

Skagit County Legislative Report February 17, 2019

For the first time since the Nisqually earthquake, the Legislature canceled legislative activities on Monday and had a late start on Tuesday due to inclement weather conditions. With committee cutoff deadline only two weeks away, this delay will condense legislative activities even more than usual.

By next Friday, February 22, bills must pass out of any policy committee to remain under consideration. Some bills have been referred to a second committee to evaluate the fiscal components of the bill. Those bills must pass out of the fiscal committee by Friday, March 1. Once bills advance out of both the policy and fiscal committee, they are referred to the Rules Committee. Bills remain in the Rules Committee until they are selected to be brought up for a vote by the entire chamber.

This week, GTHGA attended two hearings on bills potentially of interest to the county: [House Bill 1733](#), which establishes a process for monitoring state acquisitions of working farm land, and [House Bill 1591](#), which extends a series of rights to homeless individuals. At the hearing on House Bill 1733, the Washington Farm Bureau and Food Lifeline testified in support of the bill, praising its potential to increase food security and keep local farmers in business. The Washington Association of Wheat Growers and the Washington State Conservation Commission testified with some technical reservations but supportive of the bill's intent. The panel received numerous questions on the bill from committee members, including legislators representing Skagit County; Representative Lekanoff, citing private development on Skagit Valley farms, recommended adding private acquisition of farm lands to the bill's monitoring system.

House Bill 1591 received mixed public reaction at the hearing this week. The Washington Community Action Network and the City of Olympia testified in support of the bill, while the Association of Washington Cities, Association of Washington Business, and the Washington State Association of Counties testified in opposition to the bill. Those supporting the bill praised its potential to empower homeless populations, while those opposing the bill expressed concerns over its impact on local control.

Commissioner Ken Dahlstedt was in Olympia for meetings with the Washington State Association of Counties, and GTHGA staff joined him in meeting with a number of Skagit County's legislative delegation including: [Sen. Barbara Bailey](#) (R- Oak Harbor), [Sen. Liz Lovelett](#) (D- Anacortes), [Sen. Keith Wagoner](#) (R- Sedro-Woolley), [Rep. Carolyn Eslick](#) (R- Sultan), [Rep. Debra Lekanoff](#) (D- Bow), [Rep. Dave Paul](#) (D- Oak Harbor), and [Rep. Norma Smith](#) (R- Clinton). All of these meetings focused on discussing Skagit County's legislative priorities.

Legislative Priorities

Upgrade County Emergency Communications System

The county is seeking \$2 million from the Capital Budget to upgrade the countywide communication system. This will eliminate emergency communication dead zones and achieve full interagency communication. County staff turned around completed capital budget request forms very quickly, enabling GTHGA to provide them to potential sponsors. [Sen. Liz Lovelett](#) (D- Anacortes) has committed to championing the request in the Senate, and we are hoping that [Rep. Dave Paul](#) (D- Oak Harbor) will do the same in the House.

Skagit County Upcoming Events

Based on the county's Legislative Agenda, known policy priorities, or direction from the county, GTHGA have identified the following upcoming hearings that may be of interest. GTHGA's planned action is identified in bold. If the county would like us to take a different action on any of these, please let us know.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/18 @ 3:30pm

- HB 1390 - Public Hearing - Providing a benefit increase to certain retirees of the public employees' retirement system plan 1 and the teachers' retirement system plan 1. **We recommend that the county look closely at the potential fiscal impact this bill would have on the county. We will continue to monitor this bill until we are given further direction.**

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/19 @ 8:00am

- HB 1441 - Public Hearing - Concerning the financing of local infrastructure. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- HB 1680 - Public Hearing - Concerning local government infrastructure funding. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/19 @ 8:00am

- HB 1921 - Public Hearing - Addressing the regressive nature of the Washington state housing market. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SHB 1324 - Public Hearing - Creating the Washington rural development and opportunity zone act. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/19 @ 10:00am

- SB 5854 - Public Hearing - Ensuring the long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the state's recycling system within the existing regulatory structure. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, JACB - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- SB 5543 - Public Hearing - Retaining productive farmland. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SB 5467 - Public Hearing - Extending the tax preferences in RCW 82.04.260(12). **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SB 5873 - Public Hearing - Concerning community forests. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/19 @ 3:30pm

- SSB 5380 - Public Hearing - Concerning opioid use disorder treatment, prevention, and related services. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Civil Rights & Judiciary (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- HB 1591 - Exec Session - Concerning the rights of persons experiencing homelessness. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- HB 2022 - Public Hearing - Providing funding options to local governments for addressing fish passage barrier removals. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/20 @ 3:30pm

- SHB 1135 - Public Hearing - Concerning actions for wrongful injury or death. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- HB 1889 - Public Hearing - Establishing the water infrastructure program. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- SHB 1406 - Public Hearing - Encouraging investments in affordable and supportive housing. **We will sign the county in to support this bill at the hearing.**
- HB 1829 - Public Hearing - Concerning veterans' assistance levies. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- SHB 1273 - Public Hearing - Analyzing state regulatory impact on small forest landowners. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- SB 5537 - Public Hearing - Expanding community-based behavioral health facilities through issuance of state bonds. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SB 5646 - Public Hearing - Encouraging investments in affordable and supportive housing. **We will sign the county in to support this bill at the hearing.**
- SB 5363 - Public Hearing - Extending the property tax exemption for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SB 5898 - Public Hearing - Concerning the surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance. **We are currently monitoring this bill for the county.**
- SSB 5357 - Public Hearing - Authorizing cities and counties to impose additional taxes for affordable housing. **We will sign the county in to support this bill at the hearing.**

Bill Summaries

Outlined below are relevant bills GTHGA is tracking for the county. If there is no position indicated on a bill below, GTHGA is simply planning to monitor. If the county would like us to take any action on them, please let us know.

Bill Details

Status

Sponsor

Position

<u>SHB 1008</u>	Local gov. revenue study	H Approps	Appleton	House Bill 1008, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Appleton (D- Poulsbo), requires the Department of Commerce to study county revenue and expenses and report on funding gaps. The bill allots \$100,000 from the Dedicated Marijuana Account to fund the study, which must be completed by June 30th, 2020. The bill demands a particular focus to the study of county unfunded mandates. WSAC supports this bill. The bill was amended to add a provision that differentiated between Constitutionally-mandated and statutory obligations and changed the funding source from the Liquor Revolving Fund to the Dedicated Marijuana Account. The amended version passed through the House Committee on Local Government.
<u>HB 1011</u>	Working forests/real estate	H Rules R	Reeves	House Bill 1011, sponsored by Rep. Kristine Reeves (D- Federal Way), adds working forests to the list of groups eligible for a the protections provided by the seller disclosure statement in the Right to Farm Act. The seller disclosure statement, which must be provided to individuals selling commercial or residential real estate prior to sale, protects farms from nuisance lawsuits arising from standard farm operation; this bill extends the provision to include working forests.
<u>SHB 1039</u>	Opioid medications/schools	H Approps	Pollet	House Bill 1039, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet (D- Seattle), requires high schools in districts with over 2,000 students and other public schools to carry opioid overdose medication. The bill also requires residence halls to develop a plan for the maintenance of overdose medication and train personnel to administer the medication. The Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction must also develop opioid-overdose guidelines and training requirements for the administration, storing, and maintenance of such medications. The bill would take effect January 1st, 2020.
<u>HB 1086</u> (SB 5098)	Public defense funding	H Approps	Chapman	Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles) introduced House Bill 1086, which increases appropriations to cities and counties for public defense. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the state must appropriate funds to cities and counties for no less than 10% of the cost of public defense services. The percentage increases by 10% each year until 2029 when the appropriation reaches 100% of the cost of public defense services. The bill eliminates current distribution formulas for public defense funds and directs the Office of Public Defense to establish policies for distribution of funds to eligible cities and counties.
<u>SHB 1100</u>	Competency eval. payment	H Approps	Jenkins	House Bill 1100, sponsored by Rep. Laurie Jenkins (D- Tacoma), responds to the 2015 Trueblood decision, which required DSHS to expedite their assessment of competency evaluation for criminal defendants. The legislation modifies previous legislation that required DSHS to reimburse counties for the costs of these evaluations in certain situations, extending the sunset date for reimbursement to June 30th, 2020. This bill also requires DSHS to notify counties of eligibility decisions two weeks before the end of the current quarter and maintains a county's eligibility for reimbursement for any evaluations assigned before the notification is given. The amended version of the bill was passed through the House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary. The amendment added a definition of "county" for calculation purposes and provided various notification requirements.
<u>SHB 1135</u> (SSB 5163)	Wrongful injury or death	H Approps	Santos	House Bill 1135, sponsored by Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos (D- Seattle), addresses actions for wrongful injury or death. The bill is identical to bills introduced last session, except it also applies retroactively. It expands the beneficiaries of a wrongful death action by removing dependence and residency requirements for parents and siblings. A parent or sibling may be a beneficiary of a

wrongful death action if there is no spouse, domestic partner, or child, without having to show dependent on the deceased and regardless of whether the parent or sibling resided in the United States at the time of death. Additional changes are made that expand liability under the wrongful death statutes. During the public hearing on both the House and Senate versions of the bill, the Association of Washington Cities and Washington State Association of Counties testified in opposition. The reasoning for the stakeholder's strong opposition for this legislation derives from the joint and several liability portion of the bill and the increase in litigation costs due to the additional members that may bring action on behalf of the decedent. The House Committee on Civil Rights & Judiciary amended the bill to limit the noneconomic damages under the special survival statute to the list of specified damages and replaces any reference "the jury" to "the trier of fact", in order to include bench trials.

