



Washington State Commission on

Asian Pacific American Affairs

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## E-Legislative Update

April 18 – 24, 2011



We are in the fifteenth week of the legislative session. 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.

Because the state budget is an overarching issue, the Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs will provide updates on important milestones in budget development as well as focus on bills that impact the Asian American and Pacific Islander community in the areas of education, health care, human services, economic development, and immigration. To learn more about the current budget, you can attend the House Ways & Means and Senate Finance Committee Hearings.

The Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs will be providing information weekly through our e-legislative update and website 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 community while our website hosts a more extensive list of bills utilizing a [bill tracking](#) feature for those community members seeking more information. Highlights from the previous week can be viewed on [TVW's](#) Legislative Review.

You may also access our [policy briefing papers](#) which examine issues facing the Asian American and Pacific Islander community.

**Special Highlights:** The House released its budget on April 4<sup>th</sup> followed by the Senate's budget on the 12<sup>th</sup>. The Senate budget proposes to close a shortfall of more than \$5 billion and contains \$4.8 billion in reductions. Budget proposals can be viewed [here](#). Legislative leaders from the House, Senate, and the Governor's Office are currently negotiating a budget. The legislative session is scheduled to end on April 24, 2011.

Here is a brief comparison on a few issues. The Senate proposes spending \$32.3 billion in 2011-2013, while the House proposes spending \$33.2 billion. The Senate proposes having \$738 million in reserve, while the House proposes \$792 million. The Senate proposes reducing existing programs by \$4.8 billion, while the House proposes \$4.4 billion in cuts.

Education: The Senate proposes to reduce higher education funding by more than the \$482 million proposed by the House. The Senate proposes \$1.19 billion in reductions to K-12 education funding while the House proposes \$1.16 billion in reductions.

Health and Human Services: The Senate proposes continuing a freeze on enrollment in the subsidized health insurance plan to save \$122 million while the House proposes to reduce enrollment in Basic Health to save \$108 million. The Senate eliminates a cash grant for people who are temporarily unable to work because of a disability, replacing it with housing aid and caps the number of people receiving coverage at just less than 12,000. The House eliminates the cash grant and replaces it with housing aid but avoids the cuts to medical care.

Economic Development: Similar to the House budget, the Senate proposal does not assume any tax exemptions will be closed to raise extra money. The Senate's proposal does not have the House's proposal of raising \$300 million in one-time revenue by privatizing liquor distribution.

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Information is current as of: April 14, 2011.

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](#).