



GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S 2011 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

EDUCATION

- » **Higher Education Funding Task Force recommendations (HB 1795)**
Provides long-term tuition-setting authority for public higher education institutions.
- » **Accelerating the learning curve: Launch Year (HB 1808)**
Provides students the opportunity to receive credits for higher education while attending high school.
- » **Education governance and related constitutional amendment (SB 5182)**
Is an interim work topic.

JOB

- » **Capital and Transportation Budgets (HB 1497/HB 2020 and HB 1175)**
Totals \$2.8 billion for the capital budget and totals \$9.2 billion for the transportation budget. Both budgets will ensure necessary public safety and other critical projects for K-12 schools, higher education and local projects as well as key transportation projects. These projects will result in nearly 45,000 jobs.
- » **Unemployment insurance (HB 1091)**
Permanently implements the 2011 tax changes. Provides and structures temporary benefits.
- » **Unemployment insurance tax cut (SB 5135)**
Temporarily reduces 2011 employer tax rates and conforms law for extended benefits to continue fully funded benefits through 2011.
- » **Statewide medical provider network (SB 5801)**
Creates a statewide medical network and Centers of Occupational Health and Education to better serve injured workers with proven, high-quality care to return workers to the job sooner and at less cost.
- » **Workers' compensation system (HB 2123)**
Stabilizes the workers' compensation system by creating the Stay-at-Work program, eliminating the fiscal year 2012 cost-of-living adjustment with no catch-up, authorizing process for claim resolution structured-settlement agreements and creating an Industrial Insurance Rainy Day Fund, among other reforms.

HEALTH CARE AND HUMAN SERVICES

- » **Consolidation of majority of state's health care purchasing into a single agency (HB 1738)**
Designates the Health Care Authority as the single state agency for medical services and programs. Also responsible for Medicaid purchasing.
- » **Health Insurance Exchange (SB 5445)**
Requires the state to set up a health benefit exchange consistent with the federal Affordable Care Act to begin operations no later than January 1, 2014. Exchanges facilitate the purchase of individual insurance and small employer group insurance.
- » **Residential habilitation center consolidation (SB 5459)**
Closes Frances Haddon Morgan Center by Dec. 31, 2011, and freezes admissions to Yakima Valley School. Prohibits those younger than 21 from admission to residential habilitation centers beginning 2012.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- » **Prison safety (SB 5907)**
Provides additional safety measures for institutions, and creates statewide and local advisory committee to provide further recommendations for security-related policies and procedures.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

- » **Department of Enterprise Services (SB 5931)**
Creates a cabinet-level agency to manage back-office functions now performed separately by General Administration, Department of Personnel, State Printer and the Office of Financial Management. Provides the former Department of Information Services and new Consolidated Technology Services additional management flexibility.

- » **Consolidation of boards and commissions (HB 1371)**
Eliminates and consolidates a number of boards and commissions to streamline government and save money.
- » **Canceling the 2012 presidential primary (SB 5119)**
Cancels the next presidential primary and reverts to party caucuses for selection of candidates to save the state \$10 million.

PENSIONS

- » **Higher education pension limits (HB 1981)**
Caps state funding for higher education retirement systems at 6 percent and closes the retire-rehire exception.
- » **Suspend PERS/TRS 1 (HB 2021)**
Eliminates the automatic annual increase to the Public Employees' Retirement System and Teachers' Retirement System Plan 1 enrollees, which will save local and state governments more than \$700 million over the next two years.