



# League of Women Voters of Washington

Barbara Seitle, President // Barbara L. Bush, Action Chair // Newsletter edited by Stasha McBride

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

Legislative Newsletter, Vol.41, No.7

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## Action Priority

28 February - 6 March 2009

"If you have time this week to make only one phone call..."

### Support – [HB 1754](#) – Concerning continuity of child care

This bill provides small changes for state subsidized children in child care, which benefits low-income working families. It addresses the number of days a child can be absent, percentage of income for family's co-pay and eligibility for the state subsidy.

**League Position** - LWVWA supports "policies and programs that promote the well-being and safety of all children."

**Status** - The bill has overcome the first hurdle - it was passed unanimously out of the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. Now it has been referred to the House Ways & Means Committee where it needs another hearing and a vote. **There's not much time to get the bill over this next hurdle. The cutoff date is less than a week away.**

**ACTION** – If your legislator is on the House Ways & Means ([Linville](#), Chair, [Ericks](#), Vice Chair, [Alexander](#), [Bailey](#), [Dammeier](#), [Chandler](#), [Cody](#), [Conway](#), [Darneille](#), [Haigh](#), [Hinkle](#), [Hunt](#), [Hunter](#), [Kagi](#), [Kenney](#), [Kessler](#), [Pettigrew](#), [Priest](#), [Ross](#), [Schmick](#), [Sequist](#), and [Sullivan](#)) please call and ask her/him to pass [HB 1754](#) out of committee.

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

## Action Items

### Support – [SB 5534](#) – Restoration of voting rights

Creating a system to automatically restore the right to vote for people who were convicted of felonies and who have come out of the criminal justice system.

**League Position** - LWVUS believes that voting is a fundamental citizen right that must be guaranteed. LWVWA believes that registration should be simple and convenient for voters while ensuring accuracy.

**Status** - [SB 5534](#) was reported out by Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and sent on to Senate Rules Committee.

**ACTION** - **Help is needed urgently** in the Senate to show enough favorable votes that Rules Committee will bring the bill to the floor. **Everyone please call or email your Senator** and ask him/her to support [SB 5534](#). To contact your Senator, go to [www.leg.wa.gov](http://www.leg.wa.gov) click on Senate, and then click on Senators. You will get the Senator's legislative page with email and phone information. If you get a definite response (positive or negative), please email [bseitle@whidbey.com](mailto:bseitle@whidbey.com) with the information.

**Message** - Please support this bill. This is a "good government" bill because it simplifies a complicated, costly and ineffective process. It provides a bright line for elections officials and is less costly to administer than the current system. Restoring the right to vote encourages people to reconnect with their communities and become good citizens.

**Contact** - Barbara Seitle, [bseitle@whidbey.com](mailto:bseitle@whidbey.com), 360 221 3792

### Civics Instruction Bill Passes House - [HB 2132](#) - Relating to instruction in civics

The State Board of Education establishes high school graduation requirements. This past year it proposed "Core 24" – the 24 credits required for admission to state universities. A half-credit was added to the required social studies credits without designating what course that should be. [HB 2132](#) would make that half-credit a civics class when, or if, Core 24 is funded and takes effect.

**League Position** - LWV believes that democratic government depends upon informed and active participation in government.

**Status** - The House passed [HB 2132](#) by a vote of 94-0 at 11:56 AM on February 27.

**ACTION** - Contact your Representatives and thank them for voting for [HB 2132](#), and thanks to all of you who contacted your Representatives and let me know. We will concentrate on the Senate on Lobby Day, March 12.

**Message** - Preparation for citizenship is as important as preparation for college and a career, and civics education should take its place as a requirement for receiving a high school diploma.

**Contact** - Catherine Ahl, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com), 360 697 7924

**Support** - [SB 5810](#) - Concerns foreclosures on deeds of trust

Deeds of trust are a type of security interest in real property. The Deeds of Trust Act establishes procedures for foreclosure. The borrower (grantor) grants a deed creating a lien on the real property to a third party (the trustee) who holds the deed in trust as security for an obligation due to the lender (the beneficiary). This bill would require a mortgagee or beneficiary, before filing a notice of default, to contact the borrower and assess the borrower's financial situation and explore alternatives to foreclosure. [SB 5810](#) also provides that a tenant of residential property that was sold in foreclosure shall have 60 days written notice before the tenant may be removed from the property. The bill also provides that, even if a borrower fails to bring a court action to stop a foreclosure, he/she does not waive certain claims the borrower may have, such as claims based on fraud or breach of a trustee's duty. Duties owed by the trustee to the borrower are also specified. The bills give the borrower and tenant of the property more time and more protection.

