



The Weekly Page

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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.

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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.

Sleep Deprivation Affecting Academics and Depression Rates for Students

Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Caleb Kim, Isabella Fazio, and Jessica Swanson.

“This bill addresses the issue of school start times. The bill will delay all school start times until 8:30 am,” said Rep. Kim. This bill aims to better synchronize teen circadian rhythms with high school start times in order to improve grade performance and attendance records in the state of Washington. In addition, it is intended to lower the consumption rates of highly caffeinated beverages and reduce the risk of “fall asleep” car crashes. It will also decrease depression rates and metabolic deficiencies associated with insufficient sleep among teens. Studies completed at the Brookings Institute show that “waking a teenager at 7 a.m. is similar to waking an adult at 4 a.m.” Additional research at the US Air Force Academy by the Brookings Institute showed that students assigned to start class before 8 a.m. performed worse in all of their courses than their classmates who started later. Rep. Fazio stated, “Delaying start times will not only help students now, but it will also improve their mental and physical health for the rest of their lives.”

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Reducing CO₂

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Nicholas Murray and Yasmine Naini introduced Senate Bill 7213, which addresses the issue of increased carbon emissions from individual vehicles. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce carbon emissions,” said Sen. Murray. Five counties in the state of Washington already require that cars must receive emission tests every two years. This is

due to the overwhelming evidence of the decreasing air quality in Washington State. In fact, there have been 314 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions since 2009, but this number is rapidly increasing. Therefore the Legislature will mandate that emissions tests be received every two years for every car. These cars will receive “tags” stating that they had their emissions test in the last two years. If they do not have the “tag”, law enforcement may give the owner a ticket.

Childhood Obesity Problem is Becoming Too Obese

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Namubiru Nsubuga, Kensi Nulf, and Grace Pierson introduced Senate Bill 7997 which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce childhood obesity and will result in healthier and more active children in the future,” said Sen. Pierson. Research

shows that 30-34.9% of children in Washington State are obese. Obesity occurs because of over-eating unhealthy and under exercising. Our bill says the Legislature will require schools to provide healthy lunches for students and conduct physical activities throughout the day for their students. If this bill was passed, the problem of childhood obesity would decline dramatically because kids would be eating healthier in cafeterias and exercising more in physical activity classes. “The more we ignore this problem of childhood obesity, the worse the problem will get,” said Sen. Nsubuga. Because children have minimum access to healthy food options, they aren’t getting the proper nutrition that they need. “If this bill is passed, the number of obese children will decrease dramatically,” says Sen. Nulf.



DNA Testing Speeds Up Police Investigations

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Emma Schultheis, Duncan Magendanz, and Alice Zhu introduced House Bill 1691 which addresses the issue of DNA being used in police investigations. “The bill is a good one because it makes police investigations much more efficient and time conservative,” said Rep. Magendanz. In order to have suspects’ DNA tested during investigations, the Legislature will require all primary suspects in cases regarding sexual assault and murder to consent to a DNA test. Recent research reports that current DNA evidence gathering laws hinder police investigations; for example, how the wrong man was arrested for the rape and murder of 11 year old Victoria Sandoval. This new bill shall allow police to more efficiently utilize DNA technology to apprehend and convict criminals that had previously escaped prosecution. It will also help prosecute any new criminals that would have escaped without the DNA testing.

Horizon in Sight for Sleep-Deprived Teens

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Kiana Newcomb and Claire Thompson introduced Senate Bill 7091, which addresses the issue of school start times. “The bill is a good one because students will be able to learn more and do better in school,” said Sen. Newcomb. The bill instigates a later start time of no earlier than 8:15 am which will give teens at least thirty minutes of extra sleep. According to extensive research, teens are on a different sleep rhythm than adults. Teenagers’ circadian rhythm causes them to stay up later and wake up later. In Minneapolis, after the school start times were changed from 7:15 to 8:40 am, they found that students who took advantage of this had higher attendance and enrollment rates, increased daytime alertness, and decreased student-reported depression. Hopefully this bill will make it through the Legislature and to the Governor. Teens and parents, as well as Sen. Newcomb and Sen. Thompson, will wait with baited breath.

Labeling of Food Additives

Olympia – House Bill 2000 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Collin Pittmann, Sumaya Musazay, and Hanan Nuriddin. “This bill addresses the issue of additives in foods.



The bill will require companies to implement a label on their products that states GMO, for “Genetically Modified Organisms,” said Rep. Nuriddin. This bill will allow consumers to be-

come aware of what is in their foods. This way they can make more informed decisions about the foods they are taking in before purchasing items at supermarkets. This will lead to healthier lifestyles.

Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Abolish Death Penalty

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Shyam Rabadia and Judah

Wyllie introduced Senate Bill 6996, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is vital because it minimizes unnecessary costs and protects the lives of innocent people,” said Sen. Wyllie. The bill will abolish the death penalty entirely for Washington State, because of the cost and potential loss of innocent lives. According to the senators, death penalty cases cost millions more than other criminal cases.



CH2CHCl Ocean

Olympia – Senate Bill 6444 was introduced yesterday by Senators Kiana Chinn, Liesl Bogaard, and Zoandria Decker. “This bill addresses the issue of plastic bottles filling our oceans. The bill will state that all types of beverages contained in a plastic bottle will be taxed,” said Sen. Chinn, Bogaard, and Decker.” A report that came out in 2007 stated that 8.8 billion gallons of bottled water were consumed in the U.S. This relates to 232

16-ounce plastic bottles per person a year and up to 63.4 billion plastic bottles are dumped into landfills and oceans a year. This bill will instate a 10 cent tax on all beverage plastic bottles. If a consumer returns a bottle to a supplier, they shall receive their plastic bottle tax back. This bill will insure that residents in Washington will reduce their use of multiple plastic bottles, correlating to a reduction in landfill and ocean buildup of plastic bottles. Almost 40 years ago, Oregon passed the first “bottle bill,” which



resulted in 10 other states having passed mutual laws. The laws add 5 to 10 cent tax on plastic bottle beverage which consumers can have returned if they recycle their bottle to suppliers. States with these laws have noticed recycling rates reach as high as 80%. A representative from Massachusetts, Ed Markey states that “reduce our thirst for imported oil, support jobs in the recycling industry, and keep carbon dioxide in our soft drinks rather than in our atmosphere.” The Container Deposit Bill will reduce landfill and ocean pollution, reduce the death of multiple sea animals, and make the environment cleaner.

Home Schoolers Pay with Their School District Taxes

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Suzannah Hess and Grant Cross introduced House Bill 2345, which addresses the issue of education. “The bill is a good one because it encourages and enables homeschoolers to get a good education,” said Rep. Cross. The Legislature will require that 70% of School District taxes that homeschooling parents pay must be reimbursed to the homeschool parents for the purchase of curriculums.

This makes it easier to provide a complete education for their children.



Ralph Davenport said, “It’s very unfair that someone is paying taxes to a school district and have to pay for the cost of homeschooling their children. The tax dollars should follow the children, not the school district.”

One Third of Drunk Drivers are Repeat Offenders!

Olympia – The issue of drunk driving was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representative Cameron White introduced House Bill 2015. “My bill will further prevent drunk drivers who endanger our streets,” said Rep. Cameron White. The fines for each DUI offense will be increased substantially. With these increases, it will deter people from driving drunk or it will cost them thousands.



Ready, Aim, Don’t Fire

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Peter Kosierowski and Bryan McNair introduced Senate Bill 6868 which addresses the issue of gun violence. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce gun violence and therefore increase public safety,” said Sen. Kosierowski. This bill will require more extensive background checks for all people. The state will require a basic firearms class for any person that owns or is trying to obtain a firearm. This bill will ban anyone who is unstable and will teach kids and parents alike to safely handle a weapon.



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.

Wolves Go From the Hunter to the Hunted

Olympia – House Bill 3458 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Keldan Swant and Taylor Mastin. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing livestock in Eastern Washington. The bill will give ranchers the ability to get a permit that allows them to shoot wolves that are endangering their livestock,” said Rep. Taylor Mastin. This bill would give rancher the ability to acquire a permit. In order to receive this permit, they must have two documented livestock kills that are proved they were killed by wolves. This will prevent wolves from coming back to a certain area, because once a wolf is killed from an area, instinctively, the wolves don’t come back to that area. This permit will require no funding and will reduce wolves killing livestock.



Abortion Sparks Discussion in Senate

Olympia – Senate Bill 6789 was introduced yesterday by Senators Michael Zendejas, Logan Riley, and Anna Katherine Shaw. “This bill addresses the issue of the State of Washington’s abortion laws. The bill will set more mandatory steps in order to have an abortion,” said Sen. Shaw. The bill will address the problems of unsafe abortions in the State of Washington and the process by which an abortion takes place. It has been brought to the attention of some State groups and officials that it has become too easy to have an abortion in the state of Washington. The bill will produce a series of laws concerning abortion; such as, abortions must take place in a hospital by a licensed physician; the “partial-birth” abortion will be banned; the state will not fund the abortion; the abortion will not be covered by insurance; the waiting period, after counseling, will be 48 hours; an ultrasound will then follow counseling; and parental involvement is required for minors.



