



## Skagit County - Government Relations Report March 7, 2020

With less than a week remaining of the 2020 legislative session, the Legislature will focus on reconciling differences between each chamber's budget proposals, and differences between bills that passed each chamber with differing amendments. Bills needed to have passed the opposite chamber by this past Friday, March 6, to remain under consideration. The legislative session is scheduled to conclude (sine die) on March 12.

If both chambers have approved identical versions of a bill, the bill has been delivered to the Governor's Office to be signed into law. Bills received by the Governor's Office on or before March 5 will be signed within 5 days of receipt. All other bills will be signed within 20 days of being delivered to the Governor's Office, making April 4 the final day that bills will be signed into law. Unless indicated otherwise in the bill, bills will be effective law starting June 11.

### Legislative Priorities

#### **House Bill 1590 – Councilmanic Local Option Housing Sales Tax**

This was an exciting week for us in advocating for HB 1590. The bill has had a series of ups and downs throughout legislative session, and its fate was uncertain through the week. The bill was pulled from the Senate Rules Committee late last week. We spoke with all three of Skagit County's Senate members at least once, including a discussion on Thursday with Commissioner Janicki and Senator Lovelett. The bill was finally passed off the Senate floor on Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, with a narrow 27-21 margin. Member votes were mixed, with Republican support coming from [Sen. Maureen Walsh](#) (R-Walla Walla) and opposition to the bill from moderate democrats [Sen. Steve Hobbs](#) (D- Lake Stevens) and [Sen. Mark Mullet](#) (D- Issaquah). The bill was amended by the Senate to:

- Include 30 percent revenue sharing with eligible King County cities;
- Reinstate the voter-approved tax option; and
- Allow cities within a county that has not taken the full tax by September 30, 2020 to impose the remainder of the tax.

These amendments were agreed to by the House sponsor and other advocates, so we expect that the House will concur on the amendments before sine die on Thursday, March 12.

In addition to our work on HB 1590, this last week we communicated the County's positions on the remaining priority bills and budget items, listed below, that are still in play. We will continue to advocate for these positions as session wraps up later this week.

#### Operating Budget

Request	House Proposal	Senate Proposal
Investments in Homelessness and Affordable Housing	Funding for the Housing Trust Fund: \$100 million – Section 722  Permanent Supportive Housing Assistance Account:	Homeless shelter capacity grants to local governments: \$13,279,000 – Section 127 (89)



	\$75 million – Section 723	
Additional funding for Medicaid Assisted Treatment (MAT)	\$50,000 to study options to provide MAT statewide.	\$4.5 million from the Criminal Justice Treatment Account for the HCA to assist cities and counties with establishing therapeutic courts or to assist existing therapeutic courts with implementing MAT in jails.
Additional share of marijuana revenue to local governments	Additional \$3.5 million allocated to local governments.	\$0

## Bills

Bill Number	Title	Position
HB 1590	Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority (Doglio)	Skagit County Priority Bill - <b>Support</b>
HB 2797	Sales tax for affordable housing correction (Robinson)	Support
HB 2421	Election costs (Tarleton)	Support
HB 2528	Forest products/climate change (Ramos)	Support

## Bill Summaries

Outlined below are relevant bills GTHGA is tracking for the County that are still alive. 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

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
<a href="#">HB 1590</a>	Housing tax/councilmanic	Allowing the local sales and use tax for affordable housing to be imposed by a councilmanic authority.	S Passed 3rd	Doglio	Support
<a href="#">ESHB 2421</a>	Election cost reimbursement	Concerning state reimbursement of election costs.	H ref/S recede	Tarleton	Support
<a href="#">E2SHB 2528</a>	Forest products/climate	Recognizing the contributions of the state's forest products sector as part of the	S Passed 3rd	Ramos	Support



		state's global climate response.			
<a href="#">HB 2545</a>	Jail records/managed health	Making jail records available to managed health care systems.	S Passed 3rd	Davis	Support
<a href="#">EHB 2797</a>	Housing/sales & use tax	Concerning the sales and use tax for affordable and supportive housing.	S Ways & Means	Robinson	Support
<a href="#">SB 6229</a>	Housing funds/quality award	Streamlining reporting for recipients of housing-related state funding by removing Washington state quality award program requirements.	H Spkr Signed	Kuderer	Support

### Monitoring

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
<a href="#">SHB 1293</a>	Discover pass penalty dist.	Concerning the distribution of monetary penalties to local courts and state agencies paid for failure to comply with discover pass requirements.	S Passed 3rd	Tharinger
<a href="#">HB 2230</a>	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 Passed 3rd	Gregerson
<a href="#">ESHB 2342</a>	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.	S Passed 3rd	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">SHB 2343</a>	Urban housing	Concerning urban housing supply.	H Passed FP	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">SHB 2758</a>	911 dispatch personnel/PTSD	Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorders of 911 emergency dispatch personnel.	S Passed 3rd	Corry
<a href="#">EHB 2965</a>	Coronavirus response	Concerning the state's response to the novel coronavirus.	S Passed 3rd	Cody
<a href="#">ESSB 5522</a>	City annexing/interlocal ag.	Providing code cities with the ability to annex unincorporated areas pursuant to a jointly	H Spkr Signed	Takko



		approved interlocal agreement with the county.		
<a href="#">E2SSB 6128</a>	Postpartum period/Medicaid	Extending coverage during the postpartum period.	H Passed 3rd	Randall
<a href="#">SB 6212</a>	Affordable housing/prop. tax	Concerning the authority of counties, cities, and towns to exceed statutory property tax limitations for the purpose of financing affordable housing for very low-income households and low-income households.	H Passed 3rd	Das
<a href="#">ESSB 6592</a>	Tourism authorities	Concerning tourism authorities.	H Passed 3rd	Holy
<a href="#">ESSB 6617</a>	Accessory dwelling units	Concerning accessory dwelling unit regulation.	H Passed 3rd	Liias