



2018 Legislative Update

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Issue #4



The Commission serves as the official state representative of the African American community—advising the Governor, Legislature and state agencies regarding policy development and implementation. The commission also works to establish relationships with local governments and private sector organizations that promote equal opportunity for African-Americans.

Dear Community Members,

Entering Week 6 of a 9-week session, this weekly Legislative Update keeps you informed of legislation that has an impact on the lives of African Americans in our state.

Scheduled to last only 60 days, the process is moving fast. No matter where you are in the state, we need your help to tell the Legislature our story. Our needs won't be addressed unless Olympia hears your voice!

Legislators can be contacted in person, by email, phone or toll-free by calling the Legislative Hotline at 1-800-562-6000. Contact your [Senators](#) and [Representatives](#)! Bills are open for public comment via the Legislative website at www.leg.wa.gov. Just click on 'find bills,' search on the bill number and then click on 'comment on this bill.' It's that easy! Watch or listen to a legislative hearing on www.tvw.org.

Only 27 days remain in the 2018 legislative session. A few of the bills we are tracking:

Senate Bill 6003—Breakfast After the Bell School Program

Effect: Requires high-needs schools to offer breakfast and sufficient time for students to eat. Meals must comply with federal nutrition standards. Sponsored by [Senator Wellman](#)

Status: In House Education Committee for consideration. Will need to progress out of committee by Friday, February 23 to remain alive.

Senate Bill 6406—I-200 Repeal

Effect: Repeals I-200 and restores the fair treatment of underserved groups in public employment, education and contracting. Sponsored by [Senator Chase](#)

Status: Now in the Senate Rules committee, the bill must be voted out of the Senate by this coming Wednesday, February 14. Call the legislature to urge passage of the bill. The House version, HB 1158 sponsored by [Representative Santos](#), has died.

House Bill 2533 / SB 6238—The Long-Term Care Trust Act

Effect: Medicare does not pay for long-term care services. Most Washingtonians over 65 will eventually need these services, but are unable to pay for them. This bill creates a long-term care insurance benefit that will provide 365 days worth of coverage. The benefit is financed by half of one percent payroll deduction on all current workers. In the first year, this program is projected to save Washington state \$19 million in Medicaid spending. By 2040, a savings of \$1.4 billion per biennium is projected. Sponsored by [Representative Jinkins](#)

Status: HB 2533 is in House Rules committee. Must be voted over to the Senate by Wednesday, February 14.

2018 Session Cutoff Dates:

Bills must progress by these dates else fail to become enacted this session

House of Origin Cutoff—February 14, 2018

Opposite House Policy Committee Cutoff— February 23, 2018

Opposite House Fiscal Committee Cutoff— February 25, 2018

Opposite House Cutoff—March 2, 2018

Last Day of Regular Session—March 8, 2018