

LEGISLATIVE KICK-OFF 2026

UW Finance, Planning & Budgeting
UW State Relations



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LEGISLATIVE PROCESS, BILL ANALYSIS, & LOBBYGOV

Lauren Hatchett

Senior Policy Analyst
Finance, Planning & Budgeting

WHY DOES IT MATTER?

Legislative decisions impact:

- > Higher ed. policy (tuition & financial aid, access, preparedness, curriculum, enrollment).
- > UW operations (budget, sustainability, transportation, real estate).
- > Health care policy affecting UW Medicine.
- > Lots of other things (research, land use, forest lands, etc.)

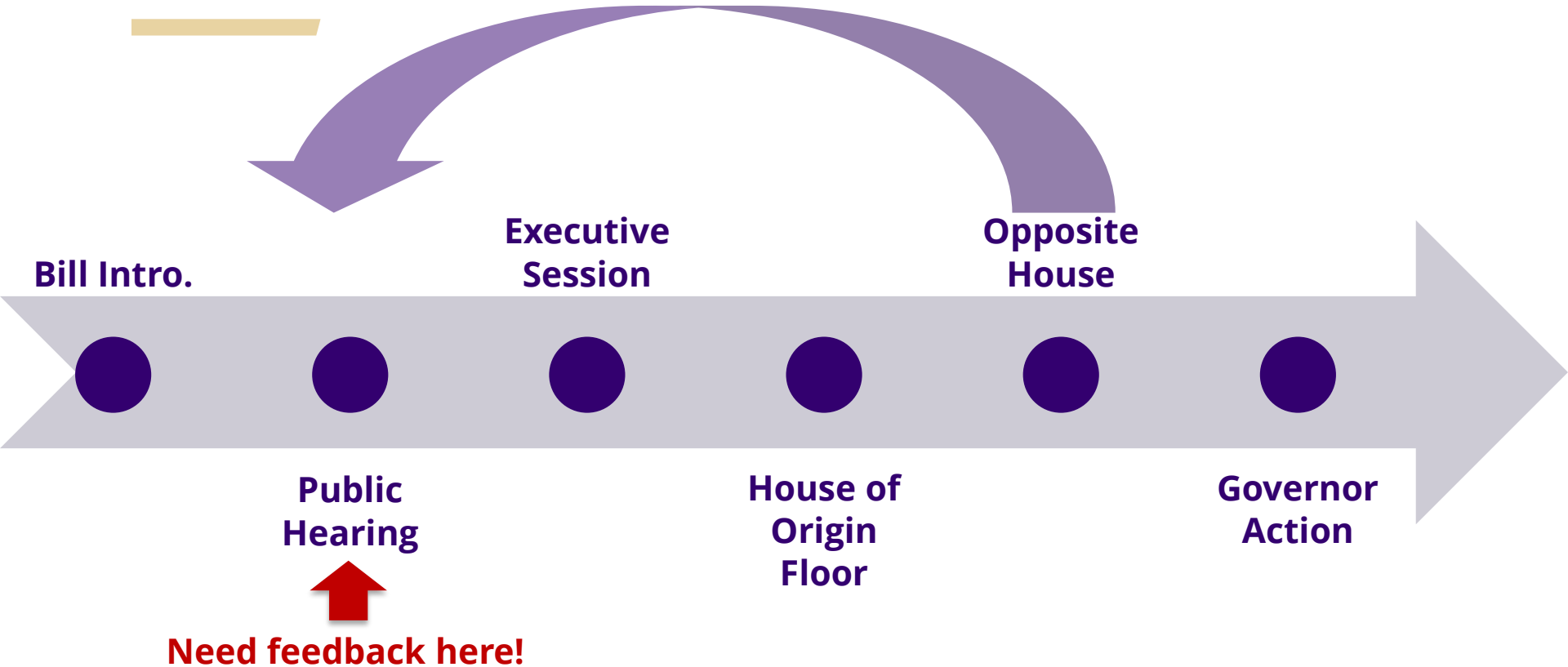


LEGISLATIVE TERMS

- > **“House of Origin” or “First House”:** The chamber in which a piece of legislation originates (can be House or Senate)
- > **“Opposite House” or “Second House”:** The second chamber through which a piece of legislation moves
- > **Substitute bill:** (SSB or SHB) a new version of a bill that completely replaces the original bill
- > **“Striking amendment” or “striker”:** an amendment that removes everything and inserts a new bill
- > **Engrossed:** (E2SHB) legislation into which one or more amendments have been incorporated, and has passed a chamber



LEGISLATIVE PROCESS



W

STEP 1: READ THE BILL

Bill Information > SB 5227


Search for another bill or initiative:

5227 **Bill** Initiative 2021-2022  Search

SB 5227 - 2021-22

Requiring diversity, equity, inclusion, and antiracism training and assessments at institutions of higher education.

