



# Whatcom County Legislative Report

February 9, 2025

## SESSION CUTOFF CALENDAR

February 21, 2025	Policy Committee Deadline
February 28, 2025	Fiscal Committee Deadline
March 12, 2025	Chamber-of-Origin Deadline
April 2, 2025	Opposite Chamber Policy Committee Deadline
April 8, 2025	Opposite Chamber Fiscal Committee Deadline
April 16, 2025	Opposite Chamber Deadline
April 27, 2025	Session adjourns - Sine Die

## Introduction

This week, the Legislature continued its work to introduce new legislation, hold public hearings, and move bills out of committee. With only two weeks remaining until the policy cutoff deadline, on February 21, many committees will dedicate more time to amending and voting bills out of committee. Bills that have financial implications will be referred to a fiscal committee for another public hearing and must be voted out of that committee by February 28. Although the primary focus at this point in session is committee work, each chamber still dedicates time to debating and voting on bills as an entire body. As of this writing, the House has passed 23 bills, and the Senate has passed 19 bills.

So far over 1,500 bills have been introduced with more on the way. With so many bills introduced, this part of the Legislative session can be rather dynamic as bills get added and removed to public hearings and executive sessions. Some of our partner organizations offer real-time bill tracking for bills that they are following. You can find the Washington Association of Counties bill tracker [here](#), and the Association of Cities bill tracker [here](#).

## County Priorities

### **Nooksack Basin Water Rights Adjudication**

State-mandated water rights adjudication for the Nooksack basin has created administrative, financial and capacity burdens on Whatcom County. This week we provided the operating budget request information to Rep. Timmons for him to submit by the House deadline. In addition, Josh joined Mr. Holmes for a meeting with Ms. Brittany Gregory, the Associate Director for Judicial and Legislative Relations with the Administrative Office of the Courts to discuss the County's budget request. The AOC is supportive of the County's request, and we agreed to cooperate as the session continues.

### **Regulatory Framework and Operating Funds for Crisis Relief Center**

The County is collaborating with community partners to develop the design and operating model for one of the first such crisis relief centers in the State. Representative Davis invited Josh to a meeting with Rep. Macri, Sen. Dhingra, Sen. Orwall, representatives of the Health Care Authority, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, the North Sound Behavioral Health Administrative Organization, WSAC, the Cities of Lynwood and Kirkland, and Spokane, Pierce, Snohomish, and King Counties. All of the participants were unified in seeking a funding model for 23-hour crisis centers. However, there was a dearth of possible solutions and the meeting concluded with the legislators saying that they would talk amongst themselves about possible pathways forward.

Relatedly, Rep. Macri has introduced [HB 1813](#), which is a WSAC priority and directs the Health Care Authority to begin the process of reprocurring Medicaid services for the state. The bill also creates a carve-out of Medicaid dollars for the behavioral health crisis system which could be used to fund services at 23-hour centers. Josh will sign the County in to support the bill at that hearing.

### **Funding for Indigent Defense**

[HB 1592](#) - Concerning public defense services is WSAC's proposed legislation that would enact a 50% cost share between the State and counties. The House Civil Rights & Judiciary Committee heard the bill this week, and representatives from WSAC, individual counties, and the Public Defenders Association all testified in support. The bill has not been scheduled to move forward at this time.

### **Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) Technology Fee Increase**

The County supports the Washington Association of County Assessors' proposal to increase the REET Technology Fee from \$5 to \$20. [HB 1044](#) was referred to the House Finance Committee where it will need to be heard and voted on before the February 28 fiscal committee cutoff.

### **Cost-Recovery Mechanism for Treasury Services**

The County supports the Washington State Association of County Treasurers proposal to initiate cost-recovery fee to taxing districts receiving treasurer services. [HB 1042](#) will be heard on Thursday of this coming week in the House Finance Committee. Josh will sign the County in to support the bill at that hearing.

## **County Ferry Contracts**

[HB 1054](#) was placed on the second reading calendar, meaning that it could be scheduled for a vote on the House floor the next time the chamber meets for floor action.

## **Other Priorities**

We are tracking bills that have been introduced relating to the County’s priorities, including: affordable housing and economic development, Medicaid reimbursement rates, funding for Medicaid waiver in jail, housing for individuals with severe behavioral health conditions, strengthening 911 and 988 coordination, improving involuntary treatment act framework, food security, and Floodplains By Design funding.

