

the Courthouse Journal

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**WA Counties
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*Washington Association of County Officials
Washington State Association of Counties*

Property Rights Initiative Possible

The Washington Farm Bureau has filed final language with the Secretary of State's Office for a "Property Fairness Initiative" to require state and local government to compensate landowners when regulations "damage the use or value" of private property. Washington Farm Bureau President Steve Appel, a Whitman County wheat grower, presented a copy of the initiative to Secretary of State Sam Reed.

The Secretary of State's Office website contains this information about the proposed initiative:

Ballot Title

Initiative Measure 933 concerns government regulation of private property.

This measure would require compensation when any government regulation damages the use or value of private property, forbid regulations that prohibit existing legal uses of private property, and provide for exceptions and conditions. Should this measure be enacted into law? Yes [] No []

Ballot Measure Summary

This measure would require government agencies to consider the effects of and alternatives to regulating private property. Compensation would be required when regulations are enforced that damage private property use or value, including regulations prohibiting

or restricting property uses that were allowed as of January 1, 1996. Exceptions would exist for regulations applying equally to all property subject to the agency's jurisdiction. Development regulations that would prohibit existing legal property uses would not be permitted.

The State Secretary of State's website (<http://www.secstate.wa.gov/elections/initiatives/people.aspx>) does not have the full text of the initiative at this time and states: "Initiative text is not yet available..."

Initiative text is not converted to electronic format until the proposed measure has received a number and the state Attorney General has written the official ballot title. At that time we will publish the full-text version."

The Farm Bureau website contains the proposed language for their "Property Fairness for Washington" initiative at <http://www.propertyfairness.com/text.htm>.

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The Courthouse Journal

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

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Initiative Filed with Secretary of State Creating New Counties

Proponents of proposed Cedar County a group that has advocated creation of a new county from part of King County has filed Initiative 932, establishing procedures for creation of new counties or consolidation of existing counties. Several years ago, a group of citizens known as the Cedar County Committee filed a petition to create a new county named Cedar. That led to a ruling by the Supreme Court that the filing was not filed timely and that the Legislature had not adopted a clear procedure for the creation of a new county. Over the years several bills have been introduced that would provide for a legislative remedy, but none have passed. During this most recent session **HB 1500** was heard in House Local Government, but it died in the House Appropriations Committee.

Initiative 932 is nearly the same language as **HB 1500**. The purpose of the initiative is to “establish procedures for the orderly formation of new counties, either by division of an existing county or counties or through the consolidation of existing counties, that is consistent with the state supreme court decision in Cedar County Committee v. Munro (134 Wn. 2 377) and to provide for an equitable apportionment of the debts, liabilities, and assets of the parent county or counties between the new and the remaining portion or portions of each parent county.”

It sets a time period for the Secretary of State and Office of Financial Management to verify signatures, valid boundaries and population thresholds consistent

with the state constitution. The constitution requires that a petition to create a new county must be signed by at least 50% of the registered voters of the proposed new county. The court of appeals is authorized to appoint a special master who will make the final decision on the division of assets and liabilities, and a procedure is established for the election of the first board of commissioners and other officers. The new county would be established January 1 of the year following the election or formation by the Legislature. Provisions are given to borrow money from the state treasury necessary to finance the first year of operation until the taxes are collected.

You may click on <http://www.secstate.wa.gov/election/s/initiatives/people.aspx> to view the entire text of the initiative.

WSAC Financial Services Corporation to Hold First Board Meeting

Thursday, February 23 the Finance Services Corporation (WSAC/FSC) will hold its first Board of Directors meeting in the Washington Counties Building, in Olympia. The WSAC Board of Directors, acting as the shareholders for the WSAC/FSC met in January and appointed five members to the new board. They voted to appoint Jim Nall, President/CEO for Interlocking Software from Poulsbo, Pat Dunn, President of Patrick Dunn & Associates, Ltd. in Seattle, Claire J. Hauge, OFM Director for Cowlitz County, Tom Cowan, Executive Director for the Northwest Straits Commission in Mount Vernon, and

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

Bill Vogler, Executive Director for WSAC in Olympia. There is still one vacant position on the FSC Board and the new directors will fill that position.

The new board will elect officers, and organize themselves during the

first meeting. A key decision will be advertising a RFP for a management firm to staff and direct the corporation. Mimi Welch of Transition Dynamics will facilitate the development of a strategic plan and road map for the new

corporation. The goal is to develop and sell products that will benefit counties and help support WSAC.

