



Bill Stances

Possible Motions: Move to support ____ (HB or SB #####)
Move to oppose ____ (HB or SB #####)
Move to information track ____ (HB or SB #####)
Move to track on ____ (HB or SB #####)

Sponsor: Kaylee Galloway, AS VP for Governmental Affairs

Persons of Contact: Kaylee Galloway, Matthew Bobbink, and Patrick Eckroth

Date: February 5, 2014

Background & Context:

LAC adopted an issue stance protocol and bill tracking document to help our AS Legislative Liaison, Matthew Bobbink, in advocating for higher education while best representing Western Students. This stance protocol was inspired by a similar process from the Washington Student Achievement Council. A similar bill tracking process has also been adopted by WSA.

ASWWU Legislative Issue Stance Protocol

AS or LAC Position

ASWWU Legislative Affairs Council have authorized staff to support, oppose, or comment on legislation.

- Legislation directly supports/opposes the AS Legislative Agenda
- Legislation directly supports/opposes resolutions passed by the Board of Directors
- Legislation directly supports/opposes the WSA Statewide Legislative Agenda

Informational Tracking

No position unless AS Legislative Affairs Council or AS Board of Directors vote to form an official position. Staff may still provide informational testimony.

- Legislative Interests on our AS Legislative Agenda
- Issues consistent with the priorities of the University Administration or closely affiliated organizations
- Any issue pertaining to students and the student life
- Pre-reconciled legislation

Track Only

No position is to be taken on this legislation. Staff will track legislation and update the AS Legislative Affairs Council or AS Board of Directors as necessary

- Issues that are not directly related to students in their role as students
- Issues related to K-12 education
- All other issues as deemed by LAC
- Issues with unknown effects

LAC intended to take stances on all of these bills, but ran out of time. The bills that got support include: HB 1011, HB 1267, HB 1279, and HB 1278. The committee moved to support HB 2400 if the administration supports it.

Since Matthew has requested stances on these bills, it is important that the Board give input.

Summary of Proposal:

HB 1011

House Bill 1011 would expand the definition of the term “resident student” to increase eligibility for resident tuition and to remove the required one-year waiting period that veterans and active members of the military must fulfill before receiving resident tuition.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1011>

EHB 1267

Engrossed House Bill 1267 would change the deadlines for voter registration by allowing Washington citizens to

- Changes the time period for online registration from 29 to 11 days before a primary, special, or general election.
- Changes the time period for in-person registration from 8 to 11 days before a primary, special, or general election.
- Changes the time period for mail-in registrations from 29 to 28 days before a primary, special, or general election.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1267>

EHB 1279

Engrossed House Bill 1279, young voter registration equality act, would allow eligible youth of at least 16 years of age in Washington State to preregister to vote and would exempt those who preregistered from public records to prevent public inspection and release of private information.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1279>

HB 1278

House Bill 1278 would require that election ballots for primary and general elections include a return envelope that includes prepaid postage. This would also require that the state reimburse the counties for the cost of the postage for primary and general elections on even-numbered years and special elections to fill unexpired terms in statewide elected officials or state legislators.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=1278>

HB 2400

House Bill 2400 states:

- Western Washington University shall host a statewide consortium of public and private institutions of higher education with the purpose of providing and increasing the number of campus-based mentoring and service learning opportunities in K-12 education and at eligible institutions as defined in RCW 28B.12.030. The consortium shall develop and administer a state campus compact between eligible institutions.
- The sum of one million three hundred seventy thousand dollars, or as much thereof as may be necessary, is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, from the general fund to Western Washington University for the purposes of this act.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2400>

HB 2429

House Bill 2429 would create the Washington Advance Higher Education Loan Program as a pilot program to assist students in need of additional low-cost student loans and other loan benefits. This is a means to meet the state's demand for individuals with higher education credentials in STEM majors.

- requires Office of Student Financial Assistance to design and implement a low interest educational loan program
- creates the W.A.H.E.L.P. account and allows the Office of Student Financial Assistance to award Washington Advance Higher Education loans to eligible students from the account

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2429>

HB 2537

House Bill 2537 would require that landlords forgo charges to prospective tenants for the costs incurred in obtaining a tenant screening report if a comprehensive tenant screening report is prepared within 30 days of the application and made available to the landlord. This aids applicants for rental properties who are living on low or fixed incomes.

Comprehensive tenant reports must include:

- a consumer report concerning the prospective tenant prepared by a consumer reporting agency that compiles/maintains reports on consumers on a nationwide basis (report can be no more than 90 days old)
- a criminal history report for the prospective tenant
- an eviction report for the prospective tenant

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2537>

HB 2587

Sponsors: Representatives Moscoso, Orcutt, Seaquist, Zeiger, Pollet, Reykdal, Hayes, Morrell, Ryu, Clibborn, Bergquist, and Freeman

House Bill 2587 would allow the surviving children and spouses of highway workers who lost their lives or became totally disabled while performing their duties for the state exempt

from paying tuition fees, service fees, and activities fees. “Highway worker” under this bill is defined as any person who is an employee of a transportation agency and is actively employed or any supervisory highway maintenance and construction personnel.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2587&year=2014>