## **Bill Priorities**

<b><u>Bill Details</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>	<b><u>Sponsor</u></b>	<b><u>Position</u></b>
<b>County treasurer costs</b> Authorizing cost recovery for county treasurers.	H Finance	Wylie	Support
<a href="#">HB 1042</a> Allows county treasurer to retain a portion of the revenue collected on behalf of other taxing districts to compensate for the cost of administration. WACO priority bill.			
<b>County REET admin. fees</b> Concerning county fees for administration of the real estate excise tax.	H Finance	Wylie	Support
<a href="#">HB 1044</a> Increases REET fees to support County Assessor and Treasurer and moves these revenues out of the county current expense fund. The bill was passed out of the committee.			
<b>County ferry contracts</b> Concerning county ferry maintenance and repair contracts.	H 2nd Reading	Leavitt	Support
<a href="#">HB 1054</a> Allows unit priced contracts for the repair of county ferries to be for a term of 10 years, rather than limited to 1 year. The bill was passed out of the committee.			
<b>Property tax revenue growth</b> Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.	H Finance	Pollet	Support
<a href="#">HB 1334</a> Changes property tax revenue growth limits by incorporating inflation and population changes into the calculation, with a maximum cap of 3 percent. The bill redefines “inflation” as the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers in the western region and introduces a new definition for “population change” based on official estimates. The bill removes the prior			

mechanism allowing taxing districts to adopt lower limit factors starting in 2026. This is an AWC priority bill.

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**Criminal justice assistance**      H Approps      Rule      Support  
Concerning the county criminal justice assistance account and municipal criminal justice assistance account.

[HB 1428](#)

The bill increases funding for the County and Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Accounts annually. This is an AWC priority, and WSAC supports the bill as well.

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**Affordable housing REET**      H Finance      Ramel      Support  
Allowing all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters.

[HB 1480](#)

Allows all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing.

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**Public defense services**      H Civil R & Judi      Peterson      Support  
Concerning public defense services.

[HB 1592](#)  
[\(SB 5404\)](#)

This is a WSAC priority. Starting in 2026, funding for public defense services will be shared by the state, counties, and cities. The State will be responsible for 50 percent of the cost, and eligible counties shall not be responsible for public defense services costs that exceed the five-year average stated in the bill. Counties with a population density of less than 50 persons per square mile may request that the Office of Public Defense assume responsibility for providing all or a designated portion of the public defense services.

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**Medical assist  
reprocurement**      H HC/Wellness      Macri      Support  
Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.

[HB 1813](#)

WSAC priority.

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**Affordable housing REET**      H Finance      Ramel      Support  
Allowing counties or cities to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters.

[HB 1867](#)

If a county has not imposed the excise tax by January 1, 2027, the legislative authority of a city within that county may impose an excise tax on the purchase and sale of real property in the city at the rate of 0.5 percent of the selling price. The proceeds of the tax must be used exclusively for the development of affordable housing. WSAC supports the bill.

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**Water adjudication in WRIA 1**      S 2nd  
RdConsCal      Shewmake      Support

[SSB  
5212](#)

Concerning filing of adjudication claims for precode uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication.

Notwithstanding existing time restrictions for registering an existing water right, filing an adjudication claim form for an adjudication filed in WRIA 1 after June 1, 2023, satisfies the statement of claim filing requirements under current law. An amended bill was passed by the committee.

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**Public defense services**      S Law & Justice      Trudeau      Support  
Concerning public defense services.

[SB  
5404  
\(HB  
1592\)](#)

This is a WSAC priority and AWC supports. Starting in 2026, funding for public defense services will be shared by the state, counties, and cities. The State will be responsible for 50 percent of the cost, and eligible counties shall not be responsible for public defense services costs that exceed the five-year average stated in the bill. Counties with a population density of less than 50 persons per square mile may request that the Office of Public Defense assume responsibility for providing all or a designated portion of the public defense services.

## This Week's Hearings

Short descriptions of the bills in Upcoming Events can be found in the bill lists that follow.

### Monday, February 10

[SB 5605](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the operation, authorization, and permitting of microenterprise home kitchens.

[SB 5475](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning maintenance for salmon recovery projects.

[SB 5660](#) - Public Hearing - Making it possible for more properties to have access to water, storm drains, and sanitary sewage systems.

[HB 1102](#) - Exec Session - Increasing support and services for veterans.

[SHB 1057](#) - Public Hearing - Promoting economic development by increasing support for local communities to access federal funds.

