



Washington Fire Chiefs Legislative Report

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Session Review

The Legislature adjourned on Thursday, March 13th, after a somewhat tumultuous 60-day session. While the House and Senate agreed to terms on a supplemental transportation budget and a supplemental operating budget, they failed to pass either a supplemental capital budget or a transportation revenue proposal. Observers have commented that this was one of the more unremarkable sessions in recent memory. As the Washington State Wire noted, "You can say the 2014 legislative session started with low expectations, and it lived right up to them. Washington lawmakers ended their 60-day session just before midnight Thursday after passing a do-no-harm budget and a handful of policy bills of mostly modest import. As two months of caterwauling, finger pointing and partisan debate finally came to an end, they could point to one big achievement: They managed to wrap it all up on schedule, with seven minutes to spare. Then they went home. The parking lot cleared out fast."

Attention now turns to the interim and the campaign season, which promises to be a long, hard-fought, and expensive one, with control of the Senate potentially up for grabs between the Democrats and Republicans. Several races figure to be most prominent, with the Senate receiving the majority of the focus. In particular, the races in the 28th, 30th, 45th, and 49th, are likely to be especially interesting. The WFC Legislative Committee will be putting together a preliminary list of proposed endorsements and contributions in the coming weeks and months.

Top Five Issues

- Raise EMS Levy Cap to \$.75 – [HB 1136](#)
 - No legislative action in 2014.
- All Risk Mobilization [HB 1126](#) & [SB 6003](#)
 - HB 1126 passed from H. Public Safety unanimously on 1/24; received no action in H. Appropriations Committee
 - SB 6003 passed unanimously from S. Government Operations Committee on 2/4; received no action in S. Ways & Means Committee
 - **Bills both died due to concerns over the potential impact to the State General Fund balance in the event of a non-fire mobilization.
- Oppose Ambulance Billing Direct to Patient [HB 1263](#)
 - Working off-line with the insurance providers, Senator Jan Angel and Rep. Dawn Morrell to develop non-legislative guidance for fire districts and insurance companies
- Allowing Municipality to Form RFA [HB 1654](#) & [SB 5520](#)
 - WSCFF taking the lead; SB 5520 passed from S. Government Operations Committee on 2/4; failed to pass the Senate prior to cutoff.
- Allowing Renewal of Benefit Charge via Simple Majority for RFAs [HB 1486](#) & [SB 5331](#)
 - WSCFF taking the lead; HB 1486 passed the House 55-39; passed from S. Government Operations unanimously but failed to move from the Senate floor.

Other Bills of Interest

- **HB 1264** – Addresses partial mergers of fire districts.

Holdover from 2013; Fire Commissioners lead; delivered to Governor; passed both chambers unanimously.
- **HB 2127** – Concerning the authority of medical program directors.

Passed House 98-0; amended in S. Health Care to remove the reference to employment status with respect to a medical program director's authority to impose restrictions; passed to S. Rules but failed to move from Senate floor prior to adjournment.
- **HB 2789** – Provides clear standards for the lawful use of extraordinary surveillance technologies by state and local jurisdictions. Allows use in wildfire and life safety incidents.

Delivered to Governor for signature; passed House 85-15; amended in S. Law & Justice Committee to clarify scope and restrictions; passed Senate 46-1.

- [HB 2266/SB 6075](#) – allowing fire department and RFA personnel to do small public works projects under \$20,000
 - Working off-line with the State Auditor’s Office to develop mutually-agreeable direction
- [HB 2278](#) – Removing the requirement that a fire district be “rural,” as defined as 10 or fewer persons per square mile, for the purposes of entering into an interlocal agreement with an adjacent city with an ambulance service
 - Passed House 89-9 on 2/12; failed to see action in the S. Commerce & Labor Committee
- [HB 2428](#) – Concerning authorizations of proposals for EMS levies.

Failed to pass House prior to cutoff
- [HB 1294](#) – Revises flame retardant provisions with regard to residential upholstered furniture and children's products.

Holdover version from 2013; passed House 72-25 on 1/22; amended in S. Energy & Environment; passed to S. Rules but failed to receive floor action.
- [HB 2576](#) – Establishing a mandatory occupational disease exposure reporting requirement for firefighters

Passed House 83-14; failed to move from S. Commerce & Labor prior to cutoff
- [HB 2401](#) – requiring all battery-powered smoke detectors sold in Washington to have non-removable, non-replaceable ten-year batteries
 - Received hearing in H. Local Gov Committee; bill failed to move prior to cutoff
- [HB 2255](#) – Concerning ambulance seat belt notification, air bags, and driver training.
 - Amended to remove mandatory simulator program; passed House 55-40 but failed to receive action in S. Transportation Committee
- [HB 2260](#) – Concerning dwelling unit fire protection sprinkler systems
 - Received hearing in H. Labor & Workforce Development Committee on 1/23; failed to move prior to cutoff
- [HB 2347/SB 6262](#) – Enhancing the safety of the transportation of oil.
 - HB2347 passed House 57-37 but failed to receive action in S. Energy & Environment Committee

- SB 6262 failed to see action in S. Energy & Environment Committee
- [HB 2124](#)/[SB 5971](#) – Concerning the continuity of government and operations in the event of an emergency, disaster, or attack.
 - Request bill from State EMD; both bills failed to move from fiscal committees
- [HB 2239](#) – Exempting the identity of a caller to an enhanced 911 emergency communications system from the public records act.
 - Received hearing in H. Government Operations & Elections Committee; failed to move prior to cutoff
- [HB 2121](#)/[SB 5964](#) – Concerning training public officials and employees regarding public records, records management, and open public meetings requirements.
 - 2121 passed House but failed to move from S. Government Operations Committee
 - 5964 received [hearing](#) in Senate Gov Ops on 1/16 but failed to move
- [HB 2105](#) – Promoting transparency in government by requiring public agencies with governing bodies to post their agendas online in advance of meetings.
 - Delivered to Governor for signature; passed House 85-13; passed Senate 41-6.
- [SB 6554](#) – Requires employees of companies providing life alert services to provide the location and any known medical conditions of their customers when requested by first responders during an emergency.

Passed from S. Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee; failed to move from S. Rules prior to cutoff.

LEOFF 2 Board Request Bills

- [HB 2456](#) – Correcting the expiration date of a definition of firefighter.

Delivered to Governor; passed House 97-0; passed Senate 48-1.
- [HB 2479](#)/[SB 6397](#) – Placing restrictions on retired law enforcement officers and firefighters employed in certain public positions.

HB 2479 passed House 97-0; both failed to move in Senate
- [SB 6201](#)/[HB 2577](#) – Creating an optional life annuity benefit for plan 2 members of the law enforcement officers' and firefighters' retirement system.

SB 6201 delivered to Governor for signature; passed Senate 47-0; passed House 97-0.