



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 15

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Pages Learn About Legislature



Sine Die and Goodbye!



On Sunday, April 26, after 105 days, the first session of the 64th Legislative biennium will end. Over 3,000 bills were introduced in the two chambers, but only about 15-20 per-

cent will actually become laws. Pages got a first-hand look at how parliamentary procedure is used by legislators on the floor of each chamber as they delivered documents, listened to their legislators express their views, and watched the voting process. The last bills to be passed will be sent to the Governor for his signature after the session's end.

At the rear of both the House and the Senate chambers are massive double doors. When opened wide, the presiding officers on the respective rostrums can see one another across the rotunda. It is a long-standing tradition that the final act of the legislative session occurs when the two officers simultaneously bang their gavels and announce we are now adjourned *sine die*. This is a Latin term meaning "without day" which refers to the session ending without assigning another day for meeting.

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.

Second-hand Smoke Puts Innocent Children at Risk

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Rachel Kim, Marcelas Owens, and Carolynn Clarey introduced Senate Bill 7777, which addresses the issue of second-hand smoke. "The bill is a good one because it prevents children from inhaling toxic or cancer-causing chemicals," said Sen. Kim. Arkansas, Louisiana, California, and Maine have already passed laws against smoking in the car. "Studies also indicate children are more at risk than adults for adverse health effects of second-hand smoke, ranging from ear infections to asthma and bronchitis," says Rob Carson in The News Tribune. To continue Rob Carson writes that,

"Tests have shown that air pollution in smokers' cars can reach levels nearly 10 times the hazardous levels set by the Environmental Protection Agency." This bill will speak for the children trapped in the car while their parents smoke and protect them from health risks they face while breathing in dangerous chemicals.



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.

Body Cameras Will Make a Change

Olympia – The issue of policemen corruption was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Karen Lopez, Lekasia Riley, and Luke Jankovic introduced House Bill 1333. “Our bill will help the safety of our officers and the community,” said Rep. Karen Lopez, Lekasia Riley, and Luke Jankovic. Our bill requires every police officer to wear body cameras. Body cameras will make police officer work more efficient. Studies also found that when the police department in

Rialto, Calif. conducted a trial period assigning cameras to half of its 54 officers at random, the use of force declined by 60 percent. Another study in Mesa, Ariz. had the same result. A case happened on August 9, 2014 when Michael Brown was killed by a policemen and there were several different sides to the story. That doesn’t mean that one is lying. They just experienced it from a different perspective and have different recollection. Some officers after shooting someone have distortions. During a trial, having details on film will help the jury make a clear decision. By having a body camera on a police officer, there will be no more injustices and guessing games.



The Legislature Fights Back

Olympia – The issue of wolves killing livestock in Eastern Washington was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Aimee Joiner, Belen Salguero, and Faith Torres introduced House Bill 1989. “Our bill will reduce the possibility of wolves attacking farmer’s livestock,” said Rep. Joiner. All known packs are located in Eastern Washington. “A survey of the state (Washington) in 2008 showed that 75 percent of the state’s residents supported grey wolves returning. A second survey was later taken in 2014 and showed that support

for the wolves had dropped to 64 percent. Most of the drop being



from places in Eastern Washington that suffered from the sudden population.” (Nicholas K. Geranios) The Legislature’s plan is to remove the grey wolf from Washington State’s endangered list. They will also offer a special license that would allow the hunting of wolves during a set season.

Lawmakers Show a Soft Spot for Innocent Animals and Help Save Washington’s Pets

Olympia – Senate Bill 5420 was introduced by Senators Hazel Dalcanton Borden, Zoe DeBroux, and Eunah Choi. “This bill addresses the issue of animal abandonment. The bill will decrease the amount of abandoned animals in Washington State,” said Sen. Dalcanton This bill will give every small and large scale breeder a survey that must be delivered to each customer.

