



Dedicated to promoting and protecting the independent, community-focused grocery industry

2011 LEGISLATIVE VOTING RECORD KEY

Reading the 2011 WFIA Voting Record:

On the **2011 Voting Record by Legislative District** document, if WFIA supported a bill, it will be listed as a "Y". If we opposed a bill, the position is listed as an "N".

WFIA's priority bills of the session are weighted more heavily than other important bills to calculate the final voting record. WFIA positions on priority bills are listed in detail below. To see if a legislator voted with us on a specific bill, simply look at the top of the column of the **2011 Voting Record by Legislative District** for WFIA's position to determine whether we would have asked for a Y or N vote. How each legislator voted on specific bills can also be located on our [WFIA website](http://www.wa-food-ind.org) or by contacting info@wa-food-ind.org for more information.

2011 VOTE DETAIL:

[HB 1091](#) -- Unemployment Insurance Reform: This bill froze UI social tax rates at 2010 levels and rolled back a 35% tax increase announced for 2011. It restructured future social tax increases to better apply them based on industry usage resulting in a 15% grocery industry reduction long term. It also made changes to training benefits to allow Washington to be eligible for \$97 million in federal funding, allowed Washington claimants to be eligible for federal extended benefits, and increased UI benefits by \$25 per week for a short term. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[HB 1507](#) -- Pharmacy Robbery Bill: Increased the penalty for pharmacy robbery to a class A felony. The bill passed the House but died on the Senate floor.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[HB 1728](#) -- Defining Service Animals for Food Establishments: Redefined service animal for food establishments to match the ADA definition of a dog only, specially trained for the disability of the person. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[HB 2026](#) -- Establishing a Workers' Compensation Rainy Day Fund (HOUSE VOTE ONLY): If passed, this bill would have implemented a rainy day fund where excess workers' compensation dollars would go during good economies. The money would be unable to be used for refunds to businesses and instead would be used to keep workers' compensation rates artificially low during economic downturns thus removing the link between benefits paid out and rates. The bill passed the House but died in the Senate committee.

WFIA OPPOSED and asked for a NO vote

[HB 2123](#) -- Workers' Compensation Reform (v.2) -- Structured Settlements: This bill, the

final negotiated workers' compensation agreement establishes a structured settlement in lieu of pension for eligible injured workers over age 55, moving down to age 50 and over by 2016. It also establishes a program for wage subsidy payment to encourage return to work, puts in place a study on occupational disease claims, establishes a different rainy day fund and requires a performance audit of the L&I claims management system. The bill passed both houses late in the special session and was signed by the Governor on June 7.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[SB 5068](#) – WISHA Abatement Orders for Safety & Health Violations: Changed current law so that if a business appeals a serious safety violation the business no longer receives an automatic stay of abatement. The appealing business must fix the basis for the violation unless an abatement order is granted by the Department of Labor & Industries. The burden of proof is on the Department to prove that the business does not deserve the stay of abatement. This bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA OPPOSED and asked for a NO vote

[SB 5487](#) -- Establishing Standards for Egg-laying Hens: Set up statewide standards for cage sizes for egg laying hens, phased in over time. The standards are set using national standards to allow for greater industry compliance and help keep consumer costs down. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[SB 5566](#) -- Workers' Compensation Reform (v.1) -- Voluntary Settlements (SENATE VOTE ONLY): This version of workers' compensation reform was the original version passed out of the Senate and supported wholeheartedly by business. It established a voluntary settlement option in lieu of pension for injured workers of all ages and according to the Department would have saved the workers' compensation system \$1.2 billion in the first two years. The bill passed out of the Senate but finally died in the House during the special session.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[SB 5801](#) -- Creating Workers' Comp Medical Provider Networks (MPN): Sets up a system to allow the Department of Labor & Industry to establish provider best practices for treating injured workers' and require attending providers treating injured workers in Washington state to adhere to these practices -- effectively creating a provider network within the Department. Injured workers could only use a doctor outside of the new network for their first visit. All other visits would have to be with contracted providers. The bill was substantially watered-down from the business version but was still support. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA SUPPORTED and asked for a YES vote

[SB 5942](#) -- Privatizing Liquor Wholesale Distribution: Requires a "request for proposal" (RFP) process to be established for soliciting bids on contracting out the distribution system for liquor in Washington State. Requires a legislative review before a contract is established but only would allow one contracting entity to sign, thus trading the state monopoly for liquor distribution for a private monopoly. The bill passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

WFIA OPPOSED and asked for a NO vote

*The indicated bills were priority bills to the 2011 goals of the WFIA and thus were weighted with greater value in the final calculation of the voting record.