



E-Legislative Update

January 25, 2010

We are in the third week of the legislative session and committee hearings in the House and Senate are still in progress. Legislative committees are increasing in pace and the number of bills to be heard will be the highest at any time during session. This is because for most committees in the House of Representatives, next week is the final week to hear House bills. This means that bills originating out of the House must be heard and voted out of the committee if they are to move forward in the legislative process. Unlike the House, the Senate will continue to hear bills in policy committees for an additional week, the week of the 25th.



This is the time where you have an opportunity to testify on a bill. If you cannot appear before a committee, [contact your legislator](#) making your position on a bill known. You can do so by writing a letter, sending an e-mail, calling the legislator's Olympia office, or by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs legislative priorities focus on state budget development and bills that impact the Asian Pacific American community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration.

The legislature discussed the following bills and issues of interest to the Asian Pacific American community last week.

Week Two Highlights:

Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

- Senate Higher Education and Workforce Development Committee heard bills that could possibly change how college tuition is set for all students: SB 6276 granting the University of Washington tuition-setting authority, SB 6562 regarding tuition-setting authority of higher education, and SB 6625 changing higher education tuition and financial aid provisions.
- Senate Early Learning and K-12 heard SB 6403 regarding accountability and support for vulnerable students and dropouts and several bills about school levies.
- Senate Early Learning and K-12 Committee held a work session on boosting the supply and effectiveness of Washington's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) program.
- House Education Committee heard HB 2631, which creates a dropout prevention recognition program.
- House Early Learning & Children's Services voted HB 2731 out of committee, allowing the bill to move forward through the legislature. HB 2731 creates an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the areas of **HEALTH CARE** and **HUMAN SERVICES**:

- Senate Ways and Means heard public testimony on the Governor’s revised budget. Many testified to express concern about cuts to Maternity Support Services, the Basic Health Plan, the elimination of funding for interpreter services and other programs.
- House Health Care and Wellness Committee heard HB 2706 requiring parents who seek to exempt their children from required immunizations to receive education from their health care provider about the benefits of immunizations.
- Health and Human Services Appropriations held a work session on the effects of budget reductions on health and human services programs for vulnerable adults and children.
- House Health Care and Wellness held a joint public hearing with the House Finance Committee on HB 2388 concerning public health funding. This would tax candy and gum to raise revenue to support public health.

Highlights of legislative discussion in **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** include:

- Senate Economic Development, Trade and Innovation heard SB 6667 concerning business assistance programs, SB 6675 creating the Washington global health technologies and product development competitiveness program and allowing certain tax credits for program contributions, and SB 6669 concerning the small business development center.
- Senate Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection heard several bills on unemployment insurance and benefits.
- House Community Economic Development and Trade voted the following bill out of committee, allowing it to move forward in the legislative process: HB 2641 expanding small business development centers.
- House Financial Institutions and Insurance held a public hearing on HB 2513 using credit history, education, and income for insurance purposes.
- House Community & Economic Development and Trade held a work session reviewing the State of the State’s economy.

Highlights of legislative discussions in the area of **IMMIGRATION**:

- The Senate Labor, Commerce, and Consumer Protection committee heard SB 6330 and 6332 on human trafficking.

You can find more information through our e-legislative update and Web site on committee hearings, bills, and other events of interest throughout the legislative session. Our e-legislative update provides a general overview highlighting a few bills of interest to the Asian Pacific American community while our [Web site](#) hosts a more extensive [list of bills](#) for those community members seeking more information.

Below are some scheduled meetings and hearings that might be of interest to you.

Education

Early Learning & K-12 Education

1/25/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform.

Ways & Means

1/25/10 3:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 2731](#) - Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Education Appropriations

1/26/10 8:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Review of the Quality Education Council Report and Recommendations.

Public Hearing: [HB 2746](#) - Concerning a comprehensive K-12 education policy.

Education

1/26/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [HB 2915](#) - Regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements.
2. [HB 3025](#) - Establishing an alternative route to a high school diploma.

Higher Education

1/26/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm D
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [HB 2930](#) - Expanding the pool of qualified teachers.
2. [HB 2979](#) - Regarding higher education performance agreements.

Early Learning & K-12 Education

1/27/10 8:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Overview of IDEA, Part C, Early Intervention Program.

Work Session: Overview of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6668](#) - Regarding eligibility requirements for the early childhood education and assistance program.
2. [SB 6517](#) - Promoting early learning.

Work Session: Overview of the Early Childhood Education and Assistance Program (ECEAP).

Education

1/27/10 1:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Update on Race to the Top.

Higher Education

1/27/10 1:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm D
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Student Financial Assistance Programs - presentation by Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Early Learning & K-12 Education

1/28/10 10:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 1
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6760](#) - Regarding the basic education instructional allocation distribution formula. (If measure is referred to committee.)

2. [SB 6761](#) - Regarding the recommendations of the quality education council. (If measure is referred to committee.)
3. [SB 6604](#) - Providing flexibility in the education system.

Higher Education & Workforce Development

1/29/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 3
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6467](#) - Authorizing honorary degrees for students who were ordered into internment camps.

Health Care and Human Services

Health & Human Services Appropriations

1/26/10 8:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm B
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the mental health system and alcohol and substance abuse programs in the 2009-11 biennium.

Health & Long-Term Care

1/28/10 10:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4
J.A. Cherberg Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6607](#) - Concerning premiums for individual health coverage.

Health & Human Services Appropriations

1/28/10 1:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm B
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: Effects of budget reductions and proposed reductions on the health care system in the 2009-11 biennium.

Economic Development

Labor, Commerce & Consumer Protection

1/25/10 10:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6575](#) - Concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy.

Economic Development, Trade & Innovation

1/25/10 1:30 p.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 3

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. Export finance assistance center [S-4029].
2. [SB 6637](#) - Increasing the small business credit for the business and occupation tax.

General Government Appropriations

1/26/10 8:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.

Economic Development, Trade & Innovation

1/27/10 8:00 a.m.

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 3

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [SB 6705](#) - Modifying business and occupation tax credits.

Community & Economic Development & Trade

1/28/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [HB 2983](#) - Creating the Washington global health technologies and product development competitiveness program and allowing certain tax credits for program contributions.
2. [HB 1666](#) - Authorizing the creation of cultural access authorities.

General Government Appropriations

1/28/10 1:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Executive Session: [HB 1096](#) - Enhancing small business participation in state purchasing.

Ways & Means

1/28/10 3:30 p.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Work Session: [HB 1360](#) - Concerning funding for infrastructure that supports dense, affordable development in transit-oriented areas.

Immigration

Commerce & Labor

1/26/10 10:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm C
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 3062](#) - Making the governor the public employer of language access providers. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness

1/29/10 8:00 a.m.

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm E
John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA

Public Hearing: [HB 2942](#) - Offering human trafficking training for criminal justice and correctional personnel, and other public safety employees.

Information is current as of: January 23, 2010.

To find out more information on a particular bill, please visit <http://www.leg.wa.gov>

CAPAA was established by the state legislature in 1974 to improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas. It has a board made up of 12-governor appointed members that represent the diverse APA communities of Washington State.

To receive more electronic updates, visit us at <http://www.capaa.wa.gov>. To unsubscribe, [click here](#).