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LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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LEOFF 1 SURPLUS PROVIDES LYNCHPIN FOR SENATE BUDGET AND 695 BACKFILL

The Senate Ways and Means Committee held the first hearing on the 2001/2003 budget on Wednesday afternoon of this week with over 30 sheriffs, police chiefs and other WACO and WSAC members in attendance. The Washington Association of Sheriffs & Police Chiefs panel of King County Sheriff Dave Reichert, Sheriff's Association President and Whatcom County Sheriff Dale Brandland, Whitman County Sheriff Steve Tomson and WASPC President and Sedro Wooley Police Chief Dave Cooper led off the testimony thanking the committee for providing the 695 backfill as promised in the 2000 supplemental budget. Mike Shelton, WSAC President, Rich Lathim, WACO President and Rose Bowman, Lewis County Treasurer followed this panel. Shelton also commented on the promise made in the 2000 budget. He said, "I thank you for having the integrity to honor that commitment to your partners in local government."

The proposed budget has funded many programs of interest to counties. And in some cases more funding was provided than requested (see budget summary below). Given the uncertainty of the financial condition of the state and the difficulty that posed in preparing a budget counties have done very well.

What made it possible to fund many programs in the budget was the use of the LEOFF 1 surplus, estimated to be one billion dollars. Senator Lisa Brown, Chair of Ways and Means, has proposed that the 12% of the surplus be appropriated to local governments, 12% to LEOFF 1 retired and active members and 76% to a new reserve fund for the state. This is the amount placed into the fund by each of these groups.

The enabling legislation to make the transfer to these groups is **SB 6166**. It will incorporate **SB 5191**, the LEOFF 1 Medical and Long Term Care bill into it. This will allow the counties, cities and fire districts to pool their long-term care and extraordinary medical costs into a risk pool operated by local governments. It will be given an estimated \$100 million toward an \$800 million liability.

The state receives \$650-800 million. That money goes into a reserve account that will provide \$250 million toward balancing the state budget. This money will be used to restore cuts that would need to be made in class room size, indigent reimbursements to hospitals, dental and vision care for low income adults, maintain 15,000 enrollments in the Basic Health Plan, provide a larger cost of living adjustment for state employees and restore cuts in higher education. In other words, there are many groups that benefit by the use of the LEOFF 1 surplus and without it these cuts would need to be made and would certainly jeopardize local governments 695 backfill.

It needs to be emphasized that there will be no reduction in any benefit to LEOFF 1 members. They will receive all of their retirement and medical benefits. In addition, they will each receive nearly \$10,000 per member to be put into a defined contribution fund that will enhance their retirement income

The Senate plans to pass the budget out of committee on Thursday this week and vote on it on the senate floor on Friday. This message has been emailed to all members in the hopes you will contact your senators before they vote on the budget.

This is a good budget for counties and every WSAC and WACO member should encourage their senators to support it. When it gets to the House, you should encourage them to support it also. There is still discussion in the House that the 695 funds for counties and cities will need to be cut. It is especially important to keep the pressure on legislators to support local government by providing the 695 backfill dollars promised in last year's supplemental budget.

SUMMARY OF SENATE W&M CHAIR BUDGET

Caution: This summary is a quick overview of the Senate Ways and Means Chair proposal. WSAC staff relied on the information available in public documents. We apologize for any errors, but hope this will be of some assistance.

PENSIONS

The Senate Budget makes two major changes in pension funding to balance the budget.

- **Revised rate of return assumptions** (savings of \$33.9 million. General Fund-State, \$71.2 million total funds): The Senate incorporated the Governor's proposal to raise the long-term rate of return assumptions for the pension funds. This will drop PERS rates from 3.21% to 1.58% effective July 1, 2001. (When the DRS administrative rate is included, the rate changes from 4.67% to 1.81%) Local governments will also realize savings as a result of this proposal.
- **LEOFF Surplus** (savings of nearly \$700 million for state and local government): The Senate takes the billion dollar LEOFF 1 surplus and provides 12.5% to LEOFF 1 members in lump sum payments into special retirement accounts. An additional 12.5% is placed in a new fund for local government costs for Long Term Care for LEOFF 1 members. About \$500 million is placed in a special reserve account that will be used to fund the state budget over the next two biennia.

LAW AND JUSTICE

In general, the proposed Senate budget maintains existing levels of funding for county law and justice programs, and increases contributions to drug courts, methamphetamine enforcement, indigent the defense pilot project, and extraordinary criminal justice funding.

In 30 counties, criminal justice backfill money is at the same level as last year, plus the fiscal growth factor. In the nine counties that have not been paying the county share of benefits for superior court judges, the criminal justice backfill money is adjusted to account for the amounts owed for judges' benefits.

- **Criminal justice I-695 backfill:** (\$49,363,791). This provides 53 percent (same as last budget) of lost MVET funding plus the fiscal growth factor, except in Benton, Franklin, Klickitat, Skamania, Mason, Okanogan, Stevens, Ferry, Pend Oreille, and Thurston counties. These nine counties have their backfill reduced by the amount equal to what they currently owe for Superior Court judges' benefits.
- **Statutory criminal justice assistance:** (\$50,016,213). As required by RCW 82.14.310, the state distributes general fund revenue for county criminal justice assistance, based on a formula that considers a number of factors including county crime rate and population. The total amount is equal to funding provided in the last budget, increased by the fiscal growth factor.
- **DUI assistance:** (\$1,843,260). This funding, which is distributed by formula in accordance with RCW 82.14.310 (see above), comes from the Impaired Driver Safety Account and is provided primarily to assist with implementation of drunk driving-related laws. The funding available in the account depends on the amount collected in fees for re-issuance of a suspended driver license.
- **Pilot program providing indigent defense for dependencies:** (\$1.2 million). This continues the current pilot program in Pierce County and Benton-Franklin counties. The pilot program is operated by the state Office of Public Defense, which is establishing standards and increasing pay for attorneys representing indigent parents or other family members in child dependency and termination cases. The intent is to expand the pilot program statewide in the next several years, with the state taking over the full cost.
- **New capital defense assistance center:** (\$235,000). This is for the state Office of Public Defense to establish a capital defense assistance center, which would provide information and training for attorneys defending capital cases. This could benefit smaller counties which have few attorneys experienced in defending capital cases.
- **Extraordinary criminal justice** for eligible counties: (\$975,000). This money is provided to counties that have applied and been found eligible based on the need to pay for unusually costly aggravated murder cases. The money is distributed as follows: Cowlitz -- \$89,000; Franklin -- \$303,000; Klickitat -- \$45,000; Skagit -- \$102,000; Spokane -- \$192,000; Thurston -- \$122,000; Yakima -- 121,000.
- **County drug courts:** (\$991,000). This provides funding for county drug courts that have exhausted available federal funding. The funding level is approximately 50 percent of what each county received in federal funding. Counties that have exhausted, or will exhaust federal funding by August 1, 2001, are: King, Pierce, Spokane, Thurston, Skagit, Clallam, Cowlitz, and Kitsap.
- **Methamphetamine safety education:** (\$500,000). The Senate extends statewide a pilot program that informs the public about meth lab hazards and assists local jurisdictions in developing plans to protect the public from meth-lab hazards. The program is a partnership between counties and the state Military Department.
- **Narcotics task forces:** (\$3,603,250). Distributed to local jurisdictions to continue participation in multijurisdictional narcotics task forces.
- **Drug prosecution assistance:** (\$620,000). Distributed to the Office of Community Development, which provides drug prosecution assistance related to the multijurisdictional narcotics task forces.
- **Increased juror pay:** (\$1,618,000). This provides a state-paid increase of \$15 per day for jurors, for a total of \$25 per day. The counties must continue to pay the first \$10 per day.
- **School Safety training:** SB 5345 appropriated \$65,000 to the Criminal Justice Training Commission for regionalized

training programs for school district and law enforcement personnel on school safety issues. It is believed that the Senate Ways and Means Committee revised this appropriation upwards before passing SB 5345.

- **Prosecutor Training:** \$136,000 for the biennium to the Criminal Justice Training Commission to allow the Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) to provide training.
- **Incident-based Reporting System:** \$124,000 is provided from the Public Safety and Education Account to allow the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) to provide technical and training support to local criminal justice personnel on the new incident-based reporting system and the national incident-based reporting system. \$60,000 is appropriated to complete the system.
- **Jail Reporting System:** \$229,000 is appropriated to WASPC for maintenance and operation of a jail reporting system.
- **Death Investigations Account Appropriations:** \$1,587,000 is appropriated for autopsy reimbursement to counties; \$271,000 for the Forensic Pathology Specialist Program; \$26,000 for the operation of the Forensic Investigations Council; \$250,000 for investigation of multiple deaths resulting from an unanticipated catastrophic event of some magnitude; \$148,000 for training of coroners and medical examiners; other appropriations for the support of the State Toxicology Laboratory.
- **Judicial Program Enhancement:** \$750,000 is provided from the Public Safety and Education Account for the enhancement of judicial program enhancement. OAC in consultation with the Supreme Court will select the programs.
- **Judicial Information Systems:** An amendment to SB 5345 provides \$500,000 for technology enhancements from a \$2.00 increase in the current \$10 JIS assessments.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES

Note: In this section we will sometimes note the difference from the Governor's level to assist readers who have followed these issues. It should be noted that the State budget had to absorb an additional \$400 million of earthquake and health care costs after the preparation of the Governor's budget)

Children and Family Services:

- Eliminates unused bed capacity (\$2.1 million below Governor, \$5.1 m added): Secure group homes eliminated but secure crisis residential centers restored. Priority item for juvenile court administrators.
- Reduce Family Policy Council (\$2.2 million below Governor, \$6.7 m added): Funding reduced by 25% instead of Governor's cut of 100% for Council and community networks.

