



2017 Vote Record Narrative

The 2017 legislative session truly lived up to expectations. Stretching out over three “special” sessions and a total of 195 days, the two-year operating budget wasn’t agreed on and passed until June 30 – just hours before a partial government shutdown would have gone into place.

Due to the failure to reach agreement on a permanent fix to the rural water crisis caused by the state Supreme Court’s Hirst decision issued last fall, the Senate stood their ground and did not pass the 2017/19 Capital Budget. For week’s the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus made it clear that it would not bring the capital budget up for a vote until the House approved an agreed-upon fix to the Hirst crisis. Four times the Senate passed legislation creating a permanent Hirst fix. Unfortunately, the House majority caucus would only agree to a temporary fix that lasted 1 to 2 years.

Given the importance of the Capital Budget, it is likely that key legislators will remain engaged in discussions over the summer seeking a resolution to the Hirst crisis in order obtain passage of the Capital Budget.

As we have noted in the past, the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus’ control of the Senate has prevented passage of bills harmful to agriculture and business. And, as in recent years, the experienced leaders in the House were reluctant to bring bills up for final passage on the House floor that would force some of their members to take a tough vote on a bill that was only going to die in the Senate.

This scenario created another challenging quest for us to find bills for inclusion in a vote record that would provide you with a helpful tool to measure how your legislators voted on agricultural issues. We believe we have succeeded in showcasing a list of bills that will be useful to you in opening a dialogue with elected officials and in fostering a working relationship with them.

As in the past, this year’s vote record records how legislators voted on each bill and provides a tally of their overall vote record. Unless otherwise noted, the vote listed for each bill is the one cast for the final version of the bill. For each missed vote, we deducted one percentage point from the score. We understand that legislators sometimes miss votes for valid reasons, such as negotiations on other bills. However, the fact remains that the legislator did not participate in a vote on a bill important to agriculture.

Joyce	McDonald	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Dick	Muri	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Ed	Orcutt	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Joe	Schmick	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Melanie	Stambaugh	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Mike	Steele	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Drew	Stokesbary	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
David	Taylor	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Luanne	Van Werven	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Brandon	Vick	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
Mike	Volz	(R)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	89%
J.T.	Wilcox	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Jesse	Young	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	89%
Richard	DeBolt	(R)	✗	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%
Norma	Smith	(R)	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%
Vicki	Kraft	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	78%
Gina	McCabe	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	78%
Terry	Nealey	(R)	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	78%
Liz	Pike	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	78%
Matt	Shea	(R)	✓	✓	E	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	76%
Jay	Rodne	(R)	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	E	✗	75%
Brian	Blake	(D)	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%
Jessyn	Farrell	(D)	✗	✓		✗	✗	✓	✓	✓		57%
Sherry	Appleton	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Steve	Bergquist	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Mike	Chapman	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Frank	Chopp	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Judy	Clibborn	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Eileen	Cody	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Beth	Doglio	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Laurie	Dolan	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Jake	Fey	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Joe	Fitzgibbon	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Noel	Frame	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Mia	Gregerson	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Drew	Hansen	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Zack	Hudgins	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Laurie	Jinkins	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Ruth	Kagi	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Christine	Kilduff	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%

Steve	Kirby	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Shelley	Kloba	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
John	Lovick	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Joan	McBride	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Timm	Ormsby	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Lillian	Ortiz-Self	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Tina	Orwall	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Mike	Pellicciotti	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Strom	Peterson	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Eric	Pettigrew	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Kristine	Reeves	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Marcus	Riccelli	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
June	Robinson	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Mike	Sells	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Tana	Senn	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Vandana	Slatter	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Larry	Springer	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Pat	Sullivan	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Gael	Tarleton	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Steve	Tharinger	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Sharon	Tomiko Santos	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Sharon	Wylie	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	56%
Javier	Valdez	(D)			✗						✓	50%
Roger	Goodman	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	44%
Monica	Jurado Stonier	(D)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	44%
Kristine	Lytton	(D)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	44%
Nicole	Macri	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	44%
Cindy	Ryu	(D)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	44%
Jeff	Morris	(D)	✗	✓	E	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	E	42%
David	Sawyer	(D)	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	33%
Gerry	Pollet	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	E	✓	25%
Derek	Stanford	(D)	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	22%

Here is a summary of the bills used in this year's Vote Record:

HB 1097 – Hunting/tribal consultation: *Oppose.* This bill would have allowed a federally recognized tribe to request a consultation with the governor or a designee on any WDFW policy, rule or action that a tribe believed impacted its hunting activities. Passed House 64-33 (Yeas-Nays) but died in the Senate.

HB 1136 – Nonfuel-Oil Spill Planning: *Support.* HB 1136 limits the scope of oil spill contingency plan requirements for Class III (small) railroads that do not haul crude oil in bulk. It was effectively argued that Ecology rules were not appropriate for short-line railroads serving many farm communities across the state. The bill passed the House 94-1, the Senate 46-3 and was signed by the governor.

