



## 2021-22 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEES

*Please note: This is a general description of issue areas considered by committees; not a definitive or exhaustive listing. It is provided solely to assist in understanding the general roles of House committees.*

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### **Appropriations**

The House Appropriations Committee considers the operating budget bill and related legislation; budget processes; and fiscal issues such as pension policy and compensation. The committee also considers bills with operating budget fiscal impacts.

### **Capital Budget**

The House Capital Budget Committee considers the state capital budget which approves money for the construction and repair of public buildings and for other long-term investments, such as land acquisitions and transfers. In addition, the committee considers grants and loans to local governments or nonprofit organizations for infrastructure, broadband, housing, and cultural and heritage facilities. The committee also considers bills relating to public works contracting; state buildings and land; and the authorization of state debt.

### **Children, Youth & Families**

The House Children, Youth & Families Committee considers a broad array of issues and services affecting children and families, including early learning; child care; child and youth development; child welfare services; children's mental health; at-risk and homeless youth; and juvenile justice.

### **Civil Rights & Judiciary**

The House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee considers a wide variety of legal issues, including constitutional law; privacy rights; anti-discrimination measures; commercial law; torts; probate; guardianships; civil commitment; forensic mental

health; firearms; and eminent domain. The committee also considers issues relating to courts and judicial administration; and family law issues such as marriage, marriage dissolution, child support, and adoption.

### **College & Workforce Development**

The House College & Workforce Development Committee considers issues relating to the state's public and independent baccalaureate colleges and universities; public community and technical colleges; and private career schools. Issues include governance and coordination of higher education; financial aid; tuition; distance learning; workforce development and lifelong learning; apprenticeships; and the licensing of private colleges and career schools.

### **Commerce & Gaming**

The House Commerce & Gaming Committee considers issues relating to the regulation of commerce in alcohol, tobacco, and cannabis, as well as issues relating to the regulation and oversight of gaming, including tribal compacts.

### **Community & Economic Development**

The House Community & Economic Development Committee considers issues relating to community development; community investment programs; and underrepresented communities. The committee also considers issues relating to economic development and economic resiliency, including small business assistance; business financing; international trade; tourism; parks and recreation; telecommunications; and broadband; as well as emergency preparedness, response, and resiliency.

### **Consumer Protection & Business**

The House Consumer Protection & Business Committee considers consumer protection issues and the licensing and regulation of businesses and professions (except for health care and law-related professions). The committee also considers issues relating to the activities of the Office of the Insurance Commissioner and the Pollution Liability Insurance Agency; the solvency of insurance companies; and the rates and practices of insurance companies. Financial services issues include the safety and soundness of state banks and

credit unions; the regulation of consumer credit and lending; and the regulation of securities and investments.

## **Education**

The House Education Committee considers issues relating to kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) education.

## **Environment & Energy**

The House Environment & Energy Committee considers issues relating to air quality; aquatic lands; oil spill prevention; solid waste; hazardous waste; toxics; climate change; energy; Puget Sound; and land use impacts to environmental quality.

## **Finance**

The House Finance Committee considers issues relating to state and local revenues, such as increases or decreases in taxes; exemptions from taxes; and changes in the administration of taxes. *(Note: Issues involving revenue for transportation purposes, such as gasoline taxes, are usually considered by the House Transportation Committee.)*

## **Health Care and Wellness**

The House Health Care & Wellness Committee considers a broad range of issues relating to the provision of physical and behavioral health care services; long-term care; and strategies to promote better health. Health care service issues include the licensing and regulation of health care facilities and the credentialing of health care providers. The committee also regulates pharmacies and pharmaceutical drugs and has oversight and regulatory responsibility for state public health programs. The committee also considers issues relating to the accessibility and affordability of health care in both the private health insurance market and public health programs such as Medicaid and the state health exchange.

## **Housing, Human Services & Veterans**

The House Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to housing, including the accessibility and affordability of housing; landlord-tenant law; homelessness; farmworker housing; manufactured

housing; housing authorities; and the Housing Finance Commission. The committee also considers issues relating to housing assistance, economic assistance programs; developmental disabilities; and veterans' programs.

### **Labor & Workplace Standards**

The House Labor & Workplace Standards Committee considers issues relating to industrial insurance; unemployment compensation; collective bargaining; family leave; safety and health standards; occupational health; and employment standards such as wage laws and employment discrimination. The committee also considers issues relating to the building and construction trades.

### **Local Government**

The House Local Government Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to local government entities, including the structure, governance, and operations of counties, cities, and special purpose districts; local government procurement standards; local government open meeting and public records obligations; and the administration of local land use, zoning, building, energy, and health codes.

