

We believe a strong economy is the foundation for prosperous families and communities. While the economy is showing signs of improvement, too many people are still out of work, underemployed or afraid they could lose their jobs. It is within the Legislature's control to address many of our state's competitive disadvantages, but not enough has been done in Olympia to combat the problems. Below are some of the economic solutions supported by House Republicans.

Workers' compensation reform | House Bill 1463, House Bill 1464 and House Bill 1465

- Would make additional changes to workers' compensation reforms passed in 2011 – addressing final settlement options and other reforms, and protecting earnings for those who suffer work-related injuries and illnesses.

Regulatory Freedom and Accountability Act | House Bill 1163

- Would save time and taxpayer dollars by streamlining state government operations and ending duplicative state services.

Improve customer service for job creators | House Bill 1403 (signed into law) and House Bill 1757 (Senate companion signed into law)

- Requires the Office of the Chief Information Officer to provide the Legislature with a plan for establishing performance benchmarks and measuring results of implementing a one-stop business portal.

Suspend Growth Management Act requirements in counties with persistently-high unemployment | House Bill 1619

- Would alleviate the cost and encumbrance of controlling growth when none is occurring and when those regulations stand in the way of economic development.

Permit decisions in 90 days | House Bill 1236

- Would require state agencies to make permit decisions in 90 days or the permit is granted. This would add certainty and eliminate unnecessary delays, and stimulate economic activity.

Moratorium on rulemaking | House Bill 1478

- Would impose a moratorium on formal and informal rule-making by state agencies, except in certain specified instances, to last for three years – or until the state is no longer facing serious budget shortfalls.

Regulatory Fairness Act | House Bill 1162

- Would require state agencies to determine whether compliance of a rule would result in a specified economic impact and, if so, the agency must provide notification and may not enforce the rule until the Legislature enacts the law.

Reclassify hydropower as renewable energy | House Joint Resolution 4200

- Would amend the state constitution to require that hydroelectric generation be recognized as a renewable resource. This would recapture our state's competitive advantage of offering abundant, affordable clean energy to consumers and employers.

Legislative approval of certain agency rules | House Joint Resolution 4204

- Would amend the state constitution to require certain agency rules to gain legislative approval.

Require 2/3 vote of the Legislature to raise taxes | House Joint Resolution 4206

- Would amend the state constitution to place a higher legislative threshold to pass tax increases.