

2013 Washington State Legislature • Report to the 19th District



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Committees:

- Agriculture & Natural Resources (Chair)
- Business & Financial Services
- Government Accountability & Oversight



Senator

Brian Hatfield

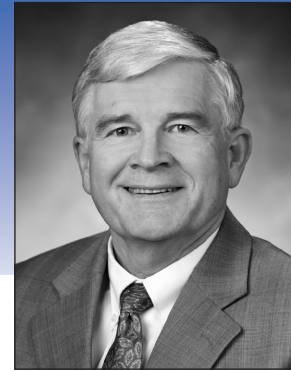
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Committees:

- Agriculture, Water & Rural Economic Development (Chair)
- Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance
- Ways & Means



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Committees:

- Local Government (Chair)
- Public Safety
- Transportation

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Thank you for taking the time to sit down with our 2013 legislative report. As always, it is both an honor and a privilege to serve on your behalf in Olympia.

The 2013 legislative session was long and arduous, to be sure, but we believe that something as important as our operating budget is worth doing right. Though our state is beginning to enjoy the effects of a recovering economy, maintenance levels and operation costs continue to rise.

Another complication came when the state Supreme Court ruled that the legislature wasn't meeting our constitutional obligation to basic education. This decision meant we'd need to make a significant investment in our schools to comply with the court's order.

In the end we produced an honest and fair budget. A few highlights include:

- A \$1 billion down-payment on our education-funding obligation
- Extends health care coverage to 300,000 more people in our state
- Holds the line on higher education tuition costs
- Protects our rural communities and their unique economies

The following pages discuss some of the issues that we were most involved in this year. Thank you for your interest in the legislative process. Should you have questions, comments or ideas, please don't hesitate to get in-touch with us. Our doors and phone lines are open to you.

All the best,

Rep. Brian Blake

Sen. Brian Hatfield

Rep. Dean Takko

An Update to the 19th District — Rep. Brian Blake

Agriculture and Natural Resources



More than fifty bills went through the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee this session and only about twenty of them were signed into law. Among these were bills to keep fish hatcheries open, require truth in seafood labeling, offer special hunting and fishing licenses for disabled veterans, and

address the problems of derelict vessels and wolf management:

- With fewer state dollars to fund hatcheries in recent years, the legislature has considered closing them. I sponsored **House Bill 1071** to allow more public-private partnerships to operate salmon hatcheries. Thanks to this measure, we can keep them open while protecting the rights of federally recognized tribes and retaining workers.
- How much do you know about where your seafood comes from and why does this matter, anyway? It's important because labeling and branding requirements for seafood in our state are outdated and confusing. So you can't really be certain that the fish you're putting on your table is what the label claims it is, or even that it was caught legally. My legislation, **House Bill 1200**, protects honest producers and consumers by clarifying labeling laws and creating harsher penalties for those who don't play by the rules.

- We believe all disabled veterans living in Washington should be able to enjoy our state's hunting and fishing opportunities at a lower cost thanks to reduced fees for fishing and hunting licenses. So we passed **House Bill 1192** to allow nonresident veterans with disabilities to have the same opportunity by providing them with the same discounted rate. This is one way of showing our gratitude for their service while encouraging tourism to our rural communities.
- Derelict and abandoned vessels pose a threat to our state's waterways. They are unsafe and they pollute the marine environment. We passed **House Bill 1245** to provide funding for cleanup and removal. The measure also requires sellers of older boats to conduct marine surveys – similar to home inspections – to help inform prospective buyers of the potential costs and challenges of owning vessels, and it creates a vessel turn-in program, so owners of old boats that can't be sold have an option for disposal instead of abandoning them.
- You've heard it all over the news: gray wolves are coming back to Washington state and they have caused problems in some farms and ranches. We worked with livestock owners and scientists on a solution that resulted in passage of **Senate Bill 5193**, which creates a special license plate to fund wolf management and compensation for livestock owners.



