

2006 Legislative Session: Recently Enacted Bills That May Affect Your Library

The following bills enacted by the State Legislature and signed by the Governor apply to one or more types of Washington's libraries. This listing was prepared to inform library boards of trustees, directors, managers, and staff of the revised or new state laws and their effective dates. Additional information, including the text of each bill as enacted, is available on the Legislature's Bill Information web page (<http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>). For advice on specific application to your library, consult your legal counsel.

EHB 1383: Requiring the public employees' benefits board to develop a health savings account option for employees

Summary: The Public Employees Benefit Board will develop a health savings account with a high-deductible health plan as an option for employees who receive their health care coverage through the Health Care Authority.

Library-related impact: Employees of libraries that provide their health insurance coverage through the state Health Care Authority will have the health savings account option available to them.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

SHB 2155: Regarding preservation of state publications by the state library services

Summary: The State Library must ensure permanent public access to public state government publications, regardless of the format and state agencies must submit copies of published information that qualifies as state publications to the State Library.

Library-related impact: Access to all state publications will remain available to Washington's residents, directly or through their local library, from the Washington State Library.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

E2SHB 2673: Authorizing additional alternatives for local infrastructure financing

Summary: Local governments may finance public improvements within a defined area, called an infrastructure improvement area, using revenue generated through a new sales and use tax, up to \$1.5 million per project per year, credited against the state sales and use tax, and matched with an equivalent amount of local resources.

The public improvements that may be financed are infrastructure improvements that include street and road construction and maintenance; water and sewer system construction and improvements; sidewalks and streetlights; parking, terminal, and dock facilities; park and ride facilities of a transit authority; park facilities and recreational areas; and storm water and drainage management systems.

Library-related impact: Improvements authorized under this legislation may facilitate public library construction projects in the defined area.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

HB 2676: Posting interlocal agreements in an electronic format in lieu of filing with the county auditor.

Summary: As an alternative to filing an interlocal agreement with the county auditor, a public agency may list the agreement on its web site or other electronically retrievable public source.

Library-related impact: Publicly-funded libraries that enter into interlocal agreements have these additional options available.

Effective date: June 7, 2006

HB 2690: Permitting members of the public employees' retirement system, the teachers' retirement system, the school employees' retirement system, the public safety employees' retirement system, plan 1 of the law enforcement officers' and fire fighters' retirement system, and the Washington state patrol retirement system to make a one-time purchase of additional service credit

Summary: Members of the Public Employees', Teachers', School Employees' Plans 2 and 3, the Public Safety Employees' Retirement System Plan 2, the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Plan 1, and the Washington State Patrol Retirement System may purchase up to five years of service credit at time of normal or early retirement. The cost of the additional service credit is the actuarial equivalent value of the resulting increase in the member's benefit. The member may pay all or part of the cost of the additional service with an eligible transfer from a qualified retirement plan.

Library-related impact: Library employee members of any of the above retirements systems will have an option for the purchase of additional service credit, thus increasing their annual benefit upon retirement.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

2SHB 2964: Creating the department of early learning

Summary: The Department of Early Learning (Department) is established as an executive branch agency whose director is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Governor subject to confirmation by the Senate. The Department's primary duties are to implement early learning policy, to coordinate, consolidate, and integrate child-care and early learning programs to promote an efficient use of funds, and to collaborate with the K-12 school system to improve transitions from pre-kindergarten environments to kindergarten.

The Director of the Department will provide leadership and actively participate in the creation and governance of a non-governmental public-private partnership focused on supporting government's investments in early learning and promoting school readiness and success.

Library-related impact: Public libraries, long-time providers of early learning services, need to be aware of and monitor this new cabinet department's activities for potential coordination with other programs at state and community levels.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

E2SHB 3098: Transferring duties of the reconstituted state board of education

Summary: Following from 2005 legislation that reconstituted the State Board of Education to focus on student achievement and accountability and a recommendation of a joint legislative committee regarding its other responsibilities, this bill assigns new duties, transfers and repeals other duties.

Library-related impact: School library media center requirements that had been included in the Washington Administrative Code were retained through their inclusion in this legislation.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

SSB 6185: Modifying the Family & Medical Leave Act

Summary: Portions of the state Family Leave Law are amended to conform in part to the federal Family and Medical Leave Act.

Library-related impact: The state and federal Family and Medical Leave Acts are lengthy and complex. Consult your library, city, or institution human resources department for information on how these changes may impact your employees.

Effective date: June 7, 2006

ESB 6236: Changing election dates and deadlines

Summary: The date of the state primary election is moved to the third Tuesday in August. A number of other election-related events and deadlines are changed to conform with the new primary date, including filing dates and mailing dates for overseas and service voter ballots.

Library-related impact: For library districts and city libraries planning for future ballot issues, besides the change in the primary date, resolutions calling for a special election must be presented to the county auditor at least 52 days prior to the special election, rather than the current 45 days. If the special election is to be held on the day of the primary or the general election, the resolution must be filed with the auditor 84 days before the election.

Effective date: January 1, 2007

SSB 6555: Providing research and services for special purpose districts

Summary: State-funded consulting and research services are already available to cities and counties through the Municipal Research Council. This authorizes the Council to contract for the provision of consulting and research services to special purpose districts and provides a funding mechanism for the provision of consulting and research services to special purpose districts.

Library-related impact: The services of the Municipal Research and Services Center will also be available to library districts. Information on MRSC's current services is available on its web site (www.mrsc.org).

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

SSB 6775: Creating the crime of criminal trespass against children

Summary: Allows facilities whose primary purpose is to provide for the education, care, or recreation of children, to order a "covered offender" from the premises of the facility and imposes criminal liability on an offender who remains within, or returns to, a facility that has excluded him or her.

Library-related impact: Because covered facilities must have the "primary purpose" of providing the specified services to children, it's unclear whether this statute could apply to public libraries. If applied to public libraries there might be constitutional questions related to denial of the individual's access to the areas of the building providing adult materials and services.

Effective date: Not yet signed by Governor; June 7, 2006, if signed.

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