



Washington State  
Association of Counties  
Telephone (360) 753-1886  
FAX 753-2842

# LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

Serving Washington's Counties



Washington Association of  
County Officials  
Telephone (360) 753-7319  
FAX 753-2842

Legislative Hot Line 1-800-562-6000

April 20, 2001

<http://www.wacounties.org>

Bulletin #15

**Bills/Bill Reports:** [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov) • **TVW Live & Audio Recordings of Hearings:** [www.tvw.org](http://www.tvw.org) • **OFM Fiscal Notes:** [www.ofm.wa.gov/fns/default.asp](http://www.ofm.wa.gov/fns/default.asp) • **Transportation Bill Tracking:** [www.crab.wa.gov/Resources/BillTracking/](http://www.crab.wa.gov/Resources/BillTracking/)

## HOUSE PLANS TO CUT I-695 BACKFILL FUNDS MOBILIZE COUNTY OFFICIALS

Earlier this week, we sent a special urgent memorandum to all officials asking them to follow up with their legislators on the I-695 backfill. As reported earlier, WSAC, WACO, and individual county lobbyists had been lining up legislators in the House to co-sponsor and to vote for a floor amendment that would restore the full I-695 backfill for cities and counties for both criminal justice and public health. We had close to twenty commitments at one time, when word came back to us that leadership was pressuring members not to support amendments to add money to the House budget. We had used this amendment strategy, because all of our prior attempts to work with legislators had not resulted in a draft budget honoring the Legislature's promise to counties.

Counties temporarily dodged a bullet this week as the House bipartisan budget hit major obstacles. That budget, with support from members of both caucuses, would have cut backfill funding for every county and health district/department below the promised level. County-elected officials have communicated with House members about this issue throughout the last year. They hoped that House members would honor their promise enacted in the last year's budget. When it became apparent that this was not the case, and that direct communication in writing, in person and by e-mail had no effect in the House, local officials had no alternative but to share their frustration over broken promises with local media.

In King County, the Executive, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Council Vice-Chair and the Presiding Judge of the Superior Court joined in an unprecedented joint press conference to denounce the budget cuts. The press release for the event was also signed by the Snohomish County Executive, the Snohomish County Sheriff, the Snohomish County Prosecutor, and the Pierce County Executive. (The press release is attached to the Bulletin and can be found at the King County website.) The press release was a follow-up to letters and emails sent by the officials to their House delegations this week. All of this in turn followed months of communication on this issue.

Officials in other counties were meeting with local media as the Legislative Bulletin went to press. At the Eastern District meeting, WSAC members worked on a resolution deploring the reductions. They also discussed specific actions designed to make a point with House members and state government in general about the inability of counties to continue accepting unfunded mandates from the state.

All of this activity is based on a draft House budget which does two things: (1) it eliminates the growth factor that was promised in last year's agreement with the legislature; and (2) for any county that lost less than two percent of its operating revenues, criminal justice funds would be cut in half. The affected six counties took a 47% cut last year and if they take another 50% cut this year, they have barely more than one-quarter of the monies received in 1999. They are King, Snohomish, Pierce, Kitsap, Clark and San Juan.

As we noted earlier, the House budget has been slowed by factors not related to our issue. This gives local officials additional time to talk to Legislators or media. Sheriffs need to call their Representatives who promised them that they would receive full funding for criminal justice purposes and urge them to not only live up to the commitment made in last year's budget, but to any commitments made when the sheriffs visited Olympia last month.

**WASHINGTON COUNTIES SCHOLARSHIPS**

Two independent review committees will begin the arduous task of selecting seven winners from a field of over 250 children of county employees. The applications must have been postmarked no later than April 16 and must be complete to be considered. The winners of the NACo David Davenport Scholarship in the amount of \$2,500 renewable for four years; the NACo CH2M Hill Scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 renewable for four years; and, five \$1,500 one-time awards from the Washington Counties Scholarship Fund will be announced in mid-May. The Washington Counties Scholarship Fund is a joint venture of WACO and WSAC. The NACo scholarships are being awarded by the National Association of Counties in recognition of NACo President Jane Hague's substantial contributions to that organization. Jane Hague is a King County Council Member.

**SALARY SURVEY SENT TO ALL COUNTIES**

The annual salary survey was mailed to all counties and cities last week and is to be returned by May 11. This is an important survey, which helps the county and city associations in our efforts to lobby in your behalf. Additionally, it is the only comparative document published on county salaries. It is a valuable tool in setting local budgets and determining what other jurisdictions of comparable size pay their employees. You have the option of filling the survey out on the Web or mailing it in.

The Washington Local Government Personnel Institute at the Association of Washington Cities conducts the survey. Please return the surveys to WL GPI and **not** WSAC. If you have any questions, please call Deanna Krell at (360) 753-4137.

**CENSUS FIGURES REQUIRE REDISTRICTING FOR COUNCIL AND COMMISSIONER DISTRICTS**

The 2000 Census requires all counties to redistrict their legislative authorities according to RCW 29.70.100. Once the county has received the official census information, they have eight months to prepare a plan for redistricting. The Washington State Redistricting Commission is mailing this information the first week of May. It will be sent to county auditors in an electronic database. A copy of the notification will be sent to each county legislative authority.

After receipt of the census data, the legislative authority must prepare a plan within eight months.

The plan must be consistent with the following criteria:

- a) Each council or commissioner district shall be as nearly equal in population as possible to every other district.
- b) Each district shall be as compact as possible.
- c) Each district shall consist of a geographically contiguous area.
- d) To the extent possible, and consistent with a county charter, the district boundary shall coincide with existing recognized natural boundaries and shall, to the extent possible, preserve existing communities of related mutual interest.

