

the Courthouse Journal

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Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties

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the Washington
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House Committee to Hear ESSB 6050

All county officials are called upon to act now in one resounding voice asking their House of Representatives members to support **Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 6050** and provide \$10 million annually in financial assistance to many of Washington's cities and counties.

The House Capital Budget Committee will hear testimony on **ESSB 6050** on Monday, March 28, at 1:30 p.m. in House Hearing Room A of the John L. O'Brien Building. It is critical that all county officials contact the committee chair, Representative Hans Dunshee, and the members of the committee to request a "do pass" vote out of the committee and then to contact all their other representatives enlisting their support.

ESSB 6050 provides \$5 million to counties and \$5 million to cities permanently on an annual basis. The monies are distributed to jurisdictions that do not have a tax base sufficient to support the delivery of services based on a formula that is reminiscent of the now defunct sales tax equalization. The bill is enthusiastically supported by the Tri-Association and is a legislative priority of all three associations: the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), the Washington Association of County Officials (WACO) and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC).

Briefly: **ESSB 6050** is not a new tax.

ESSB 6050 reduces the portion of the real estate excise tax that is deposited in the Public Works Trust Fund from 7.7% to 6.1% and creates a city-county assistance fund with that 1.6% of the real estate excise tax. The amount is divided equally between cities and counties. That amount is approximately \$10 million annually. The Public Works Trust Fund provides low interest loans for capital projects. The argument for passage of **ESSB 6050** is that at this time the need to provide operating funds and financial stability to cities and counties in this state is paramount. The formula would be subject to review in four years.

The counties who will receive assistance are: Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Douglas, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Island, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Yakima. Please contact WACO or WSAC if you have questions.

Budget, Finance and Taxes

The Courthouse Journal

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We welcome your suggestions and contributions. The weekly deadline is noon Wednesday.

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Reimbursement for State Owned Land in Counties

The February, 2005 edition of Indiana News (their county organization publication) reports that they continue to struggle with the same issues we are concerned with here in Washington. Quoting Dax Denton, Deputy Legislative Director, "Many can recall the past two legislative sessions in which the legislative issue of Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) was proposed but failed due to lack of state money available to reimburse counties. Fast forward to this legislative session and you will find several current initiatives that mirror the original goal that PILT tried to accomplish. However, each tackles the issue from a different perspective. Currently there exists two House Bills, HB 1025 authored by Rep. Koch and HB 1077 authored by Rep. Hoffman, that focus on loss of revenue to counties for emergency services rendered and property tax loss that result from the state land. HB 1025 attempts at allowing counties to request reimbursement for ambulance, fire and police service from the Department of Natural Resources for those services rendered on an annual basis. Furthermore, HB 1077 provides for a county option surcharge of five percent on all entrance fees to state owned land that would be remitted to the county for purposes just mentioned. Both are steps in the right direction to finding a solution for this continual

problem facing almost all counties in Indiana. The Association would like to thank both Rep. Koch and Rep. Hoffman for bringing forth bills that encourage discussion on this issue."

Here in Washington State our legislature has brought forward **SHB 1413** and **ESSB 5396** to deal with the issue of payment in lieu of taxes.

Assessors' Priority Bill Moves Out of Ways & Means

SHB 1502 - Property Tax Abatement would reinstate the tax abatement for destroyed property that sunsetted in 2004. It also requires that a structure be involuntary destroyed in order to receive tax relief in the current year. The bill moved unanimously out of executive session in Senate Ways & Means on Tuesday, March 22. The bill has moved to the Senate Rules Committee.

County Treasurers' Administrative Provisions Bill (Treasurers/WACO Priority)

The Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee heard the County Treasurers' administrative provisions bill, **SHB 1158**, on Thursday. Signing in support of the measure were Treasurers' Legislative chair Rose Bowman, Lewis County; Ron Strabbing, Grays Harbor County; and Phil Sanders, King County Property Tax Supervisor.

NOTE: Legislative Committee schedules and agendas can be found at <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm>

Budget, Finance and Taxes (continued)

Public Hospital District Investments

State Treasurer Mike Murphy weighed in with strong opposition to **SHB 1341** and **HJR 4202**, authorizing additional investment authority for specified hospital districts, before the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee this week. Also testifying against the measures were Rose Bowman and Ron Strabbing. The point was made that the legislation gives unlimited investment authority and would give broader investment authority to the hospital districts than even the State Investment Board has. In addition, the authority is not limited just to hospital reserve funds as the proponents are saying. Murphy said the bills were bad public policy and comparisons were made to ESM Government Securities where Washington counties lost millions of dollars in the 80's, and to the purchasing of derivatives by Orange County, California, which caused its bankruptcy.

