



## Skagit County - Government Relations Report April 12, 2021

Sunday, April 11, marked the second to last deadline of the 2021 Legislative Session – bills needed to have been approved by both the House and Senate to remain under consideration this year. Approximately 275 bills have passed the Legislature or remain under consideration. Over the next two weeks, the Legislature will continue to focus on reconciling differences between each chamber's budget proposals, bills that are *Necessary To Implement the Budget*, and bills on the Concurrence Calendar.

The Concurrence Calendar is a list of bills that have passed out of both chambers but were amended in the second chamber. In order for the bill to pass the Legislature, the differences in the two version of the bill approved by each chamber need to be reconciled. The chamber of origin may 1) concur in the amendments made by the opposite chamber; 2) ask the opposite chamber to recede from the amendments; or 3) may request a conference, where a small group of legislators work to develop a compromise version of the bill. If the two chambers cannot reach an agreement prior to April 25<sup>th</sup>, the bill does not pass.

Once a bill passes the legislature, it is delivered to the Governor for him to sign it into law, veto, or partially veto (he has the authority to remove entire sections of a bill, but not specific sentences). After the Legislature approves a bill, the Governor has five days, excluding Sundays, to take action on it, unless the Legislature is within five days of adjournment when it approves the bill, in which case the Governor has 20 days to take action. The final day of the 2021 Legislative Session is Sunday, April 25.

### Session Cutoff Calendar

February 15, 2021	Policy Committee Deadline
February 22, 2021	Fiscal Committee Deadline
March 9, 2021	Chamber-of-Origin Deadline
March 26, 2021	Opposite Chamber Policy Committee Deadline
April 2, 2021	Opposite Chamber Fiscal Committee Deadline
April 11, 2021	Opposite Chamber Deadline
April 25, 2021	Session adjourns - Sine Die

### Legislative Priorities

#### Skagit County Morgue

Skagit County is requesting \$135,000 in the capital budget for the construction of a new county morgue. This project would greatly increase caseload capacity for the County and provides regional benefit, including increased capacity for soft-tissue donation. Sen. Keith Wagoner (R- Sedro-Woolley)



is sponsoring this request in the Senate and Rep. Dave Paul (D- Oak Harbor) is sponsoring the bill in the House. As previously reported, both the House and Senate proposed capital budgets fully funded the Morgue: the House provided slightly more for the project, \$139,000, while the Senate provided the requested \$135,000. We will not need to do anything to ensure this project is included in the final capital budget. Legislators have begun negotiating the final budget. To aid our delegation in these negotiations and on the floor, we have provided them an email summary outlining the status of the County's requests.

#### Didg<sup>w</sup>álič Wellness Center

Skagit County is a strong advocate for statewide and regional investments in behavioral health. The County supports the Swinomish Tribe's request for \$9 million in capital budget funding to expanding the existing didg<sup>w</sup>álič Wellness Center. The request is part of Phase III of the Wellness Center, which includes the addition of detox, emergency housing, transitional and workforce housing components. As previously reported, both the House and Senate proposed budgets provide a significant amount of funding for the project: \$4.5 million in the House proposed capital budget and \$3.295 million in the Senate proposed capital budget. We noted this disparity in our email to the delegation.

#### Re-Appropriate Funds for Sedro-Woolley E&T

Skagit County received \$1.5 million in the 2017-19 biennium and \$6.6 million in the 2019-2021 biennium in funding for the Skagit County Evaluation and Treatment Center and, due to COVID-19 delays, has requested re-appropriation of these funds. The House and Senate capital budgets both re-appropriate both E&T allocations. We have confirmed this with capital budget staff.

#### Levy Certification Timing

Skagit County is putting forward [House Bill 1309](#), which would better align the dates by which the County must certify property tax levies and budget adoption. Currently, the County must certify property tax levies for all taxing districts before adopting the budget, making compliance impossible. Rep. Carolyn Eslick (R- Sultan) sponsored the proposal with Rep. Ramel (D- Bellingham) cosponsoring. The bill passed the House unanimously. After working with many legislators to advance this bill in the Senate, including Sen. Ron Muzzall (R- Oak Harbor), Minority Floor Leader Sen. Shelly Short (R- Addy), and Floor Leader Sen. Marko Liias (D- Lynnwood), the bill cleared the Senate unanimously! This bill did not receive a single vote against it throughout the entire legislative process. We have distributed a letter to Governor Inslee requesting rapid signature of the bill; it has been delivered to the Governor's desk as of April 8<sup>th</sup>.

