

SECOND DAY, JANUARY 9, 2024

2024 REGULAR SESSION

SECOND DAY**MORNING SESSION**Senate Chamber, Olympia
Tuesday, January 9, 2024

The Senate was called to order at 11:40 a.m. by the President of the Senate, Lt. Governor Heck presiding. No roll call was taken.

MOTIONS

On motion of Senator Pedersen, the reading of the Journal of the previous day was dispensed with and it was approved.

On motion of Senator Pedersen, the Senate advanced to the fourth order of business.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

January 9, 2024

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Speaker has signed:

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4406,

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 4407,

and the same are herewith transmitted.

MELISSA PALMER, Deputy Chief Clerk

January 8, 2024

MR. PRESIDENT:

The House has passed:

SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1012,

ENGROSSED SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL NO. 1245,

HOUSE BILL NO. 1455,

and the same are herewith transmitted.

MELISSA PALMER, Deputy Chief Clerk

MOTION

On motion of Senator Pedersen, the Senate advanced to the fifth order of business.

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READINGSB 6041 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to prohibiting the provision of false or misleading information under the ethics in public service act; and adding a new section to chapter 42.52 RCW.

Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

SB 6042 by Senator Wilson, C.

AN ACT Relating to services and procedures for juveniles releasing from juvenile detention facilities; amending RCW 13.40.040, 13.40.050, 13.32A.150, 13.32A.152, 13.32A.191, and 43.330.724; and adding a new section to chapter 43.216 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6043 by Senator Muzzall

AN ACT Relating to the authority of the department of natural resources to determine recreational use fees for

activities on agency-managed public lands; and amending RCW 4.24.210.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 6044 by Senator Fortunato

AN ACT Relating to juvenile access to an attorney; and amending RCW 13.40.740.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6045 by Senator Hunt

AN ACT Relating to school district efficiencies and consolidation; adding a new section to chapter 28A.345 RCW; adding new sections to chapter 28A.315 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 44.28 RCW; and providing a contingent expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 6046 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to suspending the statute of limitations for childhood sexual abuse claims against bankruptcy estates of certain organizations; adding a new section to chapter 4.16 RCW; creating a new section; providing an expiration date; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6047 by Senator Warnick

AN ACT Relating to executive sessions by publicly owned natural gas utilities under the open public meetings act in order to comply with the climate commitment act; reenacting and amending RCW 42.30.110; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

SB 6048 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to funding special education ombuds; and making an appropriation.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6049 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to supporting students' learning recovery with high quality tutoring, rigorous extended learning programs, and summer school programs; adding a new section to chapter 28A.630 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 6050 by Senator Warnick

AN ACT Relating to supporting young adults following inpatient behavioral health treatment; adding a new section to chapter 74.09 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6051 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to manslaughter when certain controlled substances are sold that result in death of the user; and amending RCW 9A.32.060.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6052 by Senator Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to petroleum products supply and pricing; amending RCW 19.86.140 and 42.56.330; adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

SB 6053 by Senator Holy

AN ACT Relating to improving equitable access to postsecondary education by improving data sharing between the office of the superintendent of public instruction, the Washington student achievement council, and institutions of higher education; and amending RCW 28B.10.041 and 28A.150.515.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6054 by Senator Torres

AN ACT Relating to changing the definition of theft; and amending RCW 9A.56.020.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6055 by Senator Torres

AN ACT Relating to natural resource-based industrial development; adding a new section to chapter 36.70A RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs.

SB 6056 by Senator Torres

AN ACT Relating to human trafficking awareness training requirements; amending RCW 70.62.260; adding a new section to chapter 70.62 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6057 by Senator Torres

AN ACT Relating to addressing crimes involving human trafficking or sexual exploitation; amending RCW 9A.40.100; adding a new section to chapter 7.68 RCW; creating a new section; and providing expiration dates.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6058 by Senator Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to facilitating linkage of Washington's carbon market with the California-Quebec carbon market; amending RCW 70A.65.010, 70A.65.060, 70A.65.070, 70A.65.080, 70A.65.100, 70A.65.110, 70A.65.170, 70A.65.200, 70A.65.310, and 70A.15.2200; creating a new section; prescribing penalties; and providing a contingent effective date.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

SB 6059 by Senator McCune

AN ACT Relating to the sale or lease of manufactured/mobile home communities and the property on which they sit; and amending RCW 59.20.030, 59.20.325, 59.20.330, 59.20.335, 59.21.030, and 59.21.040.

Referred to Committee on Housing.

