



## 2003 Legislative Session Highlights

During the 2003 legislative session, the Legislature passed, and the Governor signed, 32 bills that advanced the Competitiveness Council agenda. Highlights include the following:

- A 10-year transportation improvement plan that provides \$4.2 billion in new transportation investments across the state, clarifies regional transportation authority, and includes improvements in transportation efficiency;
- Reform of the unemployment insurance system to reduce cost and increase equity;
- Simplification of municipal B&O taxation and elimination of taxation of the same revenue by multiple cities;
- Incentives for the development of biodiesel fuels;
- Establishment of the Office of Regulatory Assistance within the Governor's office;
- Development of an integrated permit system through a multi-agency pilot project;
- Broadened authority for designation of industrial projects of statewide significance and its permit coordination provisions;
- Consolidation of the permit appeals process for certain projects;
- Expedited environmental review for residential and mixed-use projects within urban growth areas where development does not meet planned densities;
- Simplification of processes for the use of state highway rights-of-way for telecommunications facilities;
- Greater tuition-setting authority for universities;
- Authority for any public baccalaureate institution in the state to offer electrical engineering degrees;
- Improved articulation between apprenticeships and associate degree programs, and between two-year and four-year programs.
- Statutory establishment of the Economic Development Commission.