Budget, Finance and Taxes

Moving Forward

Passed out of the Senate on a very encouraging vote was the wind turbine bill, **SSB 6141**. Many of you may not understand what this bill will do. One, it corrects an anomaly that currently exists in personal property. If valued by the state, the personal property components of the wind turbines count as new construction. If valued locally by the county assessor, it does not count toward a counties new construction amount. This was problematic in that it was the exact same property, just valued for tax purposes by a different entity. Now, this bill allows them to be treated the same. It is a great step toward producing uniformity in the treatment of these properties.

Another benefit is that it gives all taxing districts where wind turbine farms are located the option of either generating more tax dollars, or reducing the overall county levy rate, or a combination of the two. The law as it exists now does not allow them the option to choose. This is a good bill. It costs the state nothing, and it gives counties and other taxing districts the right to choose. This bill has been “adopted” for full support by the Washington Association of County Assessors, WACO, and now WSAC. This bill will be heard Tuesday, February 21 at 1:30 in Hearing Room B of the

John L. O’Brien Building.

Why List the Dollar Amount in a Ballot Title?

Confusion still exists over why there is a need to list the dollar amount and the rate in the ballot title of a levy request. The reason is simple; both of them are critical parts of the equation. Each part represents a check and balance on the other when levy calculations are performed, and both pieces are an integral part of the puzzle when trying to decide whether to vote yes or no.

Perhaps the easiest analogy is comparing it to buying a new car. After you settle on a model, the salesman asks what kind of monthly payments you can afford. He’ll go back to his manager and come back with a monthly figure very close to what you said you could afford. At that point you will be pushed to close the deal and sign right now. You have just established the rate that you will be paying. The problem is, you have no idea how much he is allowing you for your trade-in, you don’t know the price he is charging you for the new car, and you don’t know if it is a good deal or not. In other words, the dollar amount has not been established. With only the rate to look at, you really cannot make an intelligent, informed decision.

Streamlined Sales Tax Hearing

On Wednesday, February 15, the House Finance Committee heard **SSB 6594** to adopt the Streamlined Sales Tax Agreement. Senators Debbie Regala and Mark Schoesler began the testimony in support of the bill. Thereafter, several panels of retailers, businesses, and local government representatives testified urging the House to pass legislation this year. Representing WSAC and WACO at the hearing were Pierce County Executive John Landenburg; Stevens County Commissioner Merrill Ott; Douglas County Commissioner Mary Hunt; and Lewis County Treasurer Rose Bowman. With only three weeks remaining in the legislative session, counties are urged to contact their House members now in support of **SSB 6594**.

Tax Exemptions Multiply

The Senate proposed operating budget was released on February 15 and includes over \$50 million in tax breaks. The recipients of tax breaks included timber producers and processors, the motion picture industry, farmers, restaurants, aerospace businesses, and dairy producers. The tax break fervor has gotten the attention of Governor Gregoire who threatened this week to use her veto pen to rein in

Budget, Finance, and Taxes (continued)

discounts she views as excessive. Not all of the tax breaks impact local government. Many of the tax breaks are preferential B&O tax rates for selected industries.

However, much of the gain county government received from last year's **SB 6050**, which allocated \$5 million of real estate excise taxes to distressed counties, will be wiped out by **SHB 2424** and **SHB 2457**. These retail sales tax exemptions for diesel used in farming and replacement parts for farm machinery and equipment have a combined impact of reducing local government revenues by \$3.9 million. Both bills are poised for action in the Senate. You are urged to contact your Senators and ask them to exempt only the state's portion of the sales tax in these bills.

3/10th Sales Tax for Criminal Justice Changes Must Wait until 2007

HB 2988 and **SB 6789** to eliminate the non-supplanting language and the requirement that thirty percent of the new sales tax proceeds be spent on criminal justice purposes will have to wait another year. Working with members for days on potential amendments, WSAC could not agree to the language offered by House Republicans to **HB 2988**. Unable to secure bipartisan support, the bill died in the House Rules committee. With its companion, **SSB 6789**, dead on arrival in the House, a Senate floor vote was not pursued. We hope 2007 will be more successful. Many legislators want to work with counties on the non-supplanting issue, but keep the sales tax focused on criminal justice activities.

