



Washington Fire Chiefs Legislative Report

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Date: March 4, 2014

Session Update

We are down to the final push of the 2014 legislative session, with less than two weeks to go. Friday, February 28th, was the final day to pass non-budget bills from policy committee, and Monday, March 3rd, was the final day to pass non-budget bills from fiscal committees (Senate Ways & Means and Transportation, House Appropriations, Finance, and Transportation).

The two remaining cutoff dates are:

March 7, 2014* Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (Except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).

March 13, 2014 Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

* After the 54th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, matters that affect state revenue, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

As always, if the legislature cannot complete its business in the 60-day session, it may be called back for a special session of up to 30 days. Currently, legislators expect that all work can be finished in the 60-day period and that no special session(s) will be necessary.

The following bill numbers are hyperlinked to the actual wording, status and companion bills. Once it is available hyperlinks of the hearing will be provided.

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 RFA's [HB 1486](#) & SB 5331
 - WSCFF taking the lead; HB 1486 passed the House 55-39; passed from S. Government Operations unanimously and now awaits action in S. Rules

Other Bills of Interest

- 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 where it awaits further action.
- HB 2789 – Provides clear standards for the lawful use of extraordinary surveillance technologies by state and local jurisdictions.

Introduced late, but passed House 85-15; amended in S. Law & Justice Committee to clarify scope and restrictions; passed to S. Rules where it awaits further action.

- [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

WFC Position: Support

- [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

WFC Position: Support

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

Passed House 97-0; passed from S. Ways & Means on 3/3 and awaiting action in S. Rules

- [HB 2428](#) – Concerning authorizations of proposals for emergency medical care and service levies.
 - Failed to pass House prior to cutoff
- HB 2479/SB 6397 – Placing restrictions on retired law enforcement officers and firefighters employed in certain public positions.

HB 2479 passed House 97-0; passed from S. Ways & Means on 3/3 and awaits action in S. Rules

- 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 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 and placed on 2nd Reading awaiting floor action

- [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

WFC Position: Support

- [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.
 - 2347 passed House 57-37 but failed to receive action in S. Energy & Environment Committee
 - 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.
 - 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.
 - Passed House 85-13; passed Senate committee and is now in S. Rules
- [SB 6183](#) – Requiring public employee collective bargaining sessions to be open meetings.
 - Failed to move from Senate; placed in Senate “X” Files
- [SB 6199](#)/ [HB 2427](#) – Addressing wildfires caused by incendiary devices.

- Both bills passed to Rules in their respective chambers; SB 6199 is moving and is now in H. Rules
- [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 passed Senate 47-0; passed H. Appropriations and is on H. floor awaiting action
- [HB 2103](#)/SB 5972 – Specifying recovery for fire damages to public or private forested lands.
 - SB 5972 passed Senate 35-12; failed to move from H. Judiciary prior to cutoff
- [SB 6048](#) – Concerning flame retardants (Hargrove)
 - No action in Senate Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee
- SB 6524 – Concerning the safety of the transport of hazardous materials (Erickson)
 - Passed from S. Energy & Environment Committee on 2/4; no action since
- [SB 5984](#) – Concerning flame retardants (Erickson)
 - No action in Senate, Energy, Environment & Telecommunications Committee
 - 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.