

## **2008 Legislative Session: Recently Enacted Bills That May Affect Your Library, Employees, or Retirees**

By Mike Wirt, Co-Chair, WLA Legislative Planning Committee

The following bills enacted by the State Legislature during its 2008 session and signed by the Governor apply to one or more types of Washington's libraries. This was the short session of the two year legislative cycle, and this listing is unusually short.

This summary 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, you may need to consult your legal counsel.

### **ESHB 2879: Modifying provisions related to spyware**

**Summary:** Several computer-related actions, collectively known as spyware, are added to the state's 2005 computer spyware law, and several computer spyware provisions are modified to prohibit "deceptive" actions rather than "intentionally deceptive" actions.

**Library-related impact:** Additional spyware regulation may help libraries avoid issues of unwanted software downloads, particularly those with limited in-house technical support.

**Effective date:** June 12, 2008

### **ESHB 2687: Making 2008 operating supplemental appropriations**

**Summary:** Adopts the state supplemental budget for 2008-2009.

**Library-related impact:** The Office of the Secretary of State/Washington State Library has the funding and FTE allocation to continue all current Washington Library and Talking Book Library programs when it assumes operations on July 1; \$4 million will be allocated by the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to school libraries for staffing and materials. A \$725,000 appropriation for community and technical college digital resources was included in the budget but vetoed as non-essential (along with many other proposed appropriations) by the Governor to build a larger budget reserve.

**Effective date:** April 1, 2008

### **SB 6196: Relating to definitions applicable to local infrastructure 2 financing tool program demonstration projects**

**Summary:** Modifies definitions applicable to local infrastructure financing tool program demonstration projects by changing the local excise tax allocation revenue base period for a revenue development area (RDA).

**Library-related impact:** The base period change was crucial to the RDA project in which Fort Vancouver Regional Library is participating, which includes the new downtown Vancouver library.

**Effective date:** July 12, 2008

**E2SSB 6438: Relating to a statewide high-speed internet deployment and adoption initiative**

**Summary:** The Department of Information Services (DIS) is required to report to the Legislature by December 2008 on options for implementing a statewide high-speed internet deployment and adoption strategy and to publish a web directory of public facilities that provide community technology programs throughout the state; WSU Extension is required to administer a Community Technology Opportunity Program and Opportunity Account to provide training and assistance for low-income and under-served residents on use of information and communication technologies.

**Library-related impact:** Rural libraries may benefit if of high-speed internet resources are developed as a result this report; libraries may be included in the web directory of community technology programs; libraries may be able to participate in the Community Technology Program.

**Effective date:** June 12, 2008

**ESB 6641: Relating to providing that voter-approved property tax increases do not permanently increase a taxing district's levy base, unless expressly stated in the ballot proposition**

**Summary:** Voter-approved property tax increases do not permanently increase a taxing district's levy base unless expressly stated in the ballot proposition; applies to both single and multiple year levy lid lifts.

**Library-related impact:** Library districts asking voters to approve a levy lid lift that will create a new base for computing future levy limits are required to expressly state that in the ballot proposition. Otherwise, the levy base following the levy lid lift year(s) will be calculated as if there hadn't been a lid lift.

**Effective date:** April 1, 2008

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