



## Skagit County - Government Relations Report February 17, 2020

After the first Fiscal Committee cutoff last Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup>, the number of bills still being considered by the Legislature has been significantly reduced. Bills must now pass out of their House of Origin by February 19<sup>th</sup>, meaning Senate bills must be voted off the Senate floor and House bills must be voted off the House floor. There is one exception: if the bill has been deemed “necessary to implement the budget”. Dead bills could be considered later in session, as they have the ability to come back to life as amendments to bills that contain similar subjects. The next deadline, the opposite chamber policy committee cutoff, is on Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. On this date, bills must pass out of committee in the opposite chamber.

We are looking forward to seeing Commissioner Janicki for Legislative Steering Committee this week and will plan on meeting with the delegation to discuss County priorities.

### 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. [Rep. Debra Lekanoff](#) (D- Bow) is sponsoring the House request and has confirmed submission of the forms. [Rep. Dave Paul](#) (D- Oak Harbor) has submitted a letter in support of the request.

GTHGA reached out to Sen. Wagoner to see whether he would sponsor an operating budget proviso for the funding; while he is supportive of the project, he does not feel comfortable making the request at this point in session. We will work with Sen. Lovelett’s office to secure a letter of support for 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. Both House Bill 1590 and its Senate companion, [Senate Bill 6126](#), have been referred to their respective Rules Committees. House Bill 1590 has been pulled from the Rules Committee and placed on the House Order of Consideration for floor action. Multiple amendments have been introduced, including a new striker introduced by Rep. Doglio and multiple amendments by Republican members [Rep. Morgan Irwin](#) (R- Enumclaw) and [Rep. Drew Stokesbary](#) (R- Auburn) that limit the County’s taxing authority under the bill. Rep. Doglio previously introduced language requiring counties using the authority to split 30 percent of the revenue with their cities; the updated striking amendment limits this requirement to King County, whose cities requested the revenue-sharing mechanism. Rep. Irwin’s amendment removes councilmanic authority to impose this tax for all cities and counties except Seattle. Rep. Stokesbary’s three amendments:

1. Prohibit a city or county from councilmanically imposing a sales and use tax for housing or human services if the jurisdiction has already imposed a head tax, and prohibits a city or county from councilmanically imposing a head tax for five years if a jurisdiction has imposed a sales and use tax;



2. Expires a councilmanic sales and use tax after five years unless approved by the voters;
3. And requires local jurisdictions to adopt an ordinance prohibiting supervised injection sites within its jurisdiction, as well as unauthorized camping within 500 feet of certain public sites, prior to imposing a councilmanic sales and use tax authorized under the bill.

We initially were told that the bill was likely to be debated early this week, closer to the next cutoff on Wednesday, Feb. 19<sup>th</sup>; this was to prevent Republicans from stalling the bill through lengthy floor debate on the proposed amendments, as close to cutoff, floor speeches are limited to 3 minutes. However, on Monday we learned that because all of the amendments, including Rep. Doglio's striker, have been ruled out of the scope of the title of the bill. There is not political support for the underlying bill in the House. We are shifting our effort to trying to move SB 6126.

#### 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. Rep. Irwin and Rep. Stokesbary have agreed to support the proposal in the House while Sen. Cleveland will be supporting in the Senate. AWC has been working with the sponsors of the proviso to find a suitable funding source and has identified [House Bill 2438](#) as a potential funding mechanism; the bill places an "impact" fee on opioid providers which is deposited in to the state Prescription Opioid Impact Account to be put towards treatment of substance use disorders. The bill passed the House Appropriations Committee and is currently in Rules. To continue to be considered this session, the bill must be voted off of the House Floor by Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

##### *Increased Share of Marijuana Revenue*

Snohomish County is leading the effort to increase the amount of revenue shared by the state with local governments. The bill, [House Bill 2900](#), sponsored by [Rep. Strom Peterson](#) (D- Edmonds) is in the Appropriations Committee. Rep. Peterson is working to request a hearing for the bill and will be scheduling a work session on the topic in his committee.

## **Upcoming Events**

### **Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/20 @ 1:30pm**

- HB 2915 - Public Hearing - Increasing the relevant taxes to fully fund the foundational public health services account.

### **State Government, Tribal Relations & Elections (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/21 @ 1:30pm**



- ESHB 2421 - Public Hearing - Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.

