

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESSB 5998

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As Amended by House, February 28, 2026

**Title:** An act relating to fiscal matters.

**Brief Description:** Making 2025-2027 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.

**Sponsors:** Senate Committee on Ways & Means (originally sponsored by Senators Robinson and Nobles; by request of Office of Financial Management).

**Brief History:**

**Committee Activity:** Ways & Means: 1/13/26, 2/23/26, 2/25/26 [DPS, DNP].

**Floor Activity:** Passed Senate: 2/27/26, 30-19.

Passed House: 2/28/26, 52-41.

**Brief Summary of Engrossed First Substitute Bill**

- Makes supplemental operating budget appropriations for the 2025-2027 biennium.

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

**Majority Report:** That Substitute Senate Bill No. 5998 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Robinson, Chair; Stanford, Vice Chair, Operating; Trudeau, Vice Chair, Capital; Frame, Vice Chair, Finance; Cleveland, Conway, Dhingra, Hansen, Hasegawa, Kauffman, Pedersen, Riccelli, Saldaña, Wellman and Wilson, C..

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senators Gildon, Ranking Member, Operating; Torres, Assistant Ranking Member, Operating; Schoesler, Ranking Member, Capital; Dozier, Assistant Ranking Member, Capital; Braun, Muzzall, Wagoner and Warnick.

**Staff:** Samuel Brown (786-7470)

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*This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.*

**Background:** The operating expenses of state government and its agencies and programs are funded on a biennial basis by an omnibus operating budget adopted by the Legislature in odd-numbered years. In subsequent legislative sessions, a supplemental budget is adopted, making various modifications to agency appropriations. State operating expenses are paid from the state general fund and from various dedicated funds and accounts.

**Summary of Engrossed First Substitute Bill:** The 2025-2027 biennial operating budget appropriations for the various agencies and programs of the state are modified.

**Appropriation:** The bill makes appropriations from various accounts.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members:** No.

**Effective Date:** The bill contains an emergency clause and takes effect immediately.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill (January 13, 2026):** *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* Please refer to the January 13, 2026 recording of the public hearing on the Senate Ways & Means Committee Schedules, Agendas & Documents website at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/#!/WM/////year>.

**Persons Testifying:** No one.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony on Original Bill (February 23, 2026):** *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* Please refer to the February 23, 2026 recording of the public hearing on the Senate Ways & Means Committee Schedules, Agendas & Documents website at <https://app.leg.wa.gov/committeeschedules/#!/WM/////year>.

**Persons Testifying:** K-12 Public Schools. PRO: Meisha Situ, Washington DECA; Liam Carter, Washington DECA; Kathy Schmit; Karen Coulombe, Lake Stevens School District; Harshita Sinha, Lake Stevens School District; Xavier De La Cruz Trujillo, Lake Stevens School District; Liz Trautman, Stand for Children Washington.

CON: Larry Delaney, Washington Education Association; Logan Noel-Endres, Washington State School Directors' Association (WSSDA); Tori Emerson, President, Washington State PTA; Marissa Rathbone, WA Assoc of School Admin (WASA) & WA Assoc of School Business Officials (WASBO); Misha Cherniske, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction; Mandi Rehn, Valley School District; Lisa Phelan, Freeman School District; Randy Russell, Freeman SD 358; Jay Tyus, Superintendent, Wilbur and Creston

Cooperative School Districts; Nikolas Bergman, Quincy School District; Kevin Knight, Superintendent Colville School District; Derek Sarley, Director, Walla Walla Public Schools; Ben Gauyan, Superintendent, Walla Walla Public Schools; Charlie Brown, South Sound Superintendents and Federal Way Public Schools; Andie Webb, Superintendent, Kahlotus School District; Jessie Sprouse, Carbonado School District; Mitch Denning, Alliance of Educational Associations; Mary Templeton, School Alliance.

OTHER: Rick Chisa, Public School Employees of Washington (PSE SEIU 1948); Braden Sigua, Pacific Science Center; Katherine Mahoney, Prodigy Learning; Preston Dvoskin; Ryan McCallum, Kamiakin High School, Kennewick, WA.

Higher Education. PRO: Christopher Rosenquist, Associated Students of Western Washington University; Nora Selander, Western Washington University; David Buri, Eastern Washington University; Steve DuPont, Central Washington University; Chris Mulick, Washington State University; Morgan Hickel, University of Washington.

CON: Frank Trieu, Evergreen Beauty College; Julianna Hivick, Student; Leilani Sage, Student; Recemae Bennett, Student; Molly Walsh, DigiPen Institute of Technology; Craig Freeman, Northwest College of Art and Design; Christine Jackson, Student NWCD.

OTHER: Jacqui Cain, American Federation of Teachers (AFT-WA); Nate Humphrey, WA State Board for Community & Technical Colleges; Ivan Harrell, Tacoma Community College.

Early Learning. PRO: Gina Parziale.

CON: Rachel Hall, First 5 FUNDamentals; Zamzam Mohamed, Voices of Tomorrow.

OTHER: Alex Galeana, Children's Campaign Fund Action; Muriel Herrera-Velasquez; Rob Colombini, Child Care Aware of Washington; Soleil Boyd, Children's Alliance; Sheila Capestany, Start Early; Alexandra Folz, Family Connects Pierce County implemented by Step by Step and Answer's Counseling; Nick Federici, United Ways of the Pacific Northwest.

