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## Legislative Update

Wednesday, February 17, 2010

This update is published weekly during the General Session, monthly during the interim, and other times as needed.


### Alerts and News from the Hill

### Our Legislative Priorities...

We are half way through the Session! Take a look at our legislative agenda and please let us know if we are missing something important ([click to view](#)):

**LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**  
January 20, 2010

Position Key:  
 O = Oppose  
 S = Support  
 W = Watching



Title	Sponsor	Description	Pos	Status
<b>Asset Building</b>				
Funding for Individual Development Accounts	appropriation	\$50,000 - base budget	S	Still awaiting budget decisions
Funding for EITC/Volunteer Income Tax Assistance	appropriation	\$100,000 - base budget	S	Still awaiting budget decisions
<b>Children</b>				
Childcare Assistance	appropriation	Maintain FY10 budget level plus additional dollars to get the federal match.	S	Still awaiting budget decisions

### Advocates Calendar

The Family Investment Coalition's Advocate's Caucus will be held every Wednesday at 12:15 in the Olmstead Room (in the Senate - East - Building) throughout the 2010 General Session. We will discuss our legislative agendas, talk about Session items of interest, and collaborate with other advocates.

### Find agendas and listen on line

All legislative agendas are available on-line, as well as audio of the committee meetings, are available [here](#).

### Call your elected officials

This list of our legislative priorities provides information about bills and appropriations related to poverty issues like food, housing, work supports (formerly known as welfare), and asset building. We will be providing this list throughout the Session in each of these Legislative Updates and on our [website](#). You can see our old agendas [here](#).

## Action Alerts!

***HB43 - Social Security and Unemployment Insurance Offset*** is set to be heard before the Senate Workforce Services and Community and Economic Development Standing Committee this Friday at 2:00 p.m. in 215 Senate Building. This bill would stop the sunset of the Social Security retirement offset of Unemployment Insurance by extending the 50% offset until federal law changes make it possible to adjust the benefit amount to cover the costs of going to a 0% offset. The goal is that, eventually, Unemployment Insurance will not be reduced by Social Security Retirement at all. It has already passed the House.

## Bills and Appropriations - Activity

***HB243*** mirrors federal law by providing tenants in foreclosed properties with the ability to remain in the property for a minimum of 90 days following foreclosure. The bill will also provide tenants with a notice of their rights. The bill failed to pass out of the House Business and Labor committee yesterday but should be heard again early next week with a few changes to garner additional support.

***Final Revenue Estimates*** were released yesterday. There were no changes for Fiscal Year 2010, but Fiscal Year 2011 estimates came in at \$50 million higher than was thought in the January estimates. This is good news, but still means the state has a \$700 million shortfall for both

Governor's office -  
(800) 705-2464

House - (800) 908-  
4261

Senate - (800) 613-  
0677

### Who is your legislator?

Find out by inserting your address [here](#).

### Other stuff

Click [here](#) for regarding the National Housing Trust Fund.



years that must be dealt with. The legislature has asked the Appropriations Subcommittees to make recommendations for one-time 3% cuts for FY10 and ongoing 5% cuts for FY11. All of the Appropriations Subcommittees have met and made their recommendations. The Executive Appropriations Committee has started meeting this week to hear the reports of the Subcommittees. No decisions will be made this week, but it does not look like additional cuts will need to be made above and beyond the recommendations. At this point, both General Assistance and the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program dollars are safe. Cuts to the Olene Walker Housing Loan Fund and the Pamela Atkinson Homeless Trust Fund are part of the FY11 recommendations.

**SB45** will provide some renters' protections that currently do not exist in state code or local ordinances... at the expense of some local ordinances that current are in place. However, it looks like the benefits will outweigh the drawbacks. And with Senator McAdams' amendments, the bill has a potential of making a hero out of Senator Niederhauser for running the bill.

**SB33** makes changes to the fee structure for use of capitol facilities has been signed into law by the Governor. The bill allows groups, organizations and individuals to reserve space at the Capitol and not be charged during the General Session.

**HB18** passed the House and passed favorably out of the Senate Business and Labor Committee and is on its way to the Senate Floor. It would modernize our Unemployment Insurance (UI) system by allowing eligibility to be determined by a more recent work history if an individual does not qualify under the current standard base period (first 4 of the last 5 completed quarters).

**SB115** would have provided Unemployment Compensation to individuals seeking part-time work failed in the Senate Business and Labor Committee. We hope to continue this

discussion during the Interim Session.

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