covered service among tiers of contracting providers of the same licensed profession in the same health plan to inform an enrollee which tier an individual provider or group of providers is in.

Prohibits a health carrier from requiring prior authorization for an evaluation and management visit or an initial treatment visit with a contracting provider in a new episode of chiropractic, physical therapy, occupational therapy, East Asian medicine, massage therapy, or speech and hearing therapies.

Requires a health carrier and the state health care authority to post on their web site and provide upon the request of a covered person or contracting provider any prior authorization standards, criteria, or information the carrier or the health plan uses for medical necessity decisions.

*Signed by the Governor.
Chapter 251, Laws of
2015
Effective Date: 1/1/2017*

Health Care

HB 1647 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5574</i>	Cody	<p>Requires a health plan, issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2016, to:</p> <p>(1) Provide coverage for contraceptive drugs, devices, and other products approved by the federal food and drug administration; voluntary sterilization procedures; and applicable consultations, examinations, procedures, and medical services; and</p> <p>(2) If it provides coverage for maternity care or services, also provide a covered person with substantially equivalent coverage to permit the voluntary termination of a pregnancy.</p> <p>Requires the governor's interagency coordinating council on health disparities to conduct a literature review on disparities in access to reproductive health care.</p>	<p>Passed House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.</p>
HB 1931	Cody	<p>Prohibits employers with 50 or more employees from (1) reducing the scheduled hours of employees or structuring staffing patterns to avoid federal penalties related to providing health coverage for employees; (2) engaging in staffing patterns that result in an annual increase of at least 5 percent in the number of its employees who are enrolled in Medicaid; and (3) engaging in staffing patterns that result in more than 25 percent of its employees being enrolled in Medicaid.</p> <p>Establishes penalties for violations of staffing requirements based on the least expensive silver plan in the health benefit exchange multiplied by the number of employees who would have otherwise had coverage.</p>	<p>Died in House Health Care & Wellness.</p>

Health Care

HB 1937	Magendanz	Creates the school employees' benefits board, within the state health care authority, to design and approve insurance benefit plans for school employees and to establish eligibility criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans. Creates the school employees' insurance account and the school employees' benefits board medical benefits administration account.	Did not receive a hearing and died in House Appropriations.
SHB 1956	Moeller	Requires certified independent review organizations to submit an annual statistical report with the department of health and requires the insurance commissioner to make the reports available to the public in a database on the commissioner's internet web site.	Passed House but did not receive a hearing in the Senate.
SHB 1967	Cody	Requires the state health care authority to apply to the federal government for a waiver to permit the state to innovatively expand health care coverage and reduce health care costs. Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.	Passed House and Senate Committee on Health Care but died in Senate Ways and Means.
SB 5011 <i>Companion Bill HB 1005</i>	Becker	Allows third-party payors to release health care information only to the extent health care providers are authorized to do so under the All Payer Claims Database and the two sections of the Uniform Health Care Information Act that allow providers to release health care information without authorization.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 289, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 5/18/2015</i>
SSB 5023 <i>Companion Bill HB 1053</i>	Parlette	Enhances competition and creates regulatory uniformity in the filing requirements for group health benefit plans other than small group plans, as well as stand-alone dental plan and stand-alone vision plan rates and forms.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 19, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>

Health Care

SSB 5027 <i>Companion Bill HB 1103</i>	Angel	Authorizes the department of health to provide data in the prescription monitoring program to the personnel in certain test sites.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 259, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
SSB 5034 <i>Companion Bill HB 1010</i>	Habib	Addresses state-licensed optometrists' referrals of medical cases to occupational therapists.	Companion bill passed – this bill died in Senate Rules.
SSB 5078	O'Ban	Requires twenty-two percent of the funds distributed to the basic health plan trust account from marijuana excise taxes and certain fees, penalties, and forfeitures from marijuana producer, processor, and retailer licenses to be used to fund evidence-based or research-based community interventions shown to promote recovery and reduce the need for inpatient hospitalization, involuntary commitment, or criminal justice involvement for persons with mental illness or persons with co-occurring mental illness and chemical dependency disorders.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
ESSB 5084	Becker	Modifies statewide all-payer health care claims database provisions to improve health care quality and cost transparency by changing provisions related to definitions regarding data, reporting and pricing of products, responsibilities of the office of financial management and the lead organization, submission to the database, and parameters for release of information. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 246, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>

Health Care

SB 5150	Keiser	Requires certain health insurance carriers to provide notice to health care providers of changes in provider networks including the purchase, sale, or transfer of a provider network.	Died in Senate Health Care.
SB 5151	Keiser	Requires a disciplining authority for certain health care professions to adopt rules requiring a person authorized to practice the profession regulated by the disciplining authority to receive cultural competency continuing education training. Requires the department of health to approve, develop, and make available to each disciplining authority a list of continuing education opportunities related to cultural competency.	Died in Senate Health Care.
SB 5305 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1321</i>	Froct	Declares it is the intent of the legislature that all residents of this state have accessible, affordable, and comprehensive health care coverage by 2020.	Died in Senate Health Care.
SSB 5317 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1365</i>	Froct	Requires the state health care authority to require universal screening and provider payment for autism and developmental delays as recommended by the bright futures guidelines of the American academy of pediatrics.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 8, Laws of 2015</i> <i>1st Special Session</i> <i>Effective Date:</i> <i>8/27/2015</i>
ESSB 5441 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1566</i>	Rivers	Requires health benefit plans, issued or renewed after December 31, 2015, that provide coverage for prescription drugs, to implement a medication synchronization policy for the dispensing of prescription drugs to the plan's enrollees.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 213, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date:</i> <i>7/24/2015</i>

Health Care

SB 5443 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1683</i>	Dammeier	Addresses the disclosure, by health plan carriers, of incentive payments for the prescription of specific formulary and nonformulary medications and descriptions and justifications for all provider compensation programs.	Passed Senate Health Care but died in Senate Rules.
SB 5466	Becker	Clarifies eligibility for employee benefits from the public employees' benefits board and conforms the eligibility provisions with federal law. This bill provides further clarification regarding part time employee eligibility for school employees who are in districts that utilize the PEBB through a contract.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 116, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date:</i> <i>7/24/2015</i>
SB 5581 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1659</i>	Angel	Authorizes a life insurer to include grief counseling benefits as part of a policy or certificate of group life insurance, with the prior approval of the insurance commissioner. Authorizes a disability insurer to include the following benefits as part of a policy or certificate of group disability insurance, with the prior approval of the insurance commissioner and where such benefits bear a reasonable relationship to the disability insurance with which they are intended to be offered: Will preparation services; financial planning and estate planning services; probate and estate settlement services; grief counseling; and other services as the insurance commissioner may identify by rule.	Died in House Business and Financial Services.
SB 5741	Hasegawa	Creates the Washington health security trust to provide health care coverage for all residents. Abolishes the state health care authority and transfers its powers, duties, and functions to the Washington health security trust.	Did not receive a hearing and died in Senate Health Care.

Health Care

SSB 5909 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 2065</i>	Froct	<p>Establishes the omnibus health care access act of 2015.</p> <p>Requires the legislature to approve any partnership agreements between the University of Washington and another entity, related to the University of Washington's regional medical education program with the states of Alaska, Montana, Idaho, or Wyoming (WWAMI). It also requires an audit of WWAMI.</p> <p>Requires the University of Washington to increase the number of students at its medical school and dental program in Spokane.</p> <p>Requires the medical education system to allocate funds to new or expanded residency programs.</p>	<p>Died in Senate Ways & Means.</p>
SSB 5976	Litzow	<p>This bill eliminates all local school district health plans, including WEA select plans. Instead, it mandates that all schools join a newly created state run plan run by a school employees' benefits board, within the state health care authority. The board would design and approve insurance benefit plans for school employees and to establish eligibility criteria for participation in insurance benefit plans.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed Senate Ways and Means but died in Senate Rules.</p>
ESB 6089	Hill	<p>Prohibits the Health Care exchange, after January 1, 2016, from receiving any premium taxes generated from qualified health plans. All operations of the Exchange must be self-sustaining through the generation of assessments on qualified health plan carriers, Medicaid cost allocation, federal grants, and other allowable sources available to the Exchange.</p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 33, Laws of</i> <i>2015 3rd Special Session</i> <i>Effective Date:</i></p>

Health Care

[SSB 6096](#)

[Becker](#)

Addresses cancer research by taxing \$100 per month on every tobacco using state and K-12 employee who accesses employer provided health care.

Creates the cancer research endowment authority and the cancer research endowment program.

Floor amendment eliminated the \$100 per month assessment on state and K-12 employees. Research is now funded through a state matching grant.

WEA opposed this legislation when the funding source was a tax on public employees.

