



W4A would like to thank the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) for sharing this resource. Special thanks to Mike Hoover and Juliana Roe.

<https://www.wsac.org/>

Engaging With The Legislature: Systems & Tips

This general overview will be divided into two parts:

Part I will focus on general terms (jargon) and tips.

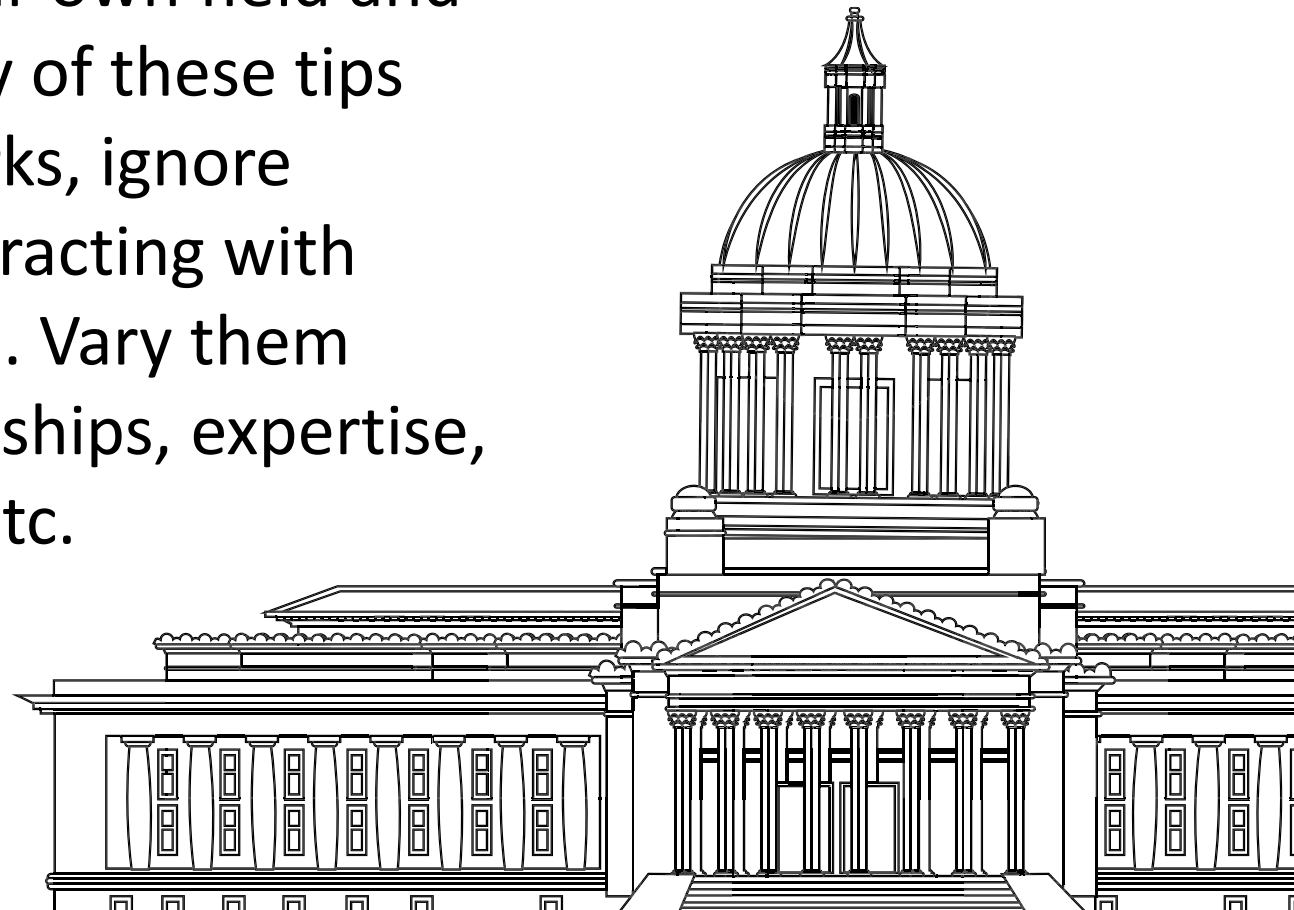
Part II will focus on using the online system & WSAC site to find, follow, and understand legislation.



PART I:

Tips

Disclaimer: You are successful in your own field and know what works best for you! If any of these tips are at odds with what you know works, ignore them! These are general tips for interacting with members and staff at the Legislature. Vary them according to your own style, relationships, expertise, the weather, if you're feeling lucky, etc.



Tips: Legislative Terms



What is a substitute, a second substitute, a title amendment, an amendment, a committee amendment, a striking amendment, a floor amendment, a line amendment, a folderol, a hot mess, a full-blown fiasco, and why are there so many terms?!?

You don't necessarily need to learn each term! Essentially, they are the same thing: changes to the bill. The term only defines how and where (when) it happened. You're better off ensuring you have the latest version than worrying about terms!

***Never be afraid to ask if you have the latest version!**

Tips: Legislative Terms



What is a substitute, a second substitute, an amendment... (cont.)

- **A striker or striking amendment** is an amendment that strikes everything in a bill and replaces it with new language. A Floor striker is just a striker introduced on the Floor.
- **A substitute bill** is just like it sounds: this new language is substituted for the existing language. If adopted, it becomes the new bill. Can only be offered in committee, and only in the original chamber (only Senate can substitute Senate bill; only House can substitute House bills). A substitute is one form of a striking amendment.
- **A line and page or section amendment** makes specific changes to particular parts of the bill but doesn't strike or replace all of it.
- **A title amendment** changes only the title of the bill (but is usually accompanied by a substantive bill amendment).

