



INTRODUCTION

The first thirty-day special session ended yesterday, with no substantive progress on budget negotiations. The Governor called the legislature back into a second special session immediately. There remains little visible activity, but education funding discussions are reportedly happening privately. In his message announcing the second special session, the Governor effectively removed a capital gains tax from the revenue discussions.

The deadline for the Governor to sign or veto previously-passed bills was last week, and updates on those actions are outlined below.

LEGISLATION PERTINENT TO PORTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic Development in GMA. SB 5790 amended the Growth Management Act (GMA) to allow more latitude for rural jurisdictions in distressed areas to adopt plans that encourage job-creation. The Governor vetoed the bill. It may become part of a discussion of the GMA over the summer and fall.

Freight Rail Zoning. HB 1504 allowed Clark County and counties in eastern Washington to designate agricultural and natural resource lands adjacent to Class II and III freight rail lines as industrial, if the land use was rail-dependent. Despite receiving broad legislative support, the Governor vetoed the bill. The bill proponents are exploring the option of narrowing the bill's applicability to see if the Governor will sign a smaller version.

(360) 943-0760
WWW.WASHINGTONPORTS.ORG

MAY 24, 2017 – 19

ACTION ITEMS:

Contact your legislators now to:

- ✓ Fund cleanup grants under the Model Toxics Control Act

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.

AT A GLANCE

Length: 105 days; Regular session began on January 9, 2017

For up-to-date legislative information, visit: www.leg.wa.gov

To listen to a legislative hearing, visit: www.tvw.org

For current and previous copies of our report, visit: www.washingtonports.org

ENVIRONMENT

“Hirst” Fix. Republicans in both chambers continue to insist that the legislature un-do the Supreme Court case known as ‘Hirst.’ In that case, the Court effectively eliminated groundwater wells that do not have a stand-alone water right. This issue is so central to the politics of the legislature at this time that it has become inextricably linked to the budget discussions.

GOVERNANCE

Public Records Act Reform. In a positive development, the Governor signed both of the bills that reformed the Public Records Act. HB 1594 and HB 1595 were both supported by the full range of local government associations. HB 1595 allows a public entity to charge more for the costs of responding to the request, and also disallows a request for ‘all records.’

Paid Family Leave. Discussions continue behind the scenes on a potential paid family leave act, which would affect all employers, including local governments. Details are evolving, but the pressure is coming from a likely citizens’ initiative addressing this issue.

SESSION CUT-OFF DATES

(tentative – subject to change)

The cut-off dates are designed to keep legislation moving. Any bill that fails to move past a cut-off deadline is usually considered “dead.”

January 9 - First Day of Session

February 17 - Last day to read in committee reports in house of origin, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

February 24 - Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.

March 8 - Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.).

March 29 - Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

April 4 - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

April 12 - Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

April 23 - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 94th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

ADVOCACY

The Legislative Report 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. Each report concludes with Bill Tracking, a section offering brief descriptions of proposed legislation and noting where that legislation is currently located in the bill process. For easy access, the bills are directly linked to their posting on the Legislature's website.

WPPA representatives Eric Johnson, James Thompson, Gerry O'Keefe, Chris Herman, and Elena Oguiza 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.

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. Cyrus Habib's office is located on the second floor of the Capitol (or Legislative) Building.
- **Auditor's Office:** State Auditor Pat McCarthy'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 Duane Davidson'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. 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 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.

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.