Levy Lid Lift Flexibility Legislation Passes Senate

In contrast to the 3/10th sales tax for criminal justice, **SSB 5333**, which would repeal the non-supplanting requirements in the six-year voter approved property tax levy lid lift, passed out of the Senate on a near unanimous vote. The bill will be heard in the House Finance Committee on February 20.

Hospital District Investments

SHB 1341, a carryover bill from last year's session, authorizing additional investment authority for specified hospital districts, was pulled from House Rules, passed the House and is now in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee. The associated constitutional amendment is **HJR 4202**. A hearing has been scheduled for these bills on Tuesday, February 21, at 10:00 a.m. This is the issue that the county treasurers and State Treasurer opposed so strongly last year because it permits six of the largest hospital districts to invest their own funds. This is taxpayer money and it is felt that operating funds would end up at risk as hospital districts seek to make higher returns on investments.

REET Automation Bill

HB 2879, modifying the electronic administration of the real estate excise tax and revising the fees, passed the House this week and is in the Senate Ways and Means Committee. It has not yet been scheduled for hearing.

Mobile Homes

HB 2719, authorizing the conditional cancellation of delinquent property

taxes on mobile homes, died in the House Rules Committee with the cutoff.

Distraint of Personal Property

SSB 6441, changing the law related to judicial orders concerning distraint of personal property, was heard in House Judiciary Committee yesterday and was given a do pass recommendation.

Air Pollution Control Agencies

HB 1361, modifying the disbursement of funds by air pollution control agencies and letting them issue their own warrants, passed the House and is in the Senate Water, Energy and Environment Committee. Language in the bill says that the county shall be reimbursed by the board of the air pollution control authority for receipt of funds by the treasurer and the Treasurers' Association wants that language taken out of the bill, as no other districts pay a fee to make deposits with the treasurer. Thurston County Treasurer Robin Hunt was on hand to testify, but the committee adjourned before she had a chance. Representative Alexander, prime sponsor of the bill, did testify to the fact that the amendment would be fine with him. Robin submitted her testimony in writing.

Elections, Licensing and Recording

Primary Date Change on Home Stretch (WACO/Auditors' Priority)

ESB 6236, moving the primary date to the third Tuesday in August, passed out of the House State Government Operations and Accountability Committee on Wednesday, before about a dozen county auditors and wild applause. Snohomish County Auditor Bob Terwilliger, Auditors' Association Legislative Committee co-chair, and Yakima County Auditor Corky Mattingly, did a great job in testifying in favor of the bill on behalf of the auditors and everyone else signed in supporting the measure. Please call your House Rules Committee members and ask that the bill be pulled to the floor calendar for a vote.

Elections Bills Heard in Committee

EHB 2478, clarifying laws on ballot measures; **SHB 2694**, eliminating Saturday counting of ballots; and **HB**

3041, modifying voter registration timelines, were all heard by the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee, Thursday morning, and each was given a do pass recommendation. Again, there were several auditors attending this hearing. Thanks to those who testified, including Thurston County Auditor Kim Wyman, Douglas County Auditor Thad Duvall and Island County Auditor Suzanne Sinclair, Auditors' Association Legislative Committee co-chair. Calls to Senate Rules Committee members are in order.

Hearings Next Week

The following elections bills have hearings in the Senate Government Operations and Elections Committee next week:

HB 2477, making technical changes to election laws, and **SHB 2695**, modifying absentee or provisional ballot notice requirements – Monday, February 20, at 8:30 a.m. **SHB 2479**, ensuring equipment

accessibility for voters with visual impairments - Tuesday, February 21, 10:00 a.m.

SHB 2594, providing assistance to non-English speaking voters (task force study) – Thursday, February 23, 8:00 a.m.

General Government Issues

HB 3019, clarifying that the financial officer designated in a charter county acts as the ex-officio deputy state auditor for purposes of accounting and reporting, moved out of Senate Government Operations and Elections on Thursday. County officials are urged to contact their Senate Rules members to ask that **HB 3019** be "pulled" to the floor for a vote of the entire Senate. Next stop: the Governor's desk.

