



League of Women Voters of Washington

Barbara Seitle, President // Marilyn Johnston, Lobby Team Coordinator // Newsletter edited by Laura McCarty

[www.lwvwa.org / advocacy](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy)

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.39, No.13

League office: 4710 University Way NE #214, Seattle 98105 / 206-622-8961 / 800-419-2596 / lwvwa@lwvwa.org

April 6 - 12, 2007

SUCCESS: EHB 1460, which extends existing mental health parity requirements to individual and small group plans, passed in the House and the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Gregoire on March 30. **Thanks for all of the support from League members and our advocacy partners.** – Ann L. Brand, 206-533-6269, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUCCESS: ESHB 1024, which phases out use of some toxic flame retardants in Washington state, on April 3 passed the Senate by a 41 to 8 vote, making it the first of the Priorities for a Healthy Washington to pass into law! It had previously passed the House in mid-February by an equally strong bipartisan vote, 71-24. **Many, many thanks to all of you who contacted your legislators, and in other ways worked to gain passage of this legislation.** – Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

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**FUNDING & BUDGET ACTION ITEMS**

**Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Change—SUPPORT**

**ESSB 6001** moves the state toward a comprehensive climate policy by setting clear goals for reducing global warming emissions and directing utilities away from major investments in power plants with excessive carbon emissions.

**League Position:** (LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

**Status:** Has passed the Senate and is on the 2nd reading of House Rules

**Action:** Tell your representative to vote for it without floor amendments. House Rules Committee: **Chopp (Chair); DeBolt; Armstrong; Bailey; Buri; Ericks; Ericksen; Grant; Green; Hudgins; Hurst; Kelley; Kessler; Kristiansen; Lovick; McCoy; McCune; McDonald; Morrell; Ormsby; Santos; Springer; Sump; Williams**

**Contact:** Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net)  
or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

**Encouraging the Use of Cleaner Energy— SUPPORT**

**ESSHB 1303** would encourage use specifically through replacement of polluting diesel engines, especially school buses; incentives for development of in-state clean feedstock/fuels; reducing fossil fuel consumption by state fleets; development of new technologies for displacing petroleum with electricity; and accounting procedures for Washington state to respond to global warming impacts.

**League Position:** (LWVUS) Energy, elements 3 and 5

**Status:** Has passed the House. The Senate has incorporated 6001 into it. It is on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in Senate Rules. This legislation will likely go to a concurrence vote in the House.

**Action:** Ask your Senator to vote for it. Senate Rules Committee: [Franklin \(Vice Chair\)](#); [Hewitt](#); [Brown](#); [Eide](#); [Fraser](#); [Haugen](#); [Kline](#); [Kohl-Welles](#); [McAuliffe](#); [Murray](#); [Parlette](#); [Pflug](#); [Poulsen](#); [Regala](#); [Schoesler](#); [Spanel](#); [Stevens](#); [Zarelli](#).

**Contact:** Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net) or Marian Wineman, 206-285-1066, [mwineman@comcast.net](mailto:mwineman@comcast.net)

### Early Childhood Development QRIS— **SUPPORT**

**ESSB 5828**, sponsored by Sen. Kauffman, is the Senate version of HB 1663 regarding a Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS) for child care programs. The amended bill includes school readiness and parental support as the primary purposes of the nonprofit corporation partner referenced in this act. Legislators also removed the term "five star" and added the term "quality" wherever the voluntary rating and improvement system is mentioned, and clarified that the purpose of the rating system is to give parents clear and accessible information about the quality of child care and early education programs, which would thereby help improve early learning programs throughout the state.

**League Position:** Contact Children Services portfolio chairs.

**Status:** This bill is in House Rules. Whereas the Senate budget includes \$800,000 for QRIS and Early Learning Advisory Committee, the House budget includes \$7 million. Also, whereas the bill calls for pilots, the Senate budget calls for a study of the QRIS. The Early Learning Council has already studied this system (for 18 months!) and we think it is time to initiate a pilot program.

**Action:** This bill is our top priority for the LWVWA children's services portfolio. Please ask your representatives to vote to pass ESSB 5828 from the House. House Rules Committee: [Chopp \(Chair\)](#); [DeBolt](#); [Armstrong](#); [Bailey](#); [Buri](#); [Ericks](#); [Ericksen](#); [Grant](#); [Green](#); [Hudgins](#); [Hurst](#); [Kelley](#); [Kessler](#); [Kristiansen](#); [Lovick](#); [McCoy](#); [McCune](#); [McDonald](#); [Morrell](#); [Ormsby](#); [Santos](#); [Springer](#); [Sump](#); [Williams](#) Also, please call your own senator to ask that the Senate budget negotiators vote for the House budget level for ESSB 5828.