Christmas tree growers H 2nd Reading MacEwen

[HB 1146](#)

House Bill 1146, sponsored by Rep. Drew MacEwen (R- Union), modifies provisions in the state's Christmas Tree Program that require Christmas tree growers to have a license to operate. This bill extends the sunset for these requirements to July 1st, 2030.

Ballots, prepaid postage H Approps Hansen

[HB 1209](#)
[\(SB 5063\)](#)

HB 1209, sponsored by Rep. Drew Hansen (D- Bainbridge Island), would require the state to pay all postage for election ballots. This legislation is by request of Governor Inslee, is a priority for the Association of County Auditors and will also be supported by the Association of Counties (WSAC).

Real estate taxes/housing H 2nd Reading Walen Support

[HB 1219](#)
[\(SB 5195\)](#)

House Bill 1219, sponsored by Rep. Amy Walen (D- Kirkland), allows cities and counties to utilize real estate excise tax revenues for affordable housing. Cities and counties have the authority to use up to \$1 million of real estate excise tax revenues for affordable housing under current law, but the authority is scheduled to sunset in June 2019. This legislation removes the cap on the amount of money that can be spent on affordable housing and makes the authority permanent. At the public hearing on the proposal, cities and counties supported the bill, while the Washington Realtors Association expressed concerns. The Washington Realtors support extending the sunset on the authority but oppose removing the cap or making the authority permanent.

B&O tax/manuf. & timber H RDev, Ag&NR Chapman

[HB 1249](#)

House Bill 1249, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), makes a series of changes to the business and occupation tax for manufacturers in timber-related industries. The bill lowers the business and occupation tax rate for manufacturers below a certain revenue threshold and extends the sunset for a reduced business and occupation tax on timber products to 2056.

Small forest landowners H Approps Kretz

[SHB 1273](#)
[\(SSB 5330\)](#)

House Bill 1273, sponsored by Rep. Joel Kretz (R- Wauconda), requires the School of Environment and Forest Sciences at the University of Washington to analyze and report on certain impacts to small forest land owners. The report must address a series of topics, including changes in the number of small forest land owners, factors that caused owners to sell their land, changes in land use for lots previously owned by small forest land owners, interaction with the Forest Fish Passage Program, and more. The bill was amended and passed through the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources. The amended version of the bill extended the due date of the report to November 1st, 2020, eliminated the formation of a legislative task force on the issue, and requires the UW School of Environmental and Forest Sciences to include recommendations to the legislature on how to keep working forestland in operation.

Agricultural fair funding H Approps Dent

[HB 1283](#)
(SB 5277)

House Bill 1283, sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent (R- Moses Lake), gradually increases funding for the state Fair Fund and changes the source of the funding. The bill maintains the current \$2 million dollars from the state's general fund and gradually adds up to \$4 million from the estimated amount of retail sales tax collected at fairs by 2021.

Election cost reimbursement H Approps Walsh

[HB 1291](#)
(SB 5073)

House Bill 1291, sponsored by Rep. Jim Walsh (R- Aberdeen), would require the state to reimburse counties for the cost of state even-year election costs. Currently, counties are only reimbursed for election costs in odd-numbered years. The bill would also require the state to reimburse the prorated share of federal elections costs to counties for all primary and general elections. This bill is also a priority for the County Auditors Association.

Rural development, zones H Finance Chapman

[SHB 1324](#)
(SSB 5423)

House Bill 1324, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), creates the Rural Development and Opportunity Zone program to facilitate job development in designated rural and opportunity zone areas of Washington. The program establishes a Rural Development and Opportunity Zone Fund, to which approved investors may make a capital contribution. In return for their contribution, investors would receive a tax credit against the business and occupation tax. The bill also extends the expiration date for a reduced business and occupation tax on timber products until July 1st, 2056. An amended version of the bill extends the approval date for tax credit applications and the date by which the list of approved applicants is due to the legislature to January 1st, 2020 and adds the requirement that the fund must repay the state for any differences in the actual revenues created by fund investments and the cumulative amount of tax credits sold by the fund.

Opioid use disorder H Approps Cody

[SHB 1331](#)
(SSB 5380)

House Bill 1331, sponsored by Rep. Eileen Cody (D-Seattle), in response to the opioid epidemic. The legislation makes a series of statutory changes to combat the opioid epidemic including ensuring that patients are notified of their right to refuse opioids, allowing a pharmacist to only partially fill a prescription for opioids if requested by the patient, increasing warnings around the use of opioids, expanding access to opioid overdose reversal medications, improving the prescription drug monitoring program, requiring therapeutic courts to allow medication-assisted treatment for participants, authorizing a law enforcement assisted diversion pilot program for cities and counties, requiring opioid treatment in city and county jails, and other statutory changes. At the public hearing on the bill, most testified in support of the concept of the bill, but voiced concern around the anticipated costs of sections 21 and 34. Section 21 mandates that health care groups offering 10 or more providers integrate their electronic health care systems with the state prescription drug monitoring program. The section, as is, requires the creation of a Washington-specific monitoring platform rather than utilizing existing monitoring platforms, raising concerns around funding sources, costs, and ease of integration. Section 34 requires the implementation of MAT programs in city and county jails but does not provide funding for the facility, operation, and administrative costs of these services. Representatives from the Association of Drug Court Professionals, Swedish Medical Center and the Attorney General's Office testified in support of the bill, while the Washington Retail Association, Washington Association of Counties, Association of Sheriffs, Washington State Dental Association, and Board of Judicial Administration testified as other to voice concerns. Representatives from the Washington State Medical Association, Washington State Medical Group Managers Association, and ARNPS United testified in opposition to the bill.

Electric util wildland fires H Rules R Blake

[SHB 1334](#)
(SSB 5305)

House Bill 1334, sponsored by Rep. Brian Blake (D- Aberdeen), establishes a utility wildland fire prevention task force. The Commissioner of Public Lands must convene a utility wildland fire prevention task force with electrical distribution utilities by July 1, 2019. The task force must

continue to meet no less than quarterly until December 1, 2020. The duties of the task force are to advise the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on various specified matters related to the relationship between utility infrastructure and wildland fires.

On-site sewage systems H Env & Energy Sullivan

[HB 1338](#)
(SB 5503)

House Bill 1338, sponsored by Rep. Pat Sullivan (D- Covington), establishes requirements related to state Board of Health rules addressing the repair and inspections of on-site sewage systems. Local governments that require residents to hook up to a sewer system, or other requirements around one-site sewage systems would be impacted. Specifically, on-site sewage systems must be allowed to be repaired using the least expensive alternative that meets standards and is likely to provide comparable or better long-term treatment or dispersal outcomes.

Correctional officer OT H Labor &
Workpl Frame

[HB 1345](#)
(SB 5200)

House Bill 1345, sponsored by Rep. Noel Frame (D- Seattle), prohibits mandatory overtime for city and county correctional officers. The bill provides exceptions for unforeseeable emergent circumstances or when the city or county has used reasonable efforts to obtain staffing. Unforeseeable emergent circumstances include: riots, emergencies requiring additional staffing occurring within the jail, and any other disaster or catastrophic event that effects jail staffing. Reasonable efforts must be documented and proven to authorize overtime.

B&O tax provisions H Finance Chapman

[SHB 1348](#)

House Bill 1348, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), gradually reduces the business and occupation tax for manufacturers of various timber products, excluding newspapers or other periodicals. The bill also extends the expiration date for the reduced business and occupation tax on certain timber and wood products from 2024 to 2056. An amended version of the bill passed through the House Committee on Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources, with a slight lowering of the tax rate for timber-related activities, an extension of the timber products surcharge, and the removal of circumstances by which the surcharge may be altered.

