



# 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 society 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

Pages worked individually or in small groups to write bills designed to address issues which were relevant to them and the state. They had their choice of working up a social bill or a fiscal bill to present in a mock committee hearing on Thursday with their partners. Hard decisions had to be made about cutting



services and/or raising taxes in the budget committees. Topics for social bills included energy, credit card debt for college students, drunk driving punishments, and hunting regulations.

### Mock committees debate, vote

Simulated committee hearings were held on Thursday. Pages read their bills and “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, allowing a bill to continue on in the legislative process. As in the real political system, some bills died in committee.

### Senators take step toward protecting police

Olympia – Senate Bill 7777 was introduced yesterday by



Senators Markus Fuchs, Dylan Boyle, and Trevor Boyle. “This bill addresses the issue of cop killings and will further protect our law enforcement officers,” said Sen. Fuchs. This bill draws attention to the recent murders of police officers and will protect them more effectively in the future. The bill allows an officer to immediately draw his/her weapon when feeling threatened. It also requires law enforcement officers to take part in monthly simulations that test their reaction time and judgment in a potentially dangerous situation. “We want our police force to be ready and able to protect themselves and our citizens at all times,” said Sen. Dylan Boyle.

## Credit card company pressures exposed on college campuses

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Ezra Smith introduced House Bill 3999, which addresses the issue of credit card company tactics on college campuses. “The bill is a good one because it will end the exploitation of students who often accumulate a huge debt before graduating,” said Rep. Smith. If this bill becomes law, it will ban all marketing of credit cards to university students on campuses and require colleges to offer classes on financial management to all students. “Students who are already responsible money managers don't need to worry about having to take an extra class they don't need,” said Rep. Smith. “Their parents can just sign a waiver to excuse them from this class. Our targets are those students, many who have no income, from the aggressive tactics of credit card companies who lure them with T-shirts and other prizes in order to get them hooked on using cards for their everyday needs and wants.”



## Sen. Singleton fights for sleepy students



Olympia – Senate Bill 5383 was introduced yesterday by Senator David Singleton. “This bill addresses the issue of high school start times and the problems they can cause,” said Sen. Singleton. The hope is that this legislation will lead to improved health and academic performance. Start times for all public high schools will be regulated to

no earlier than 8 a.m. beginning with the 2010-211 school year. “Research shows that teen body clocks are set to a schedule that is different than adults or younger children, and this prevents them from dropping off to sleep before 11 p.m. The result is that the first class of the morning is often a waste, with as many as 28 percent of students falling asleep,” said Sen. Singleton.

## Clean energy on the way

Olympia – Senate Bill 6302 was introduced yesterday by Senator Ben Corbett. “This bill addresses the issue of global warming and will subsidize clean energy,” said Sen. Corbett. “This bill, if enacted, will make Washington a leader in clean energy; companies from all over the world will flock to Washington to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity, creating many new secure jobs. All energy plants that produce less than 100 pounds of CO2 or equivalent gasses per megawatt hour will be rewarded for their conservation methods.”



## Grandparents ask for rights

Olympia – Senate Bill 6669 was introduced yesterday by Senator Lyssa Dunn. “This bill addresses the issue of grandparents visitation rights and will allow them to ask for court ordered visitations,” said Sen. Dunn. Some grandparents have raise their grandkids instead of the parents. Having a parent take the children back and then forbidding the children from seeing the grandparents is devastating, said the senator. “This bill will give them back some dignity.”

## House to consider safer nuclear energy

Olympia – House Bill 3100 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Sarah Covert-Bowlds and Aengus Crowley. “This bill addresses the issue of thorium-powered nuclear plants and will create new jobs, new types of clean energy and open up a whole new field in energy technology,” said Rep. Covert-Bowlds. The representatives pointed to uranium's role as the sole energy source since the Cold War because it produces a by-product of plutonium, a key ingredient in the plutonium bomb. However, thorium is about three times more abundant in the earth's crust than is uranium, and is not only a cheaper alternative but also safer one to power the existing nuclear plants. Despite the benefits, there has been debate about pursuing the thorium option because it would require a lot of capital initially. But, the legislators have deemed it a worthy cost that would be recouped after the reactors have been put into use and started producing energy.



