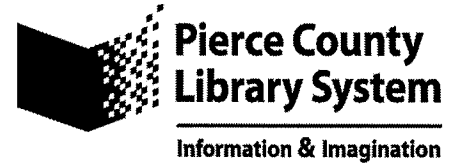


# M E M O



Date: January 30, 2012

To: Chair Stephen Albers and Members of the Board

From: Neel Parikh, Executive Director

Subject: 2012 Legislative Session Report

Some issues have arisen in this legislative session related to libraries.

**Washington State Library:** The state library has received a substantial budget cut. Also legislation was introduced by a candidate for the Secretary of State moving the state library and the state law library to the University of Washington. However, neither the University nor the Secretary of State are interested in such a move and the legislation appears to be dead.

**Junior Taxing Districts:** At the behest of Ross Hunter, Chair of Ways and Means, a bill has been introduced to study junior taxing districts, with an eye to combining them with counties. "The proliferation of special purpose districts has resulted in the creation and operation of a highly complex multilayered tapestry of local government and governmental services that can hinder shared goals of efficient and effective service delivery." The libraries and fire districts are the largest junior taxing districts.

Apparently the authors are more interested in studying smaller districts such as mosquito abatement and cemeteries. Only two people testified on the first hearing on the bill. Mike Crose, Timberland Regional Library, pointed out that there have already been five such studies sent to each legislator, suggesting that another study was not necessary. Someone from the counties testified that it would be a good idea to prioritize which districts to study first.

We expect this legislation will go forward. It will be important to monitor the activity closely.

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HOUSE BILL 2602

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State of Washington

62nd Legislature

2012 Regular Session

By Representatives Eddy, Springer, Takko, Carlyle, and Tharinger

Read first time 01/18/12. Referred to Committee on Local Government.

1 AN ACT Relating to a joint select committee on junior taxing  
2 districts; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that while Washington  
5 state has a history and tradition of promoting and establishing limited  
6 purpose governmental entities, the proliferation of special purpose  
7 districts has resulted in the creation and operation of a highly  
8 complex and multilayered tapestry of local governments and governmental  
9 services that can hinder shared goals of efficient and effective  
10 service delivery.

11 The legislature, therefore, intends to establish a joint select  
12 committee on junior taxing districts to review junior taxing districts  
13 for the purpose of evaluating their provided services and making  
14 recommendations regarding their appropriateness for consolidation into  
15 an appropriate general purpose local government.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1)(a) A joint select committee on junior  
17 taxing districts is established, with members as provided in this  
18 subsection.

1 (i) Each legislative leader of the two largest political parties in  
2 each house of the legislature shall appoint one voting member to the  
3 committee by July 1, 2012.

4 (ii) The speaker of the house of representatives and the president  
5 of the senate jointly shall appoint two nonvoting members to the  
6 committee by July 1, 2012.

7 (iii) The governor shall appoint one nonvoting member to the  
8 committee by July 1, 2012.

9 (b) The committee shall choose its chair from among its legislative  
10 membership. The appointee from the majority caucus of the house of  
11 representatives shall convene the initial meeting of the committee.

12 (2)(a) The committee shall review junior taxing districts for the  
13 purpose of evaluating their provided services and making  
14 recommendations regarding their appropriateness for consolidation into  
15 a city or county, the general purpose local governments of Washington.  
16 In completing its review and recommendations, the committee shall seek  
17 pertinent information and advice from:

18 (i) Organizations representing counties, cities, and junior taxing  
19 districts;

20 (ii) Counties, cities, and junior taxing districts;

21 (iii) The department of revenue;

22 (iv) The state auditor; and

23 (v) The office of the attorney general.

24 (b) For purposes of this section, the term "junior taxing district"  
25 includes all taxing districts other than the state, counties, road  
26 districts, cities, towns, and school districts.

27 (3) Staff support for the committee must be provided by senate  
28 committee services and the house of representatives office of program  
29 research.

30 (4) Legislative members of the committee must be reimbursed for  
31 travel expenses in accordance with RCW 44.04.120. Nonlegislative  
32 members, except those representing an employer or organization, are  
33 entitled to be reimbursed for travel expenses in accordance with RCW  
34 43.03.050 and 43.03.060.

35 (5) The expenses of the committee must be paid jointly by the  
36 senate and the house of representatives. Committee expenses are  
37 subject to approval by the senate facilities and operations committee

1 and the house of representatives executive rules committee or their  
2 successor committees.

3 (6) The voting members of the committee shall report their findings  
4 and recommendations, in the form of draft legislation, to the governor  
5 and the ways and means committees of the house of representatives and  
6 senate, or their successor committees, by December 31, 2014.

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