



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 14

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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.

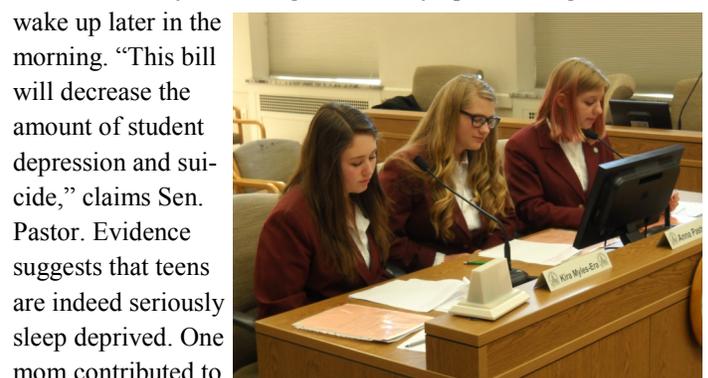
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Page School on the web

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.

Later School Start Times!

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Anna Pastor, Kira Myles-Era, and Kristina Heiden-Lundberg introduced Senate Bill 6428, which addresses the issue of later school start times. “The bill is a good one, because it will allow students’ grades and attitudes to improve as well as student energy and emotional wellness,” said Sen. Myles-Era. The Legislature will mandate high schools containing grades 9 through 12 will start school at 8:40 am. The natural tendency for teenagers is to stay up late at night and wake up later in the morning. “This bill will decrease the amount of student depression and suicide,” claims Sen. Pastor. Evidence suggests that teens are indeed seriously sleep deprived. One mom contributed to an article and said “the issue hits me in the face every single day when my zombified 14-year-old son leaves for school. I think he might be awake by 3rd period... maybe.” Also it is scientifically proven that when teenagers wake up at 7:00 am, it’s the same as an adult waking up at 4:00 am. Extra sleep for teens improves their attention span, creativity, communication, problem solving, decision making, mood, and motivation.



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Bill Pays for Living to Discourage Abortion



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Skyler Greggs and William Grassel introduced Senate Bill 7999, which addresses the issue of rape abortions. In order to decrease abortion of children conceived

by rape, this bill will provide stipends and/or assisted living as well as a paid maternity leave for victims in convicted rape cases that result in pregnancy. It will also create government funded adoption centers to assist the mother if she feels unable to raise the child. “The bill is a good one because it will provide optimal conditions for a pessimistic person,” said Sen. Greggs. “Too many abortions happen every year,” says Sen. Grassel. “As pro-life advocates we believe in the ban of abortion but the first step to banning something is giving alternatives instead.” “So many women nowadays don’t have the degrees needed for modern jobs, which their husbands would usually occupy,” says Sen. Greggs. If the rape victim is so traumatized from the whole ordeal, then the government will also offer services to help adopt out the baby, in essence to make a good situation out of a bad one. All of these benefits are only for certain rape victims, so that the system can’t be used by just anyone. Some of the restrictions are that the victim has to be caught and found guilty; others are that the baby has to survive delivery and life until the age of 18. All this is a promotion for pro-life and hopefully the discouraging of abortion.

Income Tax Brought Back: The Right Way

Olympia – Senate Bill 7005 was introduced yesterday by Senator Samuel Whitehorn. “This bill addresses the issue of income tax in Washington State. The bill will significantly reduce most sales taxes and introduce an income tax,” said Sen. Whitehorn. The biggest issue people have had with income tax in the past is



that they feel they’re being taxed more and unequally. This bill reduces general sales tax (specialty taxes, e.g. Marijuana will remain unchanged) and introduces a simple 5% income tax to boost state revenue (by \$6.8 billion). It will fuel a better class mobility by making it cheaper for underclass people to buy commodities.

Protecting U.S. Citizens’ Lives and Our 2nd Amendment Rights!

Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives David Swisher, Jaime Munch, and Reider Kelstrup. “This bill addresses the issue of a U.S. citizen’s right to own and carry firearms. The bill will repeal Initiative 594,” said Rep. Swisher. Initiative 594, on the surface seemed reasonable and safe, because it was a simple bill that requires gun purchasers to have background checks intended to prevent the sale of guns to criminals. However this Initiative accomplishes nothing other than the eventual national registration of firearms, and requires hoops for law abiding citizens to jump through. To summarize our points: this initiative will not stop criminals because criminals do



not purchase guns from licensed dealers. They obtain these weapons illegally, either by theft or black markets. Following this, initiative 594 will only cause a growth in black market purchases because now criminals will be afraid to get caught in firearm stores. It will also hamper the average citizen’s ability to purchase guns, and it will only create a larger database of gun purchases for the government. This initiative is unconstitutional, unnecessary, un-American, and wrong. Our bill will put it to an end!

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.