Workforce Development and Jobs

We know that the best path to a good job is a good education, and we also know that businesses in our state are demanding more skilled workers to remain competitive. This session we passed bills to help Washington workers gain more skills and Washington businesses grow:

- The Job Skills Program assists small businesses by providing short-term employee training programs. This year we passed **House Bill 1247** to make it easier for small businesses to take advantage of the program by adding greater flexibility for employers and making training opportunities more accessible.
- In 2007, the Legislature created the Vocational Rehabilitation Program, a pilot project to retrain injured workers. This session, with passage of **House Bill 1887**, injured workers will be able to complete their rehabilitation program at four-year universities, giving them additional opportunities as they figure out how they reenter the workforce.
- The timing around enrollment can be challenging for our veterans and members of the National Guard. To help them out, we passed **House Bill 1109**, which requires schools offering early-registration programs to extend that same benefit to eligible service members.



An easier way to shop for insurance

Starting in October of 2013, all Washingtonians will be able to use Washington Healthplanfinder (www.wahealthplanfinder.org), which will:

- Protect consumers by making it easier to shop for health plans and truly compare prices, services offered and quality of care
- Help those with chronic health problems or high-cost illnesses get health coverage
- Establish minimum standards for consumer protection, covered services, healthcare provider selection and financial solvency
- Help people with serious health problems get affordable coverage through our state's high risk pool or the Evergreen Health Marketplace

An Update to the 19th District — Sen. Brian Hatfield

Coastal Advisory Council signed into law



Whether you're a part of the shellfish, fishing or tourism industries, the health of Washington's coastline is critical to your life and the well-being of the 19th District. For that reason, one of my top goals in 2013 was ensuring that the coastal voice was heard in Olympia by creating a bill that puts the Washington Coastal Advisory Council into state law.

The council was created by the Department of Ecology in 2011 as a stakeholder group, comprised of representatives from coastal industries. **Senate Bill 5603** allows the governor to appoint representatives to advocate for the best interests of coastal communities and industries.

Washington's ocean policies have the biggest impact on coastal towns and jobs. The creation of the advisory council gave those areas a voice. The passage of this bill gives the council a little more clout and ensures that the opinions of fishermen and shellfish growers, hotel and bed and breakfast owners and port and shipping interests will help shape the future of Washington's coastline.

The creation of the statute brings more than a dozen representatives of coastal industries together to work with representatives from the governor's office and five state agencies. Together they will create an open dialog and make recommendations on state, local and tribal policies dealing with coastal waters issues, including resource management, fisheries, shellfish aquaculture and ocean energy.

Making a smart investment in public education



Entering the 2013 session, my goal was to join my colleagues in making a significant investment in public education. The lessons taught in our schools set our children up for life and help build a workforce that will be crucial to Washington's continued economic recovery. In both houses of the Legislature and in the governor's office, the goal was to make a \$1 billion down payment in K12 education. In this we succeeded, providing one of the biggest financial boosts that our public schools have seen in the last decade.

This investment included spending money where we know it will get positive results; in programs that have a track record of success. This included:

- Expansion of the Learning Assistance Program.
- Providing professional assistance and mentoring opportunities for young teachers.
- Reducing class size and increasing parent involvement in the classroom.

From the beginning of the 2013 session, we heard that new revenue would be needed to fulfill our McCleary responsibilities. However, in a show of Washington's resiliency, improvements in the revenue forecast eliminated that need and the Legislature was able to assist our students, teachers and administrators without introducing new taxes. I am very proud of that fact and commend my colleagues for that accomplishment.

This is just the first step. The McCleary decision calls for a \$4 billion increase in education spending by 2018. As Washington's economy continues to rebound, I am hopeful that the House and Senate will overcome partisan roadblocks and build the education system that our children need and that our state can be proud of.

Ensuring Washington grown foods are safe

Agriculture accounts for 13 percent of Washington's economy. Nearly 160 thousand jobs and billions of dollars rely on this invaluable industry. As chair of the Senate Agriculture, Water and Rural Economic Development Committee, I was supportive of measures that protect the commodities that we send out of state and are relied upon by Washington families.

- Starting this year, the Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Traceability Program will be brought into line with the federal regulations to track dairy cattle. Using a tagging system and strict travel conditions required by **Senate Bill 5767**, farmers and state officials will have a practical method

to more effectively track diseases and prevent their spread.