Tips: Legislative Terms



What is a substitute, a second substitute, an amendment... (cont.)

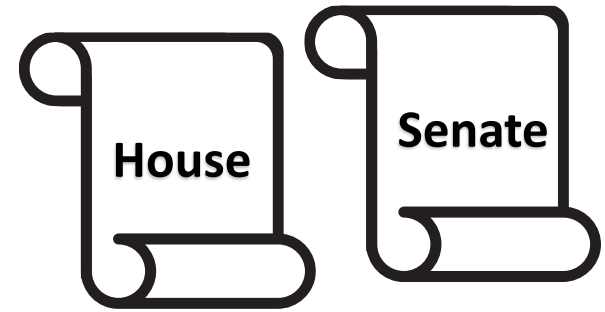
Regardless of its name or the term used, any amendment can change, delete, strike, or add language to a bill. Even a small change may drastically change the effect of a bill!

Examples:

- Changing “all counties” to “no county.” Two words, big difference!
- “...to be paid by the county ~~and reimbursed by the state.~~”
- “...sections 1-15 shall not apply to rural counties.” Just one line, big change!

Tips: Legislative Terms

What is a companion bill?



A companion bill is just a term for when the same idea has been introduced in both chambers— that is, there is a House Bill and a Senate Bill.

Early on, it is advisable to track both versions. At some point, the Legislature typically chooses just one version to move and that is the one to follow from that point on.

You can check for these online.

Tips: Legislative Terms



What is a fiscal note and how is it different from an appropriation?

An appropriation is the state budget money (if any) the Legislature is directing toward a project or program.

A fiscal note is the expected cost to agencies, local government, and the public from a bill (that is, “If we do this, what will it cost and who will pay it?”). Fiscal notes are available online.

Math would dictate that a fiscal note always has an appropriation to go with it. Politics and math do not get along, however...

Tips: Legislative Handouts

“All Twitter posts and handouts should be brief.”

– @RealAbeLincoln

GOOD HANDOUTS:

- **Are brief!** If you can't be brief— some topics demand more detail, no doubt— include a summary. Members are busy. They don't need extra reading!
- **Make the point and then have backup!** Is this the same as be brief? Kinda, but it means make the point on one page and then have the backup materials for those who want them. Some members want the data, others only want the summary, so have both.
- **Define the issue or question!** What is the issue or question posed, and how are you addressing/ answering it? (“Although counties pay for all elections, the state only reimburses them for half of the elections. SB 1234 would solve that by...”)
- **Use graphics wisely.** Graphics complement the text.
- **Include your contact info!**

BAD HANDOUTS:

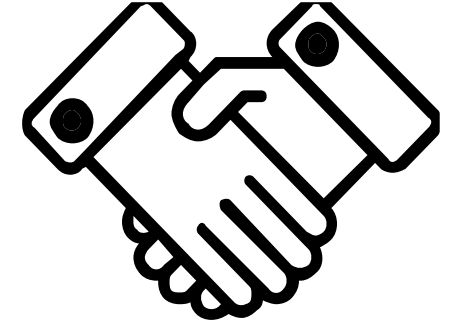
- **Are too long!** They just are.
- **Make the reader go elsewhere for answers!** Links and references are fine, but at least give the general answer. Members won't go enter <https://gohere/lazy/lookitupyourself/longrando mnumber3141/areyoustilltyping/lostthereader>
- **Never get to the point!** This happens when you're too close to the issue. Start forest, then go trees.
- **Overload with graphics or charts!** Where is the reader supposed to focus? Some people learn visually, some do better reading text.
- **Are too objective!** Sometimes, we are being neutral, but aren't we always trying to persuade?



Tips: Meetings

How do you get a meeting with a legislator?

Call or email the legislative assistant (most prefer email).



WHAT TO DO AT THE MEETING:

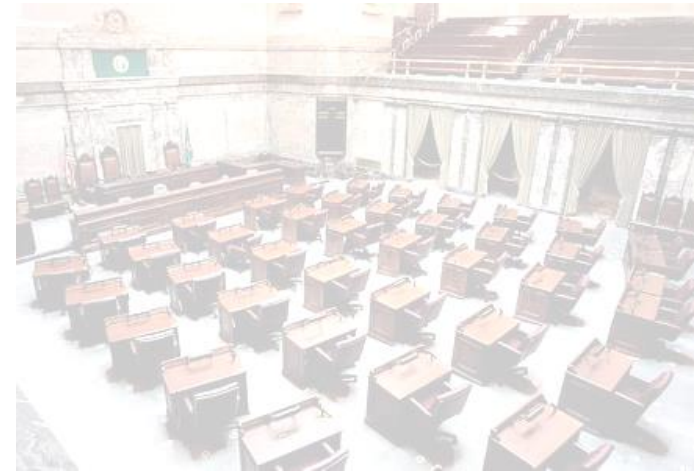
- **Say why you're there** (topic, bill)! These are busy people with lots of meetings!
- **Say what you want from them!** Tell them the result or action you want them to take. Say it several times!
- **Leave them a handout** (a brief handout)! The handout is a lasting reminder of the meeting for them after you're gone. Include how to contact you.
- **Follow-up!** Tell them you'll get back to them with info. Encourage this– it's more contact for you.
- **Offer to help!** Don't just ask them to do stuff; offer to do it ("I'd be happy to talk to her if you'd like...").
- **Get their opinion/intel!** Members like to share! They know stuff you don't!

