



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
**WASHINGTON STATE BOARD OF HEALTH**

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March 12, 2008

**TO:** Washington State Board of Health Members  
**FROM:** Craig McLaughlin, Executive Director  
**SUBJECT: UPDATE ON THE 2007 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

**Background and Summary**

The 2008 Washington State Legislature is scheduled to adjourn *sine die* tomorrow. The final days of session are usually spent in conference committees and working out differences between the House and Senate budget bills. Information in this memo was current as of the morning of March 7, which was the last day to consider bills in the opposite house.

Board staff tracked and analyzed several dozen bills during session. The Board took a position on 18 of them (or 13 distinct legislative proposals if you do not double count companion bills), and completed three health impact reviews.

Seven bills on which the Board took a position were still alive on the morning of March 7:

- E4SHB 1806 Pesticides in schools
- EHB 2516 Scoliosis screening
- E2SHB 2549 Patient centered care
- 2SHB 2722 Academic achievement gap
- ESHB 3160 Nutrition information
- 2SHB 3227 Hood Canal water quality
- 2SSB 6483 Local food production

The discussion section of this memo briefly addresses each bill and reviews a few health-related highlights of the budget. Direct impact on the Board is limited. The scoliosis bill eliminated existing Board authority with the Board's support, the biological remediation bill establishes a deadline for changes to the onsite septic system rule, and the nutrition information bill requires the Board to participate on a task force to study menu labeling.

Materials behind Tab 12 include a copy of the Bill Watch page from the Board's Web site, reports from the Legislature's bill tracking system, and copies of the three health impact reviews.

### **Recommended Board Action**

None.

### **Discussion**

**E4SHB 1806—Limiting the use of high hazard pesticides on school facilities:** Last session, the bill required the Board to maintain a list of pesticides whose use was restricted on school grounds. The Board favored an integrated pest management approach. The bill scheduled for a possible floor vote on March 7 required the Washington State School Directors Association to develop a model IPM policy and districts to adopt their own policies by September 1, 2009.

**EHB 2516—Eliminating requirements for scoliosis screening in schools:** This bill was supported by the Board and would eliminate statutory provisions requiring scoliosis screening in schools. It was in the Senate Rules Committee on March 7 and not likely to get a floor vote.

**E2SHB 2549—Establishing a patient-centered primary care collaborative program:** A Board letter supported the concept of the original bill that would have provided grants funding to support primary care practices delivering a medical home model. The bill that passed provided funding for a DOH collaborative to promote medical homes. It contains a null and void clause and was amended in the Senate, so both funding and concurrence are required.

**2SHB 2722—Creating an advisory committee to address the achievement gap for African-American students:** The Center for Improvement of Student Learning within the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction would establish an advisory committee to develop a plan for addressing the academic achievement gap for African Americans. It contains a null and void clause and was amended in the Senate, so both funding and concurrence are required.

**ESHB 3160—Addressing the availability of nutrition information:** This was a Washington Restaurant Association proposal that would have preempted King County menu labeling requirements. The Board opposes preemption. The bill scheduled for a possible Senate floor vote March 7 establishes a legislative task force to study the issue. A Board representative would serve on the task force. The preemption language is gone.

**2SHB 3227—Protecting the water quality in Hood Canal:** This bill would establish nitrogen standards for new or retrofitted on-site septic systems in Aquatic Rehabilitation Zone 1 (Hood Canal). Board staff promoted amendments that were incorporated into the bill. It was still in the Senate Rules Committee on March 7 and not likely to get a floor vote.

**2SSB 6483—Enacting the local farms-healthy kids and communities act:** The Board supported this fairly large bill that memorializes the Farm-to-School Program in the Department of Agriculture and contains several other provisions to increase access to Washington-grown fruits and vegetables. Concurrence is required and it contains a null and void clause.