



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

February 27, 2017

Vol. XXXII — No. 7

321 16th Ave S, Seattle, WA 98144 — 906 Columbia St SW, Olympia, WA 98501 — 360-943-0608



What's alive, dead, undead after cutoff

Status report on working-family bills

Last Friday, Feb. 24 was the cutoff deadline for bills to pass out of committees in their houses of origin. That means that hundreds of bills—good and bad—are now considered "dead" and can only become undead via extraordinary procedural means. The bills that have survived now have until Wednesday, March 8 to pass a floor vote in their house of origin.

Here's a roundup of some key working family bills. This is not a comprehensive list. There are many other bills upon which the Washington State Labor Council has taken a position. These updates are on bills previously described in this newsletter and at The Stand. (Bills in Rules Committee have passed policy and/or fiscal committees and can advance to a floor vote at any time.)

DEAD (OPPOSED by the WSLC)

RIGHT-TO-WORK—SB 5692 (sponsor: Sen. Michael Baumgartner) making Washington a so-called "right-to-work" state, dramatically weakening union rights and bargaining power. Died in Labor committee (chaired by the sponsor) without a vote.

DEAD (SUPPORTED by the WSLC)

WAGE THEFT: MISCLASSIFICATION—HB 1300 (Rep. Marcus Riccelli) discouraging deliberate misclassification of workers as independent contractors. Passed Labor committee but died in Appropriations.

WAGE THEFT: RETALIATION—HB 1301 (Rep. Cindy Ryu) discouraging employers from retaliating against workers who report wage theft. Passed Labor committee, but died in Appropriations.

UNDEAD (SUPPORTED by the WSLC)

WASHINGTON FILMWORKS—SB 5502 (Sen. Randi Becker) reinstating the Motion Picture Competitiveness Program tax incentive to encourage filmmaking in our state (like the *Z Nation*



zombies pictured at the State Capitol in 2015) and attract a wide range of associated jobs and economic investment. Passed Economic Development committee, and is now in Ways & Means. Companion HB 1527 is in the Finance committee. These bills are not dead because they are considered necessary to implement the budget, and are therefore exempt from cutoff.

ALIVE (SUPPORTED by the WSLC)

APPRENTICESHIP UTILIZATION—HB 1849 (prime sponsor: Rep. Mike Sells) strengthening compliance with existing apprenticeship utilization standards. Passed Capital Budget committee, now in Rules.

COLLEGE FACULTY PAY—HB 1237 (Rep. Mike Sells) allowing full-scope collective bargaining so colleges can use local funds in negotiating faculty/staff wages. Passed Labor and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

(SEE REVERSE)



CONTRACEPTIVE HEALTH—SHB 1234/SSB 5554 (Rep. June Robinson/Sen. Steve Hobbs) require insurance carriers to provide a full year's supply of birth control at a time; 12 months of contraception will improve women's health and birth outcomes by preventing unintended pregnancies. Both passed Health Care committees, now in Rules.

ELECTRICAL LAW ENFORCEMENT—SHB 1952 (Rep. Brian Blake) improving enforcement of state electrical laws. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

EQUAL PAY OPPORTUNITY ACT—HB 1506 (Rep. Tana Senn) addressing income disparities by prohibiting pay secrecy policies, allowing discussion of wages and prohibiting retaliation for asking for equal pay. Passed both the Labor and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

EQUAL PAY: SALARY HISTORY—HB 1533 (Rep. Laurie Dolan) prohibiting employers from seeking job applicants wage and salary history or requiring that the wage or salary meet certain criteria. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE—HB 1116 (Rep. June Robinson) implements a Family and Medical Leave Insurance program, employer and employee funded, offering up to \$1,000/week for up to 26 weeks for the birth or adoption of a child, for a family member's serious health condition or for leave needed for a military reason. Passed both Labor and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

OUTSOURCING ACCOUNTABILITY—SHB 1851 (Rep. Laurie Dolan), the Taxpayer Protection Act, protecting taxpayers by providing accountability and transparency in government contracting. Passed State Government and Transportation committees, now in Rules.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG TRANSPARENCY—2SHB 1541 (Rep. June Robinson) addresses the ongoing barriers and increasing cost of certain prescription drugs by improving regulation, transparency and accountability on prescription drug pricing. Passed Health Care and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

WAGE THEFT: DAMAGES—HB 1302 (Rep. Noel Frame) discouraging wage theft by increasing civil liabilities for employers guilty of illegally withholding pay. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

WAGE THEFT: RECOVERY—SHB 1486 (Rep. Mia Gregerson) creating a statutory wage lien for claims on unpaid wages. Passed both Labor and Appropriations committees, now in Rules.

WASHINGTON VOTING RIGHTS ACT—HB 1800 (Rep. Mia Gregerson) empowers local governments to avoid costly litigation by creating a collaborative process to ensure fair elections, that every vote is protected, and that every community is fairly represented. Passed State Government committee, now in Rules.

WORK SAFETY FINE CLARIFICATION—HB 1953 (Rep. Laurie Dolan) making sure state WISHA fines for work safety violations are in conformance with federal OSHA penalties. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

WORKERS' COMP: HANFORD—SHB 1723 (Rep. Larry Haler) would remove barriers that prevent seriously ill Hanford workers from getting workers' compensation benefits. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

ALIVE (OPPOSED by the WSLC)

FARMWORKER WAGE THEFT—SB 5720 (Sen. Brad Hawkins) creates a new "production-based safe harbor" for growers by which they can avoid liability for unpaid wages for rest breaks as ordered by a state Supreme Court decision. It would also allow employers to avoid responsibility for payment of wages for work performed outside production. Passed Agriculture committee, now in Rules.

HIGHER EDUCATION CONTRACTING OUT—SB 5550 (Sen. Dino Rossi) opening a number of state services at institutions of higher education to contracting out/privatization. Passed both the Labor and Ways & Means committees, now in Rules.

SILENCING STATE EMPLOYEES—SB 5533 (Sen. Dino Rossi) prohibiting state employee unions from making contributions to incumbent candidates for governor, with whom they collectively bargain. Passed both the Labor and Ways & Means committees, now in Rules.

UNDERMINING I-1433—SB 5530 (Sen. Michael Baumgartner) would cut the state's \$11 minimum hourly wage back to \$9.53 and deny workers the opportunity to earn paid sick leave in every county except King County. It would be as if I-1433 was never approved in the rest of Washington. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

UNDERMINING I-1433: NONPROFITS—SB 5532 (Sen. Michael Baumgartner) excluding all nonprofits from I-1433's minimum wage and sick leave provisions, exempting over 50,000 corporations and hundreds of thousands of workers at some of Washington's biggest employers like Providence and MultiCare health facilities. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

UNDERMINING I-1433: TEEN WAGES—SB 5541 (Sen. Michael Baumgartner) allowing employers to pay 85 percent of the minimum wage to 16- and 17-year-olds. Passed Labor committee, now in Rules.

UNDERMINING STATE EMPLOYEE UNIONS—SB 5551 (Sen. Dino Rossi) requiring members of state employee unions to vote on reauthorizing the union every four years. Passed Labor and Ways & Means committees, now in Rules.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION—SB 5822 (Sen. Michael Baumgartner) is a Christmas list of benefit cuts, eligibility restrictions, and erosions of our state's workers' compensation safety net for injured workers and their families. Passed the Labor committee, now in Rules.

Stay tuned to TheStand.org for details on these and other bills.