



Skagit County - Government Relations Report February 22, 2022

The sixth week of session was filled with committee hearings on bills from the opposite chamber, a positive revenue forecast, and rollouts of the state's supplemental operating, capital and transportation budgets. Now that all the budget proposals have been released, there will be public hearings to receive feedback and differences between the House and Senate proposals will need to be reconciled

Over the next several days, the legislature will work long hours to meet the next deadline of February 24, where all bills need to be voted out of the opposite chamber's policy committee.

Session Cutoff Calendar	
February 3, 2022	Policy Committee Deadline
February 7, 2022	Fiscal Committee Deadline
February 15, 2022	Chamber of Origin Deadline
February 24, 2022	Opposite Chamber Policy Committee Deadline
February 28, 2022	Opposite Chamber Fiscal Committee Deadline
March 4, 2022	Opposite Chamber Deadline
March 10, 2022	Session adjourns - Sine Die

Quarterly Revenue Forecast Update

Four times a year, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council adopts a bipartisan revenue forecast that is then used to build and adjust the states biennial budgets. On February 16, the Washington State Economic and Revenue Forecast Council released updated forecasts, once again bringing budget writers good news - the state is expected to collect \$2.774 billion more in revenue over four years. Combined with the prior increases experienced since lawmakers adopted the 2021-23 budget, revenues have now exceeded expectations by \$10.5 billion. Additional details can be found [here](#).

Budget Proposal Highlights

Senate Capital Budget

On February 16, the Senate released a bipartisan supplemental capital budget that makes sizeable investments in housing (\$472 million), broadband (\$120 million), water (\$327 million), and seismic safety (\$115 million). In total, the proposal spends \$94.8 million in available bond capacity, \$561.6 million in ARPA State Fiscal Recovery Funds balance, and \$290.3 million for the initial available IJA grants. Key investments include:

General Government/Local Government Support

- \$120 million for broadband planning and broadband infrastructure deployment under the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment Program as part of the IJA. The majority of this funding must be awarded by June 30, 2023 due to federal deadlines. Proposed investments



are in addition to funding provided in the 2021 legislative session for the biennium. Total funding includes:

- \$70 million for the State Broadband Office
- \$25 million for CERB
- \$25 million for the PWB
- \$44.5 million is provided to cover the costs that reflect the inflationary cost increases of materials and supply chain issues. \$39.5 million of this amount is available at the Office of Financial Management to provide relief to projects that are actively in construction. \$5 million is provided to Commerce to provide relief to local and community projects as well as community relief projects.

Natural Resources

- \$2 million is provided for the Farmland Protection and Land Access grant program, which provides farmland conservation easements to protect farms from development and make them more affordable to underserved and first-time farmers and ranchers.
- \$3 million is provided for the Voluntary Stewardship Program.

Homelessness/Affordable Housing

- \$290 million is provided for rapid housing acquisition and conversion. The funding will be used for housing projects that move people from unsanctioned encampments and public rights-of-way into transitional and more permanent housing solutions, and for housing projects in rural areas.
- \$71 million is provided for the production and preservation of permanent affordable housing within the Housing Trust Fund.
- \$86 million is provided to expand capacity for individuals in crisis, particularly the homeless, to have a short-term housing solution and receive care. This funding will create new capacity for 23-hour crisis triage facilities, crisis stabilization facilities, and youth residential crisis triage and stabilization facilities.
- \$25 million is provided for the Habitat for Humanity to build affordable housing units for lower-income individuals and families.
- \$16 million is provided for expanded behavioral health services in communities.

The budget bill may be [found here](#); budget highlights may be [found here](#).

House Capital Budget

On February 21, the House released a supplemental capital budget that makes sizeable investments in housing and homelessness, water, education and behavioral health. In addition to the \$77.4 million in bonding capacity, the proposal authorizes \$1.42 billion using alternative sources, including the operating budget and federal funding. Notable investments are below:

General Government/Infrastructure

- \$100 million in federal funding for broadband infrastructure grants, including:
 - \$50 million to the State Broadband Office
 - \$25 million to the Public Works Board
 - \$25 million to the Community Economic Revitalization Board (CERB)



- \$120 million from the Public Works Assistance Account for competitive sewer, drinking water, solid waste, and stormwater projects.
- \$42.5 million to CERB for capital construction projects and assisting communities in financing publicly owned economic development infrastructure improvements.

