

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

CALL TO ACTION

The Senate Appropriations Sub-Committee (Senators Grindberg, Holmberg and Robinson) will begin to look at the Tourism Division appropriation next week, so now would be a great time to contact the Senate Appropriations Committee members and encourage them to support increased funding for tourism marketing in SB 2018.

Senate Appropriations Committee

[Ray Holmberg – Chair](#)

[Bill Bowman – Co-Vice Chair](#)

[Tony Grindberg – Co-Vice Chair](#)

[Randell Christmann](#)

[Tom Fischer](#)

[Ralph Kilzer](#)

[Karen Krebsbach](#)

[Rich Wardner](#)

[Aaron Krauter](#)

[Elroy Lindaas](#)

[Tim Mathern](#)

[Larry Robinson](#)

[Tom Seymour](#)

[John Warner](#)

This Week at the Capitol (Feb. 2-6)

Signage Bills Heard

Two bills were heard by the House Transportation Committee on Feb. 5. The bills were both aimed at finding potential solutions for advertising tourism-related businesses in rural areas.

HB 1528 - Tourist-oriented directional signs

Instead of requiring a business-owner to hire a contractor to install and maintain a tourist-orientated directional sign within the right of way of any highway, this bill allows the Department of Transportation to install and maintain the sign. It also allows the Department to charge the business-owner for the costs of the sign and collect the charges under a payment plan. TAP is tracking HB 1528.

HB 1529 – Outdoor advertising and distance limits from highways

The current law does not allow a business to place signs on property they own, lease, rent or control along a roadway unless the property is connected to the land where their business activity takes place. This bill changes the current law and allows businesses to install signs on property they own, lease, rent or control next to a roadway and doesn't require the property to be connected to the land where the business is located. The bill violates the Federal Highway Act and would jeopardize federal highway funds. TAP is tracking HB 1529.

Hunting Bill Updates

HB 1567 – Relating to licensing of guides and outfitters

HB 1567 was heard by the House Natural Resources Committee on Feb. 5. The bill states that a guide or outfitter license is not required for a person that refers an individual to a licensed guide or outfitter. A person that refers an individual to a licensed guide or outfitter may receive a fee or commission for the referral. TAP is tracking HB 1567.

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SB 2264 – Special season-long nonresident small game hunting license

SB 2264 was passed by the Senate in a 30-16 vote and has been rereferred to Appropriations, where it will be heard on Feb. 11. The bill creates a special season-long nonresident small game hunting license. The current nonresident small game license costs \$85 and allows nonresidents two 7-day periods or one 14-day period per license. Hunters may purchase more than one license per year. SB 2264 would not eliminate this type of license, but would create an additional season-long license that would sell for \$125 (\$40 going to P.L.O.T.S.), removing the need for any nonresident hunter to purchase more than one license in order to hunt longer. TAP supports SB 2264.

HB 1216 – Nonresident small game hunting licenses

HB 1216 passed the House in a 53-40 vote on Feb. 4. HB 1216 changes the structure of the nonresident small game license from two 7-day periods to three 5-day periods. TAP supports HB 1216.

Status Report

Attached is a status report of all bills being monitored by TAP.

If at any time TAP members have pertinent information or updates they would like included in the next Legislative Update, contact Dana Bohn, executive director, at clearh2o@btinet.net or 701-355-4458.

How to Contact Your Legislators

During a legislative session, a legislator can be reached at the State Capitol by leaving a
Washington State Capitol Building, 400 North Capitol, Olympia, WA 98501 (360) 339-3147 (360) 339-3147

