

# GOVERNOR GREGOIRE'S 2009 LEGISLATIVE SUCCESSES

## GOVERNOR'S REQUEST LEGISLATION WHICH PASSED LEGISLATURE

### JOB & CONSUMER PROTECTION

**Stimulus for unemployment insurance** – Extending and boosting unemployment insurance payments temporarily for those out of work (House Bill 1906)

**Foreclosures** – Requiring that 30 days must pass before the notice of default can be filed will give homeowners more time to refinance or explore other options (Senate Bill 5810)

### TRANSPORTATION

**Alaskan Way Viaduct** – Identifying the final design for the Viaduct replacement project as a deep-bored tunnel gets us started on the project vital to the region's economy (SB 5768)

**State Route 520 Bridge** – Authorizing early tolling helps generate revenue to begin work on the floating bridge portion of this replacement project (HB 2211)

**Washington State Ferries** – Moving forward on a long-range strategy that includes revitalizing the ferry service by constructing new vessels while keeping fares affordable (budget)

**Stimulus for transportation** – Putting Washington to work as we rebuild our infrastructure to maintain our competitive edge in the global economy (HB 1978)

**Container ports** – Ensuring that land-use planning allows major ports to thrive is crucial to Washington, the most trade-dependent state in the nation (HB 1959)

### GOVERNMENT REFORM

**Department of Commerce** – Renaming and re-tasking this state agency will maintain a focus on jobs and economic development for the benefit of all Washingtonians (HB 2242)

**Cemetery and funeral boards consolidation** – Eliminating duplicative responsibilities to make government leaner and more responsive to citizens (HB 2126)

**Consolidation of responsibilities for salmon protection activities into the Recreation and Conservation Office** – Ensuring a greater level of oversight while cutting duplication and expenses (HB 2157)

**State agency hours** – Allowing agencies to build upon successful pilot programs to condense work weeks to save energy, travel costs for employees (SB 6104)

**Washington Quality Forum** – Abolishing the Forum in the Health Care Authority, whose work is hindered by the state hiring freeze (SB 6002)

**Board and commissions eliminations** – Reducing groups whose missions are outdated, overlap with another group or better performed elsewhere will save money and employee resources (SB 5995)

## CAPITAL

**Creating transparency in the debt limit** – Eliminating the statutory debt limit gives the state a single, constitutional debt limit (SB 5537)

**Consolidating accounts** – Near General Fund accounts are consolidated into the General Fund, which provides transparency and increases the capacity of the capital budget (SB 5073)

**Providing flexible uses for building fees** – Funds to support higher education projects will be used for debt retirement (HB 2254)

## HEALTH

**Wellness incentives** – Permitting insurance companies operating in the state to offer wellness programs promotes healthy employees and drives down health care costs (HB 2160)

**Medical home pilots** – Putting emphasis on primary care and moving health care to a team approach will better serve the health care needs of patients (SB 5891)

**Use of generic drugs** – Aiming to make the rate of use of generic drugs in the Medicaid program comparable to that of the private sector will lower costs (SB 5892)

**Public Employees Benefits Board** – Clarifying the eligibility standards for employee health benefits makes it easier for individuals to understand and helps prevent unnecessary lawsuits (HB 2245)

## EDUCATION

**Professional Educator Standards Board** – Making more efficient operations, aligning teacher education policy efforts and streamlining the certificate revocation appeal process (HB 2003)

## ENERGY

**Tax incentives for plug-in vehicles** – Exempting the sale of electric vehicle batteries or the installation of electric vehicle infrastructure from retail sales and use tax will contribute to a cleaner environment (HB 1481)