

Best of the bills which passed in 2009

- **Eryk's Law – HB 2279** Asks the Sentencing Guidelines Commission to review child abuse sentencing and prohibits convicted child abusers from working with children under the age of 13 in a paid or volunteer capacity, originally HB 1724. (Signed into law)
- **Walla Walla Way – HB 1580** Gives authority to a collaborative water program in Walla Walla. (Signed into law)
- **Extending agricultural tax exemptions – HB 1733** Adds horse boarding to open space property tax exemptions, originally HB 1232. (Delivered to governor)
- **Protecting students from sexual misconduct in school – HB 1385** Protects students from sexual misconduct by teachers and school employees up to age 21. (Delivered to governor)
- **Agency rules – HB 1475** Requires state agencies to provide a link on their home page to their rule-making activity. (Signed into law)
- **Military licenses – HB 1478** Allows deployed military personnel whose vehicle license expired while they were deployed a full year to renew their license so there would be no payment for the time they couldn't use the vehicle due to their deployment. (Signed into law)
- **Nursing occupations – HB 1808** Would make it easier for paramedics and other emergency health care workers to transition into a nursing career. (Signed into law)
- **Right to grow and harvest – SB 5562** Right to grow and harvest timber bill provides protection under the state's "Right to Farm" laws for the passive growing of timber. (Delivered to governor)
- **Farm structures permitting – SB 5120** Reduced permitting fees on agriculture structures. (Delivered to governor)
- **Water banking – SB 5583** Will provide protection from relinquishment of groundwater rights. (Delivered to governor)
- **Health care cost transparency – HB 1869** Requires health care providers and facilities to provide patients with estimated charges and fees. (Delivered to governor)
- **Retired volunteer doctors – HB 1899** Exempts retired active physicians from licensing fees, and requires review of rules for retired physician licensing related to continuing education, scope of practice, and settings can practice. (Delivered to governor)
- **Flags for military – HB 1121** Allows the state to accept voluntary contributions for use in purchasing Washington state flags for military personnel. (Signed into law)

- **Youth sports injuries – HB 1824** Management of concussion and head injury in youth sports. (Delivered to governor)
- **Regulatory assistance – HB 1730** Jump-starts the office of regulatory assistance to help small businesses understand and comply with state agency rules, regulations. (Signed into law)
- **Public testimony at public meetings – HB 1552** Requires state agency public meetings on rules and regulations to allow public testimony. (Delivered to governor)
- **Student safety & school employee dismissal – HB 1741** Expands the list of crimes that require dismissal or certificate revocation for school employees. (Delivered to governor)
- **Removing school mandates – SB 5889** Provides school flexibility by removing mandates. (Delivered to governor)
- **College textbooks – HB 1025** Would require college-affiliated bookstores to provide a four-week advance notice of course material requirements, giving students time to find the best prices of the books and instructional materials they need. (Delivered to governor)
- **Inmate public records – SB 5130** Limits the ability of inmates in state penitentiaries from making frivolous and excessive public records requests. (Signed into law)
- **Sex offender Web sites – HB 2035** Would review whether sex and kidnapping offenders should submit their Internet and e-mail addresses to law enforcement. (Delivered to governor)
- **Changing border county program provisions – HB 1474** Allows those who receive instate tuition in 13 border counties in Oregon to continue in state tuition rates if they move to Washington. (Signed into law)
- **Waiver of first-time paperwork violation – SB 5042** State agencies must waive fines, civil penalties or administrative sanctions for first-time paperwork violations by small businesses (Delivered to governor).

Worst of the bills considered in 2009

Budget/Taxes

- **Eliminate debt limit – SB 5537** Eliminates the statutory debt limit for the capital budget. (Delivered to governor).
- **\$3 billion school bond measure – HB 2334** Asks voters to approve \$3 billion in bonding authority for the state to maintain school buildings without a full revenue source to pay back the debt. (House Rules)
- **Tuition hikes – SB 5734** Would remove the 7 percent limit in tuition increases, raising concerns about tuition hikes without limits. (Delivered to governor).
- **Increase sales tax – HB 2377** Sales tax increase to pay for cuts in health care and human services. Introduced the same day 5,000 people rallied against taxes at the capitol. (Passed out of House Health and Human Services Appropriations)
- **Oil barrel tax – HB 1614** Levies a \$1.50 per barrel tax on petroleum refining in Washington. (Passed House; in Senate Ways and Means)

Business

- **Construction liabilities – HB 1393** Would more jobs at risk in the building industry by requiring home warranties and building mandates. (Senate Rules)
- **Industrial insurance appeals – HB 1402** Restricts contact with medical providers during industrial insurance appeals. (Delivered to governor)
- **Retrospective rating plans – SB 6035** Limits the way private retro programs could spend their private refund money, also known as “retro-bution bill.” (House Rules)
- **Day care unionization – HB 1329** Child care center directors and workers would be forced to join a union if it cares for only one child whose family receives a state subsidy for care. (Conference)
- **Human trafficking – HB 5850** Places excessive burdens and penalties on employers providing disclosure statements to foreign workers regarding state and federal labor laws. (Delivered to governor)
- **Employer gag rule – HB 1528** Would prohibit employers from communicating with employees about political or religious matters. (Died in House Rules)
- **Paid family leave set-up – HB 6158** Would borrow more money from the Workers’ Compensation Fund to pay for the set up of ‘family leave insurance,’ despite lack of permanent funding source for the program. (Delivered to governor)
- **Documentation fee – HB 2331** Adds an additional \$20 surcharge on recording fees, bringing fees to \$62 to document legal actions, home purchasing, and more; to pay for affordable housing. (Delivered to governor)