WHAT NOT TO DO AT THE MEETING:

- **Don't surprise them!** Members hate surprises!
- **Don't pin them down!** This varies depending on the issue and relationship, but pushing too hard usually gets them to no.
- **Don't talk past the sale!** When you've given them info and they're with you, stop! More could inadvertently be a reason to change sides.
- **Don't give them chores!** Where possible, do it yourself ("I'd be happy to get some language for you on that amendment...").
- **Don't omit or hide "bad" info!** They're gonna find out! Instead, acknowledge and explain it.

PART II:

Using the Online System



Disclaimer: There are many great third-party sites and systems available. If you prefer to use those, or if your organization makes those available, please use them! We're using the state system here because it's free to everyone and (should!) always have the most current and complete information. Use whatever system works best for you! The steps outlined here should be very standard regardless of system.

Using the Online System

Step 1(a): Find the member roster.

Go to leg.wa.gov, click on
“House of Representatives”

Then go down to “House
Member Roster”

You can find the Senate
member roster here as well



2

House Member Info

- House Leadership
- House Member Roster
Member, Party, District, Position, Room, Phone, E-mail, Legislative Assistant, Legislative Assistant's E-mail
- Members' Committee Assignments
 - by member
 - by committee
- Member District Offices
- Members' Districts and Counties
- Members' E-mail Service - printable e-mail address list

3

House of Representatives Roster of Members
Members of the 67th Legislature 2021-2022


House Senate All Filter Item:
Export to Excel

To filter by district, enter the two-digit district number (e.g. 02 or 34)

Member	District	Position	Room	Phone	Email	Legislative Assistant (LA)	LA E-mail
Abbarno, Peter (R)	20	1	JLOB 411	(360) 786-7896	Peter.Abbarno@leg.wa.gov	Word, Catherine	catherine.word@leg.wa.gov
Barkis, Andrew (R)	02	1	LEG 427A	(360) 584-9846	andrew.barkis@leg.wa.gov	Sanné, Kaden	kaden.sanne@leg.wa.gov
Bateman, Jessica (D)	22	2	JLOB 317	(360) 545-9513	jessica.bateman@leg.wa.gov	Schiewe, Kasey	kasey.schiewe@leg.wa.gov
Berg, April (D)	44	2	LEG 132C	(425) 939-8423	April.Berg@leg.wa.gov	Gillen, Katharine	Katharine.Gillen@leg.wa.gov
Bergquist, Steve (D)	11	2	LEG 438B	(253) 214-3275	steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov	Locke, Syd	syd.locke@leg.wa.gov
Berry, Liz (D)	36	2	JLOB 327	(206) 709-5260	Liz.Berry@leg.wa.gov	Whitesel, Natalie	Natalie.Whitesel@leg.wa.gov

Using the Online System

Step 1(b): Go to the site! It's at: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

 WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

Legislature Home

- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Find Your District
- Laws & Agency Rules
- Bill Information
- Agendas, Schedules, and Calendars
- Legislative Committees
- Coming to the Legislature
- Legislative Agencies
- Legislative Information Center
- Email Updates (GovDelivery)
- View All Links

Bill Information

Search by Bill Number

Bill Initiative

2019-20

Search

Find Specific Text in a Bill

Standard Reports

Common information requested most often

Reports

Prefiled Bills

Retrieve lists of the bills prefiled in the House and Senate. Available in December.

House Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the House today.

Senate Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the Senate today.

Bill Status Report (formerly Daily Status)

Retrieve a list of all bills and their current status.

Standing Committee Reports

Retrieve daily lists (during session) of bills reported out of standing committees.
Past biennia: 2017-18, 2015-16, 2013-14

House Floor Activity Report

Retrieve the House Calendar and link to bill text, amendments, bill histories, and roll call votes.

Senate Floor Activity Report

Retrieve the Senate Calendar and link to bill text, amendments, bill histories, and roll call votes.

Search & Tracking Tools

Bills By Topic

Find bills by subject as organized in the Topical Index prepared by the Code Reviser's Office.
Past biennia: 2017-18, 2015-16, 2013-14

Bill Tracking

Create personalized lists of bills you wish to track through the 2019-20 legislative process.

Search (Documents)

Advanced Reports

More detailed information used less often

Detailed Legislative Reports

Historical information back to 1991.

Bill Information

Text of a Legislative Document

Bills by Sponsor

Roll Calls on a Bill

Bills In/Out of Committee

Bills By Citation

Companion Bill Report

Status

Selected Step Reports

Legislative Action Reports

Statistical Reports

Paper Hanging Reports

Leader Offline Report

Using the Online System

Step 2(a): Find your bill! **If you know the number...**

...then enter it right here →

Tip: It's always a four-digit number!

Number <5000 = House Bill

Number >5000 = Senate Bill

Bill Information

Search by Bill Number

Bill number

Bill

Initiative

2019-20



Search

Standard Reports

Common information requested most often

Reports

Prefiled Bills

Retrieve lists of the bills prefiled in the House and Senate. Available in December.

House Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the House today.

Senate Introductions (latest) All Intros

Lists the bills to be introduced in the Senate today.

Using the Online System

Step 2(b): Find your bill! If you don't know the number, you can do a search. You can search by topic or sponsor.

If you know the sponsor, click here, →
select the year/chamber/person,
and it'll bring up a list.

