



LATINO CIVIC ALLIANCE  
WASHINGTON STATE 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES  
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## **For the 2022 session, LCA is asking state policymakers to:**

**Fund Mental Health & Substance Abuse Programs:** Our Washington state government must fund programs to address the Opioid/Fentanyl overdose crisis. This includes an investment of over two years, in innovative community-led harm reduction, treatment, and prevention projects, with a specific focus on those at greatest risk of substance-related harms, including young and middle-aged men, Indigenous Peoples, and LGBTQ2IA+ populations; and providing funding to improve access to evidence-based addictions treatment services.

**Protect voting rights.** Create a more prosperous, inclusive, and equitable Washington by eliminating disparities. Promote expansion and protection of voting rights.

**Preserve and strengthen democratic systems** and civic engagement to relieve barriers of structural racism or economic inequality that limit civic engagement through voting, elections, judicial practices, and Census and Washington State re-districting. Affordable childcare: Affordable and high-quality childcare helps whole communities. Children excel, families earn to provide for their families and businesses retain great employees.

**Support Small Business:** The success of Latino small businesses is a critical component of the Washington State economic well-being. To ensure a fair and level playing field, small business owners must be at the table at local, state and have access to state and federal funding. Through cooperative networking, idea sharing, and education, small businesses can flourish.

**Support Apprenticeship Programs.** Close skill gaps and meet evolving workforce needs by supporting continuous improvement and investment in apprenticeship programs that include a career pathway strategy for basic skill instruction, job training, and support services.

**EFFECTIVE 2/4/2022: ACTIVE**

**ALL LEGISLATIVE BILLS ON THIS LIST ARE  
DO PASS**



## **LCA SUPPORTS**

### **HEALTH CARE** *(LCA is in support of this bill)*

**SB 5546:** Limits out-of-pocket expenses for a 30-day supply of insulin to \$35. Directs the Total Cost of Insulin Work Group to develop strategies to provide a once yearly emergency 30-day supply of insulin. A health plan is to be issued or renewed providing coverage for prescription insulin drugs for the treatment of diabetes. A cap must be placed on the amount a patient is to pay and must cap the total amount that an enrollee is required to pay for a covered insulin drug at an amount. Prescription insulin drugs must be covered without being subjects to a deductible, and any cost-sharing paid by an enrollee must be applied toward the enrollee's deductible obligation.

**HB 1616** Concerning the charity care act.

Establishes minimum charity care requirements for hospitals such that patients below 300 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL) receive coverage for the full amount of their charges, patients from 301 percent up to 350 percent of the FPL receive coverage for 75 percent of their charges, and patients from 351 percent up to 400 percent of the FPL receive coverage for 50 percent of their charges.

- Expands the application of hospital charity care requirements to include clinics affiliated with a hospital.

**HB1757** Requires that nonrepresented employees of Educational Service Districts be covered by the health and related insurance programs of the Public Employees' Benefits Board beginning January 1, 2024.

**HOUSING** *(LCA is in support of this bill)*

**SB5670/ HB1782.** Creating additional middle housing near transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. An ACT Relating to creating additional middle housing near 2 transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family 3 detached housing. WASHINGTON BILL WOULD LEGALIZE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE HOMES  
Allowing “middle housing” options would ease the state’s shortage of homes and right historic wrongs.

**HB1300:** Defines "wear resulting from ordinary use of the premises" for purposes of the Residential Landlord-Tenant Act. Establishes additional parameters with respect to damage claims and expressly requires certain documentation to reasonably substantiate damage charges; and a landlord to provide a walkthrough prior to termination, if requested by the tenant, and to supply a post-walkthrough checklist. Establishes a one-year statute of limitations with respect to any action taken against a tenant to recover sums exceeding the amount of the damage deposit.

**EDUCATION K-12** *(LCA is in support of this bills)*

**HB1746:** Updating the 2015 report and recommendations for supporting student success through measuring and mitigating community risk and protective predictors since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic.

**HB1153:** Establishes four principles of an effective language access program for culturally responsive, systemic family engagement. Directs the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to implement a Language Access Technical Assistance Program that includes specified activities. Requires school districts and charter schools to: Collect data on language access and language assistance services; and implement, beginning with the 2022-23 school year, language access programs that meet stated requirements. Requires the Washington State School Directors' Association to update a model policy and procedures for implementing language access program for culturally responsive, systemic family engagement.