*Signed by the Governor.
Chapter 34, Laws of
2015 3rd Special Session
Effective Date:*

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1004 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5001	Springer	Addresses special permits that allow the tasting of alcohol by certain persons who are at least eighteen years of age. Intended so students in enology programs such as the one at Walla Walla Community College may participate in educational wine tasting.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 59, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
SHB 1052	Hayes	Requires the early course registration process available for eligible veterans or national guard members to be offered to spouses receiving veteran education benefits.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 14, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
SHB 1138	Orwall	Requires Forefront at the University of Washington to convene a task force on mental health and suicide prevention at public and private institutions of higher education to determine what policies, resources, and technical assistance are needed to support the institutions in improving access to mental health services and improving suicide prevention responses. Expires July 1, 2017.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 67, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>

Higher Education

SHB 1154	Bergquist	<p>This bill would have created the “Affordable College for Everyone Grant Contract” program.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires the Office of Student Financial Assistance (Office) to design the (ACE) program by December 31, 2015. • Provides that students are eligible if they meet the requirements to sign up for the College Bound Scholarship during middle school and their family income exceeds 65 percent of the median family income at the time of high school graduation. • Requires that students receiving grants toward tuition and fees agree, through a grant contract, make contributions to the program beginning one year after completion or discontinuation of their higher education, based on their ability to afford contributions. • Requires that contributions to the programs are based on the recipient's total grant amount and taxable income above certain thresholds. • Provides that 100 grant contracts may be made per year between 2016 and 2019, and if 250 or more students have signed grant contracts by January 1, 2020, then the ACE program must be made available to all eligible applicants. • Creates the ACE Grant Contract Account in the custody of the State Treasury. <p>Net effect: the current College Bound Scholarship, free to low income students, becomes a grant to be paid back according to contracts as described above.</p>	<p>Heard in and passed out of House Hi Ed, sent to Appropriations where it died.</p>
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Higher Education

ESHB 1236	Ortiz-Self	The bill would have required the office of student financial assistance to make multiple attempts to secure the signature of a student's parent or guardian for the purpose of witnessing the student's College Bound Scholarship pledge but if, after good faith effort, such signature could not be secured, the school counselor or administrator would be allowed to witness the pledge and the office of student financial assistance would be allowed to accept the application.	Passed the House, was heard and died in Senate Higher Education Committee. Referred back to H Rules 3C.
SHB 1238	Pollet	This bill would have created a legislative goal: (1) To use the total cost of attendance as a factor when considering student financial aid policy (2) To make higher education accessible and affordable for all families (3) For tuition at public institutions of higher education to be no higher than ten percent of the median family income. Would have required the student achievement council, when it conducts its planning and outlines strategies, to report to the legislature on the affordability of the higher education system.	Passed the House, heard and died in Senate Higher Education. Reverts to H Rules 3C
SHB 1344 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5335</i>	Pollet	Would have created the nurse educator pay it forward program to provide greater access to higher education for registered nurses pursuing careers as educators. Requires the student achievement council to develop and implement the program in collaboration with the nursing commission.	Heard in House Higher Education and died in House Approps

Higher Education

SHB 1400	Haler	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would have required the education data center to post on their data dashboard the actual expenditure records of each institution of higher education. • Would have required each institution of higher education to submit its actual expenditure records to the education data center within ninety days of the adoption of its annual fiscal year budget. <p><i>This would not have included the two year colleges because they are specifically not covered under the education data center.</i></p>	Heard in House Higher Education and died in House Appropriations.
SHB 1500 Companion Bill SB 5133	Zeiger	Would require the joint higher education committee to: (1) Conduct a study of higher education costs at the state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College; and (2) Convene an advisory panel to provide study guidance, data, and recommendations. Expires July 1, 2017.	Had public hearing in House Higher Education, passed and referred to House Appropriations where it died. Referred back to House Appropriations.
SHB 1559 Companion Bill SB 5487	Riccelli	Authorizes the board of regents of Washington State University to: (1) Establish, operate, and maintain a school of medicine at the university; and (2) Offer and teach medicine and forestry as major lines.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 6, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
HB 1704	Pettigrew	Authorizes postsecondary education and training of incarcerated adults through expanded partnerships between the community and technical colleges and the department of corrections.	Passed the House, heard in Senate Law and Justice but did not move out of committee. Referred back to House Rules 3C.

Higher Education

HB 1706 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5620	Stanford	Authorizing waivers of building fees and services and activities fees for certain military service members at any two or four year institution of higher education.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 143, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
HB 1743 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5676	Lytton	This bill would have addressed the problem with the “new” GED for returning adults that is basically the same as the 11 th grade SBAC (for students who have never even seen the new standards). This new test has created huge failure rates. The bill would require the state board for community and technical colleges to accept at least one high school equivalency test option that is low cost to the student; does not require computer proficiency; and is appropriate for students who have been in the workforce, need a high school diploma for employment reasons, have been incarcerated or in the military, have been removed from any academic environment for four years or more, or are not planning to pursue a college education. <i>WEA helped draft this bill and supported it strongly.</i>	Heard in House Higher Education where it died. Senate version heard and passed out of Senate Higher Education, but died in Ways and Means. Referred back to House Higher Education.
HB 1767	Hargrove	Changes the qualifications for renewal of a state need grant to require students to maintain at least a 2.0 grade point average except for those students attending The Evergreen State College.	Hearing in House Higher Education but did not pass out of committee.
HB 1812	Hansen	Creating an informational program to increase applications from high-achieving low-income high school students to selective institutions of higher education.	Heard and passed out of House Higher Education., died in House Appropriations.

Higher Education

HB 1820 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5794	Reykdal	Would have allowed students to use electronic benefit transfer cards at institutions of higher education.	Passed House, heard and died in Senate Human Services and Mental Health & Housing. Referred back to House Rules 3C.
HB 1863	Reykdal	Would have required community and technical colleges to pay bargained increment steps out of local college funds capped at 1.2% of full and part-time faculty salary base. Use of turnover savings is unchanged in the bill. <i>WEA priority bill.</i> While this bill did not pass the legislature, a budget proviso passed in the appropriations act that achieves the same effect with no cap for the 2015-2017 biennium.	Passed House, no hearing in the Senate. Referred back to House Rules 3C.
SHB 1893	Sells	Requires community and technical colleges to disclose amounts and use of all non-state allocated funding at each college. Strongly supported by WEA and AFT as priority bill	Passed House, heard and died in Senate Higher Education. Referred back to House Rules 3C.
HB 1906	Klippert	Would prohibit a court from ordering either or both parents to pay support for postsecondary education of a child over eighteen years of age. Prohibits the use of the child support schedule to order postsecondary educational support of a child.	Heard and died in House Judiciary. Referred back to House Judiciary.

Higher Education

HB 1949	Pollet	Addresses unfair business practices of institutions of higher education with regard to students enrolled in for-profit higher education institutions and private vocational schools. Authorizes the attorney general to investigate and protect student consumers from unfair business practices.	Heard and died in House Higher Education.
HB 1958	Zeiger	Would prohibit an institution of higher education from assigning a student to purchase a textbook that costs more than one hundred dollars unless certain circumstances exist.	Heard and died in House Higher Education.
HB 1961 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5977</i>	Zeiger	Decodifies, expires, and makes nonsubstantive changes to community and technical college provisions.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 55, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
HB 1973	Stambaugh	Would have created the Washington open education pilot program at Eastern Washington University to reduce students' cost of attendance by creating an open educational resources program. Requires the Eastern Washington University libraries to award up to ten grants per year to faculty members to develop or obtain open educational materials and resources.	Heard and passed House Higher Education. Died in House Appropriations.
HB 1977	Moscoso	The bill makes children and surviving spouses of highway workers who died or became totally disabled in the line of duty while employed by a transportation agency exempt from paying tuition fees and services and activities fees to attend a state post-secondary institution.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 46, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>

Higher Education

SHB 1982	Pollet	Would have enhanced student completion through advising, mentoring, recapture initiatives, remedial programs, and accelerated precollege instruction and creating the innovations for student completion program.	Heard and passed House Higher Education. Died in House Appropriations.
HB 2024	Parker	Would have allowed the governing boards of the institutions of higher education to authorize the temporary use of student housing facilities by low-income homeless students attending that institution during the time those facilities are otherwise unused by students who are paying student housing fees.	Heard and died in House Higher Education.
2SHB 2041	Hansen	Would have created a pilot project on performance-based scholarships in the state need grant program.	Passed House, passed Senate Higher Education, passed Senate Ways and Means and died in Senate Rules. Referred back to House Rules 3C.
HB 2241 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 6113	Hudgins	Would have allowed undocumented students the same eligibility for the college bound scholarship program as they gained with state need grant program in previous “Dream Act” legislation.	Referred to House Higher Education but did not receive a hearing.
SB 5122	Kohl-Welles	Authorizes state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College to use multiple measures to determine whether a student must enroll in a precollege course.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 83, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
ESSB 5133 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1500	Bailey	See HB 1500	Died in Senate Rules.