Environment, Land Use and Resources

Governor's Land Use

Agenda – Here is what remains alive past “House of Origin” cutoff:

Accessory Uses on Agricultural Resource Lands – Passes House 98-0, referred to Senate Ag and Rural Economic Development

SHB 2917 Clarifies the types of small-scale commercial activities counties may allow on agricultural lands to provide supplemental income to farmers while preserving agricultural lands. **SHB 2917** reinforces that local governments may adopt regulations to allow flexibility for farm owners to locate small scale business on their property that provides additional income without consuming prime agricultural land. This business can be agriculture or non-agriculture related, as indicated by local land use code.

SHB 2917 adds language that local governments may allow small-scale nonagricultural activities compatible in size, scale, and intensity with, and will not interfere with, the agricultural use of the property and neighboring properties. Examples of nonagricultural activities would be operating a small hair salon out of the family home or constructing a building to house a small-engine repair shop in the area already developed for buildings and residential uses. Conversion of agricultural land for nonagricultural accessory uses is only allowed in the general area already developed for buildings and residential uses.

As amended, the bill limits the conversion of land for agriculture and non-agricultural use to one acre.

GMA Timelines and Updates Passes Senate 47-0, Referred to

House Local Government

SSB 6427 gives small and slower-growing counties and cities an extra three years to review and update their comprehensive plans and development regulations, including critical area ordinances.

The legislation applies to 15 counties and 105 cities with update deadlines in 2005, 2006, or 2007 that are:

- Cities with population under 100, or less than 5,000 with 10-year growth rates of 17 percent or less
- Counties with populations under 50,000 and 10-year growth rates of 17 percent or less.

Best Available Science Passes House 57-41, referred to Senate Government Operations and Elections

SHB 2815 provides guidance and assistance to local governments in identifying applying science to their local rules by:

- Informing how to demonstrate that BAS was included, and how to document any other information that may have been used as a basis for critical areas policies and regulations including other items besides science;
- Improving state assistance to local governments by bringing state-developed guidance through peer review. This guidance material would be optional for local governments to use as they develop their policies. The guidance would not constitute minimum standards. Local governments who choose to use state-developed guidance for critical areas identification and protection have safeguards from appeals;
- Clarifying hearings board procedures by directing that the

boards develop and adopt a rule for obtaining advice from science experts.

The Senate version that WSAC supported included the phrase “as potentially impacted by future development” in reference to uses in critical areas. This version did not move. WSAC will continue to seek this language.

Eminent Domain –Did not pass SHB 3017/SSB 6701 – Neither bill moved from the House and Senate.

Water Resource Management in the Columbia River Basin Signed by Governor

ESSHB 2860 was signed by Governor Chris Gregoire providing for new investment in the economic and environmental future of central and eastern Washington. The bill overwhelmingly passed both houses of the Legislature and provides guidance for Columbia River Basin Water Resource Management.

Work on the bill began a year ago when Governor Gregoire asked House and Senate leaders from both parties to appoint members to a Columbia River Task Force to study the long-standing water management stalemate on the Columbia River.

The Columbia River Task force included Ecology director Jay Manning, Sens. Jim Honeyford (R), 15th District; Bob Morton (R), 7th District; Erik Poulsen (D), 49th District; Craig Pridemore (D), 34th District; Reps, Bruce Chandler (R), 15th District; Bill Grant (D), 16th District; Timm Ormsby (D), 3rd District; Kelli Linville (D), 42nd District; and Dan Newhouse (R), 15th District.

Environment, Land Use and Resources (continued)

The bill commits to developing new storage and water conservation projects on the Columbia River, provides a formula for allocating newly stored water, and creates mechanisms for jumpstarting conservation measures and improving current management operations on the Columbia River. One-third of all newly stored water will be allocated to support stream flows for fish. Two-thirds of newly stored water will be available for new out-of stream water uses, such

as farming, industry and municipal growth.

A copy of the bill may be viewed online at:
<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2860&year=2006>.

Public Health and Human Services

Senate Budget Pumps New Funding into Mental Health

The proposed Senate Supplemental Budget adds a significant amount of new funds to mental health. There is approximately \$21 million for increased Medicaid rates. They fund the opening of two wards at Western State Hospital and one forensic ward at Eastern State Hospital. They fund the Pierce County lawsuit at \$2 million. They add \$20 million in state funds to improve community resources and as they come on line eventually start reducing or refocusing the hospital more appropriately. There remain some concerns about how some of the funds might be distributed and the relationship of the funds to the recently concluded Pierce County lawsuit.

