



Skagit County - Government Relations Report January 19, 2020

The 2020 legislative session officially commenced on Monday, January 13th. With the session underway, hundreds of new bills have been “dropped in the hopper” and officially introduced. The Governor gave his annual State of the State speech and new legislators were sworn into office. The biggest news of the week was the formal election of the first woman in State history as Speaker of the House – Rep. Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma). A video of her nomination, election, and opening speech can be seen [here](#).

Committees have begun holding public hearings, which will continue for the next three weeks. As is typical with most “short” 60-day sessions, the pace is very fast. The first committee cutoff is on February 7th, which is when policy bills must be passed out of policy committees in order to advance.

We are looking forward to seeing Commissioner Janicki, Commissioner Dahlstedt, and Deputy County Administrator Kayla Schott-Bresler this week in Olympia as they meet with legislators on the County’s priorities, and attend WSAC meetings.

Legislative Priorities

Historic Skagit Courthouse Seismic Repairs

Skagit County is requesting \$150,000 in the Capital Budget for design and preconstruction for seismic repairs on the historic County Courthouse. We briefed the delegation on this request at the County’s legislative briefing and while the delegation was supportive of the request, no individual legislators offered to sponsor the request. This week, GTHGA worked with the County to identify sponsors for the request. [Sen. Liz Lovelett](#) (D- Anacortes), who championed the County’s Emergency Communications request, has agreed to sponsor on the Senate side, with [Sen. Ron Muzzall](#) (R- Oak Harbor) as a possible co-sponsor. We are hoping that freshman legislator [Rep. Alex Rameil](#) (D- Bellingham) will sponsor the House request.

House Bill 1590 – Councilmanic Local Option Housing Sales Tax

Skagit County is supporting [House Bill 1590](#), sponsored by [Rep. Beth Doglio](#) (D- Olympia), as a potential tool for the County to fund affordable housing and human services programs. A Senate companion to the bill was introduced this week, [Senate Bill 6126](#), sponsored by [Sen. Sam Hunt](#) (D- Olympia). GTHGA testified in support of the bill on behalf of Skagit County; you may watch Josh’s testimony [here](#). While some members of the committee expressed concern around the bill’s councilmanic authority, reception to the bill—and Skagit County’s case-- was primarily positive. Sen. Lovelett expressed concern around whether the language in the bill allowing jurisdictions to either enact councilmanically or with a public vote would create backlash for communities using councilmanic authority; however, as the panel pointed out, there would likely be robust discussion in the community regarding the implementation of the tax prior to the councilmanic vote, mitigating some of these concerns. GTHGA has scheduled a follow up meeting with Sen. Lovelett’s office next Tuesday and Commissioner Janicki is meeting with Rep. Doglio, the prime sponsor, and head of the House Finance Committee [Rep. Gael Tarleton](#) (D- Seattle) this week to discuss the bill.



Supporting Other Association Priorities:

Separate Funding Stream for Involuntary Treatment Costs

Nothing to report this week.

MAT Funding

The Association of Washington Cities is seeking funding to increase the use of medication assisted treatment (MAT). Their current hope is to secure a budget proviso for an assessment of how to replicate the type of services being offered at the South Correctional Entity (SCORE) which is confinement center providing services to seven member cities located in south King County. SCORE provides a relatively high-level of treatment services, including MAT. This approach may prove useful in developing a model that can be replicated statewide.

Increased Share of Marijuana Revenue

Snohomish County is leading the effort to increase the amount of revenue shared by the state with local governments. Draft bill language is still being developed.

Bill Summaries

Outlined below are relevant bills GTHGA is tracking for the County. Bills that are in the “lobbying” category are those that GTHGA is taking action to either advance or stall; bills that are marked as “monitoring” are those that GTHGA is keeping track of but not actively lobbying.

Lobbying

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 2247</u> Marijuana licensing/zoning Aligning marijuana licensing decisions by the liquor and cannabis board with local zoning ordinances.	H Commerce & Gam	Goehner	Support
<u>HB 2348 (SB 6229)</u> Housing funds/quality award Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	H Approps	Duerr	Support
<u>HB 2421</u> Election cost reimbursement Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	H Approps	Tarleton	Support
<u>HB 2494</u> Public facilities tax/rural Concerning sales and use tax for public facilities in rural or border counties.	H Finance	Stonier	Support
<u>HB 2649</u> Homeless shelter capacity Concerning homeless shelter capacity.	H Hous, Com Dev	Ryu	Concerns



<u>SB 6126</u>	Housing tax/councilmanic Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority.	S Local Governme	Hunt	Support
<u>SB 6134</u>	Election cost reimbursement Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	S State Govt/Tri	Hunt	Support
<u>SB 6229</u> (HB 2348)	Housing funds/quality award Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	S Housing Stabil	Kuderer	Support
<u>SB 6328</u>	Local infra. investment prg Creating a local infrastructure investment program to support the development of affordable housing, workforce housing, and revitalization efforts.	S Housing Stabil	Warnick	Support

