

Sigmon Public Affairs
Weekly Legislative Report
APCO-NENA
May 10, 2017

Weekly Summary

Day 17 Special Session

We are now past the halfway point of the 2017 Special Session and there is still no light at the end of the tunnel as House and Senate budget negotiators struggle to find common ground on a 2017-2019 Biennial Operating Budget.

Budget negotiators have just recently started talking and are now meeting Tuesday-Thursday each week on the K-12 funding issue. Republican's would like to fund education through a new statewide property tax solution, while Democrats propose to fund education by increasing taxes on businesses and the wealthy. All other issues will remain on hold until there is a resolution on funding education.

The House and Senate did managed to come back into session for one day last week to re- pass a numbers of bills that went back to their house of origin after failing to pass out of their opposite house during the regular session. These are bills that the House and Senate would like to keep in play during the special session.

Most legislators are back home in their districts waiting to be called to Olympia for something to vote on. There is a rumor they we may see them back in town for a day or two next week. With only two weeks left in the special session, I don't expect them to wrap up their business on time. There is already talk that Governor will be calling them back in for a second special session on May 1st. A budget needs to be signed by the Governor by midnight June 30th to avoid a government shutdown.

We do expect to see May revenue numbers at the end of this week. Budget writers are hoping revenue will be above the March forecast and show a positive trend going forward. The next quarterly revenue forecast is slated for June 20th.

The Governor has been busy taking action on bills. The deadline for him to take action on bills that were passed in the regular session is May 15th.

Activity on Priority Bills / Issues of Interest

ESSB 5048 2017-2019 proposed Operating Budget. (Support)

Both the House and Senate versions of the budget restore \$221,000 in revenue to the E911 Account that had been previously appropriated to the State Patrol in 2015-2017 biennium.

Neither budget uses E911 revenue for non- E911 purposes.

Both budgets provide additional general fund revenue to help fund some rural counties for Next Gen E911.

Budget negotiations between the House and Senate will begin the first week of the special session.

SB 5573 Increasing membership of the State Interoperability Executive Committee. (Support)

The Governor signed on 4/21/17

SHB 1258 Travis Alert (Monitor)

Delivered to the Governor on 4/18. He has 20 days to act on this bill, not including Sundays.

ESHB 1594 (Public Records Admin.)

Delivered to the Governor on 4/21. He has 20 days to act on this bill, not including Sundays.

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