Detailed Legislative Reports - Primary Sponsored Bills by Appleton (2019-20)

Show entries

Showing 1 to 25 of 25 entries

<input type="checkbox"/>	Bill #	Docs	Flags	Title	Status
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHB 1005	Docs		Mobile home foreclosure sale	H Rules R
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHB 1006	Docs		Underground facilities	H Approps
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1007	Docs		Animal shelter capital proj.	H Cap Budget
<input type="checkbox"/>	SHB 1008	Docs		Local gov. revenue study	H Approps
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1025	Docs	f#	Horse slaughter	H Public Safety
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1026	Docs		Breed-based dog regulations	C 199 L 19
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1045	Docs		Gray wolves/lethal removal	H RDev, Ag&NR

Bill Information

[Text of a Legislative Document](#)

[Bills by Sponsor](#)

[Roll Calls on a Bill](#)

[Bills In/Out of Committee](#)

[Bills By Citation](#)

STATE LEGISLATURE

[Reports Home](#) | [Bill History](#) | [Bill Tracking](#) | [Docs](#) | [Bill Sponsors](#) | [Roll Calls](#) | [BI/OC](#) | [Topical In](#)

Detailed Legislative Reports - Bills By Sponsor

Biennium

2019-20

Select Sponsor Type

☒ House ☐ Senate ☐ Committee ☐ Requester

Type or Select a Sponsor:

Appleton

Select a Report Type


☒ Primary Bills ☐ Secondary Bills ☐ All Bills

☐ Show only those bills by the selected sponsor that have companion bills.

Find Bills By Sponsor

Using the Online System

Step 2(c): Find your bill! If you don't know the number, you can do a search. You can search by topic or sponsor.

To search by topic, click here,  type or scroll through the topics, and click the subject of your choice to bring up a list.

Bills by Topic Results

*Bills that have passed the Legislature are shown in **bold text** with an * preceding them.*

[COUNTIES](#)  (See also [CITIES AND TOWNS](#); [DEATH](#); [GROWTH MANAGEMENT](#); [HOMES AND HOUSING](#); [LAW ENF](#); [SALES EXCISE](#))

Aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, failure to register, deferral program: * [SSB 5362, CH 459 \(2019\)](#)

Aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, failure to register, deferred finding program: * [ESSB 5997, CH 423 \(2019\)](#)

Aircraft, vehicle, or vessel, failure to register, deferred prosecution program: [SB 5362](#)

Annexation, unincorporated areas, code city agreement with county: [HB 1598, SHB 1598, SB 5522, SSB 5522](#)

Annexation, unincorporated island of territory: [HB 1357, SHB 1357, SB 5249](#)

Clark, 2019 measles outbreak, budget stabilization account appropriations for: [SB 6009](#)

Clark, increasing superior court judges for: [SB 5450](#)

Community facilities districts, formation of, SEPA exemption: * [HB 1366, CH 260 \(2019\)](#), [SB 5939](#)

Community facilities districts, special assessments, term of: * [HB 1366, CH 260 \(2019\)](#), [SB 5939](#)

Cowlitz, sheriff's deputy Justin DeRosier, honoring: * [SR 8652 \(2019\)](#)

Criminal justice, property tax levies for, authority to seek voter approval: [HB 1718](#)

Distressed counties, sales and use tax deferral: [HB 1807](#)

Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Stevens, jointly, increasing superior court judges in: [SB 5450, SSB 5450](#)

Search & Tracking Tools

Bills By Topic

Find bills by subject as organized in the Topical Index prepared by the Code Reviser's Office.
Past biennia: [2017-18](#), [2015-16](#), [2013-14](#)

Bill Tracking

Create personalized lists of bills you wish to track through the 2019-20 legislative process.

Search (Documents)

Search documents from the current year, back to 1985 and current web pages using search criteria & terms

Bills & Initiatives By Topic

Select a Search Method:

☐ By Bill Number ☐ By Initiative ☒ By Subject

COUNTIES

CORRECTIONS, DEPARTMENT

COSMETOLOGISTS, HAIR DESIGNERS, BARBERS, MANICURISTS, AND ESTHETICIANS

COUGARS

COUNSELORS AND COUNSELING

COUNTIES

By Letter: [ALL](#) [A](#) [B](#) [C](#) [D](#) [E](#) [F](#) [G](#) [H](#) [I](#) [J](#) [K](#) [L](#) [M](#) [N](#) [O](#) [P](#) [Q](#) [R](#) [S](#) [T](#) [U](#) [V](#) [W](#) [X](#) [Y](#) [Z](#)

[Continue](#)

Using the Online System

Step 2(d): Find your bill! If you don't know the number, you can do a search. You can search the text of documents.

To search bill text, click here, → choose your search terms, years (current biennium is default), and document class.

Tip: Searching bill reports may yield the best results (they're in plain English). The goal is to get the bill #!

Search Results Total: 1 Query: "dogs in bars"

☐ [5484.SBR\(2007-08\)](#)
Allowing dogs in bars

Find Specific Text in a Bill



Search the full text of a bill

Search Terms

Zones

Preferences

Clear Terms

Enter search criteria in the fields below:

Search Term(s):

Documents Named Like:

Search Type: ☐ Websites ☒ Legislative Documents

Search

Document Selection

Clear Document Selection

Click the document types you wish to search:

Bills and Other Biennium Documents

House Senate Both

☐ All Bills, Memorials, and Resolutions
☐ Amendment
☐ Bill
☒ Bill Report
☐ Concurrent Resolution

2019-20, 2007-08 2

Using the Online System

Step 3(a): Once you have your bill number, pull up its history (bill search, very first box on the screen)!



The screenshot shows the Washington State Legislature website. At the top is a green banner with the text "WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE" in gold, flanked by a map of Washington on the left and a circular seal on the right. Below the banner is a navigation menu with the following items: "Legislature Home" (highlighted in dark green), "House of Representatives", "Senate", "Find Your District", and "Laws & Agency Rules". To the right of the menu is the "Bill Information" section, which contains a search box labeled "Search by Bill Number". The search box has a text input field with the placeholder "Bill number", a "Bill" button (highlighted in dark green), an "Initiative" button, a "2019-20" dropdown menu with a downward arrow, and a "Search" button.