- **Park opt-out fee – HB 2339** Automatically adds a \$5 fee to car tabs unless individuals specifically request to not pay the fee. (Delivered to governor)
- **Court fees – HB 2362** Increases court fees between \$10-30 (on top of current fees), as well as look at increasing attorney license fees. (Delivered to governor)

Education

- **School levies – HB 1776** Expanding school levy authority and reducing levy equalization accounts. (Delivered to governor)

Elections

- **Felon voting rights – HB 1517** Gives felons voting rights once they have been released from jail but before they have paid off financial debt. (Delivered to governor)
- **U.S. popular vote – SB 5599** Commits Washington's electoral votes for President based on the popular vote in a handful of states, disenfranchising Washington voters and rural communities. (Signed into law)

Energy/Environment

- **Cap and trade 'lite' – SB 5735** Puts the state on the path toward a regional cap and trade program. (Delivered to governor)
- **Addressing climate change through GMA – SB 5687** Changed the environmental goal in the GMA to require local governments to address climate change. (Senate Rules X file)
- **'Green' buildings – HB 1747** Create green mandates for public and private buildings. (Senate Ways and Means)
- **Banning the use of plastic bags – HB 1189** Requires retailers to only use compostable, recyclable or re-useable (cloth) bags. Effectively bans the use of plastic bags. (Died in House Environmental Health Committee)
- **Restricting light pollution – HB 1069** Would have banned lighting up the American flag at night and interfered with night baseball among other things. (Died in House General Government Appropriations)

Health Care

- **BPA bottle ban – HB 5282** Bans the use of BPA for baby containers & bottles and possibly sports water bottles. (Died in Senate Rules)
- **Drug manufacturer take-back – HB 1165** Requires pharmaceutical companies to fund a mandatory program to collect unwanted medicines and dispose of them in a hazardous waste facility. (Died in House Rules)
- **Health care study, increased government subsidized health care – SB 5945** Establishes another health care reform advisory group and requires submission of Medicaid waiver to increase eligibility to 200% FPL for adults. (Delivered to governor)

Judiciary

- **Domestic partnership expansion – SB 5688** “Everything but marriage” domestic partnership bill, which could freeze free speech and circumventing the will of the people. (Delivered to governor)

Public Safety

- **Community custody of released offenders – SB 5288** Makes changes to which offenders sentenced to community custody will be supervised by the Department of Corrections and replaces community custody sentencing ranges to fixed terms. (Delivered to governor)

House Republican solutions which were not adopted in 2009

Agriculture/Water

- **Water rights – HB 1266** Prevents water relinquishment if one uses partial right. (Died in House Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Budget/Taxes

- **Fiscal notes – HB 1458** Would require a fiscal note be established prior to final passage of any bill. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Balanced budget – HB 1655** Would require the Legislature to pass a balanced budget. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Public review of budgets – HB 1654** Would establish a period of public review for major appropriations bills. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Budget transparency – HB 1902** Would eliminate dedicated accounts contained in the near general fund. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Fund education first – HB 1657** Would require a separate education budget be enacted. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Spending limit – HJR 4207** Would establish a state spending limit based on growth. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Tax increases – HJR 4208** Would require a two-thirds vote of both legislative bodies for any tax increase. (Died in House Finance)
- **Public review of budget – HB 2386** Would require a 72-hour waiting period to review fiscal legislation. (Died in House Ways and Means)
- **Requiring sustainable budgets – HB 2228** Would prohibit the governor or the Legislature from passing an operating budget deemed unsustainable in the ensuing biennium, or the following biennium after that one. (Died in House Ways and Means)

Business

- **Reducing regulation – HB 1617** Would curtail agencies from drafting regulations without specific authorization from the Legislature. (Died in House State Government and Tribal Affairs)

Elections

- **Tax levy transparency – HB 1057** Would require ballot titles on property tax levies to include the estimated financial impact of the tax levy in dollar and percentage terms. (Died in House State Government and Tribal Affairs)

Energy/Environment

- **Renewable energy – HB 1658** Would create an incentive for utilities to promote renewable energy. (Died in House Technology, Energy and Communications)

Health Care

- **Youth health plans – HB 1866** Would offer tailored health plans for adults ages 19 to 34. (Died in House Health Care and Wellness)
- **Health provider competition – HB 1871** Would provide access to out-of-state health carriers, increasing competition. (Died in House Health Care and Wellness)
- **BHP Reform – HB 2169** Would provide vouchers for citizens to find private market health care options (Died in House Health Care and Wellness)
- **Core benefit plans – HB 1868** Would provide smaller employers to provide more options and lower costs to employees. (Died in House Health Care and Wellness)

Public Safety

- **GPS monitoring of sex offenders – HB 1834** Would have required electronic GPS (global positioning system) monitoring of all Level 3 sex offenders, and sex offenders who are registered as homeless, transient, or have a prior conviction of failing to register. (Died in House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee)

State Government

- **Emergency clauses – HB 4205** Would require sixty percent vote for emergency clauses. (Died in House State Government and Tribal Affairs)
- **Property rights – HB 1828** Would allow property owners to cut down up to three trees on their property without government regulation. (Died in Local Government and Housing)

Transportation

- **Congestion relief – HB 2037** Would modify policy goals for WSDOT to include congestion relief as a higher priority. (Died in House Transportation)
- **Innovative Financing for the Alaskan Way Viaduct – HB 2036** Creates a Transportation Infrastructure Improvement Zone Financing mechanism using development rights under the existing Viaduct to free up over \$1 billion for transportation projects around the state. (Died in House Transportation)