Provisions are set for public hearings and notification. Any registered voter residing in the area affected by the redistricting plan may request a review of the plan by the superior court. If the court finds the plan to be consistent with the law, the plan shall take effect immediately. If the court finds the plan does not meet the law, in whole or in part, it shall remand the plan for further corrective action within a specified and reasonable time. If requests for review are frivolous, there is a remedy for the courts to award costs to the local governments.

The state redistricting commission must have the legislative and congressional district plan completed no later than December 15, 2001. The legislature then has 30 days after the start of the next regular or special session to approve the plan. They may only make minor adjustments to the plan. By February 2002 the state-redistricting plan will be final. For more information on the State Redistricting Commission see article below.

It will be important to work closely with county legislative authorities and county auditors in order to coordinate the new boundaries into the voter registration system.

**WASHINGTON STATE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION SUPPORTS COUNTY EFFORTS TO REDISTRICT**

*(Submitted by Washington State Redistricting Commission)*

One of the first legal responsibilities of the Washington State Redistricting Commission is to provide copies of the official Census 2000 Redistricting Data to the entities responsible for local government redistricting. This requirement is specified in the Local Government Redistricting sections of Chapter 29.70 of the Revised Code of Washington.

RCW 29.70.100(2) states that: "Within forty-five days after receipt of federal decennial census information applicable to a specific local area, the commission established in RCW 44.05.030 shall forward the census information to each municipal corporation, county, and district charged with redistricting under this section."

In order to ensure compliance with the statute, (and to give local governments and election departments sufficient time to complete their efforts) the Washington State Redistricting Commission enlisted the assistance of the Office of the Secretary of State, county auditors and local government associations to develop a list of each municipal corporation, county and district with local government redistricting responsibilities.

Based upon the collected information, in late April and early May, the Commission will send entitled local governments two CD-ROMs: one containing the Census Bureau's TIGER(R) geography file, and a second containing the population information (Public Law 94-171 Redistricting Data Summary file) for our state. The P.L. file, (with internal browser software) is currently available on the Internet via the Commission's Web site at [www.redistricting.wa.gov](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov) and at [www.ofm.wa.gov](http://www.ofm.wa.gov). Census maps, which reflect TIGER(R) geography only, will also be available upon request from the Commission. Electronic (PDF) files of the plotter-size maps, pending Bureau delivery, will also be available during the second quarter of the year.

Each county election department will receive two sets of the CD-ROMs – one for redistricting-related use on behalf of the county commissioners or equivalent, and a second as a spare. The CD-ROMs, which do not contain encryption technology, can also be duplicated with common CD-ROM burners.

Questions regarding this matter may be addressed to Ethan Moreno of the Redistricting Commission at 360.586.9000.

**MORE STATE REDISTRICTING NEWS- NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The Washington State Redistricting Commission, the five-member commission charged with redrawing legislative and congressional district boundaries, will hold a series of public hearings throughout the state, starting May 16 through July 26, 2001. Commissioners will solicit public testimony and accept comments regarding redistricting priorities, boundaries and related issues.

All meetings will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. The dates and locations are as follows:

<b>Wednesday, May 16, 2001</b>	Bellevue, Bellevue City Hall, Council Chambers
<b>Wednesday, May 23, 2001</b>	Montesano, Grays Harbor County Administration Building County Commissioners' Meeting Room
<b>Thursday, June 7, 2001</b>	Olympia, John A. Cherberg Building, Senate Hearing Room 1
<b>Wednesday, June 13, 2001</b>	Port Orchard, Kitsap County Courthouse
<b>Thursday, June 14, 2001</b>	Shoreline, Shoreline Conference Center, Shoreline Room
<b>Friday, June 15, 2001</b>	SeaTac, SeaTac City Hall, Council Chambers
<b>Thursday, July 12, 2001</b>	Kelso, Cowlitz County Administration Building, General Meeting Room #300
<b>Friday, July 13, 2001</b>	Vancouver, Franklin Building, Commissioners' Hearing Room
<b>Monday, July 16, 2001</b>	Spokane, Public Works Building, Commissioners' Hearing Room
<b>Tuesday, July 17, 2001</b>	Pasco, Franklin County PUD Auditorium
<b>Wednesday, July 18, 2001</b>	Yakima, Yakima County Administrative Building, Room 420
<b>Thursday, July 19, 2001</b>	Ellensburg, Public Safety Building, City Council Chambers
<b>Monday, July 23, 2001</b>	Tacoma, Pierce County Public Services Building, Room A
<b>Wednesday, July 25, 2001</b>	Mount Vernon, PUD #1 of Skagit County, Aqua Room
<b>Thursday, July 26, 2001</b>	Everett, Snohomish County Administration Building, Ginni Stevens Hearing Room

For more information regarding public meetings, please contact Filiz Satir at (360) 586-9000. In the near future, the commission will provide additional directions to meeting locations on its web site. For more on public hearings and redistricting in general, please visit the web site: [www.redistricting.wa.gov](http://www.redistricting.wa.gov)

## TRANSPORTATION

### TRANSPORTATION PACKAGE IS STILL IN A MAJOR TRAFFIC JAM

Another week has gone by without any resolution on major pieces of a transportation package. Some legislators are not optimistic about getting anything done even in a special session. The legislature is still grappling with how to solve the revenue questions on the transportation package and how to resolve the differences on the efficiency/accountability package. The major policy issues that need to be resolved are:

- Governor's authority over the Secretary of Transportation
- Statewide revenue package
- Regional revenue package
- Environmental Permit Streamline Process

This week, groups of appointed Senate and House Transportation Committee members met in an attempt to work out the major policy issues noted above, but did not come to any resolution.

As we enter into the special session, we fully expect that this topic will continue. For questions or comments, please contact Jackie White (WSAC staff).