### **Public Safety**

The House Public Safety Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to the criminal legal system, including policing; crisis response; crime prevention; criminal penalties and sentencing; impaired driving; adult correctional programs, including rehabilitation and reentry; and adult correctional institutions. The committee also considers issues relating to the registration and civil commitment of sex offenders.

### **Rules**

The House Rules Committee considers all bills reported from policy and fiscal committees and determines whether, and in what order, to schedule their consideration on the floor of the House. The Rules Committee also reviews, adopts, and schedules consideration of floor resolutions.

## **Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources**

The House Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources Committee considers issues relating to agricultural production, marketing, and sales; food policy; animal and plant disease control; fisheries and wildlife; forest practices and forest fire protection; water; mining; and rural economic development and resiliency. The committee also considers the management of certain state-owned lands.

## **State Government & Tribal Relations**

The House State Government & Tribal Relations Committee considers a broad array of issues relating to state government, including state agency structure; rulemaking; procurement standards; performance audits; state information technology; and public employment. The committee also considers issues relating to elections; campaign finance; public disclosure; ethics in government; and the government-to-government relationship of the state and Indian tribes.

## **Transportation**

The House Transportation Committee considers the transportation budget; revenue sources for transportation funding; and issues relating to transportation policy and transportation agencies, including the Department of Transportation and the Washington State Patrol.



## **2021-22 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES**

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### **Agriculture, Water Natural Resources & Parks**

The Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee considers issues relating to agricultural production, marketing, and sales. The committee looks at water issues, including water quantity and municipal water. The committee has oversight over matters relating to fish and wildlife, as well as mining, forest practices, and forest fire protection. The committee also considers parks and recreation and issues relating to aquatic lands and the management of certain state-owned lands.

### **Behavioral Health Subcommittee**

The Behavioral Health Subcommittee considers issues relating to behavioral health matters including mental health treatment, involuntary treatment, forensic mental health, substance use disorder treatment, and children's mental health, as referred from the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee.

### **Business, Financial Services & Trade**

The Senate Business, Financial Services & Trade Committee considers issues relating to insurance, including insurance company practices, rates, and solvency. The committee deals with financial services issues, including the soundness of state banks and credit unions, the regulation of consumer credit and lending, and the regulation of securities and investments. The committee also considers economic development, international trade, regulation of business and professions, and tourism issues.

## **Early Learning & K-12 Education**

The Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee considers issues relating to kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) education. The committee also considers issues related to early learning programs, including the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program and Working Connections Program.

## **Environment, Energy & Technology**

The Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee considers environmental issues including water quality, Puget Sound, the State Environmental Policy Act, the Shoreline Management Act, oil spill prevention, recycling, and solid waste, toxic substances, and hazardous and toxic waste. The committee also deals with the regulation of telecommunications, as well as issues relating to the availability, production, and conservation of energy, climate change, nuclear waste, and technology.

## **Health & Long Term Care**

The Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee considers issues relating to health care services, long-term care, and developmental disabilities. The committee has oversight of the licensing and regulation of health care facilities and professions as well as pharmacies and pharmaceutical drugs. The committee deals with the financing of healthcare including private insurance and programs such as Medicaid and public employee benefits, as well as public health issues. The committee also considers behavioral health matters including mental health treatment, involuntary treatment, and children's mental health.

## **Higher Education & Workforce Development**

The Senate Higher Education & Workforce Development Committee considers issues relating to the state's public and independent baccalaureate colleges and universities, public community and technical colleges, and private career schools. Issues include governance and coordination of higher education, financial aid, tuition, and workforce training.

## **Housing & Local Government**

The Senate Housing & Local Government Committee considers issues relating to housing authorities, housing affordability/financing, the housing trust fund, and landlord-tenant issues. The committee deals with homelessness including prevention, youth homelessness, and the homeless housing surcharge. The committee also considers issues relating to the operation and financing of counties, cities, and some special purpose districts, including growth management, land use, and permitting.

## **Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation**

The Senate Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation Committee considers issues relating to services to children and families, including child welfare, child protection, dependency, and foster care. The committee deals with chemical dependency, at-risk youth, juvenile justice, and corrections and offender re-entry.

## **Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs**

The Senate Labor, Commerce & Tribal Affairs Committee considers issues relating to employment standards, industrial insurance, unemployment insurance, and collective bargaining. The committee also considers tribal issues and has oversight of commerce issues relating to alcohol, tobacco, cannabis, and gaming.

## **Law & Justice**

The Senate Law and Justice Committee consider a wide variety of subjects relating to civil and criminal law, including issues involving public safety, law enforcement, and sentencing. Civil law topics include commercial law, probate, firearms, eminent domain, Consumer Protection Act remedies, and processes. The committee also oversees family law issues such as marriage, child support, and adoption.

