

2012 Legislative Session

Recently enacted bills that may impact libraries, library employees, or retirees

Below is a summary of state legislation tracked by the WLA Legislative Planning Committee. Copies of the bill text, bill histories, fiscal notes and legislative staff analysis is available on the state legislature's Bill Information page <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Members of the Legislative Planning Committee perused these bills in their original, amended, and adopted formats to evaluate their likely or potential impact to libraries in general. Please consult your library legal counsel for interpretation or analysis specific to your library.

ESB 1478 Extending the sales tax option to support annexations

This extends the deadline for cities to collect dedicated sales taxes in support of certain annexations through the end of 2014. Based on this extension annexations that had been placed on hold awaiting the passage or failure of this measure will likely appear on 2012 ballot measures.

Effective date: Signed by Governor Gregoire May 16, 2011.

ESHB 2127 & ESB 5967 Operating supplemental budget 2011-2013

General Fund (GF-S) funding for the State Library is exchanged for dedicated funding from the Heritage Center fund for the remainder of the biennium. Language for school librarians is included, although their actual funding is a combination of state and local so the direct impact of the budget as passed is unclear.

The budget as passed includes a provision in Section 101 allocating

“\$50,000 of the general fund for a joint select committee on junior taxing districts, municipal corporations, and local government finance. The joint select committee shall review junior taxing districts and municipal corporations for the purpose of evaluating their provided services and making recommendations on the appropriateness of consolidating services into a general purpose local government.”

The WLA Legislative Planning Committee is concerned about potential impact of the select committee recommendations regarding library districts.

Effective Date: Signed by Governor Gregoire May 3, 2012.

SHB 2177 Protecting Children from sexual exploitation

Further defines and limits the copying and distribution of child pornography materials used in court cases, by effectively denying their reproduction or distribution by criminal defendants and their attorneys. Clarifies that property or material shall be deemed to be reasonably available to the parties if the prosecution, defense counsel, or any individual sought to be qualified to furnish expert testimony at trial has ample opportunity for inspection, viewing, and

examination of the property or material at a law enforcement facility or a neutral facility approved by the court upon petition by the defense.

Effective Date: March 29, 2012.

HB 2834 Reporting requirements for public works projects

A new section is added to chapter 43.41 RC to read as follows:

The legislature finds that over the years there have been a number of reporting requirements, mandates, and programs created that frequently duplicate the duties of local government, create additional expenses for state and local government, and can obscure responsibilities.

The legislature establishes the process outlined in this section to recommend the elimination of obsolete, redundant, or unnecessary reports, mandates, and programs.

Effective Date: Signed by Governor Gregoire (partial veto) May 3, 2012.

2SSB 5355 Special agency meetings

Clarifies special meeting notice requirements for public agencies. Removes the conditions under which written notice to members of a governing body are waived. Conditions the requirement to post the notice on the agency's web site if the agency has a web site and, if a local government, the agency employs more than 10 full time equivalent employees.

Effective Date: March 29, 2012

ESB 6257 Sexually explicit act

Defines "sexually explicit act" and adds it to the crimes of human trafficking and sexual exploitation of a minor.

Effective Date: March 29, 2012

SSB 6277 Multiple unit dwellings

Allows tax exemption for development of large multi-family dwellings to encourage affordable housing and low income housing in urban unincorporated parts of large counties.

Effective Date: March 29, 2012

ESB 6378 State retirement plans

The final version of this bill as passed is a compact 17 pages of benefit language and difficult to summarize. It refines definitions, benefits and allowances for state Retirements, Early Retirements, and Alternate Early Retirement plans, as well as retire-rehire provisions.

Effective Date: Signed by Governor Gregoire May 3, 2012.