Juvenile Rehabilitation:

- Community commitment reduction (\$1.3 million cut): Eliminates county-contracted beds for state youth in local detention.
- Becca funding (\$12.8 million): Appears to be shortfall of \$3.5 million from JCA's estimate of cost. Senate expectation that we will use part of the funds from the county criminal justice assistance account unclear.

Mental Health:

- Vendor rate increases (\$7.8 million add): 2.1% in July 2001 and 2.3% in July 2002 plus federal match. Federal match is to be directed to the three RSNs whose allocations under the new formula would otherwise not increase by 2.1% and 2.3% receive such increases. The non-federal share of that increase is to be provided by the RSN from accumulated fund balances or other local funds.
- Special Commitment Center/Community (\$1.6 million add, \$2.2 million cut from Governor's budget): Funds for additional community transition for SCC residents including \$100,000 for community mitigation.
- Special Commitment Center Facility (\$3.2 million bonds add): Construction of 36 bed facility on McNeil Island.
- Non-Medicaid Community Inpatient Funding (\$1.4 million cut): Fund shift by Senate budget. No net reduction to RSN budget.
- RSN Program Data Collection (\$0.606 million add, \$0.303 million below Governor.): Cuts \$303,000 from Governor's level for collection, monitoring, and analysis of community mental health data. Additional federal funds available to mitigate cut.
- Medicare/Medicaid Crossovers (\$3.05 million cut): Same as Governor's budget. RSNs must assume costs.
- Phase-down atypicals pilot (\$1.8 million cut): New cut. Gradual elimination of atypical pilot from 2000. Assumed coverage under "Ticket to Work" legislation.
- Allen Settlement (\$3.3 million add): Same as Governor. Additional specialized care for those with developmental disabilities at state hospitals.
- Expand community services (\$2.5 million net cut, \$5.7 million add): Governor's budget anticipated four times the amount of bed closure for \$35 million in savings. Senate budget plans for 120 beds or 4 ward closure with \$5.7 million to RSNs to develop community alternatives with other divisions.
- Caseload increase (\$11 million add): Additional \$11 million in caseload growth for a total of \$49 million.
- RSN Funding Formula: DSHS is authorized to implement a new formula for allocating available resources among the RSNs. The formula shall primarily use Medicaid eligibles as a measure of population factors. It shall be phased in over a period of

no less than four years. In order to ensure that the three RSNs who would lose funds receive some growth, the Division is instructed to increase the capitation rates by enough to assure they receive an additional up to 2.1 % in fiscal year 2002 and up to 2.3% in fiscal year 2003. The nonfederal share of the rate must be provided by the RSN from local funds.

Developmental Disabilities:

- Olmstead Plan Implementation (\$8.3 million add): Reduction of \$2.5 million from Governor. Allows movement of 80 individuals into community placements.
- Long-Term Care Worker Wages (\$11.2 million add): New add to increase low-wage worker wages who provide direct care for elderly and disabled.
- Improve public safety (\$8.7 million add, \$3 million below Governor): Reduction from Governor. Funds DOC releases of persons with developmental disabilities incarcerated for sex and violent offenses, including employment services. Also funds community placements for those at state mental hospitals and in crisis diversion beds.
- High school transition (\$2.0 million add): New add. Does not fully fund high school transition but maintains programs at reduced level. WSAC continues to investigate the details behind this item. It's fund source is unclear and some of the details make reference to unexpended funds in counties.

Long-Term Care:

- Expansion of community services (\$15.6 million cut): Eliminates Governor's proposal to expand community services for traumatic brain injuries, Alzheimer's and persons with dementia.
- Long-Term Care Worker Wages (\$27.6 million add): New add to increase low-wage worker wages who provide direct care for elderly and disabled.
- Restores adult day health (\$3.8 million add): Completely restores adult day health cut in Governor's budget.

Alcohol & Substance Abuse:

- Involuntary Treatment Beds (\$3.2 million add): Same as Governor. Funds 35-bed facility in Eastern Washington for involuntary treatment.
- Expand treatment capacity (\$2.8 million add, \$3.5 million below Gov.): Reduces Governor's budget by \$3.5 million for expanded treatment in the community.
- Shift DASA programs to general fund (\$27 million): Shifts funds from VRDE to general fund.
- Drug courts (\$0.802 million shift): One/half of net federal funding loss restored using PSEA.
- Methamphetamine treatment (\$5.1 million cut): Cuts from Governor's budget which included drug courts.

Medical Assistance:

- Medically indigent program (\$3.0 million cut): Restores \$31 million of Governor's medically indigent cut.
- Expand Proshare and Disproportionate Share Programs (\$273 million add): Same as Governor's budget. New federal revenue for general fund and Health Services Account.

Vocational Rehabilitation:

- Serve additional persons (\$4.1 million add): New add to Governor's budget to serve additional persons and assure federal match can be captured.

JOINT LEGISLATIVE AUDIT & REVIEW COMMITTEE

Developmental Disabilities Study (\$0.225 million add): New add to conduct an evaluation of the high school transition program.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY, TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Housing Initiative (\$2.2 million): New add for related costs of SB 5936 which raises the recording fee by \$3 and has capital funds as well.

THE EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE

Washington State Institute for Public Policy study on juvenile crime prevention (\$0.10 million add): Same as Governor's budget to study juvenile crime prevention and intervention programs.

WATER RESOURCES AND WATER QUALITY

- The Senate budget shifts \$1.9 million from planning grants for implementation of watershed planning under HB 2514 to grants for cooperative watershed planning efforts not under the HB 2514 process, such as those underway in King County.
- It is unclear at this writing whether the Senate budget otherwise includes the full \$11.1 million for watershed planning offered in the Governor's budget.
- The Senate provides \$2.5 million increased funding to Ecology for water rights permitting and an additional \$2.3 million for water law compliance efforts.
- The Senate eliminates eight staff positions in water quality.

- The Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account is used to provide nearly \$1.5 million to the Department of Agriculture to begin a four-year spartina eradication program.
- The Senate Capital Budget sets aside just under \$27 million in the Centennial Clean Water Account for new water quality grants and loans after meeting contractual obligations to King County and City and County of Spokane.

HAZARDOUS WASTE AND ENVIRONMENT

- **Soil Contamination:** The Governor's budget provided \$2.4 million to address area-wide soil contamination (e.g. lead/arsenic orchard sites) needs. The Senate provides \$500,000.
- **Meth Clean-up:** The Governor's budget transferred \$2.1 million from Local Toxics Control Account for the clean-up of methamphetamine lab sites. The Senate provides over \$1.9 million from the State Toxics Control Account and PSEA.
- **Access Waste Information** - \$431,000. The Senate budget provides funding to allow local governments, businesses and citizens to access environmental data via the Internet. Reports, grant invoices, and citizen reports of environmental problems will also be able to be submitted via the Internet.
- **Bioaccumulative Toxics Strategy** - \$800,000 from the State Toxics Control Account. Funding for the development of a strategy to eliminate releases and reduce the existence of persistent, bioaccumulative toxic chemicals (PBTs). Baseline monitoring will be conducted and chemical specific action plans will be developed to reduce PBTs in the environment.
- **Assess Hazardous Waste Liability** - \$500,000 in one time funding from the State Toxics Control Account. Assess the limits of current statutes and regulations governing hazardous waste management, facilities, identify potential improvements in financial assurance regulatory control, and evaluate long term funding options.
- **The Clean Sites Initiative** - \$4,000,000 in one time funding from the State Toxics Control Account to clean up sites contaminated by toxic chemicals that present a serious threat to human health and the environment.
- **Waste Reduction Efforts** - \$200,000 in one time funding from the State Toxics Control Account is provided for an assessment of the current toxic pollution prevention and dangerous waste programs within DOE. Stakeholder focus groups will assist the Department.
- **Reducing Hazardous Waste Generation** - \$200,000 from the Hazardous Waste Assistance Account provides funding for additional technical assistance on hazardous waste management and pollution prevention on a one-time basis.

SURFACE MINING

The DNR surface mining reclamation program is increased by four staff (\$800,000) pending passage of a permit fee increase bill.

SALMON RECOVERY

The Governor's budget used Section 311 to distribute a \$79.8 million appropriation for the State Strategy to Recover Salmon. It included bits and pieces for a variety of agency budgets and pass through to locals, coming from a variety of budgets. Most of those funds came from designated accounts, including \$38.9 million from the Salmon Recovery Account, which in turn was funded by shifting a share of the Hazardous Substances Tax from the Toxics Control Account.