**League Position** - The League believes that there is an increased need for consumer protection in the area of housing, and protection of tenants and homeowners.

**Status** - [SB 5810](#), and companion bill [HB 1942](#) were requested by Governor Gregoire. [SB 5810](#) was introduced on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, and was referred to the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee. On February 18 there was a public hearing in committee and, on February 25, a substitute bill was offered and passed to the Senate Rules Committee for second reading. [HB 1942](#) failed to make the cutoff of February 25<sup>th</sup>.

**ACTION** - Ask your senator on the Rules Committee ([Franklin](#), [Hewitt](#), [Brown](#), [Eide](#), [Fraser](#), [Haugen](#), [Kauffman](#), [Keiser](#), [King](#), [Kohl-Welles](#), [Marr](#), [Murray](#), [Parlette](#), [Pridemore](#), [Regala](#), [Schoesler](#), [Stevens](#) and [Zarelli](#)) to vote for a second reading for this bill. If your senator is not on Rules Committee, ask that [SB 5810](#) be supported and passed.

**Contact** – Betty Sullivan, [jaybetty2@msn.com](mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com), 206 682 5240

**Support** - [HB 1766](#) & [SB 5672](#) - Prohibiting discrimination based on lawful source of income

These bills would make it illegal to discriminate against those using Section 8 housing vouchers, for example, to pay for rent. They would include any verifiable legal income, including that derived from employment, social security, supplemental security income, other retirement programs, child support, alimony, and other assistance programs, such as housing assistance, public assistance, and general assistance programs. The bills include a schedule of civil penalties, beginning at \$10,000 for the first unfair practice to a maximum of \$50,000 for two or more instances in a seven-year period.

**League position** - League believes that discrimination against low-income people is an injustice that should not be tolerated.

**Status** - (See status report as of February 19<sup>th</sup> in last weeks' newsletter.) Both bills have now passed to Rules Committee for second reading.

**ACTION** - Please ask your Senator and Representatives to support these bills and see them to the floor of both houses. All legislators should support the bills.

**Contact** – Betty Sullivan, [jaybetty2@msn.com](mailto:jaybetty2@msn.com), 206 682 5240

**Support** - [HB 1614](#) - Relating to petroleum pollution in storm water

Also known as "Invest in Clean Water," this substitute bill clarifies that the fee, to be imposed on the first possession of petroleum products, relates to petroleum products that contribute to storm water pollution: asphalt and road oil, lubricants, motor vehicle fuel, motor diesel fuel, residual fuel oil and others determined by Department of Ecology that contribute to storm water pollution in the state.

**League Positions** - Water management requires strict enforcement of water quality laws.

**Status** - The substitute bill passed out of the House Committee on Capital Budget and is now in House Rules.

**ACTION** - Contact your representative and urge her/him to support this bill when it comes to a floor vote. This bill would generate \$100 million annually which could be invested in storm water projects to reduce pollution in our lakes, streams, and Puget Sound waters.

**Contact** - Ann Aagaard, [ann\\_aagaard@verizon.net](mailto:ann_aagaard@verizon.net), 425 488 8418

**Oppose** - **SB 5836** - Facilitating the transport of materials used in infrastructure projects, including transportation infrastructure projects, through marine transportation facilities

This bill preempts local control and local decision-making by exempting sand and gravel hauled by barge/tug from the Growth Management Act and the Shoreline Management Act and gives authority for permitting to the Department of Natural Resources. The bill would undercut the careful work done by local governments to protect Puget Sound and would undercut efforts to restore the health of Puget Sound by 2020. Intensive industrial use is not good for the Puget Sound shoreline (where currently no such uses exist). The bill supports the private ambitions of one company, Fred Hill sand and gravel in Jefferson County.

**League Positions** - Guidelines and procedures established at state level for local planning and implementation must be comprehensive.

**Status** - Heard in Senate Transportation Committee. Must be passed out of Committee by Monday.

**ACTION** - Contact your Senator on the Transportation Committee ([Haugen](#), [Marr](#), [Becker](#), [Benton](#), [Berkey](#), [Delvin](#), [Eide](#), [Jacobsen](#), [Jarrett](#), [Kastama](#), [Kauffman](#), [Kilmer](#), [King](#), [Ranker](#), [Swecker](#), [Sheldon](#)) and ask him/her **not** to vote the bill out of Committee.

