



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 11

MARCH 27, 2015

Pages Learn About Legislature



Pages Write Bills, Hold Mock Hearings



During the first three days of their week, pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them and the state. Criteria for writing a good bill was discussed before students selected issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates to formulate official-looking bills in preparation for a mock committee hearing on Thursday. Pages also wrote media releases for their bills which are included in this newsletter.

Pages read their bills and “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. Each bill was voted upon resulting in a “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation that determines whether the bill continues on in the legislative process. Because pages are in the Page School for only two hours a day for one week, there is not sufficient time to fully develop the final versions of their bills. However, the process of writing and presenting their own bills provides an excellent exposure to the real legislative process.

Page School on the web

The Page School has its own web site. You can find us at:
<http://www.leg.wa.gov/PageSchool> This newsletter has been posted there.

School Start Times

Olympia – The issue of school start times was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Sam Miller and Elijah McLaughlin introduced House Bill 2659. “Our bill will help students be more focused and schools will most likely start getting higher test scores in the classroom. It will also improve school attendance,” said Rep. McLaughlin. Our bill states that the Legislature will flip the start times of elementary schools and high schools in all districts across the state. National Sleep Foundation (NSF) found that 60% of children under the age of 18 complained of being tired during the day. Minneapolis Public School also found improvement in attendance and enrollment rates, increased day time alertness, and decreased reported depression from the students. Minneapolis Public School district also found encouraging results, such as higher test scores and more focus during class after pushing back their start time from 7:15 a.m. to 8:40 a.m.

There have been facts proven that sleep affects every part of one’s life, including health, safety, mood, learning, appearance, relationships and productivity.



Saving Livestock by Preventing Wolves

Olympia – The issue of wolves in Eastern Washington was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Spencer Gwinn, Jake McVicar, and Benjamin Chung introduced House Bill 2016. “Our bill will reduce the number of wolf-related livestock deaths,” said Rep. Gwinn, McVicar, and Chung. This bill will minimize the livestock deaths from a wolf attack. A pack of wolves can, themselves, kill at least 30-40 livestock in a single day. For example, expert Martorello explains that “the Huckleberry Pack [had] accounted for 33 of the 35 sheep killed or injured by wolves and documented by WDFW in 2014.” The reason behind these casualties, as Brian Palmer explains in the article “Do Wolves Kill for Sport,” is because “sheep and cattle lack any kind of defense against wolf attacks.” If this bill becomes a law, the farmers with livestock must incorporate a defense mechanism to compensate for



their animals’ defenselessness. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife will be required to give a maximum of one tag for deer and one tag for elk to hunters. The reason behind this is to give wolves more natural prey to limit the chance of the wolves hunting livestock. Another part of the bill states that farmers of livestock must erect a system of motion sensor lights. The “automatic red flashing light repels night pest animals that could harm livestock,” said a research done for Nite Guard Solar. This system must be turned on at all times and the farmers must pay for the systems out of pocket. Each system varies in its radius and each farmer has various land masses, so the farmers must calculate the number of systems needed. Since it is a one time cost that directly benefits the ranchers, it is their responsibility to fund it. If a wolf, or wolves, passes through the system, the farmer will have the right to eliminate the wolf because of the 2nd amendment, the right to bear arms, but must prove that the wolf or wolves have crossed the perimeter.

Watch us live at TVW.org

Search for “Page School” in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.

E-Cigs are Becoming Big

Olympia – The issue of electronic cigarettes was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Kali Prescott, Jackie Blanton, and Bennett Allen introduced House Bill 2000.

“Our bill will set limitations on vape pens and electronic cigarettes, along with their products,” said Rep. Prescott.

We have found that e-cigs and vape pens are in the hands of children in middle schools



which is not safe. “Kids can just go into the bathroom and smoke and we will never know,” said Rep. Allen. To add to the dangers, young children are able to get into the juice that is used in the cigarettes which can severely injure the child. Also, they can encourage the use of real cigarettes and that can harm the children too.

