



## 2018 Washington State Legislative Summary

Each year, Food Lifeline sets out to work with legislative champions in Olympia and Washington DC on policies to solve hunger problems, protect successful safety net programs, and secure new investments for hunger relief efforts. We are happy to report progress in all of these areas during the 2018 Washington state legislative session.

Importantly, Food Lifeline would like to recognize the following important partners that helped make this body of work possible: Anti-Hunger & Nutrition Coalition, NW Harvest, Washington Anti-Poverty Advocates Group, Faith Action Network, and United Way.

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Most notably, the first bill passed in 2018 was **Breakfast After the Bell**. This bill ensures that all kids in high-needs schools start their day without hunger. The program allows breakfast or healthy snacks at the start of the day and gives schools one-time start-up grants (approximately \$6,000 each) to help with implementation. **Bill: 2ESHB 1508, Rep. Stonier | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$1,200,000.**

A second provision in the bill provides funding for the WSDA's **Regional Markets** program which includes the **Farm to School** initiative. This program provides consultation to small farmers looking to expand into "direct markets" such as schools or Farmer's Markets. **Bill: 2ESHB 1508, Rep. Stonier | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$144,000.**

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The state's capital budget included \$1.25 million for Food Lifeline's **Hunger Solution Center** to help with the property and facility purchase. A separate item in the capital budget was \$3.25 million for the **Healthy Kids/Healthy Schools** initiative to help schools remodel kitchens to enhance nutrition and improve student access to healthier foods. This, in conjunction with the Farm to School program, can help open the door to more local, fresh fruits & vegetables making their way into the school lunch room. **Bill: Capital Construction Budget | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$4,500,000.**

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A bill to further develop the state's **Food Policy Forum** did not pass, however the supplemental budget did provide funding to continue convening the forum over the next two fiscal years. The forum engages stakeholders in agriculture, state agencies, and nonprofits to coordinate and advance food policy, programs & related issues in Washington. Among other things, the forum will promote "strengthening hunger safety net programs to ensure they are reaching low income people in need." **Bill: 3SHB 1562, Rep. Mia Gregerson | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$100,000.**

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The **Hunger-Free Students' Bill of Rights** was passed to prohibit schools and districts from "taking action directed at a student under the age of 15 to collect unpaid school meal fees, and from stigmatizing a student who cannot pay for a school meal." Importantly, the bill requires the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction to improve

systems to identify homeless students, students in foster care, runaway students, and migrant students to ensure that each student has proper access to free school meals. This would include directly certifying students for free school meals if the students qualify because of enrollment in assistance programs. **Bill: ESHB 2610, Rep. Strom Peterson | Bipartisan vote? Yes | Total appropriation: \$60,000.**

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The **Fair Chance Act** aka “Ban the Box” which keeps an employer from including any question on an application or inquiring into an applicant’s criminal background until after the employer initially determines that the applicant is otherwise qualified for the position. **Bill: 2SHB 1298, Rep. Ortiz-Self | Bipartisan vote? No**

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The **WorkFirst Poverty Reduction Oversight Task Force** created to oversee the operation of the WorkFirst and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families programs; which includes collaborating with the Intergenerational Advisory Committee (Committee) to develop and monitor strategies to prevent and address adverse childhood experiences and reduce intergenerational poverty. **Bill: E3SHB 1482, Rep. Sawyer | Bipartisan vote? Senate: Yes, House: No.**

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Funding to expand access to **homeless housing and assistance** was secured by making permanent, and increasing, what has been a temporary surcharge collected by each county auditor when a document is recorded. The change is estimated to add \$26 million each year for state and local homeless housing programs. **Bill: E2SHB 1570, Rep. Macri | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$ TBD.**

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A package of **Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)** bills passed: Assets limits were updated by passage of HB 1831, by Rep. Eric Pettigrew, appropriation: \$438,000; TANF cash grants for families were restored from the 15% cut effectuated in 2011, appropriation: \$8,980,000; changes to WorkFirst program saw underspent funding (\$7,240,000) pulled back while reinvesting in interpreters, transportation, and other support, appropriation \$1,220,000. **Bipartisan votes? Yes | Total appropriation: \$10,638,000.**

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**Source of Income Discrimination** bans discrimination based on a renter’s source of income of an otherwise eligible prospective or current tenant. **Bill: HB 2578, Rep. Marcus Riccelli | Bipartisan vote? No | Total appropriation: \$125,000.**

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**Total Appropriations: \$16,767,000**

**For more information: Aaron Czyzewski, Director, Advocacy & Public Policy | [aaronc@foodlifeline.org](mailto:aaronc@foodlifeline.org)**

**Note:** This report will be updated and corrected as new information becomes available. This information in this report is dated: 3/26/2018. “Bipartisan vote” is not an exact measure, but intended to capture the trend in voting.