



# The Weekly Page

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## Pages Learn About Legislature



### 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, listened to guest speakers, and proposed bills in mock committee hearings, their understanding around the concepts deepened. On Friday, they wrote about one of the big ideas to demonstrate the depth of their new knowledge.

### 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. They discussed the criteria for making a legislative solution work before selecting issues to research and develop. Then they used bill templates on class computers to formulate official-looking documents in preparation for mock committee hearings on Thursday. Topics for policy bills included gun violence, plastic bag pollution, welfare fraud and smoking in cars. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the proposals. A “DO PASS” or “DO NOT PASS” recommendation was then voted upon.

### You are what you eat, right?



Olympia – House Bill 5009 was introduced yesterday by Senators Kathryn Saba, Kristen Saba, and Sarah Seeman. “This bill addresses the issue of harmful additives and will require all ALE (home schools etc.) and

BEA (public schools etc.) schools to educate students about chemicals in foods and to send packets to teachers and parents to give to students,” said Sen. Seeman. This bill will be helpful, because it will inform children about the foods they eat. They will learn about different hazardous chemicals and understand what the chemicals do to their bodies. Children will then be able to make healthy choices about what they eat.

Watch us live at [TVW.org](http://TVW.org)

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

### Mandatory DNA Testing Bill Proposed

Olympia – House Bill 3468 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Caitlin Roe and Nathaniel Nutter. “This



bill addresses the issue of mandatory DNA testing and will help to reduce the number of wrongfully convicted individuals through use of DNA evidence,” said Rep. Nutter. It has been reported that at least eighteen people have been wrongfully sentenced to death and executed before DNA evidence was able to prove their innocence. Furthermore the average prison term for a Death Row inmate stands around 13.6 years of incarceration in solitary confinement with extra security stationed near the cell. The bill's goal is to allow for those accused of crimes to be proven either guilty or not guilty with much more accuracy and efficiency as to avoid unjust prison terms for innocent individuals.

### Should gun restrictions in school be modified?



Olympia – Senate Bill 5333 was introduced yesterday by Senators Nolan Martin, Christopher Robinson, and Michael Saba. “This

bill addresses the issue of Gun Violence and will allow children to know that they are in the safe hands of trained and caring teachers,” said Sen. Martin. Other sponsors say "this will tell us that Washingtonians care about their childrens' safety". When we act with certainty and a heart for justice, we will see what our country stands for. All in all, we need to equip teachers with guns to prevent harm to our state's children.

### 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.

### Put to sleep: puppy mills and abandoned animals

Olympia – Senate Bill 7482 was introduced yesterday by Senators Alexandra Wilder and Quinn O'Hanlon. “This bill addresses the issue of abandoned animals and will make it a law that all animals purchased in the State of Washington must have a micro-chip. All micro-chips and papers must state where the animal was bred ,” said Sen. O'Hanlon. This bill will not only help shelters control the amount of animals that go through them; this bill helps shut down puppy mills.



### Senators are Pressing the Snooze Button on Schools



Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Angel Wright and Hannah Lea. “This bill addresses the issue of sleep deprived teens and will make schools start later,” said

Sen. Lea. Teens are recommended to get 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep every night. Most teens are not getting that much sleep. To fix this problem we are hoping this bill will get schools to start an hour later.

### New Driving Bill

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Travis Cowdrey and Jack Brugato introduced House Bill 1777 which addresses the issue of elderly drivers. “The bill is a good one because it will increase the safety of citizens on and off the roads,” said Rep. Cowdrey. This bill addresses the increased amount of accidents caused by elderly drivers. It is shown that elderly drivers are more likely to be involved in accidents compared to younger drivers. The legislation will require every elderly driver to take a physical driver's test in order to renew their license.



## Check Yourself Before You Commit Homicide



Olympia – House Bill 1021 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jackson Obert, Sammi Payne, and Annika Vaughn. “This bill addresses the issue of gun violence and will reduce murders caused by mental illness,” said Rep. Obert.