Sponsors: Randall, Nobles, Das, Lovelett, Wilson, C., Hasegawa, Hunt, Keiser, Kuderer, Liias, Nguyen, Stanford

Bill Status-at-a-Glance 

See **Bill History** for complete details on the bill

As of Monday, January 3, 2022 07:13 PM




Current Version: Engrossed 2nd Substitute - E2SSB 5227

Current Status: C 275 L 21

Where is it in the process?

	Introduced	In Committee	On Floor Calendar	Passed Chamber
In the Senate:	●	●	●	●
In the House:	●	●	●	●
After Passage:	●	●	●	●

Passed Legislature On Governor's Desk Governor Acted Session Law

-  Comment on this bill
-  Get Email Notifications
-  RSS Notifications

Scroll Down



Go to documents...

Go to videos...

Make sure you're reading the right version!

Most recent will be last.

Available Documents

For a complete list of documents, go to Online Reports [Text of a Legislative Document](#).

Bill Documents

Original Bill
Substitute Bill
Second Substitute
Engrossed Second
Substitute
Bill as Passed Legislature
Session Law

Bill Digests

Bill Reports

Senate Bill Report (Orig.)
Senate Bill Report
Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill
Analysis 2021
Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill
Report
Engrossed Second Substitute Senate Bill
Report
Final Bill Report



Bill reports can provide helpful context but **are not** a replacement for reading the bill!

1 AN ACT Relating to eligibility of the state medal of merit;
2 amending RCW 1.40.010.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that live mascots
5 play an important role in fostering pride, unity, and goodwill among
6 not just their devoted fan base, but the broader Washington community.
7 These mascots often serve as cultural icons and ambassadors, creating
8 meaningful connections and enriching the social fabric of the state.

9 The legislature also finds that Dubs II, the UW Mascot, has
10 dutifully served as an effective representative of the University of
11 Washington and as a friend to the people and state of Washington.

12 Therefore the legislature intends to recognize and honor the
13 contributions of live mascots by expanding eligibility of the state
14 medal of merit to include beloved, live mascots whose contributions
15 exemplify the spirit and values of the state.

“NEW SECTION” language is all new but is not underlined. Please read carefully!



16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.40.010, State medal of merit, is amended to read
17 as follows:

18 There is established a decoration of the state medal of merit with
19 accompanying ribbons and appurtenances for award by the governor, in
20 the name of the state, to any ~~person~~ entity, including individuals or
21 live mascots, who has been distinguished by exceptionally meritorious
22 conduct in performing outstanding services to the people and state of
23 Washington, upon the nomination of the governor's state medal of merit
24 committee.

~~Struck-out text~~ is to
be removed from
existing statute.

Underlined text
is entirely new
language





W

WHAT IS LOBBYGOV?



Login to your account

Remember me

Login →

SAML Login

uw.lobbygov.com

W

REVIEWER VIEW OF LOBBYGOV

Action Needed: Review Legislative Bill Proposal

 **LobbyGov Agent** <no-reply@lobbygov.com>        
To:  Lauren Hatchett Tue 1/7/2025 5:32 PM

Hello,

You have been identified by the Office of Finance, Planning & Budgeting (FPB) as a reviewer for a legislative bill proposal. As soon as possible, please review the bill and provide requested feedback through the UW's LobbyGov platform.

Please log-in to uw.lobbygov.com to review this bill, or click the link below. You may need to select "SAML login" to be directed to the UW login page.

For additional legislative and bill analysis resources, please visit: <https://www.washington.edu/opb/state-operations/bill-tracking-legislative-resources/>

Please reach out to Jed Bradley (jedbrad@uw.edu) or a member of the FPB Policy, Planning & State Operations team if you have any questions.

HB 1000 - Expanding the circumstances that may constitute a major violation of the uniform controlled substances act.

Please [login](#) for further details.



REVIEWER VIEW CONT.

LobbyGov Portal

Bill Search...

