

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

Issue Team Chair: Martin Gibbins

Contact: [mgibbins@lwvwa.org](mailto:mgibbins@lwvwa.org), (425) 361-5007

**March 26, 2023**

The Legislature applies cutoff dates to ensure the bills keep moving through the process or are left behind. The next significant cutoff is March 29 when bills must pass out of policy committees in the second chamber, bills have already passed their chamber of origin. ESHB 1282 below passed the House on March 8, and the Senate (policy) Committee on Environment, Energy & Technology on March 21. It now has a hearing in the Senate finance committee, Ways and Means, to consider if the state budget can fund the requirements. The multiple committee hearings is why we ask you to sign in to bills more than once. Not all bills that make it through the committee gauntlet receive a floor vote by the entire chamber, House or Senate.

### **Priority Bills Needing Action This Week**

When signing in to several bills, most browsers help with auto-fill that automatically populates the form entries and have this as a default setting. You may use these instructions to set up and adjust auto-fill for [Chrome](#), for [Firefox](#), and for [Edge](#).

**ESHB 1282 Buy clean, buy fair - environmental and labor reporting for public building construction.** This bill follows a Buy Clean Buy Fair Washington Project pilot study commenced in 2021. Embodied carbon is the greenhouse gas required to make a product, in this case buildings. The bill requires analysis and reporting on the cradle-to-grave embodied carbon of new buildings and significant renovations funded by the state. The Department of Commerce will implement a data base of material information to assist. Labor practice reporting is also required.

Scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Committee on Ways & Means **on 3/28/23 at 4:00 pm. Sign-in PRO by 3:00 pm.**

**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 Second Substitute replaces the first substitute the prefix changes to 2SHB. If all the committees agree on the amendments it becomes Engrossed (E2SHB).

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

**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](mailto: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.