

Having trouble viewing this email? [Click here](#)



King County Democrats Legislative Action Committee

Newsletter #1.5

February 1, 2011

Introduction: This newsletter goes out to active Democrats in King County. Sarajane Siegfriedt is the legislative action newsletter editor. Sarajane Siegfriedt is the Co-Chair of the LAC. You can lobby Democratic priorities in Olympia by sending e-mail and making phone calls to your legislators in Olympia. You can track bills and contact your legislators by going to their website at www.leg.wa.gov, or leave a message for your three legislators at the toll-free Legislative Hot Line, 1-800-562-6000.

Our Legislative Agenda, passed by King County Democrats on January 24th, is posted on www.kcdems.org (look for LAC on the left tab). It directs us in our bill tracking. Please don't let this limit you from being vocal about other issues of importance.

Bill Status: In addition to this narrative newsletter, we are tracking the bills in our agenda and posting these to our website for quick reference.

Our annual **Lobby Day will be held on Presidents Day, Monday February 21st from 11 to 1:30 p.m.** The Governor and all our 39 King County Democratic legislators are our invited guests, followed by district meetings with your legislators (set up by LAC District Chairs.) The \$20 cost includes a box lunch and materials. Please reserve your seat as seating in the Senate Rules Committee room is limited. (Find it by entering the Lt. Governor's office on the 2nd Floor of the Legislative Building. Contact Sarajane Siegfriedt at sarajane3h@comcast.net to reserve a spot at our Lobby Day in Olympia.

Public Safety

SB 5234 / HB 1370 Secure Medicine Take-Back (Creating a statewide program for the collection, transportation, and disposal of unwanted medicines). Introduced by Sen. Adam Kline (37th) and Rep. Kevin Van De Wege (24th).

Creates a statewide system for secure return and environmentally sound disposal of leftover prescription and over-the-counter medicines from our homes to reduce abuse, poisonings, and environmental pollution. Primarily financed by all drug producers selling medicines in Washington, as part of doing business; requires no state funds, budget-neutral to the state. Removes financial burden of collection and disposal from sheriffs, police, and local governments. Total annual costs of the program to drug producers collectively cannot exceed \$2.5 million--or about one penny for every \$16 in sales of medicines annually in Washington, so the program should not noticeably increase costs of medicines.

Heard in Senate Health & Long-Term Care committee on Jan. 27, 2011.

Action Needed

Contact the House Environment committee where hearing is scheduled for Thursday February 3rd, 8 am. Ask them to pass HB 1370 that will prevent teenage overdoses and deaths at no cost to the State.

More information about the issue: www.TakeBackYourMeds.org

HB 1319 / SB 5231 Toxic-Free Kids Act (Regarding the safety of certain children's products.)

Introduced by Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson (36th) and Sen. Sharon Nelson (34th).

Amends the Children's Safe Products Act that was passed in 2008 to address the presence of toxic chemicals--like lead, cadmium, phthalates, formaldehyde--in children's products like toys, bedding and sleepwear. The current law only requires manufacturers to disclose if their product contains a chemical with known toxicity of high concern for children. These bills authorize the Departments of Ecology and Health to require manufacturers to conduct alternatives assessments to look for safer ingredients for certain children's products containing chemicals of high concern to children. These bills is not expected to have a fiscal impact on state as some small amount of costs will be absorbed by the Dept of Ecology and other costs will be borne by manufacturers.

Hearings were held in Senate Health & Long-Term Care committee on January 25, 2011 and in House Environment committee on January 27, 2011.

More information about the issue: <http://watoxics.org/campaigns/the-childrens-safe-products-bill>

Environment

Our partner on these issues is the Environmental Priorities Coalition. See their website: www.environmentalpriorities.org

Coal-Free Future for Washington (Trans-Alta) Bill.

This bill has not yet been introduced. The Governor has been negotiating for transition to natural gas by 2025 and the Coalition wants to eliminate all coal-burning power production in Washington State by 2015. This plant represents 10% of the air pollution in the state. It also received a tax exemption of \$11 million a year.

SB 5194 / HB 1271 Clean Fertilizers, Healthier Lakes and Rivers (Limiting the use of fertilizer containing phosphorus)

Introduced by Senator Scott White (46th) and Representative Andy Billig (3rd).

Manages the sale of phosphorus-containing fertilizers in our state, similar to successful laws passed in other states. Phosphorous in fertilizers are not needed for green lawns or golf courses; there are better, cheaper alternatives that give all of us the freedom to have a beautiful lawn and clean rivers. Phosphorus run-off from lawns can cause algae blooms and harm water quality, fish habitat, and recreation in our lakes and rivers.

Hearing held in Senate Environment, Water, and Energy committee on January 28, 2011.