Natural Resources

- \$15 million for the Salmon Recovery Funding Board.

Affordable Housing, Homelessness, and Behavioral Health

- \$300 million for rapid capital housing acquisition and conversion. The funding will be used for housing projects that move people from unsanctioned encampments and public rights-of-way into transitional and more permanent housing solutions.
- \$100 million for the Apple Health and Homes rapid permanent supportive housing program (established in [House Bill 1866](#)).
- \$101.5 million for the Housing Trust Fund.
- \$3.3 million for grants to local governments and PUDs to assist in funding utility connections or improvements for new affordable housing projects.
- \$60 million is provided to community hospitals or other community providers to expand and establish new capacity for a minimum of ten 16-bed crisis triage and stabilization facilities for adults.
- \$26 million is provided for community-based projects for a variety of behavioral health services, including long-term civil commitments, triage, crisis diversion, detox, and adolescent services.
- \$12 million is provided for grants to community hospitals or other community providers to expand and establish new capacity for at least two residential crisis stabilizations facilities for youth.
- \$2 million is provided for a competitive grant program to expand enhanced services facilities.

Additional details on the House proposal can be found [here](#) and a summary can be found [here](#).

A comparison of the Senate, House, and Governor’s proposed investments in housing is below:

	<i>Senate Proposal</i>	<i>House Proposal</i>	<i>Governor’s Proposal</i>
Rapid Capital Fund	\$290 million	\$400 Million	\$335 million
Housing Trust Fund	\$71 million	\$101.5 million	\$100 million
Crisis Stabilization Fund	\$86 million	\$72 million	\$60 million
Habitat for Humanity	\$25 million	-	-
Total Investment	\$472 million	\$573.5 million	\$495 million

House Operating Budget

The current biennial operating budget spends \$59.1 billion, and the House supplemental proposal increases the budget to \$65 billion for the 2021-23 biennium. Highlights are below:



Homelessness/Housing

- \$55 million for eviction prevention rental assistance.
- \$43.5 million is appropriated to the Apple Health and Homes Account, established in [House Bill 1866](#).
- \$40.0 million for the Home Security Fund Account to continue the Shelter Capacity Grant Program through the 2023-25 biennium. This program provides grants to local governments to increase their net sheltering capacity.
- \$25 million for the Landlord Mitigation Program, which provides first-come first-served assistance to landlords for claims involving damages or lost rent for certain tenancies. Of the total amount provided, \$2 million is for claims brought pursuant to [Substitute House Bill 1593](#).
- \$101.3 million for the Department of Commerce to provide grants to local governments and nonprofits to transition individuals currently living on public rights-of-way to permanent housing solutions.
- \$8.04 million to the Health Care Authority and Department of Commerce to expand access to no barrier, low barrier, and transitional housing programs using a housing first model.
- \$50,000 to the Health Care Authority to study challenges to accessing behavioral health services in rural communities.

Utilities

- \$150 million is provided for the Department of Commerce to administer grants to nonprofit organizations to provide utility assistance for low-income households. Households may receive assistance for electricity, natural gas, water, sewer, and garbage utility arrears.

Land Use/GMA

- A total of \$35 million is provided for cities and counties to implement GMA legislation and policy goals:
 - \$10 million for planning grants to jurisdictions to update and implement comprehensive plans and development regulations (under [House Bill 1220](#)).
 - \$5.4 million for grants to local governments for costs of implementing [House Bill 1099](#).
 - \$11.6 million to cities and counties to implement [House Bill 1117](#). \$276,000 is provided to the Department of Commerce to provide technical assistance for implementation of HB 1117.
 - \$7.5 million in planning grants for cities amending their comprehensive plans in the 2024 cycle to take actions that would allow middle housing types on at least 30 percent of land currently zoned as single-family residential.

