



2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Office of Drinking Water

Summary of Legislative Session

- General information:
 - Short session of 60 days
 - Friday, March 4 was last day for bills to be considered in each house, except those necessary to implement the budget (NTIB).
 - Last scheduled day of session is Thursday, March 10.
 - A special session could be called and last a max of 30 days.
- Governor can sign, veto or chose to not act on a bill that passes the Legislature. If no action on a bill, it becomes law.
- Bills become effective 90 days after the end of session, unless otherwise specified in the legislation.



ODW Activities

- We reviewed and watched 20+ bills during session and the topics included
 - Fluoridation
 - Climate resilience planning
 - Failing water systems
 - Federal infrastructure bills
 - Drought
 - GMA-related
 - Water rights
- We actively tracked 6 bills but none are still active.



Summaries of Tracked Bills

- House Bill 1684, Drinking water fluoridation; Sponsored by Rep. Harris.
 - Water Systems:
 - Water systems serving 5,000+ must undertake an analysis of the cost of fluoridation.
 - Notice requirements for a water system considering discontinuing fluoridation.
 - ODW:
 - Adopt rules.
 - New program to provide related engineering assistance.
 - Conduct an oral health equity assessment and report to the Legislature by June 30, 2023.
 - Status
 - Not active after the February 28 cutoff.



Summaries of Tracked Bills

- Senate Bill 5626, Adding a climate resilience element to water system plans. Sponsored by Sen. Rolfes.
 - Water Systems:
 - After June 30, 2024, Group A Community Water Systems serving 1000+ must include a climate resilience element in the plans.
 - ODW:
 - Develop grant and loan eligibility criteria and consider applications from water systems that identify climate readiness projects.
 - Work with the University of Washington Climate Impacts Group to develop a technical assistance program.
 - Update the Water System Planning Guidebook.
 - Status
 - Not active after the February 28 cutoff.



Summaries of Tracked Bills

- House Bill 1948, Failing Water Systems Receivership; Sponsored by Rep. Steele
 - Summary
 - The Department of Health assumes the role held by counties in water system receivership cases.
 - Allows the Water System Acquisition and Rehabilitation Program to reimburse a water system receiver if reasonable assessments imposed by the receiver are insufficient to cover costs.
 - Status
 - Not active after the February 3 cutoff.



Operating Budgets

- Both House and Senate proposed operating budgets:
 - Funded ODW's ongoing and anticipated operating expenses.
 - Funded HB 1684, Drinking water fluoridation. But the Senate budget only funded two elements of the bill:
 - Oral health equity assessment
 - Program to provide related engineering assistance
- The Senate proposed operating budget:
 - Funded SB 5626, Adding a climate resilience element to water system plans, if passed.



Additional Bills

- Other bills we watched:
 - Still with “legs” prior to the March 4 cutoff:
 - SB 5860, Water policy & aquifer level
 - SJM 8006, National infrastructure bank
 - No longer with legs:
 - HB 1337, Accessory dwelling units
 - HB 1627, Water & sewage system access
 - HB 1653, Salmon Recovery Advisory Cabinet
 - HB 1856, Voluntary stewardship program
 - HB 1951, Seller disclosure statements
 - SB 5188, Washington state public bank
 - SB 5632, Water infra. Projects
 - SB 5746, Drought preparedness



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