### Tuesday, February 11

[HB 1334](#) - Public Hearing - Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.

[HB 1488](#) - Exec Session - Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.

[HB 1690](#) - Public Hearing - Assessing the state's existing water and sewer systems.

[HB 1818](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the administration of plats.

[HB 1625](#) - Exec Session - Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.

[HB 1917](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning management of individuals who are placed in juvenile rehabilitation institutions.

[HB 1813](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees. (Support)

[HB 1448](#) - Exec Session - Increasing representation and voter participation in local elections.

[HB 1150](#) - Exec Session - Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

[HB 1303](#) - Exec Session - Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.

### **Wednesday, February 12**

[HB 1909](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing the court unification task force.

[SB 5514](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing compliance pathways for the clean buildings performance standard.

[SB 5052](#) - Exec Session - Modifying law enforcement ability to contact juvenile witnesses and victims not suspected of criminal involvement or activity.

[SB 5260](#) - Exec Session - Concerning emergency measures for managing juvenile populations at state juvenile correctional institutions.

[SB 5296](#) - Exec Session - Improving outcomes for individuals adjudicated of juvenile offenses by increasing opportunities for community placement options and refining procedural requirements.

[SB 5567](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding secondary training for careers in natural resources and conservation.

[SB 5614](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning impact fees.

[SB 5615](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning project permit applications for residential housing units.

[SB 5497](#) - Exec Session - Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

[SB 5470](#) - Exec Session - Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside urban growth areas.

[SHB 1195](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

[HB 1380](#) - Public Hearing - Allowing objectively reasonable regulation of the utilization of public property.

### **Thursday, February 13**

[HB 1840](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing middle housing in unincorporated growth areas and unincorporated urban growth areas, certain limited areas of more intensive rural development, and fully contained communities.

[SB 5117](#) - Exec Session - Protecting agriculture.

[SB 5305](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the new environmental accelerator for salmon recovery and ecological resiliency projects.

[SB 5479](#) - Exec Session - Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land.

[HB 1791](#) - Public Hearing - Increasing the flexibility of existing funding sources to fund public safety and other facilities by modifying the local real estate excise tax.

[HB 1694](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning revenues from the excise tax on real estate transactions imposed by cities and counties under RCW 82.46.035.

[HB 1042](#) - Public Hearing - Authorizing cost recovery for county treasurers. (Support)

[HB 1867](#) - Public Hearing - Allowing counties or cities to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters. (Support)

[SB 5461](#) - Exec Session - Concerning residential development in limited areas of more intensive rural development.

[SB 5154](#) - Exec Session - Clarifying the duties of county auditors.

[SB 5197](#) - Exec Session - Ensuring that local government planning complies with the growth management act.

[SB 5301](#) - Exec Session - Concerning extending governmental services from cities to tribal lands.

[HB 1339](#) - Public Hearing - Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation.

[SSB 5426](#) - Public Hearing - Improving developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth outside the formal court process.

[SB 5510](#) - Exec Session - Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.

## Friday, February 14

[HB 1344](#) - Exec Session - Increasing access to respite care for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

[HB 1809](#) - Public Hearing - Professionalizing first responders and co-responders through training and reimbursement for behavioral health emergency response.

[HB 1811](#) - Public Hearing - Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.

[HB 1864](#) - Public Hearing - Transporting patients by ambulance to facilities other than emergency departments.

[SB 5284](#) - Exec Session - Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

[SB 5502](#) - Exec Session - Concerning recycling and waste reduction.

[SB 5317](#) - Exec Session - Exempting local governments providing certain services for projects under the jurisdiction of the energy facility siting evaluation council from certain appeals.

[SB 5587](#) - Exec Session - Concerning affordable housing development in counties not closing the gap between estimated existing housing units within the county and existing housing needs.

[SB 5613](#) - Exec Session - Concerning the development of clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures for residential development.

[SB 5659](#) - Public Hearing - Eliminating each local government's proportional share of Washington's housing shortage.

[SB 5679](#) - Public Hearing - Expanding eligibility to utilize the multifamily tax exemption program to all counties required or choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.

[HB 1690](#) - Exec Session - Assessing the state's existing water and sewer systems.

[HB 1254](#) - Exec Session - Implementing the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

## Bills of Interest

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#">HB 1002</a> <b>PTSD/coroners &amp; examiners</b> Recognizing posttraumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease for county coroners, examiners, and investigative personnel.  Increasing occupational diseases increases health care costs borne by county budget. The bill was passed out of the committee.	H Rules R	Abbarno	
<b>Gov. services/tribal lands</b>	H Rules R	Abbarno	



[HB  
1039](#)  
(SB  
5301)

Concerning extending governmental services from cities to tribal lands.

