

Weekly Legislative Update: **Waste Diversion**

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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.*

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. Eliminates the environmental handling fee that currently applies to the sale at retail of mercury-containing lights, which is used to fund the current stewardship program, and instead requires that producers of lights covered by the stewardship program finance the operations of the program. • Makes other changes to the logistical and implementation requirements for light stewardship programs.

Hearing—House Environment & Energy Committee, Jan. 18, 2024 @ 8:00 a.m.

 **Please sign in PRO on HB 1184 [here](#) by Thursday, Jan. 18 @ 7:00 AM.**

HB 2070 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. Championed by Rep Mena

Hearing – House Environment & Energy Committee, Jan. 16, 2024 @ 4 p.m.

 **Please sign in PRO on HB 2070 [here](#) by Tuesday, Jan. 16 @ 3:00 p.m.**

Executive Session (i.e. subject to vote of committee.) scheduled for the following bills in the House Environment & Energy Committee on Thursday, Jan 18 @ 8:00 a.m.

 **For both of the following bills, if your Representative is on the House Environment & Energy Committee—please write to them and ask for a YES vote to move these bills out of the committee:**

HB 2049 Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes. Re-WRAP Act. Legislation on extended producer responsibility (EPR), recycling, and waste reduction has resurfaced in the 2024 session with a reworked Re-WRAP Act—Washington Recycling and Packaging Act. EPR is already happening 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. Bill supporters estimate that enacting The Re-WRAP Act will put \$104 million back into our economy on an annual basis by saving resources, improving recycling, and reducing environmental impacts. [Click here](#) for resources about Extended Producer Responsibility and multiple factsheets. This comprehensive bill is being championed by Rep. Liz Berry

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.

Bill Status

HB 1933 Right to Repair—Promoting the fair servicing and repair of consumer products. This bill has expanded from the original requirement of digital electronic product manufacturers, such as Apple and Microsoft, to make repair information, parts and tools available to independent repair businesses and owners to make repairs. The bill now includes all the consumer products that have already passed in another state, such as wheelchairs, personal electronics like phones and laptops, farm equipment, and appliances like dishwashers, toaster ovens, and refrigerators. There is a huge amount of e-waste! For example, on average, Washington disposes of 8,700 phones every day. This bill would make it possible for small businesses to repair these items. Extending the life of computers, tablets and cellphones, farm equipment, wheelchairs, and appliances will decrease the need for more resources, energy and transportation to manufacture new products – therefore also decreasing greenhouse gas. This bill will lower costs for consumers, get used computers, tablets and cell phones into the hands of people who need them, and help overcome digital inequities in Washington. This way, people will keep using their items instead of tossing them! Championed by Rep Gregerson.

Status: Had a hearing in House Consumer Protection & Business

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

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. Championed by Rep. Mena and Senator Nguyen.

Status: Had hearings in both House Environment & Energy and Senate Environment, Energy & Technology committees

HB 2301/6180 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: Introduced Jan. 11 and referred to House Environment & Energy and Senate Environment, Energy & Technology committees

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](#).