**Contact:** Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net) or Pat Dickason, 360-753-7647, [p.dickason@comcast.net](mailto:p.dickason@comcast.net)

### Extend Medicaid Coverage to Foster Care Youth age 18-21— **SUPPORT**

**2SHB 1201** closes a major gap in health care coverage for these youth.

**League Position:** LWVWA Health Care position includes seeking a system that provides for "seamless" coverage and continuity of care, to the extent possible, regardless of changes in life circumstances."

**Status:** The bill passed handily in both the House and Senate. HOWEVER, the bill provides that the act shall be null and void if appropriations are not approved.

**Action:** Contact members on House Appropriations Committee and Senate Ways & Means, as well as your individual legislators, urging that funding for this bill be included in the budget.

House Appropriations Committee: [Sommers \(Chair\)](#); [Dunshee \(Vice Chair\)](#); [Alexander](#); [Bailey](#); [Haler](#); [Anderson](#); [Buri](#); [Chandler](#); [Cody](#); [Conway](#); [Darneille](#); [Dunn](#); [Ericks](#); [Fromhold](#); [Grant](#); [Haigh](#); [Hinkle](#); [Hunt](#); [Hunter](#); [Kagi](#); [Kenney](#); [Kessler](#); [Kretz](#); [Linville](#); [McDermott](#); [McDonald](#); [McIntire](#); [Morrell](#); [Pettigrew](#); [Priest](#); [Schual-Berke](#); [Seaquist](#); [Sullivan, P.](#); [Walsh](#)

Senate Ways & Means Committee: [Prentice \(Chair\)](#); [Fraser \(Vice Chair, Capital Budget Chair\)](#); [Pridemore \(Vice Chair, Operating Budget\)](#); [Zarelli](#); [Brandland](#); [Carrell](#); [Fairley](#); [Hatfield](#); [Hewitt](#); [Hobbs](#); [Honeyford](#); [Keiser](#); [Kohl-Welles](#); [Oemig](#); [Parlette](#); [Rasmussen](#); [Regala](#); [Roach](#); [Rockefeller](#); [Schoesler](#); [Tom](#)

**Contact:** Ann L. Brand, 206-533-6269, [anklbrand@comcast.net](mailto:anklbrand@comcast.net)

**Study of Public and Traditional Financing of Campaigns— SUPPORT**

Purpose of this governor-requested study would be to examine public financing and traditional financing of campaigns, compare these two methods, and determine how much money would be necessary to adequately fund a public financing program for appellate judicial positions.

**League Positions:** LWVWA and LWVUS positions regarding Representative Government, Administration of Justice, and Campaign Financing.

**Status:** The study is not included in either budget (House or Senate) at this time. It is possible the funding could be reintroduced during budget reconciliation conferences.

**Action:** If your legislator is one of the six who will reconcile the budget, please contact her/ him and ask that the \$150,000 study be included in the final budget: [Sen Brown](#), [Rep Dunshee](#), [Rep Kessler](#), [Sen Prentice](#), [Sen Pridemore](#), [Rep Sommers](#).

**Contact:** Susan Sanders, 253-833-9376, [DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name](mailto:DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name)

**Home Visits for Children with Asthma— SUPPORT**

**League Positions:** We support efforts to reduce exposures in the home (LWV of WA), early intervention for children at risk, as well as policies and programs that promote the well being, development, and safety of all children (LWVUS).

**Status:** The asthma budget proviso has a good chance of success. It is likely to be decided soon in conference committee.

**Action:** If any of the following legislators are in your district, please contact them to suggest that it makes good business sense to help fund home visits for low-income kids with asthma: [Rep Sommers](#), [Rep Dunshee](#), [Sen Prentice](#), [Sen Pridemore](#), Rep. [Alexander](#), or Sen. [Zarelli](#).

**Contact:** John Roberts, 425-868-9439, [jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org](mailto:jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org)

**Reenacting Initiative 747—OPPOSE HB 2117**

This bill would codify I-747’s damaging 1% annual cap on the growth of state and local property tax levies.

**League Position:** LWVWA opposed I-747 in 2001. Property taxes fund essential public services and the 1% cap has made it more difficult to adequately fund those services.

**Status:** House Democrats have postponed their Caucus discussion of HB 2117, although latest word is that they are still considering caucusing on it at some point.

**Action:** Thanks to all who contacted your representatives to urge them not to vote on a bill to codify I-747. Please contact Senate Democratic leaders to urge them to be ready to stop the I-747 bill in case it is voted out and referred over to them.