The Legislature is providing a clear statement of the authority for a city and tribal government to mutually agree to contract for urban governmental services beyond the urban growth boundary of the city to tribal lands with urban development and be in compliance with the provisions of the GMA. The bill was passed out of the committee.

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**County treasurer costs**                      H Finance                      Wylie                      Support  
Authorizing cost recovery for county treasurers.

[HB  
1042](#)

Allows county treasurer to retain a portion of the revenue collected on behalf of other taxing districts to compensate for the cost of administration. WACO priority bill.

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**County REET admin. fees**                      H Finance                      Wylie                      Support  
Concerning county fees for administration of the real estate excise tax.

[HB  
1044](#)

Increases REET fees to support County Assessor and Treasurer and moves these revenues out of the county current expense fund. The bill was passed out of the committee.

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**Rangeland fire pilot**                      H Exec Action                      Dent  
Concerning a rangeland fire protection association pilot project.

[HB  
1048](#)

Allows DNR to implement a five-year pilot project in Eastern Washington in order to assess the effectiveness of rangeland fire protection associations in. The bill passed out of the committee with an amendment that recommends a minimum level of training level.

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**Juvenile access to attorney**                      H Civil R & Judi                      Low  
Concerning juvenile access to an attorney.

[HB  
1053](#)

Allows admission of statements by juveniles in custody of officers if the juvenile is suspected of a "violent offense" or "criminal street-gang" related.

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**County ferry contracts**                      H 2nd Reading                      Leavitt                      Support  
Concerning county ferry maintenance and repair contracts.

[HB  
1054](#)

Allows unit priced contracts for the repair of county ferries to be for a term of 10 years, rather than limited to 1 year. The bill was passed out of the committee.

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**Access to federal funds**                      H Approps                      Barnard

[SHB  
1057](#)

Promoting economic development by increasing support for local communities to access federal funds.

Amends 2024's "Match Act" so that local communities are eligible to apply for state grant funding to satisfy federal grant match requirements, rather than only associate development organizations (ADOs) only being eligible. Changes the grant criteria Commerce must use in making match grants. WSAC supports.

[HB 1097](#)

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**Gov. services beyond UGA**

H Local Govt

Low

Extending governmental services beyond the urban growth area in specific circumstances.

Sewer extension beyond UGA. This bill is unlikely to pass due to Futurewise opposition.

[HB 1098](#)  
[\(SB 5544\)](#)

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**County local roads**

H Exec Action

Low

Concerning county local roads.

Requires county matching funds, to be determined by the county road administration board. Creates a new program through the motor vehicle county local road trust account. WSAC supports this bill. The boards priority considerations, would be: (a) Investment in overburdened communities; (b) Environmental health disparities as identified in the environmental health disparities map (c) Location on or providing direct access to a federally recognized Indian reservation; (d) Sustaining the structural, safety, and operational integrity of the road; (e) Vehicle and pedestrian collision experience; (f) Access improvements to a community facility; and (g) Identified need in a state, regional, county, or community plan. (2) Proposed projects must be included in the respective county's six-year program. An amended bill passed out of the committee that adds tribal lands to the preexisting requirements.

[HB 1099](#)

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**Tenant assistance program**

H Housing

Low

Creating a tenant assistance program.

The Tenant Assistance Program aims to reduce the number of people who are rent burdened by providing financial assistance to eligible individuals and families.

[SHB 1102](#)

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**Veteran support and services**

H Approps

Shavers

Increasing support and services for veterans.

This bill will expand the Veterans Officer Service Program, which assists veterans with applying to available veteran's services. It would also focus on underserved counties, where the percentage of the veteran population receiving federal disability or pension compensation is below the national average.

[SHB 1125](#)  
[\(SB 5269\)](#)

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**Sentence modification**

H CSDPS

Simmons

Providing judicial discretion to modify sentences in the interest of justice.

WSAC has concerns.

