

Margarita Prentice

End of Session Review

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

The 2011 Legislative regular and special sessions have adjourned — finally! This newsletter highlights some of the bills that directly impact our district and their status as of June 1st. The governor has 20 days after the end of session, not including Sundays, to sign bills in this case, by Friday, June 17th. Final bill action can be found at <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>.

Thanks to all who have contacted my office. Every session it's amazing how many are willing to phone or e-mail. Your comments and concerns are essential to my representing our diverse, dynamic district and I'm very proud to serve as your Senator.

Warm Regards,



Operating Budget (HB 1087)

- Spends approximately \$32.2 billion
- Cuts \$4.6 billion for the 2011-13 biennium
- Funds \$13.8 billion for K-12
- Preserves social safety net (e.g. Basic Health Plan, Children's Health, Disability Lifeline Medical)
- Keeps a reserve of \$723 million

Transportation Budget (HB 1175)

The nearly \$9 billion Transportation Budget is expected to put 30,000 people to work for the next two years on projects from the 2003 and 2005 gas tax packages. Our 11th District will definitely benefit:

- Tukwila's Urban Center: \$3,900,000
- Renton's Rainier Ave. Bus Access: \$1,500,000
- Widen: SR 167/S 180th St. to I-405; 405/SR 181 to SR 167; 405/I-5 to SR 181
- Replacement: SR 99/Spokane St. Bridge Approach
- Improvement: Strander Blvd./SW 27th St. Connection

For more details go to: www.leg.wa.gov/Senate/Committees/TRAN/Pages

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Capital Budget (HB 2020/1497)

The \$2.7 billion Capital Budget puts 46,000 people to work statewide including the 11th District:

- Green River Levee Improvements: \$4,000,000
- West Hill Skyway Re-development: \$750,000
- Seattle International Film Festival: \$491,000
- Seattle Musical Theatre: \$163,000
- Boys and Girls Clubs of King County: \$316,000
- Jewish Family Service: \$2,313,000
- Low Income Housing Institute: \$313,000
- NAVOS Mental Health Solutions: \$2,350,000
- Cascade Land Conservancy Duwamish Riverbend: \$155,000
- Valley View Sewer District: \$1,950,000
- Airport Way Over Argo Bridge Reconstruction: \$6,000,000

State Debt Limit — Currently, the amount of interest and principal payments in any year, plus payments for existing debt limit bonds cannot exceed 9 percent of the average annual general state revenue collections for the previous three fiscal years. Beginning in 2016, the percentage will be tapered to 7.75 percent by 2020. **SB 5181: delivered to Governor; effective 90 days after the last day of session.**

Early Learning and K-12 Education

Definition of Basic Education — Technology is included in the definition of basic education. **SB 5392: signed 5/5; effective 9/1/11**

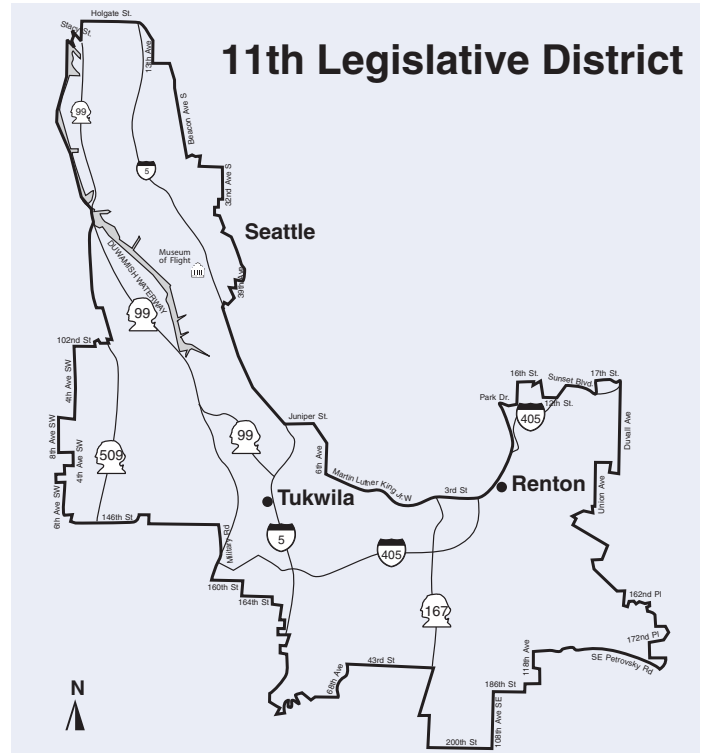
High School Math Assessments — Graduating classes of 2013 and 2014 will need to meet one - not two - state standards on the End of Course assessment. **Companion SB 5227. HB 1412: signed 4/11; effective 7/22/11**