SB 6060 by Senator Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to the acceptance of electronic signatures by the public employment relations commission for new organizing petitions; amending RCW 41.56.060; and adding a new section to chapter 41.58 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6061 by Senator Salomon

AN ACT Relating to exemptions for housing development under the state environmental policy act; and amending RCW 43.21C.229.

Referred to Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs.

SB 6062 by Senator Torres

AN ACT Relating to the authority of the department of natural resources to lease trust assets for the benefit of trust beneficiaries and the state; and amending RCW 79.13.010, 79.13.030, 79.13.060, 79.13.110, 79.13.120, 79.13.130, and 79.13.140.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 6063 by Senator Pedersen

AN ACT Relating to modifying the definition of persistent offender to exclude convictions for offenses committed by someone under the age of 18 and providing for resentencing; amending RCW 9.94A.030; and adding a new section to chapter 9.94A RCW.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6064 by Senator Hansen

AN ACT Relating to moneys collected by a landlord as fees, deposit, or security for pets; and amending RCW 59.18.260 and 59.18.270.

Referred to Committee on Housing.

SB 6065 by Senator Lovelett

AN ACT Relating to the property tax exemption for cities or counties providing affordable housing to qualifying households; and amending RCW 84.36.560.

Referred to Committee on Housing.

SB 6066 by Senator Padden

AN ACT Relating to amending the provisions of the Washington death with dignity act; and amending RCW 70.245.090 and 70.245.190.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

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SB 6067 by Senator Padden

AN ACT Relating to questions of representation under collective bargaining agreements for cities, counties, and municipal corporations; and amending RCW 41.56.070.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6068 by Senator Boehnke

AN ACT Relating to reporting on dependency outcomes; amending RCW 13.34.820; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6069 by Senator Valdez

AN ACT Relating to improving retirement security for Washingtonians by establishing Washington saves, an automatic enrollment individual retirement savings account program, and updating the Washington retirement marketplace statute; amending RCW 43.330.732 and 43.330.735; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040 and 43.79A.040; adding a new chapter to Title 19 RCW; creating a new section; decodifying RCW 43.330.730; prescribing penalties; providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6070 by Senator Short

AN ACT Relating to the most serious offenses; and amending RCW 9.94A.030.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6071 by Senator Salomon

AN ACT Relating to providing information related to the human rights records of nations that export crude oil to Washington; adding a new section to chapter 28B.20 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.21A RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6072 by Senator Conway

AN ACT Relating to addressing recommendations of the long-term services and supports trust commission; amending RCW 50B.04.010, 50B.04.020, 50B.04.030, 50B.04.055, 50B.04.060, 50B.04.070, 50B.04.085, and 50B.04.100; reenacting and amending RCW 50B.04.050 and 50B.04.080; adding new sections to chapter 50B.04 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 48.83 RCW; adding a new chapter to Title 48 RCW; creating a new section; repealing RCW 50B.04.040; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6073 by Senator Padden

AN ACT Relating to the use of artificial intelligence language learning models in official court filings; and adding a new section to chapter 2.48 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6074 by Senator Hasegawa

AN ACT Relating to death benefits applicable to drivers of transportation network companies; amending RCW 51.16.250; and adding a new section to chapter 51.32 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6075 by Senator Fortunato

AN ACT Relating to sanctions of health care providers for violations of chapter 9.02 RCW; and amending RCW 9.02.120.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6076 by Senator Keiser

AN ACT Relating to granting local taxing authority to fund criminal justice; amending RCW 82.14.450 and 82.14.340; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6077 by Senator Hasegawa

AN ACT Relating to regulating hemp in food; amending RCW 15.140.040 and 69.07.220; reenacting and amending RCW 69.07.010; adding new sections to chapter 69.07 RCW; and providing expiration dates.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

SB 6078 by Senator Mullet

AN ACT Relating to legislative oversight of moneys received from enforcement actions; amending RCW 43.10.220; adding a new section to chapter 43.79 RCW; creating a new section; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on State Government & Elections.

SB 6079 by Senator Boehnke

AN ACT Relating to making juvenile detention records available to managed health care systems; and reenacting and amending RCW 13.50.010.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6080 by Senator Boehnke

AN ACT Relating to simplifying the funding provisions of the statewide tourism marketing account; amending RCW 82.08.225; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Business, Financial Services, Gaming & Trade.

