



Skagit County - Government Relations Report February 1, 2020

Now only a week away from the first cutoff deadline, this week, the Legislature scrambled to fit in as many hearings and executive sessions as possible to ensure their bills pass out of policy committees. Bills must pass out of policy committees by Friday, February 7th, to continue in the legislative process, while bills that have a fiscal impact have been referred to a fiscal committee, where they will need to pass out by Tuesday, February 11th. Bills that passed a policy committee that don't have a fiscal impact are automatically referred to the Rules Committee until they are pulled to the floor.

We look forward to seeing Commissioner Janicki in Olympia next week for Legislative Steering Committee.

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. [Sen. Liz Lovelett](#) (D- Anacortes) is sponsoring the request in the Senate, while [Rep. Alex Ramel](#) (D- Bellingham) is sponsoring the House request. Both request forms have now been submitted to their sponsors who will forward the request to Capital Budget leadership.

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 and are waiting to be pulled to the floor. Last week, GTHGA and Commissioner Janicki met with Rep. Doglio to discuss the request. Rep. Doglio indicated that she is introducing amendments to the bill resulting from stakeholder work with certain cities within King County; however, both Skagit County and the cities involved in the stakeholder process have yet to receive draft language.

King County has introduced legislation allowing King County to levy a business and occupation tax for affordable housing and human services, [House Bill 2709](#). The bill is scheduled for a hearing next Tuesday, February 4th, in the House Finance Committee. While the bill was not proposed as an alternative to HB 1590 / SB 6126, it is possible this proposal will complete with HB 1590 / SB 6126. This situation is emergent and GTHGA will remain engaged with the prime sponsor and other proponents to determine strategy going forward.

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. Erwin 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) was dropped on Tuesday and was referred to the Appropriations Committee. A hearing has not been scheduled.

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>
<p>HB 1679 (SSB 5676)</p> <p>Councilmanic REET/GMA</p> <p>This bill 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.</p>	H Finance	Frame		Support
<p>HB 1718</p> <p>Existing resources/local gov</p> <p>This bill 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.</p>	H 2nd Reading	Volz		Support

<u>HB 2247</u>	Marijuana licensing/zoning Aligning marijuana licensing decisions by the liquor and cannabis board with local zoning ordinances.	H Commerce & Gam	Goehner	Support
<u>HB 2348</u> (SB 6229)	Housing funds/quality award Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	H Rules R	Duerr	Support
<u>HB 2421</u>	Election cost reimbursement Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	H Approps	Tarleton	Support
<u>HB 2494</u>	Public facilities tax/rural Concerning sales and use tax for public facilities in rural or border counties.	H Finance	Stonier	Support
<u>HB 2526</u> (SB 6314)	Home foreclosure/taxes Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.	H Local Govt	Volz	Oppose
<u>HB 2672</u>	Intensive rural development Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.	H Env & Energy	Barkis	Support
<u>HB 2797</u> (SB 6631)	Housing/sales & use tax Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.	H Finance	Robinson	Support
<u>SSB 5366</u>	Urban centers/multiple-units 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
<u>SSB 5676</u>	Councilmanic REET/GMA This bill 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. The bill was amended in 2019, adding a referendum process to repeal an ordinance imposing REET II.	S Rules 2	Takko	Support

<u>ESB 5779</u>	Ballot drop box placement	S State Govt/Trib	Kuderer	Support
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.				
<u>SB 6126</u>	Housing tax/councilmanic	S Rules 2	Hunt	Support
Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority.				
<u>SB 6134</u>	Election cost reimbursement	S Ways & Means	Hunt	Support
Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.				
<u>SB 6229</u> (HB 2348)	Housing funds/quality award	S 2nd Reading	Kuderer	Support
Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.				
<u>SB 6314</u> (HB 2526)	Home foreclosure/taxes	S Ways & Means	Holy	Oppose
Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.				
<u>SB 6328</u>	Local infra. investment prg	S Housing Stabil	Warnick	Support
Creating a local infrastructure investment program to support the development of affordable housing, workforce housing, and revitalization efforts.				
<u>SB 6592</u>	Tourism authorities	S Local Governmen	Holy	Oppose
Concerning tourism authorities.				

Monitoring

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>HB 1829</u>	S Ways & Means	Chapman		
This bill allows counties to create a separate levy for the veteran assistance fund. The Washington Association of Counties supported this bill.				



