



## 2014 Vote Record

Each year Washington Farm Bureau provides our members with an indication of how legislators voted on issues of interest to agriculture.

The final outcome of the 2014 session provided little in surprises or major achievements. For taxpayers, and agriculture in particular, that result was a good thing.

The political makeup of the Legislature remained the same as the year before: The House was controlled by a Democratic majority, and a coalition made up of 24 Republicans and 2 Democrats controlled the Senate as the Majority Coalition Caucus. In the end, each side stood firm on their major issues, which meant few compromises were reached.

Unlike last year, legislators this year reached final agreement on a budget within the allotted time of the regular session. From our perspective, this year's 60-day regular session could be labeled as the "**Session of No.**" Here are a few reasons why we make this statement:

- **No** budget deficits to fix – first time in six years
- **No** new taxes on taxpayers or businesses
- **No** reduction or elimination of tax preferences
- **No** gimmicks used to balance the budget
- **No** Supplemental Capital Budget
- **No** agreed-upon *McCleary* plan to present to state Supreme Court on how Legislature will "fully fund" K-12 education
- **No** tuition increases at state colleges

The Supplemental Operating Budget (SB 6002) overwhelmingly passed both the House and Senate.

The most significant compromise made was on the Supplemental Operating Budget, which increased spending by \$155 million with \$58 million going to fund K-12 education materials, supplies and operating costs. Most significantly, this budget meets the four-year balanced budget requirement. This budget passed both the House and Senate overwhelmingly.

In contrast, substantial differences on the cost of a new building for the Washington State Patrol in Olympia prevented an agreement being reached on a Supplemental Capital Budget. This was the first

time since 1996 that the Legislature failed to pass a Capital Budget. This inaction negatively impacted our work to obtain funding for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

It must be noted that many bills of importance to Washington agriculture never made it to the floor of the House or Senate for a vote. In some cases, the Legislature avoided controversial issues. In other cases, your Farm Bureau lobby team was successful in defeating harmful legislation at the committee level. In some instances, legislation Farm Bureau supported did not advance from committee.

We hope this vote record will assist our members in opening a dialogue with elected officials and in fostering a working relationship with them.

Legislators received credit for each correct vote cast. Unless otherwise noted, the vote listed for each bill is the one cast for the final version of the bill. Also, as we have done in years past, we have deducted one percentage point from the score for each missed vote. We understand that legislators sometimes miss votes for valid reasons, such as negotiations on other bills. However, the fact remains that the legislator did not participate in a vote on a bill of importance to agriculture.

Here is a summary of the bills used in this year's vote record:

**ESHB 1313 – Mandated Sick and Safe Leave for Employees:** *Oppose.* This bill would have required employers of more than four FTEs to provide paid sick and safe leave to their employees. WFB believes leave policies should be decided voluntarily between employers and employees, not mandated by government. The bill passed the House 52-45 (Yeas-Nays) before dying in the Senate.

**SHB 2201 – Tax Preferences:** *Oppose.* This bill represented another attack on all businesses, including agriculture, that receive a tax preference from the state. It would have added new reporting requirements that threatened confidentiality and increased potential penalties. WFB joined the business community in opposing this bill, which passed the House 52-45. It did not pass the Senate.

**SHB 2262 – Sound Science:** *Support.* This bill enhances last year's legislation that required the Department of Ecology to identify the peer-reviewed science it relies on to make significant regulatory decisions. DOE must now further identify and categorize, in the form of a bibliography or citation list, the sources of information that it relies on. The bill passed the House and Senate unanimously and was signed into law by Gov. Jay Inslee.

**2SHB 2333 – So-Called "Employee Antiretaliation Act":** *Oppose.* This bill would have imposed more regulatory burdens and potential penalties on employers, presumed that employers are guilty until they prove their innocence on certain wage complaint issues, and established administrative and court enforcement for supposed retaliation. This bill passed the House 53-45 but died in the Senate.

**E2SHB 2493 – Open Space Tax Changes for Nurseries:** *Support.* This measure clarified that land used to grow plants in containers qualifies for current use agriculture classification under the open space program. This change promotes fairness in property tax assessments and recognizes nurseries and other horticultural growers as an important part of the state's agricultural community. The bill passed the House 98-0 and the Senate 47-1 and was signed into law by Gov. Inslee.

**EHB 2789 – Drones:** *Support.* This bill would have placed restrictions on the purchase and use of surveillance drones by state agencies and local governments. The bill would have limited the use of drones by law enforcement without a warrant, and it would have prohibited the use of drones by state agencies for regulatory compliance purposes until standards are established by the Legislature. It also included protection of any personal information collected by drones. The bill passed the House 77-21 and the Senate 46-1, but it was vetoed by Gov. Inslee.

