



Joshua Penner

Washington

State Representative, HD-031B (R)

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83

Lifetime
Freedom
Score

2026 WA Legislative Scorecard

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote

Vote

1. Requires state-registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades to provide apprentices with at least two hours of behavioral-health-and-wellness training.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · HB2492 · Passed 79–16 · 02/10/2026



2. Requires health insurers to cover all Food and Drug Administration-approved HIV antiviral drugs without prior authorization, step therapy, or any other utilization management protocols in health plans.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **Yes** · SB6183 · Passed 93–1 · 03/03/2026



3. Replaces eligibility requirements for law-enforcement agencies, prosecuting attorneys' offices, and other government positions with broad language allowing the employment of any person "legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law."

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · SB5068 · Passed 62–33 · 03/06/2026



4. Imposes a flat 9.9% tax on all "Washington taxable income" exceeding \$1 million per year, with revenue being redistributed to support K-12 education, healthcare, higher education, human services, and expansion of the working families' tax credit.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · SB6346 · Passed 51–46 · 03/09/2026



5. Establishes a statewide energy-assistance program that provides monetary assistance, discounts, and grants to reduce energy costs for low-income households.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB1903 · Passed 70–26 · 03/11/2026



6. Expands Washington's existing bans on "unlicensed" or "prohibited" firearm-manufacturing methods by adding definitions for "three-dimensional printers" and "digital firearm manufacturing code," and applies these restrictions to the use of digital files for producing firearm parts.

Pro-Freedom: **No** · Cast: **No** · HB2320 · Passed 58–38 · 03/11/2026



Scorecard Votes: 67%



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\$295,579

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of July 30, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Behavioral-health Training Requirement

HB2492 requires state-registered apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades to provide apprentices with at least two hours of behavioral-health-and-wellness training on "destigmatizing behavioral health and supporting wellness; recognizing signs of distress; suicide prevention; substance use disorder awareness and prevention; and providing peer support and connecting to resources."

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB2492 on February 10, 2026 by a vote of 79 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the nays because mandating specific behavioral-health-and-wellness training in apprenticeship programs expands government interference in workforce development and imposes state-mandated curriculum on personal health issues into trade education.

2. HIV Insurance Requirement

SB6183 requires health insurers to cover all Food and Drug Administration-approved HIV antiviral drugs without prior authorization, step therapy, or any other utilization management protocols in health plans.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB6183 on March 3, 2026 by a vote of 93 to 1. We have assigned pluses to the nays because decisions about insurance coverage should be made via voluntary agreements between providers and consumers, not dictated by the state.

3. Noncitizen Prosecutors and Law-enforcement Officers

SB5068 amends statutes governing employment in law-enforcement agencies, prosecuting attorneys' offices, and other government positions. It replaces previous eligibility requirements with broad language allowing employment of any person "legally authorized to work in the United States under federal law," including illegal aliens with Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB5068 on March 6, 2026 by a vote of 62 to 33. We have assigned pluses to the nays because persons who enter the United States illegally—which, by definition, is a crime—ought not to be permitted sanctuary or residency in Washington, let alone be considered eligible for positions involving the use of deadly force, arrests, criminal prosecution, and other core sovereign functions of government.

4. Tax on Millionaires

SB6346 imposes a flat 9.9% tax on all "Washington taxable income" exceeding \$1 million per year, with revenue being redistributed to support K-12 education, healthcare, higher education, human services, and expansion of the working families' tax credit.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed SB6346 on March 9, 2026 by a vote of 51 to 46. We have assigned pluses to the nays because lawmakers should focus on reducing all taxes, including Washington's income tax, which is already one of the highest in the nation. The income tax is a form of government-imposed theft, seizing income that individuals have rightfully earned.

5. Socialized Energy Assistance

HB1903 establishes a statewide energy-assistance program that provides monetary assistance, discounts, and grants to reduce energy costs for low-income households.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB1903 on March 11, 2026 by a vote of 70 to 26. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill further empowers the state to redistribute wealth through utility bills, allowing government to pick winners and losers while insulating the associated spending from normal budget scrutiny. Such policies increase energy costs, embrace collectivism, and distort market signals.

6. Restrictions on Firearms Manufacturing

HB2320 expands Washington's existing bans on "unlicensed" or "prohibited" firearm-manufacturing methods by adding definitions for "three-dimensional printers" and "digital firearm manufacturing code," and applies these restrictions to the use of digital files for producing frames, receivers, or other firearm parts.

The Washington State House of Representatives passed HB2320 on March 11, 2026 by a vote of 58 to 38. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this legislation violates the God-given right to keep and bear arms protected by the Second Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Banning individuals from engaging in firearm production restricts citizens from lawfully exercising this right.