



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

May 20, 2025

To the Honorable President and Members,
The Senate of the State of Washington

Esteemed Colleagues:

I am returning herewith, without my approval as to Sections 114(11), 117(8), 126(20), 129(16), 129(18), 129(19), 129(28), 129(30), 129(31), 129(32), 129(34), 129(35), 129(36), 129(37), 130(28), 131(11), 131(12), 131(16), 132(10), 133(15), 133(16), 152, page 95, lines 15-25, 155(4), 203(2)(d), 204(27), 206(2), 211(51), 211(60), 214(61)(d), 214(68)(c), 219(16), 225(17), 226(16), 230(7)(f)(i), 234(27), 235(20), 235(23), 234(26), 236(21), 237(1), 302(15), 302(16), 302(35), 302(37), 302(38), 302(40), 305(7), 305(8), 305(10), 305(11), 308(27), 309(3), 310(10), 310(19), 310(20), 311(14), 311(18), 401, page 340, line 7, 401(3), 401(6), 605(39), 606(64), 610(3)(f), 942, 1202(14), 1207, page 848, lines 22-23, 1208, page 850, lines 1-2, 1223, page 1058, line 28, page 1059, lines 8-9, 1223(6), 1223(26), 1223(36), 1223(41), 1223(42), 1223(43), Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5167 entitled:

"AN ACT Relating to fiscal matters."

Section 114(11), page 11, Administrative Office of the Courts, Interbranch Advisory Committee

This section provides funding to make the Interbranch Advisory Committee a permanent committee within the Administrative Office of the Courts. Because this committee is already established, the new funding is unnecessary. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 114(11).

Section 117(8), page 18, Office of the Governor, Clemency and Pardons

This section states that appropriations for the Governor's Office for fiscal years 2026 and 2027 are sufficient to implement Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1131 (Clemency and Pardons Board). E2SHB 1131 expands the membership of the Clemency and Pardons Board, makes board members eligible for compensation, and makes changes to the board's process of reviewing applications and other functions. The Legislature did not provide funding to implement this expansion of the board's work. Therefore, I am vetoing Section 117(8). I intend to seek the necessary funding to support the work contemplated by E2SHB 1131 in the next budget.

Section 126(20), page 30, Office of the Attorney General, Digital Electronics/Repair

This item provides funding to implement Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1483 related to digital electronics/repair. The Office of the Attorney General may utilize its Miscellaneous Program Account to pay for the cost of implementing this bill. Therefore, I am vetoing Section 126(20).

Section 129(16), page 37, Department of Commerce, Cultural Programs/Navigation

Support

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce for a grant to a nonprofit to support individuals facing language and cultural barriers engaging with public services. While supporting access to public services is valuable, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(16).

Section 129(18), pages 37-38, Department of Commerce, Domestic Violence Intervention Treatment

This section provides funding for the Department of Commerce to continue a study comparing domestic violence intervention models. Exploring intervention models for domestic violence is worthwhile, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(18).

Section 129(19), page 38, Department of Commerce, Teen Center Counseling/Case Services

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for a nonprofit that operates a teen case management and housing connections support program. Supporting programs and services for youth is important, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(19).

Section 129(28), page 42, Department of Commerce, Opioid Prevention and Treatment

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an association to coordinate opioid treatment and prevention services. While coordination to support opioid prevention and treatment is valuable, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(28).

Section 129(30), page 42, Department of Commerce, Afghan Women Learning and Translation Services

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that provides translation services for low-income Afghan women and girls. Supporting greater access to translation services provides value, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(30).

Section 129(31), page 42, Department of Commerce, Farm Worker Telehealth Services

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that provides telehealth services for Washington farm workers. Increasing access to telehealth services is worthwhile, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(31).

Section 129(32), pages 42-43, Department of Commerce, Healthy Relationship Skill-Building

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that provides programming to facilitate healthy relationship skill building girl groups. Creating skill building opportunities for our youth is valuable, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(32).

Section 129(34), page 43, Department of Commerce, Spanish Speakers for HIV Services

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that supports Spanish speakers in accessing HIV treatment. Expanding access to HIV treatment is important, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(34).