Watch us live at TVW.org

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

Push High School Start Times Back

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Bernard Andrade and Josh Yeates introduced Senate Bill 6749, which addresses the issue of school start time. “The bill is a good one because it will improve teens’ performance in school, sports, and extra-curricular activities,” said Sen. Yeates. The bill will mandate schools to start at or after the time of 8 a.m. every school day. It has been



found that the early start times conflict with teens’ circadian rhythm (the internal “clock” that dictates when people feel tired). Teens’ circadian rhythm make them want to sleep at a much later time compared to normal people - at about midnight. This makes it impossible for teens’ to get their needed 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep when they fall asleep at midnight and wake up at 6 in the morning for school. What this bill does is to make it so that even if teens fall asleep at midnight, they are much closer to 8.5 hours of sleep waking up at 7 am as opposed to those who would wake up at 6 am.

Distracted Driving Can Kill

Olympia – House Bill 2464 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Joseph Adams and John Drohman. “This bill addresses the issue of electronics while driving. The bill will reduce the amounts of deaths and injury while driving due to electronic distractions,” said Rep. Adams and Drohman. The Legislature will ban the use of hand held electronics while driving. This will also require that phones, tablets, laptops, and GPSs must be mount-



ed. 19-year old Heather Lerch was killed instantly while texting when she didn’t see the guardrail right in front of her. This bill will significantly reduce deaths and injuries of teens who think they are amazing drivers and don’t have to pay attention. 6,000 people were killed in crashes involving electronic distractions in 2008; 500,000 were injured. If you put your phone down, that .5 second faster brake reaction might just save your life.

Senate Bill 6666 to Save \$\$\$ and the Earth

Olympia – The issue of Green Schools was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Senators Gabe Petride, Kai Pierce, and Cora Andersen Bicknell introduced Senate Bill 6666. “Our bill



will cut costs on energy, as well as change our school district into a more environmentally friendly place,” said Sen. Petride. The bill will save money by switching schools from round the clock energy use to more monitored electricity by implementing energy efficient lighting. In addition, the bill will have parent volunteers monitor electricity use. In addition, the switch from toxic fluorescent lightbulbs to FRL’s will save the environment, as well as cut down on toxic waste which is hard to manage.

Representatives Introduce Bill to Abolish Death Penalty

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Carrianna Ross and Navor Tercero introduced House Bill 3791, which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is a good one because the bill will result in the elimination of the death penalty,” said



Rep. Tercero. Our bill will eliminate the costly procedure of the death penalty. From the money the state receives by not having to operate the costly trial, the state will hire better teachers and police officers. This will result in safer streets and smarter children.

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.



Not Quite Breaking News!

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Christopher Gizinski, Bethany Gizinski, and Damian Smith introduced Senate Bill 5963,



which addresses the issue of welfare and community. “The bill is a good one because recipients of welfare will have an opportunity to give back what they get,” said Sen.

Christopher Gizinski. For about 10 hours a week, recipients of welfare will work community service projects, with the exception of those who are physically unable. This bill asks that welfare recipients, by at least the age of 16, volunteer a few hours a day to give back to the community. Sources say welfare has abused children instead of saving them. Maybe this bill can help with that. This bill can also help volunteers learn valuable skills that can be put on a resume for future job applications.

Electronic Cigarette Outburst!

Olympia – Senate Bill 5364 was introduced yesterday by Senator Ryan Mead, Rachel Ponthier, and Anna Labadie. “This bill addresses the issue of electronic cigarettes. The bill will make it harder for people to obtain electronic cigarettes and the health issues related to electronic cigarettes will decline,” said Sen.

Mead. Electronic cigarettes are a danger to all people. They are used to help people stop smoking, but in some cases, have made it worse. Many of the elements are proven to cause respiratory

distress and other diseases. To solve this problem the Legislature will increase the legal age to 21 years old to be able to



obtain electronic cigarettes. It will also change the regulations to be the same standards as any other tobacco product. And it will raise the taxation on electronic cigarettes to make it more expensive, and hopefully, harder to afford.

Don’t Hit That Snooze Button!

Olympia – The issue of high school start time was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Lily Drozynski, Elana Hummel, and Amelia Kilduff introduced House Bill 3568. “Our bill will allow teens to be more successful in school and prevent sleep deprivation in high school students,” said Rep. Drozynski. The Legislature finds that many teenagers are sleep-deprived, which can cause health problems and interfere with learning. The National Sleep Foundation (NSF) finds that “60 percent of children under the age of 18



complained of being tired during the day, according to their parents, and 15 percent said they fell asleep at school during the year. Mary Carskadon, an expert on adolescent sleep, found that when teens are allowed to sleep longer, teens decreased depression and a reduced risk of obesity. Studies show that melatonin levels in teens tend to peak around 7 AM, so waking up for high schoolers at 7 AM is equivalent to an adult waking up for work at 4 AM. Students in high school today walk into first period tired, sluggish, and if they’re lucky, they wake up by third or fourth period. Passing this bill will push high school start times to later in the day, leading to more alert students and higher proficiency levels around the state.