Higher Education

SB 5286	Baumgartner	Would have required the first one cent of the state portion of the sales and use tax for each dollar on which the tax is applied to be dedicated to and used for funding a public system of higher education within the state.	Heard and died in Senate Higher Education.
SB 5295	Kohl-Welles	Branch campuses would be required to follow the same requirements as the six public four-year institutions of higher education in the state to submit data for a number of accountability measures to the OFM by December 1 each year. Data required to be submitted includes enrollment information, the number and types of degrees awarded, graduation rates, transfer rates, time and credits to degree, credit accumulation, retention rates, student debt load, market penetration, and much more.	Passed the Senate, passed House Higher Education, died in House Appropriations. Referred back to Senate Rules 3.
SSB 5328	Kohl-Welles	Requires state universities, regional universities, and The Evergreen State College to provide financial aid application due dates and distribution policies on their web sites, including whether financial aid is awarded on a rolling basis for prospective and admitted students.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 212, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
SB 5335 Companion Bill HB 1825	Keiser	See HB 1825	Heard and died in Senate Higher Education.

Higher Education

SSB 5518	Kohl-Welles	<p>Requires the state board for community and technical colleges to conduct a uniform campus climate assessment of community and technical colleges to gauge the prevalence of sexual assault on community and technical college campuses.</p> <p>Requires institutions of higher education to:</p> <p>(1) Conduct a campus climate assessment to gauge the prevalence of sexual assault on their campuses;</p> <p>(2) Make information available to current and prospective students and employees regarding campus sexual violence confidentiality and reporting requirements; and</p> <p>(3) Refrain from establishing a different disciplinary process on the same campus for a matter of sexual violence, based on the status or characteristics of the student involved in that disciplinary proceeding, including characteristics such as a student's membership on an athletic team, membership in a fraternity or sorority, academic year, or any other characteristics or status of a student.</p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 92, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i></p>
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Higher Education

SB 5637	Hasegawa	<p>Would require the six four-year institutions of higher education to:</p> <p>(1) Create and implement a peer mentoring program modeled after the pilot program launched in fall 2009 at Western Washington University; and</p> <p>(2) Working with the state board for community and technical colleges, identify one or more community or technical colleges with which to partner in the program.</p> <p>Revises the definition of "needy student," for purposes of the state work-study program, to include students in the peer mentoring program.</p> <p>Authorizes the office of student financial assistance to award grants to institutions participating in the peer mentoring program.</p> <p>Senator Hasegawa has attempted to pass similar legislation in the past.</p>	<p>Heard and died in Senate Higher Education.</p>
SB 5638	Hasegawa	<p>Allows students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least three quarter credits, or the equivalent semester hours, in a qualifying higher education program to be eligible for State Need Grant. The expired pilot program allowing less-than-half-time students to be eligible for the SNG program is removed from statute.</p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 121, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i></p>
SSB 5676 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1743</i>	Roach	<p>See HB 1743.</p> <p><i>WEA helped draft and strongly supported this bill.</i></p>	<p>Heard and passed out of Senate Higher Education and died in Senate Ways & Means. Referred back to Senate Higher Education.</p>
SSB 5719	Bailey	<p>Creating a task force on campus sexual violence prevention.</p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 239, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i></p>

Higher Education

SB 5746 <i>Companion Bill HB 1880</i>	Bailey	Including Everett Community College as an aerospace training or educational program.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 218, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
2SSB 5851	Froct	Addresses recommendations of the college bound scholarship program work group with regard to improving and enhancing certain components of the college bound scholarship program, including data collection, outreach, and program outcomes.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 244, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i>
ESSB 5954	Braun	Establishes the college affordability program to reduce tuition. WEA opposed this bill because the State Need Grant would have been used to backfill the institutional loss of tuition.	<i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 36, Laws of 2015 3rd Special Session Effective Date:</i>

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Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1003	Hawkins	Concerning the development of a model policy on natural disaster school infrastructure recovery. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
SHB 1031	Johnson	Students in tenth grade or students who are eligible to be in the tenth grade may participate in College in the High School programs. At TESC, CHS credit must apply toward degree requirements. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 1142	Wilcox	A school district board of directors may establish and collect parking fees from students who park a vehicle on school property. All or a portion of the parking fees collected may be deposited in the associated student body program fund for specific purposes. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.

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SHB 1240 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5908</i>	Pollet	<p>This bill makes the section on restraint or isolation of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP) or Section 504 plan applicable to all students. It provides that restraint or isolation of any student is permitted only when reasonably necessary to control spontaneous behavior that poses an imminent likelihood of serious harm, and may not be used as planned behavioral interventions. It requires each school district to adopt a policy providing for the least amount of restraint or isolation appropriate to protect the safety of students and staff under such circumstances.</p> <p>This bill also provides that an IEP or Section 504 plan may refer to the district policy on restraint or isolation and must not include the use of restraint or isolation as a planned behavior intervention unless advanced educational planning is required. And it modifies the school's restraint or isolation follow-up procedures and the reporting requirements for districts and the OSPI.</p> <p><i>WEA lobbied aggressively on this bill to ensure that restraint or isolation were not prohibited in IEPs.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor</i> <i>Chapter 206, Laws of</i> <i>2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
HB 1242	Muri	<p>This bill would have prohibited certificated K-12 employees from striking or refusing to perform official duties.</p>	<p>Died with no hearing in House Labor.</p>
SHB 1295 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5437</i>	Hudgins	<p>This bill would have required each high-needs school to offer breakfast after the bell to each student and provide adequate time for students to eat.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee</p>

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HB 1363 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5327	Hunt, S.	Would have eliminated the requirement that students have to pass state standardized tests in order to graduate from high school. <i>WEA strongly supported priority bill.</i>	Heard and died in House Education.
HB 1386	Magendanz	This bill would have set up a complicated averaging system of teacher evaluation scores and mandated their use for Rifs as opposed to current law.	Died in House Education after a hearing.
SHB 1408	Ortiz-Self	Would have developed a definition and model for "family engagement coordinator" and other terms used interchangeably with it. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
ESHB 1420	Wilcox	Would have established a legislative task force on school siting. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
ESHB 1495 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5419	Reykdal	Would have enacted the student user privacy in education rights act. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 1497	Pettigrew	This bill would have allowed the Seattle mayor to appoint some school board members in only the Seattle school district. <i>WEA opposed this legislation as we believe in the public's right to elect all school board members.</i>	Died after a hearing in House Education.

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SHB 1511	Ortiz-Self	<p>This bill would have required Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed. SB 5433 which was similar did pass the Legislature.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
E2SHB 1541	Santos	<p>This bill would have implemented strategies to close the educational opportunity gap, based on the recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
E2SHB 1546 Companion Bill SB 5086	Reykdal	<p>Increases opportunities for academically prepared high school students to earn up to two years of college credit through dual credit programs, and reduces disparities in access to, and completion of, these programs. Provides a new funding model to support tuition in the college in the high school program and provides flexibility in the academic acceleration incentive program to assist students with transportation and book expenses associated with the running start program.</p> <p>Establishes a distinction between the college in the high school program as a program occurring in high schools and the running start program as a program occurring on a college campus.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 202, Laws of 2015.</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i></p>

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SHB 1562	Sullivan	<p>This bill would have required public schools to display allergen information on a conspicuous sign in a prominent place within each area where food is served.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
SHB 1570 Companion Bill SB 5312	Gregory	<p>This bill provides greater flexibility in the Educator Retooling Scholarship program thus making it more affordable for teachers to add endorsements.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation. Although it appeared to be killed by Senator Litzow, it reappeared at the end of the Third Special Session and quickly passed through both Houses.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 9, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>3rd Special Session</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date:</i> 10/9/2015</p>
EHB 1633 Companion Bill SB 5578	Zeiger	<p>This bill adds a preference criterion for Housing Trust Fund project applications that involve partnerships between school districts and public housing authorities or nonprofit housing providers that help children of low-income families succeed in school.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill by signing in pro.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 155, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
HB 1666	Magendanz	<p>This bill would have made the results on the statewide assessments available as norm-referenced results and as student growth percentiles.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.

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E2SHB 1682 Companion Bill SB 5065	Fey	<p>This bill would have required OSPI to include specific data for homeless students in its report to the governor and the legislature; and to create a competitive grant process awarding grants so school districts could increase support for homeless students.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation after several amendments were made. One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 1703 Companion Bill SB 5520	Santos	<p>This bill would have modified the high school assessment system by changing the administration of alternative assessments, continuing the requirement for students to demonstrate achievement of state academic standards to earn a high school diploma, and aligning the system with career and college ready graduation requirements.</p> <p><i>This was Governor's request legislation which WEA opposed because it created more complexity in the testing regime and did not move toward delinking the tests from graduation requirements.</i></p>	Heard and died in House Education.
SHB 1714	Manweller	<p>This bill would have required the identification of schools and school districts for recognition to be based on separate performance indicators, such as proficiency or growth, so the state board of education may not combine performance indicators into a single index rating, or score, except for accountability purposes under the no child left behind act of 2001.</p>	Heard and passed out of House Ed and died in H Rules.