Tip: The bill history is the easiest way to get right into the status, history, and documents relating to that bill!

Using the Online System

Step 3(b): Once you have your bill number, pull up its history:

Shows where the bill is now (in this example, signed into law).



The screenshot displays the Washington State Legislature website for Bill SB 5063. The header includes the state seal and the text "WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE". A left sidebar lists navigation options: Legislature Home, House of Representatives, Senate, Find Your District, Laws & Agency Rules, Bill Information, Agendas, Schedules, and Calendars, Legislative Committees, Coming to the Legislature, Legislative Agencies, Legislative Information Center, Email Updates (GovDelivery), and View All Links. The main content area shows "Bill Information > SB 5063" with a search bar and filters for "Bill", "Initiative", and "2019-2020". The bill title is "SB 5063 - 2019-20" with the description "Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots." Sponsors listed are Nguyen, Hasegawa, Billig, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Frockt, Palumbo, Hunt, Wilson, C., Pedersen, Keiser, Kuderer, Saldaña, Mullet, and Takko. The bill was requested by Governor Inslee, and its companion bill is HB 1209. A "Bill Status-at-a-Glance" section indicates the current status is "C 161 L 19" and provides a timeline of the bill's progress. The timeline shows the bill was introduced in the Senate, passed by the Senate, and then passed by the House. It also shows the bill was passed by the Legislature, placed on the Governor's desk, and signed into law by the Governor. A "Bill History" section for the 2019 Regular Session lists the following events: Dec 31: Prefiled for introduction; Jan 14: First reading, referred to State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections; Jan 16: Public hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM; Jan 23: Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM; SGTE - Majority; do pass; And refer to Ways & Means.

WASHINGTON STATE LEGISLATURE

Legislature Home

- House of Representatives
- Senate
- Find Your District
- Laws & Agency Rules
- Bill Information
- Agendas, Schedules, and Calendars
- Legislative Committees
- Coming to the Legislature
- Legislative Agencies
- Legislative Information Center
- Email Updates (GovDelivery)
- View All Links

Bill Information > SB 5063

Search for another bill or initiative:

5063 **Bill** Initiative 2019-2020 Search

SB 5063 - 2019-20

Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots.

Sponsors: **Nguyen, Hasegawa, Billig, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Frockt, Palumbo, Hunt, Wilson, C., Pedersen, Keiser, Kuderer, Saldaña, Mullet, Takko**

By Request: Governor Inslee

Companion Bill: **HB 1209**

Bill Status-at-a-Glance

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

As of Friday, October 18, 2019 10:45 AM

Current Version: Substitute - SSB 5063 **Current Status:** C 161 L 19

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

[Go to documents...](#)

[Go to videos...](#)

Bill History

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Dec 31	Prefiled for introduction.
Jan 14	First reading, referred to State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections. (View Original Bill)
Jan 16	Public hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
Jan 23	Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
	SGTE - Majority; do pass. (Majority Report)
	And refer to Ways & Means.

Using the Online System

Step 3(c): Once you have your bill number, pull up its history:

Shows every step
in that bill's
process
(progress).



Bill History

2019 REGULAR SESSION

Dec 31	Prefiled for introduction.
Jan 14	First reading, referred to State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections. (View Original Bill)
Jan 16	Public hearing in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
Jan 23	Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials) SGTE - Majority; do pass. (Majority Report) And refer to Ways & Means.
Jan 24	Referred to Ways & Means.
Feb 5	Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 3:30 PM. (Committee Materials)
Feb 26	Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means at 1:30 PM. (Committee Materials) WM - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass. (View 1st Substitute) (Majority Report)
Mar 1	Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.
Mar 5	Placed on second reading by Rules Committee. 1st substitute bill substituted (WM 19). (View 1st Substitute) Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading. Third reading, passed; yeas, 42; nays, 3; absent, 0; excused, 4. (View Roll Calls)

Where it's been substituted, it's in bold.

IN THE HOUSE

Mar 7	First reading, referred to State Government & Tribal Relations.
Mar 15	Public hearing in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
Mar 22	Executive action taken in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations at 8:00 AM. (Committee Materials) SGOV - Majority; do pass with amendment(s). (Majority Report)
Mar 26	Referred to Appropriations.
Apr 6	Public hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. (Committee Materials)
Apr 8	Executive action taken in the House Committee on Appropriations at 9:00 AM. (Committee Materials) APP - Majority; do pass with amendment(s) but without amendment(s) by State Government & Tribal Relations. (Majority Report) Minority; do not pass. (Minority Report)
Apr 9	Referred to Rules 2 Review.
Apr 11	Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. Placed on second reading.
Apr 12	Held on second reading. Committee amendment(s) adopted as amended. Rules suspended. Placed on Third Reading. Third reading, passed; yeas, 83; nays, 10; absent, 0; excused, 5. (View Roll Calls)

IN THE SENATE

Apr 18	Senate concurred in House amendments. Passed final passage; yeas, 44; nays, 5; absent, 0; excused, 0. (View Roll Calls)
Apr 23	President signed.

IN THE HOUSE

Apr 24	Speaker signed.
--------	-----------------

OTHER THAN LEGISLATIVE ACTION

Apr 25	Delivered to Governor. (View Bill as Passed Legislature)
Apr 29	Governor signed. Chapter 161, 2019 LAWS. (View Session Law) Effective date 7/1/2019.

Using the Online System

Step 3(d): Once you have your bill number, pull up its history:

Shows every document → available for that bill.

