



## Skagit County - Government Relations Report February 22, 2020

Bills that remain under consideration have been referred to committees in the opposite chamber and will need to be heard and voted out of committee by Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, which is the opposite chamber policy committee cutoff. In an unusual move, the Senate introduced their Capital Budget proposal on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, much earlier than expected; the House is scheduled to release their Capital Budget proposal on Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>. The House and Senate Operating and Transportation budget proposals are also scheduled to be released early next week. This year, the Senate will be releasing their proposal first, followed by the House. The House and the Senate will begin their negotiations on final budgets once each of their proposals are released.

The latest revenue forecast anticipates a significant increase in state revenues next biennium; however, the Supplemental Capital Budget is funded with bond proceeds that were authorized during the 2019 legislative session. Therefore, the higher than anticipated state revenue collections do not impact the funding available in the Supplemental Capital Budget.

We look forward to seeing Deputy County Administrator Kayla Schott-Bresler next Thursday to testify on the County's priority legislation, House Bill 1590.

### 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 and we have drafted a letter of request for [Sen. Liz Lovelett](#) (D- Anacortes) to submit to Senate Capital Budget Lead [Sen. David Frockt](#) (D- Seattle) once the House Capital Budget has been released. The House Capital Budget proposal is set to be released on Tuesday, Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>.

#### 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](#), were referred to their respective Rules Committees and House Bill 1590 was placed on the floor calendar for a vote. Early last week, we learned that the bill's multiple amendments, including Rep. Doglio's striker set to move forward, were ruled out of the scope of the title of the bill. Stakeholders shifted their efforts to trying to move SB 6126, however, negotiations in the Senate fell apart. The House passed the underlying version of HB 1590 with the agreement that Rep. Doglio's striker, which includes expenditure of at least 30 percent of revenue collected by King County for the Cities of Redmond and Bellevue, will be adopted in committee.

#### Supporting Other Association Priorities:

*Separate Funding Stream for Involuntary Treatment Costs*



WSAC has submitted the language for the ITA budget proviso. Once the House budgets are released, we will have more information on whether the funding stream will be separated.

### *MAT Funding*

The Association of Washington Cities is seeking funding to increase the use of medication assisted treatment (MAT). They have submitted 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.

### *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**

### **Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/24 @ 10:00am**

- SHB 2758 - Public Hearing - Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.

### **Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/24 @ 1:30pm**

- SHB 2343 - Public Hearing - Concerning urban housing supply. (Neutral)

### **Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 1, - 2/25 @ 8:00am**

- SHB 2758 - Exec Session - Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.

### **Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3, - 2/25 @ 8:00am**

- ESHB 2427 - Public Hearing - Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.

### **Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/25 @ 3:30pm**

- ESSB 6617 - Public Hearing - Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.



### **Innovation, Technology & Economic Development (House) - HHR C, JLOB - 2/26 @ 8:00am**

- ESSB 6592 - Public Hearing - Concerning tourism authorities.

### **Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/26 @ 8:00am**

- ESSB 5522 - Public Hearing - Providing code cities with the ability to annex unincorporated areas pursuant to a jointly approved interlocal agreement with the county.

### **Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/26 @ 1:30pm**

- EHB 2687 - Public Hearing - Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.
- EHB 2797 - Public Hearing - Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing. (Support)
- ESHB 2919 - Public Hearing - Adjusting the amount and use of county fees on the real estate excise tax.

### **Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/26 @ 3:30pm**

- HB 1829 - Public Hearing - Concerning veterans' assistance levies. (Support)
- ESHB 2421 - Public Hearing - Concerning state reimbursement of election costs. (Support)
- ESHB 2625 - Public Hearing - Concerning local parks funding options.
- ESHB 2786 - Public Hearing - Establishing the opioid epidemic response advisory council.

### **Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3, - 2/27 @ 8:00am**

- HB 1590 - Public Hearing - Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority. (Support)

### **Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/27 @ 3:30pm**

- SB 6212 - Public Hearing - 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.

### **Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks (Senate) - SHR 3, - 2/28 @ 1:30pm**

- SHB 2714 - Public Hearing - Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.



## 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>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1590</u></a> <b>Housing tax/councilmanic</b> Authorizes a county legislative authority to impose a local sales and use tax without going through the election process.	S Local Governmen	Doglio		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 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.	S Ways & Means	Tarleton		Support
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 2528</u></a> <b>(SSB 6355)</b> <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 RecComm	Ramos		Support
<a href="#"><u>EHB 2797</u></a> <b>(SSB 6631)</b> <b>Housing/sales &amp; use tax</b> Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.	S Housing Stabil	Robinson		Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 6229</u></a> <b>(HB 2348)</b> <b>Housing funds/quality award</b> Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	H Approps	Kuderer		Support



**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 Governmen	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/Trib	Gregerson	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 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 Passed 3rd	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.	S Housing Stabil	Fitzgibbon	Neutral
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 2427 (SB 6453)</u></a> <b>Climate change/GMA</b> Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	S Local Governmen	Duerr	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 2625</u></a> <b>Local parks funding options</b> Concerning local parks funding options.	S Ways & Means	Eslick	
<a href="#"><u>EHB 2687</u></a> <b>GMA/affordable housing plans</b> Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.	S Local Governmen	Barkis	
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2714 (SB 6498)</u></a> <b>Riparian easement carbon val</b> Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.	S Ag/Water/Natura	Hoff	
<a href="#"><u>SHB 2758</u></a> <b>911 dispatch personnel/PTSD</b> Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.	S Labor & Commerc	Corry	



<a href="#"><u>ESHB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>2786</u></a>	<b>Opioid response council</b> Establishing the opioid epidemic response advisory council.	S Ways & Means	Robinson
<a href="#"><u>ESHB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>2919</u></a>	<b>REET county fees</b> Adjusting the amount and use of county fees on the real estate excise tax.	H Passed 3rd	Chopp
<a href="#"><u>ESSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5522</u></a>	<b>City annexing/interlocal ag.</b> Providing code cities with the ability to annex unincorporated areas pursuant to a jointly approved interlocal agreement with the county.	H Local Govt	Takko
<a href="#"><u>E2SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>6128</u></a> (HB <a href="#"><u>2381</u></a> )	<b>Postpartum period/Medicaid</b> Extending coverage during the postpartum period.	H Approps	Randall Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 6212</u></a> (HB <a href="#"><u>2489</u></a> )	<b>Affordable housing/prop. tax</b> 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.	S Passed 3rd	Das
<a href="#"><u>SB 6354</u></a> (HB <a href="#"><u>2729</u></a> )	<b>Small rural hospital payment</b> Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.	S Passed 3rd	King
<a href="#"><u>ESSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>6592</u></a>	<b>Tourism authorities</b> Concerning tourism authorities.	S Passed 3rd	Holy
<a href="#"><u>ESSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>6617</u></a>	<b>Accessory dwelling units</b> Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.	S Passed 3rd	Lias