Hope for the Homeless

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Hailee Muller, Abigail Reichelderfer, and Sarah Pemberton introduced Senate Bill 6999 which addresses the issue of increased homeless citizens. “The bill is a good one because it will improve the quality for the homeless people’s life,” said Sen. Pemberton. We would like to create an environment that will give homeless people the essential items, while also giving them something to look forward to. The Legislature will require every city to have a shelter for the homeless. These shelters, open eleven hours a day,



will serve meals, offer blankets, and provide a place for the people to go during the day. This will also benefit nearby land owners by increasing property val-

ues. The homeless will also suffer fewer casualties from common viruses like hypothermia, fevers, pneumonia, tuberculosis, and the common cold. With them off the streets, the number of hit and runs plus car casualties will decrease. To fund this uplifting project, the Legislature will tax each town/city an extra 1-3 dollars per family. Together we can help the homeless and create a safer place for our communities.

A Third Eye

Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Noah Corwin, Cris Mascarella, and Jason Bernheimer. “This bill addresses the issue of officer accountability. The bill will have law enforcement officers be more accountable for their actions,” said Sen. Corwin. This bill will require all on-duty police officers to wear a camera on their person. This “third eye” will ensure that they are accountable for the actions that they make. Civilians will also act better when they know that they are being recorded. People that are directly involved in a case can access the video online. For the government to buy and maintain the cameras, all tickets will be raised by one dollar.



The Sudden Bill that Stops Euthanization



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Hailee Bird and William LaGrandeur introduced Senate Bill 6022 which addresses the issue of euthanizing animals. “This bill should become a law on our behalf, because more animals will be helped and found homes, and not be killed for no reason” said Sen. Bird. This bill will save the lives of innocent animals that have been placed in pounds and shelters. The Legislature will make a program for fostering animals until we can find permanent homes for the animals. The animals can have caring owners and don’t have their lives cut short for no reason based on the time the animal spent at shelter or on their appearance and species/breed. If the animal shelters get to a maximum capacity that can be held, then we can transfer animals to another shelter or to a foster home. Money wise we will do a 1% tax increase and with this money, we can use that on behalf of the animals and use some for animal shelter employees. When the shelter or pound gives pet adoptions, the money goes towards the animals held in the shelter or pound in the amount of 40% of the paid amount. The rest of the money would then go to the shelter employees.

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Representatives Want to Murder Assisted Suicide

Olympia – The issue of assisted suicide was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Reilly Carney-Woods and Foster Johnson introduced House Bill 2035. “Our bill will repeal the law allowing for assisted suicide,” said Rep. Carney-Woods. When asked why this bill has been proposed, Representative Johnson stated “we have seen a rise in the amount of suicides since the passage of this law and we want to stop people from killing themselves.” He then pronounced “Washington has one of the highest suicide rates in the country and this bill is aimed to lower this suicide rate by removing lethal drugs from homes and stopping the temptation for youth.” It has been shown that the ability to commit suicide leads many

people to needless suicide. This bill is aimed at stopping this and preventing needless suicide among all age groups. Suicide is the second leading cause of death among youth ages 10-24. The Representatives looked confident as they proposed their bill in the House today but voting isn’t until next week. When asked if it would cost too much, the Representatives stated that it would save money. Representative Carney-Woods told reporters, “Nationally suicide costs \$33 billion annually in both projected work and straight costs to families and the government.” The steps of the capitol have quickly filled with protesters supporting the current standing on assisted suicide. When asked about these protestors, Representative Johnson said “this issue may go to the voters in November, but I hope people will see that it is for the common good in reducing suicide rates which is a major problem in this state.” This sounds like a promising bill to reduce suicide, but many are opposed claiming it is their right to assisted suicide. The Legislature will decide.