### TRANSPORTATION BILLS OTHER THAN THE BRCT PACKAGE

**SB 5733** - An act relating to county road construction projects has been signed into law. April 19<sup>th</sup> the Governor took positive action on this important bill to many of our counties. 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. This bill would allow the annual limit to be increased by 10 percent in counties with a population of less than 50,000 people.

**SHB 1394** - Clarifying the use of county road funds in salmon recovery projects was concurred to by the House this week and is now on its way to the Governor's desk for his consideration. The Senate Transportation Committee amended this bill before passing it out of committee. The amended bill narrows the county road funds to be expended to just fish passage barriers and limits the amount of county road funds that could be used beyond the right-of-way. As amended, the county road dollars that can be expended for this purpose are limited to one-half of one percent of a county's annual road construction budget and must not exceed twenty-five percent of the total cost of activities related to fish barrier removal on any one project. In addition, the language clearly states that the local legislative authority makes this determination.

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

## TAXATION & FINANCE

### TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

**ESHB 1418** remains on the House Concurrence Calendar and no action has been taken as of yet to either accept or reject the Senate amendments. As the time for the regular session is close to running out, this may be an indication that **ESHB 1418** may not survive the final cutoff.

### COMPENSATING TAX/DEATH WINDOW

The House of Representatives refused to accept the Senate amendments to **SHB 1450** and sent it back to the Senate, asking the Senate to recede from the amendments. The Senate now has three choices: (1) they could either remove the amendments and then re-pass the bill; (2) insist on their amendments and send it back to the House; or (3) just let it remain on the dispute calendar and die with the legislative cutoff at the end of the session. This week, assessors were all asked to contact their Senators and urge them to recede from the Senate amendments, and pass **SHB 1450** as it passed in the House of Representatives. **P.S. – Thursday, 3:30 p.m.** – The Senate “receded” from its amendments and passed **SHB 1450**, 49-0, just the way we wanted it. “Thank you’s” to Senators are in order. Please thank and copy Representative Rockefeller on your “thank you’s.” Good work!

### DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE REQUEST LEGISLATION

**SHB 1202** has passed the Legislature and now includes the amendment that allows for electronic filing of personal property affidavits. All the other provisions of the bill remain intact, i.e., providing more consistency with county boards of equalization, providing a mechanism for correction of levies when errors are discovered, and using three-years worth of data when personal property ratios are calculated. The use of the three-years of data and the electronic filing were both specific recommendations from the Assessors' Association.

**HB 1467** passed the Senate with some no votes. Since there were no amendments to the bill in the Senate, the measure went directly to the Governor for consideration. This is the measure that cleans up all the old references in statute that were part of Referendum 47. It simply conforms the statutes to the Supreme Court decision that declared the value-averaging portions of Referendum 47 invalid.

#### **FARM EQUIPMENT/STATE LEVY EXEMPTION**

This week, the House passed **HB 1906** that allows farm equipment used exclusively for farming purposes to be exempt from the state property tax. This measure has a fairly significant fiscal impact on the State levy, since it also includes language that requires the state to reduce the levy by the amount of the exemption, so there is no tax shift to other taxpayers. The measure has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and as of this writing, there appears to be no indication the Senate plans to hold a hearing or consider this measure further. However, as the votes are being put together for the passage of a budget, some form of relief for the agriculture community may become part of that compromise.

#### **PARK MODEL MOBILE HOMES**

The House concurred with the Senate amendments, so **SHB 2184** is on the way to the Governor.

#### **FOREST FIRE PROTECTION FUNDS**

**SHB 2104**, providing for an increase in forest fire protection funds, passed out of the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Wednesday. The assessment for forest protection is increased for parcels of land that exceed 50 acres from a flat fee plus 22 cents per acre for every acre over 50 acres, to a flat fee plus 25 cents per acre for every acre over 50 acres. Enactment of the bill is contingent upon specific funding in the omnibus budget act by reference of the bill.

## **HUMAN SERVICES, JUVENILE JUSTICE & HOUSING**

#### **KING COUNTY UNEXPECTEDLY LOSES COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER**

King County unexpectedly lost Joanne Asaba, the Manager of King County Mental Health, Chemical Abuse and Dependency Services, early last Friday morning, April 13. Joanne died quite unexpectedly at home. She had been suffering from a chronic lung infection for several years, which had severely damaged her lungs, but had been trying a new medication just immediately prior to her passing. Joanne was born December 15, 1953 in Seattle and attended Cleveland High School and the University of Washington. She earned a Bachelor's in Political Science with a minor in Asian American Studies and a Master's Degree in Public Administration. She worked in public service for the Environmental Protection Agency, the City of Seattle and especially King County for over 20 years. During her tenure at King County, the Community Services Division implemented a number of nationally recognized care programs for both the mentally ill and substance abusing populations. These included the mental health court, the triage center at Harborview Hospital, outreach services for the homeless, dangerous mentally ill offender services, integration of mental health and chemical dependency services for those with co-occurring disorders and administrative integration of county services for the two populations. When she started at King County, the Mental Health Division had a budget of \$30 million per year and 60 FTE's and now has a budget of \$110 million per year with 188 FTE's.

When other parts of the public mental health system statewide needed assistance, Joanne always offered both her own time and that of her talented staff to help, whether it was just attending a series of work group meetings or providing emergency inpatient services to help the state mental hospitals with census problems. Thanks to her leadership, their skills and expertise assisted in drafting and providing the necessary amendments to make scores of recent legislative actions actually work at the RSN and provider level once implemented.

Joanne is survived by her husband, Neil, son, Nelson, and daughter, Mika, as well as her parents, two brothers, a sister and their families. She will forever be remembered as a person who gave generously of her love and affection warming the hearts of all around her. Those of us who had the joy of working with her over the years and the good fortune of becoming her friends will never forget her.