<u>HB 2230</u> (SB 6080)	Indian tribe-owned property Subjecting federally recognized Indian tribes to the same conditions as state and local governments for property owned exclusively by the tribe.	H Rules R	Gregerson	
<u>HB 2260</u>	Dependency proceeding notice Concerning the publication of notice for dependency proceedings.	H H Svcs & Erly	Griffey	
<u>HB 2275</u>	Sewage wastewater discharges Concerning certain illegal discharges of sewage wastewater into Puget Sound.	H Env & Energy	Stokesbary	
<u>HB 2282</u>	Unused public buildings Creating a grant program for converting unused public buildings to housing for homeless persons.	H Cap Budget	Walsh	
<u>HB 2342</u>	Comprehensive plan updates 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 Env & Energy	Fitzgibbon	
<u>SHB 2343</u>	Urban housing Concerning urban housing supply.	H Rules R	Fitzgibbon	Neutral
<u>HB 2362</u> (SB 6652)	Local transportation revenue Addressing local transportation revenue options.	H Trans	Ramos	
<u>HB 2420</u>	Indigent defense/state Requiring the office of public defense to assume duties for the provision of trial court indigent defense services.	H Approps	Irwin	
<u>HB 2427</u> (SB 6453)	Climate change/GMA Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	H Env & Energy	Duerr	



<u>HB 2489</u> (SB 6212)	Affordable housing/prop. tax	H Finance	Ryu	
Concerning the authority of counties, cities, and towns to exceed statutory property tax limitations for the purpose of financing affordable housing for very low-income households and low-income households.				
<u>HB 2506</u>	Marbled murrelet committee	H RDev, Ag&NR	Walsh	
Increasing transparency in the marbled murrelet advisory committee process by requiring advance public notice of all committee meetings.				
<u>HB 2549</u>	Salmon recovery efforts/GMA	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff	
Integrating salmon recovery efforts with growth management.				
<u>HB 2550</u>	Net ecological gain	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff	Neutral
Establishing net ecological gain as a policy for application across identified land use, development, and environmental laws.				
<u>HB 2553</u>	Water resource policy group	H RDev, Ag&NR	Lekanoff	
Creating a joint executive, legislative, and interagency work group on water resource policy for the purpose of developing a statewide water action plan.				
<u>HB 2559</u> (SB 6365)	WDFW/payments in lieu of tax	H Approps	Springer	
Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.				
<u>HB 2570</u>	Accessory dwelling units	H Env & Energy	Gregerson	
Managing growth by planning and zoning for accessory dwelling units.				
<u>HB 2603</u> (SB 6494)	Trust water rights	H RDev, Ag&NR	Springer	
Concerning trust water rights.				
<u>HB 2609</u> (SB 6335)	Climate change/GMA	H Env & Energy	Duerr	Neutral
Addressing climate change through growth management.				



<u>HB 2625</u>	Local parks funding options Concerning local parks funding options.	H Finance	Eslick	
<u>HB 2649</u>	Homeless shelter capacity Concerning homeless shelter capacity.	H Hous, Com Dev	Ryu	Concerns
<u>HB 2668</u>	Affordable housing options Providing local governments with options to preserve affordable housing in their communities.	H Finance	Ryu	
<u>HB 2671</u>	Short subdivisions Concerning short subdivisions.	H Local Govt	Walsh	
<u>HB 2679</u> (SB 6451)	Nonprofit health carriers Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.	H Approps	Robinson	
<u>HB 2687</u>	GMA/affordable housing plans Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.	H Env & Energy	Barkis	
<u>HB 2714</u> (SB 6498)	Riparian easement carbon val Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Hoff	
<u>HB 2729</u> (SB 6354)	Small rural hospital payment Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.	H Approps	Dufault	
<u>HB 2758</u>	911 dispatch personnel/PTSD Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.	H Labor & Workpl	Corry	
<u>HB 2765</u>	Committee on water Creating a joint select committee on water.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Lekanoff	
<u>HB 2778</u>	Community redevl. financing	H Finance	Sullivan	



Concerning community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.