New Infrastructure Funding Option Still Under Discussion

Legislators and lobbyists have not given up yet in trying to find a new infrastructure funding option that provides an alternative to impact fees. Interested parties were convened on Thursday by House Finance Chair Jim McIntire to discuss **SHB 2196**, a bill that would authorize a new Real Estate Excise Tax of up to 0.4 cents to fund capital infrastructure needs of county and city government, and up to 0.25 cents for schools. Jurisdictions choosing to adopt the new fund source would be ineligible to use impact fees, and

SEPA mitigation fees would be prohibited for the same projects funded by the new REET.

Although many differences remain, discussions will continue for now.

Budget, Finance & Taxes (continued)

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JAC = John A. Cherberg Bldg / JLOB = John L. O'Brien Bldg

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<i>Location</i> <i>Bldg/Room</i>	Date
<u>HB 1413</u>	Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	Expanding the criteria for habitat conservation programs	1:30 pm	JAC - 2	3/28/2005
<u>ESHB 1631</u>	Senate Natural Resources, Ocean & Recreation	Using revenues under the county conservation futures levy	1:30 pm	JAC - 2	3/28/2005
<u>SB 5325</u>	House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade	Promoting economic development and community revitalization	10:00 am	JLOB - A	3/29/2005
<u>SB 5094</u>	House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade	Changing the maximum per parcel rate for conservation district special assessments	1:30 pm	JLOB - A	3/30/2005
<u>SB 5663</u>	House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade	Changing the tax exemptions for machinery & equipment used to reduce agricultural burning	1:30 pm	JLOB - A	3/30/2005
<u>E2SSB 5111</u>	House Technology, Energy & Communications	Providing tax incentives for solar energy systems	8:00 am	JLOB - B	3/31/2005

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

WACO Priority Bills Heard This Week

HB 1471, authentication of documents, was heard late Wednesday in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels lugged a vintage docket book from 1891 into the hearing while Chelan County Clerk Siri Woods brandished a circa 1864 court document that was “sealed, waxed and wafered” to prove its authenticity. Their point was that the 1881 statutes regarding certified copies and allowing the transmission of documents by telegraph only should be updated. County clerks are urged to thank Chair Senator Adam Kline for the hearing and to ask him and other Senate Judiciary members to pass **HB 1471** out of committee soon.

SSB 5035, forensic pathology, was heard Tuesday in the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee. Mason County Coroner Martha Reed represented the Forensic Investigations Council in support of **SSB 5035**. The bill eliminates the forensic pathology specialist fellow program at the University of Washington, requires the Council to report back to the legislature next fall on its recommendation for a successor program, and provides that the Council will still be responsible for the administrative and budgetary oversight of any forensic pathology program the legislature could create. There has been research already done in regard to the possible creation of a state forensic pathologist. WACO members are urged to contact Representative Al O'Brien and members of the House Criminal Justice and Corrections

Committees and ask them to move **SSB 5035** on to the Rules Committee. Then all representatives should be encouraged to move it out of the House and into law!

SSB 5242, inmates in county jails possessing weapons, was heard in the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee Tuesday. Pacific County Jail Inspector Steve Sultemeier, Mason County Sheriff Steve Whybark and Yakima County Sheriff Ken Irwin testified in support of **SSB 5242**, and the bill drew the support of the WSP Troopers' Union, WACOPS and WASPC as well. **SSB 5242** changes the definition of weapons to include any weapon likely to cause serious bodily harm, removes the requirement to prove intent to cause harm and makes possession by an inmate in a county jail a class C felony. County sheriffs are encouraged to e-mail the Committee Chair, Representative Al O'Brien and members of the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee to ask them to vote **SSB 5242** out of committee and then ask all their representatives to give **SSB 5242** a “yes” vote.

Juvenile Custodial Interrogations

The House Juvenile Justice and Family Law Committee heard **SSB 5288**, specifying how juvenile custodial interrogations must be conducted, on Wednesday. The substitute bill requires law enforcement to make reasonable attempts to notify a child's parent when he/she is taken into custody, to permit a parent to immediately consult with his/her child unless the child objects or is a victim, and,

advise the juvenile in custody of his specific rights. Kitsap County Sheriff Steve Boyer testified for the sheriffs, noting that agencies already notify the parents if the juvenile is detained, but the law must also put a face on the victims and most of all, help the children. He referenced the incident at Columbine and emphasized that often the first contact a juvenile has with law enforcement is the only opportunity to help troubled youth. James McMahan, WASPC lobbyist, spoke for sheriffs and police chiefs. He stated that WASPC agrees that parents must be notified and if agencies are not already doing that, they should change. He also noted the need to solve cases and did not want to hamstring any agency by not being able to question the juveniles. The hearing was crowded with friends of a parent who was denied access to his son during an interrogation. Judging by the demeanor of the committee, **SSB 5288** is sure to pass out of committee soon.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Primary Date

