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2016 End of Session Report

SESSION SUMMARY

The 2016 Legislation Session seemed to start much sooner than it should have, coming quickly after the 176-day session in 2015! The goal seemed to be getting out on time, pass some bills that would provide excellent election talking points, and go home. That attitude quickly changed.

Instead of addressing the paramount duty in a more meaningful way, the first education bill passed by the Senate was a regurgitation of the charter school law which both the King County Superior Court and the Washington State Supreme Court had ruled unconstitutional. Instead of supporting the 1.1 million students in public schools, the Legislature ultimately chose to divert money to 800 students in privately run charter schools.

The Senate Republican Caucus, sometimes known as the Majority Coalition Caucus, continued to paint a picture of Washington as a failing state. They spent money on duplicative investigations on the Department of Corrections, summarily fired the Secretary of Transportation on the floor of the Senate with no warning to the individual or anyone else and spent little to no time on progressive measures that would move the state forward.

The House Democrats focused on urgent and emergent issues facing the state, including education funding, mental health, homelessness and wildfires. To fund these priorities, the House held hearings on proposals to eliminate selected tax preferences. The Senate indicated no interest in this.

Ultimately a few policy bills passed nibbling on the edges of the teacher shortage issue, a huge omnibus bill which will begin to address closing the opportunity gap, and legislation allowing teachers who retired under the 2008 rules to substitute next year up to 867 hours.

This Session did provide election messaging opportunities, but even with a 20-day Special Session, in the end the Legislature put off major education funding and policy issues for another year.

BUDGET Summary

During the 2016 session, long-term resources were tight again for the state. The revenue forecast that was released during session projected budget problems in the final years of the four-year outlook. This became a major sticking point in negotiations as the two chambers have different views on the relative importance of maintaining a balanced four-year outlook (which already does not include McCleary) versus addressing urgent/emergent issues in mental health, educator recruitment and retention, homelessness, and wildfires.

Any budget is a statement of priorities. Some of the largest spending increases in this conference budget are \$190 million for wildfires from the Budget Stabilization Account and \$28 million for the state mental health hospitals. In the end, the value that the Senate Republicans placed on the four-year outlook trumped other key investments that could have been made.

Investments outside of a few key areas such as wildfires, mental health and charter schools were limited. Beyond the charter school funding, the 2016 supplemental budget for K-12 was limited to enrollment and workload adjustments and a number of smaller changes to support recently passed legislation, including the teacher shortage bill. New investments in higher education are primarily focused on making technical corrections for the institutional funding needed to implement last year's policy to reduce tuition and shifting money among grant and scholarship programs.

K-12

The following is a list of some policy bills that were funded in the final budget:

- \$10.1 million for charter school operations
- \$1.8 million to support the educational outcomes of foster youth in K-12 schools and to assist with their transition to higher education (4SHB 1999)
- \$1 million for in grants to districts targeted at providing stability for homeless youth (3SHB 1682)
- \$1.2 million to address the opportunity gap (SHB 1541)
- Funding to address the educator shortage (E2SSB 6455):
 - \$3.5 million in additional funds for mentoring for new educators (BEST program)
 - \$1.75 for professional development for paraeducators

- \$1.1 million to higher education for conditional loans and student teaching stipends for students in teacher preparation programs.
- \$0.5 million for a statewide recruitment campaign

The budget also included \$1.75 million in funding for professional development for state-funded, classroom based paraeducators. OSPI was directed to determine the best method of dispersing this money.

The Governor and the House Democrats had proposed modest increases for educator pay – noting that this was an emergent and urgent issue. But, they were not able to convince the Senate Republicans to act on educator pay this year. The Senate has continued to say that this must be included as part of the promised McCleary implementation next year.

There are several other notable policies from earlier proposals that are not included in the final budget—both good and bad.

1. The levy cliff was not delayed, as had been proposed by the House Democrats. There is language in the budget indicating that the Task Force created to deal with McCleary implementation must determine either that the state is providing the funds needed to offset this drop in levy authority or introduce legislation to extend the levy authority, with the objective of adopting any legislation by April 30, 2017. This language is intended to give districts and the public some indication that the issue will be addressed before district budgets have to be cut.
2. The Senate’s proposal to merge LEOFF Plan 1 with TRS Plan 1 is not included in this budget, although the Select Committee on Pension Policy is directed to review this issue over the interim.
3. No new limits were placed on MSOC (Maintenance, Supplies, and Operating Costs) spending, which has always been a flexible source of funding. The Senate Republicans had proposed new limits in one of their publicly released budget offers. Instead, the final budget includes a new reporting requirement, under which districts will need to submit information on their total spending in MSOC categories compared to the state funding provided for MSOC.
4. No changes occurred in K-12 health benefit allocations. The state employee rate is estimated to be slightly lower than originally projected. Since the increases to state employee rates in the original budget far exceeded the \$12 per month adjustment for K-12 employees, the legislature did not make any parallel reductions for K-12 this year.

Higher Education

New investments in higher education are very limited. The largest changes include nearly \$8 million in technical corrections and enrollment updates to the tuition backfill policy from last year and a transfer of \$18 million of fund balance from the College Bound Scholarship program to maintain the service levels in the State Need Grant. There are small investments for the MESA expansion in the CTC system and \$3 million for Alcoa worker retraining.

There are several notable Higher Education proposals that are not included in the final budget:

- The technical fix to provide state funds to support all of the I-732 salary increases at the community and technical colleges was not included.
- While House Bill 2615 passed off the House floor, it did not move in the Senate, and funding for the conversion of part-time to full-time positions was not included in the final budget.

No state funding was provided for increments, but the language that allows for local bargaining of increments continues throughout this biennium.

Charter Schools

Senator Litzow sponsored SB 6194, Concerning public schools that are not common schools. This legislation was an attempt to “fix” the current charter school law that had been ruled unconstitutional. The policy was almost a duplicate of the old law. The funding source was moved to the Washington Opportunity Pathways Account, the lottery which is currently used to fund a variety of higher education scholarships, all of which have long waiting lists. As the charter schools are still run by private corporations instead of elected school boards, this legislation did not solve the accountability problem identified in the court case. This legislation passed in the Senate with a bi-partisan vote of 27 ayes-20 nays on the tenth day of the Session.

The House Education Committee initially refused to hear any charter bill, including the three that were sponsored by House members. A hearing was held in mid-February with no action taken by the Committee. Late in the regular session the House did pass SB 6194 with several amendments. Many floor speeches in each Chamber indicated legislators did not believe the bill would be found constitutional.

The Governor chose not to sign the legislation, thus it lapsed into law.

Note: WEA is joining a coalition of community groups and unions to challenge the constitutionality of this new charter school law.

Education Support Professionals

The Session started out with a fight to stop SB 6408, Concerning Paraeducators and once again sponsored by Sen. Hill. This legislation was a rewrite from last year, addressing standards and professional development for paraeducators and requiring a licensure system. The legislation died after several amendments in the House which would have funded a professional development system and not put the cost on the backs of paraeducators were not accepted in the Senate.

But the Session ended with a victory. SB 6455 which addressed teacher shortage issues was amended to allow all K-12 classified employees to join the existing optional tuition waiver program that exists for other public sector employees. Any Community and Technical College or public 4-year public institution can choose to participate in the tuition waiver program. K-12 classified employees can take courses related to their employment at these institutions.

And lastly, the budget did include funding for professional development for paraeducators. While it is one time only money, and just for classroom-based paraeducators, it is a start after years of zero money for ESP professional development.

Assessments:

WEA drafted testing legislation that addressed several New Business Items for the 2016 legislative session. HB 2670 provided a clean de-link proposal that assured that no standardized tests be used as the sole determiner of any high stakes decisions including grade promotion, access to accelerated programs, or graduation. It clarified that students who do not attain a passing level in standardized tests as well as students who opt out of standardized tests would be held harmless. Proficiency measures would reflect teacher judgement through teacher driven assessments. The bill removed all alternative tests, the second high school test, practice tests and other tests intended to prepare students for standardized tests. More time, resources, and energy would be placed in classroom instruction, intervention services, and support for struggling students.

Representative Jesse Young, (R-26), was our prime sponsor. There were 22 signatories on the bill representing both parties. In a press release early in the session, Rep. Young said:

“A high quality education must inspire students’ natural curiosity and support their desire to grow and learn. Over the past twenty years, more and more time has been taken from classroom instruction where lively, engaging, and challenging teaching and learning happen and focused more on standardized testing. What’s more, most of the results of these endless evaluations are never returned to teachers in time for them to take any meaningful action as their students have already moved on.