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HB 1770 Companion Bill SB 5496	Bergquist	<p>This bill would have allowed some changes to alternative routes to teacher certification while maintaining the same rigor and standards as traditional certification systems.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.</p>
HB 1771 Companion Bill SB 5497	Gregory	<p>This bill would have confirmed that the professional educator standards board is an authorized representative of the state educational agencies.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.</p>
SHB 1783 SB 5675	Ortiz-Self	<p>This would have expanded dual language and bilingual instruction for early learners through secondary students.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.</p>
HB 1785	Reykdal	<p>This bill would have completely eliminated one high school standardized test, the use of biology end of course as a graduation requirement; and the passage of ELA and math tests would not be required for graduation but be used for locally determined and targeted coursework in 12th grade.</p> <p><i>This was OSPI request legislation which WEA did not support, as the complete delink bill was still alive at the time. Eventually the concept of this bill was further worked with bipartisan support and became HB 2214 which we agreed should move forward but was not completely consistent with our full delink position.</i></p>	<p>Heard and passed out of House Ed, died in House Approps.</p>

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SHB 1790 Companion Bill SB 5765	Springer	This bill would have clarified the authority of a nurse working in a school setting. <i>WEA supported this legislation. One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 1804 Companion Bill SB 5495	Springer	This bill would have protected teacher licensure submissions from Public Records requests. <i>WEA supported this legislation. One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 1805	Magendanz	This bill would have prohibited late starts, early release of students, and partial days resulting in less than six instructional hours unless the release was for a full school day. <i>WEA strongly opposed this legislation.</i>	Died in House Education after a hearing.

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SHB 1813	Hansen	<p>This bill requires OSPI to adopt computer science learning standards developed by a nationally recognized computer science education organization by the 2015-16 school year. By January 15, 2016, PESB must develop standards for a K-12 computer science endorsement aligned with the computer science standards adopted by OSPI. The endorsement must facilitate dual endorsement in computer science and either mathematics or science, or another related endorsement that school districts indicate is in high-demand.</p> <p>Also, the Retooling to Teach Mathematics and Science Conditional Scholarship Program is renamed the Educator Retooling Conditional Scholarship Program. Current K-12 teachers and individuals holding an elementary school education certificate may receive a conditional scholarship to pursue an endorsement in a subject or geographic endorsement shortage area, as defined by PESB.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation as it adds a voluntary computer science endorsement and provides greater flexibility in the Retooling program.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 3, Laws of 2015</i> <i>1st Special Session</i> <i>Effective Date:</i> <i>8/27/2015</i></p>
SHB 1855	Caldier	<p>This bill would have required the waiver of certain graduation requirements for students who are at-risk youth or children in need of services pursuant to the family reconciliation act and for students who are homeless.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation. One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.</p>
HB 1865	Magendanz	<p>This bill would have required the visual screening in schools to include both distance and near vision screening.</p> <p><i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.</p>

K-12

HB 1936	Muri	This bill would have removed important due process steps when a teacher was being terminated. <i>WEA strongly opposed this bill.</i>	Died without a hearing in House Labor.
HB 1941	Gregerson	This bill would have allowed the authorization of school district bonds at general elections by a simple majority vote, but only during the November General Election. <i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i>	Died after a hearing in House Education.
HB 1950 Companion Bill SB 5825	Lytton	Would change the certificate of academic achievement requirement by eliminating the use of high school biology end-of-course test as a graduation requirement. <i>This was State Board of Education request legislation but was introduced too late to be heard in House Education.</i>	Referred to but not heard in House Education.
2SHB 1999	Carlyle	This bill would have coordinated services and programs for foster youth in order to improve educational outcomes. <i>One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
HB 2019 Companion Bill SB 5748	Muri	This bill would have tied standardized test scores to a teacher's evaluation. <i>WEA strongly opposed this bill.</i>	Died in House Education without a hearing.

K-12

HB 2023	Parker	<p>This bill would have changed the deadline for notices of nonrenewal of contracts for certificated school employees to June 15, only if the Legislature had not passed the Operating Budget during the regular session.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill. One of many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Early Education and K-12 Committee.
SHB 2048	Santos	<p>This bill would have required only the Seattle School District to be split into two separate districts.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Rules.
HB 2117	Pollet	<p>Would have required a reevaluation of the state board of education's duties through a process to be determined by the education chairs of the house of representatives and senate, divesting the state board of education of inappropriate policy authority that resides in the purview of the legislature and transferring appropriate duties to the office of the superintendent of public instruction.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly supported this bill.</i></p>	Given a “courtesy hearing” after committee cutoff in House Education
HB 2165	Scott	<p>This bill would have eliminated the use of common core state standards and assessments in Washington.</p>	Received no hearing in House Education.
HB 2167	Scott	<p>This bill would have given parents and guardians an unrestricted right to excuse their children from taking statewide assessments.</p>	Received no hearing in House Education.

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HB 2184	Lytton	Would have provided a cost savings by making changes to high school science assessment requirements. It is the same bill as HB 1950, which died in House Education without a hearing. This bill was sent directly to House Appropriations.	Referred to and never heard in House Appropriations.
2EHB 2214	Reykdal	<p>Revised version of HB 1785, eliminating the 10th grade test, eliminating the requirement that the biology End of Course test be used as graduation requirement, removed all but a few alternatives—most importantly the collection of evidence alternative, and required that students not passing the 11th grade College and Career Ready test with a level 3 or 4 score would be able to graduate anyway by taking a locally determined course in the 12th grade designed to provide appropriate preparation in reading, writing, and math skills.</p> <p>This bill was sent to the House Appropriations committee where it was heard but not voted on or passed out of that committee. Subsequently, it was pulled to the floor, where it passed off the House floor a total of three times, with the final vote on June 29th, a resounding 92 – 6 approval.</p> <p>Senator Litzow vowed he would never hear a testing delink bill and he kept his word. It was never heard in the Senate. It was revived at the end of session in a last ditch effort by the Senate Democrats to force the Republicans to pass the bill. Instead, they passed a very small piece of the effort—as described under SB 6145.</p>	Died in Senate Rules.
HJR 4210	Gregerson	<p>Would have amended the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize school district bonds at general elections.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Education after a hearing.

K-12

SB 5120	Parlette	The criteria for the dissolution of a school district based on student enrollment is changed to require three consecutive years of an average enrollment of fewer than five students in kindergarten through eighth grade.	<i>Signed by the Governor Chapter 82, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 9/1/15</i>
SSB 5163	Hobbs	This bill requires school districts to collect and submit data on students from military families.	<i>Signed by the Governor Chapter 210, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i>
E2SSB 5179 <i>Companion Bill HB 1293</i>	Hill	This bill would have originally created a licensure system for paraeducators. It was unfunded and very expensive. WEA opposed the original version. The bill was amended in the House to create minimum employment entry standards for paraeducators working in certain programs, and provided that a phased-in statewide implementation of the Standards of Practice beginning no later than 2018. It would have required that the courses of study necessary to meet these standards be approved by the Professional Educator Standards Board and made available through various providers. And it also required the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges to incorporate the Standards of Practice into their paraeducator training programs. <i>WEA supported the version of this bill as amended by the House only if fully funded. The Senate refused to accept the House amendments so the bill died. The only union representing paraeducators who supported the bill was PSE.</i>	Passed the Senate, aggressively amended in the House. Died in the Senate when that Chamber refused to Concur with the House changes.

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SSB 5202	Mullet	<p>This bill amends existing law to require OSPI to integrate financial education skills and content knowledge into the state learning standards. Also, standards in K–12 personal finance education developed by a national coalition for personal financial literacy that includes partners from business, finance, government, academia, education, and state affiliates are adopted as the state financial education learning standards. Online instructional materials and resources are added to the financial education curriculum that the Partnership reviews on an ongoing basis. <i>While WEA supported the concepts in this legislation, we also spoke to funding the professional development these new standards will require to be successfully implemented. Funding was not provided.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor Chapter 211, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
2SSB 5252 Companion Bill HB 1974	Dammeier	<p>Would have authorized educational service districts to implement regional school safety and security programs.</p>	<p>Passed the Senate and died in House Appropriations</p>

K-12

<p>SSB 5294 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1331</i></p>	<p>McAuliffe</p>	<p>School library media programs are renamed to school library information and technology programs. School boards must provide resources and materials to operate such programs as the board deems necessary for the proper education of students or as otherwise required by law or rule. The duties of teacher-librarians are listed, which may include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • integrate information and technology into curriculum and instruction; • provide information management instruction to students and staff about how to effectively use emerging learning technologies for school and lifelong learning; • help teachers and students efficiently and effectively access the highest quality information available while using information ethically; • instruct students in digital citizenship, including how to be critical consumers of information; • provide guidance about thoughtful and strategic use of online resources; and create a culture of reading in the school community by developing a diverse, student-focused collection of library materials that ensures all students can find something of quality to read, and by facilitating school-wide reading initiatives while providing individual support to students. <p><i>WEA supported this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed.</i> <i>Chapter 27, Laws of</i> <i>2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
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K-12

SB 5312 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1570	Litzow	<p>This bill would have provided greater flexibility in the Educator Retooling Scholarship program thus making it more affordable for teachers to add endorsements.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation. SB 5312 and its companion were among many bills killed by Sen. Litzow because the bill tying test scores to teacher evaluations failed.</i></p>	<p>Passed the Senate and died in House Education with no hearing. It had been agreed that HB 1570 would move until Litzow killed it.</p>
SB 5327 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1363	McCoy	<p>Would have eliminated the requirement for students to pass standardized state or federal tests in order to graduate from high school.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly supported this as a priority bill. The Senate made very clear that no "delink" bill would be heard or passed in their chamber.</i></p>	<p>Referred to but not heard in Senate EL/K-12 committee.</p>
ESB 5419 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1495	Litzow	<p>Establishes the student user privacy in education rights act or SUPER act. Addresses the obligations of school service providers with regard to transparency, choice and control, and safeguards in their use of student data. Because of various requirements in the bill it does not go into effect until July of 2016.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 277, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/1/2016</i></p>