Section 129(35), page 43, Department of Commerce, Refugee Skating Lessons

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that provides skating lessons for preschoolers from low-income families. Growing youth enrichment opportunities is beneficial, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(35).

Section 129(36), page 43, Department of Commerce, Spanish Speaking Community Services

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for an organization that provides bilingual, free, community health services, programs, and outreach. Access to free community health services supports communities, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(36).

Section 129(37), page 43, Department of Commerce, Health Services Study

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for a study of the effectiveness of a Seattle organization's health delivery model. While this is important, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 129(37).

Section 130(28), page 54, Department of Commerce, Senior Independent Living Study

This section provides funding for the Department of Commerce to study how to create a register of housing options that are marketed as "Senior Independent Living" communities to individuals aged 55 years or older. Supporting our seniors is important to me, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 130(28).

Section 131(11), page 57, Department of Commerce, Document Management System

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for a grant to the City of Battle Ground for a document management system. While this is valuable work, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 131(11).

Section 131(12), page 57, Department of Commerce, Biometric Monitoring System

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for a grant to the City of Issaquah for a pilot biometric monitoring system. While this is important, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 131(12).

Section 131(16), page 58, Department of Commerce, Digital Navigator Program

This section provides funding to the Department of Commerce solely for grants to entities that provide digital navigator services, devices, and subscriptions. Digital navigator services are worthwhile, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 131(16).

Section 132(10), page 61, Department of Commerce, Quantum Computing Strategy

This section provides funding for the Department of Commerce to develop a quantum computing strategy. Though important, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 132(10). In recognition of the importance that quantum computing has on our state's economic future, I am directing the department to develop industry partnerships, identify gaps, and offer specific policy recommendations to build Washington's quantum computing ecosystem.

Section 133(15), page 69, Department of Commerce, Battery Energy Storage Systems

This section provides funding for the Department of Commerce to develop guidance documents on different types of battery storage systems technologies. Creating this type of guidance can be beneficial, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 133(15).

Section 133(16), page 69, Department of Commerce, Local Government Energy Guidebook

This section provides funding for the Department of Commerce to create a local government clean energy guidebook. While such a guidebook has value, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 133(16).

Section 152, page 95, lines 15-25, Board for Volunteer Firefighters, Study of Volunteer Firefighter Occupational Disease

This section directs the Board for Volunteer Firefighters to contract with the Department of Commerce to study the extension of duty-related occupational disease presumptions in

volunteer firefighters. The Advisory Committee on Occupational Disease Presumptions, housed in the Department of Labor and Industries, was established in 2019 to specifically review scientific evidence regarding occupational diseases for first responders. This study is duplicative of those efforts. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 152, page 95, lines 15-25.

Section 155(4), page 100, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 155(4).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 203(2)(d), pages 128-129, Department of Social and Health Services, Rainier School Water Ownership/Operations

This section requires the Department of Social and Health Services to develop recommendations for the future ownership of the Rainier School water treatment facility and suggested outcomes for the Rainier School property. It is no longer necessary to immediately address the future plans for the facility because Substitute Senate Bill 5393 delays closure and the department will continue to provide operational support for the water treatment facility at Rainier School. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 203(2)(d). However, I am directing the department to uphold the commitment to work closely with the City of Buckley, impacted communities, people with lived experience, and families of Rainier School residents to develop the best strategies for the future of the water treatment services and any potential benefits of the sale, transfer, or alternative use of the property.

Section 204(27), page 136, Department of Social and Health Services, Senior Outreach Services

This section requires the Department of Social and Health Services to provide outreach services and case management to seniors living in the southwest King County region. The department has funding available for this specific purpose and is prepared to serve the needs of seniors in the community within existing program resources. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 204(27).

Section 206(2), page 147, Department of Social and Health Services, Independent Living Services

This section increases funding in fiscal year 2026 for independent living services through the

Department of Social and Health Services' Division of Vocational Rehabilitation. Increasing independent living options is worthwhile, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 206(2).