Referred to the House Environment committee,

For more information about the issue: <http://environmentalpriorities.org/phosphorous>

February 15: Environmental Lobby Day

- **When:** 8:45 am - 6:00 pm A reception from 4 pm-6pm celebrates the 20th Anniversary of the Environmental Priorities Coalition partner, People For Puget Sound.
Where: United Churches, 110-11th Ave. SE, Olympia 98501
Pre-Registration required, and closes February 11th: Registration fee \$20. Day of registration is \$25. Includes all breakfast, lunch, materials, appointments and the receptions.
- On Environmental Lobby Day you will:
- **Learn about the issues:** Get briefed by experts on four environmental priorities, which the LAC supports:
 1. Budget Solutions For Our Environment
 2. Coal Free Future For Washington State
 3. Clean Fertilizers, Healthier Lakes and Rivers
 4. 2011 Clean Water Jobs Act
- **Attend lobbying trainings** with top environmental lobbyists

Register for Environmental Lobby Day at:

<http://hosted.verticalresponse.com/274118/dba9c49314/1410013503/33236be415/>

Banking, Foreclosure and Predatory Lending Reform

Our partner is the Alliance to Prevent Predatory Lending www.noloan sharks.org

Homeowner foreclosure protections: January 26th hearings were held on companion bills **HB 1362 and SB 5275**. See Issue #1 and Bill Status Chart for more. Wall Street banks and some Democrats want to eliminate mandatory mediation.

Action Needed

Contact the House Judiciary Committee and the Senate Financial Institutions Committee to request their support in HB 1362 and SB 5275 and for a strong mediation section to give mortgage counselors the tools they need to help homeowners stay in their homes.

Action Needed

Eliminating the cap on the total number of small loans a borrower may have in a twelve-month period HB 1678 is scheduled for a hearing THIS THURSDAY Feb. 3. Join the Alliance Against Predatory Lending at the hearing to show our lawmakers that there is overwhelming community support for consumer protections for payday loan borrowers. (This

was a 2009 King County Legislative Priority, one we don't want to see weakened or rolled back.)

House Hearing on HB 1678 THIS Thursday, February 3, 8:00 AM
John L. O'Brien Building, Hearing Room B

To RSVP or for carpooling information, contact [Danielle](#). Can't make it to the hearing? [Email your lawmakers NOW](#) or call them at 1-800-562-6000 and urge them to "oppose HB 1678 & SB 5547. Keep consumer protections in place for payday lending."

Criminal Justice

House Bill 1550/SB 5598 The House bill introduced by Rep. Mary Lou Dickerson, (D-Seattle) (D) on January 25, 2011, eliminates criminal penalties for possession and consumption of marijuana. This act sets up specific regulations for the production, distribution, sale, and taxation of marijuana. This act also creates licensing for marijuana growers. This act allows cities to allow voters to make a determination regarding the sale of marijuana within their boundaries during a general election. This act also makes technical changes throughout state law to accommodate the legalization of marijuana. This act takes effect July 1, 2011

Action Needed

Contact the **House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee** and ask them to pass HB 1550 to remove cannabis from the illegal drug market and to tax it to generate revenue.

HB 1100/SB 5073 Introduced in the House by Rep. Jim Moeller, (D-Vancouver) (D) on January 12, 2011, and in the Senate by Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles on January 20th, to amend and clarify the law on the medical use of cannabis (marijuana) so that qualifying patients and designated providers who comply with the law will not be subject to arrest or prosecution, other criminal sanctions, or civil consequences based solely on their medical use of cannabis; and that patients will have access to an adequate, safe, consistent, and secure source of medical quality marijuana. The bill defines, and clarifies the provisions related to prescribing, selling, and using medical marijuana. Referred to the **House Health Care & Wellness Committee** and the **Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee**.

Action Needed

Contact the members of these committee and your legislators to support patients who need to use medical marijuana legally and safety, along with their medical providers and cannabis sellers.

Housing and Homelessness

Coming Up:

February 14th: Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day. Washington's budget crisis puts at risk the more than 80,000 residents who will face homelessness this year. Cuts threaten critical services for people struggling to find work, stay housed, and find health care for their families. Now affordable housing and homelessness advocates are calling for an honest discussion about what our communities need and how best to meet those needs. Find the schedule for February 14th Housing and Homelessness Advocacy Day events and register at:

https://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/2685/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=64850

Revenue & Tax Reform

Rep. Reuven Carlyle has introduced a tax expenditure reform bill. More information to come.

Fair Elections & Initiative Reform

See Issue #1 and Bill Status Chart for more

Labor

More to come!

Education

We are looking for one or two education issues issue leads.

Support the King County Democrats Now!

Renew your membership or join by downloading our donation form at:

<http://wa-demchairs.org/kcdems/2011/2011MembershipForm.pdf>

You can also donate online at <http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevoid=214564>

Basic membership is \$40, family is \$75, student/living lightly \$20. Become a supporting member by donating \$100, \$250, \$500 or \$1000 or more. We need and appreciate your help. Only with the help of concerned Democrats like yourself can we be an effective organization. Thank you.

Contact Information

Sarajane Siegfriedt - sarajane3h@comcast.net

Craig Salins - craigsalins@msn.com

Steve Zemke - Chair - King County Democrats - stevezemke@msn.com

Join Our Mailing List!

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to demchair@whatcomdemocrats.com by info@kcdems.org | [Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe](#)™ | [Privacy Policy](#).

King County Democrats | P.O. Box 58337 | Renton | WA | 98058