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SSB 5433 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1511</i>	Litzow	<p>The legislative direction encouraging OSPI and school districts to collaborate and take certain actions to develop and incorporate curricula about tribes is now mandated. OSPI must help school districts identify federally recognized Indian tribes within or near school districts, and school districts must do the following: when reviewing or adopting social studies curriculum, incorporate curricula about tribal history, culture, and government of the nearest federally recognized tribe and work with tribes to develop such materials; collaborate with tribes to create materials, programs, and cultural exchanges; and collaborate with OSPI on curricular areas of tribal government and history that are statewide in nature. School districts must meet the requirements of collaboration and incorporation about tribal history, culture, and government by using the curriculum developed and made available free of charge by OSPI, but they may modify the curriculum in order to incorporate elements that have a regional focus or in order to incorporate the curriculum into existing curricular materials. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 198, Laws of 2015</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
SB 5520 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1703</i>	Rolfes	<p>See HB 1703. <i>Governor's request bill which WEA did not support. Even though it was not a delink bill, it had some improvements to the assessment system. Senator Litzow refused to hear any bills that reformed the testing system in any way that might appear to soften resolve to maintain high stakes testing policies.</i></p>	<p>Referred to but not heard in Senate EL/K-12.</p>

K-12

SB 5559 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1592</i>	Billig	<p>This bill would have allowed waivers of tuition, services and activities fees for K-12 classified staff. The bill was heard in both Houses with WEA members and Lobby staff testifying in strong support. Both bills died in their respective Chambers.</p>	<p>Died in Senate Rules and House Appropriations.</p>
SSB 5679	McAuliffe	<p>The intent of this bill is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>“The legislature recognizes that other states have authorized transition planning to postsecondary settings for students with disabilities as early as the age of fourteen. To remove barriers and obstacles for students with disabilities to access to postsecondary settings including higher education, the legislature intends to authorize transition planning for students with disabilities as soon as practicable when educationally and developmentally appropriate.”</i> • <i>“When educationally and developmentally appropriate,” certain interagency responsibilities and linkages with transition services must be addressed in a transition plan to a postsecondary setting in the individualized education program of a student with disabilities.</i> • <i>“To determine the postsecondary goals of the student a discussion <u>should</u> take place with the student, the student's parents, and others, as needed. “</i> • <i>“A discussion <u>must</u> take place with the student and parents, and others as needed, to determine the postsecondary goals or post school vision for the student.”</i> • <i>“This discussion <u>may be included as part of an annual individualized education program review, high school and beyond plan meeting, or any other meeting that includes parents, students, and educators.</u> “</i> 	<p><i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 217, Laws of 2015.</i> <i>Effective Date: 7/24/2015</i></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A student with disabilities who has a High School and Beyond Plan may use it as the required transition plan. <p><i>WEA had worked with bill supporters in previous years to protect the authority of the IEP as preeminent in transition decisions. In this bill, we also assured that discussions not be required outside of already existing annual IEP or high school and beyond planning. There is some schizophrenia in the language when it says a discussion “should” take place and then later “must” take place. However, we think that the clear language about the discussion being included in already occurring IEP or HSBP meetings protects members from additional meetings. With that language, we remained neutral on this bill.</i></p>	
E2SSB 5688 Companion Bill HB 1760	Litzow	<p>This bill would have required OSPI to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Convene a work group to recommend comprehensive social emotional learning benchmarks for grades kindergarten through high school; and (2) Conduct a survey of schools to ascertain how many schools in the state are implementing a social emotional learning program and to understand individual districts' capacity to implement social emotional learning. <p>It would have authorized school districts to use specific funding to develop and update school specific action plans to implement multi-tiered systems of support frameworks and curriculum aligned with the frameworks.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation. Ultimately it died when Sen. Litzow killed most education bills because his bill tying test scores to evaluations did not pass.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules.

K-12

SSB 5721	Billig	The Extended Learning Opportunities Council membership is expanded to include a person selected by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to represent low-income communities or communities of color; a person selected by the Educational Opportunity Gap Oversight and Accountability Committee; and a representative of the statewide association of public libraries. Other participants, agencies, organizations, or individuals may be invited to participate in the Council. <i>WEA supported this legislation. WEA has a member serving on the ELO Council.</i>	<i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 163, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i>
SSB 5744	Litzow	Would have based teacher layoffs on principal evaluations – and allowed principals to essentially fire teachers for any reason at all, with no guarantee of placement at another school. <i>WEA strongly opposed this legislation.</i>	Died in Senate Rules
ESSB 5748 <i>Companion Bill HB 2019</i>	Litzow	Sen. Litzow once again sponsored legislation mandating the use of state test scores in teacher and principal evaluations, although recent research clearly indicates these standardized tests do not measure a teacher's effectiveness. <i>WEA strongly opposed this legislation.</i>	Passed the Senate and died in House Education after hundreds of WEA members lobbied on the Hill.

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ESSB 5803	Dammeier	<p>This bill changes some of the requirements from a previous bill to alleviate unnecessary extra meetings with parents whose children are struggling with reading.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents of students who show problems with reading based on teachers' judgment of formative or diagnostic assessments will be provided information about interventions and the districts' grade placement policy. • Principals will notify parents of children who fail the standardized third grade reading test and haven't met with teachers on the subject of the students' test score and the interventions available. • Strategies that assure students are able to be placed in fourth grade will be available to parents and their students. <p>This bill will remove a number of onerous requirements on teachers' time away from instruction and other required activities. <i>WEA strongly supported this bill.</i></p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 125, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 4/25/2015</i></p>
SB 5805 <i>Companion Bill HB 1840</i>	Rivers	<p>Statewide dispute resolution organizations are added to the list of developers of the volunteer-based conflict resolution and mediation program. The program must use lawyers or certified mediators to train students.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 126, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
SB 5825 <i>Companion Bill HB 1950</i>	Mullet	<p>See HB 1950. Biology EoC eliminated as a graduation requirement. Like all other testing bills, Senator Litzow refused to hear this in his committee.</p>	<p>Referred to but not heard in Senate EL/K-12</p>

K-12

SB 5967	McCoy	<p>Would have transferred duties and functions still within the authority of the state board of education to the office of the superintendent of public instruction. Basically eliminates the State Board of Education altogether.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill, although it did not receive a hearing in the Senate.</i></p>	Referred to and died in Senate EL/K-12
SB 6030	Chase	<p>Would have required the state to withdraw from the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium and the common core state standards and return to the prior Washington state essential academic learning requirements (EALRs) and the Washington Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) as the state measurement for school progress and student graduation from high school.</p> <p><i>This bill never received a formal hearing, but Senators Chase and Roach held an informal hearing on the bill with members of the public. WEA would not have supported this bill because it simply dialed us back to previous standards and tests without eliminating the use of test scores as requirements for students to graduate from high school.</i></p>	Referred to but never heard in Senate EL/K-12
SB 6122	McAuliffe	<p>Would have reduced the number of state required assessments to only those assessments required to meet federal mandates.</p> <p>Eliminates the use of the statewide assessments as a requirement for high school graduation.</p>	Referred to and died in Senate EL/K-12

K-12

SB 6145	Fraser	<p>Delays for two years (classes of 2015 and 2016 only) the high school graduation requirement of meeting the state standard on the high school science assessment.</p> <p>This bill was introduced and passed in the final hours of the third special session. The Senate Democrats were pushing for EHB 2214 but the Senate Republicans would only agree to this small piece of the larger reform and only for two years. It allows this year's 2,000 students who were ready and able to graduate based on all requirements except for the biology End of Course exam to graduate. It will also allow next year's students the same reprieve.</p>	<p><i>Signed by the Governor. Chapter 42, 2015 Laws 3rd Special Session. Effective Date: 10/9/2015</i></p>
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Other

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
2SSB 5404	O'Ban	This legislation requires DSHS to provide specific services for homeless children. It also requires OSPI 's biennial report on data of homeless students to include the number, academic performance, and educational outcomes of identified unaccompanied homeless students enrolled in public schools.	<i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 69, Laws of 2015 Effective Date: 7/24/15</i>

