



The Weekly Page

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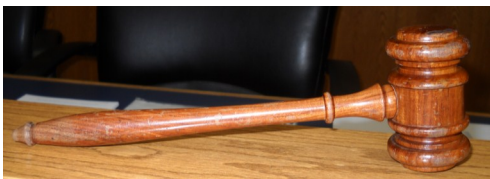
Pages Learn About Legislature



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, food additives, and childhood obesity. Pages read their bills and class “committee members,” governed by the rules of parliamentary procedure, debated the pros and cons of the pro-

posals. 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.

Credit card companies denied access to college campuses



Olympia – House Bill 3006 was introduced yesterday in the Higher Education committee by Representative Evan Olson. “This bill addresses the issue of aggressive credit card companies luring undergrads into applying for cards on college campuses and will help students stay out of debt,” said Rep. Olson. The companies are setting up vendor kiosks where they tempt students with promises of food, t-shirts and even iPods as they walk by. Part of the problem, according to the representative, is that universities are partnering with banks and get a kick back each time the card is used. “For the good of the student body, companies will no longer be permitted on college campuses for the purpose of marketing their credit cards.” Schools will be fined up to \$20,000 for violations. “Students incur enough debt for tuition, books and other required materials. They don’t need to add to that with high bank card balances each month,” said Rep. Olson.

Senator calls for food additive regulations



Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Derek Burnett introduced Senate Bill 6397, which addresses the issue of harmful food additives. “The bill is a good one because it creates a revenue for the state from those who need their junk food and pushes companies to use healthy alternatives,” said Sen. Burnett. Besides complex additives that are difficult to pronounce, many

simple additives like refined grains and sodium can cause problems such as heart attacks, high blood pressure, and constriction of arteries, according to the senator. SB 6397 do three things. First, the bill would require food companies in the state to make clearer food labels. Second, the bill would require companies to include the side effects of the harmful additives in the label, even if large consumption amounts would be need for the effect to occur. Finally, the bill would create a tax on foods made in Washington to deter citizens from buying those foods, and any money made from the tax would go toward educating the general populace about the dangers of additives.

Ammunition regulations proposed

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Tye Rodne and Matthew Zylstra introduced House Bill 1010, which addresses the issue of gun violence. “The



bill is a good one because it will result in fewer gun deaths,” said Rep. Rodne. Since 1982 there have been 62 mass shootings across the country. Of the weapons used, assault weapons are preferred because of their high capacity magazines, according to the lawmakers. They cite the case of James Holmes, who opened fire in a Colorado movie theater and injured 70 people using weapons with magazines that contained 30 rounds of ammunition. This bill will ban the sale of magazines that are capable of carrying more than 10 rounds of ammunition. “We can save hundreds of lives with this piece of legislation,” said Rep. Zylstra.

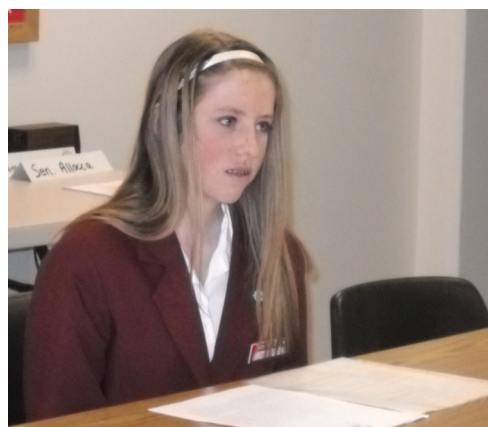
Schools put on a diet



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Joana Dizon and Lexi Bradbury introduced Senate Bill 5432,

which addresses the issue of childhood obesity. “The bill is a good one because it will promote healthier lifestyles for our children,” said Sen. Dizon. The prevalence of obesity in Washington is expected to rise more than 11 percent by 2018, according to the senators. Obesity related health conditions once seen only in adults are now being seen in children with increasing frequency, including type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure. If this bill becomes law, public schools will be required to buy and serve locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables to their students in school lunches.

New labels requested for foods with harmful additives



Olympia – Senate Bill 6420 was introduced yesterday by Senators Morgan McCorkle and Gretchen Corliss. “This bill addresses the issue of harmful additives in food and will require labels and explanations

on products as to what consumers are actually eating,” said Sen. McCorkle. Statistics show that harmful food additives in products like diet soda can increase your chances of a heart attack by 48 percent. Replacing sugars and trans fats can cut a person’s chances of heart disease by 53 percent. If this bill becomes a law, every food company in Washington that adds the harmful chemicals will have to indicate the ingredients on their labels. “As legislators, we have a responsibility to keep our citizens safe and healthy,” Said Sen. Corliss.