**Contact** - Ann Aagaard, [ann\\_aagaard@verizon.net](mailto:ann_aagaard@verizon.net), 425 488 8418

**Support** – **SB 5735/2SHB 1819** - Reducing greenhouse gases

These bills, known as Cap and Invest, establish a program to meet our global warming pollution reduction goals. The Senate bill is voluntary and allows polluters to buy permits to pollute (money from sales of the permits will go into the general fund). These important bills have had League input over the last two years and are an essential step in the right direction. They are one of the four Priorities for a Healthy Washington, which the League has endorsed.

**League Position** - LWVUS Climate Change Position

**Status** - This is a Governor's request bill. The Senate bill is currently in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. The House bill is in Rules.

**ACTION** - If your Senator is on the Ways & Means Committee, ([Prentice](#), [Fraser](#), [Tom](#), [Zarelli](#), [Brandland](#), [Carrell](#), [Fairley](#), [Hewitt](#), [Hobbs](#), [Honeyford](#), [Keiser](#), [Kline](#), [Kohl-Welles](#), [McDermott](#), [Murray](#), [Oemig](#), [Parlette](#), [Pflug](#), [Pridemore](#), [Regala](#), [Rockefeller](#), and [Schoesler](#)) call and ask her/him to support this bill. If your Representative is on House Rules ([Chopp](#), [DeBolt](#), [Armstrong](#), [Bailey](#), [Eddy](#), [Ericks](#), [Green](#), [Hasegawa](#), [Hinkle](#), [Hudgins](#), [Johnson](#), [Kelley](#), [Kessler](#), [Kretz](#), [Kristiansen](#), [Lias](#), [Moeller](#), [Morrell](#), [Morris](#), [Santos](#), [Schmick](#), [Springer](#), [Van De Wege](#), and [Warnick](#)) call and ask her/him to support this bill.

**Contact** - Toni Potter, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net), 206 365 8949

**Support** – **SB 5854/HB 1747**- Reducing climate change in the built environment

This bill will (1) promote super-efficient, low-energy-use building codes (2) require disclosure of buildings' energy use scores (similar to a vehicle's MPG rating) to prospective buyers (3) make our public buildings models of energy efficiency and (4) finance energy-saving upgrades to existing buildings. This important bill is one of four Priorities for a Healthy Washington, which the League has endorsed.

**League Position** - The League supports use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies. The League supports mandatory energy conservation measures, and assistance for low-income individuals when energy policies bear unduly on people who are

economically poor.

**Status** - The House Bill will be voted on in the House Ways & Means Committee on Monday 2 March at 1:30. The Senate bill is currently in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

**ACTION** – If your Representative is on House Ways & Means, ([Linville](#), [Ericks](#), [Alexander](#), [Bailey](#), [Dammeier](#), [Chandler](#), [Cody](#), [Conway](#), [Darneille](#), [Haigh](#), [Hinkle](#), [Hunt](#), [Hunter](#), [Kagi](#), [Kenney](#), [Kessler](#), [Pettigrew](#), [Priest](#), [Ross](#), [Schmick](#), [Seaquist](#), and [Sullivan](#)) **call before 1:30 on Monday** and ask her/him to support this bill and find some creative funding as we know there is no money in the general fund without cutting existing programs. If your Senator is on Senate Ways & Means, ([Prentice](#), [Fraser](#), [Tom](#), [Zarelli](#), [Brandland](#), [Carrell](#), [Fairley](#), [Hewitt](#), [Hobbs](#), [Honeyford](#), [Keiser](#), [Kline](#), [Kohl-Welles](#), [McDermott](#), [Murray](#), [Oemig](#), [Parlette](#), [Pflug](#), [Pridemore](#), [Regala](#), [Rockefeller](#), and [Schoesler](#)) call and ask him/her to support the bill, and find some creative funding as we know there is no money in the general fund without cutting existing programs.

**Contact** - Toni Potter, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net), 206 365 8949

**Support** – [SB 6029](#) - Eliminating certain tax incentives related to nonrenewable energy and expanding tax incentives related to renewable resources and energy efficient equipment.

This bill will replace the state subsidies for oil and coal with subsidies for renewable energy and energy efficient appliances. Our current economic crisis demands careful choices about existing and historical tax incentives. Now is the time to shift outdated tax incentives away from the already very profitable fossil fuel based industries that damage the health and welfare of our citizens, damage the environment, and damage our economy. It is past time that such tax incentives were transferred to renewable energy sources and energy efficient technology in order to support the cheapest, quickest and cleanest way to meet rising energy needs, confront climate change, boost our economy, and protect the health and welfare of our citizens.