Panic! At The Senate

Olympia – Senate Bill 6120 was introduced yesterday by Senators Ross Stevens and Maia Whitehorn. “This bill addresses the issue of ‘trans panic’. The bill will invalidate the defense of

‘trans panic’ in a Washington State court of law,” said Sen. Stevens. This bill will make ‘trans panic’ an invalid claim in a court of law. ‘Trans panic’ is a defense claim used to acquit killers of murder, claiming that the killer panicked in



discovery of the victim’s biological sex, thus justifying the murder in some sort of twisted form of self-defense. The Legislature will invalidate the defense strategies that try to bolster claims of insanity, self-defense, and provocation; specifically those that assert that the discovery of the victim’s sexual orientation or gender identity justified the crime.

Senate Bill to Reduce Carbon Emissions

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Emma Cooper, Anna Conley, and Anna Feldman introduced Senate Bill 5333, which addresses the issue of carbon dioxide emissions. “The bill is a



good one because it will lessen the negative impacts of human-caused climate change while making vast improvements in air quality,” said Sen. Feldman.

This bill will expand the Vehicle Emission Inspection Program (currently found in only five of the state’s forty-nine counties) to require all counties in the state to perform vehicle inspections on models from 2008 or older every other year. In addition, owners of vehicles found to have low MPG (miles per gallon) ratings will be fined \$100. The money from these fines, as well as all costs associated with the inspections, will be used to further develop sustainable transportation in Washington State.

What Are We Eating?

Olympia – House Bill 3826 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Faith Brimberry, Sedona Wilcox, and Aaron Stoner. “This bill addresses the issue of food additives and genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The bill will require all foods sold in the state of Washington to be clearly labelled on the front if it

contains any GMOs or unnatural food additives,” said Rep. Wilcox. GMOs were first introduced into the food supply about the



mid-90s. A GMO is the result of a laboratory process where genes from the DNA of one species are extracted and artificially forced into the genes of an unrelated plant or animal. 90% of America’s food budget is spent on processed foods. The majority of which are stripped of nutrients and filled with GMOs.

Many American people do not even know that what they are eating does not happen in nature. Any increases in cost to the labelling will be minimal and will not cost a single penny of consumer’s money. Although the food and drug administration has deemed GMOs safe for human consumption, 9 in 10 Americans say they support the labelling of modified goods. To name a few, Ben and Jerry’s, Chipotle, Trader Joes, and Whole Foods are all in the support of labelling GMO foods.

Abortion Is More Serious Than Ear Piercings!

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Fina Valenzuela and Dominic Gjurasic introduced Senate Bill 5050, which addresses the issue of abortion. “The bill is a good one because it helps ensure the safety, health, and state of mind of minors who plan to get an abortion,” said Sen. Valenzuela. This bill requires parental consent in an abortion involving a minor citizen. In our state, parental consent is required for a minor to get a piercing, tattoo, and/or to watch an R-Rated movie in theaters (if you are younger than 17). If

minors need consent for those matters, they should need consent for a medical procedure that could negatively affect the minor’s health or state of mind. Our hope for this bill is that after receiving



parental consent, the minors can gain wisdom/encouragement from their parents (lessening their burden), ease their mind through parental consultation, and help avoid dangers to their health with the financial and moral support of the parents. In a situation where the minor feels that telling her parents about the pregnancy could inflict danger, they have the option of a judicial bypass in which the government could approve the abortion without parental consent. In this case, approval must occur within 10 days to ensure the safety of the fetus and minor.



Representatives Help Save Washington Money by Restricting EBT Rules

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Emily Munch and Brooke Modderman introduced House Bill 3210, which addresses the issue of government subsidies. “The bill is a good one because it saves money and reduces not only drug use but also crime rates,” said Rep. Modderman and Munch. This bill is reducing the abuse of government supplied EBT cards and in doing so it will save millions of dollars every year. We will require that people truly needing of government aid have some sort of identification on the EBT card, such as a photograph or description. This simple act will not only save millions of dollars, but will dramatically decrease the amount of stolen or sold cards.



Gun Violence is a National Crisis

Olympia – House Bill 3150 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Anthony Jones, Alejandro Montiel, and Christopher Symonette. “This bill addresses the issue of gun control. The bill will create safer environments for the people around us by keeping the streets gun free,” said Rep. Montiel. This bill will require any gun customer to take a mental health check before the purchase of any firearm. Already 10 states in the United States have placed this law into action and Washington should join this movement. The state of Washington already requires a background check before the purchase of a firearm, so the state should have no problem establishing this law. The cost is the responsibility of the person who wishes to purchase a firearm.



The Death Penalty

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Linda Pettigrew, Zepaniah Bravo, and Nneka Amamilo introduced House Bill 1120 which addresses the issue of the death penalty. “The bill is a good one because it will eliminate the death penalty in Washington State,” said Rep. Bravo. The death penalty is not an effective means of punishment, because it’s extremely costly and people will not learn from their mistakes. So we should replace the death penalty with a life sentence with no parole. In addition, if you are convicted, you have to pay restitution to victims and their families.



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 OSPI senior policy advisor Skip Priest, Senator Sharon Brown's session aide Kenny Short, and Professor Ronda Tentarelli 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 Mary Fairhurst 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 the justice took them on a customized tour of the conference room, robe room, and the law library. Justice Fairhurst also took the pages upstairs to see her own chambers which was a unique treat.



Thanks for a great week!