



The Weekly Page

VOLUME 11 ISSUE 7

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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.

Transportation Committee Clamps Down on Second Hand Smoke Affecting Children in Motor Vehicles

Olympia – Senate Bill 6606 was introduced yesterday by Senators Victor Hanson, Juliette Lai-Madrid, and Elizabeth Hedt. “This bill addresses the issue of second hand smoking. The bill will prohibit smoking in all personal motor vehicles containing passengers under the age of 18, while also creating a healthier environment for children being transported,” said Sen. Hanson.

“Essentially,” Senator Madrid explained, “this bill will solve the long debated issue of negative health effects affecting children riding in cars with smoking adults or young people for that matter. It will



help preserve the health of these aspiring citizens, who likely have no alternative transportation.” “The real cause for concern is the negative health effects caused by second hand smoke on children,” said Senator Hedt. Secondhand smoke contains over 250 harmful chemicals, all of which these children will be repeatedly exposed to if we do not pass this legislation.

An Act of Equal Rights for Both Genders



Olympia – House Bill 1000 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Ethan McClintock and Nathan Deanon. “This bill addresses the issue of consent over whether his or her child is aborted. The bill will require that the doctor performing the abortion will have to receive a written consent from the father allowing the abortion, if the abortion is to proceed,” said Rep. McClintock. This bill will allow fathers to have a final say about whether the mother undergoes an abortion. It addresses who has consent over the child since the child was created by both parties in the act. This bill provides an equal right over the child for both genders. If the mother does not want the child and the father does, the child will have to be born but the father will have to pay for the hospital bill. The mother of the child will not have to pay child support or any other fees regarding the child.

Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Rachel Dowlen and Monique Otter-Johnson. “This bill addresses the issue of Washington’s homeless. The bill will create homes for the homeless by giving money to contractors specifically for homeless shelters. Also it will require a shelter for every thousand homeless. Shelters will be built so that a thousand of Washington’s homeless will have a room to live in,” said Sen. Rachael Dowlen. This bill will create houses and shelters for Washington’s homeless population in our cities. It will also lessen the amount of people who get hypothermia every year by the thousands. The streets will also be safer, because families will run into less strangers on street corners.

Homes for the Homeless

Olympia – Senate Bill 5881 was introduced yesterday by Senators Betlehem Muno and Reegan Moll. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity. The bill will help prevent childhood obesity in the state of Washington,” said Sen. Moll. The bill will have the Legislature require all schools in the state of Washington to have healthy choices on their lunch menus. It will provide more support and help the eating habits of kids. It will provide the school districts the allowance to purchase locally grown food. At the moment, state laws have made it easier for schools to buy food in large bulks rather than supporting the purchase of local grown food. The effect of the current lunches provided at public schools is that more than one in three middle school students who eat school lunch are obese or overweight. Through a slight increase in the taxes for the citizens of the state of Washington, the cost for the allowance the schools are given will be covered.



Olympia – House Bill 1350 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Caleb Bryant, Rachel Guisinger, and Dylan Bartos. “This bill addresses the issue of school start times and will require high schools (grades 9-12) to start the school day on or after 8 AM. The bill will help improve the overall test scores of students and will also decrease the teen crash rate by 16.5%,” said Rep. Bartos. This bill explains that students are sleep deprived and have a tendency for decreased test scores when they have less sleep. Even moving school to an hour later helped increase the SAT performance by 56 points in math and 156 in verbal scores. Also, a later start time dropped teenage car accidents by 16.5% while schools without the change saw accidents increase by 7.8%.

Lawmakers Say Goodnight to Low Test Scores and Teen Crash Rates

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Watch us live at TVW.org

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

Driving While Using Electronic Devices

Olympia – House Bill 1595 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Cole Hicks and Mitchell Wright. “This bill addresses the issue of driving with electronics. The bill will raise the ticket amount on driving with an electronic devise,” said Rep. Wright. The current law states that if you are caught while driving and being on an electronic devise, you are issued a ticket. We need to raise the price of this ticket, because the current law is not stopping people from using their electronic devises. Instead of the ticket being \$124, the ticket should be \$200.