### What, your car won't start?

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Katie Burke introduced House Bill 3555, which addresses the issue of drunk driving. “The bill is a good one because it will create safer roads, along with fewer accidents,” said Rep.



Burke. This legislation will require drivers convicted of DUI to install an interlock-device in their vehicle. The car will not start if the operator of the vehicle blows into the device and registers a blood alcohol level above .08. The interlock-device also does random test after the person has started driving. This test is called "Rolling Test." This alternative to losing a driver's license will help many more people feel safe as well as teach drunk drivers a lesson, said Rep. Burke

### Senators give minors breath of fresh air

Olympia – Senate Bill 5811 was introduced yesterday by Senators Lauren Salberg, Riana Slyter, and McKenzie Selden. “This bill addresses the issue of health problems caused by second-



hand smoke and will ban smoking in vehicles occupying children,” said Sen. Selden. “Children

shouldn't have to face the harm caused by second hand smoke,” said Sen. Salberg. Politicians anticipate that this bill will lower health care expenses in the long run. “Hopefully, this bill will also motivate adult smokers to quit, seeing that they have few places left to light up,” said Sen. Slyter.



### Senator tackles dropout prevention

Olympia– Senate Bill 7265 was introduced yesterday by Senator Shawn Chantaboune. “This legislation addresses the issue of our public school dropout rates and will lessen the number of students who do not complete high school,” said Sen. Chantaboune. The bill will focus on intervention in schools and public advertisements to encourage students to stay in school .

### New Senate bill shames drunk drivers

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Anna Dye, Madisan Bryant and Natalie Longley introduced Senate Bill 5555, which addresses the issue of drunk driving. “The bill is a



good one because it reduces the amount of repeat drunk drivers and saves lives,” said Sen. Bryant. Driving under the influence is a huge problem. In a recent year, 36,986 DUI arrests were made and many more went undetected. “Of the DUI arrests in 2006 which resulted in fatalities, 79 percent were repeat DUI offenders with a blood alcohol content of .15 or higher. In our state, .08 is considered drunk,” said Sen. Longley. This legislation requires repeat drunk drivers to buy a specialized yellow license plate for \$250 to replace their original license plate, and they will have to place it on their vehicle for three years. If the offender is charged with a DUI during the three year period, an additional year will be added on after the three year period is over. "Having these specialized yellow license plates will help reduce the chances of the offender hurting someone or themselves," said Sen. Dye.

### Hanging law hung out to dry

Olympia – Senate Bill 5001 was introduced yesterday by Senator Nate Van Haitsma. “This bill addresses the issue of hanging and will ban it as a form of execution in our state,” said Sen. Van Haitsma. "This legislation is good for the people because it ends the argument



about cruel and unusual punishment." Van Haitsma brought up the case of Charles Campbell, the triple murderer who appealed his conviction, arguing that hanging violated his 8th Amendment rights. Gov. Chris Gregoire, as the state's former Attorney General, has said that Washington has spent over \$300,000 defending the constitutionality of hanging.

## Senators hope to protect Chehalis River corridor

Olympia – Senate Bill 6572 was introduced yesterday by Senators Ian Wiley and Tucker Wallace. “This bill addresses the issue of dredging the Chehalis



River to reduce the chance of flooding in the area,” said Sen. Wallace. In the past few years, flooding has damaged businesses and homes and killed livestock. “Flooding has cost over a billion dollars in recent years. When excess debris builds up in the river, the result is that the water has nowhere to go but on the land,” said Sen. Wiley. The bill removes environmental restrictions so it would be legal to dredge the Chehalis River from Aberdeen through Adna, resulting in water flowing freely through the river.