## **Rules**

The Rules Committee considers all bills reported from policy and fiscal committees and determines whether, and in what order, to schedule their consideration on the Senate floor by the full Senate. See *Guide to Senate Rules Committee* on page 10.



## **State Government & Elections**

The Senate State Government & Elections Committee considers issues related to the processes of state government, including procurement standards, agency rulemaking, and emergency management. The committee also considers issues relating to veterans, elections, campaign finance, public disclosure, and ethics in government.

## **Transportation**

The Senate Transportation Committee considers issues relating to transportation policy, the transportation budget, and revenue sources for transportation funding.

*Members of the committee may also serve on the Joint Transportation Committee which is a Legislative Agency composed of House and Senate members that meet during the legislative interim to conduct studies on various transportation issues.*

## **Ways & Means**

The Senate Ways and Means Committee considers the operating and capital budget bills and related legislation, including the authorization of state debt. The committee also deals with tax policy and other fiscal issues such as pension policy and compensation in addition to bills with operating budget fiscal impacts.

*Senate Ways and Means Committee staff are part of Senate Committee Services, the organization which provides nonpartisan staff services for all standing committees of the Washington State Senate.*



## GUIDE TO SENATE RULES COMMITTEE

*The Rules Committee determines which bills advance to the floor calendar for consideration by the full Senate. (The Rules Committee also has other duties, but determining which bills advance to the floor calendar is the most prominent. Ex. see Senate Rules 13 and 43.) Every year people inquire about how bills are “pulled” in the Rules Committee. This document is intended to give you a shorthand guide to the procedures and the terminology involved.*

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There are two calendars in Senate rules. The **White Sheet** is where bills are sent immediately after being passed out of a standing committee. This is, more or less, a review calendar.

The **Green Sheet** is a consideration calendar made up of bills requested (or “pulled”) by Rules members from the White Sheet and is the list of bills eligible to go directly to the floor.

When the Rules Committee considers bills on the White Sheet, they may be moved (“pulled”) to the Green Sheet without debate or a vote. They are then eligible to pull to the floor at the next Rules meeting.

Bills on the Green Sheet are debated and voted on prior to moving to the floor. Most bills advance on a voice vote, but divisions are often called where a show of hands decides the bill’s fate. Any member may request an oral roll call on any bill before it goes to the floor.

The vast majority of bills are placed on the Senate floor calendar in the preceding manner. However, “packages” of bills may be voted out at one time. There might be a package pull before a cutoff or the end of session, or when the Senate is going to address one topic with several bills. Whether the bills move by individual pulls or by package, the list of bills added to the floor calendar is called the **Flash Calendar**.

Occasionally, the Committee will create a “consent” calendar of bills with little or no opposition. These bills can come from either the white or green sheets and are placed on a separate pink calendar for the floor.

After certain cut-off dates, the Senate Rules Committee sometimes places bills in the **X-File**, if they are no longer eligible for consideration. This removes them from calendars and the status sheet.

Currently, there are 17 members on the Senate Rules Committee: the Lt. Governor, 10 majority members, and 6 minority members. The majority leader determines how many positions will be appointed by each caucus. Leadership of each caucus decides which members will serve on Rules, but traditionally, the Majority/Minority leader, Caucus Chair, Floor Leader, President Pro Tempore, and Vice President Pro Tempore are members of the Rules Committee. The Lt. Governor is the chair and a voting member of the committee (Senate Rule 50) and the Vice-Chair is the President Pro Tempore. Staff to the Rules Committee include the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of the Senate. Both Senate Counsels generally attend.

## **Two-Step Process in Rules Committee to move a bill to the Floor Calendar**

### ***Moving a bill to the Green Sheet:***

At the beginning of a meeting, the Majority Leader will announce how many 'pulls' each member will get. Beginning with the Majority Leader, each member, in order of seating, chooses a bill to move from the White Sheet to the Green Sheet. No vote is taken. Factors for the number of 'pulls' include: number of bills currently on the White Sheet, the number of bills already on the Green Sheet; and the number of bills still on the current calendar. Generally, a bill only moves one step during a Rules meeting.

### ***Moving a bill from the Green Sheet to the Calendar:***

At the beginning of the meeting, it will be announced how many "pulls" each member will have from Green to the Calendar. Each member makes a motion to place a particular bill on the calendar, gives a short statement regarding the purpose of the bill, gives a short statement in support of the bill and then a vote (usually voice vote aye/nay) is taken. A recorded roll-call can be requested by any member of the committee. If a member moves a bill and it fails, the bill goes back to the White Sheet. The member does not get another choice, it counts as one of their "pulls". The bills are placed on the calendar in the order in which they are pulled out of the Rules Committee.