### 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>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1590</u></a> <b>Housing tax/councilmanic</b> Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority.	H 2nd Reading	Doglio	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 1718</u></a> <b>Existing resources/local gov</b> Authorizes the replacement of existing local government expenditures with proceeds from a locally imposed sales and use tax dedicated to mental health and substance abuse. Allows counties to seek voter approval for the criminal justice levy. Allows local governments to use revenue generated from a levy lid lift to supplant existing funds. Establishes the developmental disability and mental health levy and the veterans' assistance levy. Requires these levies to be imposed by the legislative authority of a county as a separate levy, independent of the regular property tax levy.	H 2nd Reading	Volz	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 1829</u></a> <b>Veterans' assistance levies</b> Provides that veterans' assistance levies are imposed as part of or separate from the county's regular property tax levy.	S Ways & Means	Chapman	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 2145</u></a> <b>Property tax revenue growth</b> Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.	H Finance	Pollet	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 2348</u></a> <b>(SB 6229)</b> <b>Housing funds/quality award</b> Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	S Housing Stabil	Duerr	Support
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 2421</u></a> <b>Election cost reimbursement</b> Concerning state reimbursement of election costs. A problematic amendment has been added to the bill asserting that reimbursement at the current cost levels covers any future mandates or requirements, exempting any future legislative action from additional reimbursement.	S State Govt.	Tarleton	



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<a href="#"><u>SHB 2494</u></a>	<b>Public facilities tax/rural</b> Concerning sales and use tax for public facilities in rural or border counties.	H Rules R	Stonier	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 2797 (SSB 6631)</u></a>	<b>Housing/sales &amp; use tax</b> Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.	H 2nd Reading	Robinson	Support
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5366</u></a>	<b>Urban centers/multiple-units</b> This bill allows all cities and towns to provide property tax exemptions for eligible multi-unit residential housing projects in urban centers until July 1, 2022.	S 3rd Reading	Wagoner	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 6126</u></a>	<b>Housing tax/councilmanic</b> Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority.	S Rules 2	Hunt	Support
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6134</u></a>	<b>Election cost reimbursement</b> Concerning state reimbursement of election costs. A problematic amendment has been added to the bill asserting that reimbursement at the current cost levels covers any future mandates or requirements, exempting any future legislative action from additional reimbursement.	S Rules 2	Hunt	
<a href="#"><u>SB 6229 (HB 2348)</u></a>	<b>Housing funds/quality award</b> Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	S Passed 3rd	Kuderer	Support
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6314 (HB 2526)</u></a>	<b>Home foreclosure/taxes</b> Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.	S 2nd Reading	Holy	Oppose
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6592</u></a>	<b>Tourism authorities</b> Concerning tourism authorities.	S Rules 2	Holy	Oppose

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**Monitoring**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1598</u></a> <b>City annexing/interlocal ag.</b> Providing code cities of a certain size with the ability to annex unincorporated areas without a referendum provision pursuant to a jointly approved interlocal agreement with the county.	S Local Govt	Doglio	
<a href="#"><u>HB 2230 (SB 6080)</u></a> <b>Indian tribe-owned property</b> Subjecting federally recognized Indian tribes to the same conditions as state and local governments for property owned exclusively by the tribe.	S State Govt	Gregerson	
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2342</u></a> <b>Comprehensive plan updates</b> 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.	H Rules R	Fitzgibbon	
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2343 (SSB 6334)</u></a> <b>Urban housing</b> Concerning urban housing supply. This bill: removes parking as an element of the environment that must be included in a SEPA review, slightly changes the definition of "permanent supportive housing" in the GMA, adds certain appeal-exempt city project actions under SEPA, and amends parking requirements for multifamily housing.	H Passed 3rd	Fitzgibbon	Neutral
<a href="#"><u>HB 2381 (2SSB 6128)</u></a> <b>Postpartum period/Medicaid</b> Extending coverage during the postpartum period.	H HC/Wellness	Stonier	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2427 (SB 6453)</u></a> <b>Climate change/GMA</b> Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	H Passed 3rd	Duerr	
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 2528 (SSB 6355)</u></a> <b>Forest products/climate</b> Recognizing the contributions of the state's forest products sector as part of the state's global climate response.	H Passed 3rd	Ramos	
<b>Accessory dwelling units</b>	H 2nd Reading	Gregerson	



[2SHB  
2570](#)

Managing growth by planning and zoning for accessory dwelling units.