This bill would promote respect for the professional judgment of our teachers who are trained and hired to assess our students on a daily basis and who know our students strengths and weaknesses. We want our students to be motivated and engaged in their educational learning and not bogged down by a system that forces them to take test after test with no real time to actually learn. This proposal would support students' rights to a quality education free from overemphasis on standardized testing and promotes assessments directed by teachers in the classroom fostering a challenging and engaging learning environment."

HB 2670 did not receive a hearing. There were several other assessment bills, including HB 2214 sponsored by Rep. Reykdal (D-22), which had passed the House several times last session and appeared to be the best vehicle for potential Senate support. This bill required those who failed the high school standardized test to take an additional course in the 12th grade set to a higher standard than the last course they had passed in the relevant content area in order to graduate. Other options applied, such as a passing SAT or ACT test score. Another bill, HB 2734 would have permanently delinked the Biology End of Course test as a graduation requirement. None of these bills passed the legislature.

Therefore, the upcoming year will move forward with business as usual in the testing department. To keep up with any tweaks in the system, the OSPI website on testing is the best resource. The biology end of course/graduation reprieve that passed last session will continue for the graduating class of 2017 but the high stakes use of that test will go back into force after that unless there is further legislative action on that issue next session.

Higher Education

Several high profile issues emerged in the higher education arena at the start of this session, including a bill to make two years of Community and Technical College free to students, along with various tuition loan bills that did not make it through the legislature. One bill, called the Washington College Savings Program, which provides an additional financial option for individuals, organizations, and families to save for college did pass and was signed by the Governor and funded in the operating budget.

WEA and AFT jointly supported HB 2615, promoting local strategies for converting part-time teaching positions to full-time positions, setting a goal of 200 conversions over the next three biennia, and requiring a study. The bill received some enthusiasm from the House this session. Hearings on the bill brought forth research that shows negative student achievement results tied to the overuse of part-time faculty, particularly as a result of the lack of time for advising, office hours, and the overall inequitable conditions of employment suffered by part-time contingent faculty. The bill passed the House and was heard in the Senate Higher Education Committee but did not pass out from that committee.

However, the budget proviso from last session, allowing colleges to use local funds for increments and other salary issues for community and technical college faculty is still in force until July 2017. Guidelines and more information about bargaining that provision are provided in the Funding section of these reports.

2016 Legislative Session Bill Status Report

Funding			
Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>ESHB 2376</u>	<u>Dunshee</u>	<p><u>Operating Supplemental Budget 2016</u></p> <p>The final supplemental budget includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$10 million for charter schools • \$1.8 million to support the educational outcomes of foster youth in K-12 schools and to assist with their transition to higher education (4SHB 1999) • \$1 million for in grants to districts targeted at providing stability for homeless youth (3SHB 1682) • \$1.2 million to address the opportunity gap (SHB 1541) • Funding to address the educator shortage (E2SSB 6455): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$3.5 million in additional funds for mentoring for new educators (BEST program) ○ \$1.75 for professional development for paraeducators ○ \$1.1 million to higher education for conditional loans and student teaching stipends for students in teacher preparation programs. ○ \$0.5 million for a statewide recruitment campaign <p>New investments in higher education are limited. The largest changes include nearly \$8 million in technical corrections and enrollment updates to the tuition backfill policy from last year and a transfer of \$18 million of fund balance from the College Bound Scholarship program to maintain the service levels in the State Need Grant. There are small investments for the MESA expansion in the CTC system and \$3 million for Alcoa worker retraining.</p>	<p><i>Signed by Governor Chpt. 36, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 4/18/16</i></p>

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2380</u>	<u>Tharinger</u>	<p><u>Supplemental Capital Budget</u> The capital budget includes \$34.5 million of additional funding for K-3 class size reduction grants, \$5.5 million to DES to purchase modular classrooms made of cross laminated timber for five school districts, and increases the K-12 school construction assistance grant funding by \$34.8 million.</p>	<p><i>Governor partially vetoed</i> <i>Chpt. 35, Laws of 2016</i> <i>Effective date: 4/18/16</i></p>
<u>EHB 2698</u>	<u>Lytton</u>	<p><u>Levy lid revision delay</u> This would have delayed the levy cliff by one year, allowing for higher levy collections and higher levy equalization allocations through 2018.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill and other similar budget proposals which would bring greater predictability to district budgets during the implementation of McCleary funding.</i></p>	<p>Died in Senate Ways & Means</p>
<u>HB 2868</u>	<u>Reykdal</u>	<p><u>Career and Technical Education Materials</u> This would have raised the career and technical education materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) by defining it as a factor above the basic education MSOC allocation.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported all CTE MSOC bills and advocated for greater funding for CTE MSOC in the budget.</i></p>	<p>Died in House Appropriations</p>

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2964</u>	<u>Gregerson</u>	<p><u>Reduced-price lunch copays</u> This would have phased out lunch copays for students who are eligible for reduced-price lunches, beginning in the 2016-2017 school year. It required the phase out to begin with schools with the highest poverty levels and continue until lunch copays were completely eliminated in the 2020-2021 school year.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means
<u>HB 2968</u>	<u>Tharinger</u>	<p><u>Full-Day Kindergarten and K-3 class size construction</u> This transferred to the Education Construction Fund an amount equal to ½ of the 1% that is annually transferred to the Budget Stabilization Account. These funds were intended for classroom construction costs in support of state-funded all-day kindergarten and K-3 class size reductions.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this proposal to dedicate additional resources to the implementation of K-3 class size reductions, and noted that additional funding will also be required to support class size reductions in grades 4-12 when I-1351 provisions are phased in beginning in the 2019-21 biennium.</i></p>	Died on the House Floor

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2985</u>	<u>Riccelli</u>	<p><u>Educational space inventory</u> For fiscal years 2016 through 2021, school districts can use school buildings that had previously been removed from the district’s instructional inventory without penalty in the school construction program if those facilities are used for one of two purposes: (1) To support state-funded all-day kindergarten or K-3 class size reduction, if the lack of district facilities warrants such a use; or (2) to address short-term capacity issues due to enrollment growth and failed school construction bonds within the past five years. All buildings must meet public school safety standards.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill that allows for greater flexibility in state rules to support the implementation of K-3 class size reduction.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 159, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SHB 2988</u>	<u>Dunshee</u>	<p><u>Budget stabilization appropriations</u> Appropriates nearly \$190 million from the budget stabilization account to support fire suppression costs in fiscal year 2016.</p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 34, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 4/18/16</i></p>

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2989</u>	<u>Reykdal</u>	<p><u>Career and technical education materials</u> This would have raised the career and technical education materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) by defining it as a factor above the basic education MSOC allocation. The McCleary court fines were placed in a dedicated account (Basic Education Benefit Account). In the 2016-17 school year, the Basic Education Benefit Account would have been used for CTE MSOC in the 2016-17 school year.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported all CTE MSOC bills and advocated for greater funding for CTE MSOC in the budget.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations
<u>HB 2995</u>	<u>Dunshee</u>	<p><u>Addressing the four-year balanced budget process</u> This bill would have aligned the four-year balance budget process with the proposed changes in HB 2968 which appropriates one-half of the annual budget stabilization transfer to support school construction. This bill would have allowed one-half of the budget stabilization transfer to be considered as revenue for the four-year budget outlook.</p>	Died in House Appropriations

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
E2SSB 6195	Rivers	<p><u>Basic education obligations</u> Creates the Education Funding Task Force (EFTF) made up of 8 legislators (2 from each caucus) and the Governor or his designee. The EFTF must make recommendations on the following by January 2017:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • compensation that is sufficient to hire and retain state-funded basic education staff, including whether and how future salary adjustments and a local labor market adjustment should be incorporated; • whether additional state legislation is needed to help school districts to support state funded all-day kindergarten and K-3 class size reduction; • improving or expanding existing educator recruitment and retention programs; • M&O levies and LEA; • school district collective bargaining; • clarifying the distinction between basic education and local enrichment services; • the provision and funding of school employee health benefits; and • sources of state revenue to support the state's statutory program of basic education. <p><i>The WEA spoke to the need for concrete actions now and the urgency to meet the constitutional rights of our students before they finish yet another year of their education.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 3, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 2/29/16</i></p>