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1036	Moeller	Addresses public employees' retirement system benefits for survivors of members in registered domestic partnerships before December 2012. This bill addressed an issue in the retirement system for a specific circumstance when a couple transitioned from domestic partnership to marriage and the retiree passed away prior to the timing selecting survivor benefits. The bill would provide the survivor of a member of PERS plans the option to designate themselves as a survivor beneficiary and receive a joint and 50 percent survivor benefit when that survivor was domestic partner of the member prior to December 1, 2008, was married to the member prior to January 1, 2013, was the designated beneficiary of the member, and was predeceased by the member prior to January 1, 2014.	Died in House Rules.
SHB 1109	Reykdal	New employees of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction would become members of TRS, if they are qualified to teach. Current employees of SPI who are qualified to teach would have window in which to decide if they trans for to TRS or remain in PERS.	Died in House Rules.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1168 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5211	Ormsby	Corrects restrictions on collecting a pension in the public employees' retirement system for retirees returning to work in an ineligible position or a position covered by a different state retirement system. This bill was recommended by the Select Committee on Pension Policy. The bill addresses an issue created when the retire-rehire provisions were revised in 2011. PERS retirees who return to work in positions covered by other DRS-administered retirement systems would continue to receive retirement benefits for the first 867 hours of employment per calendar year.	<i>Signed by the Governor.</i> <i>Chapter 75, Laws of</i> <i>2015</i> <i>Effective Date:</i>
HB 1322	Reykdal	Addresses membership in a state retirement plan before attaining the normal retirement age in another retirement plan. This bill addresses a technical issue in the pension system that prohibits a member eligible for retirement in one state-sponsored plan from joining another state retirement plan when they move to a new job. As pension laws have changed over time, more early retirement options have been added which now allow members to be eligible for retirement as early as age 55. For example, some individuals who change from a TRS eligible position to a PERS or SERS eligible position at age 55 or older cannot become part of the pension system in their new job and are thus left with no pension contributions and credits from their time in that position – even though their ‘eligible retirement’ would be greatly reduced by the early retirement factors. This bill amends this restriction so that it would only apply to those who are eligible for normal, unreduced retirement.	Died in House Rules.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1542 Companion Bill SB 5743	Hunt, S.	<p>Provides retirement benefits at an earlier age in plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system (PERS), the teachers' retirement system (TRS), and the school employees' retirement system (SERS). This bill would create the Rule of 85, which would allow an employee who is at least 55 years old and is vested in TRS, SERS, or PERS of service to retire with full benefits when the combination of their age and years of service total 85.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 1615 Companion Bill SB 5545	Appleton	<p>Removes the narrow restrictions on return to work (retire-rehire) for members of PERS, TRS and SERS Plans 2 and 3 who retire using the 2008 early retirement factors. Under those restrictions, retirees who use the 2008 early retirement factors cannot work in any capacity for any employer within the state pension system without having their pension suspended. Under the proposed change, these retirees would fall under the same provisions as other Plan 2 and 3 retirees and could work 867 hours in a year prior to having their benefits suspended.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1737	Orcutt	Temporarily allows retirees in TRS Plan 2 or 3 that have retired using the 2008 early retirement factors to work as a substitute teacher. School districts employing these retirees must document a shortage of certified substitute teachers. This bill originally allowed these retirees to work as a substitute for 216 hours in a year. It was amended in the House to allow for up to 630 hours per year before the retirees' pension benefit would be suspended. This change to retire-rehire provisions would expire August 1, 2019.	Died in House Rules.
HB 2138 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 6017</i>	Reykdal	Provides the same annual cost-of-living adjustment for plan 1 retirees of the teachers' retirement system and the public employees' retirement system as is provided for plan 2 and plan 3 members of those systems. <i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i>	Died in House Appropriations.
SB 5148	Parlette	Authorizes members of the teachers' retirement system who retire under the 2008 early retirement factors to work as substitute teachers and continue receiving retirement benefits at the same time.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 5211 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1168</i>	Bailey	Corrects restrictions on collecting a pension in the public employees' retirement system for retirees returning to work in an ineligible position or a position covered by a different state retirement system. This bill was recommended by the Select Committee on Pension Policy. The bill addresses an issue created when the retire-rehire provisions were revised in 2011. PERS retirees who return to work in positions covered by other DRS-administered retirement systems would continue to receive retirement benefits for the first 867 hours of employment per calendar year.	Died in Senate Rules.
SSB 5435	Bailey	Requires counties, municipalities, and other subdivisions of the state that participate in one or more of the state retirement systems, to offer the state deferred compensation program to employees School districts are a subdivision of the state and would be included in these requirements. Employee participation would be optional.	Died in Senate Rules.
SB 5473 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1542</i>	Chase	Provides retirement benefits at an earlier age in Plans 2 and 3 of the public employees' retirement system (PERS), the teachers' retirement system (TRS), and the school employees' retirement system (SERS). This bill would create the Rule of 85, which would allow an employee who is at least 55 years old and is vested in TRS, SERS, or PERS of service to retire with full benefits when the combination of their age and years of service total 85. <i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 5545 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1615</i>	McAuliffe	<p>Removes the narrow restrictions on return to work (retire-rehire) for members of PERS, TRS and SERS Plans 2 and 3 who retire using the 2008 early retirement factors. Under those restrictions, retirees who use the 2008 early retirement factors cannot work in any capacity for any employer within the state pension system without having their pension suspended. Under the proposed change, these retirees would fall under the same provisions as other Plan 2 and 3 retirees and could work 867 hours in a year prior to having their benefits suspended.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5982	Braun	<p>Increases the normal retirement ages by two years for new members of TRS, SERS, PERS, and other state retirement systems. For TRS, SERS, and PERS Plans 2 and 3, the normal retirement age would increase from 65 to 67 for anyone who first becomes a member on or after July 1, 2015.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 6005	Braun	The average compensation that is used for retirement calculations and contributions will change for anyone who first becomes a member of state retirement systems, including higher education retirement plans, after December 31, 2015. For these new members, the lower of the state average annual wage for the prior year or the employee's actual wages will be used to calculate the pension contributions and benefits in PERS, TRS, SERS and the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System (PSERS) systems. In the higher education retirement system, the contributions from higher education institutions to the members' defined contribution plan may not exceed ten percent of the state annual average wage in the prior calendar year. The average annual wage in Washington was \$52,635 in 2013.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6017 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 2138</i>	Lias	Provides the same annual cost-of-living adjustment for plan 1 retirees of the teachers' retirement system and the public employees' retirement system as is provided for plan 2 and plan 3 members of those systems. <i>The WEA supported this bill, but it did not receive a hearing.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6076	Bailey	For public pension plans administered by DRS, this bill would allow up to fifty percent of a person's gross monthly pension benefit to be garnished for costs of incarceration, probation, parole, or restitution if a member, is convicted of a felony for misconduct associated with the person's service as a public employee. This would apply to felonies committed on or after July 1, 2015.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 6077	Bailey	A member of a state retirement plan will be terminated from the plan and will forfeit their retirement benefit if that person is convicted of a felony that was committed in the course of, or was related to, the member's employment as a public official or public employee. The member will receive a lump sum refund of their employee contributions without interest and minus any benefits already received. A court may award some of all of the forfeited benefits to the member's spouse, former spouse or dependents. These provisions only apply to such felonies that are committed after the effective date of this new law.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1155	Pike	Allows the income thresholds for the senior citizen property tax exemption and deferral programs to annually grow with inflation. Requires the department of revenue to annually update the income thresholds.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1161	Moeller	Indexes the qualifying income thresholds for property tax relief programs to reflect year-to-year changes in income due to inflation and other economic conditions and to reflect county-to-county differences in median income across the state. Requires the department of revenue to annually publish updated income thresholds by January 1st of each year.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1239 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5492</i>	Pollet	Establishes the tax exemption transparency and accountability act. Creates a tax expenditure budget as part of the biennial budget adopted by the legislature. Reforms the tax expenditure process by including tax expenditures in a tax expenditure budget in the biennial state budget process and requires they be readopted every two years as part of the budget process or they expire. Requires the joint legislative audit and review committee to report its findings and recommendations for scheduled tax expenditures to the citizen commission for performance measurement of tax expenditures by June 30th of each year. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1241 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5042	Muri	Provides employment for unemployed veterans by providing employers with a credit against the business and occupation tax or public utility tax for hiring unemployed veterans. Expires July 1, 2023.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1314 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5283	Fitzgibbon	Implementing a carbon pollution market program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Would provide significant resources to public schools and transportation. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	Passed House Environment Committee but died in House Appropriations.
HB 1484 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5699	Jenkins	This is the Governor's proposed capital gains tax. It provides funding for the education legacy trust account. Imposes a tax on individuals for the privilege of: (1) Selling or exchanging long-term capital assets; or (2) Receiving Washington capital gains. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	Died in House Finance.
SHB 1576 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5864	Fitzgibbon	Modifies provisions relating to sales and use taxes for cities to offset municipal service costs to newly annexed areas.	Passed House with 67 votes and did not receive a hearing in the Senate.
HB 1638	Schmick	Provides a business and occupation tax credit to an employer who hires a scribe. A scribe is an unlicensed individual hired to enter information into an electric medical record or chart at the direction of a physician. Requires the department of health to work with the department of revenue to develop a process to verify that a scribe has been hired into a position that qualifies for the credit.	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1678 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5541	Carlyle	<p>Provides more clarity and consistency in the sales and use taxation of digital business inputs.</p> <p>Reaffirms and restores the policy choice, made by the legislature in 2009, of providing substantial sales and use tax relief to businesses for their acquisition of digital business inputs.</p> <p>Evaluates whether the fiscal impact of these tax preferences reasonably conforms to what was anticipated at the time the implementing legislation was adopted.</p>	Passed House Finance and died in House Rules.
SHB 1690 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5571	Walkinshaw	<p>Provides a sales and use tax deferral for the expansion of certain existing public facilities district convention centers.</p>	Died in House Finance.
SHB 1758 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5700	Tharinger	<p>Delays, until July 1, 2025, the expiration of tax preferences for biofuel, biomass, and energy conservation.</p> <p>Provides a forest derived biomass credit to encourage the harvesting, collection, and use of forest derived biomass.</p> <p>Increases investments in energy efficiency and conservation programs and supports efforts by utilities to acquire all cost-effective energy conservation as required under state law.</p>	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1759	Manweller	<p>Extends the computer data center sales and use tax exemption construction window until 2020 and the refresh window for replacement server equipment until 2026.</p> <p>Allows a one hundred percent sales and use tax exemption for eligible server equipment and power infrastructure installed in new computer data centers and a seventy-five percent sales and use tax exemption for replacement server equipment.</p> <p>Reduces or prohibits local jurisdictions from claiming certain local sales and use taxes that directly reduce state general fund revenues.</p> <p>Converts the computer data center sales and use tax exemption into a remittance.</p>	Died in House Finance.
HB 1764 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5701</i>	Van De Wege	<p>Provides a business and occupation tax credit on the manufacturing and wholesale sales of carbon fiber, carbon fiber composites, or carbon fiber composite products.</p> <p>Expires July 1, 2020.</p>	Died in House Finance.
HB 1769 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5665</i>	Pettigrew	<p>Provides a business and occupation tax credit for high-technology companies performing research and development.</p> <p>Provides a sales and use tax deferral for certain construction for new and expanding high-technology companies conducting research and development in the fields of advanced computing, advanced materials, biotechnology, electronic device technology, or environmental technology.</p>	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SHB 1786	Gregerson	Establishes the aerospace tax incentive accountability act. Establishes a statewide wage standard for aerospace employment as a requirement to qualify for certain aerospace- related tax incentives. Requires increases in state general fund revenue collections resulting from the changes in this act to be used for state services that aid low-income individuals.	Passed House Committee on Labor and died in House Finance.
HB 1789	Springer	Allows real estate excise tax proceeds to be used for the maintenance and operation of capital projects.	Died in House Local Government.
HB 1798	Takko	Eliminates statutory provisions requiring collection of an advance tax on real property for taxes not yet levied and certified at the time a person records a document with the county auditor resulting in a division, alteration, or adjustment of real property boundary lines.	Passed out of House Local Government and died in House Rules.
SHB 1822	Farrell	Modifies commute trip reduction tax credit provisions. Delays, until July 1, 2024, the expiration of the commute trip reduction tax credit.	Passed unanimously out of House and did not receive a hearing in the Senate.
HB 1823 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>SB 5698</i>	Nealey	Delays, until July 1, 2025, the expiration of tax preferences for food processing.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1828	Haler	Provides a business and occupation tax credit equal to one thousand dollars per calendar year for each full-time employment position filled by an individual with a developmental disability. Expires July 1, 2020.	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1837 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5447	Morris	Revises the definition of "border area jurisdictions," for purposes of chapter 82.47 RCW (border area motor vehicle fuel and special fuel tax), to include cities and towns within twenty-five miles of an international border crossing.	Passed House Transportation Committee but died in House Rules.
HB 1902	Harmsworth	Changes the name of the spirits license issuance fee to a spirits license issuance tax and requires licensees to pay the tax to the department of revenue. Requires the tax to be deposited in the education legacy trust account if funds are available after certain other distributions have been made.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1925 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5445	Fitzgibbon	Delays, until July 1, 2025, the expiration of the alternative fuel vehicle retail sales and use tax exemption.	Died in House Finance.
HB 1990	Fey	Provides use tax relief to individuals that pay off a vehicle loan for an immediate family member solely in exchange for ownership of the vehicle.	Passed House with 96 votes and did not receive a hearing in the Senate.
HB 2066 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5702	Sells	Provides permanent tax relief for wax and ceramic materials used to create molds during the process of creating ferrous and nonferrous investment castings used in industrial applications.	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 2134	Carlyle	Improves tax preference data collection, incorporating department of revenue-led work group recommendations for improving department of revenue annual surveys and reports and authorizing public disclosure of firm-specific tax savings from business tax incentives. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	Died in House Finance.
HB 2147	Robinson	Declares it is the legislature's specific public policy objective to maintain and grow the state's aerospace industry workforce to one hundred thousand five hundred employment positions by 2040. Requires the joint legislative audit and review committee to assess: (1) Whether aerospace industry employment within the state is on target to reach an employment level of one hundred thousand five hundred by 2040; and (2) Growth in high-wage employment, as defined by an annual or hourly wage equal to or greater than the state median wage.	Died in House Finance.
HB 2150	MacEwen	Reforming Washington's Business and Occupation Tax by allowing businesses to deduct major costs of doing business and adjusting tax rates to maintain revenue neutrality.	Died in House Finance.
HB 2152 <i>Companion Bill SB 6041</i>	Tharinger	Provides a business and occupation tax exemption on amounts received by a person in the form of credits against power contracts with the Bonneville power administration, or funds provided by the Bonneville power administration, for the purpose of implementing energy conservation programs or demand-side management programs.	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 2166 <i>Companion Bill SB 6048</i>	McCabe	Preserves internet service providers' current sales and use tax exemption for telecommunications services purchased, used, or sold to provide internet access service or to otherwise enable users to access content, information, or other services offered over the internet and preserves and limits city or town license fees or taxes in a parallel manner.	Died in House Finance.
HB 2182	Tarleton	Provides a business and occupation tax preference to enable the state's shipyards and maritime industries to compete for federal funding dedicated to the fishing fleet recapitalization program.	Died in House Technology & Economic Development.
HB 2193	Robinson	Provides a property tax exemption for adult family homes occupied by eligible persons with developmental disabilities, if at least seventy-five percent of the eligible persons have a low income.	Died in House Finance.
HB 2223	Hunter	Requires the state treasurer, during the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, to transfer into the state general fund the entire budget stabilization account deposit that is attributable to extraordinary revenue growth.	Died in House Appropriations.
HB 2224	Carlyle	Investing in education and essential public services by modifying and improving the fairness of Washington's excise tax system by enacting an excise tax on capital gains, narrowing or eliminating tax preferences, reinstating a previously expired business and occupation surtax while increasing the small business tax credit, and implementing marketplace fairness in Washington. <i>WEA supported this legislation.</i>	Died in House Finance.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 2226	Morris	Extends the existing aerospace industry preferential business and occupation tax rates and credits, and sales and use tax exemptions to manufacturers of spacecraft and spacecraft components, and spacecraft product development, effective October 1, 2015 and expiring on July 1, 2025.	Died in House Technology & Economic Development.
HB 2258	Haler	Representative Haler introduced a bill that would modify the one percent property tax revenue limit that was established by initiative several years ago. This bill would have allowed property taxes to adjust by inflation and population growth. Representative Haler withdrew his sponsorship from the bill – so the bill no longer exists on the legislative system – as if HB 2255 never existed. <i>WEA supported this legislation- but it never received a hearing.</i>	Never received a hearing and all members withdrew their sponsorship.
SSB 5042 <i>Companion Bill HB 1241</i>	O'Ban	Provides employment for unemployed veterans by providing employers with a credit against the business and occupation tax or public utility tax for hiring unemployed veterans. Expires July 1, 2023.	Passed Senate Ways and Means and died in Senate Rules.
SSB 5043	O'Ban	Modifies the filing threshold to \$50,000 for excise tax purposes to provide greater small business assistance.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SSB 5063 <i>Companion Bill HB 1385</i>	Hill	From July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2027, two-thirds of any expenditures of new revenue to the state general fund and related funds must be made for state education programs, including K-12 education, early learning programs, and higher education.	Passed Senate Ways and Means and died in Senate Rules.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 5064 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1477	Hill	Requires a quarterly revenue forecast on February 20 th during both a long and short legislative session year.	Passed with 47 votes in Senate and did not receive a hearing in the House.
SB 5283 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1314	Ranker	Implementing a carbon pollution market program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Would provide significant resources to public schools and transportation. <i>WEA supported this legislation but it did not receive a hearing.</i>	Did not receive a hearing and died in Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.
SB 5439 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1333	Dansel	Eliminates delinquent property tax penalties.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5490 <i>Companion Bill</i> HB 1534	Erickson	Requires proceeds of the border area motor vehicle fuel and special fuel taxes to be used solely for the purposes of border area jurisdiction transportation improvements.	Passed Senate Transportation but died in Senate Rules.
SB 5511	Braun	Reduces the allowable frequency of local sales and use tax changes from four times per year to three times per year by removing the option for change to take effect on the first day of October.	Passed with 47 votes in Senate and passed House Finance but died in House Rules.
SSB 5681	Hill	On June 30 of each fiscal year, any balance of unclaimed prizes in excess of \$10 million must be transferred to the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account. Funds in the Lottery Administrative Account may be used to fund Lottery revenue forecasts by the Economic and Revenue Forecast Council.	<i>Signed by Governor. Chapter 31, Laws of 2015, 3rd Special Session Effective Date:</i>