The survey will assess whether each customer is fit to take care of the animal, based on their knowledge of the animal and its proper care, and their plan to take care of it. “We have found that one of the main causes of animal abandonment is people not having the ability to care for an animal, even if they originally thought they did,” said Senator DeBroux. This bill will address that issue and decrease the abandonment rate of Washington’s animals.



Add a Label, Not Additives!



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Ava Martin and Noemi Turner introduced Senate Bill 6379, which addresses the issue of food additives. “This bill would provide the people of Washington State with a way

to identify which products in supermarkets have food additives by requiring companies to properly label food. This will enable people who are concerned about the health risks of additives, like GMOs, to know the truth about the ingredients in their diet. The idea of the bill is simple and cost effective,” said Sen. Turner. The Legislature has concluded from research that food additives are detrimental to people’s health. At high levels, the commonly used sugar substitute, aspartame, can cause mental retardation. Since the introduction of GMO’s, food allergies, digestive disorders, autism, and chronic illnesses have swelled. In order to allow the people of Washington State to choose healthier foods for themselves, the Legislature will compel all food manufacturers in Washington State to label in an obvious place any food additives and GMO’s that are incorporated in their product.

Legislators Fund Shelters Through Breeders

Olympia – House Bill 2000 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Haylee Byrd, Rosemary York, and Mackenzie Stevens. “This bill addresses the issue of abandoned animals.

The bill will require breeders to pay a tax for each litter based on species and weight of the mother. The proceeds from which will support animal shelters and reduce prices for spaying/neutering surgeries which they will be required to offer at animal shelters,” said Rep. York, Byrd, and Stevens. Animal tax will be a certain price depending on their weight and species. The money breeders pay will be sent to the animal shelters to provide funding and support for a low priced spaying/neutering program.



Representatives Push Back School Start Times!

Olympia – Yesterday, House Bill 2001 was introduced to committee by Representatives Ngo Nuam, Jessica Carman, and Gage DeRosia, which addresses the issue of school start time. “This bill is important, because it will decrease the number of students who fell asleep in class,” said Rep. Carman. 60 percent of children under the age of 18 complain about being tired during the day; not only does the student population complain, but so do the parents! “Everyone always complains about how they never get enough sleep and how it affects school start time,” reported Rep. Ngo Nuam. It affects kids because they have a body clock that

decides when they need to stay up later, so they can’t help it. This may affect parents’ lives in positive/negative ways. On one hand, they can get



more sleep while working graveyard shift; but on the other, this can interfere with previously discussed schedules. “Now, while we pushed the start time back, that doesn’t mean that they can stay up an hour later. Kids require about 6-8 hours of sleep to feel rested, so they cannot abuse this,” reported Rep. DeRosia. According to brain studies, it shows a well-rested brain performs better than a sleep deprived one. So, keep an eye on your kids, sit back and relax. Representatives’ quotes: “We hope that this will affect school productivity throughout the nation. Families should rest at ease knowing that they won’t have to worry about school hours. Sleep deprivation leads to one of the hardest diseases to cure, depression.”

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.

The Lazarus Bill

Olympia – The issue of capital punishment was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Arun Solanky and Chase Galvan introduced House Bill 2412. “Our bill will provide revenue, save money, and end a cruel and useless punitive measure that has plagued Washington,” said Rep. Solanky. The bill’s essential function is the abolition of the death penalty and the replacement of a sentence of life imprisonment without parole with fines upward of 5 million dollars to offset the cost of imprisonment. The Representatives estimate the bill will save over 10 million dollars over the next 15 years, as well as streamline the overcrowded prison system of Washington State.