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6292</u>	<u>Braun</u>	<p><u>Education funding – federal forest lands</u> This would have permanently eliminated the reduction in state basic education funding to school districts in counties with federal forest lands. In the current biennium, the state is not taking this reduction to basic education funding; this bill would have made that change permanent.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this proposal.</i></p>	Passed the Senate, died in House Appropriations
<u>SB 6353</u>	<u>Rivers</u>	<p><u>School levy lid revisions delay</u> This bill would have delayed the levy cliff by one year, allowing for higher levy collections and higher levy equalization allocations through 2018.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill and other similar budget proposals which would bring greater predictability to district budgets during the implementation of McCleary funding.</i></p>	Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education
<u>SB 6415</u>	<u>Rolfes</u>	<p><u>Career and technical education materials</u> This would have raised the career and technical education materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) by defining it as a factor above the basic education MSOC allocation.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported all CTE MSOC bills and advocated for greater funding for CTE MSOC in the budget.</i></p>	Died in Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education

Funding

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6661</u>	<u>Rolfes</u>	<p><u>Career and technical education materials</u> This would have raised the career and technical education materials, supplies, and operating costs (MSOC) by defining it as a factor above the basic education MSOC allocation. The McCleary court fines would have been placed in a dedicated account (Basic Education Benefit Account). In the 2016-17 school year, the Basic Education Benefit Account would have been used for CTE MSOC.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported all CTE MSOC bills and advocated for greater funding for CTE MSOC in the budget.</i></p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means
<u>SJR 8213</u>	<u>Hill</u>	<p><u>Four-year balanced budget</u> Would have proposed an amendment to the state Constitution requiring the legislature to enact a four-year balanced budget.</p>	Died in Senate Rules

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SI 735</u>	<u>People of the State of Washington</u>	<p><u>Corporate and money influence</u> This would have established the government of, by, and for the people act. This was an Initiative to the Legislature. It requests the state congressional delegation to propose an amendment to the US Constitution regarding campaign finance law reform.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	Died after a hearing in the Senate Government Operations & Security
<u>HI 735</u>	<u>People of the State of Washington</u>	<p><u>Corporate and money influence</u> This would have established the government of, by, and for the people act. This was an Initiative to the Legislature. It requests the state congressional delegation to propose an amendment to the US Constitution regarding campaign finance law reform.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Rules

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2557</u>	<u>Hunt, S.</u>	<p><u>Unused shared leave return</u> This bill allows unused shared leave to be returned to the donating employee when one of the following occurs: (1) The agency head or school district receives notice from the employee receiving the shared leave that a statement from the employee's doctor verifies that the illness or injury is resolved; or (2) The employee is released to full-time employment; has not received additional medical treatment for his or her current condition or any other qualifying condition for at least six months; and the employee's doctor has declined, in writing, the employee's request for a statement indicating the employee's condition has been resolved. This adds a benefit to the leave sharing law that WEA strongly supported several years ago.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 117, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>HB 2623</u>	<u>Van Werven</u>	<p><u>Advisory measure recounts</u> Prohibits the secretary of state from directing a recount for a statewide advisory vote of the people.</p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 204, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>HB 2624</u>	<u>Hunt, S.</u>	<p><u>Election errors</u> Modifies election provisions regarding errors involving measures and contesting an election.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 130, Laws of 2016 Effective date, 6/9/16</i></p>

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>ESHB 2852</u>	<u>Hudgins</u>	<p><u>Election data and reporting</u> Requires the secretary of state to: (1) Develop statewide election data and reporting standards for how election-related data is maintained and reported by each county auditor; and (2) Every odd-numbered year, conduct and publish a statewide survey of voted ballot rejection rates and the reasons for those rejections by county auditors and canvassing boards. Requires records of ballots counted to be made available to the public at the end of each day that the county auditor has processed ballots during and after an election.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 134, Laws of 2016 Effective date, 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SB 6171</u>	<u>Roach</u>	<p><u>OPMA civil penalties</u> Modifies the structure of civil penalties for knowing attendance by a member of a governing body at a meeting held in violation of the open public meetings act.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 58, Laws of 2016 Effective date, 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SJR 8209</u>	<u>Roach</u>	<p><u>2/3rd vote for tax increases</u> Proposes an amendment to the state Constitution requiring legislative action that raises taxes be approved by at least a two-thirds vote of both the senate and house of representatives.</p> <p><i>Several bills on this issue were introduced in response to the Eyman Initiative 1166 that was ruled unconstitutional. WEA signed in Con on all legislation with this intent.</i></p>	<p><i>Died without a hearing in Senate Government Operations & Security</i></p>

Government

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SJR 8210</u>	<u>Schoesler</u>	<p><u>Advance redistricting plan</u> This legislation creates a possible change of the WA Constitution. At the next general election, the Secretary of State must an amendment to the Washington State Constitution that requires the Commission to complete its redistricting by no later than November 15 of each year ending in one. If voters approve the amendment by a simple majority, the constitution will be amended.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<i>Passed both Chambers and filed with the Secretary of State.</i>
<u>SJR 8211</u>	<u>Roach</u>	<p><u>2/3rd vote for tax increases</u> This legislation also proposed an amendment to the state Constitution requiring a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to raise taxes.</p> <p><i>After a spirited floor debate, this bill failed. Ironically, a 2/3 vote is required in both Chambers to place a constitutional amendment on the ballot. The House did not take this issue up. WEA signed in Con on this legislation.</i></p>	Failed on Third Reading in the Senate.
<u>SJR 8212</u>	<u>Ericksen</u>	<p><u>Const. amendment on taxes</u> This bill proposed an amendment to the state Constitution that would have required a two-thirds majority vote of the legislature to raise taxes, a simple majority vote to impose or raise fees, and no advisory vote.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Con on this legislation.</i></p>	Died in Senate Government Operations & Security

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2488</u>	<u>Manweller</u>	<p><u>Academic bill of rights</u> Would have established the campus free expression act and the academic freedom and whistleblower protection act. One section of the bill would have protected racially, sexually, personally offensive language expressed by faculty or students.</p> <p><i>WEA stayed out of this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Higher Ed after a courtesy hearing
<u>SHB 2615</u>	<u>Pollet</u>	<p><u>CTC faculty & staff benefits</u> This bill would have developed a planning process through which the colleges and the state board for community and technical colleges develop a long-term strategic plan and timeline for part-time to full-time faculty conversions. It would have required the colleges and the state board for community and technical colleges to use research support from the Evans School for Public Policy at the University of Washington and use and build upon the 2005 task force report on best employment practices for part-time faculty. It would have required the state board for community and technical colleges and the student achievement council to conduct a joint study on priorities and impacts of the overuse of part time faculty in the community college system. It proposed funding up to 200 conversions in each of the next three biennia.</p> <p><i>WEA testified strongly in favor of this bill.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Higher Ed

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2619</u>	<u>Haler</u>	<p><u>Postsecondary education</u> This bill would have authorized postsecondary education and training of incarcerated adults through expanded partnerships between the community and technical colleges and the department of corrections.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill.</i></p>	Passed the House and died in Senate Law & Justice after a hearing
<u>2SHB 2769</u>	<u>Senn</u>	<p><u>CTC bachelor degrees pilot</u> This bill would have created bachelor degree programs at community and technical colleges on a pilot basis. It would have required the state board for community and technical colleges to select up to five community or technical colleges to develop and offer programs of study leading to bachelor degrees in high-demand fields of study. It would have required the student achievement council, in collaboration with the state board for community and technical colleges and the statewide faculty union organizations, to study the impact of allowing community and technical colleges to offer baccalaureate degrees.</p> <p><i>WEA testified “other” on this bill and successfully lobbied for an amendment that brought the faculty unions into the decision-making process and as part of the “impact study”.</i></p>	Passed the House but died in Senate Higher Ed

