

WASHINGTON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

PREPARED BY: COYNE, JESERNIG, LLC

Weekly Report

Thursday, January 15, 2015

The 2015 Legislative Session convened on Monday, January 12th, and it didn't take long for the political fireworks to start. Opening ceremonies moved relatively smoothly until the Senate voted on the largely ceremonial position of President Pro-tem. Maverick Democrat Tim Sheldon has held that position for the last two years, and it was widely assumed that he would be elected to that position for the next two years.

Unfortunately for Sen. Sheldon, Republican Sen. Pam Roach, (and Minority Democrats), had other ideas. After Democratic Sen. Sheldon had been nominated by Republicans, Democratic Sen. Marilyn Chase surprised everyone by nominating Sen. Roach to that same position. When Republican Sen. Don Benton joined Sen. Roach and the 24 Minority Democrats in voting for Sen. Roach as President Pro-tem, Sen. Sheldon and the Majority Coalition Caucus were startled to find out they had been sideswiped by a mini-coup.

Though this vote only impacted a largely ceremonial position, it was seen by many as the start of inter- and intra-party political infighting that will lead to many special sessions before the legislature finally adjourns after enacting 2015 – 17 Operating, Transportation, and Capital Budgets.

Much of this first week was spent working with lobbyists for Pierce CD to finalize a version of their "rates & charges" (R&C) bill that could be supported by WACD. HB 1264, which will be introduced on Friday, would raise the "cap" on the R&C system in Pierce County from \$5/parcel to \$10/parcel, and from \$10/parcel to \$15/parcel for King County. Thanks to a meeting with Sen. Hatfield that we had on Thursday, he will be sponsoring the Senate version of this bill that should be introduced sometime early next week.

Preliminary discussions with legislators on budget issues indicate solid support for the work of the Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts, but some reluctance to move much past the Operating and Capital Budget appropriations proposed by Gov. Inslee. As we move forward in the 2015 Session, I feel pretty strongly that we are going to have to explain with some detail what it is the extra funding WACD is requesting would "buy".

Our Capital Budget efforts to increase the \$4M appropriation for non-shellfish projects should have a pretty solid list of projects that are likely to get funded. The main difficulty I see is explaining exactly what the \$1.4M in additional funding we are asking for in the Operating Budget will accomplish. The argument that we are simply trying to make sure there will be a technically competent person available to work with landowners when they have natural resource issues to deal with has legislators interested, but we're going to have to have some more specificity on what that money will purchase if we are going to ultimately be successful.

BILL TRACKING SUMMARY

HIGH PRIORITY BILLS

| | <u>Sponsor</u> | <u>Position</u> | <u>Status</u> |
|---|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 1101 Concerning conservation districts. | Wilcox | Oppose | H, Local Govt |
| 1104 Creating the crime of interference with agricultural production. | Schmick | Monitor | H, Public Safety |
| 1105 Making 2015 supplemental operating appropriations. | Hunter | Monitor | H, Approps |
| 1106 Making 2015-2017 operating appropriations. | Hunter | Monitor | H, Approps |

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---------|---------|-----------------|
| 1115 | Concerning the capital budget. | Dunshee | Monitor | H, Cap Budget |
| 1116 | Concerning the supplemental capital budget. | Dunshee | Monitor | H, Cap Budget |
| 1189 | City, district publ. records (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Local Govt |
| 1237 | Landowners and forest fires (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Ag & Nat Res |

MEDIUM PRIORITY BILLS

| | | | | |
|----------------------|---|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1032 | Amending the fee structure provided in RCW 77.55.321 to encourage habitat projects that provide a public benefit. | Blake | Monitor | H, Ag & Nat Res |
| 1187 | Water banking best practices (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Ag & Nat Res |
| 1214 | Ag lands/shoreline mgmt act (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Local Govt |
| 1215 | Ag land conversion/GMA (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Local Govt |
| 1216 | Ag land conversion/GMA, SMA (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Local Govt |
| 5060 | Improving relationships between agricultural producers and state regulatory staff. | Honeyford | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEcD |
| 5062 | Concerning water quality enforcement procedure. | Honeyford | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEcD |
| 5168 | Ag lands/shoreline mgmt act (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEc |
| 5169 | Ag land conversion/GMA (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEcD |
| 5170 | Ag land conversion/GMA, SMA (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEcD |

LOW PRIORITY BILLS

| | | | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------|---------|-----------------------|
| 1079 | Allowing public agencies to enter into contracts providing for the joint utilization of architectural or engineering services. | Kochmar | Monitor | H, State Governme |
| 1197 | Water-sewer districts (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Local Govt |
| 1202 | Ecology administrative rules (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, State Governme |
| 1203 | Adminstrative rules & policy (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, State Governme |
| 1204 | Ecology policies enforcement (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, State Governme |
| 1224 | Wolf recovery, rate of (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Ag & Nat Res |
| 1225 | Species status/F&W comm. (Supplement not yet available.) | | Monitor | H, Ag & Nat Res |
| 5013 | Regarding the use of designated agricultural lands. | Honeyford | Monitor | S, Ag/Water/RurEcD |

CALENDAR ITEMS

| | | | | | |
|---------------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| 1/20/2015 | 1104 | Interference w/ag production | Public Safety | 8:00 AM | HHR D |
| 1/20/2015 | 1189 | City, district publ. records | Local Government | 10:00 AM | HHR D |
| 1/20/2015 | 1197 | Water-sewer districts | Local Government | 10:00 AM | HHR D |
| 1/20/2015 | 1115 | Capital budget 2015-2017 | Capital Budget | 3:30 PM | HHR B |
| 1/20/2015 | 1116 | Capital sup budget 2015 | Capital Budget | 3:30 PM | HHR B |
| 1/21/2015 | 1079 | Joint utilization contracts | State Government | 8:00 AM | HHR E |

