



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.8

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

ACTION PRIORITY

March 1 - 7, 2007

"If you have time this week to make only one phone call, choose one of these..."

SUPPORT family & medical leave insurance
SUPPORT governance for cleaning up Puget Sound
OPPOSE public speedway authority bill

SSB 5372 and SHB 1374—Creating the Puget Sound Partnership to Clean Up the Sound

Substitute Senate Bill 5372 lays out a strategic framework to recover the health of the Sound by 2020. The bill includes accountability measures that would help ensure that the new Partnership achieves results. It would also require review of existing programs that affect the Sound, to result in recommendations for how to improve compliance. And, it would create a truly independent science committee that would set the benchmarks for achieving a healthy Sound. Thus, **SSB 5372** would move us further down the path toward real accountability for implementation of the Puget Sound Plan and toward a strategy for securing the money we need to recover the Sound. The actual framework for recovering the Sound would be provided by the House bill, **SHB 1374**.

League Positions: LWVWA Land Use positions support regional authorities who have authority to resolve conflicts and implement plans of regional scope.

Status: Both bills are progressing and need to move out of their respective fiscal committees. SSB 5372 is in **Senate Ways & Means** and SHB 1374 is in **House Appropriations**.

Action: Both bills need your immediate attention to move them out by Monday, the 5th of March. E-mail your senator immediately if he or she is on **Senate Ways & Means**—Sen. Margarita Prentice is chair, and Sen. Karen Fraser is vice-chair. **Urge your senator and the committee leadership to support Sen. Rockefeller's SSB 5372.**

Also, e-mail your representative on **House Appropriations**—Rep. Helen Sommers is chair, and Rep. Hans Dunshee is vice-chair. **Urge your representatives to support Rep. Upthegrove's SHB 1374.**

Contact: Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, aagaarda@nwlink.com

ANY BILL WITH A FISCAL NOTE HAS UNTIL MARCH 5 TO BE VOTED OUT OF THE FISCAL COMMITTEE IN ITS HOUSE OF ORIGIN...

EXCEPT FOR BILLS THAT TOUCH ON BUDGETS AND MATTERS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENTING BUDGETS.

HB 1658 and SB 5659—Establishing a Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program

These bills would establish a program that allows parents to take paid time off from work for to bond with a newborn or newly placed child, or allow people to take paid time off to care for seriously ill family members or to recover from their own serious health condition.

League Positions: (LWVUS) Early Intervention for Children At Risk; Health Care; Welfare; Meeting Basic Human Needs

Status: HB 1658 was voted out of committee February 23 and now goes to **House Appropriations** to await scheduling for hearing. SB 5659 passed out of the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee on Tuesday, February 27 to **Senate Ways & Means**.

Action: Call your representatives if any of them are members of the **House Appropriations Committee**, and ask them to vote **HB 1658** out of committee (**Appropriations effectively has until March 3**). Also, call your senator if she or he is on **Senate Ways & Means** and ask that **SB 5659** be voted out of committee **by the Monday, March 5, cut-off date for consideration of bills in fiscal committee of house of origin.**

Contact: Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, mpreeves@comcast.net

OPPOSE—SB 6040 / HB 2062—Creating a Public Speedway Authority

This legislation would provide exemptions to the Growth Management Act, the Forest Practices Act, and other land use laws concerning annexations and scenic areas to accommodate the NASCAR speedway (a public recreation facility). It would also establish tax provisions and lease authority for a NASCAR speedway, and address other economic issues relating to building a public speedway. The companion bills are now being considered in fiscal committees.

League Positions: Our opposition to this legislation is based on these positions:

- Economic Diversification: "The quality of the environment should be a prime consideration when making economic decisions. The environment should not be permitted to degrade."
- Land Use: Uniqueness or scarcity... as well as the irreversibility of the decisions should be considered in resolving conflicts in each case. [Regional authorities] All governments and groups involved must cooperate to resolve conflicts and eliminate inconsistent policies ... wasted resources and irrevocable decisions on a patchwork basis.

Status: SB 6040 is in **Senate Ways & Means**. The companion bill HB 2062 is in House Finance.

