



# The Weekly Page

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 5

FEBRUARY 13, 2015

## 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.

### School Start Time

Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Gillian Hallock and Annie Bradshaw. “This bill addresses the issue of school start time. The bill will make all Washington middle and high school start at 9:00 a.m. at the earliest,” said Sen. Hallock. “Many teenagers are sleep deprived which can cause health problems and interfere with learning. The tendency for teenagers to sleep late has a clear biological basis. Important changes in the circadian rhythm during adolescence shift children’s internal clocks to later bed and wake times as teens. Melatonin levels peak at roughly 7 a.m. for adolescents and at 4 a.m. for adults, so waking a teenager at 7 a.m. is similar to waking an adult at 4 a.m. A study of 7,000 Minnesota high school students found that “A” students got an average of 15 minutes more sleep every night than “B” students, who in turn slumbered 15 minutes more than “C” students. After the Minneapolis Public School District changed the starting times of seven high schools from 7:15 to 8:40, the results showed students obtained 5 or more extra hours of sleep per week. Results also found improvement in attendance and enrollment rates, increased daytime alertness, and decreased student reported depression,” said Sen. Bradshaw.



### Guns in Schools



Olympia – House Bill 2398 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Dylan O’Brien, Dylan Stakelin, and Kenneth Hageman. “This bill addresses the issue of school safety. The bill

will give teachers the right to carry a gun in school or on school grounds if teachers have the correct training, licenses, and background checks” said Rep. Hageman. House Bill 2398 will allow teachers with the proper training, licenses, and a class taught by retired or former police officers to carry guns. Teachers/staff also will have to pass a background check and a mental health check every six months to be cleared to carry firearms on school grounds.

### Senators Hammer Down On Smoke!

Olympia – Yesterday Senator Alden Davison and Kolton Watkins introduced House Bill 5555, which addresses the issue of the tax on tobacco. “The bill is a good one because it will eventually reduce the use of tobacco products,” said Sen.



Watkins. This bill has the potential to help the citizens of Washington break free from a negative addiction. The end outcome of taxing cigarettes sales will go directly to protecting and restoring the environment. Overall, this bill will improve the general health of Washington’s society.

### Abortion Solution?

Olympia – House Bill 2929 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Kaila Valenzuela, Claire Robinson, and Jack Yount. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion regulations.” said Rep.



Yount. The proposed bill has been set up to ensure the health of women in addition to eliminating abortions after the twelve

week period. Studies show that every seven minutes a women dies from complications during or after an unsafe abortion. Our bill would make these devastations nearly impossible and would protect thousands of women.

### Wolves vs. Eastern WA Farmers

Olympia – Senate Bill 6010 was introduced yesterday by Senator Reanna Best. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves attacking livestock in Eastern Washington. The bill will require that farmers and ranchers invest in big game cameras and solar power animal control lights. It will also raise the big game tags 10% and limit the amount of game a hunter can kill to one of each,” said Sen. Best. Wolves are a problem here, but we also need to remember they need their basic resources as well. If we don’t stop hunting all of their prey, they will start hunting ours, and they have already. If farmers would take the time to invest in cameras and solar powered lights, they wouldn’t have to worry about making up the money for a lost chunk of meat later on in life. A lot of these attacks can be prevented. Farmers can still keep their right to kill the wolf if it attacks their livestock, but it shouldn’t have to get to that point. Eastern Washington residents, especially farmers and hunters, need to give a little bit up to keep their safety in the long run.



### Fingerprint Requirement to Reduce Absentee Voting Fraud

Olympia – House Bill 2775 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Molly Buccola and Kamryn Cole. “This bill addresses the issue of blank ballot voter fraud. The bill will reduce the chance of a fraudulent voter taking advantage of unused ballots to falsely vote on referendums, addendums, and candidates for personal political means,” said Rep. Molly Buccola. The Washington state government will require ballots to include ink and thumbprint instead of check boxes to ensure the authenticity of the citizen’s vote. “DO IT,” says Rep. Cole.