**League Position** - The League supports use of a variety of energy sources, with emphasis on conserving energy and using energy-efficient technologies.

**Status** - Currently in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

**ACTION** - If your senator is on the above committee, ([Prentice](#), [Fraser](#), [Tom](#), [Zarelli](#), [Brandland](#), [Carrell](#), [Fairley](#), [Hewitt](#), [Hobbs](#), [Honeyford](#), [Keiser](#), [Kline](#), [Kohl-Welles](#), [McDermott](#), [Murray](#), [Oemig](#), [Parlette](#), [Pflug](#), [Pridemore](#), [Regala](#), [Rockefeller](#), and [Schoesler](#)) call and ask him/her to support the bill.

**Contact** - Toni Potter, [antoniapotter@comcast.net](mailto:antoniapotter@comcast.net), 206 365 8949

**Support** – [SB 5629](#) - Pregnancy Prevention Programs

This bill removes the requirement the Department of Health (DOH) apply for abstinence only funds and allows DOH to apply for comprehensive sex education funds.

**League Position** - LWV supports reproductive rights.

**Status** - The bill has been placed on second reading in the Rules Committee and is near to being placed on the calendar for a vote in the Senate.

**ACTION** - Please contact your Senator and ask her/him to vote for passage.

**Contact** - Wayne Martin, MD, [docmartin934@aol.com](mailto:docmartin934@aol.com), 425 746 9960

**Support** - [SHB 1493](#) - Prohibiting the use of patient health care information for prescription drug marketing

[SHB 1493](#) would prohibit sale or sharing of any health care information for the purpose of marketing prescription drugs to patients. This legislation is part of the legislature's commitment to promote evidence-based practices and cost containment.

**League Position** - "Quality health care at an affordable cost" is a basic goal for health stated by the LWVUS. The practice prohibited by this bill is a cost driver and influences prescribing practices that may not be in the best interests of health care consumers.

**Status** – [SHB 1493](#) passed out of the House Health Care & Wellness Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

**ACTION** - If your representative is on the House Rules Committee, ([Chopp](#), [DeBolt](#), [Armstrong](#), [Bailey](#),

Eddy, Ericks, Green, Hasegawa, Hinkle, Hudgins, Johnson, Kelley, Kessler, Kretz, Kristiansen, Liias, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Santos, Schmick, Springer, Van De Wege, and Warnick) ask her/him to support this bill. This bill requires no new money.

**Contact** - Susan Eidenschink, [susaneiden@harbournet.com](mailto:susaneiden@harbournet.com), 253 572 9305

**Support** - [SHB 2114/SSB 5891](#) – Establishing a forum for testing primary care medical home reimbursements pilot programs

These companion bills would require the health care authority and the Department of Social and Health Services to design, oversee implementation of, and evaluate one or more primary care medical home reimbursement pilot projects in the state. A medical home pilot project would include public payers, private health carriers, third party purchasers, and primary health care providers.

**League Position** – Health care system should provide seamless coverage and continuity of care. This bill encourages the medical home concept, which would provide continuity of care.

**Status** – Both bills passed out of committee and are in their respective Rules Committees.

**ACTION** - If your representative is on the House Rules Committee, (Chopp, DeBolt, Armstrong, Bailey, Eddy, Ericks, Green, Hasegawa, Hinkle, Hudgins, Johnson, Kelley, Kessler, Kretz, Kristiansen, Liias, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Santos, Schmick, Springer, Van De Wege, and Warnick) ask her/him to support [SHB 2114](#). If your senator is on the Senate Rules Committee, (Franklin, Hewitt, Brown, Eide, Fraser, Haugen, Kauffman, Keiser, King, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Murray, Parlette, Pridemore, Regala, Schoesler, Stevens and Zarelli) ask her/him to support [SSB 5891](#). These bills require no new money.

**Contact** - Susan Eidenschink, [susaneiden@harbournet.com](mailto:susaneiden@harbournet.com), 253 572 9305

**Support** - [PSSB 5282/PSHB1180](#) - Safe Baby Bottle Act

This bill bans the sale, after 7/1/10, of any bottle, cup or other container containing bisphenol A (BPA) that is intended to be filled with a liquid, food or beverage for consumption by children age 3 or younger. It also bans any sports water bottle made with BPA. These two bans remain in the bill. The original bill also banned the sale of any liquid or food containing BPA at .5 parts per billion if the product was intended for children three and under. This section is now added to the process established for the Department of Ecology to assess alternatives to BPA in other food and beverage containers before enacting any further restrictions.