<u>HB 2780</u> (SB 6536)	Single-family zones Creating more housing options in traditionally single-family zones.	H Env & Energy	Macri	Neutral
<u>HB 2866</u>	Transfer of water rights Prohibiting transfers of water rights out of their original water resource inventory area.	H RDev, Ag&NR	Goehner	
<u>HB 2886</u>	Local government permitting Concerning local government permitting and land use decisions.	H Local Govt	Gildon	Neutral
<u>HB 2900</u>	Marijuana excise tax distrib Concerning marijuana excise tax distributions to local governments.	H Approps	Peterson	
<u>HJR 4212</u>	Community redevelop. financing Providing for community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.	H Finance	Sullivan	
<u>SB 6036</u>	Droughts/trust water rights Providing opportunities for drought mitigation using trust water rights.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Honeyford	
<u>SB 6080</u> (HB 2230)	Indian tribe-owned property Subjecting federally recognized Indian tribes to the same conditions as state and local governments for property owned exclusively by the tribe.	S State Govt/Tri	Hunt	
<u>SB 6150</u>	GMA actions effective date Concerning the effective date of certain actions taken under the growth management act.	S Local Governme	Salomon	
<u>SB 6186</u>	Homelessness diversion Prioritizing homelessness diversion services.	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	



<u>SB 6212</u> (HB 2489)	Affordable housing/prop. tax	S Housing Stabil	Das	
Concerning the authority of counties, cities, and towns to exceed statutory property tax limitations for the purpose of financing affordable housing for very low-income households and low-income households.				
<u>SB 6260</u>	Water resources/tribes	S Ag/Water/Natur	McCoy	
Concerning tribal traditional and cultural interests in water resources.				
<u>SB 6292</u>	Water rights sales	S Ag/Water/Natur	Salomon	
Concerning water rights sales.				
<u>SB 6301</u>	Surface water rights	S Ag/Water/Natur	Van De Wege	
Concerning public interest considerations in the transfer or change of surface water rights.				
<u>SB 6334</u> (SHB 2343)	Urban housing	S Housing Stabil	Salomon	Neutral
Concerning urban housing supply.				
<u>SB 6335</u> (HB 2609)	Climate change/GMA	S Local Governme	Salomon	Neutral
Addressing climate change through growth management.				
<u>SB 6354</u> (HB 2729)	Small rural hospital payment	S Health & Long	King	
Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.				
<u>SB 6365</u> (HB 2559)	WDFW/payments in lieu of tax	S Ways & Means	Warnick	
Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.				
<u>SB 6386</u>	Low-income housing/fees	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	
Reducing impact fees for low-income housing.				
<u>SB 6387</u>	Housing/impact fee timelines	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	



Accelerating housing infrastructure investments by adjusting impact fee timelines.

<u>SB 6388</u>	Housing/impact fees Concerning impact fees for multifamily and single-family housing.	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	Neutral
<u>SB 6446</u>	Lodging taxes/housing Concerning lodging taxes for affordable housing.	S Housing Stabil	Kuderer	
<u>SB 6451</u> (HB 2679)	Nonprofit health carriers Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.	S Ways & Means	Frockt	
<u>SB 6453</u> (HB 2427)	Climate change/GMA Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.	S Local Governme	Salomon	
<u>SB 6454</u>	Salmon habitat planning Concerning local salmon habitat recovery planning in critical areas.	S Local Governmen	Salomon	
<u>SB 6457</u>	American dream homes Promoting housing affordability by incentivizing the construction of American dream homes.	S Housing Stabil	Fortunato	
<u>SB 6461</u>	Project permit timelines Concerning permit timelines.	S Local Governmen	Fortunato	
<u>SB 6463</u>	Comp. plans/environment Eliminating environmental analysis and mitigation requirements on projects within the comprehensive plan.	S Local Governme	Wilson	
<u>SB 6484</u>	CTC property tax levy Allowing counties to seek voter approval for a property tax levy to fund community and technical college districts.	S Higher Ed & Wor	Frockt	Neutral



<u>SB 6494</u> (HB 2603)	Trust water rights Concerning trust water rights.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Rolfes	
<u>SB 6498</u> (HB 2714)	Riparian easement carbon val Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.	S Ag/Water/Natur	Braun	
<u>SB 6514</u>	Irrigation dist. elections Addressing irrigation district elections.	S Local Governme	Schoesler	
<u>SB 6519</u>	Archaeological sites Requiring protection of archaeological and cultural sites by state agencies, local governments, and all recipients of state revenue.	S State Govt/Tri	McCoy	Neutral
<u>SB 6544</u>	GMA/agricultural land Encouraging the success of agriculture on agricultural land.	S Local Governme	Zeiger	
<u>SB 6545</u>	Voluntary stewardship prog. Concerning the voluntary stewardship program.	S Local Governme	Zeiger	
<u>SB 6585</u>	Medication-assisted tx/jails Encouraging the use of medication-assisted treatment within jails.	S Human Svcs, Re	Zeiger	Neutral
<u>SB 6617</u>	Accessory dwelling units Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.	S Housing Stabil	Lias	
<u>SB 6618</u>	Housing benefit districts Establishing housing benefit districts.	S Housing Stabil	Lias	
<u>SB 6631</u> (HB 2797)	Housing/sales & use tax Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.	S Housing Stabil	Saldana	
<u>SB 6649</u>	Emerg. homeless shelters/tax	S Housing Stabil	Zeiger	



Establishing a local sales and use tax option to fund emergency homeless shelters.