#### Tax Soda Subsidize Fruits and Vegetables

Olympia – Senate Bill 5632 was introduced yesterday by Senators Kaitlin Bell and Jodi Black. “This bill addresses the issue of obesity. The bill will decrease the amount of obese people in Washington,” said



Sen. Bell and Black. Taxing soda based on the amount of calories and using that money to subsidize fruits and vegetables will improve the health of many people. The money from these taxes will then be used to subsidize the purchase of fruits and vegetables. This is a huge step towards a healthy future.

#### Teen Use of E-Cigarettes is E-raised



Olympia – Yesterday, Senate Bill 5072, which addresses the issue of electronic cigarettes, was introduced yesterday by Senators Lilly Bulski and Charlotte Perez. “This bill addresses the issue of electronic cigarettes. The

bill will limit access to these cigarettes and will treat electronic cigarettes the same as other tobacco products,” said Sen. Perez. Since E-Cigarettes have not been around long, it is time to regulate them. King County has already taken this step and the rest of the state should follow.

#### Ranchers Obtain Right to Defend Against Wolf Attacks

Olympia – House Bill 2067 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jenny Buccola and Lauryn Armfield. “This bill addresses the issue of wolf attacks on cattle and other livestock in the eastern third of Washington State. The bill will allow ranchers to shoot wolves when livestock are



endangered,” said Rep. Buccola. The new mandate also requires that ranchers report every wolf killed, so the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is able to track the missing wolves. While the number of these predatory Gray Wolves continues to grow, the number of livestock and their positive impact on the economy is shrinking. The new legislation will allow local ranchers to protect their livestock, and therefore their livelihoods.

#### New Gun Control Law Shatters the House!

Olympia – House Bill 2486 was introduced yesterday by Representative Wulf Jinkins. “This bill addresses the issue of the removal of hollow point rounds from public dispensaries. The bill will make it illegal to sell hollow tip bullets at public firearm dispensaries,” said Rep. Jinkins. Hollow tipped rounds are banned by the Hogue Convention on international warfare, so



what reason is there for them to be sold to citizens. They cause nearly 5 times the damage of a solid lead bullet. During the mass shooting on California Street in San Francisco in the year of 1993, hollow point rounds were used and the shooter killed 8 people and gravely injured 6 others.

#### New Bill Ends Sickening Vaccine Exemption Rates

Olympia – The issue of immunization of school children was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Senator Samuel Dorsey introduced Senate Bill 5101. “Our bill will protect the state of Washington against the outbreak of infectious disease and defend our citizens from the possibility of bioterrorism,” said Sen. Dorsey. The bill will require every public school student to provide immunization records for all required vaccinations. Only those able to provide records may remain in the public school system. The new bill will increase vaccination rates above the critical 90% immunization to create herd immunity for students.



### 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 **Representatives Chris Reykdal (D-22nd), Drew MacEwen (R-35), and Dick Muri (R-28)** 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.



### Smile, You Are On Camera

Olympia – House Bill HB 2113 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jessica Morris and Brooke DeRuwe. “This bill addresses the issue of police body cameras and microphones. The bill will protect the safety of our police officers,” said Rep. Morris. This bill will require



police officers to use a body camera and microphones while on duty. It will also ensure protection for police when in significant or serious situations. Every incident involving an officer will be recorded so that nobody will be tried unfairly. If a police officer needs to enter private property, the officer must turn off the mic and camera to respect the citizen’s privacy and rights.

### 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.

### Should They Give Their Land?

Olympia – Yesterday Senators Katlyn Dunlap and Conner Harless introduced Senate Bill 6079 which addresses the issue of hunger in Washington State. “The bill is a good one because with farmers giving 5% of their produce to community food services, it will help decrease the number of people who are hungry,” said Sen. Dunlap and Harless. The state leases out land to farmers and to other people. With the land that the state leases, we would like to write into the lease that a small portion, like 5%, of their produce they produce will go to food services.



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