But, given those concerns and the wait for the House budget, it was a great beginning at finally putting more funding into community programs. The draft policy bill that will align with the funding is also

under vigorous discussion. The Governor, Sen. Hargrove and Rep. Cody have met and are working toward a compromise bill as well as agreed upon funding levels. Much discussion remains in both areas but progress is being made that we are cautiously optimistic will serve to improve the public mental health system.

The RSN administrators also held their monthly meeting on Thursday, February 16 and had their first opportunity to meet Secretary Robin Arnold-Williams and first chance to spend face-to-face time with the new Mental Health Division Director, Richard Kellogg. There appeared to be mutual respect and a desire to improve the relationships between the counties and DSHS. This is a great opportunity with new leadership, fresh ideas, and a willingness to work together coming from both sides.

Public Health and Human Services (continued)

Schedules are subject to change- PLEASE check this link <http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.htm>

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

Bill #	Committee	Description	Time	<u>Location</u> Bldg/Room	Date
HB 3205	Sen Hum Svcs & Corr	Clarifying the authority to apprehend conditionally released persons	8:30	SHR 1	02-20-06
SSB 6630	Hse Ch & Fam Svcs	Establishing the community protection program for persons with developmental disabilities	1:30	HHR D	02-20-06
SSB 5141	Hse Ch & Fam Svcs	Providing for early intervention services for children with disabilities	1:30	HHR D	02-20-06
SHB 2376	Sen Hlth & LTC	Prohibiting the department of social and health services from imposing premiums on children in households with income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level	3:30	SHR 4	02-20-06
4SHB 1483	Sen Hum Svcs & Corr	Reinvesting in youth program	10:00	SHR 1	02-21-06
E2SSB 6239	Hse Cr Just & Corr	Changing provisions relating to controlled substances	1:30	HHR E	02-21-06
SB 6558	Hse Hlth Care	Revising experience provisions for licensed mental health counselors	1:30	HHR A	02-21-06
SB 6459	Hse Hlth Care	Supporting community-Based health care	1:30	HHR A	02-21-06
	Sen H& LTC	Provider contract bills	8:00	SHR 4	02-22-06
	Hse Ch & Fam Svcs	Adoption	8:00	HHR D	02-22-06
2SHB 2912	Sen Hum Svcs & Corr	Requiring that mental health professionals do private home visits in pairs and providing for other safety and violence prevention measures.	8:00	SHR 1	02-23-06
	Hsc Ch & Fam Svcs	Executive Session on Senate bills	1:30	HHR D	02-23-06
SHB 2914	Sen Hlth & LTC	Compliance with certification standards for providers of residential services and support to persons with developmental disabilities.	3:30	SHR 4	02-23-06
	Sen Hum Svcs & Corr	Executive session on House bills	7:30	SHR 1	02-23-06
	Hse Approps	Public Hearing and Exec. Session	9:00	HHR A	02-25-06

Transportation and Public Works

Senate Supplemental Transportation Budget Released

On Wednesday, February 15, the Senate Transportation Committee unveiled its supplemental transportation budget. The primary interest for counties was the distribution of funds from the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The six-year act covers federal fiscal years 2004 through 2009. However, SAFETEA-LU was enacted August 10, 2005. The reauthorization was long overdue. The previous long-term authorization (TEA-21) expired on September 30, 2003.

During this two-year lapse, the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) received a number of short-term federal funding extensions to enable it to continue its work. Given the delay in passage of the act, WSDOT continued to program federal funds as they had under the prior act (TEA-21). For example, the 2003-05 transportation budget was developed using allocations that were later considered part of SAFETEA-LU by Congress. However, a few new programs were added in SAFETEA-LU.

In developing its supplement budget, the Senate Transportation Committee reasserted its role in determining how SAFETEA-LU funds would be spent. The Chair, Senator Mary Margaret Haugen, stated throughout the hearing that the SAFETEA-LU funds should be distributed in the budget to ensure transparency and accountability with funding choices. WSAC did testify with concerns on some of the Senate's funding choices.