High School Science Assessments — Graduating class of 2013 must meet the state standards in science. **Companion SB 5226. HB 1410: sent to Governor on 5/25.**

Innovation Schools — Authorizes school districts to create Innovation Schools and Innovation Zones focusing on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). **HB 1546: signed 5/5; effective 7/22/11**

Child Care Licensing Changes — Child care provider licenses will remain valid as long as licensees pay an annual fee and meet ongoing requirements. **SB 5625: signed 5/10; effective 7/22/11**

Colby Thompson Act — This bill is named for the 9 month old baby boy suffering permanent injuries from shaken baby syndrome allegedly committed by his unlicensed babysitter. The Department of Early Learning can impose increased penalties on unlicensed providers. **SB 5504: signed 5/10; effective 7/22/11**



Economic Development

Innovate Washington — Combines the work of the Washington Technology Center and the Spokane Intercollegiate Research and Technology Institute into the Innovate Washington agency. This positions Washington state as the nation's leader in clean energy and other groundbreaking technologies. **SB 5764: delivered to Governor 5/25.**

Arts and Heritage Programs — Several counties can redirect existing tax revenue to fund arts, culture, heritage, tourism, and housing programs. **SB 5834: sent to the Governor 5/25.**

Environment and Natural Resources

Coal-Fired Electric Generation — TransAlta Company, government and environmentalists have agreed that two coal-fired boilers in the Centralia facility will be phased out in 2020 and 2025. **SB 5769: signed 4/29; effective 7/22/11.**

State Land Recreation Access — Requires purchase of an annual or day pass to use state parks, natural resources and fish and wildlife departments facilities. **SB 5622: signed 5/12; effective 7/1/2011.**

Oil Spills — Enhances oil spill protection, response mechanisms and liability for related clean-up efforts. **HB 1186 signed 4/20; effective 7/22/11.**

Phosphorus in Lawn Fertilizer — Prohibits the use and retail sale of turf fertilizers containing phosphorus. **HB 1489: signed w/partial veto 4/14; effective 1/1/2013.**

Government Operations

cancelling Presidential Primary — This saves \$10 million in 2012 with minimal impact. Democrats choose their presidential nominee by caucuses. Republicans choose 50 percent caucus and 50 percent by primary. **SB 5119: signed 5/12; effective 7/22/2011.**

Healthcare

Health Benefit Exchange — Develops the Health Insurance Exchange by 2014 per the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) passed in 3/2010 which requires states to establish exchanges for the purchase of individual insurance and small employer group insurance. **SB 5445: signed 5/22; effective 7/22/2011.**

Medical Use of Cannabis — Revises the medical marijuana law so that up to 10 qualifying patients may form collective grow gardens with up to 45 plants. **SB 5073: 4/29; effective 7/22/2011.**

Medical Provider Networks for Occupational Health — Establishes medical provider networks and expands centers for occupational health and education in the industrial insurance system. **SB 5801: signed 3/14; effective 7/1/2011.**

Military Veterans Training Credit — Expedites employment of military veterans by evaluating and applying their existing skills to educational and licensing requirements in private-sector professions. **SB 5307: signed 4/13; effective 7/22/2011.**

Immunization Exemptions — Requires a meeting with a physician to exempt a child from immunizations. **SB 5005: signed 5/10; effective 7/22/2010.**

Insurance Rate Transparency — If your insurance rates change, the insurer must allow a review of their filing records. **Companion SB 5120. HB 1220: signed May 11; effective 7/22/11.**

Higher Education

Three-Year Baccalaureate — Allows regional and state universities to develop accelerated three year baccalaureate degree programs who answer to the Higher Education Coordinating Board. **SB 5442: signed 4/18, effective 7/22/11.**



Senators Joe Fain and Margarita Prentice discuss legislation on the Senate floor.