- Recently there has been confusion over the standards that must be met by milk producers and processors. The changes made in **Senate Bill 5139** clarify the requirements for raw milk samples, strengthen enforcement procedures and align state practices with federal regulations. In doing so, parents may be confident that the milk their children drink is both healthy and safe.



An Update to the 19th District — Rep. Dean Takko

Making Washington roadways safer

Every parent's worst fear is to hear a knock on their door or a telephone ring in the middle of the night, only to learn that a loved one has been injured or killed by a drunk driver. Too many Washington families have received these calls or visits in recent months.

In the final hours of the legislative session, we passed bipartisan DUI reform. The measure is designed to target and crack down on the most chronic and persistent of drunk drivers.

Senate Bill 5912 makes a few common-sense upgrades to our current DUI laws:

- Imposes mandatory arrests for a second drunk driving offense. Current law does not require than an offender be taken to jail.
- Requires an interlock system to be installed within five business days of release.
- Provides critical funding for prosecutors to file charges against chronic offenders.

While these changes represent major steps forward, there is still more that we can do. As a member of the House Public Safety Committee, I will continue to work on this issue in coming years.

If you've got ideas on how to reach our target-zero goals, please don't hesitate to get in-touch with my office.



Mental health reform

We've seen the tragedy that can occur when the mentally ill don't get the care they need. This session, we approved several measures to improve mental health care.

Among the reforms is **Senate Bill 5480**. The bill speeds-up the implementation of changes to the involuntary treatment law – funding the updates two years ahead of schedule.

Back in 2010, the Legislature approved new parameters for the involuntary commitment of people with pressing mental health issues. Often after a tragedy, we hear from family members or a close friend who admits they could see the capacity for violence – just not when or where it would occur.

The new approach takes input from family members and friends into consideration when making a decision to commit. It also allows decision makers to take a close look at a person's history of mental health behavior.

Other measures signed into law by Governor Inslee include:

- **House Bill 1114** fills the gap between the criminal justice system and mental health care providers. It ensures that violent mental health offenders get the treatment they need, instead of ending up on the streets.
- **Senate Bill 5732** builds a bridge between hospitals and the community for the mentally ill. It creates a step down from state hospitals – which will provide an important service to folks beginning to transition back into day-to-day life. This isn't just the right thing to do – it's the cost-effective approach.

Critical infrastructure investments

We were all shaken by the collapse of the Skagit River Bridge back in May. In recent years, we've approved funding for critical improvements to bridges across the 19th legislative district. These projects not only keep us safe – they create jobs and spur economic development in rural communities.

- The **US 101 Simpson Avenue Bridge** services 13,000 vehicles per day and spans the Hoquiam River. Harborites remember well when the bridge temporarily closed down back in 2010. We did emergency work to stabilize the eastern pier of the bridge. In October of 2012, we strengthened the northeast and southeast corners of piers and replaced the pier protections system.
- The **Nemah River Bridge** was constructed in 1935. Like the Bone River Bridge, we are improving safety and mobility by widening the structure. The project also removes 44 creosote-treated timber piles from Middle Nemah River and restores an estimated 28 square feet of streambed. The improvements will be complete in 2014.



- The **Bone River Bridge** was also built in 1935 and services about 2,700 vehicles per day. We've replaced the timber trestle bridge with a new 36-foot-wide structure. The new bridge is built to withstand coastal flooding and a 1,000-year seismic event. The project will be completed later this fall.
- The **Smith Creek and North River Bridges** were first constructed in 1959 and each service about 1,100 vehicles a day. Both bridges are being improved to withstand coastal flooding and seismic activity, while widening the structure (two 12-foot wide lanes with six-foot-wide shoulders). The project will be complete in 2014.

Colleges and flood preparation benefit from Capital Budget

Budgets can be job creators and, in the case of the 2013 Capital Budget, it's the literal truth. By spreading \$3.6 billion across the state, it is our hope to create or sustain more than 36,000 jobs.