Funeral services were held April 19 at the Seattle Buddhist Temple and were attended by over 600 people. The first eulogy was delivered by King County Executive Ron Sims, Honorary Pallbearer, who delivered a wonderfully moving account of his reliance on and deep affection for Jo. He was followed by Rep. Kip Tokuda, Chair, House Children and Family Services Committee, also an Honorary Pallbearer, who spoke of Joanne's community involvement and his close friendship with her dating back over 20 years.

#### **GOVERNOR'S JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE ISSUES RFPs FOR PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAMS**

The Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee is re-releasing the RFP for Title V Delinquency Prevention Grant Program awards. The purpose of these awards is assisting communities in developing community prevention efforts in order to impact juvenile delinquency. The RFP is specifically targeted to rural communities in our state (those located in counties with a

population density of less than 100 persons per square mile, or communities that are located outside a standard metropolitan statistical area) and Indian Tribes (which perform law enforcement functions).

Only units of local government may apply (county, city, town, or tribe). They must obtain certification from the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee before applying for this funding. In order to obtain certification, applicants must be in compliance with all requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Individual grants amounts may not exceed \$80,000. All projects require a 50% match (either cash or in-kind). Grants may be continued for a second or third year at the discretion of the Committee and the availability of funds in subsequent years.

Grant proposal writing workshops will be held in Kelso/Longview on May 1 and Wenatchee on May 3. Please call 360-407-0151 for additional information and to register for one of the workshops.

Proposals are due no later than May 29, 2001 to the Office of Juvenile Justice, DSHS, 3704 Griffin Lane SE, Olympia, 98504-5203. For additional information generally and to obtain a copy of the RFP, call 360-407-0151.

#### **STATEWIDE BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE JUNE 6 – 8 IN YAKIMA**

The annual statewide Behavioral Healthcare Conference is scheduled for June 6 – 8 in Yakima. The conference is sponsored by the Washington Community Mental Health Council and developed in partnership with the Mental Health Division, the Regional Support Networks, the Division of Developmental Disabilities, Aging and Adult Services Administration, and Western Washington University – Center for Continuing Education in Rehabilitation. It will be held at the Yakima Convention Center.

Last year's conference had the highest attendance in recent years with over 500 participants. It is hoped this year will beat that number. The theme will be "Today's Partnerships Building Tomorrow's Outcomes". Conference highlights will include keynoters: Wilma Townsend, MSW, former director of the Ohio State MHD Office of Consumer Affairs; Daniel Tomasulo, Ph.D., the developer of Interactive-Behavioral Model of group therapy; Spero Manson, Ph.D., Professor and Head, American Indian and Alaskan Native Program, Dept. of Psychiatry, Univ. of Colorado; and William Anthony, Ph.D., Executive Director, Center for Psychiatric Rehabilitation, Boston University.

Special hotel rates are available at the West Coast at Yakima Center, West Coast Gateway Hotel, Budget Suites, Holiday Inn Express, and the Oxford Inn. You must mention the conference to obtain the special rates. If you have any questions about the conference, call the Washington Community Mental Health Council at 206-464-7965 or email [wcmhc@wcmhcnet.org](mailto:wcmhc@wcmhcnet.org). There is also constantly updated information on their website at [www.wcmhcnet.org](http://www.wcmhcnet.org).

## **LAW & JUSTICE**

#### **BILL TWEAKS PROCESS SERVICE REQUIREMENT**

The Legislature has passed and the governor is preparing to sign **HB 1530**, which makes minor changes to how one serves a local government entity with a claim for damages.

Before an allegedly injured party may bring a lawsuit against a local government entity, the injured party must make a claim against the government for damages sought. **HB 1530** requires a local government entity, including a county council or commission, to appoint an "agent" to receive claims for damages. The identity and location of the agent during the government entity's regular business hours must be recorded with the county auditor. This new requirement takes effect July 23.

The current law, codified at RCW 4.96.020, requires that a claim for damages must be "presented to and filed with the governing body" of the local government entity. The process servers association asserts that, under this current provision, its members often have difficulty finding the appropriate person to accept damage claims. The process servers initiated **HB 1530** to correct this problem. The concept in the bill is the same as provided by current law in the private sector, which requires that a corporation identify a registered agent to receive damage claims on its behalf.

#### **GOVERNOR SIGNS METHAMPHETAMINE PRECURSOR BILL**

Governor Gary Locke has signed **SB 5017**, which limits the sale and possession of certain non-prescription drugs that are used to manufacture the illegal drug methamphetamine. These non-prescription "precursor" drugs are ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and phenylpropanolamine – commonly found in over-the-counter cold/allergy medicine and diet pills.

"This will give law enforcement another valuable tool to help choke off sources of supplies for meth labs," Locke said during the bill-signing ceremony April 19. "And it will do it without inconveniencing consumers who buy these common over-the-counter drugs." The legislation becomes effective July 19.

The WSAC Legislative Steering Committee previously endorsed the general concepts of the bill.

Under the bill it is a gross misdemeanor to sell at retail more than three packages of any products containing the precursor drugs. It is a gross misdemeanor to purchase more than three packages of such products within a 24-hour period. It is a gross misdemeanor to possess more than 15 grams of the precursor drugs unless the products are stored in homes or residences consistent with legitimate uses. These restrictions do not apply to pharmacists, retailers, wholesalers, shippers and manufacturers.

The bill pre-empts local ordinances inconsistent with the provisions of the bill. But local governments may act against a violator's business licenses.

Retailers of products containing the precursor drugs may take two measures to prevent their unlawful sale and purchase. They may (1) program check-out registers to alert sales persons of potential violations; or (2) place signs on the premises to notify customers of the sales and purchase limits.