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2820</u>	<u>Pollet</u>	<p><u>Community and technical college access</u> This bill would have created the WA promise program to help make the first two years of college affordable and accessible to the state's citizens by offering a tuition waiver for eligible students enrolled in associate degree or certificate programs offered by the state's community and technical colleges. It would have required the state institute for public policy to conduct a study on the effectiveness of the program. It would have required the caseload forecast council to forecast the number of students who are: (1) Eligible for the WA promise program; and (2) Expected to attend a community or technical college.</p> <p><i>WEA did not take a position on this bill.</i></p>	Died after a hearing in House Appropriations
<u>SB 5928</u>	Dammeier	<p><u>An act relating to education</u> This bill authorizes Bellevue College to offer bachelor of science degrees in computer science. The college may develop the curriculum for and design and deliver courses leading to these degrees. The Bellevue bachelor degree program must be approved by the SBCTC before enrolling students in upper-division courses. Funding of \$750,000 was provided in the 2014 biennial budget.</p> <p><i>WEA did not oppose this bill because it was narrower than Rep. Senn's HB 2769 that would have allowed a pilot study for more colleges and because it was funded in the 2014 budget. We remain concerned about community and technical colleges providing full BA programs before they have solved the staffing issues regarding overuse and underpay of part-time faculty as well as uncompetitive salaries for full-time faculty.</i></p>	<i>Governor signed Chpt. 33, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/28/16</i>

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6260</u>	<u>Hewitt</u>	<p><u>Postsecondary education</u> Would have authorized postsecondary education and training of incarcerated adults through expanded partnerships between the community and technical colleges and the department of corrections.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules
<u>SSB 6466</u>	<u>Habib</u>	<p><u>Higher education disabled students</u> Requires the council of presidents to convene a work group to develop a plan for removing obstacles for students with disabilities. Expires August 1, 2017. The companion bill, HB 2825 sponsored by Rep. Frame died in the House.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor vetoed Legislature overruled Filed with Secretary of State Chpt. 22, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/28/16</i></p>

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6560</u>	<u>Chase</u>	<p><u>High school equivalency tests</u> This bill would have established the GED fairness act ensuring that adults who want to earn a high school equivalency certificate have access to a test option that is appropriate, low cost, and flexible. It would have required the state board for community and technical colleges to identify: (1) At least two test options, at least one of which is low cost to the student and at least one test option that does not require computer proficiency and is fairly normed to the actual academic ability of current high school seniors, such that at least sixty percent of high school seniors can pass the high school equivalency test; and (2) At least one test option that is appropriate for students who have been in the workforce, need a high school diploma for employment reasons, have been incarcerated, or were in the military.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this bill last year when Senator Roach sponsored this same bill.</i></p>	Died in Senate Higher Ed without a hearing
<u>E2SSB 6601</u>	<u>Froct</u>	<p><u>WA college savings program</u> Creates the Washington college savings program to: (1) Provide an additional financial option for individuals, organizations, and families to save for college; and (2) Make distributions from individual college savings program accounts for beneficiaries' attendance at public or private institutions of higher education. Creates the Washington college savings program account. Provides that this act is null and void if appropriations are not approved.</p>	<i>Governor signed Chpt. 69, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i>