HB 2697

Sponsors: Representatives Ortiz-Self, Stonier, Lytton, Ryu, Roberts, Magendanz, Jinkins, Sells, Ormsby, Stanford, Springer, Takko, Fey, Bergquist, Freeman, Tarleton, Riccelli

House Bill 2697 would require the superintendent of public instruction to develop a common methodology to assign additional weight to advanced placement (AP) and higher level international baccalaureate (IB) courses for the purposes of calculating a high school student’s GPA. The superintendent of public instruction would be required to create this methodology in consultation with four-year institutions, the state board for community and technical colleges, and the workforce training and education coordinating board.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2697&year=2014>

HB 2726

Sponsors: Representatives Hudgins, Hunter, Santos, Seaquist, Sullivan, Clibborn, Habib, Farrell, Bergquist, Springer, Cody, Walkinshaw, Pollet, Takko, Orwall, Fitzgibbon, Jinkins, Stonier, Tarleton, Morrell, Appleton, Roberts, Ortiz-Self, Reykdal, Ormsby, S. Hunt, Wylie, Carlyle, Sells, Blake, Sawyer, Tharinger, Robinson, Gregerson, Fey, Freeman, Kagi, Senn, and Goodman

House Bill 2726 would:

- make all resident students of Washington eligible for state financial aid
- remove the waiting period required for members of the military and national guard as well as their spouses and children to be eligible for resident tuition

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=2726&year=2014>

SB 5026

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles and Hasegawa

Senate Bill 5026 praises the success of W.W.U.’s Woodring College of Education 2009 pilot program (Compass to Campus) for peer mentoring of elementary students and the benefits it provides, especially for low-income students, students of color, and first generation students by encouraging school attendance and inspiring dreams of higher education. This bill would require that, by September 1, 2014, all six of Washington’s four-year institutions of higher education create and implement a peer mentoring program modeled after Western Washington University’s Compass to Campus program. This bill would also require that the institutions

work with the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges and identify at least one community or technical college to partner with in the program.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5026&year=2014>

SB 5027

Sponsors: Senator Hasegawa

Senate Bill 5027 is almost identical to HB 1278 in that it would require return envelopes for primary and general election ballots to include prepaid postage to avoid a poll tax. This bill would also require that the state reimburse counties for the cost of return postage on mail and absentee ballots for primary and general elections.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5027&year=2014>

SB 5028

Sponsors: Senators Kohl-Welles and Hasegawa (edited by Senate Committee on Higher Education)

[Companion Bill: HB 1453 (Sponsors: Representatives Seaquist, Bergquist, Fey, Pollet, and Santos)]

Senate Bill 5028 would change the eligibility requirements for the state need grant by

- requiring that students be enrolled or accepted for enrollment for at least 3 quarter credits or the equivalent in semesters (as opposed to being enrolled on at least a half time basis)
- changing the date through which a student must be enrolled or accepted for enrollment from June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2015 (updating the eligibility requirements)

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5028&year=2014>

SB 5173

Sponsors: Senators Hasegawa, Kline, Frockt, and Chase

[Companion Bill: HB 1744 (Sponsors: Representatives Moscoso, Appleton, Ryu, McCoy, Pollet, Santos, O'Ban, S. Hunt, and Maxwell)]

Senate Bill 5173 would entitle employees of the state and its political subdivisions (excluding employees of school districts or unclassified employees of higher education institutions who hold appointments, are employed under contracts, or perform services for less than 12 consecutive months) 2 unpaid days off in addition to those outlined by state laws (i.e. New Year's Day or Independence Day) for reason of faith or conscience. Students (with permission of a parent or guardian if a minor) will also be entitled 2 days of excused absence for reason of faith or conscience without penalty.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5173&year=2014>

SB 5955

Sponsors: Senators Hasegawa, Chase, Keiser, Conway, Frockt, Kline, and Kohl-Welles

Senate Bill 5955 would create the Washington publicly owned trust which would act as the sole depository for in-state producers, processors, and retailers of marijuana. The taxable earnings from these deposits would be used for the benefit of the people and economy of the state of Washington.

This trust may:

- facilitate the investment in and financing of public infrastructure systems that will increase public health, safety, and quality of life as well as improve environmental conditions, promote community vitality, and engage economic growth
- leverage receipts of marijuana sales and public resources

This bill would also create the Washington publicly owned trust commission (consisting of the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, and Superintendent of Public Instruction of Washington State) the primary governing authority of the trust. Then, the President of the State Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives would both appoint one member from each of the two largest caucuses in both bodies as well as jointly appoint 7 citizens with background in financial issues to an Organizing Committee for the trust.

<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/summary.aspx?bill=5955&year=2014>

Rationale:

It is important to take stances on higher education related bills so that Matthew can maximize his ability to represent Western students in Olympia.

Taking stances is an extremely timely matter, which is why it is important to take action on these bills as soon as possible, especially since this is a short 60 day session and deadlines are fast approaching.

***** Huge kudos to Patrick Eckroth, AS REP Legislative Intern, for helping draft the issue stance protocol and bill tracking process as well as for preparing all of the bill summaries cited above. *****