Unincorp. island annexation H Rules R Doglio

[SHB 1357](#)
(SB 5249)

House Bill 1357, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D- Olympia), would eliminate the referendum requirement for annexations of unincorporated islands. At the hearing on the bill, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties testified in support. While there was no opposition expressed at the hearing, several committee members had questions and concerns regarding the proposal. The substitute bill eliminates the provisions that allowed a code city to annex an island of unincorporated territory by adopting an ordinance that is not subject to a referendum. Instead, the bill restores the referendum process and increases the number of voters that must sign a petition to initiate a referendum on an annexation to no less than 15% (instead of 10% percent) of qualified voters that cast votes in the last general state election in the area to be annexed.

Housing dev./religious orgs. H Rules R Walen

[SHB 1377](#)
(SSB 5358)

House Bill 1377, sponsored by Rep. Amy Walen (D- Kirkland), would require cities to offer a density bonus to affordable housing developments being constructed on property owned by religious organizations. The substitute bill makes the following changes to the original bill: requires a religious organization to request a density bonus prior to a city needing to develop a policy, requires that any affordable housing development be located in an urban growth area, and requires the Joint Legislative Audit Review Committee to review the efficacy of the increased density bonus allowance by December 2030.

PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase

H Approps

Leavitt

[HB 1390](#)
(SB 5400)

House Bill 1390, sponsored by Rep. Mari Leavitt (D- University Place), provides a one-time 3 percent increase to the retirement benefits of retirees in the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System Plans 1, up to a maximum of \$62.50. The bill would apply the one-time increase to eligible retirees on July 1, 2019. This would be extremely costly for both cities and counties.

Behavioral health, integrate

H HC/Wellness

Cody

[HB 1393](#)
(SSB 5432)

House Bill 1393, sponsored by Rep. Eileen Cody (D-Seattle), would make changes to state statutes to ensure that the state's behavioral health system can be fully integrated. This legislation builds on work from previous legislative sessions that blends mental and behavioral health services with physical health services.

Affordable housing/sales tax

H Finance

Robinson

Support

[SHB 1406](#)
(SB 5646)

House Bill 1406, sponsored by Rep. June Robinson (D- Everett), allows local jurisdictions to impose a .02 credit against the state sales tax to fund affordable housing. Cities that have imposed a local housing levy may impose the full .02 credit within city boundaries. Counties may impose the full .02 credit in unincorporated areas. In all other incorporated areas, the city and county would split the authority, and each would impose a .01 credit. If a city does not utilize the .01 credit within one year of the effective date of the bill, the county can then impose the .01 credit (and vice versa). The revenue may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, or construct affordable housing or fund the operations and maintenance of new units of affordable or supportive housing for persons whose income is at or below 60% of the adjusted median income for the jurisdiction imposing the tax. A credit against the state sales tax is not an increase in the state sales tax; rather, it is sales tax revenue that would otherwise be deposited into the state general fund that is instead redirected to the local level. The substitute specifies that to enact the maximum 0.02 percent rate, a city must levy a qualifying local tax no later than 12 months after the effective date of the bill, rather than within 12 months of the effective date, and states that the median income calculation for cities imposing the tax to be based on the city's median income, not the county's (addressing a drafting error).

Building trades apprentices

H Coll & Wkf
Dev

Sells

[HB 1418](#)
(SSB 5458)

House Bill 1418, sponsored by Rep. Mike Sells (D- Everett), establishes a Regional Apprenticeship Pathways (RAP) program in Snohomish County. This version of the legislation garnered 27 sponsors.

County electrical equipment

H Trans

Irwin

[HB 1427](#)
(SB 5179)

House Bill 1427, sponsored by Rep. Morgan Irwin (R- Enumclaw), eliminates a section that requires counties to go out for bid for all construction work relating to replacement of traffic lights if costs exceed \$10,000. Statute currently only places traffic lights under this requirement; the bill would align traffic light construction work with all other similar county construction projects. This bill is led by WSAC.

Cultural access programs

H Rules R

Springer

[HB 1435](#)
(SB 5792)

House Bill 1435, sponsored by Rep. Larry Springer (D- Kirkland), equalizes requirements for cultural access programs in the state. The bill eliminates the population threshold for fiscal allocation requirements and cultural access programs in state public schools, applying the same standards for all counties.

Local infrastruct. financing

H Cap Budget

Tharinger

[HB 1441](#)
(SB 5304)

House Bill 1441, sponsored by Rep. Steve Tharinger (D- Sequim), creates a program within the Housing Finance Commission to issue bonds and loans to finance local government infrastructure projects. The bill is by request of the commission.

Tax preferences/mass timber

H Finance

Chapman

[HB 1443](#)
(SB 5467)

House Bill 1443, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), adds mass timber products to the list of products eligible for the preferential timber products business and occupation tax. Mass timber products consist of products that use large, panelized wood construction, such as cross-laminated timber, glue laminated timber, and laminated strand timber.

[HB 1481](#)
(SB 5500)

Election costs & postage

H State Govt &
T

Dolan

House Bill 1481, sponsored by Rep. Laurie Dolan (D- Olympia), combines state-paid ballot postage and even-year election costs into one bill.

[HB 1493](#)
(SSB 5357)

Affordable housing taxes

H Finance

Morgan

Support

House Bill 1493, sponsored by Rep. Melanie Morgan (D- Parkland), allows cities and counties to impose additional Real Estate Excise Taxes for the development of affordable housing. As currently drafted, the bill allows cities and counties to impose a .50 % increase in REET revenues -- any amount less than .50% could be approved with councilmanic authority, but the full .50% would require voter approval. A proposed substitute is anticipated to be brought forward that instead authorizes cities and counties to impose a .25% REET increased with councilmanic approval.

[SHB 1497](#)
(SB 5732)

Foundat. public health servs

H HCWDPS

Robinson

Support

House Bill 1497, sponsored by Rep. June Robinson (D- Everett), integrates foundational public health service standards with current state public health practices. The bill requires that the state modify its priorities, funding allocation, and appropriation to fit the foundational public health service model and repeals prior statutes related to the definition, duties, planning, measurement, and funding of public health programs. The bill also requires the Department of Health, by October 1st, 2020, to present on a series of changes related to the implementation of foundational public health services, including planned delivery models, changes in public health system capacity, and improvements in health outcomes.

[SHB 1498](#)
(SSB 5511)

Broadband service

Hudgins

House Bill 1498, sponsored by Rep. Zach Hudgins (D- Tukwila), is Governor-request legislation that expands broadband service to rural communities. The bill establishes the Governor's Statewide Broadband Office (SBO) with the mission to improve economic vitality, access to health care, education, governmental operations and public safety. The Governor's Budget appropriated \$1.2 million from the Public Works Assistance Account for the office. The SBO would act as the state's central broadband planning body, coordinating efforts at the local, state, and federal level to improve access in un- and underserved areas; set high-level state policy, develop and implement a statewide plan; update the state's goals and definitions for broadband service; and act as an information clearinghouse to incentivize deployment of quality, affordable broadband. The bill directs linkages between the Office, Public Works Board, and Utilities and Transportation Commission. The city and county associations are concerned with the bill because of the redirection of resources from the Public Works Assistance Account.

Marbled murrelet strategy

H RDev, Ag&NR

Blake

[HB 1546](#)
(SB 5547)

House Bill 1546, sponsored by Rep. Brian Blake (D- Aberdeen), concerns the conservation of a federally endangered bird, the marbled murrelet, which inhabits state trust lands. The bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from adopting a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy until analysis of the plan's impacts is completed. Topics of analysis include impacts on revenue, sustainable harvest volume, acres available for management and acres deferred by class, and must be submitted over six 10-year periods of study. Current analysis of the proposed strategy does not consider junior taxing district levels or compare the proposed solution effects with the interim strategy. The bill also removes two other proposed conservation strategies from consideration. WSAC will be supporting the financial analysis proposed by the bill, but opposes removal of alternative strategies.

Housing tax/councilmanic

H Hous, Com
Dev

Doglio

Support

[HB 1590](#)

House Bill 1590, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D- Olympia), allows counties to impose a .01 local sales and use tax for affordable housing with a councilmanic authority, rather than having to seek voter approval as is required under current law. The revenue generated could be spent on constructing affordable housing, constructing mental and behavioral health-related facilities, the operations and maintenance of affordable housing facilities to serve a population at or below 60% of the county's adjusted median income.

Homelessness rights

H Civil R & Judi

Gregerson

[HB 1591](#)

House Bill 1591, sponsored by Representative Mia Gregerson, concerns the rights of people who are homeless. This bill establishes the right to be homeless, which includes the right to occupy a parked vehicle. A person who is experiencing homelessness may not be subject to penalties by law enforcement or agents of any public-private partnership, for surviving in a public space. This bill is problematic for many local jurisdictions.