Section 211(51), pages 168-169, Health Care Authority, 988 Project Funding

This section requires the Health Care Authority to use the Department of Health's accounting codes for the 988 program. Given the restrictions of the state's current chart of accounts, the Health Care Authority cannot implement this section. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 211(51).

Section 211(60), pages 172-173, Health Care Authority, HCMACS/Electronic Health Records

This section requires the Health Care Authority to use the Department of Corrections' accounting codes for the HCMACS/Electronic Health Records project. Given the restrictions of the state's current chart of accounts, the Health Care Authority cannot implement this section. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 211(60).

Section 214(61)(d), page 210, Health Care Authority, Crisis Relief Center Report

This section directs the Health Care Authority to submit a report on a sustainable funding model for crisis relief center services. Funding was not provided for the work associated with the report and the timeline is not achievable. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 214(61)(d).

Section 214(68)(c), pages 213-214, Health Care Authority, Community Behavioral Health Services Task Force and Report

This section directs the Health Care Authority to convene a task force and submit a report on the Community Behavioral Health Supports program. Funding was not provided for this work and the timeline is not achievable. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 214(68)(c).

Section 219(16), page 228, Department of Labor and Industries, Engrossed Senate Bill 5023, Domestic Workers

This section provides funding to the Department of Labor and Industries to implement Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5023, which did not pass the Legislature. Because the funding has lapsed, I am vetoing Section 219(16).

Section 225(17), page 249, Department of Health, Music Therapist Fees

This section provides funding for the Department of Health to continue implementation of the music therapist program and establish the Music Therapist Advisory Committee. This additional funding is not necessary because this work was done in the 2023-25 biennium and future operations will be supported by fees. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 225(17).

Section 226(16), page 254, Department of Health, Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Stipends

This section funds a new program at the Department of Health to provide stipends for registered nurses who are training to become sexual assault nurse examiners. This training is valuable, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 226(16).

Section 230(7)(f)(i), page 269, Department of Corrections, Opioid Treatment

This section provides funding for the Department of Corrections to treat individuals in state prisons for opioid use disorder. The 2025-27 biennial budget changes the language in this proviso from the enacted 2024 supplemental budget, newly restricting this funding only to purchase medication. This leaves the department without funding for the medical professionals necessary to diagnose, treat, and monitor individuals receiving this medication. The department must have the flexibility with this funding for all aspects of opioid use disorder treatment to fulfill the direction in the proviso. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 230(7)(f)(i).

Section 234(26), page 284, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Foster Youth Rights Workgroup

This section directs the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to convene a workgroup on the rights of foster youth. The amount appropriated by the Legislature is insufficient to conduct the workgroup. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 234(26).

Section 234(27), pages 284-285, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Pediatric Interim Care Center

This section directs the Department of Children, Youth and Families to contract for a pediatric interim care center. The Legislature significantly reduced the funding for this program and while this is important, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 234(27).

Section 235(20), pages 292-293, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Expanding Juvenile Rehabilitation Facility Capacity

This section directs the Department of Children, Youth and Families to develop and submit a proposal for expanding juvenile rehabilitation facility capacity. The 2025-27 capital budget includes two items that will produce similar information to what is directed by this item. In addition, the due date for this item does not allow enough time for the department to complete this work. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 235(20). However, I am directing the department to include the information requested in this proviso in its final proposal.

Section 235(23), pages 293-294, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Secure Communication Contract

This section provides funding for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to implement a secure communication technology system in juvenile rehabilitation facilities. This one-time funding was provided for the 2025-27 biennium, but the technology system will have ongoing costs, which are currently unknown. Though this technology system is worthwhile, I

am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges, funding cuts from the federal government, and the potential ongoing costs of such a system. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 235(23).

Section 236(21), page 300, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, Mental Health Child Care Pilot

This section directs the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to contract with a licensed child care center in Spokane with an existing mental health program to implement a trauma-informed early learning environment. The funding is not sufficient to conduct the procurement and provide contract oversight. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 236(21).

Section 237(1), page 301, Department of Children, Youth, and Families, State Mentoring Program

This section directs the Department of Children, Youth, and Families to contract for a program that mentors foster children and youth. The Legislature significantly reduced the funding for this program and, while valuable, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 237(1).