**League Positions** - LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk supports action to reduce or eliminate threats to young children's full growth, development and safety.

**Fiscal provisions** - The bill provides that the administrative costs to set up the program shall be paid from the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) account. Penalties for non-compliance are also assessed; they are paid into the MTCA account.

**Status** - The bill is in the Rules Committees of both the Senate and the House.

**ACTION** - If your legislator is on the Senate Rules committee, (Franklin, Hewitt, Brown, Eide, Fraser, Haugen, Kauffman, Keiser, King, Kohl-Welles, Marr, Murray, Parlette, Pridemore, Regala, Schoesler, Stevens and Zarelli) or the House Rules committee, (Chopp, DeBolt, Armstrong, Bailey, Eddy, Ericks, Green, Hasegawa, Hinkle, Hudgins, Johnson, Kelley, Kessler, Kretz, Kristiansen, Liias, Moeller, Morrell, Morris, Santos, Schmick, Springer, Van De Wege, and Warnick) please contact him/her asking that the bill move out for a floor vote. Everyone, please contact your legislator urging support for the bill when it comes to a vote on the floor.

**Contact** - Elizabeth Davis, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com), 360 331 4184

**Support** - [SB5279/SHB1165](#). Providing for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted medicines

This bill provides for a producer provided and funded product stewardship program. Producers of drugs sold in Washington must prepare a plan for these unwanted drugs by 1/1/12. The plans must provide for a collection system from residential sources in all counties of the state. Fees will be charged to the producers for the costs of administering the program. There will be no charge to consumers to dispose of these drugs at the collection places.

**League Positions** - LWVUS Natural Resources supports the protection and improvement of water quality, and reduction of pollution. LWVUS Early Intervention for Children at Risk supports action to remove threats

to the health and development of very young children.

**Fiscal provisions** - The initial costs for Department of Ecology to establish the program are under \$50,000, and would be paid as a loan from the state's MTCA fund. That loan would have to be repaid within two years.

**Status** - The action is in the House where the bill is now in the Rules Committee. The bill has stalled in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee after its hearing on February 4.

**ACTION** - If your legislator is on the House Rules Committee, ([Chopp](#), [DeBolt](#), [Armstrong](#), [Bailey](#), [Eddy](#), [Ericks](#), [Green](#), [Hasegawa](#), [Hinkle](#), [Hudgins](#), [Johnson](#), [Kelley](#), [Kessler](#), [Kretz](#), [Kristiansen](#), [Liias](#), [Moeller](#), [Morrell](#), [Morris](#), [Santos](#), [Schmick](#), [Springer](#), [Van De Wege](#), and [Warnick](#)) please contact him/her urging support for the bill and asking that the bill be moved out of committee to a floor vote. If you have not already done so, contact all your legislators urging their support for this bill.

**Contact** - Elizabeth Davis, [elizabethd@whidbey.com](mailto:elizabethd@whidbey.com), 360 331 4184

## Issue Background Items

### GOVERNMENT

#### [SB 5912](#) & [HB 1738](#) The Supreme Court Fair Elections bill

Establishing a program of optional public financing of campaigns for the Washington State Supreme Court thereby allowing candidates the option of financing their campaigns solely or primarily on public financing.

**League Positions** - LWVUS believes that the methods of financing political campaigns should ensure the public's right to know, combat corruption and undue influence, enable candidates to compete more equitably for public office and allow maximum citizen participation in the political process.

**Status** – The bills did not move out of their committees of origin in time so they are dead for this session. However, the House State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee has scheduled a hearing Thursday, March 5, to position the bill for next session. LWVWA will submit testimony.

#### [SB 5476](#) – A bill to abolish the death penalty.

**League Position** – The LWVUS supports the abolition of the death penalty.

**Status** – The bill was heard in Senate Judiciary on February 10. No further action was taken, so the bill is dead for this session.

**Contact** – Barbara Seitle, [bseitle@whidbey.com](mailto:bseitle@whidbey.com), 360 221 3792

### EDUCATION

#### Basic Education Finance

[SB 5444/HB 1410](#) and [SB 5607/HB 1817](#), proposing a new Basic Education Funding structure are now officially “dead” as Legislators and education groups could not reach consensus on either bill. [SB 6048/HB 2261](#) were introduced as “intent only” bills – the intent of the Legislature is declared. [SB 6048](#) passed in the Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education and was sent to Senate Rules, and [HB 2261](#) will likely pass the House Education Appropriations Committee on Monday. The work will continue to come up with specific legislation that will result in full funding for basic education.