Drought preparedness

H RDev, Ag&NR

Blake

[HB 1622](#)
(SB 5675)

House Bill 1622, sponsored by, Rep. Brian Blake (D- Aberdeen), provides the Department of Ecology the authority to take action and assist water users when a drought emergency occurs. The bill also requires the department to assist in creating an emergency drought response to better prepare for future drought conditions. The department is given the ability to issue grants to eligible public entities to reduce current or future issues stemming from drought conditions, as well as developing and/or updating a drought contingency plan.

Vaccine preventable diseases

H HC/Wellness

Harris

Support

[HB 1638](#)

House Bill 1638, sponsored by Rep. Harris, prohibits any philosophical or personal objections to immunizations for specific diseases: the mumps, measles, and rubella. The bill also requires sufficient documentation of these immunizations for children for the aforementioned diseases must be documented.

Emergency comm. max tax rate

H Finance

Doglio

[HB 1653](#)
(SSB 5272)

House Bill 1653, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D- Olympia), increases the maximum tax rate for the voter-approved local sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities. More specifically, the bill allows another voter-approved .01% local sales and use tax, for emergency communication systems and facilities.

Payments in lieu of prop tax

H Approps

Dent

[HB 1662](#)
(SB 5696)

House Bill 1662, sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent (R- Moses Lake), amends the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) payment in lieu of property taxes (PILT) rate. The bill would also provide that, if a county elects to receive PILT for eligible game lands, the state

treasurer, on behalf of DFW, must distribute to counties PILT that is equal to 50 percent of the assessed value, divided by 1000, multiplied by the local levy rate, less the state levy portion.

<u>HB 1679</u> <u>(SSB 5676)</u>	Councilmanic REET/GMA	H Finance	Frame	Support
	House Bill 1679, sponsored by Rep. Noel Frame (D- Seattle), provides counties and cities planning under the Growth Management Act more flexibility over imposing a .25 percent tax on the sale of real estate (REET II). The bill removes the current provision requiring voter approval before cities or counties may implement the tax.			

<u>HB 1680</u>	Local infrastructure funding	H Cap Budget	Doglio	
	House Bill 1680, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D- Olympia), makes a series of changes regarding the Public Works Assistance Account. The bill restores 4.1 percent of state REET funding that is currently diverted into the Education Legacy Trust Account, placing this revenue back into the Public Works Assistance Account by the 2019 fiscal year. This revenue would be available to cities and counties for affordable housing. The bill also specifies that public works projects may include natural or green infrastructure, and allows for up to 1 percent of biennial capital budget appropriation for the Public Works Board to be used toward value planning grants. These grants may be up to \$60,000 per project.			

<u>HB 1718</u>	Existing resources/local gov	H Local Govt	Volz	Support
	House Bill 1718, sponsored by Rep. Mike Volz (R- Spokane), makes a number of changes to county and city financing tools with the intent of providing more flexibility in their use. The bill: 1) removes prohibitions on supplanting existing local government expenditures with proceeds from a locally imposed 0.1 percent sales and use tax dedicated to mental health and substance abuse; 2) allows all county authorities to seek voter approval for the criminal justice regular levy; 3) allows jurisdictions to use revenue generated with a levy lid lift to supplant existing funds; 4) Establishes the Developmental Disability and Mental Health Levy as a separate property tax levy outside the county general levy; 5) establishes the Veterans' Assistance Levy as a separate property tax levy outside the county general levy; and 6) requires the county legislative authority to budget the direct costs of administering the Veterans' Assistance Fund and prohibits the charging of indirect costs or fees.			

<u>HB 1733</u> <u>(SB 5543)</u>	Productive farmland	H RDev, Ag&NR	Gregerson	
	House Bill 1733, sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson (D- SeaTac), would require the state conservation commission to develop a form and process for an agricultural land assessment to be completed by any state agency, board, council, state university or college before acquisition of an interest in real property.			

<u>SHB 1745</u>	Affordable housing options	H Finance	Ryu	
	House Bill 1745, introduced by Rep. Cindy Ryu (D- Shoreline), authorizes cities or counties to adopt an ordinance creating a property tax exemption program for affordable housing preservation. Qualifying housing units include below-market priced rentals and multi-family housing or accessory dwelling units. The exemption would last six years and may be renewed once. An amended version of the bill passed through the House Committee on Housing, Community Development & Veterans, with changes providing that eligible rental units must meet affordability standards for 25 years, regardless of any transfers of ownership, and clarifying that single-family dwellings meeting the affordability standards may qualify for the program.			

<u>HB 1790</u> <u>(SB 5739)</u>	Housing/urban growth areas	H Finance	Griffey	
	House Bill 1790, sponsored by Rep. Dan Griffey (R- Allyn), alters the current RCW 84.14.060 that governs the development of affordable housing in unincorporated areas of rural counties			

within urban growth areas. The bill extends the application date by which projects in a residential targeted area in a rural county may be approved until January 1st, 2025.

State recycling system H Env & Energy Mead

[HB 1795](#)
(SB 5854)

House Bill 1795 sponsored by Rep. Jared Mead (D- Mill Creek) relates to ensures long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the state's recycling system within the existing regulatory structure. The legislation plans to maintain environmental and economic sustainability, improve consumer education, reduce containment, and educate the public regarding true costs of recycling, among other provisions. This legislation would also create a stakeholder group that must conduct a statewide public outreach and education campaign for sustainable recycling practices to help reduce contamination of recyclables and prioritize economically and environmentally sustainable recycling systems to maximize environmental benefits and recycling improvements. This legislation also makes various other changes and improvements to the state's recycling system.

Veterans' assistance levies H Finance Chapman

[HB 1829](#)

House Bill 1829, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), allows counties to create a separate levy for the creation of a veteran assistance fund. The Washington Association of Counties is supporting this bill.

Water infrastructure program H Cap Budget Dye

[HB 1889](#)
(SB 5136)

House Bill 1889, sponsored by Rep. Mary Dye (R- Pomeroy), establishes the water infrastructure program to provide competitive grants for projects that increase the availability of water for out-of-stream uses, reduce flood risk, improve fish passage, or reduce stormwater pollution. The bill also requires the Office of Columbia River, the Office of Chehalis Basin, the Fish Barrier Removal Board, and the Department of Ecology (DOE) to review applications to ensure projects meet certain criteria. DOE must submit ranked project lists to the Legislature before regular session begins in odd-numbered years.

Occup. disease presumption H LAWSDP Doglio

[HB 1913](#)
(SB 5849)

House Bill 1913, sponsored by Rep. Beth Doglio (D- Olympia), alters the current statute governing presumed occupational diseases for certain publicly employed emergency response professions. This legislation extends existing protections for firefighters to fire investigators and law enforcement personnel and extends the conditions by which the disease is considered presumptive, making firefighters and fire investigators who did not receive a qualifying examination before June 1st, 2020 eligible for presumptive status. The bill also expands the list of presumptive occupational diseases. Additions to this list include mesothelioma, stomach cancer, nonmelanoma skin cancer, breast cancer in women, and cervical cancer. Finally, the bill establishes an advisory committee on occupational disease presumptions for assessment going forward. The committee must include two epidemiologists, two preventive medicine physicians, and one industrial hygienist. The committee's decisions must be supported by scientific, field-accepted evidence. The Washington State Association of Counties supports this bill.

Housing market H Finance Frame

[HB 1921](#)

House Bill 1921, sponsored by Rep. Noel Frame (D- Seattle), addresses the Washington State housing market, and would make changes to the real estate excise tax (REET) rate. The legislation would change the REET from a flat tax rate to a progressive rate structure, and would invest the additional revenue in to affordable housing throughout the state. The legislation would also increase the housing trust fund's capacity with the new real estate excise tax revenue going to the housing trust fund, among other provisions.

Urban residential building H Env & Energy Fitzgibbon

House Bill 1923, sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D- Burien), would require cities with a population over 10,000 to take two or more actions prior to December 31, 2022 to increase density such as increasing density within ½ mile of transit station, adopting planned actions, adopting categorical exemptions for density, limiting parking restrictions in multi-family zones, authorizing ADU's on single family lots and more. Additionally, a city must either adopt inclusionary zoning, or "some other type of measure" by December 31, 2022 to address housing affordability. If a city chooses not to comply by December 2021, then the city needs to update the Housing element of their comprehensive plan and is not eligible to receive grants from several state programs. There is new language added into the Housing element of the GMA. The Department of commerce certifies whether or not a city has complied. There are additional sections on parking and supportive housing that may be concerning to cities. Local governments are opposed to the legislation.

