



3rd Special Session – Sine Die Report

Today the legislature is voting on an operating budget in the final hours of the State's fiscal year. The budget bill was publicly unveiled this morning following negotiations that consumed two special sessions and has taken budget writers to the brink of a government shutdown. This leaves virtually no time for scrutinizing the legislature's most important piece of work until after it becomes law. A hurried and incomplete review of the bill reveals mixed outcomes for ports. There appears to be a broad reduction of the B&O tax on manufacturing that could benefit the boat building industry and recapitalization of our fishing fleet. Additionally, \$500,000 to implement a statewide tourism program in fiscal year 2018 could bolster ports economic development efforts. The bad news on the economic development front is that the Governor's Strategic Reserve Account, which has proven a useful tool for some port projects, has been functionally eliminated, and is used to fund ADO's instead.

As of this writing the budget bill has not passed either chamber and remains subject to change. The WPPA will remain focused on budget review and following final passage will send out a more comprehensive report.

On the revenue side, the legislature is funding a portion of its education costs by increasing the state property tax to \$2.70/thousand, and capping local school levy rates. Additional revenue is created by taxing more internet sales, bottled water and some types of manufactured fuels.

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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

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

Capital Budget and Hirst – Also, as of this writing, legislators have not yet begun to negotiate the details of the Capital Budget. How can this be? To understand the current situation, recall that the Senate's lead capital budget writer, Senator Honeyford, stated at the end of the Regular Session that he would not negotiate a budget until a solution to the Supreme Court's Hirst decision was enacted. The Senate Majority Coalition Caucus has held firm on this position through two and a half special sessions. The Hirst decision has been a focus of attention since it was issued by the Court. In short, the court's decision ends a long-standing state policy allowing landowners to access domestic water supply without applying for a water right. These wells had been "exempt" from the provisions of the law that would otherwise require them to prove that their use would not impair senior water rights. As a practical matter, the Court's decision halted building on parcels outside urban growth boundaries and harmed people who had planned to construct homes on these lots. The consequences of the Hirst policy have been rippling through Olympia since the Legislature convened in January. While no Hirst deal has been reached, rumors are swirling this morning that negotiators are now near to an agreement.

WPPA's interest in the Capital Budget is tied to our members' ongoing toxics cleanup projects funded through the MTCA accounts. Of the remaining items that must be completed by the 2017 Legislature, it has commanded our full effort to convince members to provide adequate funding for cleanup projects.

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 and Chris Herman 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.