**Contact** - Catherine Ahl, [cathahl@hotmail.com](mailto:cathahl@hotmail.com), 360 697 7924

### TRANSPORTATION

[HB 1978/SB 5458](#) – Concerning economic stimulus transportation funding and appropriations Washington will receive \$492m of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) investments. \$340m (69%) are State discretionary funds and \$152m (31%) are allocated to local jurisdictions. Some \$14.8m are designated for enhancement projects. These bills address the State's supplemental budget that ends in June 2009 as well as designating projects in the next biennium. Projects that were delayed because not enough gas tax money was collected are now being moved forward. The Senate and House Transportation Committees jointly developed the list of projects. No local projects were included nor is there any mention of the numerous grants available for transits, ferries, airports, AMTRAK and high speed rail. Both committees have approved and forwarded the bills. The Governor's staff has indicated approval. If you wish to know exactly what is on the list or have general questions regarding the allocations of funds, I would be happy to share my knowledge with you.

**HB 2087** - The Ferry Advisory committees (FACs) were removed from the list of boards, committees and commissions to be cut in **HB 2087** thanks to the many who attended and spoke at the public hearing, made calls, and wrote letters opposing the inclusion of the FACs on the list.

**HB 2044** – Requiring the Washington State Ferry Division to create a comprehensive incident and accident investigation policy was passed out of committee last week and is now in Rules for a second reading.

**HB 1677 & SB 5540** – Establishing high capacity transportation corridor areas allowing transits to establish sub-taxing districts with voter approval for the purpose of funding projects like light rail and/or rapid transit. These bills were approved and passed out of both committees.

Contact – Luella Wells, [lawells@wavecable.com](mailto:lawells@wavecable.com), 360 598 3267

## HEALTH CARE

**SB 5480** – Creating the Washington health care discount plan organization act

This bill establishes standards for discount plan organizations, to protect consumers from unfair or deceptive marketing, sales, or enrollment practices, and facilitates consumer understanding of the role and function of discount plan organizations. The Insurance Commissioner requested this bill. This bill is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

**SSB 5945** – Washington Health Partnership plan – relating to health care reform

This bill has been completely changed. The bill now establishes the Washington Health Partnership as a working group to focus on health reform goals, which include implementation of health reform in phases. **SB 5730** is rolled into this bill extending coverage to individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). This bill includes consolidating purchasing of health coverage and streamlining administration along with examining health reform proposals and selecting one for consideration. A goal of covering all Washington residents by 2012 at an affordable cost is included in the bill. **SSB 5945** is in the Senate Ways & Means Committee and is scheduled for executive action on 2/27/09. This bill does require new money, which may change with the new intent of the bill. I will continue to monitor the progress of this bill.

Contact - Susan Eidenschink, [susaneiden@harbornet.com](mailto:susaneiden@harbornet.com), 253 572 9305

## For Reference

### KEY SESSION DATES

The 61st Washington State Legislature opened its long session on Monday, January 12. The 2009 legislative session in Olympia runs from January 12 to April 26. 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.

**Mar. 2** – Last day to read in committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees in house of origin.

#### **Mar. 12 – League Lobby Day**

**Mar. 12** – Last day to consider bills in house of origin (5 p.m.)

**Mar. 30** – Last day to read in committee reports from opposite house, except House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

**Apr. 6** - Last day to read in opposite house committee reports from House fiscal committees and Senate Ways & Means and Transportation committees.

**Apr. 17** - Last day to consider opposite house bills (5 p.m.) (except initiatives and alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session).\*

**Apr. 26** - Last day allowed for regular session under state constitution.

\* After the 96th day, only initiatives, alternatives to initiatives, budgets and matters necessary to implement budgets, messages pertaining to amendments, differences between the houses, and matters incident to the interim and closing of the session may be considered.

### CONTACT LISTS

Portfolios / Lobby Team – <http://www.lwwwa.org/about/officers.html>

Legislators – <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/DistrictFinder/Default.aspx>

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

## **L**EAGUE POSITIONS

LWVWA positions – <http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/Program%20In%20Action%20website.pdf>

## **R**ESOURCES

League action website - [http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/advocacy\\_index.html](http://www.lwvwa.org/advocacy/advocacy_index.html)

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 (follow “Legislators” link above). 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.