[HB 1923](#)

Delinquent prop. taxes/usury H Finance Volz

House Bill 1926, sponsored by Rep. Mike Volz (R- Spokane), repeals sections of current tax statutes to ensure that usury laws apply to interest, penalties, and costs imposed on certain delinquent property taxes. This would lead to a potentially significant reduction in county revenues.

[HB 1926](#)

Local infra. investment prg H Hous, Com Dev Steele

House Bill 1938, sponsored by Rep. Mike Steele (R- Chelan), creates a local infrastructure investment program to support the development of affordable housing and revitalization efforts. The bill would allow a participating jurisdiction that builds approved local infrastructure to receive a credit against the state sales tax equivalent to a 4.37 percent sales or use tax on the construction of such local infrastructure. A participating local jurisdiction must adopt an ordinance establishing specific parameters, and provide public notice.

[HB 1938](#)

Community forests H RDev, Ag&NR Chapman

House Bill 1946, sponsored by Rep. Mike Chapman (D- Port Angeles), establishes a Community Forestland Account to provide funding to state and local agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for the development, acquisition, or restoration of community forest projects. A community forest project, as outlined in the legislation, must be managed on behalf of the community and maintain reliable community access. Decisions regarding the forests assisted by this fund must involve community input. Applicants must provide at least 15% in matching funds to be eligible for approval. The Department of Natural Resources would be authorized to develop rules governing the application and administration process for funding and must submit a list of approved projects every even year to the Governor.

[HB 1946](#)
[\(SB 5873\)](#)

Fish barrier removal funding H RDev, Ag&NR Chambers

House Bill 2022, sponsored by Rep. Kelly Chambers (R- Puyallup), establishes a Local Barrier Partnership Account to facilitate private / public partnerships for fish passage barrier removal. Funding from the account would be awarded to local governments that have secured funding from a private entity for barrier removal. The funding would be administered through a competitive award process, with priority given to local governments providing matching funds, barriers on important habitats, connectivity of the site with other planned passage removal projects, and more. The bill is similar to the existing "adopt a highway" program, but is for culverts.

[HB 2022](#)

[HB 2042](#) **Green transportation** H Trans Fey

House Bill 2042, sponsored by Rep. Jake Fey (D- Tacoma), modifies current legislation governing the state transportation system to integrate green transportation infrastructure. The bill enacts a variety of changes: making the pilot program for electric vehicle infrastructure expansion permanent, requiring the Washington State University Extension Energy Program to develop and administer a technical assistance education program on alternative fuel vehicles, allocating a one hundred dollar electric vehicle licensing fee to the Electric Vehicle Account, allowing electric utilities to establish an electrification of transportation plan, allowing public utility districts to establish an electrification of transportation plan, allowing the creation of tax incentive programs for electric vehicles and alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure, providing a performance statement for these tax preferences, providing tax exemptions for the purchase of zero-emissions buses and electric bus batteries, establishing a Green Transportation Grant Capital Grant Program, requiring the Joint Transportation Committee to report on additional steps needed to become a low-carbon transportation network, and more.

Short subdivisions S Rules 2 Palumbo

[SB 5008](#)
(HB 1690)

Senate Bill 5008, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), allows cities and counties not planning under the Growth Management Act to approve short subdivisions of nine, rather than four lots. For cities and counties planning under the Growth Management Act, short subdivisions may be up to nine lots if not within an Urban Growth Area, and may be up to 30 lots within an Urban Growth Area.

Veteran diversion/ITA S Rules 2 O'Ban

[SSB 5047](#)

Senate Bill 5047, sponsored by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R-University Place), encourages diversion of veterans from involuntary commitment through increased coordination between the VA and DSHS. The bill had a public hearing on January 23rd and GTHGA testified in support of the proposed legislation. We did however provide some feedback that the language may need to be adjusted to ensure a veteran's choice of healthcare provider is not impinged simply because of his or her eligibility at a VA facility.

Behavioral health licensure S Rules 2 O'Ban

[SB 5053](#)

Senate Bill 5053, sponsored by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R- University Place), makes a series of changes to the certification requirements for certain behavioral health-related positions. Current certification requirements for chemical dependency professionals require either an associate, bachelor's, or master's degree and 2500 - 1500 of supervised experience in chemical dependency counseling hours to qualify for "regular" certification. Applicants may also obtain certification through an alternative training pathway, provided they include proof of eligibility. This legislation requires the Department of Health to impose the same supervision requirements for applicants in both the regular and alternative tracks. Under this legislation, the Department of Health must accept social workers and other licensed mental health practitioners with at least one year of experience treating substance use disorders as approved supervisors for experience requirements. The bill also allows agency affiliated counselors to work within seven days of employment while their application is being processed, provided they present the Department of Health with the required documentation for approval. The Department of Health must also conduct a sunrise review to evaluate the need for a bachelor's level professional credential to treat substance abuse and mental health disorders alongside master's level clinicians.

Behav. health reciprocity S Rules 2 O'Ban

[SB 5054](#)

Senate Bill 5054, sponsored by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R- University Place), establishes a reciprocity license program for mental health professionals licensed in other states. The program would authorize individuals licensed in states with equivalent or more stringent eligibility requirements to obtain a prohibitory license in Washington state. The Department of Health is required to determine any qualification deficiencies and notify the applicant of any additional training necessary. The Department of Health must also publish a list of states that qualify under the program and consider options for adopting interstate contacts promoting license portability for certain mental health professions.

Behav. health peer services S 2nd Reading O'Ban

[SB 5055](#) Senate Bill 5055, sponsored by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R- University Place), continues to develop the peer support program, supervised by the state's Health Care Authority, for individuals with substance use disorder. The bill incorporates education and training on substance use disorders for peer educators participating in the program and requires the Health Care Authority to reimburse peer educators for substance use disorder support services. The bill also requires the Department of Health to conduct a sunrise review to evaluate the need for an advanced peer support specialist position for mental health, substance use disorders, and forensic behavioral health.

Ballots, prepaid postage S Ways & Means Nguyen

[SB 5063](#)
[\(HB 1209\)](#) Senate Bill 5063, sponsored by Sen. Joe Nguyen (D-White Center), would require the state to pay all postage for election ballots. This legislation is by request of Governor Inslee, is a priority for the Association of County Auditors and will also be supported by the Association of Counties (WSAC).

Election cost reimbursement S Ways & Means Hunt

[SB 5073](#)
[\(HB 1291\)](#) Senate Bill 5073, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia), would require the state to reimburse counties for the cost of state even-year election costs. Currently, counties are only reimbursed for election costs in odd-numbered years. The bill would also require the state to reimburse the prorated share of federal elections costs to counties for all primary and general elections. This bill is also a priority for the County Auditors Association.

Public defense funding S Law & Justice Braun

[SB 5098](#)
[\(HB 1086\)](#) Sen. John Braun (R- Centralia) introduced Senate Bill 5098, which increases appropriations to cities and counties for public defense. Beginning in fiscal year 2020, the state must appropriate funds to cities and counties for no less than 10% of the cost of public defense services. The percentage increases by 10% each year until 2029 when the appropriation reaches 100% of the cost of public defense services. The bill eliminates current distribution formulas for public defense funds and directs the Office of Public Defense to establish policies for distribution of funds to eligible cities and counties.

Water infrastructure program S Ag/Water/Natura Honeyford

[SB 5136](#)
[\(HB 1889\)](#) Senate Bill 5136, sponsored by Jim Honeyford (R-Sunnyside), establishes the water infrastructure program to provide competitive grants for projects that increase the availability of water for out-of-stream uses, reduce flood risk, improve fish passage, or reduce stormwater pollution. The bill also requires the Office of Columbia River, the Office of Chehalis Basin, the Fish Barrier Removal Board, and the Department of Ecology (DOE) to review applications to ensure projects meet certain criteria. DOE must submit ranked project lists to the Legislature before regular session begins in odd-numbered years.

Wrongful injury or death S Ways & Means Hasegawa

[SSB 5163](#)
[\(SHB 1135\)](#) Senate Bill 5163, sponsored by Sen. Bob Hasegawa (D- Seattle), addresses actions for wrongful injury or death. The bill is identical to bills introduced last session, except it also applies retroactively. It expands the beneficiaries of a wrongful death action by removing dependence and residency requirements for parents and siblings. A parent or sibling may be a beneficiary of a wrongful death action if there is no spouse, domestic partner, or child, without having to show dependent on the deceased and regardless of whether the parent or sibling resided in the United States at the time of death. Additional changes are made that expand liability under the wrongful

death statutes. During the public hearing on both the House and Senate versions of the bill, the Association of Washington Cities and Washington State Association of Counties testified in opposition. The reasoning for the stakeholder's strong opposition for this legislation derives from the joint and several liability portion of the bill and the increase in litigation costs due to the additional members that may bring action on behalf of the decedent. The Senate Law and Justice Committee amended the bill to replace any reference to "jury" with "trier of fact", in order to include bench trials. The committee also limited noneconomic damages in a survival action to the decedent's pain and suffering, anxiety, emotional distress, or humiliation.

