

WOVE Legislative Update for Career and Technical Education

2025 Legislative Session | March 27, 2025

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This week has been all about the budget if you haven't noticed through the news and social media. The operating and transportation proposals were uploaded to the state website on Monday and since then it has been a deep-dive into what has changed. This edition of the *WOVE* will focus on Section 522 of the current operation budget as it has seen substantial changes.

Section 522 is the section of the budget that holds roughly \$80 million in dedicated funding for programs like CTSO operating funds, Project Lead The Way, Core Plus, First Robotics, OSPI CTE Equipment Grants, and other buckets of funding. For comparison you can see the [2023-2025 Section 522 here](#). The House version of the budget completely stripped the section and its funding and you can see the abbreviated version proposed by the [Senate in this version](#).

The Senate version of the budget funds the programs within Section 522 through the 2026 fiscal year; but, those line items get abbreviated in the 2027 year with an eventual phase out. The WA-ACTE team has reached out directly to members on both the appropriations and education committees, to OSPI, and to the Governor's office. We have requested the section be put back in via a proviso or any other method to restore the section and the vital funding therein. If you are able to reach out to your lawmakers in both chambers, please do so ASAP to encourage them to maintain the current funding for these programs.

As a member of the School Funding Coalition, which is working on funding K-12 Education overall, a WACTA representative and Tim Knue join in those efforts and share with them our specific needs and efforts concerning the budget.

Budget proposal overviews:

Senate Democrats' Proposal:

- Overall K-12 Investment: Beyond special education, the Senate's budget includes approximately \$2 billion more for K-12 schools over the four-year outlook, focusing on school operating costs and special education. To support these enhancements, the Senate's plan anticipates \$16 billion in new revenue, partly derived from increased taxes on high-income individuals and corporations.
- Special Education Funding: The Senate proposes an additional \$2 billion over the next four years for special education services across Washington's 295 public school districts. This investment aims to fulfill the state's constitutional obligation to fund basic education, including special education, despite fiscal challenges.
- MSOC Increases: minimal increases are proposed, but fall far short of the Coalition goals and needs of districts.

House Democrats' Proposal:

- Overall K-12 Investment: The House budget proposes a \$750 million annual investment in K-12 education, with a significant portion allocated to school operating costs and special education. Similar to the Senate, the House plan relies on new taxes, estimating \$15 billion in additional revenue over the next four years to balance the budget.
- Special Education Funding: The House suggests a more conservative increase of \$482 million over the next four years for special education, reflecting a more cautious approach to spending amid budget constraints.
- MSOC Increases: minimal increases are proposed, but fall far short of the Coalition goals and needs of districts.

The House version of the budget relies on the following increases in funding buckets to provide relief to school districts:

Budget Comparison				
Funding Bucket	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
MSOC	\$1,724.62	\$1,760.84	\$1,810.11	\$1,855.36
Certified Instructional	\$75,419	\$78,360	\$80,164	\$82,248
Certified Administrative	\$111,950	\$116,316	\$118,994	\$122,088
Classified	\$54,103	\$56,213	\$57,507	\$59,002

March 27 will see many amendments and provisos to the operating budgets and even after today we won't see the final versions until the floor debate has been completed on each bill and the two versions go through the reconciliation process.

[House Bill 1167](#) - Directing the statewide Career and Technical Education task force to consider expanding and strengthening certain educational opportunities for careers in maritime professions. This bill had a successful hearing on March 13 and was voted out of Committee during executive session on March 20 by a unanimous voice vote. This bill was successfully approved out of committee and now sits in Senate Rules with just two more hurdles to completion.

[NTIB Bills – Attached](#)

Bills that are necessary to implement the budget were introduced late last week. These are revenue bills that don't have to go through the regular scrutiny of typical hearings and process because they have to be passed in order to legally pass the operating budget.

For your curiosity, you can view all of the bills that cleared the first half cut-offs for yourself [in this attached PDF](#). These bills are still alive as we move through the second half.

As we go throughout the session you can follow along the [daily schedule of the legislature](#) and see the [Senate Floor Calendar](#) and the [House Floor Calendar](#).

In Policy action with the Profession Educators Standards Board (PESB) this last week, the PESB took board action to rescind their approval for the ESD 101 Plan II CTE Certification Program, known as the Online Professional Learning Academy (OPLA). The Washington ACTE officers, WACTA, and Skill Center Association leaders have responded to the action with a letter to the PESB, OSPI, Education Committee Chairs, and Governor Ferguson asking for the PESB to withdraw their action or at least have an expedited process for reinstatement. It is also important to have others who may be concerned with this action to contact the PESB and others, because of the loss of this and possibly others over time will only leave the option of continuous Conditional CTE educators in the classroom, resulting in lower quality CTE standards and possible closure of programs. Through the *WOVE* we will continue to keep you up to date as things develop.