Natural Resources/ Salmon Recovery

- **\$300,000 for the Governor's Office to develop policy and fiscal recommendations for improvement of riparian habitat for salmon in partnership with tribes, legislative leadership, local governments, and other interested parties.**
- The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) receives resources to implement the Governor's Salmon Recovery Strategy, conduct a feasibility study, and provide



recommendations on potential long-term, dedicated funding sources to support full implementation of approved salmon recovery plans and actions.

- \$50 million to RCO to establish a new riparian habitat conservation grant program.
- The Conservation Commission is provided \$8 million for incentives to increase riparian habitat on agricultural land not enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and non-agricultural land.
- \$1 million is provided to the Conservation Commission to distribute grants for research and monitoring on the effectiveness of riparian habitat restoration on agricultural lands.
- \$2 million is provided to WDFW to implement HB 1117, including rulemaking, establishing baseline conditions and monitoring progress toward net ecological gain goals
- \$1 million is provided to WDFW to conduct a riparian ecosystems assessment.
- \$360,000 for WDFW to a statewide prioritization of fish passage barriers in consultation with regional salmon recovery organizations.
- \$1.3 million to WDFW to provide technical support to local governments in incorporating salmon recovery into comprehensive plans. The initial focus is on King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish Counties (the first to update their comprehensive plans).
- Resources to coordinate the work to develop a net ecological gain standard are transferred from the OFM to WDFW.
- The Puget Sound Partnership receives \$2.5 million to update the regional salmon recovery plan.
- **\$4.5 million is provided to match funding from Seattle City Light to acquire land, mining and/or timber rights for the protection of the Skagit River Watershed.**
- **\$1.2 million is provided through DNR for payments to counties impacted by the State marbled murrelet recovery plan.**

Criminal Justice

- \$19.2 million provided for 4.5 additional Basic Law Enforcement Academy classes in 2022 and 8.5 classes in 2023, increasing the total number of classes from 30 to 43 over the biennium. Additional funding is provided for the Criminal Justice Training Commission (CJTC) to admit into the law enforcement academy and deliver training to a maximum of 30 limited authority Washington peace officers in fiscal year 2023. Funding is also provided to the CJTC to develop new course material.
- \$3 million to AWC to assist cities with implementation of co-responder teams within alternative diversion models (i.e., LEAD, mobile crisis teams). AWC must prioritize applicants with demonstrated capacity for facility-based crisis triage and stabilization services. AWC and HCA must submit a report to OFM and the Legislature on the number of crisis stabilization and triage beds located in jurisdictions receiving money by Dec. 1, 2022.

State v. Blake Funding:

- \$4.5 million to the Administrative Office of the Courts to continue providing grants to establish municipal and district therapeutic courts.



- \$1.3 million to the Office of Public Defense to establish a *Blake* triage team to provide statewide staffing support to counties for *Blake* response.
- \$1.65 million to the Office of Civil Legal Aid to resolve civil matters regarding LFO reimbursement and to vacate sentences.
- \$441,000 to Washington State Patrol to process criminal records impacted by *Blake*.

General Government

- \$397 million for OFM to make transfers into the Paid Family and Medical Leave Insurance account. OFM may only appropriate funding into the account necessary to minimize the likelihood of a premium surcharge in 2023.
- Establishes and funds a Joint Legislative Task Force on Broadband Deployment, including representatives from Commerce, WSDOT, the Utilities and Transportation Commission, AWC, WSAC, a rural telecommunications provider, and telecommunications infrastructure provider. A report is due to the Legislature by Dec. 1, 2022.
- \$50 million to the State Broadband Office to establish a Broadband Assistance Program, providing eligible households up to \$20 a month for the cost of broadband services. Households are eligible if they receive benefits through the federal affordable connectivity program.

Senate Operating Budget

The current biennial operating budget spends \$59.1 billion, and the Senate supplemental proposal increases the budget to \$63.7 billion. Expenditure highlights are below:

Homelessness/Housing

- \$11.3 million for the Landlord Mitigation Program and \$4.5 million for foreclosure assistance.
- \$40.6 million to provide grants to local governments and nonprofits to transition individuals currently living on public rights-of-way to permanent housing solutions.
- \$65,000 to the Health Care Authority and Department of Commerce to prepare an annual report on demand for permanent supportive housing.
- \$4.9 million to the Health Care Authority to establish a regional behavioral health mobile crisis response team program focused on supportive housing for individuals experiencing behavioral health conditions at risk of becoming homeless.
- \$8.04 million to the Health Care Authority and Department of Commerce to expand access to no barrier, low barrier, and transitional housing programs using a housing first model.