County electrical equipment S Rules 2 Liias

[SB 5179](#)
(HB 1427)

Senate Bill 5179, sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D- Lynnwood), eliminates a section that requires counties to go out for bid for all construction work relating to replacement of traffic lights if costs exceed \$10,000. Statute currently only places traffic lights under this requirement-- the bill would align traffic light construction work with all other similar county construction projects. This bill is led by WSAC.

Real estate taxes/housing S 2nd Reading Kuderer Support

[SB 5195](#)
(HB 1219)

Senate Bill 5195, sponsored by Sen. Patty Kuderer (D- Bellevue), allows cities and counties to utilize real estate excise tax revenues for affordable housing. Cities and counties have the authority to use up to \$1 million of real estate excise tax revenues for affordable housing under current law, but the authority is scheduled to sunset in June 2019. This legislation removes the cap on the amount of money that can be spent on affordable housing and makes the authority permanent. At the public hearing on the proposal, cities and counties supported the bill, while the Washington Realtors Association expressed concerns. The Washington Realtors support extending the sunset on the authority but oppose removing the cap or making the authority permanent.

Unincorp. island annexation S Rules 2 Hunt

[SB 5249](#)
(SHB 1357)

Senate Bill 5249, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia), would eliminate the referendum requirement for annexations of unincorporated islands. At the hearing on the bill, the Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties testified in support. There was no opposition expressed at the hearing.

County sheriff salaries S Local Governme Hunt

[SB 5268](#)

Senate Bill 5268, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia), requires the annual salary of each sheriff to be at least equal to the salary provided to the prosecuting attorney of the same county. The Washington State Association of Counties testified in opposition, arguing that the bill interferes with local decision-making and is an unfunded mandate. WSAC also pointed out that unlike the prosecutor salary, the sheriff salary is not subsidized by the state. The Mason County and Thurston County Sheriff, testified in support of this legislation. They shared that often times, a sheriff is paid less than their first line supervisors. They also stated it is difficult to convince the next generation of potential leaders to run for election because they know they will have to take a \$27,000 pay cut.

Emergency comm. max tax rate S Rules 2 Hunt

[SSB 5272](#)
(HB 1653)

Senate Bill 5272, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia), increases the maximum tax rate for the voter-approved local sales and use tax for emergency communication systems and facilities. More specifically, the bill allows another voter-approved .01% local sales and use tax, for emergency communication systems and facilities. The bills was amended to clarify that the tax revenue must be used solely for the purpose of funding emergency communications systems and facilities.

Agricultural fair funding S Ways & Means Warnick

[SB 5277](#)
(HB 1283)

SB 5277, sponsored by Sen. Judy Warnick (R- Moses Lake), gradually increases funding for the state Fair Fund and changes the source of the funding. The bill maintains the current \$2 million dollars from the state's general fund and gradually adds up to \$4 million from the estimated amount of retail sales tax collected at fairs by 2021.

Outdoor burning S Ag/Water/Natur Van De Wege

[SB 5279](#)

Senate Bill 5279, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D- Sequim), instructs the Department of Natural resources to develop policies that allow outdoor burning for causes that promote public health, safety, and welfare. Issuance of outdoor burning licenses must either promote forest health by decreasing forest insect or disease susceptibility, restoring native vegetation, and generally enhancing forest resiliency to fire, or protect life or property.

Electric util wildland fires S Rules 2 Van De Wege

[SSB 5305](#)
(SHB 1334)

Senate Bill 5305, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D- Sequim), establishes a utility wildland fire prevention task force. The Commissioner of Public Lands must convene a utility wildland fire prevention task force with electrical distribution utilities by July 1, 2019. The task force must continue to meet no less than quarterly until December 1, 2020. The duties of the task force are to advise the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on various specified matters related to the relationship between utility infrastructure and wildland fires.

Small forestland owners S Rules 2 Braun

[SSB 5330](#)
(SHB 1273)

Senate Bill 5530, sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R- Centralia), establishes a legislative work group to analyze state regulatory impact on small forest land owners. The group must report on a series of topics, including changes in the number of small forest land owners, factors that caused owners to sell their land, changes in land use for lots previously owned by small forest land owners, interaction with the forest riparian easement program, and more. The bill allows the legislative work group to contract with outside entities such as the University of Washington or Washington State Institute for Public Policy. The report would be due to the legislature on November 1st, 2019.

Affordable housing taxes S Ways & Means Darneille Support

[SSB 5357](#)
(HB 1493)

SSB 5357: Authorizing cities and counties to impose additional taxes for affordable housing. Senate Bill 5357, sponsored by Sen. Jeannie Darneille (D- Tacoma), allows cities and counties to impose additional Real Estate Excise Taxes for the development of affordable housing. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Housing Stability and Affordability. The amended version authorizes cities and counties to impose a .25% increase, rather than .50% increase, in REET revenues with councilmanic approval.

Housing dev./religious orgs. S Rules 2 Saldaña

[SSB 5358](#)
(SHB 1377)

Senate Bill 5358, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldana (D- Seattle), would require cities to offer a density bonus to affordable housing developments being constructed on property owned by religious organizations. This proposal was introduced in previous legislative sessions. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Housing Stability & Affordability. The amended version incorporates suggestions made by the Association of Washington Cities, allowing cities under the Growth Management Act control over the development and implementation of density bonus policies. Other changes include expansion of the increased density bonus allowance to all cities and counties fully planning under the Growth Management Act, removal of the requirement that affordable housing developments must be

located in a limited area of more intensive rural development, and the addition of an evaluative review conducted by the Joint Legislation Audit and Review Committee by December 2030.

<u>SB 5363</u>	Urban center dwellings/taxes	S Ways & Means	Palumbo	Senate Bill 5363, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), allows a city or county to extend the period of time it may provide a multi-family housing property tax exemption to qualifying properties an additional twelve years. The local government must adopt requirements that continue to ensure that the unit remains affordable.
<u>SB 5369</u>	Owner compensation/wells	S Ag/Water/Natur	Wagoner	Senate Bill 5369, sponsored by Sen. Keith Wagoner (R- Sedro-Woolley), directs state courts to provide compensation to property owners who have previously been restricted from using or constructing a permit-use well. This bill follows the decision made in Swinomish Indian Tribal Community v. Department of Ecology (2013).
<u>SSB 5372</u>	Local project review	S Rules 2	Palumbo	Senate Bill 5372, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), concerns local project review undertaken under chapter 36.70B RCW. Cities and counties would have 5 days, instead of 14 days, to review applications. The bill was amended to changing the time by which the application is considered complete to within five days of submittal rather than upon submittal. The Association of Washington Cities and the Washington State Association of Counties is opposing the legislation.
<u>SSB 5380</u> (SHB 1331)	Opioid use disorder	S Ways & Means	Cleveland	Senate Bill 5380, sponsored by Sen. Annette Cleveland (D-Vancouver), is Governor requested legislation in response to the opioid epidemic. The legislation makes a series of statutory changes to combat the opioid epidemic including ensuring that patients are notified of their right to refuse opioids, allowing a pharmacist to only partially fill a prescription for opioids if requested by the patient, increasing warnings around the use of opioids, expanding access to opioid overdose reversal medications, improving the prescription drug monitoring program (PMP), requiring therapeutic courts to allow medication-assisted treatment for participants, authorizing a law enforcement assisted diversion pilot program for cities and counties, requiring opioid treatment in city and county jails, and other statutory changes. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Health and Long Term Care, addressing some, but not all, concerns expressed in public testimony. The amended legislation removes the controversial 2020 deadline for electronic health record integration with the PMP and loosens inter-state requirements for data sharing through the state's PMP; however, the bill does not identify funding sources for MAT implementation in jails. In addition to these alterations, the bill also includes a series of changes to PMP data sharing procedures and a series of technical changes for clarity.
<u>SB 5400</u> (HB 1390)	PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase	S Ways & Means	Conway	Senate Bill 5400, sponsored by Sen. Steve Conway (D- Tacoma), provides a one-time 3 percent increase to the retirement benefits of retirees in the Public Employees' Retirement System and the Teachers' Retirement System Plans 1, up to a maximum of \$62.50. The bill would apply the one-time increase to eligible retirees on July 1, 2019.
<u>SSB 5423</u> (SHB 1324)	Rural development, zones	S Ways & Means	Palumbo	Senate Bill 5423, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), creates the Rural Development and Opportunity Zone program to facilitate job development in designated rural and opportunity

zone areas of Washington. The program establishes a Rural Development and Opportunity Zone Fund, to which approved investors may make a capital contribution. In return for their contribution, investors would receive a tax credit against the business and occupation tax. The program would expire July 1st, 2025. The bill also extends the expiration date for a reduced business and occupation tax on timber products until July 1st, 2056. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Financial Institutions, Economic Development & Trade Committee, extending the approval date for tax credit applications and the date by which the list of approved applicants is due to the legislature to January 1st, 2020.