SB 6081 by Senator Stanford

AN ACT Relating to plain language requirements for consumer contracts; and adding a new section to chapter 19.86 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6082 by Senator Wellman

AN ACT Relating to increasing compensation for Washington paraeducators; adding new sections to chapter 28A.400 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 6083 by Senator Boehnke

AN ACT Relating to transparency, public safety, and independent oversight of the city, county, and regional jail system in Washington state; amending RCW 70.48.510; and adding a new chapter to Title 43 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6084 by Senator Wagoner

AN ACT Relating to providing collector vehicles the ability to tow trailers; and amending RCW 46.18.220.

Referred to Committee on Transportation.

SB 6085 by Senator King

AN ACT Relating to reestablishing the underground economy task force; creating a new section; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6086 by Senator MacEwen

AN ACT Relating to supervision compliance credit; and amending RCW 9.94A.717.

Referred to Committee on Human Services.

SB 6087 by Senator King

AN ACT Relating to the fire service training account; and amending RCW 43.43.944.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6088 by Senator King

AN ACT Relating to minor league baseball players subject to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement regarding employment status; amending RCW 49.46.010, 49.46.070, and 49.12.050; and reenacting and amending RCW 49.12.187.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6089 by Senator Keiser

AN ACT Relating to eliminating certain minimum requirement equivalencies for electrical inspectors; and amending RCW 19.28.321.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SB 6090 by Senator Holy

AN ACT Relating to the creation of a law enforcement hiring grant program; and adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6091 by Senator Wilson, L.

AN ACT Relating to the law enforcement officers safety act (18 U.S.C. Sec. 926C) certification for retired law enforcement officers; and adding a new section to chapter 43.101 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Law & Justice.

SB 6092 by Senator Shewmake

AN ACT Relating to disclosure of greenhouse gas emissions; and adding a new chapter to Title 70A RCW.

Referred to Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology.

SB 6093 by Senator Holy

AN ACT Relating to transparency in college admissions; and adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6094 by Senator Robinson

AN ACT Relating to aligning statutory language concerning the retired state employee and retired or disabled school employee health insurance subsidy with the historical interpretation and implementation of the relevant subsidy language in the operating budget; and amending RCW 41.05.085.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6095 by Senator Robinson

AN ACT Relating to establishing clear authority for the secretary of health to issue standing orders; and adding a new section to chapter 43.70 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

SB 6096 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to enhancing state local effort assistance funding for public schools; amending RCW 28A.500.015; and providing an effective date.

Referred to Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education.

SB 6097 by Senator Rivers

AN ACT Relating to clarifying requirements for fairness and transparency in network contracting for dental services by carriers offering stand-alone dental plans; reenacting and amending RCW 48.39.005; and adding a new section to chapter 48.39 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

SB 6098 by Senator Robinson

AN ACT Relating to accounts; amending RCW 82.45.240 and 27.34.400; reenacting and amending RCW 43.79A.040, 43.79A.040, 43.84.092, and 43.84.092; adding a new section to chapter 41.05 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 70A.535 RCW; creating new sections; repealing RCW 43.83.330, 43.83.350, 27.34.410, 43.79.487, 70A.305.140, 43.79.530, 43.41.444, and 43.79.515; providing effective dates; providing expiration dates; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6099 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to creating the tribal opioid prevention and treatment account; amending RCW 43.79.483; reenacting and amending RCW 43.84.092 and 43.84.092;

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adding a new section to chapter 43.79 RCW; creating a new section; providing effective dates; and providing an expiration date.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6100 by Senator Robinson

AN ACT Relating to making expenditures from the budget stabilization account for declared catastrophic events; creating a new section; making an appropriation; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

SB 6101 by Senator Rivers

AN ACT Relating to establishing a regulatory structure for licensed acute care hospitals to provide hospital at-home services; amending RCW 70.127.040 and 70.38.111; adding a new section to chapter 70.41 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 70.126 RCW; creating a new section; and declaring an emergency.

Referred to Committee on Health & Long-Term Care.

SB 6102 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to establishing minimum in-state resident enrollment thresholds for public universities; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6103 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to free speech information for students at institutions of higher education; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6104 by Senator Braun

AN ACT Relating to adopting free speech policy statements at public institutions of higher education; adding a new section to chapter 28B.10 RCW; and creating a new section.

Referred to Committee on Higher Education & Workforce Development.

SB 6105 by Senator Nguyen

AN ACT Relating to creating safer working conditions in adult entertainment establishments; amending RCW 49.17.470; adding a new section to chapter 49.46 RCW; and adding a new section to chapter 66.24 RCW.

Referred to Committee on Labor & Commerce.