The bill passed the Senate 39-7 and passed the House 91-0.

#### **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BILL PROTECTS ANTI-TERRORISM PLANS**

Governor Gary Locke has signed **SB 5255**, which amends the state Public Disclosure Act to exempt government anti-terrorism plans from disclosure.

Under the bill, the portions of records of public agencies, including local government agencies, that contain specific and unique vulnerability assessments or response plans intended to prevent or mitigate criminal acts of terrorism may not be provided for public inspection and copying. The bill becomes effective July 19.

**SB 5255** was initiated by the state Emergency Management Council, a statutory multi-jurisdictional body charged with assessing public safety risk from potential terrorist activities. Mason County Commissioner Mary Jo Cady represents WSAC on the Council.

The bill passed the Senate 48-0 and passed the House 93-0.

#### **SHERIFFS' EMPLOYEES**

**SB 5127**, relating to determining the number of unclassified personnel in a sheriff's office, has passed the House and has been delivered to the Governor for his signature.

## **DEATH INVESTIGATIONS**

#### **SUDDEN AND UNEXPLAINED INFANT DEATHS**

**HB 1216**, the SIDS bill, is due to be signed by the Governor late today (Thursday). County coroners and medical examiners can then have their local protocols for SIDS investigations reviewed by the Forensic Investigations Council (FIC) to qualify for full reimbursement of autopsies of children who suffer sudden unexplained deaths. The Washington Association of Coroners and Medical Examiners (WACME) are responsible for policies related to autopsy reimbursements.

#### **MISSING AND UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS**

**HB 1611**, missing person records, allows the WSP Dental Identification Section to retain dental records of missing persons after they are found, and has passed both houses. The bill was necessitated by the fact that often persons are missing more than once and duplication of dental records is troublesome. **HB 1613**, missing and unidentified remains, has been delivered to the Governor for signature. **HB 1613** provides that county coroners and medical examiners have 30 days to forward dental records of unidentified remains to the WSP Dental Identification Section.

## **COURTS**

#### **FAMILY LAW COURT FILES**

**HB 1864**, family law court files, is now Chapter 42 of the Laws of 2001. Governor Gary Locke signed **HB 1864** on Tuesday, allowing County Clerks to remove financial and certain personal information from the public part of the court file in order to

prevent identity theft. This is the second year the County Clerks have introduced this legislation although many have spent years working on the issue. Our thanks to the sponsor of **HB 1864**, Representative Mary Lou Dickerson, and to Senator Jeri Costa who championed the cause in the Senate.

#### **TAX WARRANTS**

**HB 1793**, tax warrants, has been delivered to the Governor. All County Clerks will be notified when **HB 1793** is scheduled for signing. If you would like to be notified directly by the Governor's Office, please call (360) 753-6780.

## **ENVIRONMENT, LAND USE & RESOURCES**

#### **WATER BILL ON COURSE TO GOVERNOR**

Engrossed substitute **HB 1832**, a rewrite of the Governor's omnibus water bill, finally passed the Senate this week and is on its way to the Governor's desk. It passed the Senate 33-16. It passed the House last week 83-14.

Following are highlights of the bill as it passed the Legislature:

- Allows local watershed planning units to receive additional grant funding for certain planning components, and allows a more flexible funding schedule.
- Allows applications for modifying existing water rights to be processed separately from applications for new water rights and does not protect the latter applications from being impaired by decisions regarding the existing rights.
- Expressly allows water conservancy boards to process the same types of modifications of water rights as may be processed by the Department of Ecology (DOE), waives certain liability of such a board and its members and employees, establishes new conflict-of-interest requirements for board members, and requires the review of board decisions to deny applications.
- Increases the number of acres that may be irrigated under a family farm permit, and expressly allows changes in the purpose of use of an agricultural irrigation water right secured under a family farm permit under specified circumstances.
- Reduces public utility taxes regarding certain reclaimed water and water conservation services.
- Alters requirements for donating water rights to the trust water right systems for instream flows in areas where aquatic species have been listed under state or federal law.

#### **120-DAY LAND USE BILL (ESHB 1458)**

This week the House concurred with the Senate amendments and passed out this bill. The bill is now on its way to the Governor's desk for his consideration. The amendments clarify 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. This bill now is before the House for concurrence. Please contact Jackie White, WSAC staff, for question or comments.

#### **SHORELINES/GMA/CAO ISSUE IS ON LIFE SUPPORT**

WSAC and AWC continue to work with a bi-partisan group of House members who are attempting to resolve the concerns around Shorelines, the Growth Management Comp plan and critical area ordinance timelines and funding. Various meetings took place throughout the week, but in the end, agreements on a solution are still absent. The bi-partisan group still holds out a glimmer of hope that something can be worked out during the special session.

## **HEALTH, PUBLIC HEALTH & SOLID WASTE**

#### **HRSA HEALTH DISPARITIES DOCUMENT**

A new Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) document, entitled *Eliminating Health Disparities in the United States*, outlines HRSA's strategy to end health disparities among population groups and describes agency activities toward meeting that goal. The publication cites expanding access to health care as a critical component of the agency's work to eliminate disparities. HRSA has adopted new directions for combating health disparities for fiscal year 2001, and identified sub-strategies on which the agency will focus. The report can be downloaded from [www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/](http://www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/). A hard copy of the report may be obtained from the HRSA Information Center by calling (888) ASK-HRSA.

**IOM REPORT ON SYSTEM OVERHAUL**

A report released by the Institute of Medicine (IOM), entitled *Crossing the Quality Chasm: A New Health System for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, presents a five-part agenda for reorganizing and reforming the nation's health care system. The report calls for a commitment from providers, insurers, regulators, lawmakers, and the public to improve the current system, and includes ten rules intended to make the health care system more responsive to patients' needs and values. It offers specific recommendations for Congress, DHHS, and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality to pursue. For more information: [www.nas.edu](http://www.nas.edu).