#### ***Other Items***

##### REET 2 Flexibility

Skagit County requests that the Legislature allows temporary authority for jurisdictions to use REET 2 revenue for affordable housing operations and maintenance. This provision is included in [House Bill 1069](#), sponsored by House Local Government Chair Rep. Gerry Pollet (D- Seattle). The bill has been amended to include limitations on the REET 2 flexibility provisions, only allowing either \$100,000 or 35% percent of REET 2 funds, whatever is greater, to be used for operations and maintenance on existing capital projects. Commissioner Janicki spoke at the Governor's press conference on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>, emphasizing the need for the REET 2 flexibility provisions authorized in the bill. The bill passed the Senate 26-22, on Sunday, the final day for bills to advance out of the opposite chamber. In our email to the delegation, we emphasized the need for this bill to move before cutoff;



unfortunately, only Sen. Lovelett from our delegation voted in favor of the bill. The bill was not amended on the floor and has been sent to the Governor for signature.

### COVID Relief and Recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly impacted local governments and the communities they serve. Funding provided to counties for COVID-19 response is used for essential programs, including local public health, emergency rental assistance, emergency homelessness assistance, and small business economic relief. Skagit County requests that the Legislature continue to provide sufficient funding to maintain COVID-19 response and other essential county functions.

### *Public Health Restructure Proposal*

Despite facing difficulties in the Senate, democrats continue to advance the Governor-request public health restructuring bill: [House Bill 1152](#), sponsored by Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D- Spokane) and sponsored in the Senate by Sen. June Robinson (D- Everett). [House Bill 1152](#) was introduced as Governor-request legislation establishing regionalized, state-administrated comprehensive public health districts. The underlying bill eliminated local public health jurisdictions and gave the state oversight over the newly formed regional comprehensive public health districts. The bill has been amended significantly to mitigate stakeholder concerns, and this week, was amended again on the Senate floor, rolling back changes even further. The Senate did not adopt the striking amendment adopted in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, which included high-level structural changes: establishing four regional comprehensive public health district centers to coordinate and deliver shared services, creating the Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee to guide FPHS policy direction and implementation, and establishing the Public Health Advisory Board to monitor and evaluate the public health system.

As amended on the Senate floor, the bill includes two main components: establishing the Public Health Advisory Board and making changes to local boards of health composition. The Public Health Advisory Board must monitor, develop goals for, and evaluate the public health system. The Advisory Board is housed in the Department of Health and includes membership from medium (400,000 – 600,000) and small counties (under 200,000) from both sides of the state. Local board of health composition changes are retained from the previous version of the bill, including the exemption for counties with a pre-existing advisory board. Changes to local boards of health are required by July 1, 2022. The bill will return to the House for concurrence in the following weeks.

### *Funding Proposals*

As previously reported, both the House and Senate proposed operating budgets provide additional investment in Foundational Public Health Services, fully covering the cost of implementing this bill. The House provides one-time funding totaling \$100 million, while the Senate provides an ongoing \$150 million for foundational public health services. The Senate proposal gradually increases: \$50 million in 2022, \$100 million in 2023, and \$150 per year in 2024 and 2025, funded out of the general fund. WSALPHO is advocating for the Senate proposal to be included in the final budget, as the funding level is significantly greater and is ongoing.



GTHGA is monitoring the following priority items on your behalf. We will provide updates on these items as legislative action occurs. We will continue to be in contact with you on legislative proposals relevant to these items.

Support Capital Budget Funding for:

- Heritage Grant Program
- Washington State Housing Trust Fund
- Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office Grants
- Brian Abbot Fish Barrier Removal Board

### Upcoming Events

**Ways & Means (Senate) - Virtual, - 4/12 @ 9:00am**

2SHB 1157 - Exec Session - Increasing housing supply through the growth management act and housing density tax incentives for local governments.

### 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. Bills in the following lists are marked “alive” and “dead” accordingly.

**Alive – Lobbying**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1069</u></a> <b>Local gov fiscal flexibility</b> Concerning local government fiscal flexibility.	S Passed 3rd	Pollet	Support
<a href="#"><u>E2SHB 1152 (SB 5173)</u></a> <b>Comp health districts</b> Supporting measures to create comprehensive public health districts.	S Passed 3rd	Riccelli	Concerns
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1225</u></a> <b>School-based health centers</b> Concerning school-based health centers.	S Pres Signed	Stonier	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1309</u></a> <b>Levy certification dates</b> Concerning the dates of certification of levies.	Del to Gov	Eslick	Support
<b>Electric ferries/counties</b>	S Passed 3rd	Pollet	Support



[SHB 1502](#)

Concerning the procurement and design of electric ferries by counties.

**Dead – Lobbying**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1025</u></a> (Dead) (SB 5006)	<b>Local parks funding options</b> Concerning local parks funding options.	H Finance	Wicks	Support
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1333</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Rural public facilities/tax</b> Providing an extension to the local sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties.	S 2nd Reading	Tharinger	Support
<a href="#"><u>SB 5006</u></a> (Dead) (HB 1025)	<b>Local parks funding options</b> Concerning local parks funding options.	S Ways & Means	Van De Wege	Support

**Alive – Monitoring**

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1070</u></a>	<b>Housing/local tax revenue</b> Modifying allowed uses of local tax revenue for affordable housing and related services to include the acquisition and construction of affordable housing and facilities.	Del to Gov	Ryu	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1332</u></a> (SB 5402)	<b>Property tax deferral/COVID</b> Concerning property tax deferral during the COVID-19 pandemic.	S Passed 3rd	Sullivan	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1368</u></a> (SB 5344)	<b>Federal funding/COVID-19</b> Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic through state actions supported by federal funding.	C 3 L 21	Ormsby	
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1410</u></a>	<b>Home foreclosure/taxes</b> Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure.	S Passed 3rd	Volz	
	<b>Rural economic development</b>	H Passed 3rd	Short	



[2SSB  
5368](#)

Encouraging rural economic development.