Utilities

- \$50 million is provided solely for grants for public and private water, sewer, electric and natural gas utilities to address low-income customer arrearages compounded by the pandemic.
- \$25 million for the Low-Income Household Water Assistance Program.
- \$25 million Low-Income Household Energy Assistance Program.



Land Use/GMA

- \$10 million for planning grants to jurisdictions to update and implement comprehensive plans and development regulations.
- \$5 million is provided solely for a consolidated permit review grant program; and \$5 million is provided solely for a grant program for local governments to update their permit review process from paper filing systems to software systems capable of processing digital permit applications, virtual inspections, electronic reviews, and capacity for video storage ([Senate Bill 5964](#)).

Criminal Justice

- \$8.71 million is provided solely for 75% of the costs of providing 4.5 additional basic law enforcement academy (BLEA) trainings in fiscal year 2022 and 8.5 additional BLEA trainings in fiscal year 2023, bringing total classes to 19.5 in fiscal year 2022 and 23.5 in fiscal year 2023.

Natural Resources

- \$709,000 to the Department of Ecology to develop recommendations for changes to water resources management statutes, including assessing changes to water rights permitting and compliance actions.
- **\$75,000 to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) for Elk Fencing within Skagit River Valley to mitigate crop damage.**
- \$20 million to the Department of Natural Resources to purchase forestlands encumbered by endangered/threatened species from the Federal Endangered Species Act. Skagit County is not one of the counties directed for forestland purchase, but the **proviso requires WSAC and DNR to work together to determine if statutory changes are needed to address issues with beneficiary revenue distribution or fiscal matters related to state forestland.**

Salmon Recovery

- **\$300,000 for the Governor's Office to develop policy and fiscal recommendations for improvement of riparian habitat for salmon in partnership with tribes, legislative leadership, local governments, and other interested parties.**
- \$1.7 million is provided to Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) for increased support to Lead Entities.
- RCO receives resources to implement the Governor's Salmon Recovery Strategy and conduct a feasibility study and provide recommendations on potential long-term, dedicated funding sources to support full implementation of approved salmon recovery plans and actions.
- \$50 million is provided for large scale salmon recovery projects.
- \$35 million is provided for smaller scale recovery projects.
- The Conservation Commission is provided \$15 million for incentives to increase riparian habitat on agricultural land not enrolled in CREP, and non-agricultural land.
- \$360,000 for WDFW to a statewide prioritization of fish passage barriers in consultation with regional salmon recovery organizations.
- \$1 million to WDFW to conduct a riparian ecosystems assessment.
- \$2.5 million to the Puget Sound Partnership to update the regional salmon recovery plan.



- Resources to coordinate the work to develop a net ecological gain standard are transferred from the OFM to WDFW.
- **\$4.5 million is provided to match funding from Seattle City Light to acquire land, mining and/or timber rights for the protection of the Skagit River Watershed.**

State v. Blake Appropriations:

- \$2 million for Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) activities, including contracting with cities and counties for the disbursement of funds for resentencing costs; collaborating with clerks and administrators to prepare reports of cause numbers impacted by *Blake*; and issuing direct refunds to persons certified by courts as entitled to a refund.
- \$46.5 million to counties to reimburse individuals for legal financial obligations (LFOs) and collection costs paid to a Superior Court or District Court in connection with a sentence vacated pursuant to *State v. Blake*. This funding is in addition to \$23.5M appropriated in the 2021-23 biennial budget.
- \$4.9 million to continue providing grants to establish municipal and district therapeutic courts.
- \$20 million for cities to reimburse individuals for legal financial obligations and collection costs paid to a Municipal Court.
- \$23 million to reimburse cities for municipal resentencing costs.
- \$1.294 million to the Office of Public Defense to establish a *Blake* triage team to provide statewide staffing support to counties for *Blake* response.