## Hunting regulations get testy



Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Jake Magill introduced Senate Bill 7851, which addresses the issue of inadequate hunting regulations. “The bill is a good one because it will make hunting and hiking much

safer,” said Sen. Magill. This bill will force all hunters to take an oral or written test on hunting rules and etiquette, have their eyesight checked and make sure they can handle a gun safely. These will be performed in future facilities that will be constructed near hunting grounds. Everyone who takes these tests will pay a \$30 fee in order to pay for the facilities.

## Legislature creates abortion restrictions

Olympia – House Bill 1111 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Lauren Cribb and Stasia Fleck. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion and will establish some restrictions for our state while still giving women the option,” said



Rep. Fleck. The new bill will make it more difficult to obtain an abortion by requiring a doctor’s and a witness’s signature before the procedure and by restricting any abortion after 24 weeks. “Abortion should not be a decision that is taken lightly or used as a form of birth control, and this bill will work toward eliminating that reasoning,” said Rep. Cribb.

## House bill plays laser tag with drunk drivers

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Sarah Diambri and Claire Wiley introduced House Bill 1312, which addresses the issue of drunk driving. “The bill is a good one because it will



alert police officers to drivers who have been convicted of previous DUIs,” said Rep. Wiley. If this bill becomes law, the legislature will require drivers with more than three DUIs per two years to buy a \$250 license plate with an infrared

logo which police can see with a laser. This will enable them to check suspicious drivers on roadways.

## While adults smoke, kids choke!

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Lily Hoffman introduced House Bill 2663, which addresses the issue of secondhand smoke in cars where children are riding. “The bill is a good one because it will produce healthier children,” said Rep. Hoffman.

This bill will ban smoking in any vehicle with minors inside the car. Reports have shown that cigarettes have more than 250 toxic and cancer-causing chemicals which can be released and ingested by people who are around smokers. Studies also



show that children are more at risk than adults for health effects of second hand smoke. Common known diseases include asthma, bronchitis, ear infections, and lung cancer. “Children really don’t have a voice in whether adults smoke around them, and this law would give them some protection,” said Rep. Hoffman.

## School start times questioned

Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Haleigh Missildine introduced Senate Bill 6657, which addresses the issue of teen sleep deprivation and high school start times. “The bill is a good one because it will reduce car accidents and help teens do better in



school,” said Sen. Missildine. The objective of this bill is to push back the starting times in public high schools to no earlier than 9 a.m. This will give teens the number of hours of sleep that they need, prevent accidents caused by drowsi-

ness and produce more attentive teens in their classes, according to the senator. Reports show that more than 100,000 accidents involving drowsiness happen each year, mostly involving young drivers.

## House wants to make abortions harder to get

Olympia – House Bill 3952 was introduced yesterday by Representative Josh Rodgers. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion and will make women more aware of the problems associated with the procedure,” said Rep. Rodgers. The legislation requires teens under the age of 18 to have written permission from a parent or guardian before a doctor can perform an abortion. Currently Washington State has no restrictions. “The teen pregnancy rate in Washington is the highest in the nation and we feel this bill will cause teens to think twice about their risky behavior,” said Rep. Rodgers. He said it will also ensure that doctors inform their patients of the health risks associated with abortions.



## 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

Brian Sonntag, State Auditor; Rep. Dan Roach (R-31st); and Amanda Meyer, Voter Education Coordinator for the Secretary of State’s office joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. The speakers talked about what led them to their current positions and shared insightful information about their jobs. Pages were able to interact with these guests by asking questions and sharing their own views in response to the speaker’s questions.

## Children can lead healthier lives if taught early

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Brandon Root, Graham Baiz and Brian Eames introduced House Bill 3333, which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “The bill is a good one because it promotes healthy eating and fitness and will save money in the long term,” Rep. Eames. The Legislature will create a tax deduction for families with healthy children, but those with BMIs higher than the average will be fined. “Obesity in children leads to obesity in adults, and that costs the taxpayer in many ways,” said Rep. Root.



### Page program over 100 years old

The Legislative page program has been in existence since 1891. This photo is of pages who served in past years. 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.