**Contact:** Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, [omi.bush@verizon.net](mailto:omi.bush@verizon.net)

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ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND

All four priorities are alive and well after meeting the requisite cut-off dates (so far) that need to be met in order for that legislation to continue to move through the legislative process. League **supports** all four Priorities for a Healthy Washington:

Eliminate Toxic Flame Retardants (PBDEs) – **ESHB 1024** passed the legislature. This legislation does the following:

- bans the use of the penta and octa forms of PBDEs, with limited exceptions, by 2008
- bans the use of the deca form in mattresses by 2008
- bans the use of the deca form in televisions, computers, and residential upholstered furniture by 2011, as long as a safer, reasonable and effective alternative has been identified by the state departments of Ecology and Health and approved by fire safety officials.

The biggest use today of deca-PBDE is in the casings for computers. Safer alternatives do exist and are being used by HP, Dell, Sony, Panasonic, and Phillips, companies that no longer use PBDEs in their products.

Contact: Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

Increase Funding for Wildlife & Recreation – Budget proviso. **Contact:** Elizabeth Davis, 360-331-4184, elizabethd@whidbey.com

Promote Clean Cars/Clean Fuels – **ESSHB 1303** is on second reading in Senate Rules. **Contact:** Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

Restore & Clean Up Puget Sound – **ESSB 5372** is on second reading in House Rules. **Contact:** Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, aagaarda@nwlinc.com

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**FOR REFERENCE**

## **K**ey Session Dates

The 60th Washington State Legislature opened its long session on Monday, January 8. The 2007 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 8 to April 22. Every day (including Saturday, Sunday, and holidays) is counted in the 105-day session. The Lobby Team will meet regularly during the session to talk with the League lobbyist, Lonnie Johns-Brown, and to decide on priority action for the upcoming week.

**Jan. 8** – First day of regular session

**Jan. 19** – LWVWA Lobby Day

**Feb. 28** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **policy** committee of its “house of origin” (House for HB, or Senate for SB)

**Mar. 5** – Last day for any bill to be considered in **fiscal** committee of its “house of origin”

**Mar. 14** – Last day for bills to be considered on the floor of their “house of origin” (5 p.m.)

**Mar. 30** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **policy** committee of the opposite house (Senate for HB, or House for SB)

**Apr. 2** – Last day for bills to be considered in a **fiscal** committee of the opposite house

**Apr. 13** – Last day for bills to be considered on the floor of the opposite house (5 p.m.) except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implementing budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session.

**Apr. 22** – Last day of regular session

## **C**ONTACT LISTS

Portfolios / Lobby Team – [www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html](http://www.lwvwa.org/about/officers.html)

Legislators – [www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/Legislators.pdf)

Legislative Committees – [www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx](http://www.leg.wa.gov/legislature/committeelisting.aspx)

Representation by legislative district – [www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/newsletters/DistrictReps.pdf)

## **L**EAGUE POSITIONS

LWVWA positions – [www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/prog\\_in\\_action05-07.html](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/prog_in_action05-07.html)

# RESOURCES

League action website – [lwvwa.org/advocacy](http://lwvwa.org/advocacy)

House Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov/default.aspx?chamber=3)

Senate Floor Activity as it happens – [flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov](http://flooractivityext.leg.wa.gov)

Public hearings as they happen – [tvw.org](http://tvw.org)

Bill information – text, analysis, status, committee action – [apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo](http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo)

Bill room (legislative information center) – **360-786-7573**

State budget information – [www.ofm.wa.gov](http://www.ofm.wa.gov)

Governor’s website – [governor.wa.gov](http://governor.wa.gov)

Washington state’s official website – [access.wa.gov](http://access.wa.gov)

## Speaking to a Legislator

Visit, write to, call, or email the legislator directly (see contact list for legislators). Or, use the toll-free Legislative Hotline available weekdays from 8:00 am - 8:00 pm, and Saturdays from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm:

**800-562-6000** / TTY: 800-635-9993

Legislative hotline operators will send your message to one of your legislators, all three of your legislators, the governor and lieutenant governor, or all of these, as you request. Language translation services are also available. Person placing the call needs to know enough English to understand “Please Wait” and to report the language needed.

## Addressing a Letter to a Legislator

Representative \_\_\_\_\_ Senator \_\_\_\_\_

P.O. Box 40600 P.O. Box 404[leg district]

Olympia, WA 98504-0600 Olympia, WA 98504-04[leg district]

## Visiting Your Legislators

Citizens are welcome to visit their legislators in Olympia on any day during the session. Making an appointment first is prudent but not always required. Later in the session, town hall meetings back in the legislators’ home districts are good opportunities for talking to your legislators. Lobby day events provide organized support for visits.