

Weekly Legislative Update: **Children's Issues**

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Bills Needing Action This Week

Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank. A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

HB 2076/SB 6057 Addressing crimes involving human trafficking and sexual exploitation statewide. A coordinating committee is established to address the issue of 28 children who are commercially sexually exploited, to examine the 29 practices of local and regional entities involved in addressing 30 sexually exploited children, and to make recommendations on statewide laws and practices.

⚠️ **Sign in PRO on HB 2076 [here](#) by Tuesday, January 16 at 4:00PM.**

HB 2218/SB 5908 Extended foster care for youth 18-21. Directs the Department of Children, Youth and Families to make a number of changes to the Extended Foster Care Program to reduce barriers to participation

⚠️ **Sign in PRO on HB 2076 [here](#) by Tuesday, January 16 at 1:30PM**

Bills We Support

HB1455/SB5695 Eliminating Child Marriage. This bill provides that a marriage entered into in which either person has not attained the age of 18 years is void. It further eliminates provisions authorizing a court to waive the age requirement on a showing of necessity.

HB2076/SB6057 Addressing crimes involving human trafficking and sexual exploitation statewide. A coordinating committee is established to address the issue of 28 children who are commercially sexually exploited, to examine the 29 practices of local and regional entities involved in addressing 30 sexually exploited children, and to make recommendations on statewide laws and practices.

HB 2218/SB 5908 Extended foster care for youth 18-21. Directs the Department of Children, Youth and Families to make a number of changes to the Extended Foster Care Program to reduce barriers to participation.

Bills We Are Watching

HB 1098/SB 5280 Concerning the Duty of Clergy to Report Child Abuse and Neglect. This bill adds clergy to the list of mandated reporters when there is reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered abuse or neglect. Currently the amendment to remove the clergy penitent exception is in dispute between the Senate and the House. We support the bill with the amendment.

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including those who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- Read and take action through the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#), distributed each Sunday during the legislative session.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Please direct questions or comments to [Janet Hedgepath](#), Children's Issues Issue Chair.