

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

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Most climate and energy bills still moving through the legislature experienced some level of amending either in committee or during the floor votes. For the following bills, they are minor adjustments of implementation dates or language refinement to clarify intent. In some cases a null & void clause was amended to stipulate that the bill must be funded in the budget to become law. Also, remember that sign-ins must occur at least 1 hour prior to the hearing time.

Priority Bills Needing Action This Week

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.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means **on 3/21/23 at 4:00 pm. Sign in Pro by 3:00 pm.**

ESHB 1329 Preventing utility shutoffs for nonpayment during extreme heat. Requested by the Attorney General. Prohibits utilities and landlords from terminating water or electric service to any residential user during days for which the National Weather Service has issued certain heat-related alerts. If service is already disconnected, it requires a prompt and reasonable attempt to reconnect service for the time of the heat event provided the user agrees to a payment plan.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology **on 3/21/23 at 1:30 pm. Sign in Pro by 12:30 pm.**

2SHB 1391 Increasing energy efficiency in buildings. Defines grants and processes for overburdened and low-income communities to retrofit residences and buildings with energy efficiency appliances, insulation, repairs, indoor air quality improvements, and health and safety improvements. Funding optimized from the Climate Commitment Act and Federal Inflation Reduction Act. This is a climate justice focus.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology **on 3/22/23 at 8:00 am. Sign in Pro by 7:00 am.**

2SHB 1433 Energy labeling of residential buildings: Home Energy Score. Enables but does not mandate local governments to require an energy assessment and report for the sale of a home. The assessment and report would be based on a format developed by the US Department of Energy.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on **3/22/23 at 8:00 am. [Sign in Pro](#) by 7:00 am.**

Find more bill descriptions on the [Climate & Energy](#) web page or detailed information at the bill number links.

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 and Senate bills (SB) begin with 5000. If the bills become significantly amended, a Substitute bill or striker replaces the original (SHB or SSB). If a Second Substitute replaces the first substitute the prefix changes to 2SHB. If all the committees agree on the amendments it becomes Engrossed (E2SHB).

You can also comment at any time to your district's legislators. Select the bill number link to open the bill information page, then select the box "**Comment on this bill**." Fill in your information and verify your district, then craft your comments. Tell them why the content of the bill, good or bad, is important to you.

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.

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.