Tobacco litter subject of proposed legislation



Olympia – House Bill 2222 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Tim Wansing, Jack Savard, and Meg Beck. “This

bill addresses the issue of public safety and will help promote safer, healthier communities,” said Rep. Wansing. This bill deals with the negative consequences of smoking in recreational public areas. “Children in parks are likely to pick up littered cigarette butts and eat them,” said Rep. Savard. The lawmakers also report that about half of the 900 forest fires in the state last year were caused by cigarettes. This bill prohibits possession and consumption of cigarettes in public recreational areas such as state and city parks, public beaches, and botanical gardens. It will also reduce the large amounts of cigarette and cigarette related litter. Any offender will be fined given a community service punishment.

Bill calls for abortion regulations for minors



Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Alyssa Decker and Maren Stewart. “This bill addresses

the issue of abortion and will save the lives of unborn children in our state,” said Sen. Decker. There were 21,066 abortions performed on women in 2010. This bill will require that a parent or guardian be involved in the decision to get an abortion if the patient is under the age of 18. In addition, the mother must listen to an ultrasound of the fetus and the doctor must describe the fetus to the mother before the abortion is scheduled. “We hope that this will help mothers decide to have a live birth instead of an abortion,” Said Sen. Stewart.

Standards established for green schools



Olympia – House Bill 3999 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Daniel Godfrey and Quinn Magendanz. “This bill addresses the issue of excessive school energy consumption and

will ensure only green school buildings are constructed in the future,” said Rep. Godfrey. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, taxpayers spend roughly \$8 billion a year on energy for K-12 schools. It has been estimated that a reduction of 35 percent could be accomplished with some changes. Should this bill be passed into law, only designs for public school buildings that meet the “Silver” energy and environmental design standard of Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design would receive funding and building permits. LEED is a point based system where building projects earn LEED points for satisfying specific green building criteria. “Funds saved by reducing a school’s energy consumption can then be used to pay for the increased cost of building the ecologically efficient school buildings,” explained Rep. Magendanz.

Stop the munchies



Olympia – House Bill 2345 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Gillian Hallock and Jaymie Pentony. “This bill addresses the issue of childhood obesity and

will help kids live a healthier lifestyle,” said Rep. Gillian Hallock. Since 1980 obesity in children has more than tripled. One reason is inactivity, according to the lawmakers. Only 8 percent of elementary schools, 6.4 percent of middle or junior high schools and 5.8 percent of senior high schools provide adequate daily physical education at recommended levels. The bill restricts schools from offering sodas and other unhealthy drinks in vending machines and requires school lunches to include a single-serve fresh fruit or vegetable package. All PE classes will be 10 minutes longer. “By extending physical education time, the children will become more healthy, stronger, and could realize a new talent or strength,” said Rep. Pentony.

Rep strives to end secondhand smoke in cars



Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Samantha Payne introduced House Bill 2121, which addresses the issue of smoking in vehicles when minors are present. “The bill is a good one because it will help promote a healthier lifestyle for Washington’s children,” said

Rep. Payne. A recent study shows that secondhand smoke contains more than 250 chemicals. “When children and teens are around this type of environment, especially in an enclosed area, they are more at risk for lung disease, heart disease, ear infections and asthma,” said Rep. Payne. This bill will ban smoking in vehicles in which minors are present. Fines for offenders will range from \$100-\$350 and could include a 3-month license suspension.

Foster children given hope for an education and better life



Olympia – Senate Bill 6987 was introduced yesterday by Senator Isaac Kleisle-Murphy. “This bill addresses the issue of access to higher education for foster children and will provide hope for a brighter future,” said Sen. Kleisle-Murphy. Although 70 percent of foster children planned on attending college after high

school graduation, only 3-11 percent ever obtain a bachelor’s degree. “For a foster child, getting the funding for college tuition means jumping through many confusing hoops,” he said. As it stands right now, there are two grants that can fully fund a student’s tuition, book fees, and board. Although qualified, some low income students are not provided with these grants due to a lack of state funds, and cannot obtain a four-year degree. “SB 6987 plans on giving foster children who graduate with a minimum 3.2 GPA a free ride to any four-year state run school. Ultimately, the academic performance of foster children will rise because these kids will know there is hope and a place for them.”