<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1145</u></a>	<b>Public works reporting</b>	H Local Govt	Barkis	Concerning county public works reporting requirements.
				Counties must collect and retain records of any public works activity that it undertakes, in particular natural resources that are removed during the public work activity. WSAC opposes.
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1150</u></a> <a href="#"><u>(SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5284)</u></a>	<b>Solid waste management</b>	H Env & Energy	Berry	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.
				The bill requires producers to participate in Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) by January 1, 2026, to manage the lifecycle of packaging and paper products, from design to disposal. Key provisions include setting performance targets for recycling and composting, establishing an advisory council, and conducting statewide needs assessments and equity studies. AWC is supportive. WSAC is neutral.
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1158</u></a> <a href="#"><u>(SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5428)</u></a>	<b>Community inclusion services</b>	H EL & Human Svc	Leavitt	Improving community inclusion services for individuals with developmental disabilities.
				WSAC opposed.
<a href="#"><u>SHB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1160</u></a>	<b>Local gov. design review</b>	H Rules R	Walén	Concerning local government design review.
				Local governments may not require more than one architectural drawing for housing development permit applications.
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1165</u></a>	<b>Property tax exemptions</b>	H Finance	Shavers	Expanding access to the property tax exemption program for seniors, people retired due to disability, and veterans with disabilities.
				Exemptions are done by adjusting income thresholds based on county median household income.
<a href="#"><u>SHB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1183</u></a>	<b>Building codes</b>	H Approps	Duerr	Concerning building code and development regulation reform.
				The bill eases certain requirements for building affordable housing but also prohibits specific design and parking requirements for affordable housing projects. WSAC concerned.
	<b>Housing &amp; shelters</b>	H Approps	Peterson	

[SHB  
1195](#)  
(SB  
5497)

Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

An amended bill was passed out of the committee. The amended bill prohibits a local comprehensive plan or development regulation from denying or precluding a permit application for STEP housing only if the project is located in a residential or commercial zone within an UGA that includes or is contiguous with a city. The substitute bill also prohibits a city from approving a permit application for STEP housing in any area zoned for industrial use. The substitute bill requires a city or county to review for compliance, rather than approve, any permit application for STEP housing using an administrative process only. The substitute bill extends the time by which a city or county must amend a zoning ordinance or development regulation after a Commerce finding of noncompliance with STEP housing requirements from 60 to 120 days. AWC remains opposed. WSAC is neutral.

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**Multifamily tax exemption**

H Finance

Low

Expanding eligibility to utilize the multifamily tax exemption program to all counties required or choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.

[HB  
1206](#)  
(SB  
5679)

The bill will expand the multifamily tax exemption program's eligibility to more counties in Washington State by broadening the definition of "county" to include any that are required or choose to plan under the GMA. The bill simplifies the criteria for designating residential targeted areas by removing specific conditions. WSAC supports this bill.

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**Salmon recovery projects**

H Approps

Tharinger

Extending a program to streamline the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects.

[HB  
1208](#)  
(SSB  
5155)

The bill makes the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program a permanent program and creates an expedited review process for applications. The bill passed out of the committee.

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**GMA housing element**

H Housing

Peterson

Ensuring compliance with the housing element requirements of the growth management act.

[HB  
1235](#)  
(SB  
5148)

The Department of Commerce must review whether the housing element or housing development regulations comply with the laws and regulations. A county or city that is required or chooses to plan under the GMA must submit any housing element required and any housing development regulations adopted or amended on or after the effective date of this proposed new section to the Department. WSAC is opposed.

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**Wildland urban interface**

H Local Govt

Duerr

[HB  
1254](#)

Implementing the International Wildland Urban Interface Code.

The bill requires the adoption of the IWUIC's technical provisions upon the completion of statewide wildfire hazard and risk maps, removing previous limitations and detailed construction requirements.

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**Document recording fee admin**    H APPDPS                      Schmidt

Concerning administrative costs associated with the document recording fee.

[SHB  
1260](#)

Allows cities, meeting certain criteria, to a portion of document recording fee surcharge. A substitute bill was unanimously passed by the committee. The substitute restructures the language related to the distribution of the homelessness document recording surcharge, and makes certain changes depending on if cities within a county do or do not operate their own homeless housing program.

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[HB  
1261  
\(SB  
5479\)](#)

**Open space incidental use**                      H Finance                      Low

Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land.

Adds agrotourism land to the list of open space land that can receive tax relief.

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[HB  
1299  
\(SSB  
5184\)](#)

**Minimum parking requirements**                      H Local Govt                      Peterson

Concerning minimum parking requirements.

The bill limits mandatory parking requirements with certain exemptions. Both WSAC and AWC are opposed.

