



CCW 2026 Legislative Session Update

February 9, 2026

*Joel Anderson, Associate Director of Legislative
& External Affairs, WSAC*

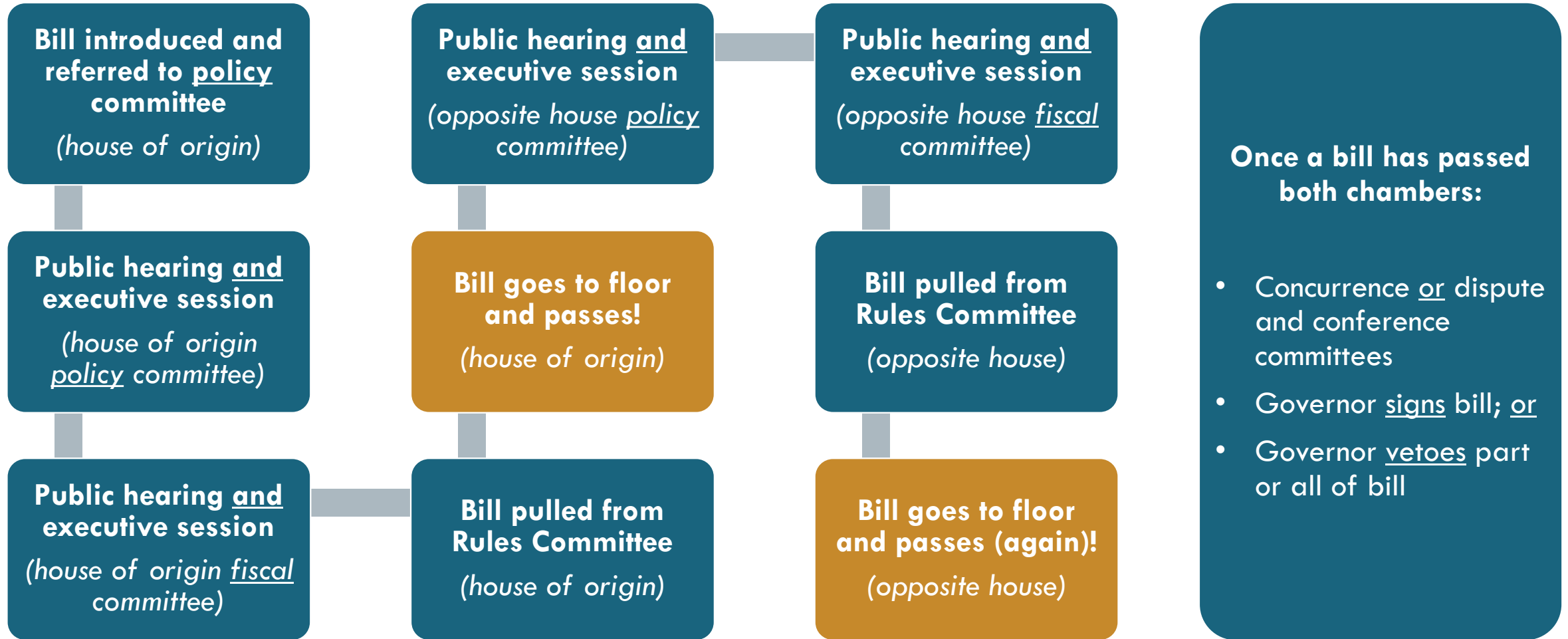


2026 Legislative Session Calendar (60 Days)

January	February	March
Mon., Jan. 12 —first day	Wed., Feb. 4 —house of origin policy cutoff	Mon., Mar. 2 —opposite house fiscal cutoff
	Mon., Feb. 9 —house of origin fiscal cutoff	Fri., Mar. 6 —opposite house cutoff
	Tues., Feb. 17 —house of origin cutoff	Thurs., Mar. 12 —last day (“Sine Die”)
	Wed., Feb. 25 —opposite house policy cutoff	



Overview of Legislative Process





2026 Supplemental Operating Budget Outlook

- New budget deficits of **\$2.3 billion** for 2025-27 and **\$4.3 billion** for 2027-29
- **Numerous reasons for the deficit:**
 - Decreased projected revenues
 - Increased costs to maintain existing programs
 - Impact of federal legislation (H.R. 1, “One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBB)”)

Takeaway: There is little to no additional funding available in the 2026 supplemental operating budget for discretionary spending.



Gov. Ferguson's 2026 Supplemental Operating Budget: Higher Education

- New cuts* were proposed across higher education and other education (WTB):

Agency	Percentage Cut	Amount Cut
WSAC	5%	\$1.7 million
WTB		\$193,000
UW	3%	\$15.8 million
WSU		\$10.2 million
EWU	1.5%	\$1.4 million
CWU		\$1.4 million
TESC		\$668,000
WWU		\$1.9 million
SBCTC		\$18.5 million

*FTE reductions were not required with cuts



2026 Higher Education Legislation*

Enrollment	Affordability	Basic Needs	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FAFSA/WASFA completion data sharing (OSPI-WSAC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WA Grant and CBS award amounts at private, four-year not-for-profit IHEs• WA Grant for former FY and UHY• Early learning scholarship program• Veteran tuition waiver	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adding IHE branch campuses to Supporting Student Experiencing Homelessness• Data collection for parenting students	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P20W strategic planning• Student consumer protections in the event of IHE or program closures• WEIA Oversight Board administration

**still alive*



Q&A

- **Joel Anderson, Associate Director of Legislative & External Affairs**
 - JoelA@wsac.wa.gov
 - (360) 515-3002