Higher Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6626</u>	<u>Bailey</u>	<p><u>Accelerated baccalaureate degrees</u> Would have created “the degree in three” work group for the following purposes: (1) Developing a set of institutional best practices to promote students' ability to successfully graduate with a baccalaureate degree within three years of entering a regional university or The Evergreen State College; (2) Identifying challenges or obstacles that prevent wider adoption of accelerated degree program options and prevent university students from participating in three-year or other accelerated programs; (3) Evaluating how institutions of higher education in other states have engaged in accelerated baccalaureate degree programs; and (4) Developing recommendations that would effectively increase the overall rate of students achieving their baccalaureate degree within three years.</p>	<p>Passed Senate, died in House in regular session. Reintroduced in special session, died in Senate.</p> <p>Language included in operating budget requiring a study.</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
EHB 1003	Hawkins	<p><u>Schools, disaster recovery</u> This bill requires the Washington State School Directors' Association to develop a model policy addressing the restoration of the safe learning environment that is disrupted by natural disaster impacts to the school district infrastructure, and distribute the policy to districts by August 31, 2017.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 37, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>E3SHB 1295</u>	<u>Hudgins</u>	<p><u>Breakfast after the bell</u> The bill would require each high-needs school to offer breakfast after the bell to each student and provide adequate time for students to eat. This addresses the barriers to kids who do not have breakfast at home by alleviating the problem of late arrival to school or class or being stigmatized as one of the “poor” kids.</p> <p><i>This is the third year that WEA has strongly supported this bill.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Ways & Means</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 1345</u>	<u>Lytton</u>	<p><u>Adopting a definition and standards of professional learning</u> This legislation defines "professional learning" as a comprehensive, sustained, job-embedded, and collaborative approach to improving teachers' and principals' effectiveness in raising student achievement. It provides additional descriptions of effective professional learning, and specifies content, context, and process standards.</p> <p><i>WEA was part of the team that created this legislation. If the legislature ever funds professional learning again this will provide flexibility at the local level. WEA did support this bill.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 77, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>2SHB 1408</u>	<u>Ortiz-Self</u>	<p><u>Family engagement coordinator</u> This bill states that by December 1, 2016, the OEO must collaborate with the EOGOAC to recommend to the Legislature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a definition for the term that is variously referred to as "family engagement coordinator," "parent and family engagement coordinator," and "parent involvement coordinator;" and • a model or framework for such a staff position. <p>In developing the model or framework for the staff position, the OEO and the EOGOAC must collaborate with: the OSPI, the Washington Education Association, the Public School Employees of Washington, the Washington School Counselors' Association, the Association of Washington School Principals, and the Washington State School Directors' Association. The section expires July 1, 2017.</p> <p><i>WEA supported this legislation. It is important that new positions the legislature creates are defined in a manner that assists current work being done.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 79, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>4SHB 1541</u>	<u>Santos</u>	<p><u>Educational opportunity gap</u> This is an omnibus bill that took several years and had many amendments before passing. It covers a wide spectrum of issues with the intent of addressing some of the issues causing the opportunity gap.</p> <p>This bill prohibits districts from suspending the provision of educational services as a form of disciplinary action. It prohibits long-term suspension or expulsion as a form of discretionary discipline, limits all suspension or expulsion to the length of an academic term, and requires a reengagement meeting that includes the student's family. It also requires districts to adopt, enforce, and disseminate discipline policies and procedures and encourages districts to train staff on the policies and Procedures; a report on the outcomes of youth in the juvenile justice system; the development of cultural competence training for all school staff; teachers assigned to the Transitional Bilingual Instruction Program to be endorsed in Bilingual Education or English Language Learner beginning in 2019-20; the collection of student data disaggregated by subracial and subethnic categories, to be phased in beginning in 2017-18; the posting and disaggregation of racial and ethnic data related to teachers and posting of their average length of service; the Department of Early Learning must create a community information and involvement plan to inform early learning providers of the Early Achievers program; it establishes the Washington Integrated Student Supports Protocol (WISSP) to promote the success of students by coordinating academic and non-academic supports.</p> <p><i>WEA supported most of the concepts in this legislation. We remain concerned that the legislature did not provide adequate funding so that the goals laid out can actually be attained.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 72, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>3SHB 1682</u>	<u>Fey</u>	<p><u>Homeless students</u> This bill establishes a competitive grant program to evaluate and award grants to school districts to pilot increased identification of homeless students and the capacity to provide support. It establishes a grant program that links homeless children with stable housing. It also modifies data collection and reporting on homeless children by OSPI. It authorizes school nurses, school counselors, or the homeless student liaison to provide consent for health care for a homeless student under certain circumstances.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro and supported this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 157, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
EHB 1770	Bergquist	<p><u>Changing explicit alternative routes to teacher certification program requirements to expectations for program outcomes</u> This bill would have created more flexibility in the current alternative route certification program. It also would have required specific reporting to determine if the programs were working.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro and testified in support of this bill.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House, died in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>SHB 1790</u></p>	<p><u>Springer</u></p>	<p><u>Nurse in school setting</u> For the second year this bill failed to pass. It would have allowed only a registered nurse or an advanced registered nurse practitioner to supervise, direct, or evaluate a licensed nurse working in a school setting with respect to the practice of nursing.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation. Our members in the School Nurse Organization of WA (SNOW) brought this issue forward.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House, died in Senate Rules</p>
<p><u>HB 1804</u></p>	<p><u>Springer</u></p>	<p><u>Educator professional growth</u> This bill would have exempted professional growth plans used for licensure renewal from public inspection and copying under the public records act. This bill died last Session also.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly supported this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House, died in Senate Rules</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 1867</u>	<u>Bergquist</u>	<p><u>Classroom teacher evaluation</u> Rep. Bergquist brought this bill forward at the request of teachers and principals in an effort to streamline the TPEP process. If it had passed classroom teachers who held a Professional Certificate, a National Board Certification, or both, and received a rating of Level 3 or above in their last comprehensive summative evaluation would receive a comprehensive summative evaluation at least once every six years. By July 1, 2016, the steering committee would have recommended to OSPI rules and guidance to streamline the process for the focused evaluation in order to significantly reduce the burden on teachers and principals, and their evaluators.</p> <p><i>WEA worked on language with the sponsor, supported and testified on this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House, died on the Senate floor due to not being brought up for a vote</p>
4SHB 1999	Carlyle	<p><u>Coordinating services and programs for foster youth in order to improve educational outcomes</u> This legislation moves responsibility for the demonstration sites to improve educational outcomes for foster youth from DSHS OSPI. It moves responsibility for the Supplemental Educational Transition Program for foster youth from the DSHS to the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC). It also requires that the DSHS, the WSAC, and the OSPI submit reports to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislature regarding these programs and educational outcomes of foster youth by 11/1/16 and twice yearly thereafter.</p> <p><i>WEA closely monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 71, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2023</u>	<u>Parker</u>	<p><u>School employee contracts</u> This bill changes the deadline for notices of nonrenewal of contracts for certificated school employees only if the state operating budget is not done by the end of the regular session. If that happens, the RIF date is moved from May 15th to June 15th.</p> <p><i>WEA worked to make sure additional requirements were not added for RIFs and prevented the extension of the date later than June 15th. When the rights of our members were secure we ended up supporting the legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 85, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 3/31/16</i></p>
<u>SHB 2214</u>	<u>Reykdal</u>	<p><u>Increasing academic rigor and streamlining assessment requirements for high school students</u> This was the second year this bill came before the legislature. It would have eliminated the biology end of course as a graduation requirement, eliminated the 10th grade mandated graduation test, removed most of the alternatives and retakes, including collection of evidence, and it would have required that a student who did not pass the 11th grade state assessment to take a locally determined but more challenging course in the failed subjects in their 12th grade year.</p> <p><i>WEA had given luke-warm support to the bill in the 2014 session but opposed it in 2015. By that time we had been through the first implementation of the new SBAC tests and we saw how late test scores were returned to schools and how uneven the playing field was for students across the state. The proposal seemed non feasible and the use of such unreliable test scores ill-advised for any form of high stakes decisions about student proficiency.</i></p>	<p>Passed House but died in the without a hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2360</u>	<u>Lytton</u>	<p><u>Quality education council</u> This bill repeals the quality education council and the technical funding formulas working group that is overseen and monitored by the quality education council and the legislature.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 162, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>HB 2367</u>	<u>Magendanz</u>	<p><u>Public non-common schools</u> This bill was the companion bill to SB 6194 which eventually passed. It made minor changes to the Initiative that was ruled unconstitutional by the WA Supreme Court.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed all charter school bills.</i></p>	<p>Died in House Education without a hearing</p>
<u>SHB 2409</u>	<u>Orwall</u>	<p><u>Special needs students</u> The bill would have required districts to inform incoming students and families about the services provided to students with disabilities under the requirements of section 504 of the federal rehabilitation act of 1973, including post-secondary planning services.</p> <p><i>WEA provided amendments to the prime sponsor to assure that the bill would not increase work load or responsibilities above what is already required for districts to be in compliance with federal requirements.</i></p>	<p>Died in House Appropriations</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2429</u>	<u>Caldier</u>	<p><u>Student assessment results</u> This bill would require the superintendent of public instruction to develop and implement a process for ensuring that school districts are able to provide students and their parents or guardians with the results of the all state and federally mandated high school assessments no later than the subsequent June 15th after the student takes the assessment.</p> <p><i>WEA testified in support of this bill. True to his word, Senator Litzow refused for the second year in a row to even hear any testing bills in his Senate Early Learning and K-12 committee.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House and died in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education without a hearing</p>
<u>2SHB 2449</u>	<u>Orwall</u>	<p><u>Truancy reduction</u> This bill is an attempt to solve the truancy problem without sending students to jail. It is a complicated bill that was not expected to pass this Session, but did at the end of the Special Session. It requires schools to provide information about the benefits of attending school. More importantly it requires, by the 2017-18 school year, that juvenile courts and school districts enter into memoranda of understanding regarding a coordinated approach to address truancy which, for most districts will include a community truancy board or other coordinated means of intervention. It also gives the court other resources to help students struggling to make it to school. The Governor vetoed four sections of the bill that were funded with LAP money. He believes that funding source is already over stretched.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed w/ Partial Veto Chpt. 205, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2476</u>	<u>Johnson</u>	<p><u>180-day school year waivers</u> This bill removed the expiration date in the existing law that allows school districts to get a waiver from the one hundred eighty-day school year requirement so that school districts could run only 4 days per week. Removes the August 31, 2017, expiration of that statute.</p> <p><i>WEA has consistently opposed this legislation. Research demonstrated that it has no impact on student learning. Money saved comes from ESP members losing many hours of work. Certificated staff end up teaching four long days and attending Friday meetings without adequate remuneration.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 99, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SHB 2556</u>	<u>Hunt, S.</u>	<p><u>Academic achievement certificate</u> This bill, similar to HB 2214, would have removed numerous state required tests; including eliminating the 10th grade test and ending the use of the biology end of course test as a graduation requirement. It made passage of the 11th grade “College and Career Ready” test the determiner of whether a student required remedial courses in the 12th grade or could move forward with electives or more advanced courses.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this bill because it did not clearly delink the 11th grade test from high stakes decisions. The bill was heard in House Appropriations but did not move forward.</i></p>	<p>Died in House Appropriations</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2597</u>	<u>Orwall</u>	<p><u>School sexual abuse plans</u> This legislation requires school districts to include specific provisions for possible sexual abuse in required plans for the recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students. It modifies the minimum content requirements for school district plans for the recognition, initial screening, and response to emotional or behavioral distress in students.</p> <p><i>WEA testified in support of this legislation, but strongly recommended that the Legislature fund training on the issue.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 48, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>HB 2639</u>	<u>McCabe</u>	<p><u>School bus rider safety</u> This bill would have required OSPI to conduct a study to analyze the costs and the benefits of requiring each school bus, purchased after December 2017, to be equipped with seat belts, safety harnesses, or other approved restraint systems for all passengers.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed the House, died on the Senate floor without no vote</p>
<u>HB 2664</u>	<u>Cody</u>	<p><u>School PE exemptions</u> This bill would have limited a school district's authority to waive, substitute, or exempt students from participation in physical education. It was requested by WEA members who are P.E. teachers active in their professional organization, SHAPE-WA. Several helped get sponsors and testified in support of the bill.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Died after a hearing in the House Education Committee.</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SHB 2669</u>	<u>Riccelli</u>	<p><u>Public school PE requirement</u> This bill would have extended current PE requirements for first through eighth grade students to kindergarten students. It would have phased in increased PE minute requirements for students in grades K-8, beginning with the 2018-19 school year. It required school districts to submit an annual report verifying compliance with PE instructional requirements, beginning with the 2016-17 school year. It would also have established a competitive grant program in OSPI for the purpose of helping school districts increase compliance with PE instructional requirements. Rep. Riccelli worked with PE teachers in drafting this bill. Several WEA members testified in support of the bill.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed in the House Education Committee but died in Appropriations</p>

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2670</u>	<u>Young</u>	<p><u>School assessment system</u> This WEA priority bill would have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • eliminated any state mandated but not federally required test, • removed the graduation requirement from all statewide tests, • disallowed tests to be used for high stakes decisions like grade promotion or entry into accelerated programs, • allowed opting out of standardized tests with no repercussion to students, • saved vast amounts of time and money to be invested in more instructional time with students, and • replaced the current system with a balanced assessment system wherein student GPA and teacher-driven assessments would be used to measure student proficiency. <p>Its companion bill, SB 6476 sponsored by Sen. Roach did not received a hearing either.</p> <p><i>This was a WEA priority bill which did not have legislative support to receive a hearing. The only bill introduced in the legislature that was a true “delink” of tests from graduation requirements and other high stakes decisions, providing parents and students the ability to opt-out with impunity.</i></p>	Died in House Education without a hearing