1. Approximately \$87 million of Surface Transportation Program (STP) funds was assumed by WSDOT to be distributed through MPOs and RTPOs to areas with less than 5,000 in population. The Senate supplemental transportation budget transferred authority for distribution of STP funds to the Washington Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) for areas with less than 5,000 in population and for arterial and small city programs. WSAC and others testified with concerns that the MPO and RTPO process worked well and provided flexible funds for local and regional priorities. Additionally, much of the funds had been already been awarded; changing the process would disrupt projects. In response, the budget was amended to exclude currently funded projects. However, the remainder of the funds is appropriated to WSDOT for TIB to select projects from MPO and RTPO plans for areas with less than 5,000 population (\$19 million) and for arterial and small city programs (\$13 million).

2. WSDOT had programmed \$19.5 million for a Rural Two Lane Road Safety Pilot Project by distributing \$500,000 to each county. The Senate supplemental transportation budget required WSDOT to award funding to projects based corridors of one mile or more where a five-year analysis of collision history indicates that the section has higher than average collision and severity factors. WSAC testified that the purpose for distributing the funds equally among counties was in recognition that all counties have rural two-lane roads in need of safety improvements. The equal distribution would also result in an array of low cost solutions to

safety problems that counties could learn from. Additionally, a five-year analysis of collision data for each corridor would be difficult to produce. Lastly, some of the funds had already been awarded. In response, the budget was amended to exclude currently funded projects. However, WSDOT will be required to award funding to projects based the corridor having a higher than average (but not five-year) collision history. This change may result in some counties not receiving any funds.

3. Through an existing competitive process, WSDOT had developed list of projects that would be awarded STP Enhancement funds. The Senate supplemental transportation budget required that the selection process, to the greatest extent practicable, funding enhancement activities to meet or exceed the national average of allocations made for each respective activity. This requirement was proposed in Senate Bill 6339, which WSAC opposed. This portion of the Senate supplemental transportation was not changed in the amendment process.

The Senate supplemental transportation budget was improved in the committee amendment process. The SAFETEA-LU funds are still directed to local projects. Other distinct county projects have also received state funding in the budget. For example, the permitting demonstration project being developed by WSAC and the Association of Cities (AWC) received an additional \$225,000 in the budget. For these items, the Senate should be thanked.

However, there is still work to be done. We ask that you contact

Transportation and Public Works (continued)

your Senators and Representatives to urge them to maintain the current processes for distributing funds – 1) STP funding distributed through MPOs/RTPOs, 2) Rural Two Lane Road Safety Pilot Project distributed

equally to each county, and 3) STP Enhancement funds distributed through its competitive process without regard to national funding averages.

Courts, Public Safety, Law & Justice

Court Fee Fix

SSB 6670, clarifying court fees, will be heard in House Judiciary on Monday evening, February 20, at 6:00 p.m. The bill is a priority of the Washington State Association of County Clerks and simply makes the application of fees set last session consistent. SSB 6670 does not increase or decrease fees.

Law and Justice

E2SSB 6239, Attorney General Rob McKenna's omnibus bill changing provisions to controlled substances, is scheduled for hearing in the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee on Tuesday at 1:30 p.m., in House Hearing Room E. E2SSB 6239 has many facets but of most interest to law enforcement, prosecutors and courts is the restoration of JAG and Byrne Grant cuts and the establishment of three pilots in the NE, SE and SW corners of the state where they are allowed a minimum of four additional deputies, two prosecutors and one court clerk to bolster the attack on illegal drugs. The Senate budget contains funding for the bill. All county officials are encouraged to ask their House members to support E2SSB 6239.

In the same hearing Tuesday, Criminal Justice and Corrections will

hear SSB 6502, which creates a statewide victim information and notification system. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) is charged with developing a system that builds on a centralized booking and reporting system and existing notification systems in Pierce, King and Snohomish Counties. Victims will be notified of the release, transfer, discharge or escape of persons charged in their case. WASPC is applying for federal funding.

Missing Persons Legislation Set for Judiciary

2SHB 2805, expanding missing persons provisions, is set for hearing in Senate Judiciary next Tuesday, February 21, at 3:30 p.m. in Senate Hearing Room 1. 2SHB 2805 is a WACO priority brought forward by the coroners and medical examiners but they have since been joined in the effort by several groups and individuals who have experienced the inability to locate a loved one or family member.

If a missing persons website and interface with the Washington State Patrol are not funded, those sections are null and void. The parties are dedicated to proceeding to build on all the time and efforts of countless groups, including a task force

convened in 2003 by Governor Gregoire and hope the bill's passage will keep the desire to improve Washington's ability to locate missing persons and identify human remains before the Legislature and the public. WACO members are urged to contact their Senators and encourage their support of 2SHB 2805. It must leave the Judiciary Committee by 5:00 p.m. on February 24 or lose out to the next cutoff.