Competitive Edge Results in Jeopardy Win

On Friday, pages tested their knowledge of the legislative process in a spirited game of *Jeopardy*. Winning teams were awarded certificates and brightly colored stickers that they wore proudly for the rest of the day.



Hunger Bill Announced

Olympia – The issue of hunger was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Senators Milenne Quinonez and Kayla Meier introduced Senate Bill 5999. “Our bill will provide families and individuals who cannot afford enough food for themselves and/or their families. It will ensure they can get their



food at more convenient times,” said Sen. Quinonez. The bill would establish more food banks across the state of Washington and require them to be open three days a week to be more convenient for people to get food.

Without the food bank being more accessible, if someone could not make it to the food bank the specific day they are open then their family may go hungry for a whole week. An estimated 251,000 Washington households live with hunger or the threat of hunger. Struggling with hunger has increased sharply, between 2008 and 2011, 75,000 new households joined the ranks of the hungry, and the rate of hunger in the state is the highest it has ever been.

Safer Society Through DNA Sampling

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Rose Jao, Peter Faber, and Daniel Pollock introduced House Bill 2788 which addresses the issue of collecting DNA upon arrest. “The bill is a good one because it will expand the DNA database in Washington, assisting with the capture and conviction of guilty parties committing a gross misdemeanor or felony,” said Rep. Jao. Bill 2788 advocates for a DNA cheek swab of any individual convicted of a gross misdemeanor or felony. Individuals will also be required to be swabbed for a DNA sample upon the third charge of any misdemeanor. This will expand on the existing tools that our law enforcement agencies are able to utilize to bring criminals to justice.



Supreme Court Presentation and Tour

This week the pages had a unique opportunity to hear a presentation about the Supreme Court and to take a tour of the Temple of Justice. This opportunity was designed specifically for the legislative pages. Susan Carlson, Deputy Clerk of the Court, explained the functions of the Supreme Court and the type

of cases that are heard. Pages were able to ask questions of interest to them.

Then Cindy Phillips took them on a customized tour of the conference room, robe room, and the law library. She also took them to Justice Fairhurst’s chambers which was a unique treat.



Gender Neutral Bathrooms in Schools

Olympia – Senate Bill 5273 was introduced yesterday by Senators Rachel Beal and Elizabeth Corwin. “This bill addresses the issue of gender neutral bathrooms. The bill will give transgender students a bathroom to use in schools,” said Sen. Beal. The



Legislature will have all schools add or segregate a single stall restroom to be available for transgender students. The bill will allow transgender students to use their own bathroom without getting bullied or being put in awkward situations. It also allows student(s) to not have any problems while trying to use a locker room or bathroom. This, in turn, will put a public family bathroom in each public school as well.

Two Years of Free College Education

Olympia – Senate Bill 6969 was introduced yesterday by Senators Magdaleena Eloheimo, Abigail Jacks, and Josephine Maiorano.

“This bill addresses the issue of not all students being able to afford college. The bill will provide two years of free college education for all state residents attending a state school,” said Sen. Eloheimo. This law would allow residents access to two years of free college at a state school. The percentage of residents that go to college would increase. When students start college, their debts add up and over the years they keep increasing which takes a large toll on the students’ families’ ability to pay. If this bill passes, many more people would attend college and the percentage of college educated people in Washington would increase significantly.



Metal Baseball Bats Are the Way to Go

Olympia – House Bill 2015 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Emma Dobbs and Sydney Brooks. “This bill addresses the issue of baseball bats. The bill recognizes the dangers of metal baseball bats throughout all ages.