Available Documents

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

Bill Documents

Original Bill
Substitute Bill
Bill as Passed Legislature
Session Law

Bill Digests

Bill Digest

Bill Reports

Senate Bill Report (Orig.)
Senate Bill Report
Substitute House Bill Analysis 2019
Substitute House Bill Report
Substitute Senate Bill Report
Final Bill Report

← **Column 1 – Bill Documents:** This is the actual bill text, at every major step of the process!

Column 2 – Digests: These are title summaries; generally, there is rarely a need to look at these! For our purposes, you can ignore them!

Column 3—Bill Reports: Very important guide, in plain English, as to what the bill does at every major step of the process!

In chronological order, so last is usually latest!

Shows every video/audio recording → available for that bill.

Fiscal Note

[Get Fiscal Note](#)

Amendments

Amendment Name	Num	Sponsor	Type	Description	Action
5063-S AMH APP H2855.1		Appropriations	Committee	Striker	ADOPTED AS AMENDED 04/12/2019
5063-S AMH CALD MERE 538	681	Caldier	Floor	Pg 3 Ln 3	ADOPTED 04/12/2019
5063-S AMH ENGR H2855.E			Engrossed	Striker	ADOPTED AND ENGROSSED 04/12/2019
5063-S AMH SGOV H2479.2		State Government & Tribal Relations	Committee	Striker	NOT CONSIDERED 04/12/2019

Available Videos

(Video links take you to the TVW website)

Live video is available at the stated time. Archived video becomes available approximately two hours after the close of the hearing or floor session.

Jan 16, 2019 Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM

Jan 23, 2019 Senate State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM

Feb 5, 2019 Senate Ways & Means at 3:30 PM

Feb 26, 2019 Senate Ways & Means at 1:30 PM

Mar 15, 2019 House State Government & Tribal Relations at 8:00 AM

Mar 22, 2019 House State Government & Tribal Relations at 8:00 AM

Apr 6, 2019 House Appropriations at 9:00 AM

Apr 8, 2019 House Appropriations at 9:00 AM

Using the Online System

Step 3(e): Once you have your bill number, pull up its history:

How do I know what's important in all of this?!?

Match the major steps with the major documents! Remember: it's chronological, so last is latest (most current) version (usually!).

Available Documents

Bill Documents

[Original Bill](#)
[Substitute Bill \(LCRD 07\)](#)

[Fiscal Note \(Available\)](#)
[Get Fiscal Note](#)

Major
document!


Bill Digests

[Bill Digest](#)
[Substitute Bill Digest](#)

Major
document!

Bill Reports

[Senate Bill Report](#)

SB 5484 - 2007-08  (What is this?)

Allowing dogs in bars.

Revised for 1st Substitute: Allowing dogs in designated outdoor areas of bars and coffee shops.

History of Bill

as of Wednesday, November 3, 2010 10:32 AM

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen, Kline, Murray, Poulsen

2007 REGULAR SESSION

Jan 22 First reading, referred to Labor, Commerce, Research & Development. ([View Original Bill](#))
Jan 30 Public hearing in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Research & Development at 1:30 PM.
Feb 27 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on Labor, Commerce, and Research & Development at 1:30 PM.
Feb 28 LCRD - Majority; 1st substitute bill be substituted, do pass. ([View 1st Substitute](#)) (Majority Report)
Minority; do not pass. (Minority Report)
Minority; without recommendation. (Minority Report)
Passed to Rules Committee for second reading.

Mar 21 Senate Rules "X" file.

2008 REGULAR SESSION

Jan 14 By resolution, reintroduced and retained in present status.

SENATE BILL REPORT SB 5484

As Reported By Senate Committee On:
Labor, Commerce, Research & Development, February 27, 2007

Title: An act relating to allowing dogs in bars.

Brief Description: Allowing dogs in bars.

Sponsors: Senators Jacobsen, Kline, Murray and Poulsen.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Labor, Commerce, Research & Development: 1/30/07, 2/27/07 [DPS, DNP, w/oRec].

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5484 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Kohl-Welles, Chair; Clements, Ranking Minority Member; Franklin, Holmquist and Murray.

Using the Online System

Step 4(a): Reading the bill report.

Lots of info in the bill report!

o Sponsors:

o History:

o Brief Summary:

HOUSE BILL REPORT SSB 5063

As Passed House - Amended:
April 12, 2019

Title: An act relating to prepaid postage for all election ballots.

Brief Description: Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Nguyen, Hasegawa, Billig, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Frockt, Palumbo, Hunt, Wilson, C., Pedersen, Keiser, Kuderer, Saldaña, Mullet and Takko; by request of Governor Inslee).

Brief History:

Committee Activity:

State Government & Tribal Relations: 3/15/19, 3/22/19 [DPA];

Appropriations: 4/6/19, 4/8/19 [DPA(APP w/o SGOV)].

Floor Activity:

Passed House - Amended: 4/12/19, 83-10.

**Brief Summary of Substitute Bill
(As Amended by House)**

- Requires that return envelopes provided to voters for all election ballots include prepaid postage.
- Requires the state to reimburse the county for the cost of providing return postage on return envelopes for all elections.

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT & TRIBAL RELATIONS

Majority Report: Do pass as amended. Signed by 9 members: Representatives Gregerson, Chair; Pellicciotti, Vice Chair; Walsh, Ranking Minority Member; Goehner, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Appleton, Dolan, Hudgins, Mosbrucker and Smith.

Staff: Desiree Omli (786-7105).

Using the Online System

Step 4(b): Reading the bill report.

Lots of info in the bill report!

