



# The Weekly Page

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## Pages Learn About The 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.

### Alternatives to Driver’s Education Courses

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Angela Brasher and Kyle Braun introduced Senate Bill 6372, which addresses the issue of Driver’s Education being too expensive. “The bill is a good one because it will make the Driver’s Education requirement more affordable,” stated Sen. Braun. This bill proposes to offer two alternatives to taking a driver’s education course in order to bring the very expensive \$350 to \$700 classes down to below \$100. By using either an online driver’s education course or an extra 50 hours of practice driving (including 10 at night) as alternatives for the mandatory Driver’s Education course, costs would dramatically decrease for this Washington State requirement. “The significant cost and unnecessary burden of driver’s education courses on parents and students will be lifted and allow them to choose to spend that money on something else, such as college education,” Sen. Brasher indicated. Twenty-six other states (including California and Ohio) allow teens to complete an online driver’s education course as an alternative to traditional driving schools. It will still allow the traditional schools to operate as an option for those who chose it.



### GMO Labeling

Olympia – House Bill 1346 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Emily Heiser and Emily Stevens. “This bill addresses the issue of GMO labeling. The bill will require businesses that manufacture food to label for GMO,” said Rep. Heiser and Stevens.



This will help Washington state citizens who struggle with GMO sensitivities to know if there is GMO in the products they’re eating. Three US states and forty-nine countries currently require GMO labeling. This will help people to know what they are eating for a healthier Washington.

### Small Farms Don’t Need a License



Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Daniel Newman introduced Senate Bill 7782, which addresses the issue of licensing for dairy products. “The bill is a good one because it will allow small dairy farms to sell milk without a license,” said Sen.

Newman. Most small dairy producers don’t get a license anyway. Plus if they attempt to get a license, they may decide not to be dairy producers because of the difficult work of obtaining and maintaining a license. We need people to feel free to produce products for capital gain.

### Lawmakers Blowing Steam Over New E-cigs

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Jarrett Cookingham and Natalie Triche introduced House Bill 2537, which addresses the issue of electronic cigarettes. “The bill is a good one because it will improve the health of our state,” said Rep. Triche and Cookingham. Our bill will require all e-cigarettes to follow the same rules and regulations as traditional cigarettes and tobacco products. Electronic cigarettes have not been fully studied by



the FDA and it is perfectly possible that children across Washington State are being poisoned by toxic chemicals. Another problem is that nicotine content may vary and e- cigarettes may not deliver the content on the label or in consistent doses.

### Helping Athletes into a Better Future

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Elliot Grahm, Jack Sanders, and Brendan Chase introduced Senate Bill 7272, which addresses the issue of athlete’s GPA in regards to participation. “The bill is a great bill because it will equalize the



GPA’s for varsity sports of all schools and help athletic people dreaming to do sports professionally to get a more proficient education,” said Sen. Elliot Grahm. “Playing athletics should be a privilege, not something that is simply given to a student. This bill requires that any person playing a varsity sport must have a GPA of 1.75 which is an average of a D+ or a C-. Currently a player can participate with as low as a 0.8 GPA. This bill does not affect any athletes in a non-varsity sport. The GPA average can be higher in certain schools if that certain school wants to do soet their individual standards higher.

### Reformation of Cellphone Laws

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Michael Forbes and Andrew Drinkard introduced House Bill 3636, which addresses the issue of electronic device use in cars. “The bill is a good one because it will make talking on your cellphone while driving a more serious law,” said Rep. Drinkard and Forbes. This law will make talking on your cellphone while driving a more serious offence.



Your first fine will be \$300, and then your second will be \$500. If the behavior continues, it will result in license suspension. If the offenders continue after suspension, this will result in a jail time of 60 days. After this if they continue offending, it will result in permanent license suspensions.

### Aborting Spontaneous Abortions

Olympia – Senate Bill 5666 was introduced yesterday by Senators Katie Mills, Liana McKown, and Elizabeth Bassett. “This bill addresses the issue



of abortion. The bill will require parental notification plus consent prior to a minor receiving an abortion that therefore terminates their pregnancy,” said Sen. McKown. A majority of U.S. states, 36, have already em-

ployed a parental involvement process. In the state of Indiana, a minor must receive parental consent through legal documentation in order to receive an abortion. Only 9% of Indiana state pregnancies have resulted in abortion in 2011. This bill will allow minors the chance to collect guidance concerning the repercussions of an abortion before rotating such a serious decision into a spontaneous one.

### Take Second-Hand Smoke into Your Own Hands!

Olympia – House Bill 3967 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Morgan Sedlak and McKenna Dahlinger. “This bill addresses the issue of

second-hand smoke. The bill will prevent health issues to non-smokers and reduce the developmental concerns of young children,” said Rep. Dahlinger. Construction of designated indoor and outdoor



smoking areas will reduce the amount of health problems from second-hand smoke to those who do not smoke. It has been proven that second-hand smoke in the backseat of a car is 30 times higher than the level at which an unhealthy air alert is triggered. To prevent this from causing harm to minors 16 and younger, a fee of \$125 will be assessed to violators of this law.

**Watch us live at TVW.org**  
 Search for “Page School” in the Archives to watch yourself in the committee hearings.

### Are Elderly Drivers Too Dangerous?

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Gabe Vogel and Sean Wallace introduced House Bill 2233, which addresses the issue of elderly driving. “This is a good bill because it will limit the number of fatalities caused by elderly drivers.” said Rep. Connery. This bill will make it mandatory for all licensed drivers over the age of 60 to take a driving test every 2 years to renew their license. If a driver passes this test, they will keep their license and have it renewed. If a driver fails this test, their license will be taken. However, they will be able to retake the test every 2 years to renew their license again.



### High School Hits the Snooze Button

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators, Ashlyn Carlson, Jonah Joughin, Miguel Perez, and Drew Thompson introduced Senate Bill 5129, which addresses the issue of school start time. “The bill is a good one because it can help by not causing health

problems. It can help student be wide awake during class, so they will be able to keep track of work during class time,” said Sen. Carlson, Joughin, Thompson, and Perez. Waking



up early in the morning can cause health problems. A study of natural sleep wake cycles shows that waking teenagers up at 7 a.m. is roughly equivalent to waking an adult at 4 a.m. According to students, school should be intellectually challenging, not physically challenging. Getting up so early gives us something very physically difficult to do which depletes our energy left for learning and thinking.

### 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.



### Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week **Representative Susan Fagan (R-9th), Lt. Governor Brad Owen, 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.



### 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.

### Police Defense by Filming



Olympia – Senate Bill 7352 was introduced yesterday by Senators Holly Smith and Michael Jasa. "This bill addresses the issue of body cameras on police. The bill will help provide trust and loyalty among police and citizens," said Sen. Smith and Jasa. The

sponsors are saying that this bill will "help provide safety and assurance among the police." In addition it will provide legal evidence for citizens to pursue court action when they believe they have been wronged by the police. If the police officers wore body cameras, the people would have more clarity on what actually happened at the moment.

### Finance in Schools

Olympia - House Bill 2777 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Gabby Holman and Rainy Sizemore. "This bill addresses the issue of finance literacy classes. The bill will help young adults handle their money better," said Rep. Holman. The bill makes it a requirement for schools in Washington to require their students take a finance literacy class in order to graduate. Seven states in the United States



of America already have passed this law. The classes will teach students how to apply for financial aid, pay taxes, handle a checking account, apply for jobs, and pay their bills.

### 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.