Childhood obesity: a heavy issue



Olympia – House Bill 2013 was introduced yesterday in the Health Care & Wellness committee by Representatives Kristen Schuster and Tori Yi. “This bill addresses the issue of adolescent obesity

and will offer more nutritious food in schools that will influence healthier eating habits,” said Rep. Yi. Obesity can lead to future health problems such as heart disease and type 2 diabetes. If this bill becomes law, public schools will be required to replace unhealthy and over-processed food with healthier substitutes such as whole grains and natural, local produce. “When children become healthier, the state will save up to \$4 billion in future health care costs,” said Rep. Schuster.

We know safety. How about you?



Olympia – Senate Bill 6248 was introduced yesterday by Senators Lauren Compeau and Caroline O’Rourke.

“This bill addresses the issue of injuries related to the sport of cheerleading and will make the activity safer,” said Sen. O’Rourke. Sixty percent of U.S. cheerleading injuries are stunt related. Many girls have been paralyzed, have had memory loss and have even died from stunts gone wrong. At 13 years old, Chelsea Barrett was dropped on her head after being thrown 15 ft. in the air by a squad member. She now suffers from severe memory problems and pain. The bill requires coaches of cheerleading associations to take a safety regulations test. “The safety of minors is of great importance to everyone,” said Sen. Compeau.

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.

Lawmakers want to stop gun violence



Olympia – Senate Bill 7809 was introduced yesterday by Senators Arthur Dalessandro, Jaden Mongauzy and Billy

Allocca. “This bill addresses the issue of gun violence and will create safer communities,” said Sen. Dalessandro. Of the 62 mass shootings in the United States from 1982-2012, 49 of the shooters obtained their weapons legally. This bill will make acquiring guns and gun licenses a lot more difficult, according to the senators. A psychological test for all citizens seeking a gun license will now be required, as well as a full background check. Currently, weapons can be purchased at gun shows without a license. Customers wishing to buy a gun will now be required to show a valid gun license to get any type of weapon. “Bill 7809 is something the state of Washington needs to keep their citizens safe,” said Sen. Mongauzy.

Return juveniles to juvie



Olympia – House Bill 2493 was introduced yesterday in the Judiciary committee by Representatives Haley Hendrick, Emma Audette and Elizabeth Stewart. “This bill addresses the issue of juveniles being

tried as adults and will create a better chance for our young offenders to be rehabilitated,” said Rep. Hendrick. Minors who serve their sentence in adult prisons are nearly five times more likely to continue their criminal behavior after release. This bill will impose a 3-strike system for juveniles: on the third offense, adult court becomes an option. Those who are found guilty will remain in juvenile detention centers until they turn 18. At that time they will be transferred to a prison to serve the rest of their sentence. “By keeping minors in the juvenile system, they have a much better chance of being educated and getting the counseling they need to lead a better life when they return to society,” said Rep. Stewart.

Cheerleader stunt safety courses mandated by lawmakers

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Claire Ducharme and Ellie Bernstein introduced Senate Bill 5000, which addresses the issue of cheerleading injuries. “The bill is a good one because it will protect our high school athletes,” said Sen. Bernstein. The National Center for Catastrophic Sports Injury Research has been tracking sports safety nationwide for 25 years. It has reported that cheerleading has accounted for 2/3 of all catastrophic injuries among female high school and college athletes. This bill will require attendance at a yearly stunt safety course for high school coaches, all team members and a representative from the school administration. The Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) will monitor the enforcement of the new law and will levy fines or suspensions for violators.

Reps help teens hit the snooze button



Olympia – House Bill 3136 was introduced yesterday in the Education committee by Representatives Sophia LeBel and Gabi Newgent. “This bill addresses the issue of sleep deprived teenagers and will en-

hance students' learning and health,” said Rep. Newgent. Current research conducted by the National Sleep Foundation reports that nearly 60 percent of students under the age of 18 complained of being tired during the day and 15 percent said they fell asleep at school during the year. “Young children tend to wake up earlier in the morning, but teens naturally sleep in later,” said Rep. LeBel. This is attributed to the changes in the circadian rhythm which occurs during adolescence. Current early start times for public high schools force teens to wake when their melatonin levels are the highest, causing grogginess and trouble focusing in school. The lawmakers are calling for public schools to start two hours later in the day. They predict that this will benefit teens’ health and academic performance, as well as improving attendance.