BILL TRACKING DETAILS

1032

Representatives Blake and Hurst

HABITAT PROJECTS

BLAKE

Encourages habitat projects that provide a public benefit by providing an exemption for the application fee for a hydraulic project permit or permit modification.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1032.pdf>

1079

JOINT UTILIZATION CONTRACTS

KOCHMAR

Representatives Kochmar, Takko, Pike, Springer, Fitzgibbon, and S. Hunt

Authorizes any two or more public agencies to enter into a contract providing for the joint utilization of architectural or engineering services if certain conditions are met.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1079.pdf>

1101

CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

WILCOX

Representatives Wilcox, Blake, Lytton, and MacEwen

Modifies conservation district provisions relating to special assessment and rates and charges in consideration of the natural resource needs within the district and the capacity of the district to provide either services or improvements, or both.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1101.pdf>

1104

INTERFERENCE W/AG PRODUCTION

SCHMICK

Representatives Schmick and Wilcox

Creates the crime of interference with agricultural production.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1104.pdf>

1105

OPERATING SUP BUDGET 2015

HUNTER

Representatives Hunter, Ormsby, and Sullivan

Requested by
Governor Inslee

Makes 2015 supplemental operating appropriations.

Companion Bill: 5076 Operating sup budget 2015 S, Ways & Means

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1105.pdf>

1106

OPERATING BUDGET 2015-2017

HUNTER

Representatives Hunter, Ormsby, and Sullivan

Requested by
Governor Inslee

Makes 2015-2017 operating appropriations.

Companion Bill: 5077 Operating budget 2015-2017 S, Ways & Means

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1106.pdf>

1115

CAPITAL BUDGET 2015-2017

DUNSHEE

Representatives Dunshee, DeBolt, Gregerson, Morris, and Reykdal

Requested by
Governor Inslee

Adopts the capital budget.

Companion Bill: 5097 Capital budget 2015-2017 S, Ways & Means

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1115.pdf>

1116

CAPITAL SUP BUDGET 2015

Representatives Dunshee, DeBolt, Gregerson, and Morris

DUNSHEE
Requested by
Governor Inslee

Adopts the supplemental capital budget.

Companion Bill: 5096 Capital sup budget 2015

S, Ways & Means

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1116.pdf>

1187

WATER BANKING BEST PRACTICES

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 5014 Water banking best practices

S, Ag/Water/RurEc

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1187.pdf>

1189

CITY, DISTRICT PUBL. RECORDS

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1189.pdf>

1197

WATER-SEWER DISTRICTS

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1197.pdf>

1202

ECOLOGY ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1202.pdf>

1203

ADMINISTRATIVE RULES & POLICY

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1203.pdf>

1204

ECOLOGY POLICIES ENFORCEMENT

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1204.pdf>

1214

AG LANDS/SHORELINE MGMT ACT

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 5168 Ag lands/shoreline mgmt act

S, Ag/Water/RurEc

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesex.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1214.pdf>

1 2 1 5

AG LAND CONVERSION/GMA

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 5169 Ag land conversion/GMA S, Ag/Water/RurEcD

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1215.pdf>

1 2 1 6

AG LAND CONVERSION/GMA, SMA

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 5170 Ag land conversion/GMA, SMA S, Ag/Water/RurEcD

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1216.pdf>

1 2 2 4

WOLF RECOVERY, RATE OF

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1224.pdf>

1 2 2 5

SPECIES STATUS/F&W COMM.

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1225.pdf>

1 2 3 7

LANDOWNERS AND FOREST FIRES

(Supplement not yet available.)

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/House Bills/1237.pdf>

5 0 1 3

DESIGNATED AGRICULTURAL LAND

HONEYFORD

Senator Honeyford

Clarifies provisions regarding the protection of designated agricultural land for future agricultural use.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5013.pdf>

5 0 6 0

AG PRODUCERS & AGENCY STAFF

HONEYFORD

Senators Honeyford, Schoesler, and Warnick

Initiates a public process employing the state conservation commission to test processes to clearly define agency roles, improve mutual understanding, and build improved working relationships between agricultural producers and personnel of the departments of ecology, agriculture, and fish and wildlife.
Expires July 1, 2020.

Full Text URL: <http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5060.pdf>

5 0 6 2

WATER QUALITY ENFORCEMENT

HONEYFORD

Senators Honeyford, Schoesler, and Warnick

Extends the reporting deadline to the department of ecology for certain water pollution determinations.
Prohibits the department of ecology from issuing an order or directive unless the department demonstrates through site-specific testing or observation that the person receiving the order or directive is in fact causing pollution of the particular waters of the state identified in the order or directive.

Full Text URL: [http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5062.pdf](http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5062.pdf)

5168

AG LANDS/SHORELINE MGMT ACT

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 1214 Ag lands/shoreline mgmt act H, Local Govt

Full Text URL: [http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5168.pdf](http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5168.pdf)

5169

AG LAND CONVERSION/GMA

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 1215 Ag land conversion/GMA H, Local Govt

Full Text URL: [http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5169.pdf](http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5169.pdf)

5170

AG LAND CONVERSION/GMA, SMA

(Supplement not yet available.)

Companion Bill: 1216 Ag land conversion/GMA, SMA H, Local Govt

Full Text URL: [http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate Bills/5170.pdf](http://lawfilesexternal.wa.gov/biennium/2015-16/Pdf/Bills/Senate%20Bills/5170.pdf)