SJR 8208 by Senator Wagoner

Enshrining the right to hunt and fish in the state Constitution.

Referred to Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks.

MOTIONS

On motion of Senator Pedersen, all measures listed on the Introduction and First Reading report were referred to the committees as designated.

At 11:42 a.m., on motion of Senator Pedersen, the Senate was declared to be at ease subject to the call of the President for the purpose of convening a Joint Session with the House of Representatives in the House Chamber.

JOINT SESSION

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution No. 4406, the Senate appeared at the door of the House of Representatives and requested admission to the Chamber. The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate, Mr. Andrew Staubitz, and the Sergeant at Arms of the House, Mr. Johnny Alexander, escorted the President of the Senate, Lieutenant Governor Denny Heck; Senator Karen Keiser; Senator Shelly Short; and Senator Bob Hasegawa to seats at the Rostrum. The senators were invited to seats within the Chamber.

The Speaker (Representative Jenkins presiding) called upon President Heck to preside over the Joint Session.

The President of the Senate, Lieutenant Governor Heck called the Joint Session to order. The Clerk called the roll of House members. The Clerk called the roll of Senate members. A quorum of the Legislature was present.

President Heck: "The Joint Session has been convened to receive the state of the state message from His Excellency, Governor Jay Inslee."

The President appointed a committee of honor to escort the Supreme Court Justices to the House Chamber: Senators Nikki Torres and Yasmin Trudeau and Representatives Emily Alvarado and Stephanie Barnard.

The President appointed a committee of honor to escort the statewide elected officials to the House Chamber: Senators Drew Hansen and Lynda Wilson and Representatives Greg Cheney and Kristine Reeves.

The President appointed a committee of honor to advise His Excellency, Governor Jay Inslee, that the Joint Session had been assembled and to escort him from his Chambers to the House Chamber: Senators Claudia Kauffman and Phil Fortunato and Representatives April Connors and Joe Fitzgibbon.

Sergeant at Arms Alexander announced the arrival of the State Supreme Court Justices at the chamber door. The committee of honor consisting of Senators Nikki Torres and Yasmin Trudeau and Representatives Emily Alvarado and Stephanie Barnard escorted the Chief Justice and Justices to seats at the front of the House Chamber. The members of the Supreme Court were introduced by the President: Chief Justice Steven Gonzalez, Associate Chief Justice Charles Johnson; Justice Barbara Madsen, Justice Debra Stephens, Justice Sheryl Gordon-McCloud, and Justice Raquel Montoya-Lewis.

Sergeant at Arms Alexander announced the arrival of the statewide elected officials at the chamber door. The committee of honor consisting of Senators Drew Hansen and Lynda Wilson and Representatives Greg Cheney and Kristine Reeves escorted the statewide elected officials to seats at the front of the House Chamber. The statewide elected officials were introduced by the President: Secretary of State Steve Hobbs, State Treasurer Mike

Pellicciotti, State Auditor Pat McCarthy, Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal, Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler, and Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz.

The President introduced officers and members of the Consular Association of Washington: Acting Consul General Gwyn Kutz, Canada; Honorary Consul Floribert Mubalama, Democratic Republic of the Congo; Honorary Consul Mark Gantar, Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia; Honorary Consul Pedro Costa, Federative Republic of Brazil; Honorary Consul Katalin Pearman, Hungary; Honorary Consul Elisabetta Valentini, Italian Republic; Consul General Iyori Makoto, Japan; Consul General Luis Esteban, Kingdom of Spain; Honorary Consul Petra Hilleberg, Kingdom of Sweden; Honorary Consul Viggo Forde, Norway; Honorary Consul Eva Kammel, Republic of Austria; Honorary Consul Andrés Barría Román, Republic of Chile; Honorary Consul Paul Raidna, Republic of Estonia; Honorary Consul Matti Suokko, Republic of Finland; Consul General Carlos José Arroyave Prera, Republic of Guatemala; Bernard Hensey, Republic of Ireland; Consul General Eun-ji Seo, Republic of Korea; Consul General Miguel A. Velasquez, Republic of Peru; Honorary Consul Teresa Indelak Davis, Republic of Poland; Honorary Consul Philippe Goetschel, Swiss Confederation; Director General Daniel Chen, Taipei Economic and Cultural Center; Honorary Consul Valeriy Goloborodko, Ukraine; and Consul Robin Twyman, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

The President introduced special guests seated in the gallery: First Lady Trudi Inslee; Ambassador Gary Locke; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community Chair, Steve Edwards; Tulalip Tribes Chair Teri Gobin; Tulalip Tribes Vice Chair Misty Napeahi; and Tumwater Mayor Debbie Sullivan.

