



The Weekly Page

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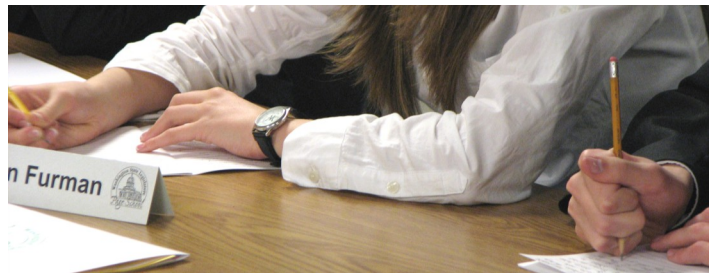
Pages Learn About Legislature



by scientists that the climate is changing and it is being caused by man, so man has to figure out a way to stop global warming,” said Rep. Wynn.

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 policy bills included tidal energy, preservation of salmon, dangers of cheerleading, and violent video games.



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.

Evergreen state lives up to its name

Olympia – House Bill 2413 was introduced yesterday by Representative Katelyn Wynn. “This bill addresses the issue of greenhouse gases and will significantly reduce CO2 emissions,” said Rep. Wynn. This bill will require major car companies to manufacture reasonably priced “green” cars. Also it will require all power companies in the state to produce 25% of their energy from alternate sources like wind or solar. “There is a consensus



Hand over those keys!

Olympia – House Bill 1337 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Jeremy Kuhlmann, Megan Furman, and Joe Daniels. “This bill addresses the issue of drunk driving and should reduce DUI-related accidents,” said Rep. Kuhlmann. If enacted into law, this solution requires bar patrons to give their car keys to the bartender before they can be served an alcoholic beverage. Bars are already liable for over-serving their customers who drive drunk and end up injuring or killing someone,” said Rep. Daniels. “This will allow the bartender one last look at the person before letting them get into a car. Cab companies should like this bill, too.”





To save the salmon, culverts must die

Olympia – House Bill 2367 was introduced yesterday by Representative Noah Friedman. “This bill addresses the issue of salmon preservation and will save fish runs,” said Rep. Friedman. The bill will get rid of creek culverts that are placed under roadways and often get clogged with debris. “When salmon can’t swim through the culverts, they can’t reach their spawning grounds and the population dies out. We’re talking about more than 2,300 miles of potential salmon habitat being affected in our state,” said Rep. Friedman. He advocates replacing them with bridges or fixing the culverts. “It will allow the salmon to continue upstream but will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. But this will provide jobs,” he said. The bill requires more than 1,600 culverts from Neah Bay to Walla Walla to be removed by 2020.



Rep wants more fair taxation

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Nick Martinoli introduced House Bill 2010, which addresses the issue of unfair taxes. “The bill is a good one because it is more fair and will even out the tax load that is currently borne by the top income levels,” said Rep. Martinoli. According to the legislator, the top one percent of the richest people in the U.S. pay 40 per-

cent of the taxes. If this bill becomes law, the legislature will decide what a fair tax is and charge that to every level of income. “This is an absurd burden on taxpayers which should not be tolerated.”

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.

Violent felons feeling the heat

Olympia—Senate Bill 2654 was introduced yesterday by Representative Patrick Knittle. “This bill addresses the issue of violent crime and will make Washington a safer place to live,” said Rep. Knittle. In 2009 Yakima County reported 21,546 violent crimes, 25 of which were homicides. The Federal Bureau of Justice reported that nearly 60 percent of violent felons are repeat offenders. This bill will reduce recidivism by increasing monitoring of released convicts. Violent felons released from prison will register with local law enforcement and provide annual information. To pay for the system improvement, sales tax will be increased by 1 percent, generating \$104 million.



Smoking outlawed

Olympia – Yesterday, Senator Crystal McElroy introduced Senate Bill 6993, which addresses the issue of the criminalization of smoking tobacco. “The bill is a good one because it will save millions of lives, not just the lives of smokers, but the lives of everyone around smokers,” said Sen. McElroy. Smoking cigarettes is one of the most dangerous activities a consumer can engage in when it comes to health, and there are absolutely no studies that show a medical benefit from tobacco. In fact the studies all say that cigarettes cause thousands of deaths every year. Thus, the only logical step is to outlaw tobacco, which is what this bill proposes,” she said. A survey of likely voters has found that 45 percent would support making cigarettes illegal within the next five to ten years.