ESHB 2027, changing the date of the primary to the third Tuesday in August, will be heard by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee, on Monday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. in Senate Hearing Room 2. This is an Auditors' Association/WACO priority bill and we would appreciate the help of all of our members in assuring its passage. Also being heard in committee, Monday, are **HB 1749**, strengthening review and correction of county

election procedures and **SHB 1754**, authorizing county-wide mail ballot elections (and requiring them after January 1, 2008).

Omnibus Elections Reform Bill

The House State Government Operations and Accountability Committee heard **ESSB 5499**, clarifying and standardizing various election procedures, on Wednesday. Those present to testify were Auditors' Association President Corky Mattingly, Yakima County;

Legislative Co-chairs Pat McCarthy, Pierce County and Kim Wyman, Thurston County; Evelyn Arnold, Chelan County; and Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County. They did an excellent job of pointing out the various strengths and weaknesses in the bill as it came out of the Senate, and provided information to help with amendments to the measure as it moved to executive session on April 1.

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	Location Bldg/Room	Date
<u>ESHB 2027</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Changing the Primary Date	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	3/28/05
<u>HB 1749</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Strengthening Review and Correction of County Election Procedures	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	3/28/05
<u>SHB 1754</u>	Senate Government Operations and Elections	Authorizing County-wide Mail Ballot Elections	10:00 a.m.	SHR 2	3/28/05
<u>Election Reform</u>	House State Government Operations & Accountability	Work Session on Election Reform	10:00 a.m.	HHRD	3/29/05

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Greater Flexibility for County Conservation Futures Funds?

Legislation to allow counties to spend up to 25 percent of conservation futures revenue for maintenance and operation of properties purchased with those funds continues to move through the legislative process, picking up amendments right and left. **SHB 1631**, sponsored by Rep. Judy Clibborn (D-King County) is scheduled for hearing on Monday, March 28, in Senate Natural Resources, Oceans and Recreation Committee.

As it passed the House, **SHB 1631** allows a county to increase the conservation futures levy up to 10 cents per thousand valuation. It also authorizes up to 25 percent of conservation futures revenue for maintenance and operation of properties purchased with those funds.

One amendment under consideration would limit the use of any additional amount over the current 6-1/4 cent levy authority to purchase timberlands, farmlands and lands zoned open space. Another would allow a county with a population density under four persons per square mile to seek voter approval to spend collected conservation futures revenue for general county purposes. Yet another would reduce the maintenance and operation authority to 10 percent of collected funds.

Stay posted.

Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program Revision Nears Passage

The Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP)

provides funds for the acquisition and development of outdoor recreation and habitat conservation areas. Counties, cities, ports, park and recreation districts, school districts, state agencies, and tribes are eligible to apply. Grant applications are evaluated annually and the Interagency Committee for Outdoor Recreation submits a list of prioritized projects to the Governor and Legislature for approval.

The Legislature typically funds the WWRP at between \$40 and \$50 million for a biennium. Half of the funds appropriated are for habitat conservation, and are allocated according to a statutory formula for critical habitat, natural areas, and urban wildlife habitat. The other half of the funds are appropriated for outdoor recreation, allocated by formulas established in statute for state parks, local parks, trails, and water access sites. A portion of each account is left unallocated.

The proposed legislation creates two new funds – for riparian protection and for farmland preservation – and improves the coordination of state land purchases and local government processes. **SHB 1413** and **ESSB 5896** are quite similar at this stage in the process and an agreed-to striking amendment was revealed yesterday at the House Capital Budget Committee hearing.

Measures of the most interest to counties include:

- The riparian protection account is created to distribute funds for the acquisition and enhancement or restoration of riparian habitat.
- The farmlands preservation account is created and funds may be used for the acquisition of farmlands, their enhancement

or restoration, or both.

- Criteria for grants for habitat conservation and outdoor recreation are revised to include such considerations as consistency with land use, shoreline, watershed, and recovery plans, inclusion of noxious weed control management plans, and the statewide significance of critical habitat projects.
- Lands acquired by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, using funds from the habitat conservation account, are subject to payments in lieu of property taxes and for weed control. Lands acquired by state agencies using funds from the riparian protection account are also subject to payments in lieu of property taxes and for weed control.
- State or local agencies must review a proposed project application with the local government with jurisdiction over lands proposed for acquisition with WWRP grant funds.