To-do List

Bills Assigned to You

Hearing Tasks

Upcoming Events

Search Bills

Legislators

Committees

Tools & Wizards

Account Settings

Lauren Hatchett

To-do List

Home > To-do List

69th Session

Search bill #, description

Export CSV

Print

Number of results per page [20](#) [50](#) [100](#)

Displaying 1-1 of 1 result.

Bill #	Companion Bill #	Bill Status	Abbrev. Title	Department	Due Date/Time	
SB 5117		S Prefiled	Agriculture impacts	FPB	01/13/2025 5:00 pm	Review Bill Mark as Complete

Displaying 1-1 of 1 result.



Review SB 5117 (Analysis Pending)

[Home](#) > [To-do List](#) > Review SB 5117 (Analysis Pending)

[Legislature Bill Page](#)

[Bill Summary](#)

Status: S Prefiled

Short Description: Protecting agriculture.

Other Departments Assigned To: [Example for Kick-off](#) ←

Other reviewers in your department: [Jed Bradley, Michael Lantz, Christine Leibbrand-Lapinsky](#) ←

Notes: Example notes for Kick-off. If there were notes from the FPB team they would appear here!



PROVIDING ASSESSMENTS

Helpful:

- Provides a detailed summary on what the bill does & how it changes current policy.
- Summarizes how the change would affect UW.
- Recommends a position and priority.

NOT HELPFUL:

- No assessment provided

Less Helpful:

- Limited and does not assess the impact of the bill.
- Indicates concerns and recommends as a high priority bill but does not detail what the concerns are.
- Does not offer amendments to alleviate concerns.
- Does not offer any helpful rationale for opposition.



Initial Questions

- Bill misassigned to Department
- Bill doesn't impact University of Washington

Re **UW Diversity Blueprint Goals**

Goal 1: Cultivate an Accessible, Inclusive, and Equitable Climate

Goal 2: Attract, Retain, and Graduate a Diverse and Excellent Student Body

Goal 3: Attract and Retain Diverse Academic Personnel

Goal 4: Attract and Retain Diverse Staff

Goal 5: Develop Place-Based Education and Engagement to Advance Access, Equity, and Inclusion

Goal 6: Improve Accountability and Transparency at All Levels

<https://www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/resources/>

Recommended Position

Concerns

Recommended Priority

High

Is your review complete?

Yes

1. Please assess the impact of this bill on the UW.

There is potential for impact. This bill details and underscores the role beavers play in Washington ecosystems, and directs the Department of Fish and Wildlife to create and implement a statewide beaver ecosystem management plan. The bill outlines a number of provisions that must be included in the management plan; a few of these areas have the potential to impact the UW dependent on the types of lands (e.g. riparian or waterfront) currently own and manages. If the UW does have lands that are current or former beaver habitats, then the UW may be impacted by section 7 items (4) pertaining to technical assistance, (5) pertaining to reintroduction to habitats, and (8) pertaining to partnerships.

2. Do you have any suggested amendments for the bill? If so, please include them below in as much detail as possible. Please specify the extent to which any suggested changes are needed.

If the UW has riparian lands or owns land that are beaver habitats, consider adding either a subsection of Section 2, to create "Section 2, item (8) a" or "Section 2, item (10)" which states: *"Evaluating potential actions developed for positive and negative impacts to communities that have been historically impacted by environmental racism such as low-income and communities of color"*

3. How would this proposal advance or hinder UW's Diversity Blueprint goals?: www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/resources/ Who could be positively or negatively impacted (e.g., based on gender, race, ability, age, sexuality, ethnicity)?

The bill has the potential to advance "Goal 5: Develop Place-Based Education and Engagement to Advance Access, Equity, and Inclusion" within the Diversity Blueprint given the provisions related to building partnerships with local stakeholders, specifically tribes. The bill does not include any specific directives or action broader community beyond collaboration with stakeholders to formulate the Plan. This collaboration could yield results that advance equity for groups such as Black, Indigenous and People of Color who have historically been impacted by environmental racism. However, the Management Plan ultimately developed will be a clearer document to evaluate for positive or negative impacts.

4. What did we miss?

This bill that seems to have no immediate fiscal impact to the UW. If passed, and if there is UW land with beavers on it, consider monitoring the development of the Plan.



Specific amendments are extremely helpful!