[SB 5476](#)

**State v. Blake decision**

S Rules 2

Dhingra

Addressing the State v. Blake decision.

**Dead – Monitoring**

**Bill Details**

**Status**

**Sponsor**

**Position**

[ESHB  
1056](#)  
(Dead)

**Public meetings/emergencies**

S Rules 2

Pollet

Concerning open public meeting notice requirements and declared emergencies.

[E2SHB  
1099](#)  
(Dead)

**Comprehensive planning**

S Transportation

Duerr

Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.

[HB 1110](#)  
(Dead)

**Local boards of health**

H HC/Wellness

Riccelli

Concerning the composition of local boards of health.

[E2SHB  
1117](#)  
(Dead)

**Comp. planning/salmon**

S 2nd Reading

Lekanoff

Neutral

Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework.

[2SHB  
1157](#)  
(Dead)  
(SSB  
5390)

**Housing supply**

S Ways & Means

Bateman

Increasing housing supply through the growth management act and housing density tax incentives for local governments.

[HB 1201](#)  
(Dead)  
(SSB  
5149)

**Found. public health funding**

H Finance

Riccelli

Funding foundational public health services.

[2SHB  
1202](#)  
(Dead)

**Police misconduct/civil rem.**

H Rules C

Thai

Addressing meaningful civil remedies for persons injured as a result of police misconduct, including by allowing for an award of attorney fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief.



<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1232</u></a> (Dead)	<b>GMA/affordable housing plans</b>	S Rules 2	Barkis
Planning for affordable housing under the growth management act.			
<a href="#"><u>ESHB 1241</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Growth management act plans</b>	S 2nd Reading	Duerr
Planning under the growth management act.			
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1298</u></a> (Dead) (SB 5221)	<b>Accessory dwelling units</b>	H Rules C	Vick
Concerning regulation of accessory dwelling units located outside of urban growth areas.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1308</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Apprenticeship utilization</b>	H Cap Budget	Riccelli
Expanding apprenticeship utilization requirements.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1337</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Accessory dwelling units</b>	H Local Govt	Gregerson
Concerning accessory dwelling units.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1362</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Property tax revenue growth</b>	H Finance	Duerr
Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1407</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Fees of county officers</b>	H Civil R & Judi	Volz
Concerning fees of county officers.			
<a href="#"><u>2SHB 1412</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Legal financial obligations</b>	H Rules R	Simmons
Concerning legal financial obligations.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1414</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Marijuana licensing/zoning</b>	H Commerce & Gam	Goehner
Aligning marijuana licensing decisions by the liquor and cannabis board with local zoning ordinances.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1440</u></a> (Dead)	<b>Small wireless facilities</b>	H Comm & Econ De	Boehnke
Bringing innovation and investment to Washington's economy by streamlining the requirements for deployment of small wireless facilities.			
	<b>Antidisplacement/prop. tax</b>	H Approps	Harris-Talley



[SHB 1494](#)  
(Dead)

Providing housing safety, security, and protection for Washington families by creating the antidisplacement property tax exemption.

[HB 1565](#)  
(Dead)

**PERS/TRS 1 benefit increase**      H Approps      Johnson  
Providing a benefit increase to certain retirees of the public employees' retirement system plan 1 and the teachers' retirement system plan 1.

[SB 5042](#)  
(Dead)

**GMA actions effective date**      S Rules X      Salomon  
Concerning the effective date of certain actions taken under the growth management act.

[SSB 5149](#)  
(Dead)  
(HB 1201)

**Found. public health funding**      S Ways & Means      Robinson  
Funding foundational public health services.

[SB 5221](#)  
(Dead)  
(SHB 1298)

**Accessory dwelling units**      S Housing & Loca      Gildon  
Concerning regulation of accessory dwelling units located outside of urban growth areas.

[ESSB 5275](#)  
(Dead)

**Intense rural dev. areas**      H 2nd Reading      Short  
Enhancing opportunity in limited areas of more intense rural development.

[SSB 5390](#)  
(Dead)  
(2SHB 1157)

**Housing supply**      S Ways & Means      Liias  
Increasing housing supply through the growth management act and housing density tax incentives for local governments.

[SB 5463](#)  
(Dead)

**Residential prop valuation**      S Ways & Means      Wilson  
Exempting a portion of the valuation of residential property from property taxation.

[SB 5471](#)  
(Dead)

**Controlled subst. possession**      S Law & Justice      Padden  
Concerning knowing possession of a controlled substance.