Watch us live at TVW.org

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

Say "hola" to early foreign language classes



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Kelly Taft and Tobin Hansen introduced Senate Bill 5001, which addresses the issue of early foreign language education. “The bill is a good one

because it will work toward creating a bilingual education system in Washington state,” said Sen. Taft. Studies show that students who begin secondary language studies in elementary school score 25 percent higher on level 4 proficiency tests. “Elementary school kids are generally more excited about learning a new language than middle school and high school students,” said Sen. Hansen. This bill mandates that elementary schools provide foreign language instruction starting in second grade. Languages taught must include at least two of the following: Arabic, French, Spanish, Mandarin Chinese, Japanese and German. “It is necessary to educate our students in a foreign language because it increases English test scores, enhances cognitive development and creates more job opportunities in the future,” said Sen. Taft.

Senators fight gun violence



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Brodie Miller, Elise Dziko, and Jevne Meyers introduced Senate Bill 5545, which address-

es the issue of gun violence. “The bill is a good one because it will make our communities safer and reduce the deaths of innocent people,” aid Sen. Miller. The bill will initiate mental health checks, ban people on psych meds from buying guns, and allow licensed teachers to arm themselves. It also allocates funding for police forces to combat gangs and launch a stop-and-frisk program in urban areas. Current research shows that 420 guns are bought every minute in America, working out to approximately seven guns per second. The cost to provide background checks would come from increasing the fees for gun licenses.

You are what you eat



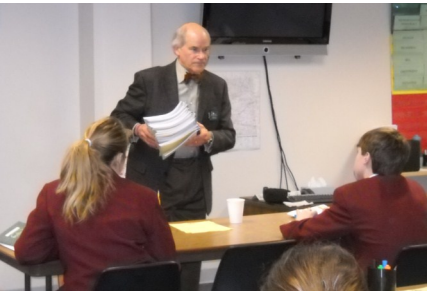
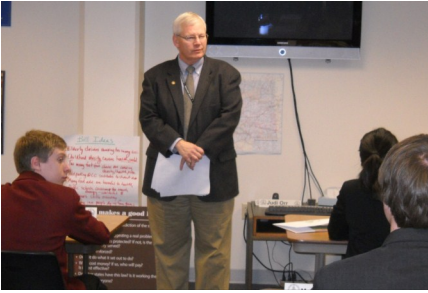
Olympia – Senate Bill 7964 was introduced yesterday in the Health Care committee by Senators Natalie Corder, Hannah Sherwood, and Krista Kenney. “This bill addresses the issue of harmful food additives and will educate consumers to encourage healthier lifestyles,” said Sen. Corder. Over 90 percent of the American diet consists of processed foods which contain food additives that have been linked cancer, mental retardation, heart disease, increased hyperactivity, allergic reactions, and other severe health problems. The average American consumes nearly 63 pounds of high fructose corn syrup per year. “We believe that labeling food products to indicate the harmful chemicals and additives they contain will help consumers better understand the possible consequences of eating processed foods. This is what our bill will do,” said Sen. Kenney.

Stop your engines to cut pollution



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Annika Steele and Michelle Steele introduced Senate Bill 6565, which addresses the issue of air pollution from car exhaust. “The bill is a good one because it will clean up our air,” said Sen. A.

Steele. Vehicle exhaust is the leading source of hazardous air pollution which has serious health impacts. According to the senators, over the past 10 years, people have increased the amount that they drive by more than 70 percent. Automobile emissions contribute to breathing problems, reduced lung function, asthma, eye and nose irritation and reduced resistance to infections. This bill will ban automobile idling. Any driver leaving their engine running for at least two minutes can be fined \$30.



Teachers passionate about education

The Washington State Legislature’s 2013 Page School employs certificated civics teachers Judi Orr and Lisa McGrath. Judi is a retired social studies and English teacher who taught for over 35 years in the Clover Park School District, and Lisa has been teaching over 15 years in public high schools and at the college level in North Carolina. “I just moved to Washington in November and am loving learning about my new state,” said Lisa. Both teachers enjoyed meeting students from all parts of Washington and teaching them more about how state government functions. “One of my favorite activities is watching committee hearings. Seeing citizens testify about various issues alongside experts in the field is just fascinating to me,” said Judi.

Guest speakers visit Page School

Supreme Court Justice Charles Wiggins, Code Reviser Kyle Thiessen, Rep. Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland) and Rep. Chad Magendanz (R-Issaquah) joined the pages during classes on Wednesday. All guests shared insightful information about their jobs. Pages were able to ask questions and sharing their own views in response to the speakers’ comments.

Page program over 120 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 and include delivering campus correspondence, helping with mailings in legislative offices, and handing out documents on the floor of the Senate and House.

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.