Sergeant at Arms Alexander announced the arrival of His Excellency, Governor Jay Inslee at the chamber door. The committee of honor consisting of Senators Claudia Kauffman and Phil Fortunato and Representatives April Connors and Joe Fitzgibbon escorted Governor Inslee to a seat at the Rostrum.

The Washington State Honor Guard commanded by Lieutenant Matt Fehler presented the Colors. The Honor Guard consisted of Trooper Heather Axtman, Trooper Dean Gallanger, Trooper Kyle Flaig, and Trooper Michael Sessions.

The National Anthem was performed by Mr. Bobby Ray and Ms. Shalah Rose McCarthy from Kitsap County.

The President led the chamber in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The prayer was offered by Reverend Dee Eisenhower, Eagle Harbor Congregational Church, Bainbridge Island.

Reverend Eisenhower: "God of Many Names, We give thanks for another day of life, breath, and enjoyment of this beautiful world You created and for which we are called to care. Many of us call the earth our Mother because earth gave us everything we need for life, and earth continually nurtures and blesses us with food, air, water, companions, and beauty. We are so used to being blessed by these daily gifts that we sometimes forget to be thankful. Help us to be grounded in gratitude for the earth that mothers us from our first breath to our last. Grounded in gratitude, may we be more apt to good caretakers of our home place, Washington, which we love like no other place. Help us meet the challenge of climate change as we would meet the challenge of failing health of our own mothers, with tenderness, focus and competence.

Holy One, one of the natural beauties that never ceases to thrill us is the sight of a rainbow arching through the skies. May we

be as moved and delighted by the rainbow of humanity that we encounter each day. As we experience the great diversity of Your people - variations in skin tones, traditions, languages, gender expressions, faiths and philosophies, may we perceive the human rainbow as a marvel more than a burden. You created us to be various, not colorless; interesting, not nondescript; united, not unanimous. Help us to meet the great diversity of your people with curiosity and unfailing compassion. Help us all see one another as children of God - even, in quarrelsome moments, imagining our opponents as the enchanting children they once were.

In this contentious and divided era we ask that You would strengthen our capacity to listen to one another with patience and genuine attentiveness. Help us restrain frustration and anger; give all leaders a spirit of inquisitiveness about what makes their neighbors tick. Help each person speak the truth in love, whether it is in a crucial negotiation or a passing by in the hallways. May any discussion that becomes heated in this upcoming session be lit up not with fury and contempt, but with a fiery passion for justice and good governance.

God who is Love, You call us beyond our selfish interests to take care of our neighbors. While suffering seems to be a condition of human life, the relief of suffering is a charge which every human can embrace. Help us to be mindful of the suffering of our neighbors who don't presently have adequate housing, affordable health care, excellent educational opportunity, or reliable sources of food and clean water. Keep us mindful of those who suffer outside of our everyday views - folks who are incarcerated, who sleep under bridges, who drag through days troubled by mental illness, who hide out while seeking asylum. Collectively, we have the power to relieve suffering whether it's with direct compassionate action or by allocating public funds to help our most vulnerable neighbors. May the money expended through the state carry messages of care for all our neighbors.

May the trust the public places in all leaders be rewarded with integrity - with your help, Spirit of Wisdom. Give us strength and courage to do what needs to be done, and to change what needs to be changed. Bless each of us with joy in our work and healing rest in our leisure.

Amen."

The President introduced His Excellency, Jay Robert Inslee, Governor.

STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Governor Inslee: "Good afternoon.

I would like to thank the Reverend Dee Eisenhower for the invocation, and Bobby Ray and Shalah 'Rose' McCarthy for their wonderful voices.

Mr. President, Madam Speaker, Mr. Chief Justice, distinguished justices of the court, members of the Legislature, Tribal leaders, local leaders, members of the Consular Corps, and my fellow Washingtonians...

I come to you as a governor, as a granddad, and as a Washingtonian, to thank you and your families for your contributions to our efforts. My staff and their families deserve credit as well. Particularly my family and a very special person to me - Trudi.

I love seeing the childcare center she inspired us to build for our Capitol families, among many causes she's advocated for as First Spouse. I love you Trudi and I'm not alone.

Let's cut to the chase.