Accountability Given by Body Cameras on Law Enforcement



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Carlos Alvarez, Alex Bainter, and Devin Waldrop introduced Senate Bill 5881, which addresses the issue of police accountability and recording method. “The bill is a good one, because it allows for a more efficient way to hold either police officers or arrested citizens accountable for their actions during an arrest or major conflict,” said Sen. Bainter. The Legislature finds that police enforcement needs better accountability methods which address privacy issues regarding domestic violence, conflicts, and arrest. The cameras will be equipped with microphones, so that the prosecutor can get a clear video feed as well as audio. This gives more useable evidence in a court of law. Since there will be clear evidence, it will speed up the legal process because there will not be as much back and forth between the defendant and the prosecutor. SB 5881 will also address other issues regarding the legitimacy and background information on certain cases if so ruled by a court judge so that no privacy is violated by the

public. It will only allow police reports on cases to be accessed by public if so deemed by a judge. The bill will be funded by drawing money from the federal budget. It will not draw from state taxes which a conflict that was proposed during the making of the bill. The bill will contribute to the further good of all law enforcement cases that have major controversy, will be safe regarding privacy issues and public records request, and will be federally funded.

Just 5 More Minutes!

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Tierra West, Kaytee Crook, and Louisa Middlebrook introduced House Bill 3690, which addresses the issue of school start times. “The bill is a good one, because by moving school start times to 9:00 a.m., students will be able to get more sleep which will result in fewer health problems, greater emotional stability and better attendance,” said Rep. West. In order to reduce said health problems and improve the performance and learning capability of students, the Legislature will require that any and all school start times must be at or after 9:00 a.m. By doing this, students will be able to get the sleep they need and be ready to learn when they get to school each morning.



Page School Thanks

The Page School wishes to thank two people who have been very supportive and instrumental in providing a special learning opportunity for the pages. Each week this session, pages have been able to conduct their mock hearings in a “real” legislative hearing room. Cheri Randich, from Senate Committee Services,



has arranged use of a Senate hearing room for the vast majority of the Page School hearings. Anthony Arenas and TVW staff video-tape the hearings and make them available on the TVW.org website. Pages, families, and friends enjoy watching the pages’ hearings when they return home.

Senators Advocate for Parental Notification

Olympia – Senate Bill 5928 was introduced yesterday by Senators Bryce Asberg, Samuel Jeffries, and Isaac Hartz. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion notification, ensuring that minors getting an abortion do so with the knowledge of their parents,” said Sen. Asberg. The Legislature finds that in the state of Washington, an abortion is too easy to get. Many parents and/or guardians don’t know about an abortion their kids got until much later. Regret and potentially harmful side effects are often associated with an abortion. All women under the age of eighteen that obtain an abortion will be required by the Legislature to notify a parent or guardian of the abortion.



Existence to Life is a Human Right

Olympia – House Bill 1234 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Salai Menta and Christopher McCray-Jackson. “This bill addresses the issue of the death penalty. The bill will ban the practice of execution by any means,” said Rep. Salai Menta. Since its territorial days, Washington has been considered as a state allowing executions of criminals. There were few exceptions of time periods where it was abolished either legislatively or constitutionally. As a prime sponsor of this bill, Rep. McCray-Jackson proclaimed that the “death penalty is not an effective punishment and is very expensive. For example, a study from Seattle University found that cases (death penalty) in the state of Washington cost \$1 million.”



Police Cameras Possibly Introduced

Olympia – Senate Bill 5274 was introduced yesterday by Senators Christopher King, Tyler Knudson, and Alex Richter. “This bill addresses the issue of police body cameras. The bill will show true accountability and in the end make our streets safer,” said Sen. King. Police officers and State Troopers alike on duty are required to wear body cameras that are constantly recording. These files are only accessible by the people involved in the incident and by authorized personnel. As the public does not have access to these records, it is not a violation of privacy. In order to fund this action, there would be a \$5 increase on traffic tickets. Plus President Obama has set aside money to provide half of the money used to buy each video recording unit.



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.