Any individual wishing to purchase a gun must be approved by a licensed mental health professional and present evidence of this approval at the time of purchase. These precautionary measures will prevent those who suffer from mental disorders from hurting themselves and others. This will also reduce both suicide and homicide fatalities as many who engage in these behaviors are affected by some sort of mental illness. Though some may point out that this bill does not solve the issue of gun violence, the Representatives are quick to defend their proposal. As Rep. Vaughn said, “This is a baby step, but it’s in the right direction.”

## Death Penalty Innocence

Olympia – House Bill 2152 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Davis Luanava, Katherine Easter, and Naomi Marteeny. “This bill addresses the issue of the cost and potential innocence of the death



penalty and will strive to abolish said matter all together,” said Rep. Marteeny. The death penalty may be imposed on innocent people. False confessions and incriminating statements lead to wrongful convictions in approximately 25% of cases. Not only are innocent people sentenced to death row, the death penalty is costly to Washington State. The average death row trial costs an upward of four million dollars.

## Plastic Pollution Problem!

Olympia – House Bill 2346 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Caylie Laney and Ayana Freeman. “This bill addresses the issue of bag pollution and will tax ten cents for each plastic bag sold in retail and grocery stores,” said Rep. Freeman. Environmental groups estimate that 500 billion to



1 trillion plastic bags are now used worldwide every year. By creating this bill we can reduce the amount of plastic bags that are polluting Washington State. Additionally, plastic bags are more convenient for people, since they don't rip easily if they get wet. Putting a tax on plastic bags will encourage customers to bring reusable bags, so they won't have to pay a tax in the first place.

## First Grade, First Aid

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Keeley Bosman, Janessa Durant, and Hannah Redden introduced House



Bill 3333, which addresses the issue of teachers first aid. “The bill is a good one because it requires all teachers to be certified in first aid,” Rep. Durant said. Statistics show that an average of 4 million kids ages 5-18 are injured on school property per year. Once the bill is put into place, all teachers in the State of Washington would be required to take a mandatory first aid certification course and pass in order to continue their occupation. School environments would become safer for students, as teachers would be able to assist injuries they are certified to provide.

## Schools Becoming Safer With New Bill

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Christopher Robinson, Nolen Martin and Michael Saba introduced Senate Bill 5333, which addresses the issue of teachers and firearms. “The bill is a good one because it will lessen the amount of casualties in school shootings,” Sen. Martin said. 20 percent of mass shootings in the US occur in schools. This bill will allow teachers and administrators to carry concealed handguns on campus and have random weekly checks insuring all teachers that carry a firearm are properly meeting the requirements.



## Making our roads a safer place

Olympia – House Bill 3998 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Anuraag Sanga, Bassie James, Alec Shamseldin . “This bill addresses the issue of elderly drivers and will take elderly drivers unfit to drive due to their deteriorating reflexes off the road.,” said Rep. Sanga. Elderly drivers can be dangerous drivers due to their deteriorating reflexes. Studies show that people over the age of 70 have the highest accident rate per 100 miles driven over any age group. This reflex test has been proved to test the same reflexes used while driving a car. One example of why this bill is necessary is because just two years ago, a woman was attempting to park a car in a bank parking lot. When she turned without looking, she hit and killed 7 people. She then panicked and turned the other way, drove into the bank window, running over 5 more people. Finally she attempted to parallel park her car and while reversing from the bank window area, ran over another 6 people trying to escape the bank. As a result of this episode, 23 people were killed, while another 41 were injured. Some may argue that this program costs too much money, but I believe that you can’t put a price on a life," said Rep. Shamseldin.