“Plastic or Paper?” You Might Not Have a Choice

Olympia – Senate Bill 7777 was introduced yesterday by Senators Charlie Young and Connor Smith. “This bill addresses the issue of paper bags. The bill will ban the use of plastic bags in the state,” said Sen. Smith. Plastic bags take between 500 and 1,000 years to decompose, which means that they are able to pollute the environment for quite some time. “Over 100,000 marine animals are killed each year because of plastic bags,” said Sen. Young, “It’s time Washington does its part in putting an end to this tragedy.” If banned in this State, the amount being added to the environment should drop significantly.



Up in Vapor

Olympia – House Bill 2468 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Paige Wright and Quinn Kiel. “This bill addresses the issue of electronic cigarette regulation. The bill will place regulations on the contents of the liquid nicotine product, or ‘E-juice’, where electronic



cigarettes can be used, and how they may be advertised,” said Rep. Quinn Kiel. The bill will place regulations on what may be used in the production of ‘E-juices.’ We wish to protect the consumer by requiring producers to only use safe products in ‘E-juices.’ We will also protect the rights of non-e-smokers by restricting use of electronic cigarettes in public places. We also wish to regulate how these products may be advertised, specifically regarding their apparent appeal to youth.



Saving Lives Clearing Accusations through Body Cameras

Olympia – The issue of police brutality was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Greta DuBois, Angel Ortiz, Adesuwa Agbonile introduced House Bill 2578. “Our bill will protect the general public and ensure fair trials and increase trust in police,” said Rep. DuBois. Our bill will require all officers to wear body cameras and activate them whenever their light bar is on



or when they are approaching a crime scene. Studies show that officers and citizens behave better while being recorded. This will reduce brutality and complaints of officers while building trust with the police. “It is a true win, win situation for all those involved” explained Rep. Agbonile before the committee decided the bill’s fate.

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.



Wooden Bats in Washington High Schools

Olympia – The issue of metal baseball bats was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Dawson Haworth and Taylor Simmons introduced House Bill 1616.



“Our bill will make playing the game of baseball at the high school level a safer experience,” said Rep. Haworth. This bill is to make the game safer for all involved. Wooden bats are proven to be safer and should be required at

the higher levels where the danger and risk is much higher. Lower levels may not need to make the switch but for high schools in the state of Washington, it is imperative that they switch to a safer alternative to metal baseball bats.

Sports Support

Olympia – Senate Bill 6012 was introduced yesterday by Senators Gabriel Munson and Erik Nielsen. “This bill addresses the issue of support for our local sports teams and the state flag. The bill will support the raising of the sport flag substituting for the state flag,” said Sen.

Munson. The bill will change the state flag to the flag of one of the teams that resides in our state for a two week window surrounding the championship. This will occur when a championship is imminent and features an MLB, MLS, NBA, NFL, NHL, or WNBA team that resides in our state. The current state flag would then become the “alternate flag” for the state while the sport flag flies.



Plastic Bags Useful? Or Damaging Our Environment?

Olympia – The issue of plastic bags was considered in committee hearings yesterday when Representatives Sydney Pettit and Ricki Sanchez introduced House Bill 2317. “Our bill will ensure a healthier and safer environment for humans and marine life,” said Rep. Pettit.



Plastic bags are very harmful to today’s environment. Environmental groups say plastic bags waste valuable oil, release toxins when burned, and contribute to global warming. Marine life can also be harmed by plastic bags. About 100,000 whales, seals, turtles, and other marine animals are killed by plastic bags each year worldwide. Washington residents use more than 2 billion plastic bags each year with the majority of them clogging streams, fouling beaches, or floating in the Sound. Overall plastic bags are damaging our environment and with banning them, we can solve this issue.