- Both the Governor and the Senate propose \$6 million for grants to counties and cities to update shoreline master programs. The Governor proposed \$2.1 million to Ecology to provide SMA technical assistance; the Senate cuts that in half.
- The Governor's budget proposed \$4 million for HB 2496 lead entity grants; the Senate proposes \$2.6 million.
- The Governor's budget provided \$2.1 million to the Department of Fish and Wildlife for local salmon recovery technical assistance; the Senate provides \$2.5 million.
- The Governor's budget provided \$2.1 million for limiting factors analysis; the Senate provides \$1.6 million.
- Both the Senate and Governor provide \$1.6 million for enhanced stream flow monitoring in critical salmon recovery basins.
- The Governor provided \$1.55 million to Ecology to provide stormwater technical assistance; the Senate half that amount specifically for NPDES Phase II implementation in Western Washington.
- The Governor set aside \$1.1 million to monitor smolt production; the senate provides the Department of Fish and Wildlife \$2.4 million for salmon science and monitoring, including monitoring of smolt production. The overall DFW budget for salmon recovery appears to be cut by the Senate.
- The Governor provided \$645,000 to implement a salmon recovery pesticide strategy; the Senate provides \$1.1 million.
- The Governor provided \$500,000 to develop a statewide salmon monitoring strategy. The Senate provides \$1.5 million for a statewide monitoring strategy, in addition to specific monitoring of funds provided to DFW, and a \$2 million natural resources data fund to be allocated through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Items specifically included in the Governor's operating budget which appear left out of the Senate proposal include:

- \$500,000 for Yakima Basin water investments
- \$150,000 to study the impacts of salmon recovery efforts on the state economy

- \$500,000 to update the water rights code
- \$400,000 to update the Salmon and Steelhead Stock Inventory
- \$174,000 for an additional Eastern Washington representative for the Governor's Salmon Recovery Office.

The Senate budget also appears to fund the Forests and Fish Agreement at a lower level.

An additional \$17 million of federal funds in the proposed **Supplemental Budget** is dedicated to license buyback of commercial fishing licenses.

The Governor's Capital Budget includes \$64 million in new grant funds to be distributed through the Salmon Recovery Funding Board and \$1 million for the purchase of water rights in salmon critical basins. The Senate version includes only \$56 million in new SRF Board money.

The Senate proposal moves \$10 million out the Forest Development Account and gives \$5 million of it to DNR timber counties. The other half is used for Shorelines purposes, including easements, acquisitions, and preservation.

SHORELINES AND CRITICAL AREAS

- **Critical Areas** (\$3 million added): these funds are for grants to local governments to update critical areas ordinances.
- **Shorelines** (\$7 million added): A total of \$6 million is provided for grants to King, Snohomish, Pierce, Clark, and Kitsap Counties and the cities in those counties for Shorelines plans. An additional \$1 million is provided for technical assistance.

PUBLIC HEALTH – 695 BACKFILL & OTHER FUNDING

The Senate budget provides for public health backfill at the 90% level plus the fiscal growth factor. The Senate reduced the special Public Health – Seattle & King County allocation of \$2.25 million by 10% and then applied the fiscal growth factor – treating it the same as the MVET backfill dollars. The Senate budget contains intent language that the backfill be on-going into future biennia. The 695 backfill in the Senate budget comes from the Health Services Account.

- Total biennial 695 backfill for public health is \$48,270,802.
- The Senate Budget does not include a \$1.056 million appropriation to local health jurisdictions, which is a reduction from the current biennium. This money was allocated to the 34 local health jurisdictions on a per capita basis.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

In general, the Department of Health's budget did fairly well in the Senate budget. The reductions taken in the Department's budget, for the most part, have little effect upon local public health departments/districts.

- **Teen Pregnancy Grants** are reduced \$1,116,000, which will eliminate grant support for nine of ten teen pregnancy prevention projects in urban and rural communities. However, similar efforts are to be supported with TANF block grant funding from the DSHS. DOH teen pregnancy prevention efforts will be refocused on statewide activities.
- **EMS Coordination Activities** are reduced \$214,000 which means state general funds will no longer be provided to the Regional EMS and Trauma Care Councils to promote emergency medical dispatch training; to participate in local and regional disaster preparedness training; or to support quality improvement initiatives. Additionally, there is a 15% reduction to State Trauma Administration.
- **Federal Revenue increased** \$1,173,000 for: Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, State-based Birth Defects surveillance program, Improving Data Quality in Pesticide Illness, and Federal Domestic Violence for Pregnant Women.
- **Safe Drinking Water Federal Compliance:** \$2,100,000 of the new state funding will assist local jurisdictions to continue and improve their role in assuring the safety of small water systems (Group B), which serve approximately 100,000 of the state's residents. This is the first time funding has been available to assist local health jurisdictions.
- **Technical Help for Meth Lab Cleanup** - \$125,000. This funding increases (by 50%) the Department of Health's ability to provide technical assistance and awareness training to the Washington State Patrol, local law enforcement, and local health jurisdictions regarding the public health hazards associated with the clean up of meth manufacturing sites.
- **Child Health Enhancements** - \$10,610,000. This provides funding for the new pneumococcal conjugative vaccine and adds it to the list of state-funded vaccines. This important vaccine has been determined to be cost effective in the prevention of meningitis, middle ear, and sinus infections among children under age two. Both WSALPHO and WSAC have supported childhood vaccines and universal access.
- **AIDS Prescription Drug Increase** - \$1,839,000 (\$1,031,000 from State GF). This funding will cover AIDS Prescription Drugs for expected increases in the program enrollment over the biennium. State and federal funds cover the cost of prescription medications, laboratory services, and outpatient medical care for persons with HIV infection and incomes below 370% of the federal poverty level.
- **Dental Sealants** - \$72,000. If SSB 6020 passes the legislature and is signed by the Governor, the Senate budget provides funding for the DOH to develop a training and certification program for dental hygienists and dental assistants who wish to

apply dental sealants and fluoride varnishes in schools with a significant percentage of low-income students. The cost is to be covered with applicant fees. This expands access for low-income children to preventive dental services.

- **Tobacco Control Plan** - \$35,000,000 from the Tobacco Prevention and Control Account. The Senate budget provides \$17.5 million per year for carrying out the Tobacco Prevention and Control Plan. This funding will continue the state and local efforts to reduce the prevalence of tobacco use in Washington State.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES – ECONOMIC SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

- **Child Care and Early Learning** - \$59,817,000 (\$16,564,000 from State General Fund). Combines the child care and early learning programs from DSHS, DOH and the Office of Financial Management into a new DSHS division, which will focus on child care, and early learning programs with an emphasis on quality and availability of care. This change should provide a more focused, coordinated approach to child care and early learning.
- **Expand Access to Child Care** - \$27,000,000 from federal funds for anticipated increase in subsidized child care for low income working families.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL & HEALTH SERVICES – MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PAYMENTS

- **Vendor Rate Increases** - \$70,599,000 (\$33,643,000 from State GF) is provided to increase the rates paid to hospitals, physicians, dentists, home health agencies, family planning clinics, and other organizations and individuals which contract with the state to provide medical assistance services. Rates are increased by 2.1 percent on July 1, 2001 and by an additional 2.3 percent on July 1, 2002.
- **Family Planning Waiver** – A savings of \$5,487,000 in the State General Fund (plus an additional savings of \$638,000 in DOH's budget). If Senate Bill 5186 passes, the medical assistance program is to implement a demonstration waiver that will enable the state to provide family planning services for any uninsured resident with an income below 200% of poverty. The federal government will cover 90% of the cost of these services. This increases access to family planning services and is expected to almost double the amount of funding available for family planning services for low-income residents.
- **Breast and Cervical Cancer** - \$2,578,000. In accordance with SSB 5820 (upon passage), the Medical Assistance program will provide full-scope Medicaid benefits for low-income uninsured women who have been diagnosed with breast or cervical cancer through the federal screening program administered by the Department of Health. Federal Medicaid matching funds will cover approximately 65% of the cost. The Susan G. Komen Foundation has committed \$400,000 of private funds to cover approximately 45% of the remaining state share of program costs. The state portion would come from the Health Services Account. Both WSALPHO and WSAC support this legislation.

WASHINGTON STATE HEALTH CARE AUTHORITY

- **Basic Health Alternative Contracts** - \$2,553,000 is provided from the Health Services Account for the Basic Health Plan to develop and implement alternative purchasing strategies in areas of the state where managed care contractors might otherwise not be available for BHP enrollees. This should serve to increase access to the BHP.
- **Basic Health Co-Pay and Subsidy** - \$2,223,000 reduction is realized, which will be used to offset part of the \$65 million increase in BHP subsidies funded in the maintenance level budget. The offset will be achieved by (1) increasing pharmacy co-pays by \$2 per prescription; (2) increasing the minimum premium charged to enrollees with incomes below 125% of the poverty level by \$2.50 - \$5.00 per month; and (3) reducing the state subsidy for enrollees with income between 125-200% of poverty by about 10%. There is no expansion of the BHP.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

\$10 million is appropriated to nineteen counties from excess funds of the Forest Development Account.

CAPITAL BUDGET ITEMS OF INTEREST

- **Spokane Electronic Data Archives:** The Secretary of State is allowed to enter into a financing contract of \$13,582,200 to construct a regional archives building in eastern Washington for storage of electronic data. The debt service is to be paid from an additional \$1 surcharge on county auditors' recordings (HB 1926). \$653,800 is also allowed to contract for technology equipment and software for electronic data archive in the amount of \$653,800 (HB 1926).
- **Seattle Forensic Laboratory:** \$9,100,000 is reappropriated to the Washington State Patrol for construction of the Crime Laboratory in the Seattle Forensic Laboratory. \$2,500,000 is reappropriated from the Death Investigations Account for the remodeling of the State Toxicology Laboratory in the Seattle location.
- **Spokane Crime Laboratory:** \$500,000 is appropriated from the state building construction account for expansion of the Spokane Crime Laboratory which will include an additional State Toxicology Laboratory. The operating budget provides funding for two additional scientists from the Death Investigations Account for the Toxicology Laboratory in Spokane but anticipates housing them in Seattle until the eastern Washington facility is completed in the 2003/05 biennium.