**CDC REPORT ON STATE INVESTMENTS IN TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMS**

CDC released a report on state investments into public health programs to decrease the prevalence of tobacco use. *Investment in Tobacco Control: State Highlights, 2001* is a tool for states to use in developing tobacco control programs. It provides current state-based information on the prevalence of tobacco use, the health impacts and costs associated with tobacco use, tobacco control funding, and tobacco excise tax levels for all 50 states and DC. For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/tobacco](http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco).

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INITIATIVE PROGRAM (SCHIP) OUTREACH PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES**

The American Academy of Pediatrics announces the availability of funding through its program *Reaching Children: Building Systems of Care* for innovative proposals for partnership initiatives that improve outreach enrollment of SCHIP within their local communities. Each selected partnership initiative will be awarded \$10,000 over one year. For the application and RFP, call (800) 433-9016 Ext. 4014, visit [www.aap.org/advocacy/reachchild.htm](http://www.aap.org/advocacy/reachchild.htm). Deadline: May 14

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HUD YOUTHBUILD PROGRAMS**

Grant funds are currently available from the Department of House and Urban Development (HUD) for Youthbuild programs which help young adults in low-income communities complete their high school education and provide on-the-job training in home construction and/or rehabilitation of housing for homeless persons and low income families. There are three funding categories, including new applicants and underserved and rural areas;. All funding will not exceed 36 months. For application kits and supplemental material, call (800) HUD-8929 and reference Youthbuild, or visit [www.hud.gov](http://www.hud.gov). Deadline: May 30.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **The National Lead-Safe Housing and Indoor Environmental Health Conference**, May 15 – 18, New Orleans. For conference information, call (800) 590-6522, or visit [www.leadconferences.com](http://www.leadconferences.com).
- **Moving Upstream: Environmental Health and Nursing**, May 18 – 22, Bozeman, MT. Registration fee is \$275. Visit [www.montana.edu/upstream](http://www.montana.edu/upstream) or call (406) 994-5098 for more information.
- **National Rural Health Association 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference**, May 23 – 25, Dallas. "2001: A Rural Health Odyssey – New Horizons, New Paths." Co-sponsored by the National Association of County & City Health Officials. Visit [www.nrharural.org](http://www.nrharural.org) or call (816) 756-3140 for more information.
- **National Community Building Network's 2001 Annual conference**, May 30 – June 2, Boca Raton, FL. The conference theme is "From Principle to Practice: Raising the Community Building Standard." For more information, visit [www.ncbn.org](http://www.ncbn.org).

---

## AUDITORS

---

**AUDITOR'S LICENSING BILL**

**SSB 5274 has passed!** In addition to the original language of the bill, which clarifies the competitive bidding process for sub-agencies, the bill includes the sub-agent fee increase language, as well as the language regarding the transfers of sub-agencies to children, siblings and employees of the existing owner of a sub-agency. The bill passed out of the House with additional language that adds \$.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. Please thank your legislators for their support on this important bill.

---

## TREASURERS

---

**TREASURERS' CLEANUP BILL**

**SSB 5638**, making technical corrections in county treasurers' statutes, is on its way to the Governor after the Senate concurred with the House amendments to the bill (previously explained), this week.

---

## ELECTIONS

---

**BLANKET PRIMARY**

County Auditors from around the state attended the Senate State and Local Government Committee work session on the blanket primary earlier this week. Senator Patterson publicly acknowledged the Auditors in attendance and thanked them for coming to the work session. Auditors in attendance were: Greg Kimsey, Clark County; Kris Swanson, Cowlitz County; Thad Duvall, Douglas County; Vern Spatz, Grays Harbor County; Suzanne Sinclair, Island County; Donna Eldridge, Jefferson County; Karen Flynn, Kitsap County; Al Brotche, Mason County; Norma Brummett, Skagit County; Bob Terwilliger, Snohomish County; Kim Wyman, Thurston County and Bob Bruce, Manager, King County Records and Elections

The Senate State and Local Government Committee discussed a variety of different proposals ranging from retaining the blanket primary to the “Louisiana” style of election, where the top two vote getters, regardless of party, move to the general ballot. The other options discussed were open primaries and primaries where voters would receive four ballots; one for each major political party and a traditional ballot, which would have all candidates printed on one ballot. It is our understanding that this issue will be dealt with during the special session.

**ABSENTEE AND MAIL BALLOT BILL**

**SB 5275**, the absentee/mail ballot bill, a WACO and WSACA priority bill, was amended in the House State Government Committee and was sent back to the Senate for concurrence. The Senate did not concur with the House because of some minor technical language changes. The bill was sent back to the House. This afternoon, the House adopted two technical amendments: (1) striking the word “basis” and inserting the word “district” and (2) clarifying that an auditor may deny a request for an absentee ballot if the correct birth date of the voter is not identified. The House passed **SB 5275** with a vote of 94-2, with 2 excused. **SB 5275** will go back to the Senate for concurrence. Please contact your Senators and let them know this is an important bill and ask for their support on it once again.

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT BILL**

**ESSB 5904**, which revises procedures for choosing conservation district supervisors, has passed the House. The bill has gone back to the Senate for concurrence, as it was amended in the House. The House amendment included the language supported by the auditors, that by May 1 of the year in which an election is to take place, the conservation districts must notify the county auditor of the affected county that the election is to be conducted under Title 29. Suzanne Sinclair asked Senator Morton to consider a possible amendment to include a June 1 notification date from the conservation districts instead of the May 1 date. May 1 may have likely come and gone by the time the bill passes and the Governor signs the bill.