I'm happy to report we have been, we are, and we will always

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be the strongest state in the nation. In fact, the state of our state is stronger than ever. For over a decade, we've advanced nation-leading policies to support working families, grown our economy, and acted boldly to protect our state's iconic spaces and salmon. We've advanced equity; built more housing; fought for a woman's right to choose; and ushered in a clean energy economy.

In an era of tremendous transition and change, Washington has emerged as a beacon of progress in this nation. This year, we are going to make sure that light shines brighter.

This is my eleventh time addressing this chamber, and I have a bigger audience each year. There are 1 million more Washingtonians today than when I took office, because Washington is the place to be. I welcome our new Washingtonians who have seen the genius and promise of our state.

The minimum wage was \$9 in 2013 and today it's over \$16. Wages overall have grown by 39% – double the national rate. Our GDP has grown 45% – from \$528 billion in 2013 to \$768 billion today. And we're among the few states that rank as both a top state for business and for workers.

As we contemplate this next year and the work ahead, I think back to my dad, who coached track at Sealth High School.

He told his runners to imagine the finish line was 10 yards beyond the finish line. My father always said, and this is what sticks with me, "Fellas, run through the tape!" so they wouldn't let up before the race was over.

We are going to run through the tape this year. Just as I know you'll give this state your best work, I'll give mine.

This is not a farewell speech. These are not famous last words. I'm not riding into the sunset. Winston Churchill said, "This is not time for ease and comfort. It is time to dare and endure."

We will not relent to our greatest challenges. We will not go backward. This is the Evergreen State and the Ever Forward State.

And we're going ever forward on our evergreen agenda. Climate change is our present, but climate collapse does not have to be inevitable. This Legislature put us on a clear – and necessary – path to slash greenhouse gases 95% by 2050.

We will stay the course.

Any delay would be a betrayal of our children's future.

We are on the razor's edge between promise and peril.

We know this when historic floods gut homes that stood for generations, or when wildfires force the evacuation of entire towns like Medical Lake last year.

And the need for climate action is felt daily for Washingtonians living with pollution.

There are neighborhoods today in Washington where people are dying two and a half years younger on average because of pollution.

This pollution is harmful to the lives of Washingtonians in communities like Everett, Wenatchee, Mattawa, Spokane, the Tri-Cities, the Yakima Valley, Shoreline, South King County, and Tacoma. There are neighborhoods in these communities where people are forced to live sicker and die younger because of this pollution.

We have made a solemn oath to our children, and their children, and in that noble mission we will neither flag nor fail. We will go on to give them the grandest of blessings, a healthy Washington, instead of taking rank with defeatists who live in the grey twilight of pessimism.

Thanks to this Legislature's budget priorities, we can help more people like Elisa Garcia, a farmworker in Toppenish. Her home was one of 32 in Yakima County that had rooftop solar installed, thanks to a state program specifically geared toward farmworkers.

Her home now produces 100% of its energy from her own roof. Her family's energy bills are zero and it would not have been

possible without this Legislature.

Elisa and her daughter, Jasmin, are here with us today.

Thank you, both.

You're going to hear many more stories this year and beyond about how our climate policies are making life better for Washington families.

The Climate Commitment Act is letting us invest in work that reduces pollution and creates good-paying jobs. It's funding electric school buses, 8 million free transit rides for youth and counting, filtration systems in schools so students can breathe when there's wildfire smoke outside, and public chargers for electric vehicles. This is money going right back to Washington families. It's not going off to Houston or other oil hubs with the oil industry's record \$200 billion in profits in 2022.

Now we have more we can give back to our communities.

I'm proposing a \$200 utility bill credit for one out of every three households in Washington – that's nearly 2 million low- and moderate-income Washingtonians. We will help thousands more families install energy-efficient heat pumps that cut emissions and energy bills. This law also makes it easier to invest in our infrastructure, including hybrid-electric ferries, and safer bike and pedestrian routes.

From sustainable aviation fuels and EV battery manufacturing in Moses Lake to electric buses in Ferndale, we're attracting and creating thousands of good-paying jobs in clean energy and clean technology. And as fossil fuel jobs go away, we're training those workers – the folks who worked at places like TransAlta – for jobs in this new clean energy economy. These jobs are coming on quickly. The new Pacific Northwest federal hydrogen hub will create 8,000 jobs alone for the production and distribution of green hydrogen to reduce pollution.

Here's something else about the fossil fuel industry. For decades, we've been subjected to the rollercoaster of gas prices.

We're going to do something about price transparency in Washington this session. I understand why people are frustrated about gas prices. The oil and gas industry's books are closed to the public. It's time for transparency and accountability.