Tissot and Lo sponsor restrictions on video games

Olympia – House Bill 3654 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Robert Tissot and Andrew Lo. “This bill addresses the issue of violent video games played by children and will promote educating parents about the dangers involved in these activities,” said Rep. Tissot. The legislation calls for the creation of a state commission to work on educating the citizens of Washington to the dangers that exist when youngsters are exposed to violent, graphic video games. A small extra tax of 0.5 percent on all video games will fund the commission.



Protection of minors trumps religion

Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Samuel Chisholm and Nigel Cave introduced Senate Bill 5227, which addresses the issue of medical treatment for minors and parental religious beliefs. “The bill is a good one because it will preserve the lives of the

state’s children,” Sen. Chisholm. The bill will prevent parents and guardians from refusing medical treatment for minors on the basis of religious convictions. “The devotion of the children’s guardians to what they call ‘Gods’ will’ has led to the deaths of more than 172 children between 1975 and 1995,” said Sen. Cave. No one may refuse treatment for someone other than themselves on religious grounds.



Legislator targets young hunters



Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Tyler Alexander introduced House Bill 1234, which addresses the issue of hunting licenses. “The bill is a good one because it will protect the public,” said Rep. Alexander. This bill will create a minimum age requirement of 18 to receive a hunting license. Hunters 14-18 may get a hunting

permit that allows them to hunt with adult supervision if they take the hunter education course. “We don’t want to repeat the sad situation that occurred in 2008 when a 14-year-old boy, hunting with his 16-year-old brother accidentally shot and killed a hiker,” said Rep. Alexander.

Keep our babies alive!

Olympia – Senate Bill 7378 was introduced yesterday by Senators Shaina Cox and Tiffany McElroy. “This bill addresses the issue of health care for minors and will make sure that uninsured children get the medical attention they need,” said Sen. Cox. Over four million children were born last year in the United States, and because of the lack of health care for many of them about 28,000 died before their first birthday. This legislation will provide free healthcare for anyone under the age of 18. “Surveys show that if we were to become proactive and care for medical problems before they get too bad, then it would actually cost less money in the long run,” said Sen. McElroy. A visit to the doctor averages about \$163 for asthma, while an emergency room visit for the same problem costs \$382. “Do the math,” said Sen. Cox.



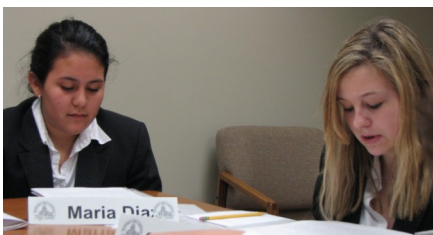
Safer coaching equals safer stunts for cheerleaders

Olympia – House Bill 1616 was introduced yesterday by Representative Brooke Chapman. “This bill addresses the issue of cheerleading safety and will protect students who engage in the difficult and creative stunts these athletes perform nowadays,” said Rep. Chapman. Over 200,000 girls are hospitalized every year from cheerleading-related accidents. Over four girls each year die from these injuries. Most are between the ages of 11 and 17 years of age. This bill will require mandatory safety class for coaches each year. Random safety checks will occur throughout the season and schools found in violation will be fined \$100. “Cheerleading is the most dangerous sport among girls in the U.S.,” said Rep. Chapman.



Reps take a shot at hunting requirements

Olympia – House Bill 2020 was introduced yesterday by Representatives Carly Hoisington and Maria Diaz. “This bill addresses the issue of state hunting licensing and will prevent unnecessary deaths,” said Rep. Hoisington.



The fact that a 14-year-old was hunting without adult supervision in 2008 and accidentally killed a hiker is a concern to legislators. If

this bill becomes law, the legislature will set a minimum age limit of 18 for hunting. Currently Washington State requires that first time hunters born after Jan. 1, 1972, successfully complete a hunter-education course, pass a written test, and show they can safely handle a firearm.