NEWS BRIEFS

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The Daily Olympian called them “pistol packing sheriffs” and an “ominous cadre” but we just call it great representation of local government. Twenty-seven sheriffs lead the charge but the ranks included county commissioners, county clerks, an auditor, an assessor, a treasurer, two undersheriffs, and several police chiefs. They spoke with one voice in support of the Senate Operating Budget, which provided I-695 backfill monies for cities and counties in the coming biennium.

The contingent, representative of every corner of the State, met in the Washington Counties Building for a briefing on the budget before going “up on the hill.” Once there, they searched out every House and Senate member to urge passage of criminal justice funding to counties and cities. One Senator expressed the fact she was impressed that so many sheriffs would travel so far and get to speak for a matter of minutes. The fact of the matter is that the majority of county officials would not be able to testify at all and were relying on the two panels listed in the foregoing article to say all they had to say.

For all the county officials who stayed home to keep the counties running, tremendous thanks go out as well. It is the contacts with legislators, whether in person or by long distance, that stoke the fires under “burning” issues. Thank you!

SCHOLARSHIPS

The application period to apply for a Washington Counties Scholarship is still open for dependent children of county employees who will be enrolled as full-time students for the 2001/02 school year. Completed applications must be postmarked by April 16 in order to be considered.

This year, in addition to five \$1,500 awards, there will be two renewable scholarships: the National Association of Counties’ (NACo) David Davenport Scholarship of \$2,500 annually, renewable for four years, and the CH2M Hill Scholarship of \$1,000 annually, also renewable for four years. These additional scholarships are available this year thanks to King County Council Member Jane Hague, who is President of NACo.

If you do not yet have an application, please call (360) 753-7319. You can also get the application online at www.wacounties.org/WACO.

TRANSPORTATION

BRCT PACKAGE STARTING TO PICK UP PACE

With only three weeks to go before the end of the legislative session, both the House and Senate have picked up the pace on transportation bills. The twenty-seven bills originally introduced by each House have now been reduced to about a third. Both the House and the Senate have passed out bills that substantially amend the original package regarding accountability and efficiency. For the most part, counties are in agreement with the amended accountability/efficiency bills. However, we are still working to amend two bills: **SSB 5765**-streamlining the environmental permits and **SSB 5755** - Adjusting responsibilities of the Transportation Commission.

Most of the attention has now centered on the revenue packages. We anticipate that the Senate Transportation Committee will unveil their statewide revenue package sometime next week. We understand that this package may contain a \$10 year, \$10 billion proposal that would include taxes. Fixing the central Puget Sound problem continues to be a hot topic of discussion in the Senate. As many as six regional proposals have been on the table with no clear answers on who pays, who selects the projects, and who governs. We anticipate that this topic may continue into, dare we say - **the special session**

For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

BARE-BONES BUDGET ADOPTED BY THE SENATE

The Senate passed a “bare bones” budget that does not provide additional funds to counties this week. The Senate budget is a two-year plan that does not include any new revenues and with the exception of the inclusion of work in progress projects for cities and counties, it does not include any new dollars for programs such as the city/county corridor program. This package would also exclude funds for passenger-only ferries and transit.

TRANSPORTATION BILLS OTHER THAN THE BRCT PACKAGE

SB 5733 – An act relating to county road construction projects was heard before the House Transportation Committee, Tuesday, March 27. Current law permits counties to utilize day labor to construct or improve county roads that are limited to no more than the annual county road construction budget or a specific dollar amount. The percentage and the dollar amount vary depending on the total annual county road construction budget. The Senate took positive action on **SSB 5733**, which would allow this annual limit to be increased by 10 percent in counties with a population of less than 50,000 people.

HB 1394 - Clarifying the use of county road funds in salmon recovery projects was heard before the Senate Transportation Committee, Monday, March 26. Currently, the use of county road funds is restricted to county road purposes. Any county road dollars that are expended on areas outside of county road purposes may be considered a diversion of county road dollars. HB 1394 clarifies that county road moneys may be expended for the purposes of removing barriers to fish passage without creating a

diversion. This may include engineering services, stream bank stabilization, stream restoration, or channel modification. The language clearly states that the local legislative authority makes this determination. The House voted out this bill without amendment 98-0.

Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for more information or comments.

TAXATION & FINANCE

TIMBER TAX

As reported last week, **SSB 5702** passed from the House Natural Resources Committee this week and was sent directly to the House Rules Committee. This means it simply has to clear Rules, pass the House, and then back to the Senate for approval of a technical amendment. **Assessors need to contact House Rules members asking for their support of SSB 5702.** Emphasize that it is an agreed upon bill between assessors and timber industry.

COMPENSATING TAX/DEATH WINDOW

Prime sponsor Representative Phil Rockefeller told WACO that **SHB 1450** will be scheduled in the Senate Ways & Means Committee early next week. Senate Ways & Means staff has confirmed that it will be heard, but no date is set. As soon as we see that it is scheduled, we will send a special e-mail to assessors letting them know that so that you can then contact members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee asking for their support.

DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE REQUEST LEGISLATION

As reported last week, both **HB 1202** and **HB 1467** received a favorable hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee and it appears that our amendment that allows for electronic filing of personal property affidavits will be included. At this point, the Ways & Means Committee has not taken executive action on these bills, but we are sure they will in the near future.

DAIRY FARMS/ANAEROBIC DIGESTERS/PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

The Senate Ways & Means Committee heard **SSB 5947** on Monday which provides for sales tax, B&O, and property tax exemptions for certain types of dairy equipment. The bill was amended before it passed out of committee to eliminate the property tax exemption as well as the B&O credit, so it simply provides for a sales tax exemption.

US FOREST SERVICE/RESIDENTIAL LEASES/LEASEHOLD EXCISE TAX EXEMPTION

The Senate Ways & Means Committee also passed out **SB 5977** that will exempt residential leaseholds on U.S. Forest Service lands from the leasehold excise tax. The primary motive for the bill is that some of the individuals who pay the leasehold excise tax do not feel they received any services for the taxes that they pay and that the leases they pay to the Federal government are sufficient reimbursement for services government provides. Last year, we spoke with one of the proponents of this bill and their properties were located in Eastern Pierce County.

LOW-INCOME HOUSING MODIFICATIONS

SB 6902 also received a do pass recommendation from the Senate Ways & Means Committee on Monday afternoon. This is a Department of Revenue request bill and simply makes some minor administrative changes to the low-income housing exemption.

LAW & JUSTICE

UPDATE ON E-911 WIRELESS TAX AND E-911 LOCAL ASSISTANCE

The Senate Ways & Means Committee on March 26 passed **SSB 6034**, which would establish a monthly cell phone tax to pay for E-911 wireless services. The bill is now in the Senate Rules Committee. If it passes the Senate, it still will need House approval.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee endorsed the substitute bill, which creates the same tax structure for wireless phones as the existing wireline tax, with 50 cents for the county and 20 cents for the state. The substitute does not provide preference for carrier reimbursement, which was WSAC's major concern with the original bill. Without new funds, counties cannot afford the technology necessary to identify callback numbers for cell phones and the physical location of 911 calls originating from cell phones.

Democrats on Ways and Means and four Republicans voted for the bill. Those voting yes are: Lisa Brown, Dow Constantine, Darlene Fairley, Karen Fraser, Adam Kline, Jeanne Kohl-Welles, Marilyn Rasmussen, Debbie Regala, Sid Snyder, Harriet Spanel, Pat Thibaudeau, Jeanine Long, Linda Evans Parlette, Larry Sheahan, Mike Hewitt, and Shirley Winsley. Three days before the vote, none of the Republicans were committed on the bill. Thanks to calls from WSAC and WACO members, more than half the Republican committee members voted for this bill.

The House Technology, Telecommunications and Energy Committee heard testimony at a March 21 hearing on **SSB 5335**, which would ensure ongoing local operational assistance from the state 911 office. Committee co-chair Larry Crouse promised that the committee would pass the bill out. It looks like a committee vote will occur Friday, March 30, after the deadline for this Legislative Bulletin.

SSB 5335 removes the restrictions on the use of the statewide E-911 tax for salaries of those personnel who answer 911 calls. It allows the money to be used for a variety of operational needs by all counties that levy the full 50-cent local landline phone tax but do not realize adequate revenue from the tax to sustain 911 services. The bill also removes references to the development of regional 911 operations for call answering and establishes legislative priorities for the use of the statewide E-911 account funds.

NONPARTISAN SHERIFFS

SB 5141, making the office of county sheriff nonpartisan, is dead for the session, but not for lack of effort on the part of the sheriffs. Benton County Sheriff Larry Taylor took the lead and got it through the Senate, but the House Local Government and Housing Committee did not schedule the bill for hearing.