Recommended Position

Neutral ←

Recommended Priority

Low ←

Initial Questions

- Bill misassigned to Department
- Bill doesn't impact University of Washington

Review Questions

1. Please assess the impact of this bill on the UW.

In its current form, this bill will likely have significant and negative impacts to the UW.

2. Do you have any suggested amendments for the bill? If so, please include them below in as much detail as possible. Please specify the extent to which any suggested changes are needed.

The implementation timeline for the bill needs modifications. Also, certain key terms are missing definitions.

3. How would this proposal advance or hinder UW's Diversity Blueprint goals?: www.washington.edu/diversity/diversity-blueprint/resources/ Who could be positively or negatively impacted (e.g., based on gender, race, ability, age, sexuality, ethnicity)?

This bill will hinder our ability to recruit and retain diverse faculty and staff. Students will also be impacted.

4. What did we miss?

Recommended Position

Oppose

Recommended Priority

High

Guidance for selecting a position/priority can be found in our [Bill Tracking Overview](#)

Recommended Position	<input type="text" value="Neutral"/>
Recommended Priority	<input type="text" value="Monitoring"/>
Attached Files	<input type="button" value="Upload"/>
Is your review complete?	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No

Don't forget to select "Yes" and "Save" when your review is complete.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER:

- > What does this bill add/remove from existing law?
- > Would this have a fiscal impact? (e.g., additional staff, materials, travel)
- > Would it have a programmatic impact? (e.g., time from a PI)
- > Would it have an operational impact (facilities, sustainability?)
- > What amendments would you recommend? (i.e., what improvements could be made to the bill in its current form?)



HELPFUL REMINDERS...

- > Be clear and concise
- > Note any areas of confusion
- > Provide some education
- > Give us a sense of importance & scale
- > Pay attention to the version of the bill you are responding to

And please....

- > Respond as soon as possible!



LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

The screenshot shows the University of Washington PPSO website. The browser address bar is finance.uw.edu/ppso/. The navigation menu includes HOME, BRIEFS, STATE OPERATIONS, and TUITION & FEES. The STATE OPERATIONS dropdown menu is open, showing the following items: STATE OPERATIONS, Bill Tracking and Legislative Resources (circled in red), Fiscal Notes, Legislative Process and Terms, State Budget Information, and State Funding Policies and Guidelines. The main content area features a large banner with the text 'POLICY & STATE OPERATIONS' and a section titled 'About Us' with the following text:

The Policy, Planning and State Operations (PPSO) team is responsible for:

- State-level policy development:** PPSO documents and develops state-level policy discussions and developing state-level policies.
- Capital budget and strategy:** PPSO facilitates the Capital Planning Advisory Team (CPAT), comprised of 13 members selected from within the campus community. CPAT aims to bring a renewed and strategic focus to the UW's capital planning work. This work includes policy development and analysis related to strategic funding, space management, and the successful implementation of capital projects. The committee reviews and recommends the highest priority projects for inclusion in the UW's annual capital budget and state biennial capital budget requests.
- Student fee requests and policies:** PPSO monitors adherence to University and state policies regarding student tuition and fees (as stipulated in RCWs, WAC, and UW Executive Orders and Administrative Policy Statements). This includes processing student tuition and fee requests and in consultation with students and faculty advisors...

On the right side of the page, there is a 'Who Are We?' section with the following text:

Who Are We?

[Jed Bradley](#), Executive Director of Policy, Planning & State Operations, 206.616.4684
[Bob Simonton](#), Director of Capital Planning Strategy, 206.543.6285
[John Wetzel](#), Director of Campus Stewardship & Capital Budget, 206.616.5924
[Christine Leibbrand-Lapinsky](#), Assistant Director
[Lauren Hatchett](#), Senior Policy Analyst, 206.616.7203
Vacant, Policy Analyst
Vacant, Legislative & Policy Analysis Intern

Below this is a 'Quick Links' section with the following links:

[Fast Facts](#)
[UW Budget](#)



QUESTIONS?



FISCAL NOTE UPDATES AND REMINDERS

Christine Leibbrand-Lapinsky

Assistant Director

Finance, Planning & Budgeting

WHAT IS A FISCAL NOTE?

An estimate of a bill's fiscal impact

- > 6-year projection
- > Least expensive way to reasonably implement the bill
- > Tied to a specific version of a bill
- > Helps legislators evaluate a bill's costs and merits
- > Informs legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists, etc.



WHY SHOULD YOU CARE ABOUT FISCAL NOTES?

