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## *This Week in Olympia*

### Legislative Update

December 16, 2011



CONNECT   

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session of the 2011 Legislature adjourned on December 14 after passing ‘an early savings plan’ 2011-2013 Supplemental Operating Budget in the form of [SHB 2058](#). The bill was subject to limited amendments in the House Ways & Means Committee on Tuesday of this week, passed off of the House floor the same evening and subsequently voted out of the full Senate the following day. The Governor is expected to sign the legislation into law on Tuesday, December 20, 2011.

Aging Services’ providers were left intact, with neither the Governor’s proposed cuts nor those under previous consideration incorporated into the final budget legislation. Rather, early savings to the state are garnered through fund transfers, capturing of dollars appropriated but not yet spent and certain spending cuts to such items as the state’s Commute Trip Reduction program and state employee cell phone costs.

On Monday, January 9, 2012 the regular Legislative Session begins. With about 3/4ths of the nearly \$2 billion shortfall between now and June 30, 2013 still remaining, even after the actions of this week, any and all proposals will be on the table, funding cuts and revenue generating alike. Aging Services of Washington supports a broad based approach to generating new and additional revenue to address the remaining budget shortfall of nearly \$1.5 billion. And while the one-half cent increase in the state’s sales tax, as proposed by the Governor, is generally thought to be regressive, it is one of just a few mechanisms that can quickly generate sufficient revenue to avoid devastating funding reductions for many health and social services programs. It will continue to be our collective mission to gain legislative support for the funding necessary to provide quality care and services to our state’s frail elders and oppose funding cuts for essential care and services for our state’s most vulnerable seniors.

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Below you will find our wrap-up of bills introduced during the 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session. While these bills died with session adjournment, they may be re-introduced in January.

As always, if you have any questions regarding bill proposals or our position on them, please do not hesitate to call on your legislative team – [Deb](#), [Julie](#) or [Paul](#) at the office.

Our contract lobbyist again this year is Scott Sigmon; if you wish to speak with him, you may call our office for his contact information. For information about contacting your elected officials or reviewing current legislative activities, click [here](#).

**NEW LEGISLATION INTRODUCED – 2011 2<sup>nd</sup> Special Session**

**[HB 2127](#) / [SB 5967](#) – PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE 2011-2013 SUPPLEMENTAL STATE OPERATING BUDGET**

HB 2127 and SB 5967 were each heard in their respective ([House](#)) ([Senate](#)) Ways & Means Committees. These companion bills provided for the appropriations necessary to implement the Governor's proposed Supplemental Operating Budget for the current biennium, ending June 30, 2013.

**POSITION:** Oppose Funding Cuts; Monitor

**[HB 2130](#) – COST-BASED REIMBURSEMENT FOR CRITICAL ACCESS HOSPITALS**

This legislation would essentially eliminate the enhanced rate paid to critical access hospitals and their payment methodology would be placed into rule.

**POSITION:** Monitor

**[HB 2150](#) – GENERATING REVENUE FROM COMMUNITY RESIDENTIAL SERVICE BUSINESSES**

Consistent with prior legislative efforts, this bill would impose a 'utility' tax on businesses licensed or certified by DSHS to provide certain services to those individuals defined as having a developmental disability.

**POSITION:** Monitor

**Aging Services Legislative Team — Questions? Contact Us!**

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