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2734</u>	<u>McCaslin</u>	<p><u>High school science testing</u> This bill would have made permanent a temporary stay on using the biology end of course tests as a graduation requirement which the legislature enacted at the end of the 2014 session. The companion bill, SB 6640 sponsored by Sen. Mullet died without a hearing.</p> <p><i>WEA testified in support of this bill because, although it was only a part of the complete delink of all state mandated tests, it was at least a pure and permanent delink of one of the tests.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations
<u>HB 2824</u>	<u>Sawyer</u>	<p><u>Promoting educational success in public schools</u> This was another charter school bill that made minor changes to the original initiative. It would have addressed charter public schools, educational programs that are not in common schools, and student health and readiness.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed all charter school legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Education without a hearing

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2862</u>	<u>Rosetti</u>	<p><u>School district fiscal notes</u> This bill would have required the legislature, for all legislation where a school district fiscal note is required, to: (1) Appropriate the funds identified as necessary to fund the local costs of the legislation; or (2) Identify the revenue source that is available to school districts to fund the local costs to implement the legislation. It prohibited the legislature from relying on local levy funds or federal funds as a funding resource if the legislation mandates any requirements that are a component of basic education.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this Legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Appropriations
<u>HB 2947</u>	<u>Sullivan</u>	<p><u>OSPI elimination transferring powers to new department of education</u> This bill would have created the department of education and eliminated the office of the superintendent of public instruction. It would have taken effect July 1, 2019, if the proposed amendment to the state Constitution, eliminating the office of the superintendent of public instruction, had been placed before the voters for approval.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed this legislation. The hearing was more of a panel discussion covering many K-12 issues that are challenging to govern. There was not general agreement that eliminating a statewide elected office would solve any of those challenges.</i></p>	Died after a hearing in House General Government & Information

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HJR 4216</u>	<u>Sullivan</u>	<p><u>Eliminating OSPI</u> This bill proposed an amendment to the state Constitution to eliminate the office of the superintendent of public instruction. It was a partner to HB 2947.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed this Legislation.</i></p>	Died after a hearing in House General Government & Information
<u>SB 6163</u>	<u>Billig</u>	<p><u>District charter schools</u> This bill would have amended the Initiative 1240 provisions in an attempt to address the Court's concerns of non-common school status and funding source by authorizing school districts to create district charter schools within the district. The charter schools would still have been managed and run by privately appointed charter boards, thus tax money would still have been spent without an elected school board being held accountable.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed all charter school legislation.</i></p>	Died after a hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6182</u>	<u>McAuliffe</u>	<p><u>High school graduation tests</u> This bill was an interesting proposal—it established two sets of timelines: 1) date upon which the 11th grade high school mandated test would be required for graduation—extended out to 2022, and, 2) date upon which OSPI must complete a study determining whether using tests for graduation requirements help close the achievement gap. If the OSPI provides the report that proves a positive connection between high stakes testing and closing the achievement gap, etc. the 2022 date for using the high school test for graduation goes forward. If not, then the test would not become high stakes graduation requirement.</p> <p><i>While this bill did not get a hearing, it was the product of much conversation before it was drafted between WEA and the prime sponsor as an alternative way to get to the goal of delinking.</i></p>	Died without a hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>E2SSB 6194</u></p>	<p><u>Litzow</u></p>	<p><u>Public non-common schools</u> This bill reenacts and amends Initiative Measure No. 1240 relating to charter public schools. Few changes were made to the original law. It still allows the Washington State Charter School Commission and school district boards of directors that have received approval by the State Board of Education (SBE) to be an authorizer of charter schools, limited to no more than 40 charter schools. Charter school employees are still hired, managed, and fired by the private Charter School Board of Directors. An elected school board is not accountable for the tax dollars given to the charter board. The state collective bargaining laws for classified and certificated charter school employees apply. The bargaining units for charter schools must be separate from other school district bargaining units. The question remains unanswered as to how public sector bargaining laws can apply to private employers and employees. Charter schools are eligible for state funding for school construction but not from the common school construction fund. A charter school may purchase or lease facilities or property from a school district at fair market value and may rent from a public or private entity at fair market rent. A purchase, lease, or continued rent free use of facilities requires a negotiated agreement with mutual consideration. Charter schools no longer have access to levy dollars. The Washington Opportunity Pathways Account which currently funds scholarships for college is raided to fund charter schools. It is specifically provided that nothing in the act entitles a charter school to retroactive payments for services provided after December 1, 2015 and before the execution of a new contract.</p> <p><i>WEA strongly opposed this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Lapsed into law with no gubernatorial action</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6241</u>	<u>Billig</u>	<p><u>Teacher salaries & mentoring</u> This was a Governor Request bill. It would have raised the minimum base salary for beginning teachers to forty thousand dollars per year and increased by at least one percent the salary for all other K-12 employees. It also would have supported robust mentoring for beginning teachers to keep them in the classroom.</p> <p><i>While viewing this as only a first step in addressing compensation, WEA strongly supported this legislation.</i></p>	Died in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education after a hearing.
<u>SB 6245</u>	<u>Litzow</u>	<p><u>Visual screening in schools</u> This bill requires visual screening in schools to include both distance screening and near vision screening.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<i>Governor signed Chpt. 219, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>SSB 6273</u></p>	<p><u>Lias</u></p>	<p><u>Schools/safe technology use</u> This bill requires the office of the superintendent of public instruction to: 1) Develop best practices and recommendations for instruction in digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy; 2) Report to the appropriate legislative committees on strategies to implement the best practices and recommendations statewide; and 3) Convene and consult with an advisory committee when developing best practices and recommendations for instruction in digital citizenship, internet safety, and media literacy. It also requires a school district, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, to annually review its policy and procedures on electronic resources and internet safety. School districts must involve employees, parents, community members and technology experts in these reviews. <i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 59, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<p><u>SB 6291</u></p>	<p><u>Braun</u></p>	<p><u>Weighted GPAs</u> This bill would have required the standardized high school transcript to include the option of using a weighted grade point average to recognize accelerated coursework. <i>WEA did not take a position on this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Passed the Senate, died in House Rules</p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>2SSB 6408</u>	<u>Hill</u>	<p><u>Paraeducators</u> This bill was a minor rewrite of SB 5179 which died in the 2015 Session. It would have specified the minimum employment standards for a paraeducator who works in the special education program, the basic education program, the learning assistance program, the federal disadvantaged program, and English language learner programs. It required paraeducators to eventually receive a type of license in order to keep their jobs.</p> <p>It also required the professional educator standards board to design and implement a training program for teachers and principals as it relates to their role working with paraeducators.</p> <p><i>WEA, along with all unions representing paraeducators except the Public School Employees of WA, strongly opposed this bill. Rep. Bergquist proposed an amendment which would have provided for professional development and studying whether a paraeducator license was feasible. Once again Sen. Hill and the PSE would not agree to a compromise.</i></p>	Passed the Senate, died in House Rules.

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>E2SSB 6455</u></p>	<p><u>Dammeier</u></p>	<p><u>Expanding the professional educator workforce</u> There were several “teacher shortage” bills proposed this Session. The components of most of them were amended into this final bill. This legislation does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requires OSPI to establish a teacher recruitment program; • Establish a web-based application depository and assess its efficiency; • Confirms National Board counts as a professional certificate and requires research as to whether other states have a second tier certificate equivalent to Washington’s; • Allows teachers who retired under the 2008 rules to substitute for up to 867 hours per school year without impacting pensions; • Expands various alternative route programs; • Increases funding to BEST, the current state-sponsored teacher mentoring program; • Increases various scholarship, grant and loan-forgiveness programs; • Provides grants for some of the required assessments in pre-service programs; and • Provides that public 4-year and 2-year institutions of higher education may waive all or a portion of the tuition and services and activities fees for public school K-12 ESP staff when their coursework is relevant to their work assignment. <p><i>WEA supported these proposals while making clear that compensation and respect for the profession are crucial when trying to solve the current shortages across all spectrums of educators. WEA strongly supported the tuition waiver amendment as that has been a longtime legislative goal.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed</i></p>

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6460</u>	<u>Chase</u>	<u>Statewide assessments</u> This bill would have given parents and guardians an unrestricted right to excuse their children from taking statewide assessments.	Died without a hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6552</u>	<u>McAuliffe</u>	<p><u>Assessment inventory tool</u> This bill required an inventory tool be used by districts to audit all the state and district mandated testing across the state. Data would have been sent to the state institute for public policy who would have identified duplicative or unnecessary assessments. <i>WEA supported this bill with amendments assuring that a distinction was made between state mandated tests and teacher driven assessments. While the bill did not pass, a budget proviso was included in the operating budget with the following features:</i></p> <p>Budget language: 2ESHB 2376, section 511 (28)</p> <p>1.) Requires the superintendent of public instruction to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain an existing student assessment inventory tool and distribute it to each school district; and <p>2.) Requires each school district to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the student assessment inventory tool to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Identify all state or district mandated student assessments, including interim, practice, and other associated testing (but not including non-required teacher-driven formative assessments) administered within the district; and (b) ascertain the amount of student time that is spent taking each assessment; and • Report the gathered information to OSPI by October, 2016 • OSPI will report the data to education committees of the House and Senate by December 15, 2016. 	Died after a hearing in Senate Early Learning & K-12 Education. It did become a budget proviso in the operating budget.