Environment, Land Use & Resources (continued)

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
<u>5602</u>	House Economic Development, Agriculture & Trade	Managing Livestock Nutrients	1:30 pm	JLOB/A	3/30/05

General Government Issues

County Auditor/WACO Priority Bill Heard in Committee

HB 1386, increasing the surcharge on recorded documents from \$2 to \$5 for the preservation of historical documents, was heard in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on Monday, March 21. Testifying in favor of the bill were Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County Clerk Pam Daniels, Grant County Auditor Bill Varney and Grant County Clerk Ken Kunes. Also in attendance and signed up in favor were Skamania County Auditor Mike Garvison, Pierce County Auditor Pat McCarthy. The committee did discuss amending the bill to reflect the Senate version where the fee would increase to \$4 instead of \$5. One of those dollars would be deposited into the county general fund to be used at the county commissioners' discretion for historical preservation and programs within the community. Bob Terwilliger suggested leaving the increase at \$5, and then redirecting the \$1. The committee seemed open to the idea and continuing the discussion. If you have members on the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee please contact them and ask them to vote **HB 1386** out of committee.

County Veteran's Services Legislation Moving Along

Legislation to modernize and clarify the role of county government in providing services to indigent veterans is moving forward in the legislative process. **SHB 1189**, sponsored by Rep. Jim Moeller (D-Clark County), is expected to move from the Senate Government

operations and Elections Committee next week.

The bill requires each county to establish a veterans' advisory committee to advise it on distribution of funds collected for assistance to indigent veterans. It allows county legislative authorities to authorize other entities to administer veterans' assistance programs through grants, contracts, or interlocal agreements so long as accountability criteria are met. Counties also may authorize the continued operation of veterans' relief or assistance programs existing on January 1, 2005, if the county solicits advice from the veterans' advisory board and specified grant, contractual, or interlocal agreement requirements are met.

The county responsibility to provide for burial of an indigent veteran or family member remains, but the authority is expanded to now allow for cremation. The burial or cremation may not exceed the limit established by the county nor be less than \$300.

Out of the Ashes Rises the Phoenix

Just when we thought the Public Health Funding Legislative Study Bill (**HB 1737**) was dead for the session, it came back after cutoff in the form of **HCR 4410**. **HCR 4410** is almost identical to the house bill. **HCR 4410** recognizes the work over the last ten years in the development of the Public Health Improvement Plan to include the development of capacity standards and identifying the gap in meeting those standards. The next logical step is to address the funding needed to bridge the gap. The resolution calls for establishment of a task force to include one member from each caucus from the committee on health and the principal fiscal committee of both the House of Representatives and Senate. The task force shall collaborate with the Office of the Governor, the Department of Health, the Association of Counties, the Association of Local Public Health Officials, and the State Board of Health. The task force is directed to recommend a source and level of dedicated funding that the legislature should provide for public health services. The recommendation shall include methods to ensure that such funding does not supplant existing federal, state, and local funds received by any element of the public health system. The task force will complete a report to the Governor and Legislature by July 1, 2006. **HCR 4410** is in House Rules and must be pulled to the floor of the House for a vote and then be approved by the Senate.

Developmental Disabilities Board seeking Members

Pierce County Developmental Disabilities is looking for interested persons to serve on the Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board. The board assists and advises Pierce County on services to the county's population of citizens with developmental disabilities.

Advisory Board membership is open to individuals residing in Pierce County who have an interest in issues of the developmentally disabled. Advisory member terms are three years.

For more information or an application, contact Lori Frank, Pierce County Developmental Disabilities, 215 S. 36th St., Tacoma, at 253-798-6109 or lfrank@co.pierce.wa.us.

Applicants Sought for \$600,000 in Affordable Housing Program Grants

Pierce County will award affordable housing grants totaling \$592,200 this spring and is seeking possible recipients. Completed applications must be submitted to the Department of Community Services by 4 p.m. April 29.

The Affordable Housing Program was created by the state Legislature in 2002. It is funded by \$10 fees applied by the county auditor on recorded documents. "The purpose of the program is to create and maintain affordable housing for very low income people," said Bryan Schmid, loan officer with the county's Housing Programs Division.

Very low income is defined as below 50 percent of the area median income. That income level is \$31,000 a year for a household of four.

The county has funded 13 projects since launching the program in the fall of 2003. The enabling legislation was **SHB 2060**.