---

## OF GENERAL INTEREST

---

**MUNICIPAL RESEARCH COUNCIL**

**SB 5319**, which reduces the number of members on the Municipal Research Council from 23 to 14, was amended in the House to restore language requesting that any legal services provided by MRSC to county officials be copied to the county prosecuting attorneys. When the bill was sent back to the Senate for concurrence with the amendment, the Senate refused to concur. The bill went on the dispute calendar in the House where they receded from their amendment on Thursday. Effect: the bill is on its way to the Governor and the prosecuting attorney language was not restored.

**LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

WACO members receive the *Notes from the Hill* during the Legislative Session every Thursday evening by e-mail or fax. The entire *Legislative Bulletin* (with WSAC articles) is available every Friday afternoon online at <http://www.wacounties.org>. Older editions are archived there as well.

**A CHARITABLE CHOICE FOR COUNTY RETIREES**

*(Submitted by Ron Holicamp, Washington State Department of Personnel)*

Retirees of most county agencies have an easy, effective, and efficient way to support their favorite charities. They can use the Washington State Combined Fund Drive (CFD), just as state employees do!

Public agency retirees, or their beneficiaries, can support charities of their choice through an automated amount from pension payment, or by personal check. There are over 1,500 pre-screened charities in areas of children’s services, education, physical and mental health services, environmental and endangered species protection, legal services, and the arts. Also, during 2001, a ‘donor option’ allows a retiree to direct support to any qualifying charity.

In 2000, more than 26,000 contributors gave over \$4.2 million dollars. The overall administrative cost to operate the CFD option is about 5% (among the lowest of any major fund-raising campaign). Each year, the CFD receives “non-specified” contributions that are split among the charities. Because of this, and the outstanding efforts of 3,000 volunteers, when a retiree designates a specific charity, it will actually receive 103% of the retiree’s contribution.

The CFD provides privacy for contributors. The retiree makes the determination whether or not to receive an acknowledgment, or further information from their selected charity.

The Washington State Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) and Personnel (DOP) have teamed up to make the CFD option available to public agency retirees. For more information, a list of pre-screened charities, or a contribution form contact the CFD office toll-free at 1-888-353-9396. Look up more information on the CFD website, [www.wa.gov/cfd](http://www.wa.gov/cfd) or email requests to [cfid@dop.wa.gov](mailto:cfid@dop.wa.gov).

The CFD can help retirees make the most of their charitable contributions. They can also help as a CFD volunteer. Just call the toll-free number to find out how. Alerting retirees of your county about the CFD service helps the retirees, your local charitable organizations and your local community.

## BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

### STATE BOARD NEEDS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR – APPLY VIA WSAC

The state Public Works Board has an opening for a county public works director to represent counties as a “public works manager” as provided in RCW 43.155.030. The state Public Works Board reviews and recommends local infrastructure projects for low-interest state loans from the Public Works Trust Fund.

State law requires the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) to submit three nominees for this position to the Governor. To be considered as a nominee for this position by the WSAC board of directors, please contact WSAC staff Sophia Byrd at [sbyrd@wacounties.org](mailto:sbyrd@wacounties.org) or 360-753-1886.

More information about the Board, its membership, meeting dates, etc., is available at [www.crab.wa.gov/pwtf/](http://www.crab.wa.gov/pwtf/)

Snohomish County Public Works Director Peter Hahn currently serves in this position and will complete his second four-year term on June 30. He is not eligible to serve another term.

### DRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE SEEKING ACTIVE PERS MEMBER

The Department of Retirement Systems (DRS) is now requesting nominations to fill one position for the DRS Advisory Committee, that of an active Public Employees’ Retirement System (PERS) member position. The Advisory Committee plays an important role in communication between organizations that represent members and retirees of public retirement systems and DRS.

If you are an active PERS member and are interested in serving a three-year term on the DRS Advisory Committee, which will begin on July 1, please contact WACO for an application form. A resume is also required. WACO will collect the applications and send them with nomination letters to DRS by May 25.

## COMING EVENTS

### April

- 22-28 National County Government Week.
- 25-27 Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys’ (WAPA) Annual Spring Training Program, WestCoast Olympia Hotel, Olympia.
- 26-28 Washington State Association of County Clerks and Superior Court Administrators’ Joint Conference, Lakeway Inn, Bellingham.

### May

- 7-9 Washington State Association of County Auditors’ Elections Conference, Yakima.
- 16-18 Association of County Human Services (ACHS), Walla Walla.
- 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.

---

**COURTHOUSE RAMBLINGS**


---

We send our most sincere get-well wishes to Clark County Sheriff **Garry Lucas**, who is at home recovering from bypass surgery. He is planning to be back at work sometime in early May.

---

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS**


---

**Code Enforcement Officer I -The Franklin County Planning and Building Department** located in the greater Tri-Cities Area (Pasco, Washington) is currently searching for candidates for the full-time position of Code Enforcement Officer I. A professional position, this position enforces a variety of County codes pertaining to land use, buildings, nuisances and related issues by performing field inspections and responding to public complaints. Requires any equivalent combination of education and training which provides the applicant with the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform the job. A typical way to obtain the knowledge and abilities would be: high school diploma or equivalent. Also, a year of local government experience in code enforcement (or related field) and code enforcement certification--ACE is desired but not required. Send a completed job application form, resume and 3 references to Jerrod MacPherson, Planning and Building Director, 1016 North 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Pasco, WA 99301. Application forms and a complete job description may be obtained at the Planning and Building Department or by calling 509-545-3521. Salary: \$26,062 - \$35,927 a year (Starting at 9-A). Application Closing Date is May 11, 2001.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lewis-Mason-Thurston Area Agency on Aging, Olympia, WA – Fiscal Manager.** Key management position in independent government agency, budget, accounting, federal grant management, computer operations, supervision, BA in related field, 4 years management experience, including federal grants. Good benefits, salary \$3,627 - \$4,823 DOQ. Open until filled. Call (360) 664-2168 for application package. EOE

