

## Legislation Update – June 11, 2015

### **OPERATING BUDGET**

Absolutely no new news to report—except to say, both sides are point fingers regarding the supposed “size of the box” agreement from last Friday. The Senate Republicans say there was no agreement. The House Democrats say there was an agreement, but conservative Republicans torpedoed the plan and negotiators were forced to back away. The governor’s office is completely noncommittal. Yesterday, during a media availability, Inslee responded to question about budget talks by saying, “My one rule right now is the less said about the status of these budget discussions, the better. We obviously know there’s a looming deadline for legislators to act. We want them to talk in good faith. I’m trying to say as little as I can about it.” More to follow...eventually.

### **H.S. ASSESSMENTS, HB 2214**

As anticipated, the full House convened today and acted on almost twenty bills. Most of them were non-controversial bills that had been previously adopted by the House. [HB 2214](#) was among the bills re-adopted this afternoon, with a vote of 83-6. This was a few votes shy of the previous vote; however, that is because nine Representatives were excused today. A [new striking amendment](#) was adopted, but it is very similar to the previous version. Essentially the previous language was retained with additional clarifying language. The effect statement can be found on the last page of the striking amendment.

The bill now returns to the Senate, where it faces an uncertain fate. Senate Leadership and budget-writers continue to be pressed to advance the issue.

### **COMPENSATION/LEVY REFORM**

A new compensation/levy reform bill was officially introduced this morning and was given a [public hearing](#) this afternoon in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. [SB 6130](#) is bi-partisan melding of the previous reform bills, along with a series of compromises and changes. A [Proposed Substitute](#) was introduced and heard this afternoon; however, there were only a few minor, essentially technical changes made to the original bill. Like the previous bills (SB 6109/SB 6102/SB 6103/SB 6104), the new bill is complex and has many moving pieces. The introduction of the bill, however, was intended to bring the conversation into the public and not just move the bill as is. The sponsors know and understand there are many controversial issues being addressed and they seek input. One of the sponsors, Sen. Rolfes, specifically noted, “We’re laying our ideas on the table with full knowledge that this is a starting point for constructive discussions.”

You are encouraged to dive into the details of the new bill. Be aware, however, that trying to completely understand all of the moving pieces may be a daunting task. A [summary of the bill](#) from the sponsors is available which walks through the highlights, along with the standard [bill report](#) from Senate Committee staff. Even more details are available on the Legislative [website](#). Included are: a [high-level summary](#) of the bill; the [state-level fiscal impact](#) of the bill; a complete, [district-by-district revenue impact table](#); and a complete [district-by-district estimate of compensation](#) impacts.

While you are encouraged to understand this bill (and the other proposals on the table), and you are encouraged to continue to be engaged with your legislators, please remember the issues being addressed are issues administrators have pressed the Legislature to address. Providing constructive feedback is strongly encouraged because while we've asked legislators to take action, the Supreme Court has ORDERED the Legislature to take action. So, they likely WILL act—with or without us.