Eligible activities for the **SHB 2060** program include these:

- Acquisition, rehabilitation and or new construction of housing projects or units that are affordable to very low income persons;
- Operation and maintenance costs for housing projects built with housing trust funds that are affordable to very low income persons and that require a supplement to rent income to cover operating expenses;
- Rental assistance vouchers provided to very low income persons and administered by a local public housing authority or other organization that has an eligible rental assistance voucher program.

Applications may be accessed at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/2060app>.

Contact: Bryan Schmid, Loan Officer, 253-798-6909; Jeff Rogers, Human Services Planner, 253-798-6908; or Dick Ferguson, Media and Community Relations, 253-798-3979.

Federal Housing and Urban Development Super Notice of Financial Assistance Available

The HUD SuperNOFA, which includes the HUD McKinney-Vento/Continuum of Care grants, is now complete and will be published in the Federal Register on Monday, March 21, 2005. You will be able to access the full document online at http://www.access.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/fr-cont.html under the heading Housing and Urban Development

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

Department, Grants and cooperative agreements; availability, etc.:

Discretionary programs (SuperNOFA), 05-05041. In addition to the Continuum of Care programs, HUD is announcing the availability of \$10 million for "Housing for People who are Homeless and Addicted to Alcohol."

In conjunction with the publication in the Federal Register, copies of the SuperNOFA will also likely be available on the HUD website at

<http://www.hud.gov/offices/adm/grants/fundsavail.cfm> and on the main federal grants website, <http://www.grants.gov>.

\$2.4 Million Available for Jail Diversion Grant Programs

(For Immediate Release - SAMHSA Press, March 24, 2005)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) today announced the availability of FY 2005 funds for Targeted Capacity Expansion Grants for Jail Diversion programs to divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and into community-based, integrated mental health and substance abuse treatment and appropriate support services.

It is expected that approximately \$400,000 will be available per grantee in Fiscal Year 2005 to fund six grants for up to three years. These grants will promote the transformation of systems to improve services for justice-involved adults with mental illness. The grants will be administered by SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services.

Who Can Apply: Eligible applicants are the chief executive of a

state, political subdivisions of states, and Indian tribes and tribal organizations, acting through agreements with other public and nonprofit entities to develop and implement programs to divert individuals with mental illness away from the criminal justice system and into community-based services. All applications must be signed by the chief executive of the state, political subdivision of state, Indian tribe, or tribal organization.

How To Apply: Applicants for No SM-05-011 are available by calling SAMHSA's clearinghouse at 1-800-729-6686, or by downloading the application from www.grants.gov or from the SAMHSA web site at www.samhsa.gov. Click on "Grants". Applicants are encouraged to apply on line through a new service at www.grants.gov

Application Due Date: May 24, 2005

Additional Information: Applicants with questions on program issues should contact David Morrisette, DSW, at (240)-276-1912 or e-mail to david.morrisette@samhsa.hhs.gov. For questions on grant management issues, contact Kimberly Pendleton at (240) 276-1421 or email to Kimberly.pendleton@samhsa.hhs.gov.

SAMHSA, a public health agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is the lead federal agency for improving the quality and availability of substance abuse prevention, addiction treatment and mental health services in the United States.

Public Health and Human Services(continued)