Behavioral health, integrate S Ways & Means Dhingra

[SSB 5432](#)
(HB 1393)

Senate Bill 5432, sponsored by Sen. Manka Dhingra (D- Redmond), would make changes to state statutes to ensure that the state’s behavioral health system can be fully integrated. This legislation builds on work from previous legislative sessions that blends mental and behavioral health services with physical health services.

Housing element/GMA S Local Governme Palumbo

[SB 5440](#)

Senate Bill 5440, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), enacts a series of housing revisions to the Growth Management Act. The legislation creates three subdivisions of low-income households: extremely low income (income is at or below 30 percent of median family income), very low income (income is at or below 50 percent of median family income), and low income (income is at or below 80 percent of median family income). The bill requires local governments to consider all levels of low income in housing need surveys, with special attention to extremely low income needs, and requires them to incorporate these findings into appropriate policies and programs. Cities with over 80,000 residents are required to implement policies, regulations, and programs that minimize displacement. The bill also requires local governments to develop a multifamily housing program if insufficient housing sites are available for low-income populations. Local governments must submit a review with these findings and proposed plans to implement future housing programs. The bill, as drafted, does not identify a funding source for these surveys.

Building trades apprentices S Ways & Means Hobbs

[SSB 5458](#)
(HB 1418)

Senate Bill 5458 sponsored by Sen. Steve Hobbs (D- Lake Stevens), establishes a Regional Apprenticeship Pathways (RAP) program in Snohomish County. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Labor and Commerce, changing the term “building trades” to “construction and building trades” and adding local registered apprenticeships to the list of groups with which the Marysville School District must collaborate.

Tax preferences/mass timber S Ag/Water/Natur Liias

[SB 5467](#)
(HB 1443)

Senate Bill 5467, sponsored by Sen. Marko Liias (D- Lynnwood), adds mass timber products to the list of products eligible for the preferential timber products business and occupation tax. Mass timber products consist of products that use large, panelized wood construction, such as cross-laminated timber, glue laminated timber, and laminated strand timber.

Boundary line modification S State Govt/Trib Zeiger

[SB 5496](#)

Senate Bill 5496, sponsored by Sen. Hans Zeiger (R- Puyallup), enacts a series of changes to districting processes and requirements for voting precincts and districts. The bill authorizes county auditors to propose adjustments to county election precincts at least 45 days prior to the period lasting seven days before candidates may begin filing for primary election candidacy and the day of the general election. The bill also requires voting precincts to either be wholly outside of a city or town or wholly within a city or town. Finally, the bill also adjusts requirements for

districting, allowing jurisdictions to suspend the requirement for contiguity in the case of an unincorporated island of territory interrupting an incorporated municipality.

[SB 5500](#)
(HB 1481)

Election costs & postage S State Govt/Tri Hunt

Senate Bill 5500, sponsored by Sen. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia), combines state-paid ballot postage and even-year election costs into one bill.

[SB 5503](#)
(HB 1338)

On-site sewage systems S Rules 2 Das

Senate Bill 5503, sponsored by, Sen. Mona Das (D- Covington), establishes requirements related to state Board of Health rules addressing the repair and inspections of on-site sewage systems. Local governments that require residents to hook up to a sewer system, or other requirements around one-site sewage systems would be impacted. Specifically, on-site sewage systems must be allowed to be repaired using the least expensive alternative that meets standards and is likely to provide comparable or better long-term treatment or dispersal outcomes.

[SB 5505](#)

Local stormwater charges S Rules 2 Hobbs

Senate Bill 5505, sponsored by Sen. Steve Hobbs (D- Lake Stevens), addresses local stormwater charges, which are paid by the Department of Transportation. As drafted, the bill would require that any fees that are levied by counties to be used solely for stormwater control facilities as they related specifically to state highway runoff, preempting counties from utilizing the funds for other needs.

[SB 5521](#)
(HB 1508)

Connecting Washington funds S Transportation Takko

Senate Bill 5521, sponsored by Sen. Dean Takko (D- Longview), makes the contributions to the Transportation Improvement Board, the County Road Administration Board, the Freight Mobility Investment Account, the Complete Streets Grant Program, and the Freight Mobility Multimodal Account permanent through the duration of the Connecting Washington program. Without this legislation, the appropriations to these accounts would need to be included in the budget each biennium.

[SSB 5522](#)

City annexing/interlocal ag. S Rules 2 Takko

Senate Bill 5522, sponsored by Sen. Dean Takko (D- Longview), provides code cities with the ability to annex unincorporated areas through an interlocal agreement with the county. The bill requires that a public hearing is held once the agreement has been made. There would be no opportunity for citizen referendum to repeal the annexation. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Local Government. The amended version requires cities to allow the public an opportunity to be heard at the public hearing, rather than only residents or property owners of the area, provides a five-year period limiting any zoning changes for land zoned for residential development, prohibits annexation from proceeding if a special purpose district does not approve an interlocal agreement involving their district, and specifies that cities must include special purpose districts only if the annexation includes areas of the district, rather than impacts the district.

[SB 5537](#)

Behavioral health facilities S Ways & Means Braun

Senate Bill 5537, sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R- Centralia), authorizes the State Finance Committee to issue up to five hundred million dollars of general obligation bonds to finance behavioral health capital improvements. Eligible projects include construction of evaluation and treatment centers, crisis triage and stabilization centers, detoxification centers, transitional and long-term housing, residential treatment centers, and more. The bill establishes both taxable and tax exempt bond accounts. Provisions authorizing the state to issue bonds must be ratified by the public in the next general election before going into effect.

<u>SB 5543</u> (HB 1733)	Productive farmland	S Ag/Water/Natur	Takko	Senate Bill 5543, sponsored by Sen. Dean Takko (D- Longview), would require the state conservation commission to develop a form and process for an agricultural land assessment to be completed by any state agency, board, council, state university or college before acquisition of an interest in real property.	
<u>SB 5547</u> (HB 1546)	Marbled murrelet strategy	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	Senate Bill 5547, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D- Sequim), concerns the conservation of a federally endangered bird, the marbled murrelet, which inhabits state trust lands. The bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from adopting a marbled murrelet long-term conservation strategy until analysis of the plan's impacts is completed. Topics of analysis include impacts on revenue, sustainable harvest volume, acres available for management and acres deferred by class, and must be submitted over six 10-year periods of study. Current analysis of the proposed strategy does not consider junior taxing district levels or compare the proposed solution effects with the interim strategy. The bill also removes two other proposed conservation strategies from consideration. WSAC will be supporting the financial analysis proposed by the bill, but opposes removal of alternative strategies.	
<u>SB 5582</u>	Affordable housing/REET	S Ways & Means	Saldaña	Senate Bill 5582, sponsored by Sen. Rebecca Saldana (D-Seattle), would replace the current flat rate real estate excise tax with a graduated tax structure that would increase revenue for affordable housing	
<u>SB 5646</u> (SHB 1406)	Affordable housing/sales tax	S Ways & Means	Kuderer	Support	Senate Bill 5646, sponsored by Sen. Patty Kuderer (D-Bellevue), allows local jurisdictions to impose a .02 credit against the state sales tax to fund affordable housing. Cities that have imposed a local housing levy may impose the full .02 credit within city boundaries. Counties may impose the full .02 credit in unincorporated areas. In all other incorporated areas, the city and county would split the authority, and each would impose a .01 credit. If a city does not utilize the .01 credit within one year of the effective date of the bill, the county can then impose the .01 credit (and vice versa). The revenue may be used to acquire, rehabilitate, or construct affordable housing or fund the operations and maintenance of new units of affordable or supportive housing for persons whose income is at or below 60% of the adjusted median income for the jurisdiction imposing the tax. A credit against the state sales tax is not an increase in the state sales tax; rather, it is sales tax revenue that would otherwise be deposited into the state general fund that is instead redirected to the local level.
<u>SB 5675</u> (HB 1622)	Drought preparedness	S Ag/Water/Natur	Takko	Senate Bill 6575, sponsored by, Sen. Dean Takko (D- Longview), provides the Department of Ecology the authority to take action and assist water users when a drought emergency occurs. The bill also requires the department to assist in creating an emergency drought response to better prepare for future drought conditions. The department is given the ability to issue grants to eligible public entities to reduce current or future issues stemming from drought conditions, as well as developing and/or updating a drought contingency plan.	
<u>SSB 5676</u> (HB 1679)	Councilmanic REET/GMA	S Rules 2	Takko	Support	Sen. Dean Takko (D- Longview) introduced Senate Bill 5676, which authorizes county or city legislative authorities planning under the growth management act to impose real estate excise

taxes without issuing a referendum. The taxes may not exceed .025 percent of the selling price and may be used toward capital projects. An amended version of the bill passed through the Senate Committee on Local Government, adding a referendum process to repeal an ordinance imposing REET II.

