

44th Legislative District Review

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM REP. BRANDY DONAGHY *continued*

HB 1893: Emergency Medical Technicians/ Public Health

Emergency medical technicians (EMTs) have played a critical role in the response to the pandemic.

For EMTs to continue administering vaccines and conducting testing outside of a declared state of emergency, I introduced HB 1893.

HB 1893 modifies the definition of "emergency medical technician" to allow EMTs to provide collaborative medical care. This means that there is already a structure in place in the event a localized outbreak or other public health issue should arise which will streamline the delivery of needed services, while filling a major gap in rural and other communities with limited access to healthcare options.

It also creates a provisional emergency services provider certification and establishes eligibility criteria and certain corresponding restrictions on employment.

Thoughts on the 2022 Legislative Session

This session, we saw the passage of some great legislation, including a transportation package that makes real investments in public transportation, pedestrian and bike ways, and a focus on meeting our previous project commitments as well as the care and preservation of the existing transportation infrastructure.

It takes into consideration numerous environmental factors and requirements while providing funding for important local projects. Of course, there is so much more work that still needs to be done.

The Work Ahead

Over the interim, I'm continuing to work on collaborative solutions designed to increase resiliency in our government, infrastructure and communities, to ensure that all Washingtonians have access to the resources that we may need to not only survive, but truly thrive.

This means continuing the work to bring more living wage jobs to the 44th LD and Snohomish County, additional support for existing small businesses, and various tools to incentivize the creation of new businesses and innovation.

It also means working to address the current housing crisis by crafting long-term, balanced and creative solutions.

Most importantly though, this means listening to and learning from the people who know our unique county and district best, those of us who live here.



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- Business, Financial Services & Trade
- Environment, Energy & Technology
- Transportation

I invite you all to reach out to my office with any questions or comments. Below you will find ways to reach me and stay up to date on my work. I can't wait to hear from you.

You can reach me directly at: John.Lovick@leg.wa.gov

Sign-up for my newsletter:

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- Housing, Human Services & Veterans
- Transportation

If you have any questions, want to share comments, or just want to say hello then please do not hesitate to contact my office. Below you will find ways to stay connected. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM SENATOR JOHN LOVICK

The 2022 session was short, but impactful.

Justice in Snohomish County

I am excited to report that several weeks ago, Governor Insee signed a bill that I sponsored to add two new judges to Snohomish County Superior Court. Senate bill 5575 will bring some welcome relief and increase access to justice. Snohomish county is the second fastest growing county in Washington. There are 15 Superior Court judges and more than 820,000 residents, a ratio of 1/55,000. King and Pierce County have a ratio of one judge for every 39,000 residents. This long overdue change was needed. Great thanks to my colleagues in the House and Senate for their support of this significant legislation. As Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in his letter from the Birmingham jail, "justice too long delayed is justice denied."

Retaining Experienced State Guard Personnel

When 2021 started, I was serving in the House of Representatives. I was appointed to the Senate in December. I had legislation in the House that had already started—change in our communities that had already begun. This year we passed HB 1122 which extends the retirement age of our State Guard ensuring that when disaster strikes, which it has and it will, we are prepared to respond with the most seasoned veterans in our communities. I was Snohomish County Executive when the Oso Mudslide occurred. I remember greeting President Barack Obama alongside our brave service members who quickly responded to assist with rescue, recovery and clean up. As we prepare to move forward from this pandemic, we must also prepare to respond to the next disaster—whenever that may be. Having strong and experienced leadership at the helm helps us do that.

This year's supplemental operating budget invests in working families first.

This year the legislature put together a budget that isn't balanced on the back of the worker.

\$350 million will strengthen our state's groundbreaking paid family leave program to help families spend more precious time together.

\$345 million to stabilize school districts that experienced enrollment declines because of the pandemic.

\$90 million to add nurses and counselors to schools to help us better meet the physical and socio-emotional needs of students.

\$100 million toward aggressively addressing workforce shortages and improving access to behavioral health services amongst our laborers.

\$58 million for the Farmers-to-Families Food Box Program to get fresh, healthy food to food banks across the state.



Transportation

Whether you're heading to a place of work or play, everyone deserves safe roads. For this reason, I am proud to report that the legislature has passed a GREAT piece of transportation legislation dubbed the 'Move Ahead Washington' package that will have a real impact on real working families. Here's an aerial view of some of the projects we're funding:

US 2 Trestle Capacity Improvements to help fortify one of our busiest arterial corridors and to finish the existing expansion. This will reduce traffic that many of us hit heading to and from work.