Multiple teams have banned the metal bats, favoring wooden bats for cost and



safety reasons. We feel both types of bats should be allowed,” said Rep. Dobbs. This used to be a \$40 million industry until they started playing around with the alloys, making better bats, more powerful bats. Now it’s become an industry in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Wally Stempfel, coach at New York’s Mount St. Michael’s High and baseball chairman of the

city’s Catholic High School Athletic Association, says his team has had dangerous incidents happen with wood bats in batting practice. During one session, three bats splintered and scattered around the batting cage, where players were clustered. One piece flew out to the mound, striking the screen in front of the pitcher and bounding behind the screen. College baseball teams are hitting half as many home runs and averaging a run less per game this season. Blame – or credit – the new metal bats put into play this year. The average Division 1 team is hitting 0.47 home runs a game and scoring 5.63 runs, compared with 0.85 home runs and 6.98 runs compared to last season. Wooden bats can benefit pitchers, while metal bats can benefit the batter. Both bat types have very distinct differences and different benefits.

Solution to Unhealthy School Food Options

Olympia – House Bill 3079 was introduced yesterday by a bipartisan team of Representatives Jackson Allen, Andrew Chung, and Senator Mathew Moattar. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity. The bill will improve the lives and health of future American citizens,” said Sen. Moattar. The bill will introduce a new taxing system which will tax more on schools with unhealthy food options and tax less on schools with healthy food options. The food options will be judged on how much nutrients and calories the food provides. Most importantly, it is to encourage students to choose healthier food options which will drastically affect their future in a good way.

In the Army, they state that one in four citizens are too fat to serve the Army. This shows that the childhood obesity will affect the future lives of American



citizens. Research shows that childhood obesity is related to many other health problems. During a study of strokes, they had found additional information that obese people will have a higher risk of cardiovascular disease and strokes. Taxes will be doubled on foods that are calorie rich such as products containing large levels of high fructose corn syrup. The taxes that are raised will then be applied to foods that are a more healthy choice such as fruits and vegetables.

Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week **Public Lands Commissioner Peter Goldmark, Senator David Frockt (D-46) and from the Governor's Office Miguel Perez-Gibson** joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. Each spoke about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information about the legislative process or other aspects of government. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker's questions.



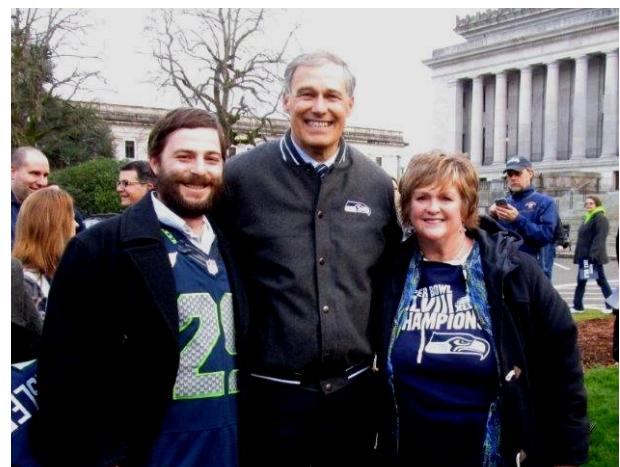
Big Ideas in Government

Throughout the week pages grappled with understanding the three “big ideas” for a representative government: governing is a complex process, successful democracies rely on responsible citizens, and government affects our life every day. As they participated in daily discussions and group activities, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding of these concepts deepened. Class activities introduced new vocabulary words, explained legislative procedures, and explored the bill writing process. On Friday, they individually wrote about one of these “big ideas” to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

Experienced Educators

Sharon Heath is in her second year as the Page School teacher; however, she is definitely not new to the Washington Legislature having worked nearly 20 years for the Legislature’s computer support agency. She has also earned a Master’s in Education and has taught middle school as well as college students.

Leo O’Leary has been teaching and coaching in and around Olympia for the past ten years and is in his fourth session as a Page School teacher. “I really like the fact that I can help kids make their dreams come true through both education and athletics,” he said as he introduced himself on Monday.



Page Program Over 125 Years Old

The Legislature’s page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served decades ago. The first female page served in 1937. In the past, pages were required to do ironing and cleaning for members. Page duties today are much more professional and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the House and Senate.

