

Weekly Legislative Update: **Climate Crisis & Energy**

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Practically speaking, this is the final week for bills to exit the financial committees, get passed to the chamber floors by the respective rules committees, and receive a final vote for the session. Next week, the legislature will focus on finalizing the budgets, plus a few straggling bills categorized necessary to implement the budget. Bills make it through the gauntlet because they have sufficient support, they fit into the budget, and they avoid being blocked. Over 2000 bills were introduced this session. Perhaps only 300 will make it through to the governor's desk. Many bills are on the bubble, a few of those listed below can use a final push with your Senator.

To take action this week will require more steps. Select the bill number in the list below to open the bill information page, then select the box "**Send a comment on this bill**." Fill in your address and verify your district, select your Senator in the check box, then craft your comments. Tell them why passing the bill is important to you.

You may also send a single message covering all issues if you know your Senator's email or by finding them [in this list](#). select their *Home Page*, find their *Contact Me* link and write them a note. **In all cases please speak for yourself, not the League.** A powerful statement is made when many constituents express their own opinion and tell their own story.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

E2SHB 1170 **Integrated Climate Response Strategy updates for climate resilience.** The current Climate Response Strategy was completed in 2012, so is due for an update. This bill will increase the focus on climate justice considerations. **Message:** As we experience increasing symptoms of climate change, we must assess our options and select the best approach to protect against the threats. Please vote for this bill.

2SHB 1176 **Creating a Washington Climate Corps.** Project to create climate-related service opportunities for young adults and displaced workers, to build low-carbon and climate-resilient communities and ecosystems while providing education, workforce development, and new career pathways. The board would conduct a study of the feasibility of a program to preserve income and benefits for workers close to retirement who face job loss or career transition because of energy technology sector changes. **Message:** We must invest in our workforce so they can thrive with the future technology, ensure we have the capacity to respond to climate change, and keep Washington on the forefront of progress.

E2SHB 1216 Consolidates and streamlines the siting of clean energy projects. To improve the siting and permitting of clean energy projects, and coordinate inputs from all parties with interests in the projects and locations with an interagency coordinating council. The Department of Ecology and the council will define processes for streamlining siting approvals. **Message:** We must ensure the clean and renewable energy sources of the future are installed without undue delay, and locations are fully coordinated with the communities they serve.

Decoding bill numbers Bills are numbered sequentially as they are introduced, starting in the long legislative session (odd numbered years). Additional bills introduced during the short session continue the number sequence. House bills (HB) begin with 1000 or higher and Senate bills (SB) begin with 5000 or higher, so we can always tell from which chamber they originated. If the bills become significantly amended, a Substitute bill or striker replaces the original (SHB or SSB). If a 2nd Substitute replaces the first substitute the prefix changes to 2SHB. If all the committees agree on the amendments it becomes Engrossed (E2SHB).

Why We Focus Attention on These Bills

The League believes that climate change is a serious threat facing our nation and planet. ... Individuals, communities, and governments must continue to address this issue, while considering the ramifications of their decisions, at all levels — local, state, regional, national, and global. Approved by the LWVUS Board at the January 2019 meeting.

We cannot fully evaluate or track all the bills, so we will focus on those most related to [League positions](#), positively or negatively. We may also suggest revisions (amendments) to bills that need revision to make a positive influence.

A recent [Rhodium Group study](#) suggests that economic incentives, standards, and regulations will be all necessary, and this must occur at all government levels. It is our privilege to freely participate in our democracy.

How You Can Be Involved

- If you would like to receive periodic news of environmental presentations, projects, and updates, join the LWVWA Environment Affinity Group. Contact Martin Gibbins, Climate Issue Chair, mgibbins@lwvwa.org
- Local Leagues in Washington have Action Chairs who coordinate action teams. Some Local Leagues have Environment or Climate teams to take action locally. Contact your Local League Action Chair to find out and join.