Monitoring

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 2230</u> (SB 6080)	Indian tribe-owned property Subjecting federally recognized Indian tribes to the same conditions as state and local governments for property owned exclusively by the tribe.	H Finance	Gregerson	
<u>HB 2260</u>	Dependency proceeding notice Concerning the publication of notice for dependency proceedings.	H H Svcs & Ery	Griffey	
<u>HB 2275</u>	Sewage wastewater discharges Concerning certain illegal discharges of sewage wastewater into Puget Sound.	H Env & Energy	Stokesbary	
<u>HB 2282</u>	Unused public buildings Creating a grant program for converting unused public buildings to housing for homeless persons.	H Cap Budget	Walsh	
<u>HB 2342</u>	Comprehensive plan updates	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon	



Aligning the timing of comprehensive plan updates required by the growth management act with the timing of shoreline master program updates required by the shoreline management act.

<u>HB</u> 2343 (SB 6334)	Urban housing Concerning urban housing supply.	H Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon
<u>HB</u> 2420	Indigent defense/state Requiring the office of public defense to assume duties for the provision of trial court indigent defense services.	H Approps	Irwin
<u>HB</u> 2427 (SB 6453)	Climate change/GMA Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	H Env & Energy	Duerr
<u>HB</u> 2489 (SB 6212)	Affordable housing/prop. tax Concerning the authority of counties, cities, and towns to exceed statutory property tax limitations for the purpose of financing affordable housing for very low-income households and low-income households.	H Finance	Ryu
<u>HB</u> 2506	Marbled murrelet committee Increasing transparency in the marbled murrelet advisory committee process by requiring advance public notice of all committee meetings.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Walsh
<u>HB</u> 2526 (SB 6314)	Home foreclosure/taxes Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.	H Local Govt	Volz
<u>HB</u> 2549	Salmon recovery efforts/GMA Integrating salmon recovery efforts with growth management.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff
<u>HB</u> 2550	Net ecological gain Establishing net ecological gain as a policy for application across identified land use, development, and environmental laws.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff



<u>HB</u> <u>2553</u>	Water resource policy group	H RDev, Ag&NR	Lekanoff	Creating a joint executive, legislative, and interagency work group on water resource policy for the purpose of developing a statewide water action plan.
<u>HB</u> <u>2559</u> (SB <u>6365)</u>	WDFW/payments in lieu of tax	H RDev, Ag&NR	Springer	Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.
<u>HB</u> <u>2570</u>	Accessory dwelling units	H Env & Energy	Gregerson	Managing growth by planning and zoning for accessory dwelling units.
<u>HB</u> <u>2603</u>	Trust water rights	H RDev, Ag&NR	Springer	Concerning trust water rights.
<u>HB</u> <u>2625</u>	Local parks funding options	H Local Govt	Eslick	Concerning local parks funding options.
<u>HB</u> <u>2668</u>	Affordable housing options	H Finance	Ryu	Providing local governments with options to preserve affordable housing in their communities.
<u>HB</u> <u>2671</u>	Short subdivisions	H Local Govt	Walsh	Concerning short subdivisions.
<u>HB</u> <u>2672</u>	Intensive rural development	H Env & Energy	Barkis	Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.
<u>HB</u> <u>2679</u> (SB <u>6451)</u>	Nonprofit health carriers	H Approps	Robinson	Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.
<u>HB</u> <u>2687</u>	GMA/affordable housing plans	H Env & Energy	Barkis	Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.
<u>SB</u> <u>6036</u>	Droughts/trust water rights	S Ag/Water/Natur	Honeyford	Providing opportunities for drought mitigation using trust water rights.



<u>SB</u> <u>6080</u> (HB 2230)	Indian tribe-owned property	S State Govt/Tri	Hunt	Subjecting federally recognized Indian tribes to the same conditions as state and local governments for property owned exclusively by the tribe.
<u>SB</u> <u>6150</u>	GMA actions effective date	S Local Governme	Salomon	Concerning the effective date of certain actions taken under the growth management act.
<u>SB</u> <u>6186</u>	Homelessness diversion	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	Prioritizing homelessness diversion services.
<u>SB</u> <u>6212</u> (HB 2489)	Affordable housing/prop. tax	S Housing Stabil	Das	Concerning the authority of counties, cities, and towns to exceed statutory property tax limitations for the purpose of financing affordable housing for very low-income households and low-income households.
<u>SB</u> <u>6260</u>	Water resources/tribes	S Ag/Water/Natur	McCoy	Concerning tribal traditional and cultural interests in water resources.
<u>SB</u> <u>6292</u>	Water rights sales	S Ag/Water/Natur	Salomon	Concerning water rights sales.
<u>SB</u> <u>6301</u>	Surface water rights	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	Concerning public interest considerations in the transfer or change of surface water rights.
<u>SB</u> <u>6314</u> (HB 2526)	Home foreclosure/taxes	S Ways & Means	Holy	Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.
<u>SB</u> <u>6335</u> (HB 2609)	Climate change/GMA	S Local Governme	Salomon	Addressing climate change through growth management.



