

Legislative Planning Committee 2014 End of Session report

2014 Legislative Session

Recently enacted bills that may impact libraries, library employees, or retirees

Below is a summary of state legislation tracked by the WLA Legislative Planning Committee. Copies of the bill text, bill histories, fiscal notes and legislative staff analysis is available on the state legislature's bill information page <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Members of the Legislative Planning Committee perused these bills in their original, amended, and adopted formats to evaluate their likely or potential impact to libraries in general. Please consult your library legal counsel for interpretation or analysis specific to your library.

2014 WLA bill readers:

Patty Reyes, Chair, WLA Legislative Planning Committee

Jennifer Wiseman, WLA President

Nancy Ledebauer, WLA President elect

Marilynne Gardner, Seattle Public Library

John Sheller, King County Library System

Amanda Six, Libraries of Stevens County

School libraries

SSB 6105 School library and information technology programs. For the first time in years pro library legislation was introduced simultaneously in the House and Senate, and was a featured topic of WLA Library Day. SSB 6105 and companion House bill 2560 detailed the roles and importance of library information technology components of school libraries, and had virtually no opposition.

However, the measure died on the House floor and was not sent to the governor for signature.

State Library & Archives

H-4562.2/14 The state's 2014 Supplemental Budget includes language requiring the Secretary of State to convene a multi-agency work group to "study methods for retaining records in electronic formats and for shorter periods of time, with the goal of reducing the volume of stored records by ten percent by the end of 2016, and an additional ten percent by the end of 2018."

Funds are provided for additional Archives space for short term storage of state records.

Effective Date: March 13, 2104

Open Government

ESB 5964 Open Government Training Act At the request of the state Attorney General's Office, the Open Government Training Act requires state and local elected and appointed officials, and every member of a governing body of a public entity, including library trustees, to complete Open Meetings training within 90 days of assuming duties.

Also requires public agency public records officers and all appointed and elected officials to complete Public Records Act training within 90 days of assuming responsibilities.

Required trainings, including an informative 23 minute video, are available on the Attorney General's web site: <http://www.atg.wa.gov/OpenGovernmentTraining.aspx#.UzsorKhdWSo>

Effective Date: July 1, 2014.

SHB 2105 Open Public Meetings. This act requires public agencies with governing bodies to post meeting agendas online at least 24 hours in advance of regular meetings. Of interest to small libraries, this act also exempts agencies without websites or that employ fewer than 10 full-time equivalent employees from posting agendas online.

Effective Date: June 12, 2014.

Library construction & capital budgets

HBR 2298-S Technology infrastructure. From the House bill report, 2298 "Expands the list of capital projects upon which specific, locally-imposed real estate excise tax proceeds can be used to include technology infrastructure that is integral to the capital project."

Effective Date: June 12, 2014

Taxing districts

HB 1264 Fire District Mergers. Defines the conditions which must be met for partial fire districts to merge, of interest to libraries due to current cumbersome nature of library district mergers, where this may provide model language for future improvement.

Effective Date: June 12, 2014