Calendar of Events

Meeting	Location	Date	Information
For your convenience training and workshops are bolded.			
<u>FEBRUARY 2006</u>			
WA Assn of County Auditors' Finance Conference	North Bonneville Hot Springs Resort, North Bonneville	February 28 – March 2	(360) 753-7319
<u>MARCH 2006</u>			
WSAC Urban County Caucus	Mercato's Ristorante, Olympia	March 1/6:30-9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Rural Issues Sub-committee	Ramblin' Jack's Restaurant, Olympia	March 1/6:30-9	(360) 753-1886
WSAC Legislative Steering Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 2/9:30-1	(360) 753-1886
NACo Legislative Conference	Washington, D.C.	March 4 - 8	http://www.naco.org
Legislative Session Ends – Sine Die	Olympia	March 9	http://www.leg.wa.gov/wsladm/calendar.cfm
ACHS	Port Townsend	March 15 – 17	(360) 586-4219 ext 106
WCIF/WCIP Board and Insurance Advisory Committee (IAC)	Spokane	March 16	(360) 586-0466
WA Association of County Officials Board of Trustees Meeting	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 22-23	(360) 753-7319
Washington County Administrative Assn - Annual Business	Enzian Inn, Leavenworth	March 22 - 24	(360) 577-3065 Claire Hauge, haugec@co.cowlitz.wa.us
WA Counties Bldg Partnership & Scholarship Committee	WA Counties Bldg, Olympia	March 23/ 1 – 3 pm	(360) 753-1886
WA Assn of County Auditors' Recording Conference	Leavenworth	March 27 - 28	(360) 753-7319
<u>APRIL 2006</u>			
WA Counties Insurance Fund ACE	Yakima	April 12	(360) 586-0466
WA Municipal Treasurers' (WMTA) Annual Conference	Campbell's Lodge, Chelan	April 12 - 14	
WSAC Spring Western District	Lakeway Inn, Bellingham	April 20 - 21	www.wacounties.org/wsac
17th Annual National County Government Week		April 23 - 29	
WA Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys' Spring Training	Red Lion, Yakima	April 26 - 28	(360) 753-2175
<u>MAY 2006</u>			
WAPA-SEP Training	Red Lion Hotel, Silverdale	May 1 - 5	(360) 753-3953

Calendar of Events (continued)

WSAC Board of Directors	Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 3 / 6 – 9:30 pm	www.wacounties.org/ wsac
WSAC Spring Eastern District	Coast Wenatchee Center Hotel, Wenatchee	May 4 - 5	www.wacounties.org/ wsac
Government Finance Officers' Assn (GFOA) 100 th Annual Conference	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	May 7 - 10	
WA State Assn of County Auditors' 100 th Annual Conference	Marriott, Tacoma	May 8 - 10	(360) 753-7319
WA Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys' Support Staff Training	Sun Mountain Lodge, Winthrop	May 10 - 12	(360) 753-2175
Western Interstate Region (WIR)	Sacramento, CA	May 10 - 12	www.naco.org
WA Assn of Sheriffs' and Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Spring Conference	Doubletree, Spokane	May 22 - 25	(360) 753-7319
WA Assn of Coroners and Medical Examiners' Training	Tri-Cities	May 30-June 2	(360) 753-7319



The Interagency Committee of State Employed Women (ICSEW), sponsored by Governor Christine Gregoire, would like to invite your county to be represented at the ICSEW's Biannual Professional Development Conference held in Kennewick, Washington on May 8–10, 2006.

The theme of the conference is "Today's Women, Today's Leaders."

The ICSEW is asking that your county donate a gift basket to the conference, filled with products either manufactured in or unique to your area of the state. The baskets will be displayed throughout the conference and then auctioned off with all proceeds going to benefit the Columbia Basin Community College, Adult Learning Center's child care program.

With over 31,000 women employed by various agencies in five regions of our state, chances are your county will be represented at the conference. The expertise Washington State workers gain at the conference will become part of the overall business workings for your county and area of the state.

For more information, including where to send the gift basket representing your county, please contact Patricia Thronson at 360-407-0748 or e-mail Patricia at PatriciaT@dis.wa.gov.