⦿ Who voted how:

⦿ Staff working it:

⦿ Background:

⦿ Summary:

⦿ Cost money?:

Majority Report: Do pass as amended by Committee on Appropriations and without amendment by Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations. Signed by 31 members: Representatives Ormsby, Chair; Bergquist, 2nd Vice Chair; Robinson, 1st Vice Chair; Stokesbary, Ranking Minority Member; MacEwen, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Rude, Assistant Ranking Minority Member; Caldier, Chandler, Cody, Dolan, Dye, Fitzgibbon, Hansen, Hoff, Hudgins, Jinkins, Macri, Mosbrucker, Pettigrew, Pollet, Ryu, Schmick, Senn, Springer, Stanford, Steele, Sullivan, Sutherland, Tarleton, Tharinger and Ybarra.

Minority Report: Do not pass. Signed by 1 member: Representative Kraft.

Staff: Linda Merelle (786-7092).

Background:

All counties conduct elections by mail. The county auditor must send each voter a ballot, a security envelop in which to conceal the ballot after voting, a large envelope in which to return the security envelope, a declaration that the voter must sign, and instructions on how to obtain information about the election, how to mark the ballot, and how to return the ballot to the county auditor.

A voter may return a ballot by various methods, one of which includes by mail at his or her own expense. For a ballot to be counted, it must be received no later than 8:00 p.m. on the day of the primary or election, or postmarked no later than the day of the primary or election.

The state must pay a prorated share of the cost of any primary or general election in odd-numbered years when state officers or measures are on the ballot. The state must also pay a prorated share of costs associated with elections held to fill a vacancy in the United States Senate or House of Representatives. In addition, the state is required to pay the costs of mandatory recounts for statewide measures.

For the 2018 primary and general election, the Governor allocated emergency funding to the Office of the Secretary of State to pay for grants to counties to cover the expense of prepaid postage.

Summary of Amended Bill:

The return envelope for all election ballots provided to voters must include prepaid postage. "Prepaid postage" means any method of return postage paid by the county or the state. For all elections, the state must reimburse counties for the cost of return postage required to be included on return envelopes.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Using the Online System

Step 5(a): Reading the bill.

Lots of organizational info in the bill!

o Sponsors:

o Title:

o Findings:

S-2348.1

SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 5063

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senate Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Nguyen, Hasegawa, Billig, Carlyle, Cleveland, Conway, Darneille, Frockt, Palumbo, Hunt, Wilson, C., Pedersen, Keiser, Kuderer, Saldaña, Mullet, and Takko; by request of Governor Inslee)

READ FIRST TIME 03/01/19.

1 AN ACT Relating to prepaid postage for all election ballots;
2 amending RCW 29A.04.420 and 29A.40.091; creating a new section;
3 providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

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

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that voting by mail
6 has many advantages. However, the legislature also finds that while
7 the cost of ballot return postage may only be a small amount, passing
8 the burden along to Washington's citizens, many of whom no longer
9 need stamps in their everyday lives, is an unnecessary barrier to
10 fully participate in the democratic process. The legislature further
11 finds that in order to continue to increase participation in our
12 democracy, we must lower all barriers to participation in the
13 democratic process. The legislature finds that voting should be free
14 for all citizens.

Using the Online System

Step 5(b): Reading the bill.

o Language added to existing law is underlined. Deleted language is stricken and put in double-parentheses.

15 Upon request by the legislature, the department of licensing
16 shall provide a report to the legislature containing all of the
17 information in subsection (7)(c) and (d) of this section that is
18 subject to public disclosure; ((and))

o Entirely new law always starts with a “NEW SECTION.”

Tip: Learn what you may not need to read in bill– for example, pages of existing law; just go to the changed language or new sections!

1 (4) The voter must be instructed to either return the ballot to
2 the county auditor no later than 8:00 p.m. the day of the election or
3 primary, or mail the ballot to the county auditor with a postmark no
4 later than the day of the election or primary. Subject to the
5 availability of amounts appropriated for this specific purpose,
6 return envelopes for all election ballots must include prepaid
7 postage. Service and overseas voters must be provided with
8 instructions and a privacy sheet for returning the ballot and signed
9 declaration by fax or email. A voted ballot and signed declaration
10 returned by fax or email must be received by 8:00 p.m. on the day of
11 the election or primary.

12 (5) The county auditor's name may not appear on the security
13 envelope, the return envelope, or on any voting instructions or
14 materials included with the ballot if he or she is a candidate for
15 office during the same year.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** This act is necessary for the immediate
17 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety, or support of
18 the state government and its existing public institutions, and takes
19 effect July 1, 2019.