They are important because:

- > They inform legislative decisions that impact the UW
... so, we need to be responsive and accurate.

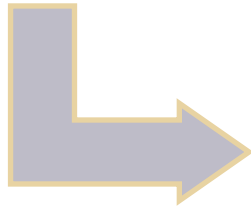
They are tricky because:

- > We have less than 72 hours to respond
- > They cover a huge variety of topics
... so, we need **your** help!

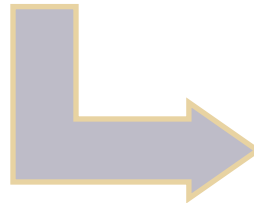


THE FISCAL NOTE PROCESS

FPB receives and distributes request



Assessors and FPB analyst draft and finalize FN



FPB analyst reviews and submits FN

< 72 Hours



TO RESPOND TO A FISCAL NOTE REQUEST...

1. Read the email from your FPB Analyst, note the due date, respond to let us know you're on it
2. Read the bill for how it impacts the UW
3. Coordinate your response with and loop in others as needed (Bothell and Tacoma campuses, other units)
4. We use SharePoint for drafting FNs
5. Fill out the calculation and narrative on **SharePoint** templates
6. Use the @ function in SharePoint or respond to the e-mail to let us know you are done!



PLEASE FILL OUT

- > Summary: overview of how the bill would impact the UW (or why it wouldn't)

One or more of the following areas of impact:

- > Cash Receipts: estimated tax or fee collections
- > Expenditures: estimated costs to implement the bill, assumptions made
 - FTEs: additional staff time needed
- > Capital: expenditures and FTEs, plus predesign/design, construction, grants/loans, staff, and other costs



NARRATIVE

SUMMARY

← Brief overview

This bill establishes the Pesticide Application Safety Committee to: (1) explore how state agencies collect and track data; and (2) consider the feasibility and requirements of developing a shared database. It creates an advisory work group to collect information and make recommendations to the committee.

EXPENDITURES

← Cost drivers by section, assumptions, subtotals and total by FY

SECTION 2

Section 2 (1) establishes the Pesticide Application Safety Committee, stating that appointments to the committee must be made as soon as possible after the legislature convenes in regular session.

Sec 2(1)(i) lists the director of the University of Washington (UW) Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center, or an assistant designated by the director, as a required member of the committee.

Sec 2(3) states that the committee must hold its first meeting by September 2019 and must meet at least three times year. The co-chairs must consider costs and conduct committee meetings in Olympia when this choice would reduce costs to the state.

For the purposes of this fiscal note, the UW is assuming that there will be three meetings per year and that all three will occur in Olympia. This will require 0.02 FTE of a Professor and Director of the UW Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center (annual salary \$263,200, benefits rate 26.1 percent), for a total of \$5,264 in salaries and \$1,374 in benefits per fiscal year beginning in FY20. Additionally, this will require \$150 in travel costs per year.

The total cost to comply with this bill would be approximately \$6,788 per fiscal year beginning in FY20.

CALCULATIONS

EXPENDITURES - OPERATING						
Fund Title/Number	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
001, General Fund-State	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788
TOTAL	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788
Object	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
Salaries & Wages	\$ 5,264	\$ 5,264	\$ 5,264	\$ 5,264	\$ 5,264	\$ 5,264
Employee Benefits	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,374	\$ 1,374
Professional Service Contracts						
Goods and Services						
Travel	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150
TOTAL	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788	\$ 6,788
FTEs - OPERATING						
Job Title, Full-Time Salary (not including benefits)	# of FTE needed for each job title by year (ex. 0.25 FTE in FY20)					
Job title, full-time annual salary	FY 20	FY 21	FY 22	FY 23	FY 24	FY 25
Professor, \$263,184	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02
TOTAL	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02



WHAT IF THERE ARE TOO MANY UNKNOWNNS?

- > Talk to your assigned analyst (sooner than later) to discuss unknownns, options for scalability, options for identifying some determinate impacts.
- > Give us your best estimate.
- > “Indeterminate” fiscal notes **rarely** get funding!