Dangerous Smoke

Olympia – House Bill 3333 was introduced yesterday by Representative Rylee Eberle. “This bill addresses the issue of second-hand smoking in vehicles with minors present. The bill will hopefully teach people the serious dangers of second-hand smoking around minors,” said Rep. Eberle.



Second-hand smoking can cause many preventable diseases, such as lung cancer, asthma, and possibly multiple surgeries and amputations. Even in a car with the windows down and for just 2 hours, victims of second-hand smoking are exposed to toxins at the same levels a fire fighter will be exposed to fighting a wild fire for 4-8 hours. People need to realize the horrible dangers second-hand smoking can cause and how easily preventable it can be. A tiered scale of repercussions involving fines and stickers placed on the violator’s license plate.

Tired of Having to Drag Your Exhausted Teen Out of Bed?

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Jillian Telnack and Aurora Strauss-Reeves introduced Senate Bill 5324, which addresses the issue of school start time. “The bill is a good one because it will allow students to get the amount of sleep needed for their best performance with school work, athletics and other extracurricular activities.” said Sen. Telnack and Strauss-Reeves. This bill will push back the start times of high schools until 9:00 am. It will benefit students and their learning.



Tell Your Parents, They Can Help



Olympia – Senate Bill 5678 was introduced yesterday by Senators Madison Allen and Brenna Scclair. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion laws. The bill

will make sure all teenagers (under 18) seeking abortion have permission from their parents,” said Sen. Brenna Scclair. The fact that it is too easy to get abortions in Washington makes it easy for teenagers to do it behind their parent’s backs. Making sure all teenagers have parental permission before they receive an abortion might lower the rate of unintended pregnancy.

Deadly Phones

Olympia – Senate Bill 5250 was introduced yesterday by Senators Max Mattox and Kohl Kallstrom. “This bill addresses the issue of driving with electronics. The bill will hopefully eliminate the dangers of cell phone distracted drivers,” said Sen. Max Mattox. The Legislature finds that laws regarding driving and



hand-held electronics are ineffective. In order to prevent unnecessary deaths and harm to our citizens, the Legislature will replace the current laws on hand-held electronics while driving. New powerful laws will require drivers to pay more attention to the roads instead of their phones. High fines restricting hand-held electronics will cause drivers to become more aware of their surroundings. This bill will prevent many unnecessary accidents.

Electronic Cigarettes Pose Health Risks for You and Your Family

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Kendra Gady and Krystal Gady introduced Senate Bill 5060, which addresses the issue of use of electronic cigarettes. “The bill is a good one because it requires regulations for the use of electronic cigarettes to ensure the safety of the public,” said Sen. Gady. Though many people assume that

electronic cigarettes are safer than traditional cigarettes, in reality electronic cigarettes have not been fully studied and still pose



health risks. Many liquid nicotine refills come in many flavors as well as many colors that attract children. Ingesting as little as one-third of an ounce of this liquid nicotine is very harmful and may even be fatal. The bill will require proper regulations to ensure safety of the public. Some of these requirements will be not using any electronic cigarettes within 25 feet of a public entrance, no vending machine sales, and the requirement of warning labels on all products.

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.

Protecting Eastern Washington Livestock From Wolves

Olympia – Senate Bill 7998 was introduced yesterday by Senators Jaxon Dean, Garrett Voyles and Keegan Sando. “This bill addresses the issue of wolves killing livestock. The bill will encourage anyone who is able to locate a wolf to call the Fish and Wildlife department. Then if Fish and Wildlife are able to capture the wolves, the caller will get a reward of \$50 per wolf up to \$500,” said Sen. Voyles. Adding this law will encourage farmers that find wolves on their property to call Fish and Wildlife instead of killing the wolves themselves. With a reward more people are likely to report a wolf sighting than without one. The money will come from higher taxes on deer and elk hunter licenses, since there will be more elk and deer if a portion of the wolf population is re-located.



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.



Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week, Representative Chad Magendanz (R-5th), Senator Pramila Jayapal (D-37th) and SDC Chief of Staff Claire Hesselholt 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.

