

Weekly Legislative Update: Revenue

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: cstewart@lwvwa.org

January 15, 2023

In this first week of the session, both of the House and Senate committees that most focus on revenue, the House Finance and Senate Ways and Means Committees, used their committee time to hold public hearings on the Governor's proposed budget. The House and Senate proposed budgets are not expected to emerge until much later in the session.

There are two bills for which readers' support would be helpful. The League supports these because they would help to address the inequities in the state's current tax system as well as help to remediate the systemic and historic racial bias in our economy. They are described below along with links that League members can use to help support them.

Bill Needing Action This Week

HB 1045 **Creating the evergreen basic income pilot program**, would establish a pilot project to test the feasibility of a basic income program in Washington State. The pilot would provide a cash benefit to the participants equal to the monthly rent of an average two-bedroom housing unit in the county of residence. This project benefit would not supplant existing benefits. There are a number of eligibility requirements. The proposal stems from a DSHS feasibility study that was completed in June 2022.

This bill had a public hearing on January 11 and will have an executive session on January 20. Please contact your Representatives [here](#) and ask them to support this bill.

HB 1094 **Creating the Washington future fund program**, is intended to reduce wealth-building barriers to combat persistent poverty and promote economic resilience for Washingtonians by establishing a fund to be invested at birth and support qualifying individuals by making payments on behalf of eligible individuals between 18 and 35 years of age for education, training, and professional development; purchase of a residence; or creation or purchase of a business. The Fund would be managed by the State's investment board and the program would be overseen by an appointed Future Fund committee.

This bill is scheduled for public hearing in the House Human Services, Youth, & Early Learning Committee at 1:30 pm on January 18. Please sign in PRO on this bill [here](#) before 12:30 on January 18.

Note: When you Sign in "Pro":

You may express support for bills in hearings with the online process. **Remember, only authorized members can speak for the League; the Issue Chairs will do that, so please leave the "Organization" box blank.** A more powerful influence is many voices speaking for themselves rather than many voices speaking for the League.

Bills We Support

As additional bills are filed and scheduled for public hearing, they will be added to these updates.

How You Can Be Involved

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to revenue.
- Contact Cynthia Stewart, Revenue Issue Chair, cstewart@lwvwa.org to receive additional information.