



E-Legislative Update

February 8, 2010

We are in the fifth week of the legislative session. With the exception of the House Finance Committee, which has a longer timeline than other House policy committees, activity in the House of Representatives was furious as committees rushed to vote bills out of various committees to move forward in the legislative process. For some bills that do not have a cost associated with their passage, they move on to the House Rules Committee. This Committee determines which bills will move to the House floor, where all members of the House can vote on the bill. For bills that do have a cost, or fiscal impact, they are referred to the House Ways and Means Committee whose purpose is to evaluate estimated costs of the bill. The Senate continued to hold policy committee hearings through Thursday. A parallel process of bills either being referred to Senate Rules or Senate Ways and Means is the next step. For those bills with fiscal impact, the last day to be heard in a fiscal committee is Tuesday, February 9th. The House Ways and Means Committee heard bills all day Saturday, February 6th in anticipation of Tuesday's deadline.



You can [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 Four Highlights:

On Thursday, February 4, 2010, over two thousand members of all ages from the API community visited the capitol and met with their legislators on Asian Pacific American Legislative Day. They voiced concern over a variety of issues including preserving health and human services, job creation, and education. Leaders of the API community met and spoke with Governor Gregoire, Speaker of the House Frank Chopp, State Representatives Sharon Tomiko Santos, Bob Hasegawa, Lynn Kessler and Senators Paull Shin, Chris Marr, and Steve Hobbs.

Governor Gregoire held a press conference with Congressman Jay Inslee regarding federal stimulus funds available to Washington. The Governor announced optimism that the state will receive more federal funds to support the Medicaid program. Rep. Inslee emphasized the growing

unemployment rate: 1 in 8 people in Washington filed an unemployment compensation claim this year.

Senate Ways and Means heard SB 6843 preserving essential public services by temporarily suspending the two-thirds vote requirement for tax increases and permanently modifying provisions of Initiative Measure No. 960 for improved efficiency and consistency with state budgeting. This bill would suspend requirements under Initiative 960 for the next two legislative sessions. Currently, I-960 requires a two thirds majority vote to pass any legislation that would raise taxes. This has been a barrier against the legislature passing tax bills. This session, various advocacy and public groups are pushing the legislature to consider and pass bills to generate the revenue needed to preserve essential programs, particularly in the areas of health and education.

Highlights of legislative discussion in **EDUCATION**:

A King County Superior Court ruled that the state was not meeting its obligation to fully fund education. This will influence ongoing legislative conversations about K-12 funding. The following bills have been heard and are moving forward in the legislative process:

- Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education heard SB 6511 regarding gang and hate group activity at schools and school activities and SB 6512 increasing school safety, SB 6553 regarding mathematics and science high school graduation requirements, and SB 6740 concerning a comprehensive K-12 education policy.
- House Committee on Education Appropriations heard HB 3026 regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws.

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

- House Committee on Health & Human Services Appropriations voted HB 2197 out of committee to move the bill forward in the legislative process. The bill eliminates the Department of Social and Health Services and creates new departments to take over its functions.
- The House of Representative passed House Joint Resolution 4220 amending the state Constitution so that the provision relating to bailable crimes by sufficient sureties is modified. The debate on this bill was full of emotion as Representatives argued the Washington Constitution's restriction upon a judge's inability to withhold bail. Many argued that this may have prevented the shooting deaths of four officers in the Lakewood area by Maurice Clemmons. The bill will move onto the Senate for consideration.

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

- House Committee on General Government and Appropriations heard HB 2641 expanding small business development centers.
- House Finance Committee heard HB 3157, agency requested legislation by the Department of Revenue, which extends the business and occupation tax to certain out of state businesses. According to Ross Hunter, Chair of the House Finance and sponsor of the bill, "By extending the B&O tax to certain out-of-state businesses, this levels the playing field for Washington-based companies to compete for business in Washington, and eliminates the incentive for companies to move jobs out of Washington. Some Washington-based businesses will see a decrease in taxes while out-of-state business will be taxed for business they conduct in Washington." The legislation raises \$73 million in revenue for the remainder of the 2010-11 fiscal year, and \$374.6 million in the next biennium, 2011-13.

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 of 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.

The focus this week will be on the two major fiscal committees: House and Senate Ways and Means. They will continue to hear public testimony on the cost of certain bills, decide whether to vote on bills to move forward in the legislative process. The House of Representatives and Senate will also be holding sessions on the floor to debate bills for passage in either chamber. Some policy committees will meet to hold work sessions examining specific policy issues without hearing individual bills.

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

Education

Ways & Means

2/8/2010 9:00 am

House Full Committee

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

Public Hearing:

1. [HB 2670](#) - Restoring the school district levy base.
2. [HB 2893](#) - Changing school levy provisions.
3. [HB 3026](#) - Regarding school district compliance with state and federal civil rights laws.

Executive Session:

1. [HB 2731](#) - Creating an early learning program for educationally at-risk children.
2. [HB 2776](#) - Regarding funding distribution formulas for K-12 education.
3. [HB 2867](#) - Promoting early learning.

Ways & Means

2/8/2010 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

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

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6562](#) - Regarding higher education accountability and access.
2. [SB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform.

Executive Session:

1. [SB 6696](#) - Regarding education reform.

Ways & Means

2/9/2010 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SSB 6798](#) - Implementing the recommendations of the achievement gap oversight and accountability committee.
2. [SSB 6760](#) - Regarding the basic education instructional allocation distribution formula.
3. [SSB 6629](#) - Convening a working group to make recommendations defining a basic education program for highly capable students.

Health Care and Human Services

Ways & Means

2/8/2010 9:00 am

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing/Possible Executive Session:

1. [HB 2197](#) - Abolishing the Department of Social and Health Services and creating new departments to take over its functions.
2. [HB 3062](#) - Making the governor the public employer of language access providers.

Economic Development

Ways & Means

2/8/2010 9:00 am

House Full Committee

House Hearing Rm A

John L. O'Brien Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing/Possible Executive Session:

1. [HB 2603](#) - Requiring agencies to give small businesses an opportunity to comply with a state law or agency rule before imposing a penalty.

Ways & Means

2/8/2010 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Executive Session:

1. [SSB 6678](#) - Concerning the creation of entities to address the long-range impact of opportunities and changes in the aerospace industry.
2. [SSB 6667](#) - Concerning business assistance programs.
3. [SSB 6679](#) - Concerning the small business export finance assistance center.
4. [SSB 6575](#) - Concerning the recommendations of the joint legislative task force on the underground economy.

Ways & Means

2/9/2010 1:30 pm

Senate Full Committee

Senate Hearing Rm 4

J.A. Cherberg Building

Olympia, WA

Public Hearing:

1. [SB 6823](#) - Naming credits against the state sales tax.
2. [SSB 6669](#) - Concerning the small business development center.

Information is current as of: February 7, 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](#).