## **HIGHER EDUCATION** *(LCA is in support of these bills)*

**HB 1840:** The goal is to further the effort to make community and technical colleges more welcoming and inclusive for all students, a task force will be established to examine the ways that diversity and equity can be improved at the state's community and technical colleges, while expanding the pilot program to increase student access to mental health counseling and services.

**HB 1736:** Establishes the Washington Student Loan Program to issue student loans with 1 percent interest rates to resident students with financial need pursuing undergraduate or high demand graduate programs.

**HB 1659:** Making higher education more affordable and accessible for students by bridging the gap between cost and need to reduce barriers, improve opportunity, and advance economic security.

- Expands the Washington College Grant (WCG) program by modifying the income eligibility thresholds and award levels.
- Entitles WCG students who are receiving the maximum WCG award to a bridge grant, which is an additional annual stipend for expenses beyond tuition and fees.

**HB1840 Mental Health:** Improving diversity, equity, and mental health at the community and technical colleges. Establishes the Task Force on Improving Equity and Diversity at the Community and Technical Colleges. Expands the Mental Health Counseling and Services Pilot Program to an additional four colleges and extends the expiration date by one additional year.

## **JUVENILE JUSTICE** *(LCA is in support of these bills)*

**HB1757** Supporting relative placement, Prohibits the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) from filing a petition for termination of parental rights when the court enters a finding of good cause that a termination of parental rights petition is not appropriate. Expands the subsidy program for eligible relatives appointed by the court to include limited guardians of a minor. Prohibits a child who is placed with a relative or other suitable person from being moved, unless, under certain criteria, the court finds that a change in circumstances necessitates a change in placement.

**SHB5122:** Increases the juvenile court jurisdiction's maximum age limit to 19 and increases the maximum age of presumed incapacity to commit a crime to 13. Requires authority over charges filed in juvenile court to remain in juvenile court without requiring an order of extension. \* *Allows juveniles adjudicated for an offense committed at age 18 to serve in a juvenile institution through*

*age 22 and juveniles adjudicated for an offense committed at age 19 to serve in a juvenile institution through age 21.*

**HB 1747:** The purpose of a permanency planning hearing is to review the permanency plan for the child, inquire into the welfare of the child and progress of the case, and reach decisions regarding the permanent placement of the child. They will be provided the availability of extended foster care services and detailed instructions regarding how the youth may access such services after he or she reaches age eighteen years.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY** *(LCA is in support of these bills)*

**HB 1756:** Defines "solitary confinement" as confinement of an incarcerated person in a cell or similarly confined holding or living space, alone or with other incarcerated persons, for 17 hours or more per day. Prohibits the use of solitary confinement in state correctional facilities except when necessary for emergency purposes, medical isolation, or a facility-wide lockdown, or when an incarcerated person voluntarily requests such confinement conditions.

**SB 5776:** This is an act relating to creating the criminal justice integrated data system and a violence and death investigation resource center. This bill creates the criminal justice integrated data system to receive and maintain data and information from local governments, state agencies, and nongovernmental entities. It designates the Department of Health (DOH) as manager of the data system and makes the data exempt from disclosure. It also creates a data oversight council with 15 members to approve requests for projects, reports, and analysis from the data system. Lastly it creates the violence and death investigation resource center within DOH to collect and analyze data, survey medical examiners and coroners for critical needs, develop systems to facilitate data sharing, and develop best practices for death investigations. Racial equity comparisons and more detailed coroner reports.

### **FINANCE**

**SB 5752:** Creates the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund in the custody of the State Treasurer to provide a sum of money in a savings and investment account for individuals born into families with limited means for the purpose of postsecondary education, purchasing a home, or starting a business, provided the individual meets certain eligibility requirements and makes a claim for funds at the age of 18 through 30. Creates the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund Committee.

**HB 1861:** Creates the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund to provide a sum of money in a savings and investment account for individuals born into families with limited means for the purpose of

postsecondary education, purchasing a home, or starting a business, provided the individual meets certain eligibility requirements and makes a claim for funds at the age of 18 through 30. Establishes and prescribes membership of the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund Committee. Appropriates the sum of \$64,000,000 from the General Fund for the purpose of beginning investments in the Washington Future Fund Trust Fund.