WOVE Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

Upcoming Events

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/27 @ 10:30am

- [ESHB 1414](#) - Exec Session - Improving access to career opportunities for students.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 3/27 @ 4:00pm

- [HB 1198](#) - Exec Session - Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 3/27 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5167](#) - Exec Session - Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1 and Virtual J.A. Cherberg - 3/28 @ 8:00am

- [SHB 1121](#) - Exec Session - Concerning restrictions on the working conditions and hours of sixteen- and seventeen-year olds. (Support)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 3/31 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5797](#) - Public Hearing - Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5796](#) - Public Hearing - Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5798](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning property tax reform. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5794](#) - Public Hearing - Adopting recommendations from the tax preference performance review process, eliminating obsolete tax preferences, clarifying legislative intent, and addressing changes in constitutional law. (Remote Testimony Available).
- [SB 5795](#) - Public Hearing - Reducing the state sales and use tax rate. (Remote Testimony Available).

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 4/1 @ 8:00am

- [HB 1216](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/1 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5195](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the capital budget. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Appropriations (House) - HHR A and Virtual JLOB - 4/2 @ 4:00pm

- [SB 5189](#) - Public Hearing - Supporting the implementation of competency-based education. (Remote Testimony Available).

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B and Virtual JLOB - 4/3 @ 9:00am

- [HB 1216](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.


Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4 and Virtual JACB - 4/3 @ 1:30pm

- [2SHB 1273](#) - Public Hearing - Improving student access to dual credit programs. (Remote Testimony Available). (Concerns)
- [SB 5195](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the capital budget.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
SHB 1121	Work restrictions/age 16, 17	Concerning restrictions on the working conditions and hours of sixteen- and seventeen-year olds.	S Labor & Comm	McClintock	Support	
HB 1167	Maritime careers task force	Directing the statewide career and technical education task force to consider educational opportunities for careers in maritime professions.	S Rules 2	Shavers	Support	
HB 1198 (SB 5167)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	H Approps	Ormsby		
HB 1216 (SB 5195)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger		
2SHB 1273	Dual credit program access	Improving student access to dual credit programs.	S Ways & Means	Paul	Concerns	
2SHB 1285	Financial education	Making financial education instruction a graduation requirement in public schools.	S EL/K-12	Rude	Support	
ESHB 1414	CTE careers work group	Improving access to career opportunities for students.	S EL/K-12	Connors		
HB 1556 (SB 5542)	HS completers/CTC tuition	Expanding tuition waivers for high school completers at community and technical colleges.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Entenman		
ESSB 5009	Student transp. vehicles	Modifying the student transportation allocation to accommodate multiple vehicle types for transporting students.	H Approps	Braun		
SB 5167 (HB 1198)	Operating budget	Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium operating appropriations.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 5189	Competency-based education	Supporting the implementation of competency-based education.	H Approps	Wellman		
ESSB 5192	School district materials	Concerning school district materials, supplies, and operating costs.	H Approps	Nobles	Support	Medium
SB 5195 (HB 1216)	Capital budget	Concerning the capital budget.	S Ways & Means	Trudeau		
2SSB 5358 (HB 1280)	Career & tech. ed./6th grade	Concerning career and technical education in sixth grade.	H Approps	Braun	Support	
SSB 5738 (HB 1988)	Retired employees/work	Permitting individuals retired from the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, and the school employees' retirement system additional opportunities to work for up to 1,040 hours per year while in receipt of pension benefits.	H Approps	Wellman		
SB 5792	State employee compensation	Concerning temporary compensation reductions for state government employees during the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 5793	Public employee health plans	Concerning employer contributions and incentives for public and school employee health benefit plans.	S Ways & Means	Robinson		
SB 5794	Tax preferences	Adopting recommendations from the tax preference performance review process, eliminating obsolete tax preferences, clarifying legislative intent, and addressing changes in constitutional law.	S Ways & Means	Salomon		
SB 5795	Sales and use tax rate	Reducing the state sales and use tax rate.	S Ways & Means	Krishnadasan		
SB 5796	Payroll expense tax	Enacting an excise tax on large employers on the amount of payroll expenses above the social security wage threshold to fund programs and services to benefit Washingtonians.	S Ways & Means	Saldana		
SB 5797	Intangible assets tax	Enacting a tax on stocks, bonds, and other financial intangible assets for the benefit of public schools.	S Ways & Means	Frame		
SB 5798	Property tax	Concerning property tax reform.	S Ways & Means	Pedersen		

[2025 Session Cutoff Calendar](#)

April 2	Policy Committee Cutoff - Opposite House: Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 8	Fiscal Committee Cutoff - Opposite House: Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.
April 16	Opposite House Cutoff: Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, amendments, differences, and business related to the interim or closing the session).
April 27	Sine Die: Last day allowed for regular session under the state constitution.

 <p>Association for Career and Technical Education ACTE[®]</p>	<p>Federal Legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACTE Advocacy Webpage • CTE Policy Watch Blog • Take Action • ACTE Policy Agenda • Advocacy Resources
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