**SB 5112 – Retro Scheduling Authority:** *Support.* This measure would have allowed retrospective rating programs to schedule certain independent medical exams and vocational rehabilitation appointments for injured workers. The bill passed the Senate 26-22, but it died in the House.

**2ESSB 5127 – Structured Settlement Agreements:** *Support.* This bill would have allowed more workers the option of choosing a structured settlement agreement in exchange for closing their workers' compensation claims and would have created more efficiencies in the agreement approval process. The bill passed the Senate 27-22 but was not given a hearing in the House.

**ESSB 6002 – Supplemental Operating Budget, Version 1:** *Support.* This version of the Supplemental Operating Budget was the Senate's bipartisan approach that balanced the books without new taxes. It also provided a new tax preference for commercial beekeepers and fully funded the Voluntary Stewardship Program. It passed the Senate 41-8.

**ESSB 6002 – Supplemental Operating Budget, Version 2:** *Oppose.* This amendment was the House's budget proposal. To make its budget balance, the House created a new tax on electronic cigarettes and eliminated the tax preferences provided to extracted fuel, bottled water, non-resident sales tax and prescription drug resellers. WFB opposed the use of higher taxes and fees to fund state expenditures. This version passed the House 53-44.

**ESSB 6002 – Supplemental Operating Budget, Version 3:** *Support.* This version was the final report of the Conference Committee. This final budget agreement balanced the budget with no new taxes, no elimination of tax preferences, and no spending gimmicks. It increased spending on K-12 education by \$58 million and met the four-year balanced budget requirement. This form of budgeting and lack of tax increases are in line with Farm Bureau policy. The final vote on the budget was 85-13 in the House and 48-1 in the Senate.

**SSB 6280 – DOT Numbers:** *Support.* This measure would have exempted some intrastate farm vehicles from a 2007 law requiring farmers to obtain and display a USDOT number on their vehicles. The bill passed the Senate 47-2 but died in the House amid concerns of public safety on the roadways.

## Senate

First Name	Last Name	Party	District	2262 Sound Science	2493 Open Space Ag	2789 Drones	5112 Retro Scheduling	5127 Workers' Comp	6002 Operating Budget 1	6002 Operating Budget 3	6280 DOT Numbers	Percentage
Farm Bureau Position				Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	
Jan	Angel	R	26	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Barbara	Bailey	R	10	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Michael	Baumgartner	R	6	✓	✓	✓	✦	✓	✓	✓	✓	99%
Randi	Becker	R	2	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Don	Benton	R	17	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Andy	Billig	D	3	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
John	Braun	R	20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Sharon	Brown	R	8	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Maralyn	Chase	D	32	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✗	63%
Annette	Cleveland	D	49	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Steve	Conway	D	29	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Bruce	Dammeier	R	25	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Brian	Dansel	R	7	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jeannie	Darnielle	D	27	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Tracey	Eide	D	30	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Doug	Ericksen	R	42	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Joe	Fain	R	47	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Karen	Fraser	D	22	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
David	Froct	D	46	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Jim	Hargrove	D	24	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%
Bob	Hasegawa	D	11	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	50%
Brian	Hatfield	D	19	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Mike	Hewitt	R	16	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Andy	Hill	R	45	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Steve	Hobbs	D	44	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Janéa	Holmquist Newbry	R	13	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jim	Honeyford	R	15	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	88%
Karen	Keiser	D	33	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Curtis	King	R	14	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Adam	Kline	D	37	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Jeanne	Kohl-Welles	D	36	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Marco	Liias	D	21	✓	✗	✦	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	42%
Steve	Litzow	R	41	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rosemary	McAuliffe	D	1	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
John	McCoy	D	38	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Mark	Mullet	D	5	✓	✓	✦	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	85%
Sharon	Nelson	D	34	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	75%
Steve	O'Ban	R	28	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Mike	Padden	R	4	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Linda	Parlette	R	12	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Kirk	Pearson	R	39	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Jamie	Pedersen	D	43	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Kevin	Ranker	D	40	✓	✦	✓	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	70%
Ann	Rivers	R	18	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Pam	Roach	R	31	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Christine	Rolfes	D	23	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	63%
Mark	Schoesler	R	9	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Tim	Sheldon	D	35	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%
Rodney	Tom	D	48	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%

✓ = Vote supporting WFB position, ✗ = Vote opposing WFB Position, ✦ = Absent/excused from voting

