Compensation limits for port district commissioners are set in statute. RCW 53.12.260 provides that payment of per diem compensation for each commissioner may be at a rate of ninety dollars ($90) per day, with per diem compensation for each commissioner not to exceed eight thousand six hundred and forty dollars ($8,640) per year or ten thousand eight hundred dollars ($10,800) per year for districts with a gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year. Commissioners also receive a salary of five hundred dollars ($500) per month for districts with a gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year or two hundred dollars ($200) per month for districts with a gross operating income of from one million to less than twenty-five million in the preceding calendar year. RCW 53.12.260 also provides for the Office of Financial Management to adjust the dollar thresholds for per diem compensation and salaries for inflation every five years, beginning July 1, 2008. The adjustment is to be based upon changes in the consumer price index for “wage earners and clerical workers, all items” compiled by the Bureau of Labor and Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor during that five year period. The new dollar threshold shall be transmitted to the Office of the Code Reviser for publication in the Washington State Register at least one month before the new threshold takes effect.

Over the five-year period from April 2008 to April 2013, the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers for the Seattle-Tacoma-Bremerton, WA area as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, increased by 8.66 percent.

In accordance with the requirements set forth above, the Office of Financial Management submits for publication the new dollar thresholds for per diem compensation and salaries. The new dollar threshold for per diem is one hundred and fourteen dollars ($114) per day with a new annual per diem compensation limit of ten thousand nine hundred and forty four dollars ($10,944) or thirteen thousand six hundred and eighty dollars ($13,680) per year for districts with a gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year. The new monthly salary is six hundred and thirty five dollars ($35) for districts with a gross operating income of twenty-five million or more in the preceding calendar year or two hundred and fifty four dollars ($254) for districts with a gross operating income of from one million to less than twenty-five million in the preceding calendar year. The new dollar thresholds take effect July 1, 2013.

If you have any questions or need further information, contact Bob Baker at bob.baker@ofm.wa.gov.