## **AGRICULTURE/FARMWORKERS** *(LCA is in support of this bill)*

**Support Proviso:** Requested by Representative Lillian Ortiz-Self. Assessing the needs of farmworkers in 14 the state to help better serve and protect these unique workers we all depend upon. Consulting with farmworker advocacy organizations, state agencies administering programs and policies impacting farmworkers, and nonprofit organizations that work directly with farmworkers. Must also assess the needs of farmworkers and hear them out on topics surrounding health and safety in the workplace, discrimination, wages, and wage theft.

## **LAW ENFORCEMENT** *(LCA is in support of these bills)*

**HB 1507:** Authorizes the Office of the Attorney General, with authority concurrent with county prosecuting attorneys, to investigate and prosecute crimes involving the use of deadly force by police officers committed on or after July 1, 2022. Establishes the Independent Prosecutions Unit within the Office of the Attorney General.

**SB5051:** Concerning state oversight and accountability of peace officers and corrections officers. As a condition of continuing employment, unless granted an exemption by the CJTC, all peace officers and corrections officers must obtain and maintain peace officer or corrections officer certification. The officer must authorize the release to the CJTC of their personnel files, termination papers, criminal investigation files, and any other documents or information directly related to certification. The CJTC may require an applicant to administer a background investigation including a criminal history check, verification of citizenship or lawful permanent resident status, a psychological examination, and a polygraph or similar assessment, for use in determining the applicant's suitability for employment as a peace officer or corrections officer. A background investigation is required of applicants receiving a conditional offer of employment or seeking reinstatement following a lapse in service.

**CONTINUED BELOW**

**EFFECTIVE 02/3/2022: ACTIVE**  
**ALL LEGISLATIVE BILLS ON THIS LIST ARE**  
**OPPOSED**



**OPPOSED**

**PUBLIC SAFETY** *(LCA Opposes these bills)*

**HB 1692: UPDATE 2/2/2022 Bill is non active LCA Opposes this bill.** Bill would eliminate drive-by shootings as the basis for elevating a first-degree murder charge to aggravated murder in the first degree, which carries a mandatory sentence of life imprisonment. The aggravating factor that the bill would eliminate reads: "The murder was committed during the course of or as a result of a shooting where the discharge of the firearm... is either from a motor vehicle or from the immediate area of motor vehicle that was used to transport the shooter or the firearm."

- *Statement on HB1692: LCA opposes HB1692. The legislative sponsor/sponsors did not meet with the Latino Civic Alliance and Latino impacted families that have been impacted by drive-by shootings and acts of violence. Latino families and neighborhoods in Washington State are affected and devastated by gang violence and innocent lives and children have been harmed or killed. These acts by drive-by shooters can be deliberate acts of violence and from their criminal enterprise associations need to be addressed. LCA believes we need to address the systemic racism in the criminal and judicial system as many Latinos are disproportionately affected and serving excessive sentences but HB1692 is not clearly defined or address this issue, lacks accurate data and has been misleading. The Latino Civic Alliance has a history of advocating for youth and adult preventive and intervention wrap-around services to address gang affiliated violence. We would like to see more investment from the legislature and an inclusive approach that must include Latino impacted families in the policy work to address this issue realistically and sensibly. Thank you, LCA*

**FARMWORKERS** *(LCA Opposes these bill)*

**HB 1750 (Update did not pass in committee but LCA still Opposes):** 2021-22 authorizes an agricultural employer to select any 12 weeks in a calendar year as special circumstance weeks for labor demand, during which in each of the selected 12 weeks, the agricultural employer may employ agricultural employees for up to 50 hours before the requirement to pay overtime applies under RCW 49.46.130.

**FINANCE** *(LCA Opposes these bill)*

**SB 5879: Update 2/2/2022 bill is non active did not move out of committee, but LCA opposes this bill.** This proposal perpetuates the inequities embedded in the credit scores system as used by the insurance industry. It also erodes consumer protections by giving the insurance industry discretionary authority to set premium costs. The 'Extraordinary Life Circumstances' sections of this bill add, grant insurers the ability to make subjective exceptions to its rating procedures on a case-by-case basis. It requires consumers to take the initiative to file a request to the insurer during their 'extraordinary life circumstance' and leaves it at the insurance companies' discretion which consumers should get exceptions, and which shouldn't.