16th Street NE Centennial Trail Connector to give Washingtonians a safe, well-lit, and Green walkable path that bridges the gaps between our cities. This gets us out more and gives back to our environment.

South Lake Stevens Road Multi-Use Path to improve safety by better connecting homes, businesses, and the Multi-Use Pathway.

Transit Improvements improving the flow and safety of traffic for working families and bolstering our rapid bus transit option to give drivers an alternative method of commuting.

With a cost-effective approach and multiple veins of funding, we've succeeded in passing \$1.2 billion in active transportation projects and \$3 billion in transit programs and investments over the next decade and a half. In addition to bolstering our Safe Routes to School program, School Based

Bike program, and major infrastructure improvements, we're paving the way to a more equitable transit system where kids ride free.

Safe travels!

Pickleball

Alaska has dog mushing, and California has surfing. Now Washington has Pickleball as our state sport! As we emerge from this pandemic, we need something to give us hope and something to remind us to have fun. Pickleball does just that. I decided to make pickleball my freshman bill in the Senate because it was something that I knew in my heart would underscore principles of unity and togetherness. From youngsters and college students to the senior sporting community, people from all walks



of life can play pickleball—and they do! Since the very beginning of this journey, I have met just about everyone you could think of on the pickleball courts. Pickleball is for everyone.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM REP. APRIL BERG

My motto of the 2022 session was "Jobs. Jobs. Jobs."

HB 1846 will allow for job creation by incentivizing data centers to locate in rural counties. It will also create a pilot program for data centers in counties with populations over 800,000. This bill was about data center creation being done the right way. I engaged in extensive stakeholdering with labor, industries, climate partners and our communities impacted by data centers. As a result, data centers located in Washington State will incentivize local economic development, increase local tax revenues, and generate construction and trade jobs across Washington through the development of additional data center facilities.

It was important to me to add a requirement for the Department of Commerce to perform an electric grid resilience and reliability study, including recommendations, that must be reported to the Legislature by December 1, 2022. We are asking a lot of our state's electrical grid and we must fully understand its capacity as we move towards a green economy.

This bill that will allow Washington's vibrant digital economy to continue to prosper. I'm proud of all the hard work invested to pass HB 1846.

This session was also about ending childhood hunger

HB 1833 removes student access barriers to free and reduced-price meals and provides parents and guardians with a voluntary, secure, and convenient multilingual online portal for providing household information that is required for a school's participation in the national school lunch program, the school breakfast program, or both.

By ensuring an accessible, simplified process of determining program



participation eligibility, HB 1833 will support hunger-relief and make it easier for low-income families to receive the support they need.

This year's Capital Budget includes some huge investments for the 44th:

- \$515K for the Snohomish Teen Center
- \$200K for the Mill Creek Library Project
- \$206K for the Mill Creek Parks Master Plan

While this year's Operating Budget includes:

- \$150K for Plant-Based School Lunches
- \$1 million for Humanities Washington Prime Time Family Reading Program

○ The Prime-Time Reading Program has been successful in helping lower-income and at-risk third and fourth graders overcome significant reading challenges.

○ With this funding, Humanities Washington will be able to expand the program to 100 schools and serve 5,000 kids beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

• \$38K for Big Brothers Big Sisters to provide behavioral health support for youth experiencing a significant mental and behavioral health crisis due to COVID.

The Work Ahead

This interim, I'm excited to work on:

- Expanding the Working Families Tax Credit
- B&O Tax Reform
- Increasing Educational Access and Student Success
- Creating a "Shovel Ready" Site Certification Program for rural communities

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE FROM REP. BRANDY DONAGHY



This session, I sponsored several bills, which touched on a broad range of areas including public health and safety, education, efficiency and housing.

HB 2033: Emergency and Work Zones

I believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can to help keep firefighters safe, so it is an honor to sponsor legislation that protects the first responders who risk their lives to protect us.

HB 2033 allows firetrucks to operate rear-facing blue lights while stationary when responding to an emergency, which will provide greater visibility to better alert drivers that first responders are working ahead.

This bill also requires drivers to reduce their speed on high-speed highways to 50 miles per hour or less if they are unable to move over when approaching emergency or work zones.

I'm proud that HB 2033 is my first bill passed as your state legislator.

Rep. Donaghy - continued on back page