

Legislative Planning Committee 2016 End of Session report

2016 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 leg.wa.gov

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.

2016 WLA bill readers:

Andrew Chanse, Spokane Public Library

Nancy Ledebauer, WLA President, Spokane County Library District

Patrick Rowe, Spokane County Library District

John Sheller, King County Library System

2016 was a "short session" in that it was the second half of a biennial budget year, in which traditionally lawmakers focus on any needed adjustments to the previously approved 2-year budget. Looming over this session were the high costs of last year's wild fire responses; a \$100,000 per day fine imposed by the State Supreme Court in an educational spending judgment; and the political wrangling of a nearly evenly split legislature.

For WLA, all of this translated into not much - beyond budget – in the form of library related bills signed by the governor.

SHB 2427 Concerning local government modernization.

Authorizes counties, cities, towns and special purpose districts to use, send and accept electronic signatures; also allows for electronic bidding & purchasing procedures in some instances.

HB 2741 Allows state and local government more leeway in establishing fiscal agents.

Requested by the State Treasurer, this bill is intended to offer greater leeway in the range of financial institutions that can provide services in support of library bonds, among other things.

SSB 5864 Increasing the sales tax cap to offset annexation costs incurred by a city within a county of a population of 600,000 or more.

Basically an extension of a previous measure to assist Seattle with annexation of urban unincorporated King County areas, in support of the state Growth Management Act (GMA) enacted in 1990. Specifically authorizes the State Department of Revenue to authorize special use of sales and use tax to offset Seattle's increased cost of services to the North Highline Area, during the areas' transition from county to city. Much will have to happen, including a public vote, for annexation to occur.

SB 6171 Increasing civil penalties for members of a public governing body that knowingly attend a meeting held in violation of the Open Public Meetings Act.

Increases the state penalty for library board members, and other public committee & commission members and officials, that knowingly attend a meeting held in violation of the Open Public Meeting Act, from \$100 to \$500 for the first violation; and \$1000 for each successive violation.

SSB 6273 Concerning safe technology use and digital citizenship in public schools.

Requires the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop best practices for instruction of digital citizenship, Internet safety, and media literacy. Further requires school districts to annually review policies and procedures on electronic resources and Internet safety, beginning in the 2017-18 school year.

SB 6475 Allows counties and political subdivisions with fewer than 5000 staff to apply for health plan administration by the Health Care Authority, subject to approval by the Public Employees' Benefit Board.

The Health Care Authority (HCA) administers health benefits plans and provides other services; and through the Public Employee's benefit board approves schedules of rates and premiums for plan participants. This bill allows smaller public agencies to apply to take advantage of these administrative services.