Action: E-mail your senator immediately if he or she is on the **Senate Ways & Means** Committee and urge them to vote NO on SB 6040. Also, contact your representative on the House Finance Committee as well as committee chair Rep. Ross Hunter and urge a NO vote on HB 2062.

Contact: Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, aagaarda@nwlink.com

Other ACTION ITEMS

“If you can make another call or two...”

SUPPORT—Asthma Pilot Program Budget Proviso

Rep. Shay Schual-Berke introduced a budget proviso (DSHS-Medical Assistance Program) to the **House Appropriations** Committee to provide home visits for 720 Medicaid children in King County. \$466,000 would be provided for the first two years of a four year project (\$198,000 for fiscal year 2008, and \$268,000 for 2009). The home visits would be provided by trained community health workers of Seattle-King County Health. The program would be evaluated for its impact on urgent physician visits, emergency room utilization, and in-patient hospitalization. It is estimated that there could be a net savings of over \$1,000 per child. An effort would be made to use the savings to expand the program to all 39,000 children in Washington state with moderate to severe asthma.

League Positions: (LWVUS) Early Intervention for Children At Risk; Health Care; (LWVWA) Health Care

Status: Under discussion in **House Appropriations Committee**.

Action: Please contact members on this committee and ask that they let the chair and you know if they can support this proviso. We understand that if there is enough support expressed to the committee members in the next 8 to 18 days, the item will appear in the House budget. A similar effort will be made in the Senate with the leadership of Sen Kohl-Welles. *Talking Point: This expenditure will reduce health costs and help the children learn and work. There will be fewer days missed from school.*

Contact: John Roberts, 425-868-9439, jrahimsa@seattle-ts.org

SUPPORT—**SHB 1071**—Health Care Services for Children

This is the companion bill to SB 5093, which was passed in the Senate on 2/14/07. These bills would significantly increase access to health care for children (see Background in **Legislative Newsletter, Vol. 39, No. 3, January 26-January 31, 2007**).

League Position: LWVWA position on health care supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services. These bills move the system toward the goal of universal coverage for children.

Status: Substitute House Bill 1071 is scheduled to be heard in the **House Appropriations Committee** 3/1/07, and it is anticipated that it will be moved on to a House vote.

Action: Urge your representative to support and vote for Substitute House Bill 1071.

Contact: Ann L. Brand, 206-533-6269, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**HB 1460** and **SB 5446**—Extending Mental Health Parity

These bills would extend existing mental health parity requirements to individual and small group plans.

League Position: LWVWA has been a member of the Washington Coalition for Insurance Parity since 2000 and was a strong supporter of the bill that passed last year to achieve parity for mental health coverage in the large group insurance market. The goal has always been to include people insured through individual and small group insurance plans under the parity requirements.

Status: **Good news!** EHB 1460 passed in the House, 75 to 22. The companion bill in the Senate has progressed to the **Rules Committee**.

Action: Urge your senator to support this bill and vote for it when it reaches the floor.

Contact: Ann L. Brand, 206-533-6269, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**HB 1886** and **SB 5756**—**Creating the Washington Health Security Trust**

These bills would create a single-payer, universal access system of health care for Washington. These bills offer a means of achieving universal coverage for all Washingtonians.

League Position: LWVWA supports universal access for all residents to a comprehensive, uniform, and affordable set of health services.

Status: Both bills have been heard in their respective committees: **House Health Care & Wellness Committee** and **Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee**.

Action: If your legislator serves on either of these committees, contact him/her asking that he/she support moving the bill out of committee with a “do-pass” recommendation.

Contact: Ann L. Brand, 206-533-6269, anklbrand@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**HB 1827** and **SB 6054**—**Requiring a Tax Expenditure Report as Part of Biennial Budget Documents**

A tax expenditure report as part of the state’s budget documents would provide current information about the cost of tax exemptions at the time the legislature is considering spending and revenue measures for the biennial budget.

League Position: Any tax exemption proposal should be carefully evaluated for purpose, benefit, and cost; and, all tax exemptions should be periodically reviewed.

Status: HB1827 will be considered in executive session in **House Finance Committee** on Friday, March 2. SB 6054 has been referred to **Senate Ways & Means Committee**, but has not yet been scheduled for a hearing in that committee.

