
Lobby Day, January 28, 2026

Quaker Voice is an organization of citizen advocates for peace and social justice action at the state level, drawn from Quaker meetings and churches across the state. We work with legislators and agencies directly through our citizen advocates and through our professional lobbyists, Paul Benz and Jacob Squirrel. Our priorities are reflected below. Our website lists additional bills we support.

Criminal Justice

HB 1125. Judicial Discretion Act.

Permits persons incarcerated for a felony to petition the sentencing court for a modification of the original sentence in the interest of justice, depending on age when the offense was committed and the years served. Judges may use the disciplinary and rehabilitative record, risk for future violence, and impact on victims.

HB 1178. Unstacking Sentencing Enhancements

Enhancements to base sentences, now mandatory, can add many years in prison, generating excessive time in prison and pronounced racial inequity. HB 1178 would permit judicial discretion concerning the stacking of most such enhancements, so that they could be served concurrently rather than consecutively.

HB 1274. Resentencing without Juvenile Offenses

A law passed several years ago specifies that in the future, certain specified previous convictions as a juvenile will not be counted in determining the length of a sentence. HB 1274 would make that law retroactive, i.e., sentences would be recalculated for persons already incarcerated when that law was passed.

Economic Justice

HB 2100 / SB 6093. Well Washington Fund

Would establish a payroll tax on large employers only, taxing the wages above the threshold of the Medicare tax. Employees would not pay. Will establish a fund to support housing, healthcare, schools and food security, focusing on replacing funds lost due to federal cuts.

HB 2489. Protect people experiencing homelessness from criminalization (the Shelter not Penalties Act)

Establishes statewide standards for when local governments may enforce laws regulating the use of public space for life-sustaining activities. States that cities, towns and counties cannot adopt or enforce any law that penalizes someone for performing these activities in public, if no shelter is available.

HB 5946. Expanding Medicaid

By July 2027, the health care authority shall develop and submit a state plan amendment to the federal Medicare program to allow individuals who have income at or below 300% of the federal poverty level to enroll in the medical assistance program (Apple Health).

Environmental Stewardship

HB 1303/ SB 5380 CURB Act

Will ensure that the environmental review process fully considers a project's potential adverse impacts to communities that already face high levels of pollution. These communities bear disproportionate burdens of pollution, such as increased health disparities. Requires DOE review process to include an environmental justice element and environmental checklist.

HB 1607/ SB 5502: Bottles and Cans Recycling Refund Act (Bottle Bill)

Increases recycling and reduces litter by creating a deposit/refund system. Beverage brands must create an organization to fund implementation of the program and meet certain redemption and reuse rates as well as fund convenient drop-off locations.

HB 1673 / SB 5466: Improve reliability and capacity of electric transmission system

Remove barriers to a decarbonized energy future by addressing urgent needs for the electric grid.

OPPOSE HB 2103/ SB 6004: Broaden Green Energy to Include Nuclear -- sign on CON

Would allow cities, utilities, and others to contract for electricity from nuclear power at uncapped rates and obligates them to pay even if the projects produce no energy or are never completed. Similar provisions caused the 1982 WPPSS default and recently cost South Carolinians \$9 billion for a failed reactor project.

Gender Justice

HB 1072 Preserving Access to Protected Health Care Services

Safeguards access to reproductive health, end-of-life care, and gender-affirming care during health care business transactions. Allows Department of Health to base approval decisions on service access. Attorney General can “enjoin” (ask a court to stop) transactions that violate approval conditions.

SB 6081 Protecting privacy of sex designation

Exempts sex designation information as part of vital records and records managed by the Department of Licensing from public disclosure. Protecting Washingtonians from unauthorized disclosure of sex designation information and historic sex designation changes in official government records.

Indigenous Issues

HB 1894/ SB 5570. Supporting public school instruction in Indian tribes

Creates a division of Indian education in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to help school districts meet the educational needs of American Indian and Alaska Native students with curricular materials and support services, faculty development, and collecting relevant data.

Immigrant Protection

HB 2105/ SB 5852. Immigrant Worker Protection Act

Requires employers to notify workers when federal officials request employment eligibility information and prohibits employers from voluntarily granting immigration agents access to non-public areas of a workplace without a warrant.

HB 2173/ SB 5855 Ban law enforcement officer masking

Would ban state and federal law enforcement officers from wearing face-concealing masks in routine public interactions, ensuring greater accountability.

Budget priorities

- **Progressive revenue**
- **Protect the Climate Commitment Act funds**
- **Protect immigrants in the safety net programs**