

Legislative Planning Committee 2013 end of sessions report

2013 Legislative Session

Recently enacted bills that may impact libraries, library employees, or retirees

Below is a summary of state legislation tracked by the WLA Legislative Planning Committee. Copies of the bill text, bill histories, fiscal notes and legislative staff analysis is available on the state legislature's bill information page <http://apps.leg.wa.gov/billinfo/>

Members of the Legislative Planning Committee perused these bills in their original, amended, and adopted formats to evaluate their likely or potential impact to libraries in general. Please consult your library legal counsel for interpretation or analysis specific to your library.

2013 WLA bill readers:

Patty Reyes, Chair, WLA Legislative Planning Committee

Jennifer Wiseman, WLA President

Marilynne Gardner, Seattle Public Library

John Sheller, King County Library System

Amanda Six, Libraries of Stevens County

State budget items

State Library budget: SB 5034

The final compromise budget included \$632,000 in cuts to the State Library; and transferred the total budget from State Library General Fund (GF-S) funding to the Heritage Center fund.

Secretary of State Kim Wyman's request to the legislature for \$1,500,000 per year for 2 years to allow public, two-year academic, tribal and Dept. of Correction libraries to provide Washington residents access to the **Microsoft IT Academy** was included in the approved budget. State library staff are working to implement.

Bills impacting libraries or taxing districts

SB 5332 modifying the percentage of votes required to continue benefit charges for fire protection districts.

The imposition of a benefit charge is subject to voter approval by a **60 percent majority** of the voters living within the jurisdiction of the district. The continued imposition of a benefit charge is subject to voter approval by a **simple** majority of the voters living within the jurisdiction of the fire protection district.

A benefit charge is a type of assessment imposed upon a property owner based upon the measurable benefits to be received by the property owner by fire protection districts and fire protection authorities.

Effective Date: July 28, 2013.

SSB 5705 Concerning amounts received by taxing districts from property tax refunds and abatements.

Allows county treasurers to levy taxes to reimburse taxing districts for taxes that were abated or cancelled. **Taxes assessed and collected this way do not reduce the levy authority of the taxing district.**

Also allows county treasurers to charge for delinquent tax collection costs; to allow electronic payment of delinquent taxes; and to assess and collect tax foreclosure avoidance costs.

Effective Date: July 28, 2013

Early Learning

2SHB 1723 Early Learning Services

The Early Education Funding Technical Workgroup is established to examine federal and state early education funding streams and early education eligibility processes. The technical workgroup is charged with developing options for system designs that blend and braid federal and state funding streams for early learning programs.

Effective Date: July 28, 2013.

Public Records

HB 1203 Exempting from public inspection information relating to children.

Allows the Department of Early Learning (DEL) to redact from public inspection or copying names and identifying information of children enrolled in DEL and ***private, for-profit*** early learning programs; similar to other DEL and not-for-profit early learning programs.

Effective Date: July 28, 2013

Annexation

SB 5417 Annexation of unincorporated areas within a code city.

Allows code cities to annex unincorporated areas that either fall completely within city limits; or have 80% of their boundary contiguous with the city or town that is planning annexation under state Growth Management Act guidelines.

Effective Date: July 28, 2013