SHERIFF'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY

HB 1560, restricting the use of the term "sheriff" and "sheriffs posse" was passed out of Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, March 27, and is now in the Rules Committee. **Sheriffs please contact your Senate Rules members as soon as possible asking them to pull the bill.** The members of the Senate Rules Committee are: Lieutenant Governor Brad Owen, Chair; Senator Rosa Franklin (D-29), Vice Chair; Senator Larry Sheahan (R-9) Ranking Minority Member; Senator Dow Constantine (D-34); Senator Jeri Costa (D-38); Senator Alex Deccio (R-14); Senator Tracey Eide (D-30); Senator Georgia Gardner (D-42); Senator Patricia Hale (R-8); Senator Harold Hochstatter (R-13); Senator Jim Horn (R-41); Senator Stephen Johnson (R-47); Senator Betti Sheldon (D-23); Senator Paull Shin (D-21); Senator Sid Snyder (D-19); Senator Harriet Spanel (D-40); and Senator James West (R-6). If you need phone numbers or email addresses please contact Brenda Bamford at 360-586-4219 Ext. 124 or bbamford@wacounties.org

DEATH INVESTIGATIONS**MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS**

HB 1611, missing person records, and **HB 1613**, unidentified persons, both moved out of the Senate Judiciary Committee today and are on their way to Senate Rules Committee.

SUDDEN INFANT DEATH SYNDROME

HB 1216, sudden infant death, was voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and is in Senate Rules.

COURTS**COUNTY CLERKS' PRIORITIES**

SSB 5115 and **SHB 1793**, tax warrants, both moved out of policy committees this week and into the respective Rules Committees. **SSB 5115** is in House Rules and **SHB 1793** is in Senate Rules Committees. Please contact Rules members and ask them to "pull" the bill in that committee.

EMANCIPATED MINORS

A question recently arose in Mason County when an individual, age 17, who had been emancipated by court order applied for a marriage license. The question is whether a person that age can do so without a parent or guardian's signature. The answer is "yes." Court-ordered emancipation terminates the parental responsibility and considers the petitioner to have the power and capacity of an adult. Thank you to Mason County Auditor Al Brotche for passing that opinion along to us.

ENVIRONMENT, LAND USE & RESOURCES**RURAL COUNTIES MAY DEVELOP ALTERNATIVES TO GMA**

SB 5107 was heard in House Local Government Committee, Monday, March 26. There was mixed testimony with cities and counties supporting the bill and APA and Thousand Friends opposing the bill. The Committee will need to take executive action by March 30th in order for this bill to be considered for further action. If passed this bill would allow rural counties to develop alternative methods of achieving GMA planning goals. The bill defines a rural county as a county with a population density of less than 100 persons per square mile. The alternative may not be used to change the authority of GMA hearings boards regarding designation and protection of critical areas and natural resource lands, siting of essential public facilities, and adoption of a capital facilities plan element. Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for questions or comments.

MANDATORY 120-DAY LAND USE BILL (ESHB 1458)

This week the Senate State and Local Government Committee passed out this bill after amending it by clarifying that local governments should not exceed 120 days in processing permits or setting project type deadlines, but may do so in other cases when written findings are made. The striking amendment also clarifies that the proposed new language doesn't retroactively affect any local ordinances in effect prior to July 1, 2001-the effective date of this legislation. And, it establishes a 2-year study for the buildable land counties and the cities within to produce documentation on permit processing performance by project type. It makes this reporting due yearly instead of quarterly, and eliminates the requirement that it be maintained in perpetuity.

Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for question or comments.

FORESTS AND FISH RULES UP FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The Washington State Forest Practices Board is soliciting public comments on proposed rules that will significantly impact the timber industry. The rules would implement the 1999 "Forests & Fish Report."

The Forests & Fish Report, developed with the assistance and support of WSAC, is the result of a collaborative effort developed to protect fish habitat and water quality on state and private forestland in Washington. The Report is based on science and will bring

Washington's forest practices laws into compliance with the federal Endangered Species and Clean Water acts.

The Forests & Fish rules are the best option for balancing the protection of fish and water, and maintaining a viable timber industry. They fairly balance protection of the environment and the needs of families and communities who rely on timber jobs.

The Forest Practices Board has public hearings scheduled for April 24th and 25th:

Yakima – Doubletree Hotel	April 24, 2001	from 3pm – 7pm
SeaTac – Doubletree Hotel	April 25, 2001	from 3pm – 7pm

The deadline for submitting written comments is April 26th. The permanent rules are scheduled to be adopted in May and would go into effect July 1st.

COLUMBIA RIVER INSTREAM FLOWS MAY BE REDUCED TO EASE DROUGHT IMPACTS

As part of its ongoing effort to respond to the statewide drought, the state Department of Ecology is proposing to exercise its authority to reduce the minimum flow required in the Columbia River.

People are invited to attend a public hearing in Wenatchee from 7 to 9 p.m. on Monday, April 2, to discuss the department's proposal. The hearing will be held at the Wenatchee Convention Center, located at 201 N. Wenatchee Ave.

At the hearing, Ecology officials will describe their proposal to adjust the flow requirements to allow people to use Columbia River water more often this summer.

The proposal stems from a regulation, known as an in-stream flow rule, adopted by Ecology in 1980 that promotes the efficient use of water in the Columbia River and strives to ensure the viability of the river for fish and senior, older rights to use water from the Columbia. According to the rule, when the total flow of water in the river is forecast to be below 60 million acre-feet (MAF) between April and September, water users with permits issued after 1980 must stop using water. For the first time since Ecology adopted the rule, the National Weather Service's forecast predicted that the April-September runoff at The Dalles Dam would drop below 60 MAF. The March 1 forecast predicted runoff to be 55.4 MAF, and newer forecasts put the level even lower.

The rule also allows the director of Ecology to adjust the minimum flows by up to 25 percent (based on a percentage of the March 1 forecast) when he deems it to be in the best interest of the public. According to this year's March 1 forecast, Ecology can adjust the minimum flow by 23 percent.

After consulting with other natural resource agencies, and after considering the drought's potential effects on people, the economy and fish, Ecology Director Tom Fitzsimmons believes that reducing the allowed minimum flow of water in the river is in the best interest of the public. The rule requires Ecology to hold a public hearing to inform people of its proposal, take questions and gather formal comments. Ecology plans to make a final decision about the flow adjustment later next week. For more drought information, see www.ecy.wa.gov/ or call 800-468-0261.

BLM SEEKS CITIZEN RESOURCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

The Bureau of Land Management is seeking applicants for terms that expire in September on the Eastern Washington Resource Advisory Council and the John Day Snake Resource Advisory Council. The Resource Advisory Councils (RACs) advise and recommend management strategies for many federal resources.

The Eastern Washington RAC has openings for a timber industry representative, an academician, a grazing permit holder, a national environmental organization representative and a conservation group representative. The John Day-Snake RAC has openings for a tribal member, an elected official, an agent for commercial recreation or off-highway vehicle interests, a member of a regional or national environmental/conservation group, and a representative for archeological or historic values.

For a nomination form or additional information, contact Pam Robbins, Bureau of Land Management at 541-618-2456 or your local BLM District Office. Information about the RACs is available at www.or.blm.gov/spokane/RAC/racindex.htm or www.or.blm.gov/johndaysnake-rac.

LEGISLATURE LOOKING FOR MIDDLE GROUND ON SHORELINES

ESSB 5378, the shorelines bill that passed the Senate by a 28-21 vote remains alive in the House despite having never been assigned to a Committee. Representative Hans Dunshee (D-Snohomish County) and Representative Mark Doumit (D-Wahkiakum County) are working with counties, cities and others concerned about the current shorelines rules and timelines to develop some middle ground acceptable to both houses and the Governor.

GOVERNOR'S WATER BILL READY FOR HOUSE ACTION

Proposed Substitute **HB 1832**, a rewrite of the Governor's omnibus water bill, continues to be reworked by Rep. Gary Chandler (R-Grant County), Rep. Kelli Linville (D-Whatcom County) and the Governor's Office. It sits in House Appropriations and could be reported from Committee any day.

Meanwhile, the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee took testimony this week on several Senate bills addressing parts of the Governor's proposal. WSAC testified in support of Substitute **SB 5100** (establishing separate processing lines for new water

rights and water rights changes) and Substitute **SB 5586** (authorizing up to \$300,000 added funding for WRIA (Water Resource Inventory Area) planning efforts), both sponsored by Senator Karen Fraser (D-Thurston County). **SSB 5914**, another bill by Senator Fraser, allows limited transfers of family farm water rights, including to supply water inside an urban growth boundary and **SSB 5361**, a bill by Senator Linda Parlette (R-Chelan County) expands the use of trust water rights. No Senate bills regarding the authority of conservancy boards emerged from Senate Committee.

HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH & SOLID WASTE

The rush of trying to hear bills and get them out of their policy committees comes to an end this Friday, March 30th as we see another cutoff. We'll then know how many bills of interest to public health, health care, and solid waste are still alive. The Senate budget was released this week (see article in today's Legislative Bulletin). As policy committees finish up their work this week, next week is primarily devoted to fiscal committee and transportation committee work (as they face an April 2nd cutoff) and floor sessions.

House Health Care Committee is meeting on April 5th at 8:00 am for a Work Session to address (1) Strategies to address the growing health problem of obesity, and (2) **SB 5430** – Requiring insurers to provide coverage for cranial hair prostheses.

ACTION ON BILLS THIS WEEK:

Smoking in Public Places (SSB 5993) The House Commerce and Labor Committee held two hearings on this bill this week. The bill represents a compromise reached between tobacco prevention and control advocates and the Restaurant Association. The hearing drew several business owners (some restaurant owners and representatives from businesses primarily providing tobacco products) expressing concerns about the impact upon their business. Concerns were also expressed by charitable gambling organizations (bingo). When pressed by a committee member, the representative from the charitable gambling organization agreed that the age restriction would probably address their concerns. The tobacco prevention and control advocates and the restaurant association spoke in support of the bill and talked about the importance of the bill from each perspective. There were also restaurant owners who testified in support of the bill. Given the controversy, the bill faces an uphill battle for passage. To move forward, it has to be "exec'd out of House Commerce and Labor at they meeting Friday, March 30th."