## Second hand smoke from adult drivers can harm young passengers

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Sam Yunker and Amelia Hisaw introduced Senate Bill 5163, which addresses the issue of second hand smoke in cars. “The bill is a good one because it has a penalty of \$130 if a person is caught smoking in a car when a minor is present. Our procedures for testing are very reliable and fair,” Sen. Yunker said. Second-hand smoke from adult drivers can be harmful to young passengers. Research shows that cigarettes release 250 toxic chemicals. The chemicals are known to relate to the causes of cancer, heart disease, asthma attacks, respiratory infections, nasal and eye irritation, and lung irritation. A lot of the time young passengers do not have a say in receiving second-hand smoke, and studies have shown that children are more at risk than adults.



## Language immersion - a new version of early education

Olympia – Senate Bill 6143 was introduced yesterday by Senators Blake Hirst and Luke Layton. “This bill addresses the issue of language immersion and will put language immersion programs in each elementary school district,” said Sen. Hirst. This bill will put language immersion programs in each elementary school district. It will equip the schools with the necessary tools to teach the kids the foreign language. It will be paid for by the marijuana tax. This will help kids learn new languages and studies have shown that it helps other skills in the classroom like math.



## Lawmakers hope new bill will make roads safer



Olympia – Senate Bill 6410 was introduced yesterday by Senators Lauren Frasier, Jenni Chang, and Faith Eckford-Posser. “This bill addresses the issue of Elderly

Drivers and will "help reduce the number of accidents caused by seniors, and make the roads safer for everyone,” said Sen. Eckford-Posser. Research shows that seniors 75 and over have a higher crash rate than young drivers. Health problems arise with aging that can also impair driving; such as slow decision making skills, decreasing vision, as well as side effects from medication, all of which affect driving ability. "The health problems associated with old age are putting everyone on the roads at risk," says Sen. Chang. If this law passes, then everyone over 65 would have to retake their driving test every 5 years or after an accident. Also doctors have to report all patients that have a condition that causes an accident to the DMV. Seniors need not worry; they won't have to pay all the costs for the tests on their own. A \$2 increase will be added to the driving test for all citizens. "Nobody likes paying for fees, but the amount of money that we'll be saving in medical bills, ambulances, and first responders, will quickly offset the fee," said Sen. Frasier. Everyone will be safer and benefit from this bill.

### Cracking Down on Plastic Bags

Olympia – Senate Bill 6472 was introduced yesterday by Senators Yubin Lee and Theodore Kvamme. “This bill addresses the issue of plastic bags contributing



to pollution . It will replace the use of plastic bags with more compostable material, or tax the use of plastic bags,” said Sen. Kvamme and Lee. Current research reports estimates almost 100 billion plastic bags are thrown out each year, and that only 5.2 percent of those are recovered for recycling. Common facts state that it takes 500+ years for plastic bags to decompose. In Washington State, people throw away nearly 270,000 tons of plastic bags and wrappings. Ireland is a great example where the solution proposed above worked out: the use of plastic bags dropped by more than 90 percent and the government raised one million dollars for recycling programs. Cracking down on plastic bag use will make the air cleaner, roads clearer, and the marine wild life healthier.

### Drunk driving leaves you seeing yellow



Olympia – Senate Bill 7428 was introduced yesterday by Senators Kaleb Thome and Michael Litzow. “This bill addresses the issue of drunk driving and will decrease the overall

amount in Washington State,” stated Sen. Thome and Litzow. The bill will help the police officers and State Patrol find constant DUI offenders and take special precautions and attentions when on patrol. In the US, there have been 19,783 repeat offenders in the past year which is a horrendous amount. This bill will give repeat DUI offenders a different colored license plate and third time offenders will get a revoke of their license. This will help the police find who have been repeat offenders and look out for them if they seem to be driving under the influence.



### Guest Speakers Visit Page School

This week Attorney General Bob Ferguson, Supreme Court Justice Mary Fairhurst, Rep. Hans Zeiger (R-25th) and Rep. Cyrus Habib (D-48th) joined the pages during various classes. Each shared insightful information in regards to the legislative process in Washington State. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker’s questions.