[SHB  
2603  
\(SSB  
6494\)](#)

**Trust water rights** H Rules R Springer  
Concerning trust water rights.

[ESHB  
2625](#)

**Local parks funding options** H Passed 3rd Eslick  
Concerning local parks funding options.

[SHB  
2649](#)

**Homeless shelter capacity** H 2nd Reading Ryu  
Concerning homeless shelter capacity.

[HB 2668](#)

**Affordable housing options** H Finance Ryu  
Providing local governments with options to preserve affordable housing in their communities.

[SHB  
2679 \(SB  
6451\)](#)

**Nonprofit health carriers** H 2nd Reading Robinson  
Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.

[HB 2687](#)

**GMA/affordable housing plans** H 2nd Reading Barkis  
Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.

[SHB  
2714 \(SB  
6498\)](#)

**Riparian easement carbon val** H Passed 3rd Hoff  
Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.

[SHB  
2758](#)

**911 dispatch personnel/PTSD** H 2nd Reading Corry  
Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.

[HB 2778](#)

**Community redevelop. financing** H Rules R Sullivan  
Concerning community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.

[SHB  
2786](#)

**Opioid response council** H Passed 3<sup>rd</sup> Robinson  
Establishing the opioid epidemic response advisory council.

[HB 2915](#)

**Public health services/taxes** H Finance Pollet



Increasing vaping taxes and provides at least \$6 million/year for the foundational public health services account.

<a href="#"><u>SHB 2919</u></a>	<b>REET county fees</b>	H 2nd Reading	Chopp	
	Increases the percentage of real estate excise taxes (REET) retained by counties with a population of less than 230,000 to 1.48 percent.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 2940</u></a>	<b>Wild Skagit river</b>	H Approps	Kretz	
	Restoring a wild Skagit river.			
<a href="#"><u>HJR 4212</u></a>	<b>Community redev. financing</b>	H Rules R	Sullivan	
	Providing for community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.			
<a href="#"><u>ESSB 5522</u></a>	<b>City annexing/interlocal ag.</b>	S Passed 3rd	Takko	
	Providing code cities with the ability to annex unincorporated areas pursuant to a jointly approved interlocal agreement with the county.			
<a href="#"><u>2SSB 6128</u></a> (HB 2381)	<b>Postpartum period/Medicaid</b>	S 2nd Reading	Randall	Support
	Extending coverage during the postpartum period.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 6212</u></a> (HB 2489)	<b>Affordable housing/prop. tax</b>	S 2nd Reading	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.			
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6253</u></a>	<b>Early care and ed. system</b>	S Ways & Means	Wilson	Support
	Creating a comprehensive statewide early care and education system by improving accessibility and affordability of early care and education programs for families.			
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6334</u></a> (SHB 2343)	<b>Urban housing</b>	S Rules 2	Salomon	Neutral
	Concerning urban housing supply. This bill: removes parking as an element of the environment that must be included in a SEPA review, slightly changes the definition of permanent supportive housing in the GMA, adds certain appeal-exempt city project actions under SEPA, and amends parking requirements for multifamily housing.			



<a href="#"><u>SB 6354</u></a> (HB 2729)	<b>Small rural hospital payment</b> Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.	S Rules 2	King	
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6355</u></a> (E2SHB 2528)	<b>Forest products/climate</b> Recognizing the contributions of the state's forest products sector as part of the state's global climate response.	S Rules 2	Van De Wege	
<a href="#"><u>SB 6365</u></a> (HB 2559)	<b>WDFW/payments in lieu of tax</b> Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.	S Rules 2	Warnick	
<a href="#"><u>SB 6386</u></a>	<b>Low-income housing/fees</b> Reducing impact fees for low-income housing.	S Rules 2	Zeiger	
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6494</u></a> (SHB 2603)	<b>Trust water rights</b> Concerning trust water rights.	S Rules 2	Rolfes	
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6514</u></a>	<b>Irrigation dist. elections</b> Addressing irrigation district elections.	S 2nd Reading	Schoesler	
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6545</u></a>	<b>Voluntary stewardship prog.</b> Concerning the voluntary stewardship program.	S Rules 2	Zeiger	
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6585</u></a>	<b>Medication-assisted tx/jails</b> Encouraging the use of medication-assisted treatment within jails.	S Ways & Means	Zeiger	Neutral
<a href="#"><u>SSB 6617</u></a>	<b>Accessory dwelling units</b> Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.	S Rules 2	Lias	