K-12

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>ESB 6620</u>	<u>McAuliffe</u>	<p><u>School safety</u> This bill requires the state institute for public policy to complete an evaluation of how this state and other states have addressed the funding of school safety and security programs and submit a report to the appropriate legislative committees, the governor, and the office of the superintendent of public instruction. It also requires OSPI and the school safety advisory committee to hold annual school safety summits that focus on establishing and monitoring the progress of a statewide plan for funding cost-effective methods for school safety that meet local needs. Requires school district staff to receive proper training in developing students' social and emotional skills. ESDs may create regional safety training programs. OSPI must create and maintain an online social and emotional training module for educators, administrators, and other school district staff.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed. Chpt. 22, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/28/16</i></p>

Other

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>E2SHB 2872</u>	<u>Fey</u>	<p><u>WSP recruitment & retention</u> This legislation begins to address the trooper shortage and recruitment problem that is similar to the shortages facing K-12 public schools. Salaries are increased by 5%, the amount of money going to WSP from the vehicle licensing fee is increased and they are directed to do additional things to increase recruitment and retention.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Pro on this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed. Chpt. 28, Laws of 2016 Effective date, 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SB 6443</u>	<u>Ericksen</u>	<p><u>Gender segregated facility rules</u> This bill would have required the human rights commission to repeal WAC 162-32-060 (gender-segregated facilities). It would have prohibited the human rights commission from initiating a rule-making procedure that involves the subject of gender segregated facilities. Several bills on this subject were presented this Session. This is the only one that made it to a Senate floor vote. The House did not hear any of these bills in Committee.</p> <p><i>WEA signed in Con on this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Failed on the 3rd Reading on the floor of the Senate.</p>

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
2SHB 1737	Orcutt	<p><u>Availability of Retirees as Substitutes</u> Would have allowed TRS members who retire under the 2008 early retirement factors to return to work as substitute teachers and mentors for up to 630 hours per year until August 1, 2020. Districts who employ 2008 retirees as substitutes were required to pay substitutes at least the daily rate allocated by the state.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this and other bills that eased the return to work limitations on these early retirees. This bill did not pass, but return to work provisions were incorporated into the omnibus teacher shortage bill (E2SSB 6455).</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules
<u>HB 2298</u>	<u>Moeller</u>	<p><u>Domestic partnerships/PERS</u> Would have required the department of retirement systems to adopt rules to permit certain spouses of PERS members the opportunity to designate themselves as a postretirement marriage survivor between September 1, 2016, and December 31, 2016. This change would have provided survivor benefits to the spouses of deceased PERS members who were registered domestic partners, later married, but the member died prior to being eligible to add the spouse as a survivor.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means
<u>HB 2333</u>	<u>Reykdal</u>	<p><u>PERS plan choice</u> Would have allowed PERS members to change between Plan 2 and Plan 3 if they are age 25 or younger, have separated from employment, and have subsequently been employed by a different employer in an eligible position.</p>	Died in House Appropriations

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2646</u>	<u>Ormsby</u>	<p><u>Retirement system defaults</u> Would have changed the default plan choice to Plan 2 instead of Plan 3 for those who were newly hired in PERS, SERS, and TRS systems and who had not made an affirmative plan choice within the first 90 days.</p> <p><i>The WEA testified in support of this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Rules
<u>HB 2855</u>	<u>Sells</u>	<p><u>TRS military service credit</u> Would have modified TRS Plans 2 and 3 to allow up to five years of service credit for work as an active duty member of the uniformed services of the United States prior to becoming a TRS member. Currently, TRS members could have receive up to five years of service credit if they served in the military after working as a TRS member and if they returned to TRS employment after their military duty ends.</p>	Died in House Appropriations
ESSB 5435	Bailey	<p><u>Deferred Compensation</u> As of January 1, 2017, all new, full-time state employees who are eligible to participate in the state's deferred compensation program will be automatically enrolled in the program with a deferral amount of 3%, unless they have selected a different deferral amount or have actively waived participation in the program. In addition, as of January 1, 2017, any county, city, or other political subdivision offering the state deferred compensation plan may choose to administer a similar opt-out feature for new employees.</p> <p>In addition to the state Deferred Compensation Program (a 457 plan), the state Department of Retirement Services is authorized to offer a 401(a) money-purchase retirement savings plan.</p>	<i>Governor Signed Chpt. 112, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i>

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6433</u>	<u>Bailey</u>	<p><u>Forfeiting public pensions</u></p> <p>A member of a state retirement plan would have been terminated from the plan and would have forfeited their retirement benefit if that person was convicted of a felony that was committed in the course of, or was related to, the member's employment as a public official or public employee. The member would receive a lump sum refund of their employee contributions without interest and minus any benefits already received. A court might award some of all of the forfeited benefits to the member's spouse, former spouse or dependents. These provisions only apply to such felonies that were committed after the effective date of this new law.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means
<u>SB 6434</u>	<u>Bailey</u>	<p><u>Garnishing public pensions</u></p> <p>For public pension plans administered by DRS, this bill would have allowed up to fifty percent of a person's gross monthly pension benefit to be garnished for costs of incarceration, probation, parole, or restitution if a member, was convicted of a felony for misconduct associated with the person's service as a public employee. This would have applied to felonies committed on or after July 1, 2016.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means
<u>SB 6622</u>	<u>Fraser</u>	<p><u>Retirement benefit assignments</u></p> <p>Would have closed a loophole related to the prohibition of the assignment of retirement benefits. This would have prohibited any device, scheme, transfer or other artifice that could allow assignment of benefits, such as creation of a joint bank account or the use of a power of attorney to access the retirement benefits. Any assignee found in violation would have been liable for full repayment to the beneficiary.</p>	Died in Senate Rules

Pensions

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SB 6668</u>	<u>Hill</u>	<p><u>LEOFF 1 & TRS 1 merger</u> Would have merged Law Enforcement Officers' and Firefighters' (LEOFF) retirement system plan 1 assets, liabilities, and membership with the Teachers' Retirement System (TRS) plan 1. Retirement benefits for individuals would have remained unchanged, except that LEOFF plan 1 members or their survivors would receive a one-time \$5,000 payment in addition to their regular benefits. LEOFF Plan 1 is currently over-funded, while TRS Plan 1 has an unfunded liability. By merging the plans, the TRS Plan 1 unfunded liability would have been reduced and would allow for lower employer rates for TRS Plans 2 and 3. The lower rates would have created savings in the state budget and in school district budgets, but would not have lowered rates on the employee side (because the unfunded liability is currently being paid only on the employer side). LEOFF members and retirees were adamantly opposed to this change.</p> <p><i>The WEA opposed this bill. The bill did not pass, but the final budget includes a provision requiring the Select Committee on Pension Policy to study this bill during the interim.</i></p>	Died in Senate Rules Budget Proviso requires further study during the interim.