Action: If you have a representative on the **Senate Ways & Means Committee**, call or e-mail them urging that they schedule the bill for a hearing and support it.

Contact: Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, omi.bush@verizon.net

OPPOSE—**HB 2117**—**Reenacting Initiative 747**

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: It is expected to be reported out of **House Finance Committee** before cutoff Monday.

Action: Please contact the House Leadership and your representatives before end of day Monday and tell them you oppose HB 2117. Urge them instead to take time to consider all the property tax reform measures that have been introduced.

Contact: Barbara Bush, 425-349-5184, omi.bush@verizon.net

SUPPORT—**SHB 1036**—**Renewable Energy**

SHB 1036 would establish a Clean Streams Grant Program to assist anaerobic digestion power producers by bringing down the cost of the initial capital investment. Purpose: Reduce global warming and reduce pollution from manure.

League Position: LWVUS Energy point 5

Status: Has been heard in **House Appropriations Committee**. *Needs to pass Appropriations by March 5.*

Action: If your representative is on the Appropriations Committee, call NOW and ask for their support on SHB 1036.

Contact: Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**SB 6001**—**Mitigating the Impacts of Climate Change**

The purpose of this bill is to lessen global warming. The bill would

- Establish state goals to reduce greenhouse gases emissions
- Require the Department of Ecology to establish a greenhouse gas emissions performance standard for electric utilities operating in the state
- Authorize the Department of General Administration to purchase 100 plug-in hybrid vehicles when commercially available
- Authorize municipal electric utilities and public utility districts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from their electricity operations and purchases
- Create the Office of Washington State Climatologist
- Create a public utility tax credit for consumer-owned utilities that invest in energy efficiency measures

League Position: LWVUS Energy elements 3 & 5

Status: Bill passed in the **Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee** and is now in **Senate Rules**.

Action: Ask **Senate Rules Committee** members to “pull” the bill. Also, **ask ALL SENATORS to vote for it.**

Contact: Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**HB 1303**—**Encouraging the Use of Cleaner Energy**

This is one of the environmental **Priorities for a Healthy Washington**. To reduce fossil fuel dependence and build our clean energy economy, the state should develop policies and incentives that help businesses, consumers, and farmers gain greater access to affordable clean fuels and affordable clean vehicles, and to produce clean fuels in our state. This bill would encourage development of such policies and incentives. The purpose is to lessen greenhouse gases and other pollution.

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

Status: **HB 1303** is in **House Rules** .

Action: If you are a constituent of any of the Rules Committee members, call and ask them to “pull” the bill. Committee members are **Chopp, Chair (D); *DeBolt; Armstrong; Bailey; Buri; Ericks; Ericksen; Grant; Green; Hudgins; Hurst; Kelley; Kessler; Kristiansen; Lovick; McCoy; McCune; McDonald; Morrell; Ormsby; Santos; Springer; Sump; Williams**. Also, **ask ALL SENATORS to vote for it.**

Contact: Toni Potter, 206-365-8949, antoniapotter@comcast.net

SUPPORT—**SB 6010, SB 6011 & SB 6012**—**Maury Island Aquatic Reserve**

SB 6011 would create an aquatic reserve off Maury Island, located in Puget Sound east of Vashon Island between Seattle and Tacoma. The other two bills, SB 6010 and SB 6012, would respectively

- Establish concurrence requirements that would have to be met before a permit could be issued for activities associated with gravel barging occurring within an aquatic reserve, and
- Amend the Shoreline Management Act to allow counties to adopt a shoreline master program provision specific to shorelines of the state located on inhabited islands within Puget Sound.

League Positions: Land Use: “Uniqueness or scarcity, aesthetics ... as well as irreversibility of the decisions should be considered in resolving conflicts in each case.”

Status: SB 6010, SB 6011, and SB 6012 have passed out of the committees and are on the second reading calendar in **Senate Rules**.