Death Penalty Replaced, Lives Saved

Olympia – The issue of the death penalty was considered in



committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Andrew Boyd and Lauren Bergman introduced House Bill 3742. “Our bill will eliminate all methods of executing as punishment,” said Rep.

Boyd. House Bill 3742 will reduce tax-payers dollars, because the death penalty has cost the state millions of dollars. The death penalty will be replaced by a life sentence without parole.

School Start Times Have Been Set

Olympia – The issue of school start time was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Senators Reilly J. Prescher and Colin M. Pottinger introduced Senate Bill 6980. “Our bill will require schools to begin the school hours at 9 o’ clock am or later,” said Sen. Colin M. Pottinger. This bill will allow students to use

their natural body clock to choose when to get up, making their day feel more natural. This bill will also



give teachers and staff a longer time to prep or clean for the beginning of school. This bill should give students and school staff an easier time and also a less stressful environment.

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.

Driving Has Never Been More Safe



Olympia – Senate Bill 5030 was introduced yesterday by Senators Sunielove McBride, Truman Hobbs, and Jennifer Grossman. “This bill addresses the issue of DUI-Alcohol. By suspending the driver’s license for 6 months if caught drinking and driving, and taking away all rights of a driver to the roads if they kill, injure, or cause an accident involving another person, people will less likely drive while intoxicated which will risk

their rights of freedom to the road. This will lower death rates tremendously, bring down the rate of accidents, and overall make the environment (the roads) a more safe place to be,” said Sen. McBride. Drinking while driving still continues to be a major issue these days. Laws of drinking and driving need to be forceful and strict. As soon as an intoxicated driver is caught by an officer, the driver is required to give an immediate breathalyzer. If the driver

fails the test, the driver will automatically lose their license for 1 year. “In the U.S., approximately 30 people die each day in traffic accidents involving an alcohol-impaired driver



which is about 1 death every 48 minutes.” (Source: CDC.gov) As soon as a driver is proven to have alcohol in his/her system, the driver’s license will be suspended for a minimum of 6 months. “Approximately half of passengers 14 and younger who were killed in an alcohol-related crash were riding in the vehicle with the alcohol-impaired driver.” (Source: CDC.gov). Drunk drivers need to be held accountable and held to their responsibilities. If a drunk driver kills, injures, or causes an accident involving another person, the intoxicated driver will lose all rights to driving and be held in jail for at least 1 year. “32 percent of all traffic fatalities in the U.S. involve an alcohol - impaired driver.” (Source CDC.gov). Enforcing a stricter law for intoxication will decrease traffic fatalities, because there will be less accidents for drinking and driving.

Watch us live at TVW.org

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

Death by Vape



Olympia – Senate Bill 5678 was introduced yesterday by Senators Arika Burdick and Bella Brown. “This bill ad-

resses the issue of electronic cigarettes. The bill will lower the use of electronic cigarettes in youth and young adults,” said Sen. Brown. Due to the use of electronic cigarettes doubling in young adults within one year, we feel that the way electronic cigarettes are being presented should be altered to be less appealing to adolescents. This bill will decrease the usage rate significantly among young adults by changing all packaging materials associated with electronic cigarettes to a neutral color. Also there will be warning labels on all products that are being sold to cause more awareness.

Obesity in Schools?! How Could This Be!?

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Alex Van Loen and Kayli Robles introduced House Bill 1001 which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “This bill is a

good one because it will reduce the percent of overweight or obese children in public schools,” said Rep. Van Loen. The percentage of overweight or obese citizens in America has



gone up by more than half in the last 30 years (from 15% to 34%) and 1 (one) in 3 (three) public middle school students, who eat school lunch, are overweight or obese. Our solution is to require a reconstruction of all public school lunch menus to a completely new, healthier version. We plan to charge more for the lunches in order to cancel out the cost of the new healthier menus. We will also ban fatty foods, such as fried chickens and hot dogs and sugary drinks, such as soda.

Do YOU Want a Safer America?

