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TOWN HALL MEETINGS! SAVE THE DATE!

Representative Brad Klippert and I are hosting **town hall meetings** on March 16, 2013. I'd like to personally invite you to attend at one of the following three locations, and I look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Time: 8am-9:30am

Where:

Richland City Hall / Council Chamber
505 Swift Blvd
Richland, WA 99352

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Time: 10am-11:30am

Where:

West Richland Library
3803 W. Van Giesen
West Richland, WA 99353

Saturday, March 16, 2013

Time: 1-2:30pm

Where:

Kennewick City Hall Council Chambers
210 W. 6th Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336



March 8, 2013

Some of my bills are approved by the Senate

We've spent the past week in the Senate discussing, debating and passing bills from our chamber and sending them to the House of Representatives. The House has been doing the same, and we'll all continue doing it next week as well as we approach what's known in the

Legislature as "crossover." That's when Senate bills can no longer be considered in the Senate and House bills can no longer be considered in the House, and they "cross over" from one body to the other.

Until then, it's a whirlwind of activity as we pass as many good bills as we can before time runs out. I'm pleased to report that some of my bills were among the first up for consideration and have already been passed and sent to the House.



[SB 5718](#) would require the Legislature to monitor the progress of a 2012 action plan developed by the state Office of the Chief Information Officer and give the office until November to provide the Legislature with a plan for establishing performance benchmarks and for measuring the results of implementing a **one-stop business portal** through which businesses could conduct all their interactions with state government. This bill passed the Senate unanimously on March 1 and has been referred to the House Committee on Technology and Economic Development.

[SB 5701](#) would add the Professional Educator Standards Board to the list of organizations that may file complaints with the state Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. The board is responsible for certifying teachers in our state but it lacks the ability to refer to OSPI those teachers it believes are submitting fraudulent test results. This bill would authorize the board to initiate **investigations of teachers** it has reason to believe are essentially trying to cheat the system, but would also allow any certificated school employee whose certificate is in question to appeal any allegation. This bill passed the Senate unanimously on March 4 and has been sent to the House Education Committee.

Upcoming news conference on jobs and business bills



Next week, I'm looking forward to participating in a news conference with some of my colleagues in the [Majority Coalition Caucus](#). We'll be discussing several of the bills introduced this session that are designed to create jobs and stimulate the economy. As you know, that is one of my primary goals here in the Washington State Senate, and I'll be talking about three of my bills along that line.

[SB 5679](#) would help improve the state's business climate and stimulate job creation by requiring certain state agencies to establish a process for formally reviewing their rules. The bill originated from the state auditor's 2012 findings that three agencies' rules were not consistent with the review process set forth in Executive Order 06-02. It would require the Department of Ecology, the Department of Labor and Industries and the Department of Health to annually **perform a formal review of their rules and establish a process for effectively retiring rules** when applicable.

[SB 5680](#) would promote economic development by reforming the state's Business Licensing Service, the state's primary business-licensing portal. BLS registers businesses, renews licenses and provides related services for approximately 40,000 businesses monthly, and has more than 115 state licenses available through its website. The bill, also inspired by the state auditor's 2012 report, would remove two agencies and add 16 to the list required to **provide all their licenses online** through the BLS website. Each agency would also provide an annual report to the state Department of Revenue.

[SB 5765](#) would create a pilot business regulatory efficiency program administered by the Department of Commerce, the goal of which would be to **improve the regulatory environment for businesses in Washington**. Together with the Office of Regulatory Assistance and the Office of Accountability and Performance, the commerce department must conduct multi-jurisdictional regulatory streamlining projects that impact specific industry sectors, beginning with the state's manufacturing sector.

You can watch the news conference live at www.TVW.org on Tuesday of next week, or visit my website - www.senatorsharonbrown.com - to watch it after it takes place.

In closing...

A big priority for me is getting your feedback as often as possible. It is one of the best tools I have to help me better represent you. I value your opinion highly and - as always - if you would like to contact me you can write, phone, e-mail, or stop by. It remains my honor to serve you in the Washington State Senate.

Sincerely,



Sharon Brown
State Senator
8th District

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