High school athletes called to consistent standards

Olympia – Yesterday, Representative Victoria Felton introduced House Bill 2484, which addresses the issue of inconsistent requirements for high school athletic participation. “The bill is a good one because it will standardize the qualifications to play each week,” said Rep. Felton. Currently the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) sets very mini-

mum standards for all school districts. But, districts can raise the standards for their athletes and many do, according to Rep. Felton. The problem occurs when some schools follow the minimum standards while others set higher ones. This means that some schools allow failing talented students to play while other talented students have to sit on the bench if their grades are low. “It’s unfair,” said Rep. Felton. The bill calls for a consistent 2.5 grade point average and no failing classes for all public school athletes, as well as study sessions to help struggling players at all schools. “More frequent grade checks by all coaches would ensure that high school students keep up their eligibility and can pursue their college goals,” said Rep. Felton.

Bill provides breath of fresh air in parks

Olympia – Yesterday, Representatives Arielle Howard and Stephanie Koppel introduced House Bill 2673, which addresses the issue of smoking outdoors. “The bill is a good one because it will help protect our citizens from the harmful effects of secondhand smoke in parks,” said Rep. Howard. The effects of secondhand smoke can result in illnesses such as heart disease, cancer, emphysema, lung cancer, cardiovascular disease, lung ailment, bronchitis, and asthma.



New Jersey State Sen. Barbara Buono introduced a bill this month to ban smoking at outdoor parks and beaches. “People have a right to smoke,” Buono says, “but they shouldn’t have a right to impose on the others the health risks caused by smoking.” The Washington State legislation bans all smoking in public parks and sets a \$200 fine.

Aggressive credit card companies curbed



Olympia – Yesterday, Senators Jessica Slack and Maya Wahl introduced Senate Bill 6543, which addresses the issue of credit card marketing on college campuses. “The bill is a good one because it will prevent many naïve students from going into serious debt,” said Sen. Wahl. The bill will protect students without a steady income by forbidding aggressive marketing techniques by credit card companies. They will no longer be able to call or mail as often as they do now. “You won’t be seeing Washington college students in debt so much anymore,” said Sen. Slack.

Bill establishes abortion restrictions



Olympia – Senate Bill 7999 was introduced yesterday by Senators Tessa Hop and Cynthia Daly. “This bill addresses the issue of abortion and will make it mandatory for children younger than 18 to have parental consent before an abortion

takes place,” said Sen. Hop. There are many negative effects in getting an abortion, some of which involve present and/or future medical problems, according to Sen. Daly. “Twenty-seven percent of abortion patients acquire post-surgery infections lasting three days or longer. There is also the risk of sterility, future ectopic pregnancies or cervical damage,” said Sen. Hop. The senators hope that fewer young women will be getting abortions with this restriction in place.

Tides provide greener energy

Olympia – Senate Bill 7777 was introduced yesterday by Senators Conner Brandland, Miranda Blank, and Nicole Bauer.



“This bill addresses the issue of CO2 emissions and will decrease the amount of pollutants by an immense amount,” said

Sen. Conner. This legislation will require the installation of turbines in the high tidal flow areas of Puget Sound so the tidal energy can be harnessed. “Washington is ranked 30th on the list of highest emitting states, with over 110 million tons of greenhouse gasses in 2000, showing a dire need for us to become more energy attentive,” said Sen. Blank. According to the senators, the state can increase its energy production by 10 percent using tidal energy.

Healthier food options for students needed

Olympia – Senate Bill 5678 was introduced yesterday by Senators Julia McInnis, Shelby Ross and Abby McInnis. “This bill addresses the issue of school lunches and will result in healthier food being sold in schools,” said Sen. Ross. This legislation will require all schools to use more organic foods with lower fat and calorie counts. Visits by health inspectors will occur more

often during the school year, as well. “School lunch nutrition standards have not been updated in 30 years,” said Sen. Julia McInnis.

Childhood obesity is a problem in the national and the senators feel a large contributor to the problem is unhealthy school lunches and vending machine options.

“Let’s hope that this bill is passed, and that our children will begin to lead healthier lives,” said Sen. Abby McInnis.



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

Rep. Ross Hunter (D-48th), Secretary of Health Mary Selecky, and Rep. Deb Eddy (D-48th) 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.



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.

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.