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Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	Location Bldg/Rm	Date
<u>HB 1279</u> <u>2SHB 1483</u> <u>SHB 2169</u>	Senate Human Services & Corrections	Revising provisions relating to public access to child in need of services and at-risk youth hearings Establishing a reinvesting in youth program Creating a pilot project authorizing small counties to regulate day care.	10:00 am	JAC 1	3/28/05
<u>EHS 1187</u> <u>E2SHB 1290</u>	Senate Human Services & Corrections	Eliminating mandatory minimum sentences for youthful offenders tried as adults. Modifying community mental health services provisions	10:00 am	JAC 1	3/29/05
<u>SHB 1591</u> <u>SHB 1365</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Concerning assisted care facilities Concerning home and community services' case management responsibilities	1:30 pm	JAC 4	3/28/05
<u>SB 5311</u> <u>SB 5872</u>	House Children & Family Services	Creating an autism task force Creating a task force on the administrative organization, structure and delivery of services to children and families	1:30 pm	JLOB D	3/28
<u>SSB 5717</u>	House Education	Authorizing incentive funds to maintain or increase the number of students in skill centers	1:30 pm	JLOB B	3/28
<u>SHB 1711</u>	Senate Transportation	Revising marking requirements for parking places for persons with disabilities	3:30 pm	JAC 1	3/28
<u>SB 5898</u> <u>Exec Session on</u> <u>E2SSB 5763</u>	House Health Care	Ordering a public information campaign on postpartum depression The omnibus mental health and substance abuse treatment act	8:00 am	JLOB A	3/29
<u>ESSB 5736</u>	House Financial Institutions & Insurance	Conducting an evaluation of the feasibility of subscription air ambulance service	8:00 am	JLOB/C	3/29
<u>ESB 5222</u>	House Judiciary	Changing provisions relating to the insanity defense	10:00 am	JLOB B	3/29
<u>ESHB 2266</u>	Senate Judiciary	Concerning access to certain precursor drugs	1:30 pm	JAC 1	3/29
<u>E2SHB 1458</u>	Senate Water, Energy, and Environment	Concerning the management of on-site sewage disposal systems in the marine areas.	1:30 pm	JAC/4	3/29
<u>5714</u>	House Health Care	Establishing an early detection breast & cervical cancer screening program	8:00 pm	JLOB/A	3/29
<u>5841</u>	House Health Care	Providing for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of asthma	8:00 pm	JLOB/A	3/29
<u>5898</u>	House Health Care	Ordering a public information campaign on postpartum depression	8:00 pm	JLOB/A	3/29
<u>1516</u>	Senate Health & Long-Term Care	Increasing access to health services for children through the "kids get care" service delivery model	8:00 am	JAC/4	3/30
<u>E2SHB 2163</u> <u>HB 1356</u>	Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Consumer Protection	Establishing a homeless housing program Expanding local government insurance options	1:30 pm	JAC 2	3/30
<u>E2SHB 1605</u>	Senate Water, Energy & Environment	Protecting children from area-wide soil contamination.	3:30 pm	JAC/4	3/30
<u>E2SHB 2015</u>	Senate Judiciary	Revising the special drug offender sentencing alternative	10:00 am	JAC 1	3/31

Transportation and Public Works

Oh Look! Another WSDOT Program

The Senate Transportation Committee heard **SSB 2124** on Thursday. The bill creates a big-brother entity in WSDOT, the Office of Transit Mobility, to oversee our public transportation friends. It's supposed to "coordinate services" and "maximize opportunities."

Officially, the duties of the Office are enumerated, and include:

- developing a statewide strategic plan that creates common goals for transit agencies and reduces competing plans for cross-jurisdictional service;
- developing a park-and-ride lot program;
- encouraging long-range transit planning and providing expertise to improve linkages between regional transportation planning organizations and transit agencies;
- strengthening policies for inclusion of transit and transportation demand management strategies in route development and corridor plan standards, and budget proposals;
- providing staff assistance to the Regional Mobility Steering Committee established under this act;
- developing standards to integrate transit and demand management strategies with regional and local land use plans in order to reduce traffic and improve mobility and access; and
- participating in all aspects of corridor planning.

Local and regional transportation agencies are directed to adopt

common transportation goals. The Office is given the responsibility to review local and regional plans to ensure the efficient integration of multi-modal and multi-jurisdictional planning.

SSB 2124 also creates the Regional Mobility Steering Committee. These fine folks will distribute 22 percent of the statewide, flexible funds made available under the successor act to TEA-21. Counties, ports and cities are not happy about this grab of STP monies that were slated to fund rural arterials and freight corridors, and testified accordingly before the Senate Committee.

You Say RTID; I Say RTIA!

On Thursday, the Senate Transportation Committee held a hearing on the regional transportation Improvement Authority (RTIA), **SSB 2157** - similar to the Regional Transportation Improvement District (RTID) of yore, but with more vowels.

Under current law, King, Pierce and Snohomish may create an RTID with a variety of funding options, including a sales and use tax, vehicle license fee, parking tax, motor vehicle excise tax, employer tax, and vehicle tolls. All must be voter approved. Eligible projects include capital improvements to highways of statewide significance, including associated multimodal capital improvements, and, under limited circumstances, certain local street, road, & highway improvements. Pierce, King and Snohomish have invested a great deal of time in this endeavor, but have not yet succeeded in placing a ballot measure before the voters. Some (more than a few; less than a horde) have criticized the RTID for being

road-centric.

SSB 2157 repeals the RTID, and creates the RTIA. The following was shamelessly stolen from **SSB 2157's** bill report and is not very entertaining:

Governance: Pursuant to **SSB 2157**, King, Pierce and Snohomish counties may create a multi-county or single-county RTIA to fund multimodal transportation projects. Kitsap County may form a single-county authority or, with voter approval, annex to her neighbors to the east whose plan has been voter approved.

