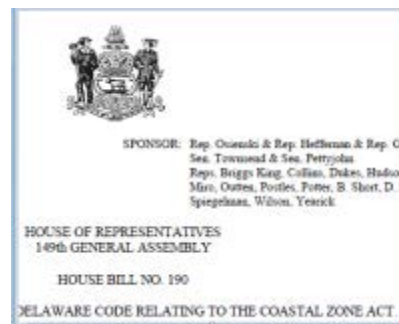


Legislative Update (June 2017)

June's Hot Topic lunch was held at Michaels Restaurant on Monday, June 26, 2017. LWV volunteer lobbyists and committee chairs discussed a wide range of Delaware bills covering government, health, elections, the environment, justice, etc.

The current status of all DE House and Senate bills for the 2017-2018 session is available at the legis.delaware.gov website.



Contact your legislators on issues that you feel strongly about; democracy requires participation!

Some of the more notable current [as of June 2017] Delaware bills are listed below:

- [HS1 for HB 1](#) ("House Substitute 1 for House Bill 1") - Prohibits employers from requiring job applicants to provide their **wage history**. SIGNED into law 6/14/17. *LWVDE supported this bill.*
- [HB 5](#) - Would have added an **equal rights amendment** to the Delaware Constitution. DEFEATED in House 6/13/17. *LWVDE supported this bill.*
- [HB 110](#) - Would **legalize marijuana** for recreational use. On the House READY LIST as of 5/10/17 (no vote has been taken). *LWVDE has taken no position on this bill.*
- [HB 125](#) - Would re-instate the **death penalty** in Delaware. Passed House 5/9/17, assigned to Judicial & Community Affairs COMMITTEE in Senate. *LWVDE strongly opposes this bill.*
- [HB 160](#) - **End of Life Options** (death with dignity, similar to the current Oregon law). On the House READY LIST (no vote has been taken). *LWVDE has taken no position on this bill.*
- [HB 190](#) - Modifies the original 1971 **Coastal Zone Act** to allow re-use of grandfathered sites by heavy industry. Passed House 6/20/17, passed Senate 6/29/17, EXPECTED TO BE SIGNED into law. *LWVDE strongly opposes this bill.*
- [HB 204](#) - Would implement **bail reform**. Passed House 6/27/17, on Senate READY LIST. *LWVDE supports this bill.*
- [HB 213](#) - Would **allow school districts to raise taxes** by 3% every 2 years without referendum. Assigned to Education Committee in House. *LWVDE has not yet taken a position on this bill.*
- [SS1 for SB 5](#) ("Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 5") - Removes old, unenforceable anti-abortion language from DE state code to officially **allow abortions** in Delaware. Passed and SIGNED into law on 6/8/17. *LWVDE supported this bill.*
- [SB 9](#) - Would implement a "**Work a Day, Earn a Pay**" program. Passed Senate 6/30/17, will be assigned to COMMITTEE in House. *LWVDE supports this bill.*
- [SB 10](#) - Would **increase the DE minimum wage** by 50 cents a year each year through 2020. On Senate READY LIST (no vote has been taken). *LWVDE supports this bill.*
- [SB 27](#) - Would establish an **independent redistricting commission** in Delaware (to help fight gerrymandering). Passed Senate 4/5/17, assigned to House Administration COMMITTEE. *LWVDE supports this bill. Redistricting is a priority in the LWVUS Making Democracy Work® campaign.*
- [SB 49](#) - Is a "**Homeless Individual's Bill of Rights**". Assigned to Judicial & Community Affairs COMMITTEE in Senate. *LWVDE supports this bill.*
- [SB 65](#) - Would **ban "conversion therapy"** which attempts to convert a person's sexual orientation. Passed by Senate 5/17/17, on House READY LIST as of 6/7/17. *LWVDE supports this bill.*

In the area of **voting and elections**, [HB 47](#) removes the notary requirement for DE absentee ballots, [HB 63](#) would allow no-excuse absentee voting, [HB 89](#) would change the date of the

Delaware's primary elections, and [HB 90](#) would provide for early voting. [SB 30](#) is related to campaign finance reform; it would require disclosing donors' employer and occupation. Of these, only HB 47 has so far been passed by both houses so that it may become law.

In all, the LWVDE Advocacy Corps is currently supporting, opposing, or monitoring over 85 active bills in the areas of Education, Environment, Health, Housing, Justice, Land Use & Transportation, Social Policy, and Voting / Elections / Govt.

Go to legis.delaware.gov to find a full listing of bills and resolutions and their current status, as well as your legislators' contact information, and legislative committee member lists. Delaware legislation more often dies in committee than any other fate.