Action: E-mail your senator on the **Senate Rules** Committee. Lt. Gov. Brad Owen is chair, and Sen. Rosa Franklin is Vice Chair. Your message in SUPPORT is of critical importance as the lobbying opposition is well-funded and powerful. Message: Millions of dollars are being spent—and millions more will be spent—cleaning up and restoring the Sound. These investments must not be undermined by projects such as the Maury Island gravel mine and dock facility that, if permitted and allowed, would cause new damage to the Sound and its resources.

Contact: Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, aagaarda@nwlinc.com

OPPOSE—HB 1748—Expedited Hydraulic Permits and Flood Protection

This bill would exempt expedited permits from State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review and would require local governments under certain circumstances to declare a “chronic danger” even when this determination of chronic danger was not based on substantiated data. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife OPPOSES this bill.

League Positions: Land use: "The effect on environmental quality must always be considered whenever state and local governments and their agencies make decisions"

Status: The bill is in Rules.

Action: E-mail your representatives on [House Rules](#) Committee and/or House Speaker Frank Chopp and urge them to vote NAY.

Contact: Ann Aagaard, 425-488-8418, aagaarda@nwlinc.com

SUPPORT—SHB 1186 and SSB 5226—Public Funding of Judicial Campaigns

The goal of public financing of campaigns is to reduce the impact of special interests in campaigns. SHB 1186 incorporates a number of features of HB 1589, including a 6-year pilot project provision, and is an agreed upon bill between Representative Shay Schual-Berke and the Governor. The substitute included changes to limit verbiage to public financing with a strengthened fair fight fund mechanism, including penalties. Controls over independent expenditures have been dropped, as has a pledge. It will be amended further to strengthen it even more. The Senate bill would establish a six-year pilot program of public campaign financing for appeals and supreme court judges. HB 1589 is SSB 5226's companion bill in the House, and will likely be replaced by the more robust SHB 1186.

League Positions:

- Administration of Justice: Action to ensure that our courts are fair, efficient, accessible and staffed with qualified personnel.
- Campaign Financing: Campaign contributions should be limited. These limits should apply to both state and out-of-state contributions. The PDC should implement laws pertaining to these limitations.
- Representative Government: Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and promote citizen participation in the election process.

Status: SHB 1186 has passed to [House Appropriations](#). No hearing has been scheduled for SSB 5226 by [Senate Ways & Means](#).

Action: Contact [House Appropriations](#) members from your district to include dollars for SHB 1186. Also, contact [Senate Ways & Means](#) Committee members from your district urging them to include dollars for SSB 5226

Contact: Susan Sanders, 253-833-9376, DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name

SUPPORT—SSB 5278 and SHB 1551—Public Funding of Campaigns for Local Office

These bills would lift the ban (imposed in 1992 by Initiative 134) on the use of public funds to finance political campaigns for local elective offices. (The ban on use of public funds to finance statewide campaigns would remain.)

League Positions:

- Representative Government: Action to facilitate changes in the state constitution to achieve a representative and effective state legislature. Action to limit methods of financing political campaigns in order to ensure the public's right to know, combat undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office, and promote citizen participation in the election process.
- Campaign Financing: Campaign contributions should be limited. These limits should apply to both state and out-of-state contributions. The PDC should implement laws pertaining to these limitations.

Status: SSB 5278, modified to apply only to cities, and SHB 1551, modified so no state or federal funding could be used, are out of **Senate Rules** and **House Rules** and are ready for second hearing in their respective houses.

Action: Contact your **Legislators** to support the bills.

Contact: Susan Sanders, 253-833-9376, DavidAndSusan@Sanders.name

SUPPORT—SHB 1855 and SB 5297—Sex Education in the Schools

These identical bills would require that sexual education taught in schools be comprehensive.

League Positions: LWVUS Meeting Basic Human Needs (Access to sex education programs); LWVWA Reproductive Rights

Status: Both bills were voted out of committee with a “do pass” recommendation. Both are in their respective Rules Committees awaiting a second reading.

Action: Please continue to ask your representatives in **House Rules** and your senators in **Senate Rules** to support these bills.

Contact: Wayne Martin, 425-746-9960, docmartin934@aol.com

SUPPORT—HB 1363—Voter Registration at State Agencies

HB 1363 would make voter registration available at state agencies. These agencies would be required to keep records of voter registration activity, including changes of address, for all people receiving in-person public services; and would be required to have a link on the agency’s main agency webpage to the WA Secretary of State’s voter registration web page.