General Government/Local Government

- \$5.2 million for local government grant program for emergency rapid response during a local or state declared disaster.
- \$226,000 to OFM to evaluate voluntary landowner incentive programs and other existing regulatory programs for protecting areas along streams and rivers.
- \$525,000 for the Military Department to conduct a pandemic after action review. This is additive to funding provided last session.

Supplemental Transportation Budget

The House and Senate supplemental transportation budget proposals combine changes from the 2021 supplemental transportation budget with the 2021-23 initial spending from the Move Ahead Washington transportation package. If the Move Ahead package was not integrated, the 2022 supplemental transportation budget would include very few, if any, new appropriations.

Both the House and Senate supplemental transportation budget proposals appropriate about \$12 billion – this reflects relatively few differences from last session. The spending from the Move Ahead proposal is being included in [Senate Bill 5975/House Bill 2119](#).

For the 2021-23 biennium, the House and Senate proposes to make the following investments (these are in addition to what was already approved in the 2021-23 budget adopted during the 2021 session):

- \$47 million for highway system maintenance and \$209 million for highway system preservation.



- The Senate proposal includes \$2.5 million for I-5 planning and environmental linkage study, which will serve as the next step toward a statewide I-5 master plan. The House proposal does not include this funding.
- The Senate proposal includes \$268 million for I-405/SR 167 corridor improvements.
- The Senate includes \$480 million for the Puget Sound Gateway project, while the House includes \$473 million.
- The Senate proposal allocates \$4 million for WSDOT to address the risks to safety and public health related to homeless encampments on state rights-of-way, while the House proposal allocates \$5 million, with an additional \$2 million for encampments around SR167/509.
- The Senate proposal allocates \$10 million for stormwater retrofits and improvements, but the House does not.
- \$1 million to start planning and design work for the US 2 Trestle Project and a requirement that WSDOT report to the Legislature by June 30, 2023 on options to enhance transit and multimodal mobility for the project.
- The Senate proposal includes language to express the Legislature's intent to provide \$80 million over 16 years for the Main Streets Preservation project for preservation work on state highways that are also main streets, but the House does not.
- Both proposals include \$6.9 million for Bike and Pedestrian projects with prioritization for projects for overburdened communities.
- Both proposals include \$6.8 million for Safe Routes to School.
- Both proposals include \$5.6 million for Bike and Pedestrian Grants.
- The Senate includes \$3 million for Complete Streets projects through the Transportation Improvement Board and the House includes \$3.4 million.
- Both proposals include \$50 million for Ultra-High-Speed Rail held in reserve status until utilization as a match for federal funds.
- Both proposals allocate \$29.8 million for Transit Support Grants.
- Both proposals allocate \$14.1 million for Special Needs Transportation Grants.
- Both proposals allocate \$4.7 million for Green Transit Grants.
- Both proposals \$4.7 million for Transit Projects with prioritization for projects for overburdened communities.
- Both proposals enable transit, rail and ferries to allow youth 18 years of age and younger to ride free.
- All major transportation accounts show a positive balance through the next five years. This has not been the case since 2019.

Legislative Priorities

Address Fish Passage Barriers – Culvert Design Funding Capital Budget Request

Skagit County is working with Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D- Bow) to request \$1 million in the 2022 capital budget for culvert design funding. This funding will allow Skagit County to bring a package of 11 culverts to full design, making the County more competitive to receive state and federal grant funding. The Senate capital budget proposal was released on Wednesday, February 16. As anticipated, the proposal did not include funding for our culvert request. The House released their capital budget proposal on Monday, February 21. The House proposal includes the requested \$1 million! We will work with Senate budget writers and our Senate delegation to ensure the negotiated capital budget



includes funding for our request. Commissioner Janicki is testifying in the House Capital Budget Committee to thank the Committee and Rep. Lekanoff for the investment. The final proviso language is below:

The appropriation is provided solely for a direct payment to Skagit County for the design of 11 high priority fish barrier removal projects located on the county's roads. Skagit County must ensure that the projects designed with funding from this section meet applicable state and federal grant program standards to facilitate the county's application to such programs for the purpose of receiving capital funding for the projects' construction.