Sections 302(15), pages 309-310; 302(16), pages 310-311, Department of Ecology, Offshore Wind Authorities Report

These sections provide funding for the Department of Ecology to evaluate state siting and permitting authorities related to offshore wind and to convene a Tribal-state panel to advance the scientific understanding of the ecological impacts of offshore wind along the Washington coast. Given the current federal administration's position on offshore wind, this work is less time sensitive. I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 302(15) and Section 302(16). However, I am committed to continued dialogue with coastal Tribes regarding the future of offshore wind projects on Washington's coast.

Section 302(35), pages 315-316, Department of Ecology, Walla Walla Site Cleanup

This section provides funding for the Department of Ecology to enter into a contract to pay for access to conduct clean-up actions at sites adjacent to an underground storage tank gasoline spill in Walla Walla. The proviso diverges from how the state has historically invested cleanup funding. Washington law requires the responsible party to either pay for the cleanup or reimburse the state for the cleanup and associated work to address the impacts to human health and the environment. Affected properties can choose to pursue a private right of action pursuant to the Model Toxics Control Act to recover funds. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 302(35).

Section 302(37), page 316, Department of Ecology, Nooksack Water Right Adjudication Settlement

This section directs the Department of Ecology to engage relevant parties in a process that could result in a federal Indian water rights settlement through the Nooksack adjudication. The

agency filed a general stream adjudication for the Nooksack watershed with the Whatcom County Superior Court on May 1, 2024. It is through this adjudication process that each water use in the watershed will be evaluated under Washington's water laws, and it is premature in the process to pursue a water rights settlement in fiscal year 2026. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 302(37).

Section 302(38), page 316, Department of Ecology, Vancouver Lake Management Plan

This section provides funding for the Department of Ecology to provide a grant to Clark County to develop and implement a plan to restore and maintain the health of Vancouver Lake. The department has funding in the current biennium for this purpose, and the work will be completed by June 30, 2025. Therefore, new funding in the 2025-27 biennium is not needed. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 302(38).

Section 302(40), pages 316-317, Department of Ecology, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Department of Ecology to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 302(40).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 305(7), page 319, Recreation and Conservation Office, Outdoor Recreation

This section provides funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office to promote outdoor recreation access for underrepresented communities impacted by environmental inequities. While I remain committed to providing outdoor recreational access to underrepresented communities, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 305(7).

Section 305(8), page 319, Recreation and Conservation Office, Lake Union Water Safety

This section provides funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office to provide water safety education for recreators on Lake Union. Though water safety education has value, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 305(8).

Section 305(10), pages 319-320, Recreation and Conservation Office, Recreation/Park Funding Workgroup

This section provides funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office to convene a

workgroup to evaluate state agency recreational and park funding and to explore long-term funding strategies as directed in Section 6 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5390 (Access to Recreational Sites). I have vetoed Section 6 of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5390, and for this reason, I am vetoing Section 305(10).

Section 305(11), page 320, Recreation and Conservation Office, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Recreation and Conservation Office to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 305(11).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 308(27), pages 328-329, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Department of Fish and Wildlife to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 308(27).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 309(3), page 330, Puget Sound Partnership, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Puget Sound Partnership to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 309(3).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 310(10), pages 333-334, Department of Natural Resources, Multiagency Permitting Team

This section provides new funding for the Department of Natural Resources to participate in the Multiagency Permitting Team for streamlining the review of environmental restoration projects that directly impact fish habitat. The funding supports the work associated with the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program, created by the passage of Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1382 in 2021. The program sunsets on June 30, 2025, and legislation extending the program failed to pass in the 2025 legislative session. Without the accompanying statutory authority to change the permitting process and requirements, the benefits of this work are limited. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 310(10).

However, I am supportive of the concept of streamlining permitting for habitat restoration projects, and I am requesting the agencies listed on the Multiagency Permitting Team to explore submitting request legislation next session that would reauthorize the Habitat Recovery Program.