Youth Access to Tobacco (SB 5296) This bill had a hearing in House Health Care. Once again, this bill saw the opposing viewpoints of the tobacco control and prevention advocates (including several teenagers who providing compelling testimony on how easy it is to obtain cigarettes – either through purchase or through stealing the single cigarettes) and the small retail shops that fear costs associated with a possible redesign of their stores to accommodate the requirements of the bill for locked display or behind the counter storage. Committee members heard the testimony and are considering amendments that would clarify the intent of the bill. This bill was "execed out" of House Health Care Thursday morning, March 29th with two amendments. One amendment expands the definition of behind the counter to also include non-self service displays located above or below the sales counter. The second amendment excludes tobacco retailers from product location restrictions if their tobacco sales make up fifty percent or more of their total retail sales. The bill is now expected to be referred to House Commerce and Labor – which have only one more hearing before cut-off – Friday March 30th at 1:30.

HIV/AIDS Prevention Study Committee (SSB 5679) This bill had a hearing and was "execed out" in House Health Care this week with one amendment. The amendment establishes a January 31, 2002 expiration date for the HIV/AIDS prevention study committee. The bill calls for a study and review of the AIDS Omnibus Act passed in 1988. The face of the disease has changed and it is appropriate to review the programs, funding, etc. The Committee will include three representatives from local public health. All of the testimony was in support of the legislation.

Breast & Cervical Cancer Treatment (2SSB 5820) This bill passed out of the House Health Care committee this week and is headed for Appropriations where its fate is uncertain. Appropriations is where the House version of the bill died.

Access to Dental Care (SSB 6020) This bill, which would allow an endorsement for dental hygienists and dental assistants to apply dental sealants in schools with a significant number of low-income children, passed out of the House Health Care Committee this week. This bill would expand access to preventative dental services for low-income children.

Obtaining and Expending funds for the Public Health System (E2SHB 1180)

This bill passed out of the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee this week. **E2SHB 1180** would allow the Department of Health to seek private funds for public-private partnerships to enhance public health services. Funds must be used to maintain and improve the health of Washington residents through the public health system.

Neurodevelopmental therapies (SB 1911) This bill removes the age limitation on coverage of neurodevelopmental therapies provided by health plans for public employees and employer-sponsored group policies. This bill passed out of the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee today with an amendment clarifying that the act applies to contracts issued or renewed on or after January 1, 2002. The bill will be referred to Ways and Means. Senator Thibaudeau acknowledged the concerns that have been expressed about the bill and committed to continue working on it as it moves along.

HUMAN SERVICES, JUVENILE JUSTICE & HOUSING

HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR HOUSING FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

The ARC of Washington sent out the following information on obtaining federal funds for housing for persons with disabilities.

On February 26, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development published its "Super-NOFA" or Super Notice of Funding Availability in the Federal Register. The entire Super-NOFA is available at www.hud.gov. The Super-NOFA makes available \$2.75 billion in funding from a variety of HUD programs. It includes information on funds available for the following disability-specific and generic programs of importance. One thing that is very clear in the NOFA is the importance of the needs of people with disabilities being reflected in a community's Consolidated Plan.

§#61623; Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program (traditional capital advance/project-based rental assistance portion);

§#61623; Section 811 "Mainstream" tenant-based rental assistance vouchers;

§#61623; Rental assistance for non-elderly persons with disabilities in support of designated housing plans (vouchers to offset loss of public housing now "elderly-only");

§#61623; Rental assistance for non-elderly persons with disabilities related to certain types of Section 8 project-based developments and Sections 202, 221(d)(3) and 236 developments (vouchers to offset loss of assisted housing now "elderly-only");

§#61623; Fair Housing Initiatives Program.

A summary of each of the bulleted programs listed above is included in this Informational Alert. Check the latest issue of the CCD/TAC Opening Doors, Permanent Housing and HUD's Continuum of Care, for detailed information about HUD homeless programs <http://www.c-c-d.org/od-march01.htm>. HUD is offering "web casts" on the various programs in the Super-NOFA. For more information, check <http://www.hud.gov/webcasts/schedule/index.cfm>.

§#61656; the web-cast for the Mainstream, Designated and Assisted Housing Vouchers for People with Disabilities is Tuesday, April 3, 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. All web-casts are Eastern Time. A link will appear on the title of the program approximately 1/2 hour before the broadcast taking you to the video.

While the Technical Assistance Collaborative cannot provide individual technical assistance this year, information is posted on its website at www.tacinc.org. Questions? Call or e-mail Kathy McGinley, Director of Health Care and Housing Policy at The Arc, 202-785-2288, McGinley@thearc.org.

§#61553; Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities

Purpose: Provide funds for supportive housing for individuals with disabilities with very low incomes who are at least 18 years old. This program was designed originally to serve individuals with the most severe disabilities who also may need supportive services to ensure their successful integration into the community. Funds available: \$121.2 million for 1,367 units nationwide. Eligible applicants: Non-profit organizations with a 501(c)(3) tax exemption from the IRS.

Use of funds: Capital advances and contracts for project-based rental assistance. Capital advances may be used to construct, rehabilitate, or acquire structures to be developed into a variety of housing options, such as small groups homes, independent living projects, and units in multi-family housing developments, condominiums, and cooperative housing. HUD has established Section 811 group home and multi-family development cost limits, which were revised upward as of January 22, 2001.

Distribution of funds: Allocated to each HUD region (and then to each state in that region).

Project size limits: Minimum number of individuals with disabilities who can live in a group home is two and the maximum is six. The minimum number of units in an independent living project is five and the maximum number of people who can live in one project is 18. While the HUD Secretary can waive the size limit, Congress has limited this ability to permit projects for more than 24 people to only 25% of the available funds. Application deadline: May 25, 2001. Application kit: HUD Super-NOFA Information Center -- 1-800-HUD (483)-8929; 1-800-483-2209 TDD -- HUD website --- www.hud.gov/grants. Technical assistance: Gail Williamson, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-708-2866.

§#61553; Section 811 "Mainstream" tenant-based rental assistance vouchers

Purpose: Provide vouchers under the Section 8 program - but funded with Section 811 dollars - to enable people with disabilities (non-elderly and elderly) to rent affordable private housing.

Funds available: \$54.1 million for approximately 1,900 five-year vouchers. Maximum application = 75 vouchers. Eligible applicants: Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) and non-profit disability organizations. Eligible individuals: All individuals regardless of their disability or age that meet the HUD income guidelines. In addition, agencies may not target these vouchers only to the population of people with disabilities they have traditionally served. Applications deadline: July 20, 2001.

Application kit: Not necessary - all information needed to apply is included in the NOFA. Technical assistance: George Hendrickson, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-708-1872, ext. 4064 or Grants Management Center, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-358-0338; 1-800-877-8339 Federal Information Relay Service.

§#61553; Rental Assistance for non-elderly persons with disabilities in support of public housing designated housing plans (vouchers to offset loss of public housing now elderly-only)

Purpose: To enable PHAs to provide alternative rental housing resources for non-elderly individuals with disabilities who would have lived in public housing if it was not elderly-only. To help PHAs that kept "mixed" elderly-disabled housing but can still show a need for alternative resources for non-elderly people with disabilities, that are consistent with the Consolidated Plan and the low-income needs of the area.

Funds available: \$20 million for approximately 3,500 one-year rental vouchers. If there are not enough applicants for these funds, they will be diverted to the Section 8 pot for the loss of assisted housing (see below) and then to the "Mainstream" vouchers program (see above). The number of units applied for must relate to number of units designated as "elderly-only" but each PHA can apply for no more than 200 vouchers. Eligible applicants: Public Housing Agencies. Applications deadline: July 24, 2001 (Public Housing Designation Plans are due to HUD by May 16, 2001).

Application kit: Not necessary - all information needed to apply is included in the NOFA.

Technical assistance: George Hendrickson, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-708-1872, ext. 4064 or Grants Management Center, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-358-0338; 1-800-877-8339 Federal Information Relay.

§#61553; Rental Assistance for non-elderly people with disabilities related to the loss of certain Section 8 project-based and Sections 202, 221 (d)(3) and 236 developments (vouchers to offset loss of assisted housing now "elderly-only").

Purpose: To provide vouchers to non-elderly people with disabilities to rent affordable housing. The target population is individuals with disabilities who are not able to get housing in certain federally assisted developments due to the projects becoming elderly-only. Funds available: \$20 million for approximately 3,500 one-year Section 8 vouchers. If there are not enough applications for these funds, they will be diverted to the Section 8 pot for the loss of public housing and then to the "Mainstream voucher" program (see above). A PHA may only apply for vouchers for people on waiting lists for housing projects that have become elderly-only or for other non-elderly people living in the community who "would have" been eligible for these projects if they were not elderly-only.*

*This is the program that has been most difficult for PHAs and advocates to navigate because HUD still has not completed the inventory of what housing is and is not still available to people with disabilities. Chapters of The Arc should work closely with their PHAs to try and identify lost properties and people who are waiting for housing so that these funds are used in a timely manner.