Senate budget documents may be [found here](#); the budget bill may be [found here](#). House budget documents may be [found here](#); the budget bill may be [found here](#).

House Bill 1333 - .09 Sales Tax Credit for Economic Development

Skagit County supports [House Bill 1333](#), sponsored by Rep. Steve Tharinger (D- Dungeness), renewing the .09 rural county sales tax credit program for economic development until 2054. Despite efforts to add a reporting requirement for the State Auditor's Office, the bill moved out of the Senate Housing and Local Government Committee on Thursday, February 17, without amendment. This amendment was requested by Ways and Means Chair Sen. Christine Rolfes (D- Bainbridge Island) to provide greater transparency to budget writers on the total program cost. We have notified Sen. Rolfes that the bill was not amended; she is thinking over next steps.

When the bill is heard in committee, we may weave this consideration into our testimony. We are asking the same panel to testify in Way and Means that testified in policy committee. Rep. Tharinger relayed that Sen. Rolfes has committed to hearing the bill in her committee, though it has not been scheduled. Meanwhile, .09 coalition members are doing outreach to Ways and Means members to brief them on this bill before it moves. The bill must move out of committee by next Monday, February 28, to continue to be considered.

Department of Ecology - Remedial Action Grant Cleanup Deadline Fix

Skagit County supports solutions to ensure the County receives the \$5.41 million grant awarded in the 2021-23 budget through the Department of Ecology's Remedial Action Grant Program for the Whitmarsh Landfill brownfield cleanup. [Senate Bill 5895](#), sponsored by Sen. David Frockt (D- Seattle), removes the permitting acquisition timeline for Remedial Action grant recipients. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Capital Budget Committee on Thursday, February 24. The bill must advance out of committee by Monday, February 28 to continue to be considered.

Other Items

Senate Bill 5122 – Juvenile Detention

We were tracking [Senate Bill 5122](#), sponsored by former Sen. Jeannie Darnielle (D- Tacoma), to ensure that the bill maintains a reasonable timeline and includes funding for implementation. The underlying bill would require the County to significantly expand existing juvenile jail facilities and programs to accommodate older youth (early 20s). After failing to advance before the chamber-of-origin bill cutoff on Tuesday, February 15, the bill is now considered "dead."



“Move Ahead WA” Proposal Advancing

House and Senate Transportation Chairs, Rep. Jake Fey (D- Tacoma) and Sen. Marko Liias (D- Lynnwood) jointly released “Move Ahead Washington,” a \$16 billion transportation revenue and spending package proposal. The proposal is swiftly advancing through the legislative process. The Senate revenue bill, [Senate Bill 5974](#), moved out of committee with minor adjustments to project lists. After a lengthy debate, the Senate moved the revenue bill out of the chamber on February 15 (chamber-of-origin cutoff). The bill passed on a party line vote.

Since the package does not rely on bonds, a simple majority vote was required to move out of the chamber, eliminating the need for republican support. Republicans continue to share their frustration with the lack of bipartisanship in the development of the package and highlighted their opposition to the various fees and taxes, particularly the export fuel tax.

On Monday, February 21, the House and Senate transportation spending bills ([House Bill 2118](#)/[Senate Bill 5975](#)) were heard in their respective committees. Both bills are scheduled to move out of committee this week: in the Senate, on Wednesday, February 23, and in the House on Thursday, February 24.

Clarifying Police Reform Proposals

The legislature continues to advance many proposals addressing unintended consequences from the passage of police reform legislation last session. Most of these proposals continue to be considered:

In Opposite-Chamber Rules Committee – Deadline Friday, March 4

- **Use of Bean Bags:** [House Bill 1719](#), sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D- Lakewood), clarifies that bean bags can be used as a de-escalation tactic. This bill is moving with broad support. After moving out of the House unanimously, the bill moved out of committee on Thursday, February 17. It has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee to be pulled to the floor.
- **Community Caretaking Function (ITA):** [House Bill 1735](#), sponsored by Rep. Jesse Johnson (D- Federal Way), is also advancing with broad support. The bill makes several clarifications intended to address the use of force in circumstances involving community caretaking/involuntary treatment act. The bill moved out of the Senate Law and Justice Committee this week with no changes. It has been referred to the Senate Rules Committee to be pulled to the floor.