I believe this Legislature is capable of even more extraordinary achievements, because I've seen it happen every year I've been here.

Don't forget moments like 2018, the end of the McCleary saga, when we moved heaven and earth to fulfill our paramount duty of funding education in the state of Washington.

Now I hope you'll join me by increasing pay for 32,000 paraeducators by \$3 an hour, again raising the cap on special education funding, and creating incentives for more teachers to serve special needs students.

And once students have graduated, they now have more pathways than ever. This Legislature has created one of the most generous college financial aid programs in the country. But college isn't the only pathway to success, which is why we've also greatly increased support for apprenticeships.

Bryan Orihuela of Auburn was going to be an engineer, but then he was in a traumatic car accident, followed by high medical bills. He had to leave college. Fortunately, he got connected to Computing for All's pre-apprenticeship program, which this Legislature helped support with Career Connect Washington grants.

Now he's a developer at a mental health app, and Bryan is also here today. Bryan, thank you.

This Legislature cares about people. I know that because of what you've done.

This state saved thousands upon thousands of lives when COVID struck. We are now just one of a handful of states with the tools to curb excessive drug costs. We have more ways to

grow our health care workforce. We've passed the nation's best Paid Family Medical Leave program. In fact, I heard a story about this just the other day when I biked up to the Town & Country market on Bainbridge to get some maple bars for my grandkids. This woman behind the counter said, "Governor, I have to tell you something" – and my fellow electeds know when a constituent leads with something cryptic that you could be in for anything.

But she said, "Governor, I had a broken wrist last year and I couldn't do my job. And the only thing that kept my family afloat was that Paid Family Medical Leave law." I hope you're all having these conversations in your districts as well, because your policies are making an enormous difference in people's lives.

Protecting access to health care is helping Washingtonians like Sheena and John Wilson from Mount Vernon. Sheena's husband John was diagnosed with cancer.

Sheena expected their health costs would go up to \$3,000 a month, until she accessed the benefits of our Cascade Care public option. Her family now pays \$108 a month and the most they'll pay out-of-pocket this year for her husband's cancer treatment is \$2,500 total.

John and Sheena are here with us today from Mount Vernon. Thank you both and good luck, too.

Our policies change lives when they're focused on the people we're here to serve. We give people the chance to succeed.

People-focused policies are also how we're addressing homelessness.

Some think we can just wave a wand and those living in homelessness will disappear. But this is the real world, and we have an honest solution: Build housing and connect people to the right services, and they will succeed.

This time last year a woman named Starr Draper found herself in a right-of-way encampment at First Avenue and Michigan Street in Seattle.

No one can live in danger and expect their conditions to improve. No one can be swept from one dark corner to another and expect life to get better.

We must lift people up and give them the tools, the services and the power of community necessary to get life on track.

State and local collaboration got Starr on her journey to wellness. Starr said this program, quote, "renewed my trust." She's got work, she's got a safe, private place to live, and Starr is here today. Thank you for inspiring us.

Washingtonians can see that dozens of encampments along our highways are gone and that'll continue if we make the necessary investments. And they're going to see thousands more new housing units thanks to our work as well.

I want to thank this Legislature for going big on housing last session and trusting that it was a necessary decision to put \$1 billion toward new housing already this biennium.

These aren't the only ways we're making life safer for Washingtonians while I've been in office.

We all want to take steps to increase public safety – it's not just one thing, but many approaches.

This Legislature was bold enough to stand up to the NRA and pass some of the best gun reforms in America.

It did not matter how many defeats we had to take – we finally banned assault weapons in this state.

Gun reform is public safety.

Washington state also needs more police officers, and that's what this budget would do. My budget funds more state troopers and forensic scientists, an organized retail theft task force, and more funding for drug trafficking investigations.

We're removing barriers to careers in policing by establishing training centers all over the state – where more recruits are getting some of the best training in the country, including de-escalation training.

We're joined today by the Pasco Police Department's own Claudia Fuentes. Claudia would not be a police officer today if this Legislature had not invested in more Criminal Justice Training Centers like in Pasco. It was impossible for a parent to spend four and a half months away from home for training in Burien. But because we invested in these training centers, Officer Fuentes got to go home from the academy every night. And because she had this resource, the people of Pasco are safer. Thank you, Claudia.

We must also continue improving behavioral health services in our state. I recently met someone whose family was devastated by fentanyl, who called it 'the nuclear weapon of drugs.'