Section 310(19), page 335, Department of Natural Resources, Surface Mine Reclamation

This section provides additional funding for the Department of Natural Resources to implement Senate Bill 5319 (Surface Mine Reclamation Permit Fees). The bill raises fee revenue from surface mine operators for the department to oversee operation and reclamation of surface mines. The agency's existing expenditure authority from the Surface Mining Reclamation Account is sufficient to utilize the increased revenue. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 310(19).

Section 310(20), page 335, Department of Natural Resources, Civil Enforcement Appeals

This section provides funding for the Department of Natural Resources to implement Senate Bill 5334, which creates an appeals process for certain civil penalties issued by the department. The agency initially expected up to three appeals annually, which would require additional staff to support these appeals. Upon further consideration and conference with the Attorney General's Office, the agency now expects there will be fewer appeals annually and it can absorb any impact from that work within existing expenditure authority. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 310(20).

Section 311(14), page 338, Department of Agriculture, Organic Farming Grants

This section provides funding for the Department of Agriculture to contract with a nonprofit organization to administer a low-barrier grant program to support organic agriculture. Making organic agriculture more accessible is important, but I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 311(14).

Section 311(18), pages 338-339, Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Equity

This section provides funding for the Department of Agriculture to provide economic support, training, and services to those historically marginalized and underrepresented in agriculture. While it is important to advance equity and reduce disparities in the agricultural sector, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 311(18).

Sections 401, page 340, line 7 and 401(3), pages 340-341, Department of Licensing, Senate Bill 5420, Veteran Benefits Access

This section provides funding to the Department of Licensing to implement Senate Bill 5420, which did not pass the Legislature. Because the funding has lapsed, I am vetoing Section 401, page 340, line 7, and Section 401(3).

Section 401(6), page 341, Department of Licensing, Real Estate Appraisers

This section uses state general funds to supplement the Real Estate Appraiser License Program at the Department of Licensing. It also creates a cap on licensing fee rates for real estate appraisers which would lower the rates from current levels. Real estate appraisers, like all professions that receive oversight from the Department of Licensing, are required to support the program they operate under entirely through fees. This means the profession must periodically increase fees to accommodate for inflation and other cost factors. While this is difficult for professions, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For these reasons, I am vetoing Section 401(6).

Section 605(39), page 401, State Board for Community and Technical Colleges, Hospitality Center of Excellence

This section provides funding for the Hospitality Center of Excellence at Columbia Basin College. Though this is a worthwhile endeavor, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 605(39).

Section 606(64), page 414, University of Washington, Housing Mini-Academy

This section provides funding for the Housing Mini-Academy. Though this work is important, I am vetoing this item because of the state's significant fiscal challenges and funding cuts from the federal government. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 606(64).

Section 610(3)(f), page 425, The Evergreen State College, Housing Cost Task Force

This section provides funding to The Evergreen State College to implement Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill 1108 (Housing Cost Task Force). I have vetoed E2SHB 1108, and therefore, the funding has lapsed. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 610(3)(f).

Section 942, pages 511-512, Department of Retirement Systems, Excess Compensation Threshold

This section reduces the threshold where employers must reimburse the pension system for increased benefits that result from “excessive compensation,” which is sometimes referred to as “pension spiking.” The item would temporarily reduce one threshold from double-time to time-and-a-half, which creates administrative challenges for multiple state and local government employers. Additionally, a substantive change such as this is better achieved through a statutory change. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 942.

Section 1202(14), page 787, Department of Social and Health Services, Design and Planning Activities for New Forensic Hospital

Changes to fiscal year 2024 appropriations are prohibited in the 2025 supplemental budget because that fiscal year is closed. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1202(14).

Sections 1207, page 848, lines 22-23; 1208, page 850, lines 1-2, Department of Social and Health Services, Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund-State Appropriation

The 2025 supplemental budget makes large reductions to the Department of Social and Health Services, leaving the agency in a position where it may not have sufficient resources to close fiscal year 2025. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1207, page 848, lines 22-23, and Section 1208, page 850, lines 1-2.