TIPS & REMINDERS

- ✓ Fiscal notes take priority over general bill analysis
- ✓ Respond as soon as possible!
- ✓ Loop others in as needed (e.g. other staff and units, Bothell and Tacoma campuses)
- ✓ Avoid “indeterminate” responses; explain why if “no impact”
- ✓ Write for a general audience: avoid jargon, spell out acronyms
- ✓ Identify and explain all assumptions. Calculations - repeatable, logic - clear
- ✓ Report the bill's *incremental* impact over current law (*new* costs/impacts)
- ✓ Identify costs/receipts as one-time or on-going (current dollars, no inflation)
- ✓ Consider implementation dates—what fiscal years are affected?
- ✓ For additional staff/time, we need title, full-time annual salary, benefits rate/classification, and percent FTE
- ✓ Remember, we just need estimates and your best guesses!



RESOURCES



- STATE OPERATIONS
- Bill Tracking and Legislative Resources
- Fiscal Notes
- Legislative Process and Terms
- State Budget Information
- State Funding Policies and Guidelines

About Us

The **Policy, Planning**

- State-level policy** documented in policy discussions and developing strategies.
- Capital budget and strategy:** PPSO facilitates the Capital Planning Advisory Team (CPAT), comprised of 13 members selected from within the campus community. CPAT aims to bring a renewed and strategic focus to the UW's capital planning work. This work includes policy development and analysis related to strategic funding, space management, and the successful implementation of capital projects. The committee reviews and recommends the highest priority projects for inclusion in the UW's annual capital budget and state biennial capital budget requests.
- Student fee requests and policies:** PPSO monitors adherence to University and state policies regarding student

responsible for:

PPSO team is responsible for monitoring state-level changes—in order to prepare the University's administration for strategic and evaluating bills and budgets during state legislative sessions, responding to legislative requests for fiscal notes and information.

Who Are We?

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- Vacant, Policy Analyst
- Vacant, Legislative & Policy Analysis Intern

Quick Links

[Fast Facts](#)



QUESTIONS?



2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION & BUDGETS

Christine Leibbrand-Lapinsky

Assistant Director

Finance, Planning & Budgeting

SUPPLEMENTAL SESSIONS & BUDGETS

- > “Short” sessions last 60 days, with the possibility of one or more 30-day special sessions (January 12 – March 12)
- > Supplemental budgets are *usually* our opportunity to course-correct based on changing revenue forecasts, cashflows, and caseloads.
- > Bill introductions recommence starting with a numerical progression from the end of the 2025 session.
- > ‘Zombie Bills’ from last year are still alive



2026 SESSION – REVENUE FORECAST & BUDGET OUTLOOK

The Economic and Revenue Forecast Council (ERFC) November revenue forecast:

- > Total state revenue projections were increased by \$105.4 million in the current biennium (2025-27) and decreased by \$184.9 million in the next biennium (2027-29). These are minor changes from past forecasts, but even minor changes are tough given last year's budget deficit
- > Between changing caseloads and the shift in the revenue forecast, the current budget deficit is now estimated at \$2.3 billion



GOVERNOR FERGUSON'S PROPOSED 2026 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGETS

- > Governor Ferguson used the November forecast as a basis for his proposed 2026 supplemental operating and capital budgets. At a high level, these proposals would:
 - > Cut base state funding to the UW by 3% or \$15.8 million per year starting in FY27
 - > Cut administrative spending by \$3.5 million beginning in FY27
 - > Include ongoing funding for the Center for Behavioral Health and Learning, though provide no other policy-level funding
 - > Capital budget: no funding for the Power Plant Electrification and Hot Water Loop – Phase 1 project
 - > Would not change authorized salary increases of 2% in FY27 in the underlying biennial budget



AS A REMINDER...

- > Leadership in the House and Senate will release their own budget proposals over the course of session.
- > FPB will review budgets as they are released and will produce budget briefs for all major budget proposals
- > Stay tuned to session related emails and the FPBlog (<https://finance.uw.edu/blog>) for updates regarding:
 - Budget proposals
 - Revenue forecasts

← → ↻ 🏠 📄 finance.uw.edu ☆ 🔴 ❤️ 🗄️ 🔍 🌐 Finish updat

📌 Bookmarks PPSO - FPB | Trello UW Policy Directory The New York Times... The Chronicle of Hi... Bills Glossary of Legislati... LobbyGov - Dashbo... FPB Intranet Home |... OPB Budget Develo... OPB Budget Develo... LIVE - TVW >> | 📁 All Book

W UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Students / Parents / Faculty & Staff / Alumni 🔍 Quick Links

FPB HOME / **OUR LEADERSHIP** / **ABOUT US** ▾ / **TEAMS** ▾ / **RESOURCES** ▾

FINANCE PLANNING & B

Welcome to Finance Planning & Bu

RESOURCES

- Together We Thrive
- FPB Blog
- FPB Intranet
- UW Connect Finance

TIPS FOR EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY

Morgan Hickel

Director

Office of State Relations

WHAT IS LOBBYING – WA STATE?