<u>SB</u> <u>6365</u> (HB 2559)	WDFW/payments in lieu of tax Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.	S Ways & Means	Warnick
<u>SB</u> <u>6386</u>	Low-income housing/fees Reducing impact fees for low-income housing.	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger
<u>SB</u> <u>6446</u>	Lodging taxes/housing Concerning lodging taxes for affordable housing.	S Housing Stabil	Kuderer
<u>SB</u> <u>6451</u> (HB 2679)	Nonprofit health carriers Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.	S Ways & Means	Frocht
<u>SB</u> <u>6453</u> (HB 2427)	Climate change/GMA Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	S Local Governme	Saldana
<u>SB</u> <u>6454</u>	Salmon habitat planning Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas.	S Local Governmen	Saldana
<u>SB</u> <u>6457</u>	American dream homes Promoting housing affordability by incentivizing the construction of American dream homes.	S Housing Stabil	Fortunato
<u>SB</u> <u>6461</u>	Project permit timelines Concerning permit timelines.	S Local Governmen	Fortunato
<u>SB</u> <u>6463</u>	Comp. plans/environment Eliminating environmental analysis and mitigation requirements on projects within the comprehensive plan.	S Local Governme	Wilson
<u>SB</u> <u>6484</u>	CTC property tax levy Allowing counties to seek voter approval for a property tax levy to fund community and technical college districts.	S Ways & Means	Frocht

<u>SB</u> <u>6494</u> (HB 2603)	Trust water rights Concerning trust water rights.	Rolfes
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Upcoming Events

The following Legislative events are scheduled in the upcoming week for the bills listed above.

Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 1/20 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6229 - Exec Session - Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements. (Support)
- SB 6328 - Public Hearing - Creating a local infrastructure investment program to support the development of affordable housing, workforce housing, and revitalization efforts. (Support)

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/20 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2348 - Public Hearing - Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements. (Support)

Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/21 @ 8:00am

- SB 6335 - Public Hearing - Addressing climate change through growth management.
- SB 6453 - Public Hearing - Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/21 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6260 - Public Hearing - Concerning tribal traditional and cultural interests in water resources.
- SB 6292 - Public Hearing - Concerning water rights sales.
- SB 6301 - Public Hearing - Concerning public interest considerations in the transfer or change of surface water rights.
- SB 6494 - Public Hearing - Concerning trust water rights. (If measure is referred to committee.)

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 1/22 @ 8:00am

- HB 2625 - Public Hearing - Concerning local parks funding options.

Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 1/22 @ 8:00am

- HB 2506 - Public Hearing - Increasing transparency in the marbled murrelet advisory committee process by requiring advance public notice of all committee meetings.



- HB 2559 - Public Hearing - Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.

State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (Senate) - SHR 2, - 1/22 @ 8:00am

- SB 6134 - Exec Session - Concerning state reimbursement of election costs. (Support)

Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 1/22 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6386 - Public Hearing - Reducing impact fees for low-income housing.
- SB 6446 - Public Hearing - Concerning lodging taxes for affordable housing.
- SB 6457 - Public Hearing - Promoting housing affordability by incentivizing the construction of American dream homes.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 1/22 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6365 - Public Hearing - Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 1/23 @ 8:00am

- HB 2342 - Public Hearing - Aligning the timing of comprehensive plan updates required by the growth management act with the timing of shoreline master program updates required by the shoreline management act.
- HB 2427 - Public Hearing - Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.
- HB 2549 - Public Hearing - Integrating salmon recovery efforts with growth management.

Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/23 @ 8:00am

- SB 6454 - Public Hearing - Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas.
- SB 6461 - Public Hearing - Concerning permit timelines.
- SB 6463 - Public Hearing - Eliminating environmental analysis and mitigation requirements on projects within the comprehensive plan.

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/23 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6036 - Exec Session - Providing opportunities for drought mitigation using trust water rights.

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 1/23 @ 1:30pm

- HB 2282 - Public Hearing - Creating a grant program for converting unused public buildings to housing for homeless persons.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 1/23 @ 3:30pm



- HB 2348 - Exec Session - Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements. (Support)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 1/23 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6314 - Public Hearing - Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 1/24 @ 10:00am

- HB 2625 - Exec Session - Concerning local parks funding options.