

Long days, and nights, ahead

The legislature heads into another week devoted almost exclusively to floor work. Legislators have until Tuesday, March 9, to get bills out of their house of origin. Deadlines like this make for long days and marathon floor sessions as legislators' race against the clock. The remote nature of session is also slowing things down, so do not be surprised if we see less legislation than usual advance.

We are also approaching the halfway point of the 105-day session. For all its challenges, Washington is making the best of a difficult situation and moving forward with its work. Over 2,000 bills have been introduced, dozens of committee work sessions and public hearings have been held, and we are all getting used to admiring unique virtual backgrounds and filters (no cats yet ...).

The first big cutoff took place Monday, February 22. Bills had to advance out of committees by that point, otherwise, they are likely dead for the year. A few bills of interest that did not go forward include:

[HB 1103](#): Rep. Davina Duerr (D-Bothell), Improving environmental and social outcomes with the production of building materials.

HB 1103 required firms selected for large construction or building renovation contracts to provide an Environmental Product Declaration and labor data for at least 90% of the cost of each covered material used in the project.

Counties had concerns over the costs associated with a new requirement such as this. HB 1103 failed to advance out of the Appropriations Committee.

[HB 1308](#), Rep. Marcus Ricelli (D-Spokane): Expanding apprenticeship utilization requirements.

HB 1308 required county public works projects over \$1 million to include specifications that no less than 15% of the labor hours be performed by apprentices. It also required contracts that cost \$200,000 or more for subcontractors to include specifications that no less than 15% of the labor hours be performed by apprentices.

We had concerns with the bill, namely with the increased costs that could be incurred, as well as the availability of labor. The bill failed to advance out of the House Capital Budget Committee.

[HB 1440](#), Rep. Matt Boehnka (R-Kennewick): Bringing innovation and investment to Washington's economy by streamlining the requirements for deployment of small wireless facilities.

HB 1440 allowed wireless providers to utilize local government rights-of-way for the deployment of small wireless facilities and associated poles.

Counties were very concerned with this legislation and the preemption of ROW rights. HB 1440 did not end up getting a public hearing and failed to advance out of its committee of origin.

[SB 5444](#), Sen. Rebecca Saldaña (D-Seattle): Implementing a per mile charge on electric and hybrid vehicles.

SB 5444 established a per mile fee (i.e. a road usage charge or vehicle miles traveled fee) on certain electric and hybrid vehicles, effective July 1, 2026. The bill repealed the \$150 electric vehicle fee, and the \$75 transportation electrification fee that same year.

We had concerns over the repeal of the electric vehicle fee, as it funds programs at CRAB and TIB. SB 5444 failed to advance out of the Senate Transportation Committee.