Section 1223, page 1058, line 28, and page 1059, lines 7-9, Employment Security Department, Top Line Appropriations

This section changes the funding source for multiple items by using the Administrative Contingency Account instead of the General Fund and Workforce Education Investment Account. Several of these items do not fall within the allowable uses of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223, page 1058, line 28, and page 1059, lines 7-9. However, I am directing the Office of Financial Management, in collaboration with the Employment Security Department, to place any unexpended amounts in unallotted status.

Section 1223(6), page 1060, Employment Security Department, Career Connected Learning

The Workforce Education Investment Account appropriation was reduced for Career Connected Learning and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(6).

Section 1223(26), page 1065, Employment Security Department, AmeriCorps Living Stipend

The General Fund-State appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was reduced for the Washington Service Corps living stipend increase and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(26).

Section 1223(36), page 1066, Employment Security Department, Transportation Network

Navigators

The General Fund-State appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was reduced for Transportation Network Navigators associated with a Paid Family and Medical Leave pilot program and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(36).

Section 1223(41), page 1067, Employment Security Department, North Thurston Career Connected Learning Expansion

The General Fund-State appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was reduced for a one-time Career Connected Learning expansion for North Central and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(41).

Section 1223(42), pages 1067-1068, Employment Security Department, Demographic Data Feasibility

The General Fund-State appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was reduced for a one-time Demographic Data Feasibility study for the Unemployment Insurance program and the Paid Family and Medical Leave program and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(42).

Section 1223(43), pages 1068-1069, Employment Security Department, Wage Replacement Program Workgroup

The General Fund-State appropriation for fiscal year 2025 was reduced for a wage replacement program for an undocumented workers work group and replaced with Administrative Contingency Account funds. This is not currently an allowable use of the Administrative Contingency Account. For this reason, I am vetoing Section 1223(43).

For these reasons I have vetoed Sections 114(11), 117(8), 126(20), 129(16), 129(18), 129(19), 129(28), 129(30), 129(31), 129(32), 129(34), 129(35), 129(36), 129(37), 130(28), 131(11), 131(12), 131(16), 132(10), 133(15), 133(16), 152, page 95, lines 15-25, 155(4), 203(2)(d), 204(27), 206(2), 211(51), 211(60), 214(61)(d), 214(68)(c), 219(16), 225(17), 226(16), 230(7)(f)(i), 234(27), 235(20), 235(23), 234(26), 236(21), 237(1), 302(15), 302(16), 302(35), 302(37), 302(38), 302(40), 305(7), 305(8), 305(10), 305(11), 308(27), 309(3), 310(10), 310(19), 310(20), 311(14), 311(18), 401, page 340, line 7, 401(3), 401(6), 605(39), 606(64), 610(3)(f), 942, 1202(14), 1207, page 848, lines 22-23, 1208, page 850, lines 1-2, 1223, page 1058, line 28, page 1059, lines 8-9, 1223(6), 1223(26), 1223(36), 1223(41), 1223(42), 1223(43) of Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5167.

With the exception of Sections 114(11), 117(8), 126(20), 129(16), 129(18), 129(19), 129(28), 129(30), 129(31), 129(32), 129(34), 129(35), 129(36), 129(37), 130(28), 131(11), 131(12), 131(16), 132(10), 133(15), 133(16), 152, page 95, lines 15-25, 155(4), 203(2)(d), 204(27), 206(2), 211(51), 211(60), 214(61)(d), 214(68)(c), 219(16), 225(17), 226(16), 230(7)(f)(i), 234(27), 235(20), 235(23), 234(26), 236(21), 237(1), 302(15), 302(16), 302(35), 302(37), 302(38), 302(40), 305(7), 305(8), 305(10), 305(11), 308(27), 309(3), 310(10), 310(19), 310(20), 311(14), 311(18), 401, page 340, line 7, 401(3), 401(6), 605(39), 606(64), 610(3)(f), 942, 1202(14), 1207, page 848, lines 22-23, 1208, page 850, lines 1-2, 1223, page 1058, line 28, page 1059, lines 8-9, 1223(6), 1223(26), 1223(36), 1223(41), 1223(42), 1223(43), Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill No. 5167 is approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Bob Ferguson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Bob Ferguson
Governor