Eligible applicants: Public Housing Agencies. Applications deadline: June 15, 2001. Application kit: not necessary - all information needed to apply is included in the NOFA. Technical assistance: George Hendrickson, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-708-1872, ext. 4064 or Grants Management Center, HUD Headquarters, 1-202-358-0338; 1-800-877-8339 Federal Information Relay.

§#61553; Fair Housing Initiatives

Purpose: Increase compliance with the Fair Housing Act and with substantially equivalent state and local fair housing laws.

Funds available: \$16.5 million (\$24 million was appropriated but \$7.5 million is designated for the National Housing Discrimination Audit 2001) \$10.5 million for Private Enforcement Initiative, \$ 3.9 million; for Education and Outreach Initiative, and \$ 2.1 million for Fair Housing Organizations Initiative. Eligible applicants: Vary (see below). Applications deadline: May 2, 2001. Application kit: See information below. Technical assistance: Myron P. Newry, FHIP Division, 1-202-708-0800, 1-800-290-1617 TDD.

There are a number of components of the FHIP program of interest to disability organizations. These include programs funded through the Private Enforcement Initiative, especially those designed to build better partnerships between traditional fair housing enforcement agencies and other groups. One of the focal points of efforts under the Private Enforcement Initiative is addressing the needs of immigrant populations and other underserved populations. People with disabilities are obviously an underserved population. There are a number of important programs also funded under the Education and Outreach Initiative. This FHIP initiative assists projects that inform and educate the public about fair housing rights. The Education and Outreach initiative has a "disability" component - but disability groups should look beyond this one component for funding. The Fair Housing Organizations Initiative builds the capacity of organizations to become viable fair housing enforcement organizations in underserved areas.

STATE COUNCIL ON AGING NEEDS NEW COUNTY MEMBER

The State Council on Aging needs a new county representative. Ex-Commissioner Russ Wigley, Lewis County was our representative. While an elected official is desirable, a qualified staff member may also serve on the Council. The Governor's Office requests that we send three nominations for him to choose from.

The State Council on Aging is an advisory council to the Governor, the Department of Social and Health Services, and the Aging and Adult Services Administration (AASA). In this advisory capacity, they review and help formulate policies that affect older persons. Meetings are semi-monthly on the fourth Tuesday of the month averaging about eight meetings per year.

The Council includes legislators, city and county representatives, representatives from each area agency on aging, and five members appointed by the Governor to ensure rural, minority, and those with special skills are all represented.

If you are interested or have a staff person who would represent counties, please contact WSAC staff, Jean Wessman as soon as possible.

DSHS PRESENTS THE 11TH ANNUAL CO-OCCURRING DISORDERS CONFERENCE

DSHS is presenting the 11th Annual Co-occurring Disorders Conference entitled "Systems in Recovery: Making Integrated Treatment Work" on April 5 – 6 at the Yakima Convention Center, 10 North 8th Street, Yakima. Keynote speakers are Dr. Kim Mueser, Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Professor at Dartmouth; Dr. Paul Carling, Senior Consultant for the Center for Community Change; and Dr. Cardwell C. Nuckols, a recognized expert in the areas of behavioral medicine, addiction treatment and workplace productivity training. Conference moderators are Patrick Vanzo, Section Chief for Crisis & Engagement Services, King County Department of Community and Human Services and David Wertheimer, MSW, Principal, Kelly Point Partners. In addition to keynote addresses, there are a variety of concurrent workshops on both days. For additional information, please contact Barb Green, Conference Coordinator at (360) 438-8220/toll-free (877) 301-4557 or e-mail greenbl@dshs.wa.gov.

THE 7TH HEALTHY COMMUNITIES SYMPOSIUM IS ANNOUNCED FOR APRIL 27

Washington Health Foundation has announced its 7th Annual Healthy Communities Symposium for Friday, April 27 from 8 – 4 PM at the Bell Harbor Conference Center in Seattle. The Symposium is entitled "Finding Community in Diversity". Former Washington Supreme Court Justice Phil Talmadge will welcome participants. The opening keynote will be delivered by Sarah C. Shuptrine, the founder and president of the Southern Institute on Children and Families. In the afternoon, the Total Experience Gospel Choir will enliven the day followed by the closing keynote delivered by Imani P. Woods, the lead trainer and principle of Progressive Solutions. Interspersed during the day will be workshops covering Medicaid outreach; a multi-county effort in central Washington that connects people to resources; a project dedicated to ending child homelessness; immunization; King County's Health Action Plan; a partnership between the Toppenish School District and the Family Policy Council; and a partnership between the South Park Community in Seattle and the University of Washington. For additional information contact Devon Love, Washington Health Foundation, at 206-285-6355.

WASHINGTON STATE FATHERS NETWORK CONFERENCE ANNOUNCED

The Washington State Fathers Network, for fathers and families of children with special needs, is announcing their statewide conference on June 2 at Seattle Central Community College. The conference runs from 8:30 – 5:00 PM. King County Executive Ron Sims will give the welcome address. Nationally known speaker, David Pitonyak will lead an interactive discussion with the audience on advice for fathers in difficult times. Additional information about the conference can be obtained from the Network at 425-747-4004, extension 218.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND JUVENILE JUSTICE: A LIVE NATIONAL SATELLITE BROADCAST

The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and the Juvenile Justice Telecommunications Assistance Project announce a live national satellite broadcast on Mental Health Issues and Juvenile Justice for Thursday, April 19 beginning at 10:30 PDT. The broadcast objectives are to present information about the prevalence of mental health problems among youth in the juvenile justice system; discuss emerging strategies and useful models for providing effective mental health services; and share policy implications of and recommendations for providing specialized mental health services. It is designed to be viewed by juvenile justice professionals and professionals in private and public mental health agencies at the federal, state, and local level as well as policymakers at all levels. The broadcast can be viewed on the internet. To see if you have the proper equipment, visit the following website at www.juvenilenet.org/jjtap/mentalhealth. The same website will also assist you in locating registered sites that you may contact and arrange to join.

THE WASHINGTON STATE COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS ANNOUNCES THEIR 11TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Washington State Coalition for the Homeless has announced their 11th Annual Conference entitled "All Roads Lead Home" for May 9 – 11 at the WestCoast Convention Center in Wenatchee. Wednesday includes three different preconference institutes on 1) HUD McKinney; 2) Building Partnerships: Re-integration of Offenders (DOC); and 3) One-night Counts and Data Collection (OCD). In the late afternoon, the conference opens with a keynote address, dinner, and a silent auction. Thursday, May 10 there will be workshops all day plus dinner and entertainment from the Wenatchee Mariachi. There are additional workshops on Friday. If you have additional questions, please contact Irene at fax 253-798-3999 or email: hokeema@aol.com. The address is 16410 17th Ave. E., Spanaway.

NEW SAMHSA FUNDING FOR MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) of the US Department of Health and Human Services is offering two new funding opportunities this year designed to improve the quality and availability of substance abuse and mental health treatment services for individuals who have mental health and/or substance use disorders. These programs can be used to create and expand services and supports that are often crucial in assisting homeless individuals in retaining permanent supported housing in the community.

CMHS Building Mentally Healthy Communities: Funds for early intervention/prevention and expansion of services capacity for specifically targeted priority populations with mental health needs in the community. Homeless adults and families and persons with co-occurring disorders are among those targeted. Approximately \$14 million is expected to be available in FY 2001 to support awards with individual awards at approximately \$400,000 per year for up to three years. Units of local government and tribal governments in partnership with community-based organizations are eligible to apply. Applications are due May 10.

CSAT Addictions Treatment for Homeless: Approximately \$10 million in funding to support the development and expansion of comprehensive substance abuse treatment systems for individuals who are homeless, including those with co-occurring disorders.

Grant awards are up to \$600,000 per year for up to three years. Applications are due May 10.

Details on these and other SAMHSA funding opportunities are published in the Federal Register and may be found on the SAMHSA website at www.samhsa.gov. Application kits are available from the Knowledge Exchange Network 800-789-2647 CMHS and the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information 800-729-6686 for CSAT.

AUDITORS

OF INTEREST TO COUNTY AUDITORS

It was a hectic and busy week for the county auditors working the legislative process, but the results were great. The following is an update on WSACA legislation:

ELECTIONS

SB 5273 is both a WACO and WSACA priority bill, passed out of the House State Government Committee. Under this provision, circumstances which require a special filing period are moved back two weeks to allow sufficient time to prepare the ballots for mailing. **SSB 5275**, the absentee/mail ballot bill also passed out of the committee, but it was amended in the committee. Section 2 of the bill, would have allowed a voter to obtain an absentee ballot on the day of the election. The bill was amended to keep existing language where a voter can obtain an absentee ballot no later than the day before an election. In the interest of saving the bill, auditors were amenable to the amendment. It is very important that we thank the House State Government Committee Co-chairs and committee members for working with WSACA on **SSB 5275** and their willingness to pass both **SSB 5275** and **SB 5273** out of committee. Both of these bills are being sent to the House Rules Committee; please contact your House Rules members and ask that these bills be pulled from Rules.

Suzanne Sinclair testified on **ESSB 5904**, which revises procedures for choosing conservation districts supervisors. Suzanne met with the bill's sponsor, Senator Bob Morton, prior to the hearing to discuss an amendment to the bill. Suzanne's concern was that the auditor must have ample notice that the district has chosen to conduct an election under Title 29 of the RCW's. Senator Morton agreed to an amendment on the bill. The amendment would require conservation districts to notify the county auditor of the affected county by May 1, of the year in which an election is to take place, and that the election is to be conducted under Title 29.