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SSB 5691	Rolfes	An exemption is provided for a person, who otherwise qualifies, if that person has a disposable income equal to that existing in current law, or a percentage of median household income of the county in which the residence is located, whichever is greater, to be redetermined every five years beginning in 2019. The income threshold to qualify for the senior citizen's and disabled person's deferral program is \$40,000 or 75 percent of the median household income in the county in which the residence is located, whichever is greater, to be redetermined every five years beginning in 2019.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 5698 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1823</i>	Hewitt	Delays, until July 1, 2025, the expiration of tax preferences for food processing. <i>WEA signed in opposed to this legislation.</i>	Passed Senate Ways and Means but died in Senate Rules.
SB 5700 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1758</i>	Hargrove	Delays, until July 1, 2025, the expiration of tax preferences for biofuel, biomass, and energy conservation. Provides a forest derived biomass credit to encourage the harvesting, collection, and use of forest derived biomass. Increases investments in energy efficiency and conservation programs and supports efforts by utilities to acquire all cost-effective energy conservation as required under state law. <i>WEA signed in opposed to this legislation.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 5701 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 1764</i>	Warnick	Provides a business and occupation tax credit on the manufacturing and wholesale sales of carbon fiber, carbon fiber composites, or carbon fiber composite products. Expires July 1, 2020. <i>WEA signed in opposed to this legislation.</i>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
2SSB 5708	Ericksen	Effective in 2019, makes the property tax exemption permanent for nonprofit fairs that obtained a majority of their property from a city or county between 1995 and 1998.	Died in Senate Rules.
SB 5762	Fraser	The state portion of the retail sales tax is limited to a maximum of \$19,500 on the sale of a personally owned watercraft and the sales tax exemption on personally owned watercraft for qualified nonresidents that purchase a use permit is not allowed on the first \$19,500 of state sales tax that would otherwise be due.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SSB 5827 <i>Companion Bill</i> <i>HB 2011</i>	Warnick	Providing a sales and use tax exemption for eligible server equipment installed in certain data centers. <i>WEA signed in opposed to this legislation.</i>	Died in Senate Rules.
SB 6001	Cleveland	Provides a July 1, 2020, expiration date for the definition of "newspaper" for purposes of business and occupation taxes	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6027	Kohl-Welles	Increases the business and occupation tax credit for contributions made by a person to a Washington motion picture competitiveness program, incrementally through 2019 to \$10 million per year.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 6093	Chase	<p>Levies a tax at the 1% of the fair market value of all intangible property owned by an individual resident in this state with a \$200,000 personal exemption (\$400,000 per couple)</p> <p>Declares an intent to ensure that the majority of funds generated by this act are devoted to public schools.</p> <p>Provides for submission of this act to a vote of the people.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation – but it did not receive a hearing.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6102	Ranker	<p>Imposes a 7% capital gains tax on all individuals, beginning January 1, 2016 with a \$250,000 exemption for an individual and \$500,000 exemption for a couple filing a joint return.</p> <p>Requires revenue collected under this act to be deposited in the education legacy trust account which must only be spent on the program of basic education.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SB 6103	Hargrove	<p>Reduces a school district's actual levy collections by the same amount of any new K-12 salary enhancements received down to \$1 per thousand of assessed valuation.</p> <p><i>WEA had concerns about the unintended consequences of this legislation and the implementation timeline.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
SB 6114	Frockt	<p>This is State Treasurer Request legislation. It would establish a state income tax, reduce the state sales tax, eliminate the state property tax and reduce business and occupation taxes for certain businesses. Declares it is the intent of the legislature that the net new revenue generated as a result of this act be used to reduce the dependence of school districts on excess levies for maintenance and operation support of the basic education program.</p> <p>Takes effect if the proposed amendment to Article VII of the state Constitution, authorizing income taxes, is approved by the voters at a general election held in November 2016.</p> <p><i>WEA supported many of the concepts within this legislation but it never received a hearing.</i></p>	Did not receive a hearing and died in Senate Ways & Means.
SJR 8200	Roach	Amending the Constitution to require a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to raise taxes.	Died in Senate Government Operations.
SJR 8201 Companion Bill HJR 4204	Fain	Amending the Constitution to address changes in state expenditures and revenues made by initiative.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SJR 8202	Chase	Amending the Constitution to allow an income tax.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.
SJR 8203	Sheldon	Proposes an amendment to the state Constitution to set base years for property tax valuation.	Died in Senate Ways & Means.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
ESJR 8204	Keiser	Amending the Constitution to allow the state to guarantee debt issued on behalf of a political subdivision for essential public infrastructure.	Passed with 47 votes in the Senate and did not receive a hearing in the House.