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Joon Lee, Abra Lindstrom, and Marley Duncan introduced Senate Bill 5432, which addresses the issue of gun violence and accessibility. “The bill is a good

one because it will prevent future mass shootings among innocent civilians,” said Sen. Lee. The goal of the bill is to decrease the annual mass shooting rate by regulating the types of guns that are allowed to be carried. Your second amendment right is the right to bear firearms. This is mostly used for entertainment, hunting, or in rare cases for self-defense. Some of the firearms currently available on the market are semi-automatic and assault weapons. These are rapid-fire guns, with high magazines, meaning that you can shoot numerous shots without taking time to reload. This means that in the case of a mass murder, the gun man could easily murder more people faster before getting stopped by the police or other force, or before needing to reload. For the common uses of firearms, larger magazines are unnecessary. Therefore, discontinuing the sale of assault weapons will not cost the society anything, including lives. The bill will also increase the authenticity of gun buyers, making sure that the guns are not in the hands of dangerous people. It will do this by further increasing the thoroughness of background checks and questions the gun consumer must answer. Currently, security around the sales of guns is lacking. This allows criminals to acquire weapons that could be used to harm the general public. If this bill is passed, security on gun sales will increase and guns will be less likely to fall into unsafe hands.



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.



Animal Rights Uncompromised

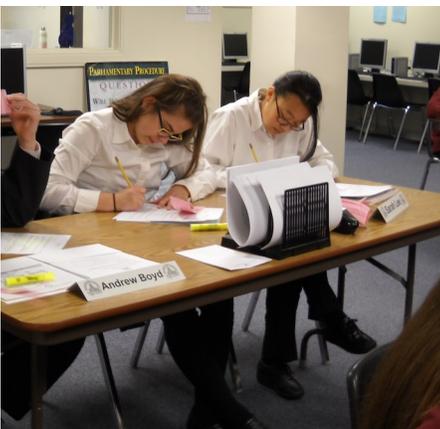
Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Jessica Waller, Ashley Tash-Karl and Miah Whiteaker introduced Senate Bill 5555 which addresses the issue of animal abuse and uncompromised animals rights, especially in zoos. “The bill is a



good one because it will show that animals need to be protected and make their lives safer in places like zoos,” said Sen. Whiteaker. In order to protect animals from abuse, new standards will be made for zoos in Washington State. Funding will come from marijuana profits to make the artificial habitats in zoos a size that the animals need to function properly. The animals in zoos also need to be released into the wild in a certain amount of time unless they have a serious medical condition or were born in captivity. Currently most zoos have no contact of any kind with any reintroduction program. Animals don’t have a voice, so we need to take a stand for them.

Abortion is Not a One Day Thing

Olympia – House Bill 3999 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Sarah Lee and EmmaRae Van Werven. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion. The bill will reduce the number of abortions in Washington State,” said Rep. Van Werven. This bill describes the results of abortion that happen without parental consent. Teens often don’t tell their parents and grow desperate enough to perform self-induced abortion which sometimes ends in death. Abortions are often performed, because teens want to hide their sexual life. This bill will require that if women under 18 want to have an abortion, they are required to have parental consent and must undergo counseling for a minimum of 5 hours.



Rep. Lee says “I believe this bill will pass. We are not taking away women’s rights. We are simply saving lives.”

Don’t be a Hater, Come in Later

Olympia – Senate Bill 5000 was introduced yesterday by Senators Mauricio Ayon and Max Bessler. “This bill addresses the issue of education. The bill will mandate the start time in all school districts and schools to be 9:00 am,” said Sen. Max Bessler. A recent poll conducted by the National

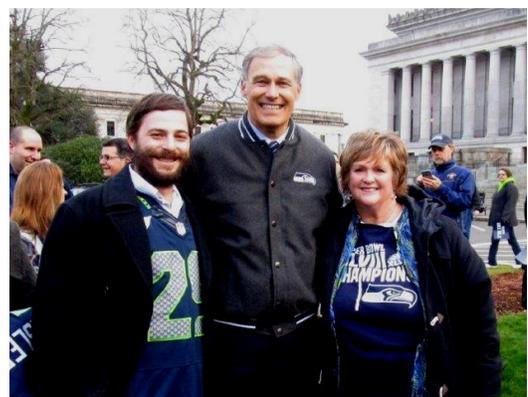


Sleep Foundation found that 60 percent of children under the age of 18 complain about being tired during the day. If this bill become law, all schools in Washington will be required to start at 9:00 am. The extra time that students have to sleep will improve overall concentration in class. There will be no additional cost to the state, but it will take some time to reorganize the schedules.

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.





Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week **Rep. Ross Hunter (D-48)**, **Secretary of State Kim Wyman**, **OSPI senior policy advisor Skip Priest**, and **Senate Senior Staff Coordinator Brad Hendrickson** 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.



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. Justice Charles K. Wiggins 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, robing room, and the law library.



Thanks for a **great** week!