The bill is currently in the House Agriculture and Ecology Committee. Suzanne is also working with the sponsor of a House bill dealing with conservation district elections, **SHB 1502**, to ensure the technical administration of the election process is workable. The auditors have no position on the policy issues on these bills.

Recording: It appears that **SSB 5936** did not make it out of the House Local Government Committee. The bill provides funding for low income housing by adding a \$3.00 surcharge on all recorded documents, except for those previously recorded deeds of trust. The county auditors took no position on this bill.

Licensing: The House Transportation Committee heard the auditor's now amended bill, **SSB 5274**, which includes the subagent fee increase, as well as the language regarding the transfers of sub-agencies to children, siblings and employees of the existing owner of a sub-agency. Representative Shirley Hankins offered a striking amendment to the bill that, in addition to the language of **SSB 5274**, adds the \$.50 to the current filing fee that is to be deposited into the Licensing Services Account. The \$.50 fee was eliminated under I-695. These funds are to be used for support and maintenance of sub-agent and auditors vehicle licensing equipment. Bob Terwilliger and Mason County Licensing Supervisor Jackie Burnett testified in support of both **SSB 5274** and the striker, but emphasized WSACA supports the striker.

Please contact your House Transportation Committee members and request that they support the striker amendment to **SSB 5274**, which provides for a \$.50 fee increase to fund support to auditors and sub-agents. The monies are to be deposited into the licensing services account and the monies are to be used to provide maintenance and equipment replacement.

TREASURERS

TREASURERS' CLEANUP BILL

SB 5638, making technical corrections in county treasurers' statutes, was passed out of the House Local Government and Housing Committee Thursday afternoon. The amendment regarding road district taxes that was discussed last week was added. Another amendment also passed that we had not seen, clarifying special district dissolution procedures with notification of the county treasurer and amending suspension procedures for a diking, drainage, or flood control district with a copy of the suspension resolution going to the county treasurer. Treasurers should contact House Rules Committee members and ask that the bill be pulled to the Senate Calendar.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE TRIES TO OVERTURN LOWER COURT DECISION ON I-722

The Washington State Attorney General's office is asking the State Supreme Court to overturn Thurston County Judge Christine Pomeroy's ruling last month that Initiative 722 is unconstitutional. Initiative 722, which voters passed last November, would have capped local property taxes at 2 percent per year. Judge Pomeroy's decision was based on the fact that numerous other tax limitations in Initiative 722 were a violation of the uniformity provisions in the state constitution. (Remember the single-subject rule for initiatives, as well.)

Because voters approved the measure, the Attorney General's office is responsible for defending Initiative-722 and arguing its constitutionality. By appealing Judge Pomeroy's ruling, they are showing that they feel there is a strong argument in their favor.

If the Supreme Court does not send the case back to the state Court of Appeals without consideration, word has it that oral arguments could be heard the end of June and a decision before levies are set next fall.

MUNICIPAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

SSB 5319, reducing the number of members on the Municipal Research Council from 23 to 14, passed the House Local Government and Housing Committee, on Thursday, and will be sent to Rules. By WAPA request, language was restored that MRSC send a county official's request for legal services, and the Council's response to that request, to the county prosecuting attorney's office.

MEETINGS & CONFERENCES

WESTERN & EASTERN DISTRICT MEETING INFORMATION & REGISTRATION MATERIALS AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

The Western District will hold their spring meeting next week, April 5-6, at the Best Western Harbor Plaza, in Oak Harbor. Agenda highlights include Connie Niva, Chair of the Washington State Transportation Commission, as keynote speaker during Thursday afternoon's luncheon and a Washington Counties Scholarship Fundraising dinner cruise.

The Eastern District will hold their spring meeting April 19-20 in Colville. Dennis Braddock, Secretary of DSHS, is the keynote speaker Thursday afternoon. The evening social events include a reception in partnership with the WSU Cooperative-Extension, musical entertainment provided by the Colville High School Jazz Band and a dinner catered by Woody's American Grill.

More information and registration materials are available on the WSAC website at <http://www.wacounties.org/wsac> or call Kim or Ginni at the WSAC office, (360) 753-1886.

COMING EVENTS

April

- 5-6 WSAC Western District Meeting, Oak Harbor Best Western
- 11 Labor negotiations training for sheriffs and command staff, Lacey Community Center, Lacey, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Sponsored by the Sheriffs' Association and the Criminal Justice Training Commission.
- 19-20 WSAC Eastern District Meeting, Colville
- 22-28 National County Government Week.
- 25-27 Wa Assn of Prosecuting Attorneys' (WAPA) Annual Spring Training Program, WestCoast Olympia Hotel, Olympia.
- 26-28 Wa State Assn of County Clerks and Superior Court Administrators' Joint Conference, Lakeway Inn, Bellingham.

May

- 7-9 Washington State Association of County Auditors' Elections Conference, Yakima.
- 21-24 Washington State Association of Sheriffs' and Police Chiefs' (WASPC) Spring Meeting, Sheraton Hotel, Tacoma.
- 23-26 National Association of Counties' (NACo) Annual Western Interstate Region (WIR) Conference, Hilton Waikoloa Village, Hilo, Hawaii

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES MANAGER, Yakima County. Salary Range: \$47,366 - \$69,873 with excellent benefits. Plans, implements, evaluates and coordinates staff and activities of the on-site training and continuing medical education program in Yakima County. Requires the equivalent of a BA in EMS, Health Care, Hospital, Business or Public Administration, and five years experience related to prehospital clinical work including two years administrative or supervisory experience. Applications must be received in the Yakima County Human Resources Department, Room 412 Courthouse, Yakima, WA 98901 (509) 574-2210, by 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 7, 2001. E-mail: human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us.

CHILD/FAMILY THERAPIST: Master's Degree required. Must be eligible to meet requirement for counselor certification in the State of Washington. Provide individual, group and family counseling, some on-call responsibilities. Salary \$29,000. Excellent fringe benefits & positive work environment. APPLY: The Rogers Counseling Center, 900 7th St., Clarkston, WA 99403 or fax resume to (509) 758-8009 ATTN: Kay. Equal Opportunity Employer.

CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY COUNSELOR: Master's Degree preferred, but not required. Must possess Washington CDP credential to be able to obtain one. Will work in an IOP evening program, perform case management, evaluations, individual, group and family therapy. Will work with adults and possibly adolescents. Occasional on-call duties. Salary \$29,000 + DOE. APPLY: The Rogers Counseling Center, 900 7th St., Clarkston, WA 99403 or fax resume to (509) 758-8009 ATTN: Dave. Equal Opportunity Employer.

SURVEY PARTY CHIEF. Douglas County Transportation and Land Services has an opening for a Survey Party Chief based in the East Wenatchee office. Salary range is \$2,756-\$3,130 per month depending on qualifications, attractive benefits package.

Requirements include but are not limited to a completed application and resume and a valid Washington State drivers license. This position also requires five years as a survey technician, certification as level II instrument tech OR a two-year degree in surveying, certification as level II instrument technician and two years as a survey technician. This position is responsible for the supervision of the survey crew during collection of field data for boundary surveys, road and bridge design, right-of-way acquisition and construction staking to design specifications. Position is open until filled. For more information and an application packet, please call Angie Collie at (509) 884-9451, or email at acollie@co.douglas.wa.us, or the information can be found at www.douglascountywa.net.

WHATCOM COUNTY, BELLINGHAM, has a challenging opportunity for two **Facilities Technical Specialists** at Whatcom County, the state's sixth fastest growing county! Are you a skilled technician who enjoys challenges and the chance to apply your diverse skills? We provide a full employer-paid benefits package, including medical, dental and vision coverage for employees, spouses and eligible dependents and life insurance for employees. State retirement and deferred compensation plans also available, along with generous vacation, sick leave and holiday benefits. Both positions require HS diploma or GED. Hiring range: \$16.07-\$17.35/hr, DOQ. Electrical/Electronic - Requires 5 yrs. industrial electrical/electronic systems experience, (incl. HVAC electrical background), OR equiv. Preventive Maintenance - Requires 5 yrs. progressively responsible experience in preventive maintenance of facilities, (incl. HVAC mechanical background), OR equiv. Application period closes 4/16/01. For application materials contact Whatcom County Human Resources, (360) 676-6802, Bellingham, WA. For detailed job announcement visit our website at www.co.whatcom.wa.us or call the jobline at (360) 738-4550. Equal Opportunity Employer

SENIOR ELECTION DEPUTY, Thurston County. Starting ranges \$2,694 – 3,681 per month. Supervises election staff, voter registrars, temporary extra help employees, voter outreach programs, special elections, and the hiring and training of election board workers. Prepares the elections budget and billings, maintains accounting records, and assists with other administrative duties. Plans, organizes, and supervises the work of assigned employees. Recommends selection of staff and evaluates their performances. Trains staff in areas related to the absentee ballot process, election process in general, voter registration, and coordinating poll sites. Provides information and assistance to the media, political officials, other agencies, and the general public by phone, correspondence, or in person. Researches and interprets federal and state laws regarding elections, campaigns, and voter registration. Experience: Two years of office experience with extensive public contact and some budgetary/expense experience. Education: Two years of college or vocational training in Public Administration including accounting and/or business administration. Closing date: April 13, 2001. Application available online at www.co.thurston.wa.us, at the Information Desk in Building 1 of the Thurston County Courthouse, 2000 Lakeridge Drive SW, Olympia, WA 98502, or by calling (360) 754-3800.