We propose \$64 million in new spending to fight against opioids and fentanyl. We're going to invest in education, community health hubs, overdose prevention, treatment access, and recovery supports.

We're going to support people with stories like Holle Edwards, a member of the Swinomish Tribe whose life languished in addiction to meth and heroin before she got help at local resource centers.

Holle got her life back – and she's now a recovery counselor helping people on the same journey at a wellness center in Anacortes.

Holle is here today with her uncle, Swinomish Chair Steve Edwards. Thanks for what you do – not just for tribal members but our whole community.

This Legislature works wonders when it embraces ambition. We've passed the two biggest transportation funding packages in state history during my time in office – Connecting Washington and Move Ahead Washington. Yet we know we still face questions about how to meet our obligations.

I don't expect we'll have all the answers this year, but there are things we can do in the next 60 days, which includes helping our ferry system.

We're already investing in cleaner, more efficient ferries – and I've directed State Ferries to look for ways to expedite boat construction. But we also must do everything possible to increase staffing and build new boats faster.

We've pursued some of the most transformative policies in the nation in my time in office. For example, I'm proud the leaders of our state are under no illusion that social justice issues were settled 60 years ago with the Civil Rights Act.

We will continue advancing social justice. We have made equity a part of everything we do in state government with environmental justice policies like the HEAL Act and a new agency, the Office of Equity, which makes equity a part of everything we do in state government.

We must sustain our progress against racism's pernicious influence on the past and present. The work for a more perfect union continues.

Before I close, I want to say there are two grave threats in the United States and in our state today. One threat is to the basic tenets and blessings of democracy. The other is the ongoing assault on a woman's right of choice.

We have not forgotten the U.S. Supreme Court's frightening decision to eliminate *Roe v. Wade*. Fundamentally, this is an issue of freedom – freedom of choice when facing one of the most intimate and personal decisions in life.

Most in this room are committed to protecting that right, but none of us will hold these seats forever.

We must face the reality that there are forces in our nation and in our own state intent on destroying the right of choice.

We need to join eight other states – states like Ohio, Alaska and Michigan – and enshrine reproductive freedom in the constitution this session.

I look forward to working with all of you to advance this

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amendment.

I want to share with you why I'm optimistic about this session.

If I have learned anything with each subsequent legislative session, it's that Washingtonians are always capable of doing more than others thought we could.

When I took office, we had audacious goals that defied the odds to become reality. I had confidence we could tackle these challenges because I've always believed in the unique talent and ambitions of Washingtonians.

Washingtonians have more resilience, more love for our state, and more endurance to push toward the sunny uplands of the future than any other people on the planet.

The next two months, we're going to make this state better at mental health, safer against opioids, more supportive for educators and students, and more committed to our climate. We've made hope for the future possible because Washingtonians are never restricted by the past or the bog of the status quo.

Inevitably, we will always be called upon to do more for the people of Washington.

No matter the challenge, we will always do more than we thought possible.

It is our honor to be Washingtonians.

It is our privilege to do this work.

And it is our destiny to succeed.

Run. Through. The Tape.

Thank you."

The President thanked the Governor for his remarks.

The President called upon the committee of honor consisting of Senators Claudia Kauffman and Phil Fortunato and Representatives April Connors and Joe Fitzgibbon to escort His Excellency, Governor Inslee from the Rostrum and the Governor retired from the House Chamber.

The President called upon the committee of honor consisting

of Senators Drew Hansen and Lynda Wilson and Representatives Greg Cheney and Kristine Reeves to escort the statewide elected officials from the front of the Chamber and the statewide elected officials retired from the House Chamber.

The President called upon the committee of honor consisting of Senators Nikki Torres and Yasmin Trudeau and Representatives Emily Alvarado and Stephanie Barnard to escort the Supreme Court Justices from the front of the Chamber and the Supreme Court Justices retired from the House Chamber.

On motion of Representative Fitzgibbon, the Joint Session was dissolved. The Speaker (Representative Jenkins presiding) assumed the chair.

The Sergeant at Arms of the Senate and the Sergeant at Arms of the House escorted President of the Senate Heck, Senator Keiser, Senator Short, and Senator Hasegawa from the Rostrum and members of the Washington State Senate from seats within the Chamber and the Senate retired from the House Chamber.

AFTERNOON SESSION

The Senate was called to order at 12:54 p.m. by President Heck.

MOTION

At 12:55 p.m., on motion of Senator Pedersen, the Senate adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 10, 2024.

DENNY HECK, President of the Senate

SARAH BANNISTER, Secretary of the Senate

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