Local Government Fiscal Note Program
*Objective, rapid-response fiscal analysis for the Legislature since 1978*

**Purpose**

The Local Government Fiscal Note Program produces objective estimates of the financial impacts of proposed state legislation on counties, cities, and special purpose districts (except for courts and schools, which are respectively covered by the Administrative Office of the Courts and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction). Our team of fiscal analysts researches almost any legislative issue that could change local government revenues or expenditures. This is the program’s 35th year of operations.

**Goals**

Provide timely and thorough data analysis that allows policy makers to make better-informed fiscal decisions regarding proposed legislation involving local governments.

**Results and Achievements**

- Our revision rate for the 2012 Legislative Session was 3.8 percent, less than half the average for all state agencies. The average turnaround time was 4.28 days, well below the statutory deadline of five working days for local government fiscal notes (which is two days longer than for agency fiscal notes). Timeliness increased to 83.3 percent from last year's rate of 80.6 percent.

- This solid performance was largely due to the creation of a fee-based, contracted research service. This has provided funding to create year-round, professional-track research positions. For the 2012 session we were able to retain six out of seven staff. They have now been with the program an average of almost four sessions. In the past we were dependent upon a revolving door of entry-level, session-only staff with a week of training.

**Services**

The Local Government Fiscal Note Program has one of the widest policy bandwidths of any unit within state government. Our analysts produce local government fiscal notes at the request of the Legislature. We also provide rapid-response answers to queries regarding upcoming legislation and initiatives potentially impacting local jurisdictions.

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**Fast Facts**

- We receive by far the largest number of fiscal note requests of any state agency – more than 800 in the last long (105-day) session.
- Over the last decade the number of local government fiscal note requests has increased more than 40%.
- Topic areas for notes in recent sessions:
  - Taxes/Economic Development (24%)
  - Criminal Justice (24%)
  - Social Services (16%)
  - Land Use/Environment (15%)
  - Government Operations (14%)
  - Public Works/Energy (8%)

**Statutory Authority**

RCW 43.132

**Contact Information**

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