In the 19th District, the Capital Budget means improvements to our community college system and continued work to lessen the damage done by catastrophic river flooding. Working with the

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority, we have secured more than \$12.8 million for projects to better protect businesses and communities from the floods that have done millions of dollars in damage to families and businesses of the 19th District. The Flood Authority

will then work with the governor's office to distribute the money for each project.

In Grays Harbor and Lower Columbia Community Colleges, our district lays claim to two vital cogs in helping Washington move past the effects of the recession. Graduates of those and other colleges across the state will make up Washington's growing workforce. Last year, we were able to invest \$38 million into a new health and science building at Lower Columbia, a project that is nearing completion. This year at Aberdeen's Grays Harbor College campus, work has begun on a new science and math building, a project made possible by \$41.5 million in state funding. In addition, the two schools will receive a combined \$3.1 million for maintenance and preservation. Giving our students the best possible facilities in which to learn and grow is essential to creating a workforce that will drive Washington forward and continue its economic recovery.

Other projects in the Capital Budget include:

Community and Technical College System	Grays Harbor College: Science and Math Building	\$41,576,000
Catastrophic Flood Relief (Financial Management)	Optimum Upstream Water Retention Facility	\$5,600,000
	Mill Creek Dam Improvements	\$2,500,000
	Mary's River Lumber Bank Protection	\$2,000,000
	Near RM 78 on the Chehalis River	\$861,000
	Market Street Dike	\$670,000
	Elma-Porter Flood Mitigation Project	\$584,000
	Satsop River Flood Plain Restoration	\$510,000
Department of Social and Health Services	Naselle Youth Camp – Three Cottages Renovation	\$1,900,000
Housing for People with Developmental Disabilities	Foundation for the Challenged – FFC Homes IX and VIII	\$4,506,000
Community and Technical College Repair and Preservation	Grays Harbor College	\$1,395,000
	Lower Columbia College	\$1,728,000
Recreation and Conservation Funding Board	Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes	\$750,000
	North Willapa Bay Recreation Development	\$310,000
	Sam Benn Park Renovation, Phase Two	\$113,000
Department of Fish & Wildlife	Beaver Creek Rebuild Intake	\$850,000
	Naselle Hatchery – Replace Piping and Valves	\$700,000

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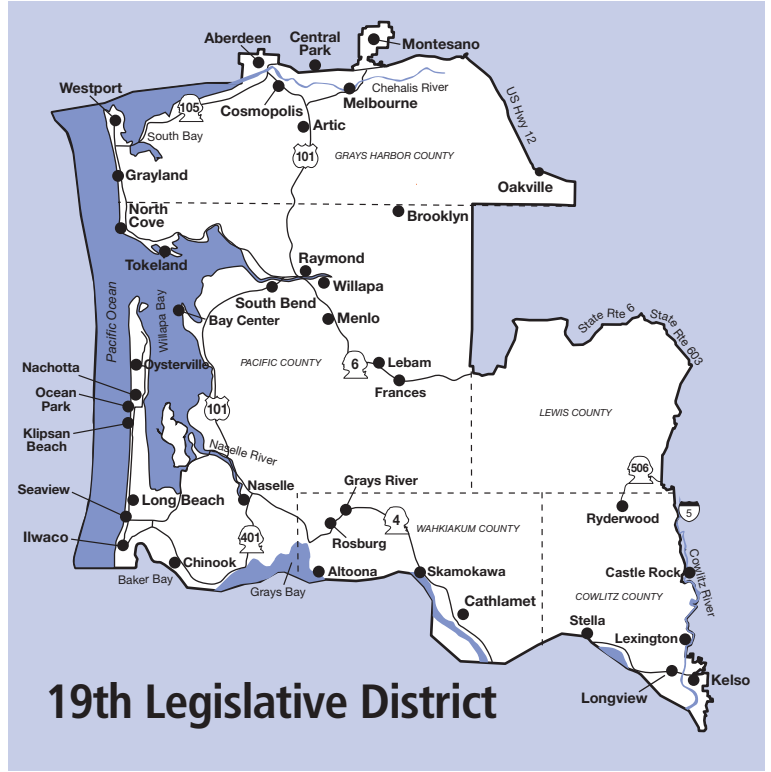
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