League Position: “Registration should be simple and convenient for voters while ensuring accuracy.”
P in A, Page 12

Status: Referred to Appropriations Committee

Action: Contact your representative in Appropriations and ask them to support this bill.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

SUPPORT—SB 5561—Later Voter Registration Deadlines

SB 5561 would allow voter registrations up to and on Election Day. This bill has passed to the Rules Committee. Testimony in the Senate Committee on Government Operations & Elections was about the logistics of registering voters when ballots have already been mailed out and have been in the voters’ hands for a couple weeks, and expressed concerns that voters could register and receive an additional ballot on election day. The reality is that registration materials would be processed after the ballots for the election had been processed.

League Position: In *Impact on Issues*, page 8, “. . . the League continues to support same-day voter registration and/or shortening the period between registration and voting.”

Status: This bill has passed to the Rules Committee. Like past changes in voter registration deadlines, the opposing side cites administrative difficulties. One cannot imagine that these procedures cannot be reworked to allow some form of same-day voter registration.

Action: Contact your representative on the Rules Committee and request support.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

SUPPORT—HB 1654—Random Audits of Ballot Counting Equipment

HB 1654 would modify canvassing provisions to allow (upon mutual agreement of the political party observers or at the discretion of the county auditor) a random audit of ballot counting equipment in counties voting entirely by mail. The bill does not state what is to be done if there is a difference between the manual and hand count. In fact, the audit language in this legislation gives no real guidelines to the auditors other than to state (in Section 3(4) of the bill) that up to either three precincts

or three batches, depending on the ballot counting procedures in the county, would be checked. Instead, the bill would allow procedures to be established by each county canvassing board. The recent election reform study resulted in the following board-approved consensus statement (which will be brought to state league delegates at the June convention): “LWV Washington supports random audits of all ballots, with the percentage of ballots audited to be determined by a statistician.” The bill is in Rules. League supports this bill with amendments.

League Position: In the consensus report developed after the election reform study, the following statement was made and approved by the LWVWA Board: “LWV Washington supports random audits of all ballots, with the percentage of ballots audited to be determined by a statistician.”

Status: HB 1654 has passed to the Rules Committee.

Action: Contact your representative on the Rules Committee and ask that this bill be strengthened by adding a section requiring that the percentage of ballots audited be determined by a statistician.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

SUPPORT—SB 5628—Direct Popular Vote

SB 5628 would authorize the governor to enter into an interstate agreement that would require that Washington’s electoral votes be awarded to the presidential candidate who receives the most popular votes in the country as a whole, instead of to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the state of Washington. In *Impact on Issues*, the section on electing the President states “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government.” League supports this bill.

League Position: In *Impact on Issues*, the section on electing the President states “The League of Women Voters of the United States believes that the direct-popular-vote method for electing the President and Vice-President is essential to representative government.”

Status: SB 5628 has passed to Rules Committee.

Action: Contact your representative on the Rules Committee and request support for this bill.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

SUPPORT—SB 5530—Restoration of Voting Rights

SB 5530 would allow persons convicted of felonies, but not in total confinement or total custody, to register and vote. The bill is in Rules. In *Impact on Issues*, Page 2: “Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.” League supports this bill.

League Position: In *Impact on Issues*, Page 2 “Protect the right of all citizens to vote; encourage all citizens to vote.”

Status: SB 5530 has passed to Rules Committee.

Action: Contact your representative on the Rules Committee and request support for this bill.