Payments in lieu of prop tax S Warnick
Ag/Water/Natur

[SB 5696](#)
(HB 1662)

Senate Bill 5696, sponsored by Sen. Judy Warnick (R- Moses Lake), amends the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) payment in lieu of property taxes (PILT) rate. The bill would also provide that, if a county elects to receive PILT for eligible game lands, the state treasurer, on behalf of DFW, must distribute to counties PILT that is equal to 50 percent of the assessed value, divided by 1000, multiplied by the local levy rate, less the state levy portion.

Public works bidding S Local Warnick
Governmenten

[SB 5702](#)

Senate Bill 5702, sponsored by Sen. Judy Warnick (R- Moses Lake), amends current statute governing public works projects, mandating wait periods for municipalities before executing a contract. The legislation requires municipalities to provide all bidders with copies of the bids they have received within 2 business days of the opening of the bid period. The municipality is then required to wait 2 business days before executing a contract for the project. If bidders submit a written protest for the project within 2 days of the municipality providing the bid copies, the municipality is required to stall execution of a contract, unless with the protesting bidder, until the municipality provides at least 2 days written notice of intent to execute a contract for the project.

Homeless housing & assist. S Housing Stabil Fortunato

[SB 5722](#)

Senate Bill 5722, sponsored by Sen. Phil Fortunado (R- Auburn), requires cities and counties to give priority of service to homeless individuals presenting proof of residence within the municipality they are seeking services. Proof of residency includes: a utility bill, driver's license, evidence of school attendance within the district, a pay stub, a voter registration or military card, unemployment documents, an eviction notice, and more.

Foundat. public health servs S Health & Long Van De Support
Wege

[SB 5732](#)
(SHB 1497)

Senate Bill 5732, sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D- Sequim), integrates foundational public health service standards with current state public health practices. The bill requires that the state modify its priorities, funding allocation, and appropriation to fit the foundational public health service model and repeals prior statutes related to the definition, duties, planning, measurement, and funding of public health programs. The bill also requires the Department of Health, by October 1st, 2020, to present on a series of changes related to the implementation of foundational public health services, including planned delivery models, changes in public health system capacity, and improvements in health outcomes.

Housing/urban growth areas S Housing Stabil Sheldon

[SB 5739](#)
(HB 1790)

Senate Bill 5739, sponsored by Sen. Tim Sheldon (D- Potlach), alters the current RCW 84.14.060 that governs the development of affordable housing in unincorporated areas of rural counties within urban growth areas. The bill extends the application date by which projects in a residential targeted area in a rural county may be approved until January 1st, 2025.

Minimum urban density S Local Palumbo
Governmenten

[SB 5769](#)

Senate Bill 5769, sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby), amends the Growth Management Act to make a series of changes surrounding urban growth areas. The bill adds the requirement that urban growth areas must permit densities of at least 6 units per acre in

residential areas, develops a state grant program to assist with planning costs, outlines what types of housing can be built without a conditional use permit, requires comprehensive plans to be consistent with the proposed amendments, and more.

Ballot drop box placement S State Govt/Tri Kuderer Support

[SB 5779](#)

Senate Bill 5779, sponsored by Sen. Patty Kuderer (D- Bellevue), would eliminate the requirement that the county auditor must have a minimum of one ballot drop box per 15,000 registered voters in the county. Instead, one ballot drop box would be required for every 20,000 registered voters in the county. The bill also eliminate that a ballot drop box must be in every city, town and place in a county with a post office.

Local infrastructure funding S Ways & Means Mullet

[SB 5788](#)

Senate Bill 5788, sponsored by Sen. Mark Mullet (D- Issaquah), prioritizes fish passage barrier removal and affordable housing within public works project funding. During fiscal years 2020 through 2030, taxes collected and deposited into the public works assistance account must be prioritized for grants to address fish barriers consistent with the comprehensive strategy to maximize habitat value of culvert correction investments, as recommended by the fish passage barrier removal board. Additionally, beginning in the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium through the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, an amount equal to four and one-tenth percent of the taxes collected and deposited into the public works assistance account must be prioritized for infrastructure projects in support of housing development.

Cultural access programs S Rules 2 Salomon

[SB 5792](#)
[\(HB 1435\)](#)

House Bill 5792, sponsored by Sen. Jesse Salomon (D- Shoreline) equalizes requirements for cultural access programs in the state. The bill eliminates the population threshold for fiscal allocation requirements and cultural access programs in state public schools, applying the same standards for all counties.

State recycling system S Environment, E Palumbo

[SB 5854](#)
[\(HB 1795\)](#)

Senate Bill 5854 sponsored by Sen. Guy Palumbo (D- Maltby) relates to ensures long-term economic and environmental sustainability of the state's recycling system within the existing regulatory structure. The legislation plans to maintain environmental and economic sustainability, improve consumer education, reduce containment, and educate the public regarding true costs of recycling, among other provisions. This legislation would also create a stakeholder group that must conduct a statewide public outreach and education campaign for sustainable recycling practices to help reduce contamination of recyclables and prioritize economically and environmentally sustainable recycling systems to maximize environmental benefits and recycling improvements. This legislation also makes various other changes and improvements to the state's recycling system.

Community forests S Ag/Water/Natura Hawkins

[SB 5873](#)
[\(HB 1946\)](#)

Senate Bill 5873, sponsored by Sen. Brad Hawkins (R- East Wenatchee), establishes a Community Forestland Account to provide funding to state and local agencies, tribes, and nonprofit organizations for the development, acquisition, or restoration of community forest projects. A community forest project, as outlined in the legislation, must be managed on behalf of the community and maintain reliable community access. Decisions regarding the forests assisted by this fund must involve community input. Applicants must provide at least 15% in matching funds to be eligible for approval. The Department of Natural Resources would be authorized to develop rules governing the application and administration process for funding and must submit a list of approved projects every even year to the Governor.

Homeless housing surcharge

S Ways & Means

Rolfes

[SB 5898](#)

Senate Bill 5898, sponsored by Sen. Christine Rolfes (D- Bainbridge Island), amends current statute authorizing counties to collect and allocate part of a service recording fee for homeless housing and assistance. The bill adds federal documents recording a lien or satisfaction of a lien to the list of documents exempted from this fee.

Local infrastructure funding

Senate Bill 5952, sponsored by Sen. Liz Lovelett (D- Anacortes) makes a series of changes regarding the Public Works Assistance Account. The bill restores 4.1 percent of state REET funding that is currently diverted into the Education Legacy Trust Account, placing this revenue back into the Public Works Assistance Account by the 2019 fiscal year. This revenue would be available to cities and counties for affordable housing. The bill also specifies that public works projects may include natural or green infrastructure, and allows for up to 1 percent of biennial capital budget appropriation for the Public Works Board to be used toward value planning grants. These grants may be up to \$60,000 per project.

[SB 5952](#)
(HB 1680)

State infrastructure bank

S Financial Inst

Hobbs

Senate Joint Resolution 8209, sponsored by Sen. Steve Hobbs (D- Lake Stevens), relates to amending the Constitution to create the Washington state infrastructure bank. The resolution would ask voters for their approval or rejection of an amendment to Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Washington to establish a special fund known as the Washington state infrastructure bank. The resolution states that money from the repayment of loans from the public works assistance account or the Washington state infrastructure bank to local governments for public works projects must be deposited in the bank, and money collected under public utility tax and the solid waste collection tax must be deposited in the bank. Six and one-tenth percent of real estate excise tax money would also be deposited into the bank, along with other funding. Money withdrawn and appropriated from the bank would be made for loans and grants to local governments for public works projects. This accompanies SB 5864, also by Sen. Hobbs, which establishes the statutory framework for the infrastructure bank.

[SJR 8209](#)