Online University — Partners with Western Governors' University (WGU), a non-profit online institution that offers competency-based education with fully accredited courses. **Companion SB 5136.**

HB 1822: signed 4/22; effective 7/22/11.

Tuition-Setting Authority — Higher education institutions can set their own tuitions through the 2018-19 academic cycle and must provide financial assistance to low and middle income students. **HB 1795: delivered to Governor 5/25.**

Higher Education — Creates the Higher Education Council including representatives from two and four-year public institutions and eliminates the Higher Education Coordinating Board. **SB 5182: delivered to Governor 5/25.**

Opportunity Scholarship — Creates a scholarship program for middle-income students pursuing degrees in high demand programs. Creates a grant program to increase degree production in high demand fields beginning in December. **HB 2088: delivered to Governor 5/25.**

Human Services and Corrections

TANF Reform — Reforms the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program to improve outcomes and increase self-sufficiency. **SB 5921: delivered to Governor 5/25; several effective dates.**

Safety Net for Most Vulnerable — Uses a "care, not cash" approach to ensure medical coverage and housing for people who cannot work due to injury or illness. **HB 2082: delivered to Gov 5/25; several effective dates.**

Judiciary

Updating Parentage Laws — Clarifies parenting rights and obligations of state registered domestic partners and other couples, replaces gender-specific terms with gender-neutral terms, and extends the period of time a person can challenge or rescind parental acknowledgement. **HB 1267: signed 5/10; effective 7/22/11.**

Developmentally Disabled — Streamlines the state's system of care for the developmentally disabled and consolidates one of the state's five institutions for transition to more community-based living. **SB 5459: delivered to Gov 5/25; contains several effective dates.**

Labor and Commerce

Unemployment Insurance — Permanently caps employers' UI tax rates, temporarily extends and increases unemployment benefits, and updates the formulas for social cost factors 2011 and after. **HB 1091: signed 2/11/11; effective immediately.**

Workers' Compensation — Creates an industrial insurance health care provider network to reduce long-term disability and costs to the system. Authorizes the option of structured settlements for workers 55 or older. **SB 5801: signed 3/14; effective 7/1/11 - HB 2123: delivered to Governor 5/25 implemented gradually over 4 years.**

Human Trafficking — SB 5546 expands the criminal definition of human trafficking. SB 5482 authorizes local governments to use affordable housing funds for housing assistance to victims and their families. HB 1874 allows law enforcement to conduct surveillance operations on suspected human-trafficking and child-prostitution activities with the consent of the victim. **SB 5546 & SB 5482: signed 4/18; effective 7/22/11 - HB 1874: signed 5/3; effective 7/22/11.**

Prison Safety — Requires reviews of prison worker safety and increases correction officer training. **SB 5907: signed 5/5, effective 7/22/11.**

Handling of Hazardous Drugs — The Department of Labor and Industries will adopt rules for workers who handle hazardous drugs such as chemotherapy medication in hospitals, etc. to reduce their risk of cancer. **SB 5594: signed 4/13; effective 7/22/11.**

Transportation

Ferry Reforms and Funding — Ferry captains are responsible for management of their vessels. A 25-cent surcharge on fares is dedicated to fund construction/purchase of 144 car capacity ferries. Ferry fuel will be exempt from state retail and use tax beginning in 2013. **SB 5742: delivered to Governor 5/25/11.**

Toll Facilities — The Washington State Transportation Commission is authorized to adopt toll rates for the SR 520 corridor and the schedule of photo toll charges for the Tacoma Narrows Bridge. **SB 5700: Signed 5/16; effective immediately.**

Businesses at Park and Ride Locations — Creates public/private partnerships at the park and ride locations throughout the state. Lease payments go to the state multimodal transportation account. **SB 5791: signed 5/16; effective 7/22/11.**

12-Hour Impound for DUI — Mandates a minimum 12-hour impound of DUI motorists' vehicles. **SB 5000: signed 5/27; effective 7/22/11.**

School Bus Safety Cameras — Authorizes use of safety cameras on the outside of school buses. **SB 5540: signed 5/16; effective 7/22/11.**