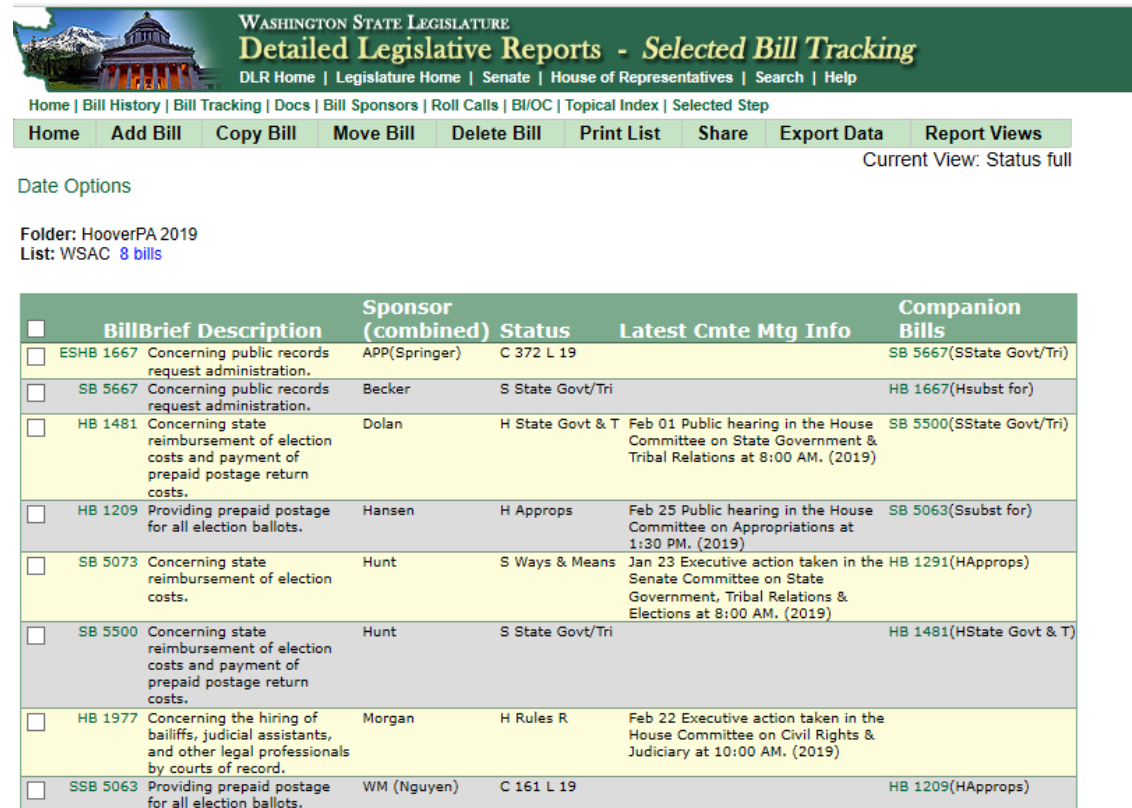
--- END ---

Using the Online System

Step 6: Create tracking lists.

Tip: Creating lists of bills and having the system track them for you can save time!

Once you create a (free) account, you can make as many lists as you'd like. They can show bill numbers, descriptions, sponsors, status, and whether there is a companion bill. The status updates each time you bring it up!



	Bill	Brief Description	Sponsor (combined)	Status	Latest Cmte Mtg Info	Companion Bills
<input type="checkbox"/>	ESHB 1667	Concerning public records request administration.	APP(Springer)	C 372 L 19		SB 5667(SSState Govt/Tri)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SB 5667	Concerning public records request administration.	Becker	S State Govt/Tri		HB 1667(Hsubst for)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1481	Concerning state reimbursement of election costs and payment of prepaid postage return costs.	Dolan	H State Govt & T	Feb 01 Public hearing in the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations at 8:00 AM. (2019)	SB 5500(SSState Govt/Tri)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1209	Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots.	Hansen	H Approps	Feb 25 Public hearing in the House Committee on Appropriations at 1:30 PM. (2019)	SB 5063(Ssubst for)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SB 5073	Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	Hunt	S Ways & Means	Jan 23 Executive action taken in the Senate Committee on State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections at 8:00 AM. (2019)	HB 1291(HApprops)
<input type="checkbox"/>	SB 5500	Concerning state reimbursement of election costs and payment of prepaid postage return costs.	Hunt	S State Govt/Tri		HB 1481(HState Govt & T)
<input type="checkbox"/>	HB 1977	Concerning the hiring of bailiffs, judicial assistants, and other legal professionals by courts of record.	Morgan	H Rules R	Feb 22 Executive action taken in the House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary at 10:00 AM. (2019)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	SSB 5063	Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots.	WM (Nguyen)	C 161 L 19		HB 1209(HApprops)

a Amended. \$ Appropriation bill. f State fiscal note on file. d Department.
e Governor. b Joint Legislative Audit & Review Committee. o Other. # Local fiscal note on file.

Using the WSAC Website

From WSAC's main page, www.wsac.org, click the "Advocacy" tab and it will take you to everything you need to know about where WSAC stands on important legislative issues. From there, you can read about WSAC's priorities or check out the bi-weekly Legislative Bulletin, which WSAC members should receive via email, or you can sign up online or by emailing info@wsac.org.

WSAC WASHINGTON STATE ASSOCIATION of COUNTIES

Calendar Members Learn About Advocacy Contact

Advocacy

Advocacy: WSAC Supports Counties

WSAC serves as a forum to build a statewide county legislative agenda. The fact that WSAC represents all 39 counties is key to building the coalitions needed to pass helpful legislation and likewise prevent harmful legislation. WSAC utilizes various tools to keep members up-to-date on legislative activities throughout the year.

ON THIS PAGE

- > [Legislative Steering Committee](#)
- > [Legislative Priorities](#)
- > [Committee Members](#)
- > [Legislative Bulletin](#)

BENTON COUNTY

RECENT NEWS

County Leaders Conference
Nov 19-21, 2019

WSAC bi-weekly Legislative Bulletin email

At the bottom of the bi-weekly Legislative Bulletin email, you can review the positions WSAC has taken on a comprehensive list of legislation, by downloading the “Bills of Interest.” The legislation on the tracking list are hyperlinked to the www.leg.wa.gov website for full information about each bill.



WSAC Priorities Bill Status Report

County Government

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Priority	Position
SB 5063 (HB 1209)	Ballots, prepaid postage	Providing prepaid postage for all election ballots.	S State Govt/Tri	Nguyen	High	Support
SB 5073	Election cost reimbursement	Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	S State Govt/Tri	Hunt	High	Support

Conclusion & Questions...

- **Process + Players = Success!**
- **Knowing where you are in the process and who can help you to the next step is crucial!**
- **Moving ahead can be a strange mix of policy and politics!**
- **Remember:**

It's supposed to be hard to pass a law!