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
HB 1773 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5602	Hunt, G.	<p>This bill would have prohibited public entities from giving or loaning public funds to bargaining unit representatives for nongovernment functions. It would have made it impossible for public employers and their unions to bargain, handle grievances or do any type of problem solving necessary to function properly.</p> <p><i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Labor, with the companion bill dying in Senate Rules.
HB 1968 <i>Companion Bill</i> SB 5552	Shea	<p>This bill would have the standard for religious non-association by allowing the employee to assert bona fide personally held religious beliefs at any time. Current law requires the employee to be a member of an actual religion. The amount of money paid by those asserting religious non-association would have changed to an amount equivalent to, or by agreement, less than the agency shop fee paid by objecting nonmembers of the union. Current law requires the payment to match the full dues amount required of union members. The non-associated employee could have then made payments in lieu of union dues to any charitable organization instead of current law which requires a non-religious charity. And finally it would have allowed an employee to revoke their authorization for paycheck deduction of union dues at any time.</p> <p><i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i></p>	This bill died in House Labor without a hearing, with the companion bill dying in Senate Rules.

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

HB 1991	Muri	This bill would have required an employee organization representing educational public employees under the educational employment relations act to submit a digital copy of their collective bargaining agreement to the public employment relations commission within thirty days of the effective date of the collective bargaining agreement. <i>WEA opposed this bill as legislation passed during the 2014 Session requiring school districts to post all CBA's on their websites. This bill was unnecessary. This was also one of the bills proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF).</i>	Died in House Labor without a hearing.
SB 5045 Companion Bill HB 2068	Angel	This bill would have revises collective bargaining provisions regarding the deauthorization of union security provisions. <i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i>	Died in Senate Rules with the House version dying without a hearing in House Labor.
ESB 5226	Becker	This bill would have caused all public sector unions' to publically disclose their finances. <i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i>	Passed the Senate and died in House Labor with no hearing.
SB 5237	Hewitt	This bill would have increased the time in which representation under a public collective bargaining agreement could be challenged. <i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i>	Died in Senate Rules.

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

SSB 5329	Braun	<p>This bill would have required collective bargaining sessions with employee organizations involving contract negotiations to be open to the public.</p> <p><i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules.
ESB 5510	Braun	<p>Requires the department of labor and industries to convene a benefit accuracy working group under the industrial insurance program. Requires the working group to focus on improving the accuracy, simplicity, fairness, and consistency of calculating and providing wage replacement benefits.</p> <p>Prohibits the working group from considering overall reductions in existing worker benefit levels.</p> <p>Expires December 31, 2016.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 178, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
SB 5671	Baumgartner	<p>This bill would have prevented agency fee in unions representing individual providers, family child care providers, adult family home providers, and language access providers.</p> <p><i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules.

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

ESB 5854	Braun	<p>This bill would have required digital copies of collective bargaining agreements to be submitted by public employers to the public employment relations commission. CBAs are already public and this would have been duplicative.</p> <p><i>This bill was one of many proposed by the Freedom Foundation (EFF) in their continuing attacks on the right of labor unions to exist. WEA, along with all unions, strongly opposed this bill.</i></p>	Passed the Senate and died in House Labor without a hearing.
ESB 5893 Companion Bill HB 1930	Fain	<p>Excludes from the definition of "employee," for purposes of industrial welfare provisions and the minimum wage act, an individual who is at least sixteen years old but under twenty-one years old, in his or her capacity as a player for a junior ice hockey team that is a member of a regional, national, or international league and that contracts with an arena owned, operated, or managed by a public facilities district.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor.</i></p> <p><i>Chapter 299, Laws of 2015</i></p> <p><i>Effective Date: 7/24/15</i></p>
SB 6116	Sheldon	<p>This bill would have prohibited the use of sick leave benefits, compensation, or health benefits for K-12 employees during a strike or work stoppage.</p> <p><i>This bill was introduced during the first Special Session by Sen. Sheldon in response to the one-day walkouts several WEA locals were taking. Sen. Sheldon is also a County Commissioner and misses many work days himself while working as a Senator. WASA testified in opposition to this bill. The Freedom Foundation strongly supported it. The Senate Democrats on the Committee read a strong statement in opposition to the bill demanding that the Senate work on fully funding public education. They then left the hearing. WEA chose not to participate in a hearing structured to only attack the rights of our members.</i></p>	Died in Senate Commerce and Labor.