In Opposite-Chamber Policy Committee – Deadline Thursday, February 24

- **Defining Use of Force:** [House Bill 2037](#), sponsored by Rep. Roger Goodman (D- Seattle), provides a statewide definition of use of force and deadly force. This bill has been identified by proponents as the preferred vehicle for a definition of “use of force” and has been scheduled to be heard and moved out of the Senate Law and Justice Committee. The bill was heard on Monday, February 21 is scheduled to moved out of committee on Thursday, February 24.
- **Use of Force/Vehicular Pursuits:** [Senate Bill 5919](#), sponsored by Sen. Kevin Van De Wege (D- Sequim), is an alternative proposal to House Bill 2037 that also addresses use of force. As reported last week, this bill makes more extensive changes than House Bill 2037 and moved out of the Senate without changes made in the policy committee. As passed out of the Senate,



the bill establishes definitions for use of force, amends the standard of reasonable care, and addresses vehicular pursuits. The amended bill restores the standard of “reasonable suspicion,” rather than “probable cause,” for an officer to engage in a vehicular pursuit and expands the circumstances under which vehicular pursuits are allowed. Notably, pursuit is authorized in cases where the individual “poses a public safety risk” rather than is an “imminent threat to the safety of others,” the current standard. The bill was heard in the the House Public Safety Committee on Tuesday, February 22, and is scheduled to move out of committee on Thursday, February 24. It is likely to be amended further in committee.

No Longer in Consideration

- **Vehicular Pursuits:** [House Bill 1788](#), sponsored by Rep. Eric Robertson (R- Sumner), as amended, would allow officers to engage in vehicular pursuit when there is reasonable suspicion that the person in the vehicle has committed or will commit a violent offense, driving under the influence, the person poses an imminent threat or the safety of others, and the safety risks of failing to apprehend or identify the person are considered to be greater than the safety risks of the vehicular pursuit under the circumstances. This bill failed to advance out of the House prior to the February 15 cutoff date.

Mandating “Missing Middle” Housing – House Bill 1782

Last week, we notified the County about potential concerns with [House Bill 1782](#), Governor-request mandated density legislation sponsored by Rep. Jessica Bateman (D- Olympia). The bill was not advanced out of the House before the chamber-of-origin legislative cutoff deadline on Tuesday, February 15, and is now considered “dead.” The Senate version of the bill, [Senate Bill 5670](#), died in fiscal committee.

Upcoming Events

Environment, Energy & Technology (Senate) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 8:00am

[E2SHB 1663](#) - Exec Session - Reducing methane emissions from landfills.

[E2SHB 1799](#) - Exec Session - Concerning organic materials management.

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 8:00am

[ESHB 1866](#) - Exec Session - Assisting persons receiving community support services through medical assistance programs to receive supportive housing. (Support)

State Government & Tribal Relations (House) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 8:00am

[E2SSB 5597](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the Washington voting rights act.



Local Government (House) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 10:00am

[2ESSB 5275](#) - Exec Session - Enhancing opportunity in limited areas of more intense rural development.

[SB 5514](#) - Exec Session - Increasing the frequency of county legislative meetings at alternate locations.

[ESSB 5593](#) - Exec Session - Concerning urban growth area boundaries.

Housing & Local Government (Senate) - Virtual - 2/23 @ 10:30am

[E2SHB 1241](#) - Exec Session - Planning under the growth management act.

[ESHB 1643](#) - Exec Session - Exempting a sale or transfer of real property for affordable housing to a nonprofit entity, housing authority, public corporation, county, or municipal corporation from the real estate excise tax.

[ESHB 1660](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning accessory dwelling units.

Capital Budget (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 8:00am

[SB 5895](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning timing restrictions for remedial action grants to local government. (Support)

Finance (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 8:00am

[SB 5868](#) - Exec Session - Expanding the use of the rural counties public facilities sales and use tax to include affordable workforce housing. (Concerns)

Housing & Local Government (Senate) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 8:00am

[E2SHB 1117](#) - Exec Session - Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's comprehensive planning framework. (Neutral)

[ESHB 1660](#) - Exec Session - Concerning accessory dwelling units.