- **Involves making an ask.**
 - Request for action or inaction on policy and/or funding.
- Advocacy with state **elected officials and their staff.**
- Various modalities: **In-person, virtual, testimony.**
- Regulated and enforced by the **Washington State Public Disclosure Commission (PDC).**
- **UW Administrative Policy Statement 1.3** governs UW employee engagement with elected officials.



YES, YOU CAN:

- **Engage in the political process as a private individual** on personal time using personal resources.
 - You may use your UW affiliation if it's clear you're not speaking on behalf of the UW.
- **Educate state officials** on University work/programs or **serve as an expert on policy.**
- **Respond to direct requests for information.**
- **Lobby on behalf of the UW** using University resources in coordination with the UW Office of State Relations.
- **Notify the UW Office of State Relations** if you're engaging or want to engage with state officials.



LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF THE UW:

- **UW is a public agency.**
 - Advocacy with public funds is strictly governed and must be reported.
- Advocate only on **official UW business.**
 - Legislative agenda and official policy positions.
- **Report lobbying activity and expenditures** quarterly to the PDC via the UW Office of State Relations.
 - UW employees are individually responsible for reporting. Failure to report may result in personal penalties.
- **Coordinate with the UW Office of State Relations.**
 - Helps ensure compliance with state laws, advocacy is aligned, and impactful engagement.



CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS:

- **Be early** – things move quickly during session.
- **Be flexible** – schedules change often.
- **Be gracious** – thank them for their time and do not disparage other advocacy groups, legislators, or political parties.
- **Be prepared and concise** – time is precious and cognitive bandwidth is limited.
- **Use concrete examples** that connects policy and funding to the needs of the state and its residents.
- **If you don't know the answer, that's ok**, we'll find it together and follow up.



NO, YOU CAN'T:

Use UW resources for:

- **Grassroots lobbying**
 - Indirect lobbying that aims to influence government or public decisions. Typically includes a coordinated *call to action* to support or oppose specific policy or budget issues.
- **Political campaigns**
- **Ballot measures** (e.g., initiative)
- **Unofficial UW business**
- ❖ **Includes direct and indirect UW resources**, such as: facilities, technology, UW emails and contact lists, UW branding and letterhead, time on the clock.



2026 SESSION & LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Morgan Hickel

Director

Office of State Relations



2026 SESSION AT A GLANCE:

- A **“Democratic Trifecta”** exists in Olympia.
 - Governor Bob Ferguson.
 - 60% majorities in the House and Senate.
- **60-day (short) session** starting Jan. 12.
- **The focus will be on the 2026 supplemental budgets** (operating, capital, and transportation).
 - Supplemental budgets adjust or apply fixes to the biennial budgets.
- Once again, the state faces a 4-year **operating budget shortfall**.
 - Gov. Ferguson released his supplemental budget proposals in mid-December
 - The House and Senate budget proposals will be unveiled after the state’s next revenue forecast in mid-February.



UW 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Operating Budget:

- Recognizing the state is entering a difficult budget year, **the UW is not advancing new requests.**
- Instead, the UW seeks to **stabilize funding for core operations** and mitigate new cuts.
- **Not new: Center for Behavioral Health & Learning operating costs (\$18.34M ongoing)** for the state's 75 long-term civil commitment beds.
 - Continues one-time funding provided in FY25 and FY26.



UW 2026 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA CONT.

Capital Budget:

- **\$47.5M (CCA) for UW Seattle Power Plant Electrification & Campus Hot Water Loop – Phase 1**
 - Immediately reduces greenhouse gas emissions and supports compliance with the Climate Commitment Act and Clean Building Performance Standard.



PLEASE AND THANK YOU:

- **Complete legislative analysis** when asked.
- **Get your fiscal notes in on time.**
- **Be a problem solver** – remember we're all on one team.
- **Be responsive** – session doesn't stop after 5pm, on the weekends, or for holidays.
- **Coordinate with us** if you plan to visit Olympia or engage with an elected official.
- **Call or text if you need us ASAP.** If you can't get in touch with me, don't panic – call Kevin or Jordan.



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QUESTIONS?