Employee Compensation. PRO: Seamus Petrie, Washington Public Employees Association.

OTHER: Emmett Mills, Washington State School Retirees' Association.

Mental Health. PRO: Jolynn Kenney, MENTOR Washington; Rashi Gupta, UW Medicine.

CON: Kimmy Reedy, Director of Peer WA - Recovery Navigator Program; Megan Guido, Whitman Recovery Community Center.

OTHER: Jim Theofelis, NorthStar Advocates; Kimberly Mosolf, Counsel for Plaintiff Class in AB v DSHS (Trueblood); Ashley Jackson, Seattle Children's.

Human Services. PRO: PAULA REED, Children's Advocacy Centers of Washington; Ramona Hattendorf, The Arc of King County; Michele Thomas, Washington Low Income Housing Alliance; Lonnie Johns-Brown, Full Life Care; Shaun Cross, Maddies Place; Leo Morales, Latino Center for Health at UW; Courtney Normand, Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates.

CON: Alenna Elliott; Everett Maroon, Blue Mountain Heart to Heart; Malika Lamont, Purpose Dignity Action; Cynthia Flynn, Washington association of birth centers; Elaine Purchase, Pediatric Interim Care Center; Chad Vaculin, Evergreen Treatment Services; Brandie Flood, Evergreen Treatment Services; Jen Chong Jewell.

OTHER: Lance Morehouse, Sherwood Community Services; John Lemus, AtWork!; Jennifer Green; Alyssa Odegaard, LeadingAge Washington; Karen Pillar, TeamChild; Shawn Latham, Self Advocates In Leadership; Mary Pierce, Evergreen Healthcare; Daniel Watt, Allied Residential Care; Amy Seils, Cascadia Healthcare; Nikki Storms, The Hampton Alzheimer Special Care Center; Shannon Nelson, Ensign Services; Loupel Antiquiera, Ensign Services; Noah Seidel, Office of Developmental Disabilities Ombuds; Cathy Murahashi, The Arc of Washington; Emily Brice, Northwest Health Law Advocates; Samuel Martin, The Mockingbird Society; Hali Willis, Seattle/King County Coalition on Homelessness; Kim Justice, Partners for Our Children; Jessica Renner, Self; Carma Matti-Jackson, Washington Health Care Association; Mary Mitchell, Seattle King County Aging Services/WA Assoc Area Agencies on Aging; Manuel Navarro, Columbia Valley Community Health; Giannina Ferrara, Center for Children & Youth Justice; Alyssa Patrick, Washington Association for Community Health; Roxana Gomez, Legal Counsel for Youth and Children; Alison Mondy, Arcora Foundation; Jeff DeLuca, Washington State Community Action Partnership; Sean Graham, Washington State Medical Association; Nick Federici, Pioneer Human Services; Victor Estrada.

Natural Resources. PRO: Leonard Johnson, WA Fire Chiefs Association & McLane Black Lake Fire Department; Dave Uptegrove, Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands, Department of Natural Resources.

OTHER: Matt Doumit, Washington Forest Protection Association; Brady Dier, Washington Public Employees Association; Skippy Shaw, The Nature Conservancy in Washington; Katie Fields, Washington Prescribe Fire Council; Jasmine Zimmer-Stucky, Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership; Adán Espino Jr, Coalition for Regenerative & Organic Agriculture.

All Other. PRO: Commissioner Carolina Mejia, Thurston County; Christine Cooley, Puget Sound Clean Air Agency.

CON: Kari VanderHouwen, Pharm-A-Save Granite Falls; Wesley Jessup, Eastern Washington State Historical Society - Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture; Denise Perez Lally; Will Quinby.

OTHER: Sara Robbins, Washington State Office of Civil Legal Aid; Sophia Byrd McSherry, Washington State Office of Public Defense; Ramona Brandes, Washington Defender Association/Washington Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; Candice Bock, Association of Washington Cities; Sam Hatzenbeler, Economic Opportunity Institute; Corey Guilmette, Civil Survival; Sophia Thomas; Christine Simonsmeier, Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators; Candi Shute, Washington Association of Juvenile Court Administrators; Judge Cindy Larsen, Superior Court Judges' Association; Judge Rachelle Anderson, Superior Court Judges' Association; Anne Burkland, Human Rights Commission; Nicole Gomez, AFSCME Council 28/Washington Federation of State Employees ; Altinay Karasapan, Climate Solutions; Gregory Joseph, Alliance for Gun Responsibility; Audrey Miller Garcia, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; Mayor Terri Cooper, City of Medical Lake; Gary Rowe, Public Works Board.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** Human Services. PRO: Tina Bakowski.

CON: craig sicilia.

OTHER: Laura Randall; LaDessa Croucher, Resolution Washington; Reggie Beltran, Linden Grove Center; De Anna Winterrose, Benton/Franklin Parent Coalition; Jessica Renner, Self.

**EFFECT OF HOUSE AMENDMENT(S):**

- Decreases additional authorized expenditures subject to the balanced budget requirement by \$175 million over the 2025-27 fiscal biennium and increases additional authorized expenditures subject to the balanced budget requirement by \$248 million over the 2027-29 fiscal biennium. Detailed information on the striking amendment and comparisons with the underlying ESSB 5998 can be found at <https://fiscal.wa.gov/statebudgets/operatingbudgetmain>.