A single-county RTIA must be countywide and the governing board of a single county RTIA is the county legislative. A multi-county RTIA's boundaries must be based on the urban growth area in that county to the extent deemed appropriate. The governing board consists of the members of participating county legislative authorities and the county executive of each county within the RTIA, with votes weighted by a specified population formula. The board also includes as non-voting members the Secretary of Transportation and representatives of certain larger cities within the participating counties. Areas of member counties not initially included when an RTIA is formed may annex to the RTIA with board, city and/or county, and voter approval.

Eligible projects: Transportation projects that may be included in the regional transportation improvement plan are projects of statewide or regional significance that are included in the transportation plan of state or a regional transportation planning organization (the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC)).

Transportation and Public Works (continued)

Projects may include highways of statewide significance, principal arterials of regional significance, high-capacity transportation, public transportation, and other projects or programs including transportation demand management. Projects may include operation, preservation and maintenance of those facilities or programs. Projects remain under the lead agency that owns the facility or provides the service unless otherwise provided for.

The Puget Sound Regional Council must prepare, upon request, a recommended prioritized list of projects, using specified project selection criteria, to be included in an RTIA improvement plan. The RTIA board may modify the list with a sixty percent weighted majority vote. Additionally, a process is specified by which a participating county may choose to either approve or disapprove the improvement plan.

Revenue options: The RTIA board may select from the following list of revenue options to fund the plan, which are all subject to voter approval: (1) a vehicle license fee of up to \$100 per year, upon initial registration and renewal; (2) a sales and use tax of up to 0.2 percent, which may be imposed for a maximum of ten years before another vote is required; (3) a 0.6 percent motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) to be based on vehicle market value, to the extent that it is not already imposed by a county within the authority boundaries; and (4) with approval of the Transportation Commission, tolls and a value-pricing charge based upon vehicle miles traveled, which may be varied by corridor and time of day.

The RTIA may enter into a joint ballot measure agreement with Sound Transit and impose Sound Transit's unused high capacity transit tax authority for high capacity transit projects that are set forth in the RTIA improvement plan.

Studies: The Transportation Commission must study the feasibility of value pricing certain facilities of the transportation network in Puget Sound. The study is to address using such an approach to generate revenues, maximize the efficiency of system operation, and provide economic indicators for system investments. The Commission is to submit an initial draft to the Legislature by January 15, 2006, and a final report by June 30, 2006.

A Transportation Governance Commission is established to make recommendations to the 2006 Legislature regarding transportation governance in the central Puget Sound area.

Association News

Put Your County's Best Face — Front and Center — on NACo's Web Site!

From April 10–16, during National County Government Week, the National Association of Counties (NACo) is turning over the front page of its Web site to photos and short stories of your county's heroes.

"Honoring County Heroes" is the theme for this year's celebration of National County Government Week, now in its 15th year.

County heroism comes in all shapes -- from the bravery of the emergency-services rescuer to the tenacity of the snowplow driver during a spate of winter weather to the compassion of a social services worker who protects children from abuse and neglect.

We would like to show off your heroes to the 15,000 visitors who come to NACo's Web site each day.

We will need a photo — headshot, preferably — and a short description (100 words or less) about why your nominee is a "County Hero." E-mail to webmaster@naco.org, or for more information, call Bev Schlotterbeck, 202/942-4249. Deadline is March 31.

Time is running out for Washington Counties Scholarships!

County elected officials and employees who have students in their families take note!

The Washington Counties' Scholarship Fund is offering five \$2,500 awards to children of county employees who will be enrolled full-time during the 2005/2006 school year in a baccalaureate program, associate degree program or vocational/technical certification program. Complete information and applications are available on the web at www.wacounties.org. **Applications must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 8, 2005.**

Call WACO at (360) 753-7319 or WSAC at (360) 753-1886 if you would like to have an application mailed to you or if you have any questions.

We encourage all students to apply!

Training and Upcoming Events

Workshop Notice

Local Government On-Site Septic System Repair and Replacement Loan Program (funded through the State Revolving Loan Fund)

WHEN AND WHERE:

- Thursday, June 23, 2005
Starting at 10:00 a.m. and ending at approximately 3:00 P.M.
Pierce County Library Administrative Service Center
Rooms A, B, & C
3005 112th Street East
Tacoma, WA 98446
(light refreshments served in the morning)
- Web site to obtain directions: <http://www.pcl.lib.wa.us/pacmap.htm>

FOR WHOM:

- Local governments interested in learning more about utilizing the Water Quality Program State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) to establish a local loan fund to address failing on-site sewage systems.