Contact: Betty Sullivan, 206-682-5240, jaybetty2@msn.com

~~~~~  
**ADDITIONAL BACKGROUND**

### **Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement**

SSB 5089, which would conform the Washington state sales and use tax to the **Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement**, passed the Senate on February 2. In the House, it was passed to the Rules Committee for 2nd reading on February 26.

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

## Education Budget

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Education introduced its Education Budget on February 26, held a public hearing the morning of February 27 and adopted it that evening. It will now go to the full Appropriations Committee. Although there are parts of the budget that we support because they would add to basic education funding (transportation, K-3 class size reduction, non-employee related costs, special education), we do not support funding of pilot projects and grants that do not support the education of all children.

**Contact:** Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com) or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, [nancyjander@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjander@comcast.net)

## Appointed Versus Elected School Boards

SB 5535 had a public hearing in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee on Feb. 22. LWV of Washington and LWV of Seattle testified against the bill, as did the majority of others. The chair of the committee announced on Feb. 25 that the prime sponsor asked that the bill be withdrawn.

**Contact:** Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com) or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, [nancyjander@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjander@comcast.net)

## Simple Majority for School Levies

SJR 8207 was brought up for a floor vote in the Senate on February 28. Sen. Hargrove introduced a “November-only” amendment that said school levies could appear only on the ballot in November. The education community has been opposing this idea but was going along with it because a compromise would allow the bill to pass the Senate, and because there was still a possibility for the bill to get “fixed” in the House. However, Sen. Jacobsen complained that bills he had introduced to help the Seattle School District were never given a hearing and that therefore he would vote “no.” Senate Majority Leader Brown (a supporter of the bill) then also voted “no” so that she could move to reconsider the bill (see SR 8601, Rule 37). The vote was 30 yeas, 17 nays and 2 excused. Because SJR 8207 would amend the constitution, a supermajority vote is needed (in the Senate, that’s 33 votes). So, Simple Majority for School Levies still awaits passage by the legislature so that the people can vote on it. Those voting “no” on SJR 8207 were: Senators Brown (so she could bring it up for reconsideration), Carrell, Delvin, Hewitt, Holmquist, Honeyford, Jacobsen, McCaslin, Morton, Parlette, Pflug, Roach, Schoesler, Sheldon, Stevens, Swecker, and Zarelli. Senators Benton and Shin were excused and therefore didn’t vote.

**Contact:** Catherine Ahl, 360-697-7924, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com) or Nancy Jander, 253-851-9260, [nancyjander@comcast.net](mailto:nancyjander@comcast.net)

## Child Care Centers, Early Education Programs, Home Visiting Programs

SHB 1663 would establish an Early Learning Advisory Council, implement a five-star voluntary rating system for child care centers and early education programs, and outline the sharing of responsibilities between public and private entities (namely, the Department of Early Learning and Thrive By Five Washington, respectively). The substitute version of this bill adds much of the home visiting language from HB 1365 to HB 1663, directing the funding of evidence-based and promising home-visiting programs. It would also change the name of the Washington Council for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (WCPCAN) to the Children’s Trust Fund of Washington (CTFW) and would create a plan for coordination or consolidation of home visiting programs with the WA Dept of Social and Health Services (DSHS), the WA Dept. of Health (DOH), the WA Dept of Early Learning (DEL), and the Family Policy Council, with this work to be reported to the Legislature by the end of this year. HB 1663 was heard March 1 in House Appropriations. Sen. Kauffman sponsored a companion bill (SSB 5828) in the

Senate, but now that home visiting has been added to HB 1663, the Senate bill (which had a public hearing on February 28) is closer to the original version of the House bill. Sen. Kauffman also sponsored a version of the home-visiting bill which is now different from the House version. That bill, SSB 5830, is in Senate Rules.

**Contact:** Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)

### Welfare Program Oversight

A bill sponsored by Rep. Walsh, HB 2312, would provide legislative oversight of WorkFirst (Washington state's welfare program) and temporary assistance to needy families. These programs would be reviewed at least four times a year by a committee of lawmakers and members of the governor's cabinet. At a public hearing on this bill, a welfare rights group supported this oversight as much needed to protect their rights. Rep. Kagi said that we are the only state without an oversight committee. HB 2312 was passed out of the Early Learning and Children's Services Committee before the cut-off date for bills to be passed out of policy committees.

**Contact:** Marjorie Reeves, 360-866-7507, [mpreeves@comcast.net](mailto:mpreeves@comcast.net)

---

## FOR REFERENCE

### Key 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 HB)

**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

### CONTACT LISTS

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

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

### LEAGUE POSITIONS

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

### RESOURCES

League action website – [lvvva.org/advocacy](http://lvvva.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](https://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo)

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

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

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

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