2013 Legislative Session Kickoff!

December 14, 2012
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Billtracker Updates
I. System overview and upgrades
II. User experience
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BILLTRACKER: SYSTEM UPGRADES

I. Goals behind integration: Analysis/Position Gathering vs. Fiscal Impact

II. Billtracker now captures bill analysis and includes fields, when activated, to gather fiscal note data

III. Automated reminders from OPB for fiscal note submissions

IV. Ability to view fiscal and policy information in user view
BILLTRACKER: ACCESS

I. Public view and features: opb.washington.edu/billtracker
I. My Billtracker view and features: https://opb.washington.edu/billtracker/assessor
I. Admins add a bill
II. Assign assessors
III. Assessors receive email
I. View feedback section
II. Click on “Assess this Bill”
III. Contact us with questions
BILLTRACKER: PROCESS (CASE TWO: FISCAL FUN!)

I. If a note is required at bill’s origin or later, you’ll receive an assessment request with “REQUIRED” field

II. Go through same process
If a note is required, you will see the normal bill assessment screens as well as fiscal note tables and corresponding explanation fields for fiscal estimates.
BILLTRACKER HINTS

I. Follow email links or use My Billtracker

II. If possible, use Mozilla Firefox

III. Database will time you out after ~30 minutes – submit your assessment and come back to it later to save your work

IV. If you feel you cannot respond to either an assessment request or a fiscal note request, and want to forward it to someone else, please contact us

V. System will send out fiscal note reminders (daily) to meet strict OFM deadlines
ASSESSMENT REQUESTS

I. Assessment fields were significantly curtailed this year

II. Remember that clear, concise, and conscientious is easier for us to use than sarcastic, short orrambling responses

III. Assessments are policy reviews and opinion gathering; separate and distinct from fiscal impact
I. As usual, Anja and I will do our best to update bills in the system daily

II. We will send out emails to you when bills change significantly and bring your attention to elements that are potentially problematic/positive according to priorities established by State Relations/OPB

III. We will also email you directly if a bill is up for a hearing and we haven’t heard from you (the more we prioritize email notifications, the less effective we’ll be in summarizing legislation for you!)

IV. Please use the My Billtracker feature to track bills as they move through committee/floor/other chamber
Helpful Links:

opb.washington.edu/content/bill-tracking-2013-session
opb.washington.edu/billtracker
opb.washington.edu/content/fiscal-notes
Questions