Environment & Energy (House) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:00am

[SSB 5590](#) - Public Hearing - Eliminating the 2022 expiration date of the marine resources advisory council.

[SSB 5590](#) - Exec Session - Eliminating the 2022 expiration date of the marine resources advisory council.



[E2SSB 5885](#) - Exec Session - Concerning marine shoreline habitat.

Law & Justice (Senate) - Virtual - 2/24 @ 10:30am

[E4SHB 1412](#) - Exec Session - Concerning legal financial obligations.

[ESHB 2037](#) - Exec Session - Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers.

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

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
ESHB 1333	Rural public facilities/tax	Providing an extension to the local sales and use tax for public facilities in rural counties.	S Ways & Means	Tharinger	Support
ESHB 1866	Supportive housing	Assisting persons receiving community support services through medical assistance programs to receive supportive housing.	S Health & Long	Chopp	Support
SB 5895	Remedial action grants	Concerning timing restrictions for remedial action grants to local government.	H Cap Budget	Frockett	Support

Monitoring

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position
E2SHB 1099	Comprehensive planning	Improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's comprehensive planning framework.	S Ways & Means	Duerr	
E2SHB 1117	Comp. planning/salmon	Promoting salmon recovery through revisions to the state's	S Housing & Local	Lekanoff	Neutral

		comprehensive planning framework.			
<u>E2SHB 1241</u>	Growth management act plans	Planning under the growth management act.	S Housing & Local	Duerr	
<u>E4SHB 1412</u>	Legal financial obligations	Concerning legal financial obligations.	S Law & Justice	Simmons	
<u>ESHB 1643</u> (SSB 5642)	Affordable housing/REET	Exempting a sale or transfer of real property for affordable housing to a nonprofit entity, housing authority, public corporation, county, or municipal corporation from the real estate excise tax.	S Housing & Local	Hackney	
<u>ESHB 1660</u> (SB 5648)	Accessory dwelling units	Concerning accessory dwelling units.	S Housing & Local	Shewmake	
<u>E2SHB 1663</u>	Landfill methane emissions	Reducing methane emissions from landfills.	S Environment, E	Duerr	
<u>ESHB 1673</u> (SSB 5580)	Public works board/broadband	Concerning broadband infrastructure loans and grants made by the public works board.	S Environment, En	Ryu	
<u>E2SHB 1799</u> (SB 5731)	Organic materials management	Concerning organic materials management.	S Environment, En	Fitzgibbon	
<u>SHB 1918</u>	Power equipment emissions	Reducing emissions from outdoor power equipment.	H Finance	Macri	



HB 1978	Shoreline master programs	Concerning shoreline master program review schedules.	S Environment, En	Duerr	
ESHB 2037	Peace officers/use of force	Modifying the standard for use of force by peace officers.	S Law & Justice	Goodman	
SB 5042	GMA actions effective date	Concerning the effective date of certain actions taken under the growth management act.	H Exec Action	Salomon	
2ESSB 5275	Intense rural dev. areas	Enhancing opportunity in limited areas of more intense rural development.	H Local Govt	Short	
SB 5514	County legislative meetings	Increasing the frequency of county legislative meetings at alternate locations.	H Local Govt	Dozier	
SSB 5590	Marine resources ad. council	Eliminating the 2022 expiration date of the marine resources advisory council.	H Env & Energy	Wagoner	
ESSB 5593	Urban growth area boundaries	Concerning urban growth area boundaries.	H Local Govt	Short	
E2SSB 5597	Voting rights	Concerning the Washington voting rights act.	H State Govt & T	Saldana	
SSB 5722 (HB 1774)	Greenhouse gases/buildings	Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in buildings.	H Exec Action	Nguyen	
SB 5868	Public fac. tax/housing	Expanding the use of the rural counties public facilities sales and use tax to include affordable workforce housing.	H Finance	Hawkins	Concerns



E2SSB 5885	Marine shoreline habitat	Concerning marine shoreline habitat.	H Env & Energy	Salomon	
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