



# Legislative Report

June 6, 2013-17

The Legislative Report is a weekly report that is distributed each Friday throughout the legislative session. Each edition includes an update of legislative activities as well as a list of specific legislative meetings of interest to ports. Copies of bills can be found on the Legislature's web site at [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).

## 2013 Legislature at A Glance

**Length:** 30 days; Special Session began on May 13 and must adjourn by June 11.

### Information:

- For up-to-date legislative information, visit [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov).
- To listen to a legislative hearing, visit [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org).
- For both current and previous copies of the Legislative Report, visit [www.washingtonports.org](http://www.washingtonports.org)

## Special Session Cut-Off Dates

*(tentative – subject to change)*

- **June 11** - Last day allowed for special session.

## Advocacy

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## Special Session Report

The thirty-day Special Session of the Legislature continues at a rather quiet pace, but yesterday there were two developments that are worth mentioning. The first is good news: the House released a new revenue proposal which does not include application of the Public Utility Tax (PUT) to the in-state hauling of freight and cargo. This means that the House has dropped the idea to expand the PUT. WPPA had organized a coalition of labor unions, small businesses, large businesses, trucking firms and railroads to oppose this proposal when it was put forward at the end of the regular Legislative Session. Those coalition efforts continued, and the result was that this idea is off the table. Thank you to all ports that helped in this effort.

For a link to the coalition letter opposing this tax expansion, click here:

<http://washingtonports.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/2013-Coalition-Letter-RE-Tax-Increases-With-Names.pdf>

Other revenue ideas were proposed, however, including sales tax and B&O tax increases for selected products and businesses.

The other development appears to be bad news; the House also released a new proposal for an Operating Budget, and it appears to transfer most – if not all – of the appropriations for new CERB money to the general fund. It is not clear that this is the final proposal, because CERB funds are spent in the Capital Budget, and no new Capital Budget was released. But this new operating budget proposes to transfer \$16.0 million out of the account that holds CERB funding (Public Facility Construction Loan Revolving Account) and puts it in the state general fund.

The Senate majority coalition of 23 Republicans and two Democrats promptly rejected the new revenue proposals as still being too large. This Legislative Session is scheduled to end on June 11. Barring a near-miracle, the continuing lack of agreement between the House and Senate means that a second Special Session beginning next week is

access, the bills are directly linked to their posting on the Legislature's website.

WPPA representatives Eric Johnson, Ginger Eagle and Johan Hellman are following a wide-variety of issues throughout the session. If you have questions concerning legislative activities, please contact them at 360-943-0760 regarding any specific issues.

certain.

On the Transportation front, the deadlock on a new revenue package is becoming critical. We need to see movement on a new revenue package soon, or time will run out.

For now, ports are encouraged to contact their legislators with three messages:

- Thank you for removing the Public Utility Tax expansion from the list of revenue ideas. This tax will divert cargo to other states.
- CERB is an important program for economic development. It funds critical infrastructure projects that help create jobs. Please restore the \$16.0 million funding to the Public Facility Construction Loan Revolving Account.
- We need a transportation revenue package now.

## **Office Locations of Statewide Officials**

**Governor's Office:** Gov. Jay Inslee's office is located on the second floor of the Capitol (or Legislative) Building.

**Lieutenant Governor's Office:** Lt. Gov. Brad Owen's office is located on the second floor of the Capitol (or Legislative) Building.

**Auditor's Office:** State Auditor Troy Kelley's office is located in the Sunset Life Building, 3200 Capitol Blvd. S., Olympia.

**Secretary of State's Office:** Secretary of State Kim Wyman's office is located on the second floor of the Capitol (or Legislative) Building.

**State Treasurer:** State Treasurer Jim McIntire's office is located on the second floor of the Capitol or Legislative Building.

**Insurance Commissioner:** Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler's office is located in the Insurance 5000 Building, 5000 Capitol Blvd., Olympia.

## **How to Find your Legislator and Contact Them:**

- **Senate:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/Senate>
- **House:** <http://www.leg.wa.gov/House>

## **How to Access a Bill:**

- <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Here you can enter the bill number you are looking for or even search for it by entering a subject keyword. You can save the bill, print the bill or just check its status and track it as it progresses through the Legislature.

## **How to Watch or Listen to a Hearing:**

- TVW – cable television <http://www.tvw.org/tvguide>
- TVW - webcast – <http://www.tvw.org/media/liveevents.cfm>
- In Person - Floor Calendar - <http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/calendar/>

## INTERNET

[www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov). Here you will find contact information for each legislator and their staff; legislative leadership; committees and their staff and current agendas; floor calendars; the most up-to-date bill information and much more.

[www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org) provides coverage of floor debates, committee hearings and other public policy events. Also included is a weekly news comment program. Coverage is available through REAL Networks or Windows Media both in real time or as archived. Follow the site's instructions for access.

## TELEVISION

TVW is a cable network the Legislature created to cover activities of both houses with live programming and delayed telecasts of each day's events. The week's programming can be found on their website, [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org).

The Washington Public Ports Association staff in Olympia is also here to assist you in getting information and we're happy to walk you through any of the above. Please feel free to call us 360-943-0760 if you have any questions.