

Association of Washington Public Hospital Districts

2012 Legislative Summary

	Bill Number	Title	Description	AWPHD Position	Outcome	Comments
Budget Bills	E3SHB 2127	Making 2011-2013 fiscal biennium supplemental operating appropriations.	Final budget	Oppose cuts to Public Hospital Districts	Of the various budgets that were considered during the session, E3SHB 2127 was the best overall budget for public hospital districts. Except for elimination of Non-Rural and Small Rural Indigent Assistance DSH, public hospital districts fared well.	--Contains no cuts to critical access hospitals; --Contains proviso for interim study of CAHs; --Contains proviso for legislative study of 'special purpose districts'; --Eliminates payments through the Non-Rural and Small Rural Indigent Assistance DSH programs; -- Maintains the low-income DSH program at its current annual funding level; --Continues state grants to Certified Public Expenditure hospitals, including DSH payments.
	HB 2130	Eliminating cost-based reimbursement for critical access hospitals.	Provides the policy framework for changing payment structure for Critical Access Hospitals	Strong Opposition	Died	

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Finance	SB 5381	Adjusting voting requirements for the renewal of emergency medical service levies.	Allows for renewal of EMS levies to be by simple majority rather than 60%.	Strong Support	Passed unanimously, signed by Governor	
Open Government Legislation	SB 6351	Regarding inspection and copying of any public record.	Provides an option for public agencies to limit the amount of time they spend searching for public records in return for posting several pieces of information on their websites.	Support	Died	Received a hearing; first time legislature seriously looked at the extensive time associated with some records requests. Likely to see another attempt next year.
	SSB 6146	Clarifying charges for repeated batch requests of public records sought for commercial or profit-making purposes.	Restricts use of PRA for data gathering for commercial purposes.	Support	Died	Original bill restricted use of PRA to gather records for commercial purposes; amended bill allowed commercial use but enabled agency to charge fees for commercial requests.
	HB 2652	Addressing the destruction of documents subject to the public records act.	Provides for court action for "illegal" destruction of public records.	Oppose	Died	Would have increased the likelihood of court action in the event of destruction of records (even inadvertent)

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Open Government Legislation	HB 2572	Requiring training of public officials and employees regarding public records and open public meetings.	Provided the Attorney General's Office the authority and guidelines For the provision of training and required officials to participate	Support	Died	AG Request. Provided uniformity of training and would have been supported with state funds. Fiscal impact killed the bill.
	SB 6109	Exempting video and audio recordings of closed executive session meetings from public inspection and copying.	By exempting executive meeting recordings from PRA disclosure, would have encouraged more recording of executive sessions	Oppose	Died	Had the effect of making executive session deliberations open to the public
	2SSB 5553	Requiring public agencies, special purpose districts, and municipalities to post certain information on their web sites.	Required posting of draft agendas, draft resolutions, approved minutes. Exemption for PHDs smaller than 15,000 population	Amend	Died	
	SB 5355	Regarding notice requirements for special meetings of public agencies.	Requires posted notice 24 hours in advance of special meeting; exemption if no website or no dedicated web staff	Amend/ Support	Passed Legislature; signed by the governor	

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	2SSB 5049	Implementing the recommendations of the sunshine committee.	Required agencies to publish the names of the applicants for CEO. Required Insurance Commissioner to release details of medical malpractice closed claims	Strongly Oppose	Died	Sunshine Committee reviews exemptions to the Public Records Act to see which ones might be eliminated