\*\*\*\*\*

**Environmental Health Director, Asotin County Health District –** Salary Range: \$33,280 - \$39,520 per year. Plans and conducts the entire environmental health program for the Health District. Typical duties include but not limited to approving and issuing operating permits, licenses, and renewals for on-site sewage disposal, restaurants, and the landfill; and responding to nuisance complaints. Reports to the Administrator. Requirements: A Bachelor's degree involving major study in a field closely related to environmental health. Registered Sanitarian or eligible to take the Washington State Board of Registered Sanitarians exam within one year. Environmental Factors: Strong written, verbal and listening communication skills. Must have a valid motor vehicle driver's license. Projected Starting Date: Two weeks after suitable applicant is found. Applications: Applications, job description and Washington State Board of Registered Sanitarian information can be obtained from the Asotin County Health District, 431 Elm Street, Clarkston, WA 99403, (509) 758-3344, fax (509) 758-8454. Applications accepted until position filled. EOE

\*\*\*\*\*

**Cowlitz County** is accepting applications for the position of **Engineer III**. This is a professional engineering exempt position. It supervises engineering staff and performs preliminary engineering services for Public Works including planning, design, and specification. This position serves as a Project Manager for Public Works projects. Requirements: Possess a Professional Engineering License. Minimum of four years of engineering experience, with demonstrated civil engineering design in public works projects. Salary: \$4,513 per month, with subsequent annual step increases to \$4,764 and \$5,016. Application and job description can be obtained by visiting Admin. Services at 207 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue N, Kelso, WA or calling (360) 577-3065 or TDD (360) 577-3061. Applications must be returned to Admin. Services by Friday, 5/11/01. EOE

\*\*\*\*\*

**Court Administrator - Yakima County** - Provides executive leadership to a dynamic consolidated court organization. Responsible for the overall direction and management of the Superior Court, Family Court, District Court and Adult Probation functions. Serves as chief staff advisor and is directly accountable to the judicial branch of the Yakima County organization. Provides liaison to the state Office of the Administrator for the Courts and works closely with the Board of County Commissioners and other elected officials and managers to administer a broad range of policies and to address operational and financial issues. Minimum Qualifications: Equivalent to a Bachelor's degree in a related field and seven years progressively responsible Court Administration experience including four years as a Court Administrator in a large court system. Related graduate level work and ICM fellow preferred. Salary Range: \$64,454 - \$97,933. Closing Date: June 15, 2001 (received, postmarked or emailed). Apply to Yakima County Human Resources Department, 128 N. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Yakima, WA 98901. Internet: [www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us](http://www.pan.co.yakima.wa.us). Email: [human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us](mailto:human.resources@co.yakima.wa.us), Telephone: (509) 574-2220. EOE

---

**NEWS ARTICLES**

---

**FRANKLIN SHERIFF AMONG NOMINEES FOR U.S. MARSHAL**

*(4/15/2001: By Kristin M. Kraemer, Tri-City Herald staff writer)*

Franklin County Sheriff Richard Lathim is a candidate for U.S. Marshal in the Eastern District of Washington, a spokesman for U.S. Rep. Doc Hastings acknowledged. Lathim said Saturday that he's satisfied with his current duties, but is open to something new. Hastings' spokesman Todd Young confirmed Lathim is an applicant for the appointment by the White House. "Richard Lathim is one of the candidates," Young said. "He is one of the individuals under consideration, and he's certainly well qualified and has excellent credentials."

Lathim, who was first elected sheriff in 1986, said he's been interested in the position since the late 1980s, when his department opened up 40 to 50 jail beds for the U.S. Marshal's Service. When George W. Bush was elected to the White House, the Republican sheriff said he felt it was a prime time to "offer up my services." "I like being the sheriff. If I don't get this, I'm content in being the sheriff," he said. But the Marshal's position "is something that I've had an interest in, and because of the political aspects of it, I felt I have a chance. This might be one of my best chances of getting it."

The U.S. Marshal serves at the pleasure of the president, and leaves when the administration changes parties. Former Eastern Washington District U.S. Marshal G. Ronald Dashiell, nominated by President Clinton, retired on March 17. Chief Deputy Merlin Buchanan is serving as acting marshal until Bush names a permanent successor. The Eastern Washington division office is based in Spokane, but covers everything east of the Cascade Mountains. Buchanan said the agency does not disclose how many deputies are employed in the district.

The U.S. Marshal's Service is responsible for providing support and protection for the federal courts, apprehending federal fugitives, operating the Federal Witness Security program, jailing and transporting federal prisoners and responding to emergencies. There are 94 marshal districts in the United States and its territories. The task of recommending a nominee for the Eastern Washington District has fallen on Hastings and Rep. George Nethercutt, also R-Wash., because the state's two senators are both Democrats, Young said. "Doc would be proud to have someone from Central Washington become the marshal," he said. Lathim said he's heard that a number of people in Franklin County and the 4th Congressional District have written letters on his behalf. Brenda Alford, chairwoman of the Franklin County Republican Central Committee, said she wrote a letter of recommendation. "It said just that we know him to be honest and hard working and a true supporter of our community and all of Eastern Washington," Alford said. "And that he would well represent the people of Eastern Washington and their values and lifestyle."

Lathim's fourth term as sheriff runs through 2002. If he is named U.S. Marshal by Bush, the Franklin County Republican Central Committee would have to submit three names for his replacement as sheriff to the Franklin County commissioners. Commissioners then would appoint a new sheriff from the list to fill the post until a special election could be held.