<u>SB 6652</u> (HB 2362)	Local transportation revenue Addressing local transportation revenue options.	S Transportation	Nguyen
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Upcoming Events

Commerce & Gaming (House) - HHR C, JLOB - 2/3 @ 1:30pm

- HB 2247 - Public Hearing - Aligning marijuana licensing decisions by the liquor and cannabis board with local zoning ordinances. (Support)

Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/3 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6212 - Exec Session - 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.
- SB 6328 - Exec Session - Creating a local infrastructure investment program to support the development of affordable housing, workforce housing, and revitalization efforts. (Support)
- SB 6386 - Exec Session - Reducing impact fees for low-income housing.
- SB 6457 - Exec Session - Promoting housing affordability by incentivizing the construction of American dream homes.
- SB 6631 - Public Hearing - Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.

Local Government (Senate) - SHR 3, - 2/4 @ 8:00am

- SB 6592 - Public Hearing - Concerning tourism authorities. (Oppose)

Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/4 @ 10:00am

- HB 2714 - Exec Session - Valuing the carbon in forest riparian easements.

Higher Education & Workforce Development (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/4 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6484 - Public Hearing - Allowing counties to seek voter approval for a property tax levy to fund community and technical college districts. (Neutral)

Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/4 @ 3:30pm



- HB 2342 - Exec Session - Aligning the timing of comprehensive plan updates required by the growth management act with the timing of shoreline master program updates required by the shoreline management act.
- HB 2427 - Exec Session - Tackling climate change as a goal of the growth management act.
- HB 2550 - Exec Session - Establishing net ecological gain as a policy for application across identified land use, development, and environmental laws. (Neutral)
- HB 2570 - Exec Session - Managing growth by planning and zoning for accessory dwelling units.

Labor & Workplace Standards (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/4 @ 3:30pm

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

Human Services, Reentry & Rehabilitation (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/5 @ 8:00am

- SB 6585 - Public Hearing - Encouraging the use of medication-assisted treatment within jails. (Neutral)

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/5 @ 8:00am

- HB 2886 - Public Hearing - Concerning local government permitting and land use decisions. (Neutral)

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/5 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6354 - Exec Session - Providing enhanced payment to low volume, small rural hospitals.

Housing Stability & Affordability (Senate) - SHR 2, - 2/5 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6617 - Exec Session - Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.
- SB 6631 - Exec Session - Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.
- SB 6649 - Public Hearing - Establishing a local sales and use tax option to fund emergency homeless shelters.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/5 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2421 - Exec Session - Concerning state reimbursement of election costs. (Support)

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 2/5 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6314 - Exec Session - Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure. (Oppose)
- SB 6365 - Exec Session - Concerning payments in lieu of real property taxes by the department of fish and wildlife.



Environment & Energy (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/6 @ 8:00am

- HB 2780 - Public Hearing - Creating more housing options in traditionally single-family zones. (Neutral)

Capital Budget (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/6 @ 1:30pm

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

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/6 @ 1:30pm

- HB 2625 - Public Hearing - Concerning local parks funding options.
- HB 2778 - Public Hearing - Concerning community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.

Appropriations (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/6 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2679 - Exec Session - Concerning funding for individuals who are not eligible for federal insurance subsidies and for foundational public health services.

Rural Development, Agriculture, & Natural Resources (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/7 @ 10:00am

- HB 2603 - Exec Session - Concerning trust water rights.
- HB 2765 - Exec Session - Creating a joint select committee on water.
- HB 2866 - Exec Session - Prohibiting transfers of water rights out of their original water resource inventory area.

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/7 @ 1:30pm

- HB 2625 - Exec Session - Concerning local parks funding options.
- HB 2778 - Exec Session - Concerning community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.
- HB 2797 - Exec Session - Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing. (Support)
- HB 2797 - Public Hearing - Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing. (Support)
- HJR 4212 - Public Hearing - Providing for community redevelopment financing in apportionment districts.