Watch us live at TVW.org

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

Taking a Bite Out of Your Life

Olympia – The issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Aliyah Petersen, Anna Hogenson, and Mari Miller-Knox introduced House Bill 2048. “Our bill will inform Washington state citizens of foods that are containing GMO’s,”



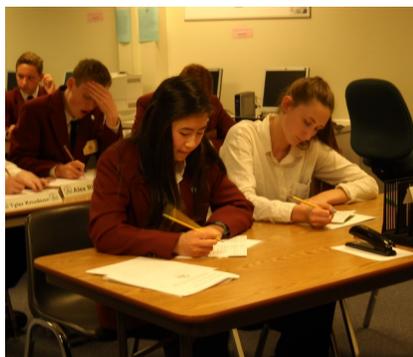
said Rep. Petersen, Hogenson and Miller-Knox. GMO’s and other additives are harmful to people’s health. This bill will inform anyone who is purchasing any foods with GMO’s. Companies will be required to have a seal that clearly represents

their product contains GMO’s. Hopefully helping people become more aware of what they are putting into their body could affect their health.

More Sleep Equals Happier Teenagers!

Olympia – Senate Bill 6789 was introduced yesterday by Senators Olivia Young and Catherine Taylor. “This bill addresses the issue of school start time. The bill will change the starting time of schools to improve students’ tardiness, absenteeism, depressed moods, car crashes, grades, etc.” said Sen. Young. The Legislature finds that many teenagers are sleep deprived, which can cause health problems and interfere with learning.

NSF took a poll and discovered 60% of children under 18 are sleep deprived; and 15% fall asleep during school. “Over time, sleep deprivation leads to serious consequences for academic achievement, social behavior, and the health and safety of our nation’s youth,” says Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D-CA). Experts recommend teens to get 8 ½ to 9 ½ hours of sleep per night. But in reality, 85 % of teens get less than 8 ½ hours of sleep. Due to our two body systems; sleep/wake homeostasis and the circadian sleep phase delay, teens feel ready to sleep around 11 pm - 12 am. So by delaying school start times to start no earlier than 10:00 am, this allows teenagers to get more sleep, and in return, their academic performance will positively increase.



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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 wrapping up 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.

(Teachers pictured with Justice Mary Fairhurst.)

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.



Youth Employees Demand a Rise in Granted Labor Hours



Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Allison Bignall introduced Senate Bill 6969, which addresses the issue of labor laws concerning minors. “The bill is necessary because it allows minors to work up to thirty hours per week during the school year,” said Sen. Bignall. As of

this moment, during a non-variant school week, a student between the ages of sixteen and seventeen are legally authorized to work a maximum of four hours per day, excluding Friday through Sunday which rises to eight daily hours; twenty hours total within the seven day period requiring at least one full day off; and begin no earlier than seven a.m. and end no later than ten p.m., also excluding Friday through Sunday which grants a release at midnight. The shifts Monday through Thursday will be raised to a maximum of six hours and for Friday through Sunday the cap will be ten hours, with the maximum number of hours available to work leveled at thirty hours. Despite common belief, this will not deduct from the educational environment; it is solely based upon the student and their personal integrity toward work. Students deserve absolute responsibility in how they handle their schedules and maneuver about the educational field through this opportunity as they begin the transfer into the adult life and will aid them greatly in the future.



Local Senators Make Life Less “Ruff”

Olympia - Senators Cecilia Atkins, Campbell Risdon, and Erika Weber introduced Senate Bill 6666, which addresses the issue of abandoned animals. “The bill is a good one because it helps protect the safety of animals as well as keeping strays off

the streets,” said Sen. Atkins. This bill ensures the safety and stability for finding homes for animals by conducting a series of home checks and income checks to ensure that the possible pet owner will be an eligible pet owner with proper living conditions. This bill can be funded by the 5% tax increase on pet kennels and lodges.

Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week OSPI senior policy advisor Skip Priest, Rep. Steve Bergquist (D-11), and LSS deputy director Kevin Pierce 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.

