

Weekly Legislative Update: **Waste Diversion**

Issue Team Chair: Ann Murphy
Contact: amurphy@lwwwa.org

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Bills Needing Action this Week

*Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so **please leave the "Organization" box blank.** A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.*

There are no specific actions this week. Make sure to watch what happens to bills as they finish up in the fiscal committees. Bills must be passed out of the fiscal committees by end of day on February 5—click the bill number for up to the minute status.

HB 2049 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction will put \$104 million back into our economy on an annual basis by saving resources, improving recycling and reducing environmental impacts. EPR is already in place in many places around the world, and in the last three years, four states (Maine, Oregon, California, Colorado) have passed similar bills. Nine more states are considering such legislation. Combined with HB 2144, Washington will see the greatest recycling outcomes. **Status: House Appropriations Committee voted HB 2049 out of committee (18 yea; 11 nay; 2 excused). Bill will move to Rules.**

HB 2144 Providing for a deposit return program for qualifying beverage containers to be implemented by a distributor responsibility organization. Will establish a Deposit Return System for Qualifying beverage container (any separate, sealed glass, metal, or plastic bottle or can, that contains any beverage intended for human consumption, and in a quantity of greater than four ounces and less than or equal to one gallon. Excludes dairy and baby formula containers. Combined with HB 2049, Washington will see the greatest recycling outcomes. **Status: had a hearing in House Finance Committee on February 1 and is due to be in Executive Session on February 5 at 8:00 AM.**

HB 1551/SB 5605 Reducing lead in cookware. This bill bans, beginning January 1, 2025, the sale of cookware or cookware component containing lead or lead compounds at a level of more than five parts per million in or into Washington. **Status: HB 1551 had hearing in Appropriations Committee on February 3 with an Executive Session scheduled for February 5 at 10:30 AM.**

HB 2207 Providing tools designed to reduce the impacts of unlawful solid waste dumping. Addresses the use of fines from illegal dumping, providing for more funds for education. **Status: HB 2207 had hearing in Appropriations Committee on February 3 with an Executive Session scheduled for February 5 at 10:30 AM.**

HB 2301/SB 6180 Improving the outcomes associated with waste material management systems, including products affecting organic material management systems. This bill addresses composting and other management of organic (yard and food waste) in order to divert the material from the landfill and avoid methane gas generation. **Status:**

HB 2301 had hearing in Appropriations Committee on February 3 with an Executive Session scheduled for February 5 at 10:30 AM.

SB 6108 referred to Senate Ways & Means Committee with no action scheduled as of press time.

HB 2401 Providing for the responsible management of refrigerant gases and other materials that are used in appliances or other infrastructure. Requires producers of bulk refrigerants and precharged appliances to participate in and implement a refrigerant gas stewardship program, preventing the release of hydrofluorocarbons. **Status: HB 2401 had hearing in Appropriations Committee on February 3 with an Executive Session scheduled for February 5 at 10:30 AM.**

These Bills Are Potentially Moving...

HB 1185 Reducing environmental impacts associated with lighting products. Phases out the sale of most mercury-containing lights beginning January 2026 and expands the product stewardship program for the same lights beyond its scheduled 2025 sunset. **Status: Has been referred to Rules.**

HB 2070/SB 5990 Integrating environmental justice considerations into certain project decisions. The Cumulative Risk Burden of Pollution Act (**CURB**) will require monitoring of pollutants that affect health but are not currently addressed; Specify communities that have been disproportionately harmed by pollution for specific protections; Require the Department of Ecology to deny new permit applications that add cumulative pollution effects and work with applicants seeking permit renewals that add cumulative pollution effects, with the goal to reduce pollution over time; Elevate voices of community members through frontline community participation in the permit evaluations process. **Status: 2070 referred to Appropriations Committee with no hearing scheduled at press time; SB 5990 had hearing in Senate Environment, Energy, & Technology with no action taken.**

SB 6163 Concerning biosolids. Ecology must establish pollutant limits for PFAS chemicals in biosolids, based on the results of the USEPA's risk assessment for PFAS chemicals in biosolids. Ecology must ensure that biosolids are tested for PFAS chemicals for which this pollutant limit has been established. And land application of biosolids that do not comply with the PFAS chemical pollutant limit would be prohibited. **Status—had hearing in Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 2 and awaits Executive Session.**

Status of Other Bills

HB 1933/SB 6276 Right to Repair—Promoting the fair servicing and repair of consumer products. Amendments to this bill identified only wheelchairs as affected devices. **Status: Both bills have had hearings in their respective policy committees; awaited Executive sessions while working on amendments. Did not pass out of either Committee.**

HB 1900 Implementing strategies to achieve higher recycling rates within Washington's existing solid waste management system. Offered as an alternative to the Re-Wrap Act that does not have the EPR component. Championed by Rep Fey. **Status: Had a hearing in House Environment & Energy Committee; no action.**

HB 2068/SB 5965 Concerning the environmental impacts of fashion. Fashion retail sellers or fashion manufacturers with annual worldwide gross income greater than \$100,000,000 must disclose its environmental due diligence policies, processes, and outcomes, including significant real or potential adverse environmental impacts and then disclose targets for prevention and improvement. **Status: Bills had hearing in both House Environment & Energy Committee and Senate Environment, Energy, & Technology; no action**

SB 6005 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction. The companion **HB 2049** bill has passed out of the House Environment and Energy Committee (1/18/24) and is in Appropriations with a hearing on 2/1/24 and an Executive Session on February 3). **Status: Did not pass out of Senate Environment, Energy & Technology Committee**

How You Can Be Involved

- If you are interested in a particular bill, use the links above to go to the webpage for that bill. These pages include staff summaries and reports including those who testified PRO versus CON on the bill. There is also information about how to access videos of hearings that have been held.
- If you do nothing else, please scan the [LWVWA Legislative Action Newsletter](#) each week (it's distributed each Sunday during the legislative session) and respond to the Action Alerts .
- If you have more time and are interested in a particular topic, we always appreciate and can use your assessments of bills, law implementation, and future concerns. For Forests topics send assessments of a few paragraphs to a few pages and include the sources of the facts you rely on. Send them to [Ann Murphy](#), Waste Diversion Issue Chair.
- Join the LWVWA Environment Action group by emailing [Ann Murphy](#).