PURPOSE:

- To provide opportunities for local governments to learn from Ecology and other local governments about how to establish an On-Site Septic System Repair and Replacement Loan Program. Information about alternative technologies for failing on-site septic systems and research on consumer attitudes will also be presented.

COST:

- There is no fee, but you are encouraged to register in advance — *seating may be limited*.

WORKSHOP AGENDA:

- Introduction and opening remarks: importance of OSS and funding availability.
- Ecology grant and loan information: process; eligibility; development of competitive applications.
- Presentations from SRF local loan recipients: what works and what does not?
- Presentation from a Hood Canal Coordinating Council Representative: new technology options and research outcomes about consumer attitudes.
- Panel discussion addressing OSS issues — opportunity to problem solve and share successes and lessons learned.

TO RESERVE SPACE:

- Please contact Cindy Price at cpri461@ecy.wa.gov or at (360) 407-7132.

Courthouse Ramblings

Lincoln County Sheriff's

Department has surplused for sale a Motorola Centrallink 911 phone system. If anyone is interested in the purchase of this system, contact Undersheriff Wade Magers at (509) 725-9264 by April 8, 2005.

The new executive director of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is **Don Pierce**. Pierce began his law enforcement career in 1972, working for several sheriffs' offices in eastern Washington, as well as the Pullman Police Department. He then became the Director of Public Safety for the City of Normandy Park, served as Police Chief in Tukwila from 1984 to 1988 and as Police Chief in Bellingham from 1988 to 2000. Pierce moved to Boise, Idaho in 2000 to assume the duties of Police Chief there, and in May of 2004 he was appointed as the CEO of Big Brothers, Big Sisters of Southwest Idaho.

Calendar of Events

<i>Meeting</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Information</i>
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>MARCH 2005</u>			
CPO Elective Course: Public Meetings, Public Disclosure & More - Do You Know the Rules?	Colfax	March 30	http://d30060429.purehost.com/CPO/CPO.htm
CPO Elective Course: Public Meetings, Public Disclosure & More - Do You Know the Rules?	Ellensburg	March 31	http://d30060429.purehost.com/CPO/CPO.htm
<u>APRIL 2005</u>			
CPO Elective Course: Public Meetings, Public Disclosure & More - Do You Know the Rules?	Mt. Vernon	April 6	http://d30060429.purehost.com/CPO/CPO.htm
WACO Board of Trustees' Meeting	Washington Counties Building, Olympia	April 6-7	
CPO Elective Course: Public Meetings, Public Disclosure & More - Do You Know the Rules?	Pierce County	April 7	http://d30060429.purehost.com/CPO/CPO.htm
16 th Annual National County Government Week		April 10-16	
Washington Counties Insurance Fund (WCIF)/Washington Counties Insurance Pool (WCIP) Ace Committee (HR & Payroll Only)	Yakima Convention Center	April 13	(360) 586-0466
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Risk Managers Roundtable, 1- 5 pm	Best Western CottonTree Convention Center, Mt. Vernon	April 13	(360) 586-7447
Washington Counties Risk Pool (WCRP) Spring Board Meeting, 9 am	Best Western CottonTree Convention Center, Mt. Vernon	April 14	(360) 586-7447
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
Urban County Caucus	Mercato Ristorante', Olympia	April 14	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	April 15	(360) 753-1886
Washington STATE	Sine Die - 59th Legislative Session Ends	April 25	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Spring Training Program	La Quinta Inn, Tacoma	April 27-29	(360) 753-2175
<u>MAY 2005</u>			
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys-Support Enforcement 2005 Training	Red Lion Hotel, Olympia	May 2-6	(360) 753-3953
WA State Association of County Auditors' Elections Conference	Shilo Inn, Ocean Shores	May 9-12	(360) 753-7319
WA Association of Prosecuting Attorneys' Support Staff Training Program	WestCoast Ridpath Hotel, Spokane	May 11-13	(360) 753-2175
Assn of County Human Services	Kennewick	May 18-20	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Spring Eastern District	Red Lion Hotel Columbia Center, Kennewick	May 19-20	(360) 753-1886

Calendar of Events (continued)

WA State Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs' Spring Conference	Coast Hotel, Wenatchee	May 23-26	(360) 486-2380
NACo – Western Interstate Region Conference	Tacoma, WA	May 25 - 27	http://www.naco.org/Content/NavigationMenu/About_NACo/Committees_and_Caucuses/Western_Interstate_Region/Western_Interstate_Region_Intro.htm



Happy Spring and Happy Easter
from the Washington Counties Building