



MUTTERINGS...

Keeping Benton County Voters Informed



Call the plumbers! "Fix our bathrooms!"

SB 6443 has made the most progress to date. This bill literally calls for a repeal of the provisions in WAC 162-32 that opens up bathroom, locker room, and shower facilities, and removes the Human Rights Commission's authority to make rules on that subject ever again.



HB 2589 by Rep. Graham Hunt is a bill that amends the underlying civil rights law to clarify that the law did not intend to say that gender identity or gender expression are sufficient reasons to enter a bathroom, locker room, or shower facility, and that biology must be accounted for in entry policies. This is the bill that Chairman of House Judiciary Committee, Rep. Laurie Jenkins, has said she would not refused to hear in the committee. If she doesn't hear the bill in that committee, it cannot pass in the conventional method. A House member would have to pull it directly from the introduction to the floor, which can be done according to House rules, though it's not a common occurrence. It would be preferable that Rep. Jenkins schedules a hearing for the bill, but it must be scheduled and heard by February 5th in order for this effort to remain alive.

As with any other bill, identical language would have to be introduced by a bill in the Senate and pass through the policy committee in step 3 [To review the process by which a bill becomes a law go to <http://leg.wa.gov/legislature/Pages/Bill2Law.aspx>] by February 5th.

SB 6548 contains very similar language to the HB2589, but it doesn't contain an exemption allowing minor children and disabled people from being allowed to use the opposite-gender bathroom, as Rep. Hunt's bill contains. This bill has been introduced in the Senate and will be heard in the Senate Law and Justice Committee on Monday, February 1st, at 1:30 pm. Concerned citizens can attend this committee hearing and make calls to members on the committee.

All of the bills focused on this effort contain provisions to repeal the dangerous policy enacted by the Human Rights Commission. Even if one or all of these bills passed through both chambers, they must be signed into law by Governor Jay Inslee, who, while he has declined to comment, has not been sympathetic of public safety concerns. Of course, in election years, politicians' actions are often unpredictable, as many are worried about re-election — that's why the volume of phone calls and emails is so important to these efforts.

- From Family Policy Institute of Washington
- <http://www.fpiw.org/blog/2016/01/29/bathroom-rule-clearing-up-confusion-on-the-legislative-response/>



How do I know what's going on?

For actual text of bills, the Washington State Legislature "Bill Information" page at <http://app.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/> provides a straightforward means to access a bill by entering it's number. For easier, alternate perspectives, consider the following Internet resources:

- Washington Policy Center's bill tracking site called *Washington Vote* at <http://washingtonpolicy.org/>
- The Freedom Foundation's presentation on state Budget increases over the years at <http://www.myfreedomfoundation.com/>
- Alliance Defending Freedom, defending the freedom for your right to freely live out your faith., <http://www.adflegal.org/>
- Heritage Foundation at <http://www.heritage.org/>
- Family Policy Institute of Washington at www.fpiw.org

Some bills under consideration

2294 - The bill does not not limit the ability for anyone to receive an abortion, but limits the state's ability to use taxpayer funding to pay for abortions.

2313 - Would raise the age for purchasing tobacco or vapor products to 21 years.

2370 - Prohibits fantasy sports games because they constitute illegal gambling.

2374 - Creates a statewide statewide ammunition fee to fund local public safety. ("Local public safety" is defined as creating a "county criminal justice assistance account" in the state treasury.) Some of the account MIGHT be returned to your city or county if your county's crime rate is high enough to warrant the need for the State's help! This bill is built on the foundation of a VERY faulty premise that "gun ownership is linked to increased gun-related homicide and accidental deaths. (Chicago and NYC illustrate that this not true. As well as Switzerland where every citizen MUST own a gun but there are NO homicides.)

2798 - Creates the "Sugar -Warnings police" to help improve citizens health. Does someone really believe this would make a difference in the diabetes toll? It would simply be another agency with punitive powers for non-compliance!

5655 - More state funds to go toward housing supplements for promoting home ownership for households at or below eighty percent of median family income

6174 - Any initiative must list the amount of tax increases that the measure will impose.

6429 - "The legislature intends to help increase academic performance, improve graduation rates, and reduce health problems" by starting public school one hour later. (Of course they could fix this perceived problem for three fourths of the year by stopping the imposition of Daylight Savings Time and we could all improve our well being.) It is micro-managing nonsense to stack two inconsistent laws on top of each other.

6481 - "Washington Promise Program" attempts to make the first two years of college courses affordable and accessible. The first section of the bill says that the bill applies to citizens of Washington State, but the application section indicates that it applies to ANY RESIDENTS of Washington State. This suggests that undocumented aliens benefit equally with citizens. Further, the bill requires a GPA of only 2.0 - a "C" average - hardly what one would consider adequate to justify a scholarship. Since grants under this act are based on financial need alone, I believe this gives advantage to non-citizens over tax-paying citizens.

6542 - See Section 1.9.B of this bill.

- How can this be illegal: "(iii) Inducing any person to cease or refrain from economically supporting any entity."
- At the same time this is legal: "(f) ...soliciting support for or opposition to any political party, candidate, or ballot measure,"
- Who is going to determine whether it is more likely to "harass, stalk, threaten, or intimidate any person" to be (1) told they can be free of [SEIU] payments for political lobbying or (2) told they should support [SEIU's] political agenda when they disagree with it?

This bill reeks of vengeance toward personal preferences, and not a sense of justice for citizens.

6493 - "employee reproductive choice act," makes it an "unfair practice" for an employer "to fail to provide contraceptive coverage at no cost to the employee". . . "pursuant to the affordable care act." The affordable care act specifically mentions twenty different kinds of birth control an employer must be willing to pay for.



PROVERBS

...for our troubled times

One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

(Pr 28:9, NKJV)



"The problem with socialism is that you eventually run out of other people's money." -- Margaret Thatcher

