

Legislative Update – Week of April 19, 2021

I am from the government, and I am here to help...

The amended budget presented by the governor is the largest in this history of the state. The governor put an additional 2.5 billion dollars into the state budget, with 1.6 billion in non-recurring funds and 906 million in additional recurring revenues. The highlights are a 250 million mental health trust fund, 79 million to eliminate the TCAT waiting list, 60 million more dollars in economic development funds, and 6 million additional funding to transportation. Finally, \$200 million in additional funding will be made available to local and city governments by January 1.

Updates

[SB 657 HB 578](#) -This bill banned transition surgery for minors and subjected anyone who attempted to treat a transgender youth medically to criminal penalties

[SB 884 HB 519](#) -The bill that would eliminate the professional privilege tax has been amended to only reduce it by \$100 by 2022.

[SB1353 HB1315](#) - Bill that would study counties ability to raise taxes without state consent was sent to summer study

Items to Watch this Week

Education

[SB 122 HB 1501](#) (Haile / Cochran)

The bill requires the department of education to create and develop a five-year school turnaround pilot program for district schools that require intervention. Requires the department to select 20 schools in need of intervention that are diverse geographically, including rural and urban schools and schools in different regions of the state, and diverse in grade levels for the pilot program. Requires the department to use the same outcomes-based performance goals and measures used to assign schools to the achievement school district to set the criteria to designate district schools as schools in need of intervention for purposes of the pilot program

The bill is set to be heard on Tuesday at 8:30 a.m. in Senate Finance Ways and Means and can be seen [here](#).

[SB 9 HB 542](#) (Yager/ Powers)

The bill increases from \$1,000 to \$1,250, awarded each semester to a full-time student receiving the middle college scholarship.

The bill will be heard in House Finance Ways and Means at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and can be seen [here](#).

Tax Breaks

[SB 772 HB 773](#) (Johnson/ Lamberth)

Reduces the taxes on jet fuel and moves the burden of funding airports away from counties and the state—the budget amount allocated to offset this reduction is 3 million.

The bill will be heard in House Finance Ways and Means at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and can be seen [here](#).

Elections

[SB 1315 HB 1276](#) (Hensley/ Griffey)

As amended, this bill adds a watermark to all absentee ballots.

The bill will be heard in House Finance Ways and Means at 3:00 p.m. on Tuesday and can be seen [here](#).