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>SI 732</u> and <u>HI 732</u></p>	<p><u>People of the State of Washington</u></p>	<p><u>Carbon pollution tax</u> Establishes the carbon pollution tax act and reduces other taxes. Phases in one percentage point reduction of the state sales tax, a reduction of the business and occupation tax on manufacturing, and the implementation and enhancement of the existing working families' sales tax exemption for qualifying low-income persons, while simultaneously phasing in a carbon pollution tax on fossil fuels sold or used in this state and on the consumption or generation in this state of electricity generated by the consumption of fossil fuels.</p> <p><i>These tax changes were intended to be revenue neutral, but fiscal analyses did not supported this assertion. WEA opposed the legislature's adoption of these measures because of the large fiscal impact to the General Fund.</i></p>	<p>Because the Legislature did not act on this Initiative to the Legislature, I-732 will appear on the November ballot.</p>
<p><u>HB 2347</u></p>	<p><u>Hurst</u></p>	<p><u>Marijuana tax reduction</u> Would have lowered the marijuana excise tax on useable marijuana, marijuana concentrates, and marijuana-infused products from 37% to 25% of the retail sales price. The estimated revenue loss from this change would have been about \$100 million per biennium.</p>	<p>Died in House Finance</p>

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2479</u>	<u>Lytton</u>	<p><u>Tax preferences</u> This bill was the Governor's proposal to close tax loopholes to fund investments in education. Tax changes included a repeal of the tax exemption for extracted fuel, refund the state portion of sales tax to nonresidents (rather than not applying the tax), repeal of the sales tax exemption on bottled water, and limiting the real estate excise tax exemption for banks.</p> <p><i>The WEA supported this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Finance
<u>ESHB 2540</u>	<u>Nealey</u>	<p><u>Annual tax surveys and reports</u> Reduces penalties for taxpayers who fail to submit an Annual Tax Incentive Survey or Annual Tax Incentive Report from 100% of the tax incentive to 35% for the first year and 50% for any future year. The due date for the report and the survey are extended one month from April 30 to May 31. Prohibits the application of interest on these penalties.</p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt 175, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 7/1/16</i></p>
<u>HB 2902</u>	<u>Hargrove</u>	<p><u>Charter school tax credit</u> This would have created a business and occupation tax credit and a public utility tax credit for contributions in support of charter schools. The contributions would have been deposited in a newly created Washington charter school account, to be used only for the support of charter schools.</p>	Died without a hearing in House Finance

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2990</u>	<u>Peterson</u>	<p><u>Extracted fuel use tax</u> Would have narrowed the use tax exemption for extracted fuel, which would eliminate the exemption as it relates to extracted fuel used in manufacturing for oil refineries. The Department of Revenue would have calculated the increased tax receipts due to this provision, which would have been transferred to the Education Legacy Trust account.</p>	Died in House Finance
<u>HB 2991</u>	<u>Farrell</u>	<p><u>Real estate loans tax deductions</u> Would have narrowed the deduction for income received on real estate loans by defining community banks by the size of their assets rather than by the number of locations. The Department of Revenue would have calculated the increased tax receipts due to this provision, which would have been transferred to the Education Legacy Trust account.</p>	Died in House Finance
<u>HB 2992</u>	<u>Frame</u>	<p><u>Large private airplane taxes</u> Would have limited the non-resident sales and use tax exemption for the purchase and repair of large private airplanes to individuals (excludes corporations). The Department of Revenue would have calculated the increased tax receipts due to this provision, which would have been transferred to the Education Legacy Trust account.</p>	Died in House Finance
<u>HB 2993</u>	<u>Riccelli</u>	<p><u>International banking taxes</u> Would have repealed the business and occupation tax exemption for international banking facilities. The Department of Revenue would have calculated the increased tax receipts due to this provision, which would have been transferred to the Education Legacy Trust account.</p>	Died in House Finance

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2994</u>	<u>Robinson</u>	<p><u>Aerospace tax incentives</u> Would have established the aerospace tax incentive accountability act. It clarified the number of positions (100,500) that were expected to meet the original tax incentive’s policy objective to maintain and grow aerospace industry workforce. It stated that it is the Legislature’s intent to provide tangible taxpayer accountability for the state's largest aerospace company by adopting a minimum employment baseline that must be met by the company to fully qualify for aerospace tax incentives. The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee’s (JLARC’s) role in reporting on the tax incentive was expanded to include analysis on number of positions and annual hourly wages. Baseline employment targets must be met, or the aerospace company would have been required to make contributions into the Education Legacy Account (using a calculation of actuals compared to the target) prior to claiming the preferential tax incentive rate.</p>	Died in House Finance

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2996</u>	<u>Lytton</u>	<p><u>Tax preferences/K-12 funding</u> If passed, this bill was the House Democrats proposal to close tax loopholes to fund investments in education, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminated the preferential business and occupation (B & O) tax rate for travel agents; • Eliminated the sales and use tax exemption for bottled water; • Changed the nonresident sales and use tax exemption to an annual remittance program; • Repealed the preferential B & O tax rate for resellers of prescription drugs; • Narrowed the real estate excise tax (REET) exemption for transfers that occur in foreclosures; • Eliminated the preferential B&O tax rate for international investment management services. <p>The increased revenue collections from these changes would have been transferred from the general fund to the Education Legacy Trust Account.</p> <p><i>The WEA testified in support of this bill.</i></p>	Died in House Rules
<u>HJR 4213</u>	<u>Shea</u>	<p><u>Constitution amendment on taxes and fees</u> This would have proposed a state constitutional amendment that would require a two-thirds vote of the legislature for tax increases, simple majority legislative approval for fee increases, and elimination of the advisory vote requirement for any tax increases approved under these provisions.</p>	Died in House Finance

Taxes & Revenue

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>SJR 8215</u>	<u>Braun</u>	<p><u>Tax increases/voter approval</u> This proposed an amendment to the state Constitution requiring voter approval for any action or combination of actions by the legislature that raises taxes. There would have been three exemptions where the voter approval requirement would not apply: 1) when an action is approved by 3/5th of both the House and the Senate; 2) when the legislature acts following a declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency when the tax increase will not exceed 12 months; and 3) when the legislature acts to modify or terminate a preference that was examined by a commission established to review tax preferences and the commission recommended that the preference be ended.</p>	Died in Senate Ways & Means

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>HB 2490</u>	<u>Manweller</u>	<p><u>Addressing accountability and fairness in public employee collective bargaining.</u> This bill would have opened all public sector bargaining sessions to the public. It also would have required certification elections every other year. In addition to Manweller, it was co-sponsored by Condotta and Magendanz. Several Freedom Foundation/ALEC bills of this type were introduced this Session.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Labor & Workplace without a hearing.
<u>HB 2829</u>	<u>Chandler</u>	<p><u>Collective bargaining</u> This bill would have required certain collective bargaining sessions involving contract negotiations to be open to the public also. In addition it limited how large possible wage increases could be.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	Died in House Labor & Workplace Committee without a hearing.

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<u>ESSB 6293</u>	<u>Braun</u>	<p><u>Addressing volunteers, student volunteers, and unpaid students.</u> This bill allows individual employers to provide medical aid benefits to: (1) student volunteers enrolled and participating in a program authorized by any public or private school, including institutions of higher education; and (2) "unpaid students" who are in school sponsored, unpaid work-based learning. Work-based learning includes cooperative education, clinical experiences, and internship programs. An employer may annually elect to pay the L&I volunteer premiums and assessments for 100 hours of service for each volunteer, student volunteer and unpaid student, instead of tracking the actual number of hours of service for each volunteer. An employer selecting this option must use the method for the entire calendar year.</p> <p><i>WEA monitored this legislation.</i></p>	<p><i>Governor signed Chpt. 62, Laws of 2016 Effective date: 6/9/16</i></p>
<u>SSB 6410</u>	<u>Hewitt</u>	<p><u>Requiring periodic certification elections for labor unions representing public employees.</u> This bill would have required periodic certification elections for labor unions representing public employees. The fiscal note was huge as PERC would have been holding elections every year. This bill is part of the Freedom Foundation/ALEC strategy to harass unions and make life generally difficult.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation, of course!</i></p>	<p>Died in Senate Rules</p>

Workers Comp / Employment Security / Labor

Bill	Prime Sponsor	Description	Status
<p><u>SSB 6662</u></p>	<p><u>Braun</u></p>	<p><u>Creating a flexible voluntary program to allow family members to provide personal care services to persons with developmental disabilities or long-term care needs under a consumer-directed Medicaid service program.</u></p> <p>This bill would have required the department of social and health services to develop and implement a consumer-directed Medicaid program which is intended to be a voluntary alternative option for individuals with long-term care needs or developmental disabilities who choose to receive personal care services from a family member. Although it appeared to be a bill to assist families, it would have greatly reduced the number of employees who belong to the home care workers union as well as eliminating requirements for employee training centered on the health, safety and well-being of the patient.</p> <p><i>WEA opposed this legislation.</i></p>	<p>Died in Senate Rules</p>