HB 1465 – Wolf Depredation: *Support.* This bill protects ranchers impacted by wolf depredations by exempting from public disclosure laws certain personal identifying information of individuals involved in preventative measures regarding wolf interactions, or who report wolf depredations. Passed the House 92-4, the Senate 45-4 and was signed by the governor.

HB 2163 – Tax Increases: *Oppose.* HB 2163 makes a number of changes to the tax code, including repealing (again!) the sales exemption on bottled water, to raise \$456 million in new tax revenue in the next two years. The House passed the bill 53-40, the Senate 33-16. It was signed by the governor.

HB 2182 – Hazardous Substance Tax: *Oppose.* HB 2182 would have created a new tiered rate for the state's Hazardous Substance tax. It would have increased the tax rate for fuel, fertilizers and ag chemicals. Passed the House 50-47, but died in the Senate.

SB 5048 – 2017/19 Operating Budget – Senate Version: *Support.* The Senate's version of the budget, supported by the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus, would have relied on a statewide property tax earmarked for education and increased revenue from existing taxes. The budget bill passed the Senate 25-24.

SB 5048 – 2017/19 Operating Budget – House Version: *Oppose.* This was the House Democrat version of the 2017-19 state operating budget and was based on raising \$3 billion in new taxes. The new taxes included 7 percent tax on capital-gains earnings above \$25,000 for single filers and \$50,000 for joint filers, and an increase in the B&O tax for businesses grossing more than \$250,000. It passed the House by a vote 50-48.

SB 5196 – Cattle Feedlots/odor and dust: *Support.* This legislation requires that air-quality rules treat cattle feedlots the same as other agricultural operations. In addition, it extends the current exemption to feedlots while establishing a process and guidelines for addressing activities that may be detrimental to the environment. Under the new law, violations must be clearly documented with evidence, setting a higher bar than current practice. Passed the Senate 30-19, the House 96-2, and was signed by the governor.

SB 5228 – HPA Jurisdiction: *Support.* The bill would have created a legislative task force to seek clarification for when and where a WDFW hydraulic permit is required. SB 5228 passed the Senate 28-21 but died in the House.

SB 5239 – Water Availability: *Support.* SB 5239 was introduced to provide a permanent fix to the crisis created by the Hirst decision. It would restore water law to what it was before the State Supreme Court’s “Hirst Decision” and eliminate the significant property value reduction that will occur for many rural landowners that realistically would not be able get water for new development. The bill was passed by the Senate FOUR times. It passed the Senate 28-21.

SB 5517 – GMA Rail Dependent Uses: *Support.* This bill authorizes Clark and Okanogan counties to adopt development regulations to allow certain agricultural, forest or mineral resource lands adjacent to short-line railroads to be developed for freight rail dependent uses. Passed the Senate 35-11, the House 82-12 and was signed by the governor.

SB 5720 – Production Based Compensation: *Support.* SB 5720 was known as the “Sakuma Fix” bill stemming from a State Supreme Court ruling that essentially said those paying piece rate must compensate for rest and break periods. This legislation would have clarified that an agricultural employer may elect to pay remedial compensation to their employees for break times and rest periods and if the employer paid remedial compensation, the employer would not be held liable for a claim or cause of action for failure to pay for break times and rest periods. Passed the Senate 28-18, but the House failed to hold a hearing on the bill.

SB 5790 – GMA Economic Development: *Support.* SB 5790 would allow counties experiencing “economic deterioration” to loosen industrial and commercial restrictions in rural areas mandated under GMA, in order to encourage job creation. It also requires the Growth Management Hearings Board defer to local governments under these circumstances. Although this bill passed the Senate 36-11, and the House 93-5, it’s help for rural areas was significantly reduced by Governor Inslee’s partial veto.

SB 5808 – Agritourism: *Support.* This bill provides an extra level of liability protection for farmers involved in agritourism. The bill states an agritourism professional is not liable for unintentional injury, loss, damage, or death resulting exclusively from the inherent risks of an agritourism activity, with certain exceptions. It also requires every agritourism professional to post a specified warning notice at the site of an agritourism activity and to include the warning notice in written contracts. It passed the Senate 45-3, the House 96-0, and was signed into law by the governor.

SB 5883 – Final 2017/19 Operating Budget: *Support.* This was the final compromise budget approved by the Legislature just hours before state government was scheduled to shut down. While it avoided any major tax increases, it does rely on the tax increases approved in HB 2163. This budget represents a spending increase of almost \$5 billion over the current two-year budget. Most of the increase will go to K-12 education to meet McCleary Decision obligations. It passed the Senate 39-10, the House 70-23, and was signed by the governor.