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[HB  
1303  
\(SB  
5380\)](#)

**Environmental justice**                      H Env & Energy                      Mena

Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.

The Department of Ecology shall add environmental justice as an element of the environment within their rules and as a component of the environmental checklist.

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[HB  
1322  
\(SB  
5296\)](#)

**Juvenile offenses**                      H EL & Human Svc                      Goodman

Improving outcomes for individuals adjudicated of juvenile offenses by increasing opportunities for community placement options and refining procedural requirements.

WSAC is concerned.

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[HB  
1328](#)

**Clean energy development**                      H Env & Energy                      Doglio

Accelerating the development of clean energy and transmission.

(SB 5359)

The bill creates a framework for the State to provide the information, planning, and support needed to accelerate the pace of development for clean energy projects and electrical transmission facilities. It also creates the Clean Energy Development Office and outlines their roles and responsibilities.

**Property tax revenue growth**

H Finance

Pollet

Support

Modifying the annual regular property tax revenue growth limit.

Changes property tax revenue growth limits by incorporating inflation and population changes into the calculation, with a maximum cap of 3 percent. The bill redefines "inflation" as the annual percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index for urban consumers in the western region and introduces a new definition for "population change" based on official estimates. The bill removes the prior mechanism allowing taxing districts to adopt lower limit factors starting in 2026. This is an AWC priority bill.

[HB 1334](#)

**Even-numbered year elections**

H Approps

Gregerson

[HB 1339](#)

Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation.

(SB 5373)

Allows cities, towns, and certain special purpose districts to move elections to even-numbered years. The bill was passed out of the committee.

**Respite care**

H EL & Human  
Svc

Barnard

[HB 1344](#)

Increasing access to respite care for those with intellectual or developmental disabilities and their caregivers.

WSAC supports.

**Detached ADU limits**

H HOUSDP

Low

[HB 1345](#)

Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside of urban growth areas.

Authorizes detached ADUs outside of UGAs under certain circumstances. The bill passed out of the policy committee. **This is a WSAC priority bill.**

**Criminal insanity**

H Civil R & Judi

Thai

[HB 1359](#)

Reviewing laws related to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial.

WSAC supports.

**Senior citizens local tax**

H Finance

Orcutt

[HB 1373](#)

Imposing a local sales tax wholly credited against the state sales tax to support programs for senior citizens.

**Public property regulations**                      H Approps                      Gregerson  
Allowing objectively reasonable regulation of the utilization of public property.

[HB  
1380](#)

Allows individuals to sue any city or county for injunctive or declaratory relief to challenge the objective reasonableness if that city or county that has a law that regulates the acts of sitting, lying, sleeping, or keeping warm and dry outdoors on public property that is open to the public must be objectively reasonable as to time, place, and manner. The bill was passed out of the committee. AWC and WSAC are opposed.

[HB  
1391  
\(SSB  
5426\)](#)

**Court alternatives/youth**                      H Exec Action                      Cortes  
Improving developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth outside the formal court process.

[HB  
1397](#)

**Local property tax levies**                      H Finance                      Orcutt  
Imposing local property tax levies wholly credited against the state property tax to provide support and services for veterans' assistance and for persons with developmental disabilities or mental health needs.  
  
The levy must be deducted from the amount of tax otherwise required to be collected or paid to the department of revenue for the state levy at no cost to the county. WSAC supports the bill.

[HB  
1400  
\(SB  
5224\)](#)

**Officer certification**                      H CSDP                      Goodman  
Concerning officer certification definitions, processes, and commissioning.  
  
WSAC supports.

[HB  
1424  
\(SSB  
5005\)](#)

**Jail system**                      H Community Safe                      Obras  
Concerning transparency, public safety, and independent oversight of the city, county, and regional jail system in Washington state.  
  
Establishes the Jail Oversight Board within the Office of the Governor. The Board is tasked with monitoring jails, publishing compliance reports, and maintaining a public database of jail data.

[HB  
1427](#)

**Peer support specialists**                      H HC/Wellness                      Davis  
Concerning certified peer support specialists.  
  
WSAC supports.

[HB  
1428](#)

**Criminal justice assistance**                      H Approps                      Rule                      Support  
Concerning the county criminal justice assistance account and municipal criminal justice assistance account.

The bill increases funding for the County and Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Accounts annually. This is an AWC priority, and WSAC supports the bill as well.

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<a href="#"><u>HB 1435</u></a> (SSB 5060)	<b>Law enf. hiring grants</b> Creating a law enforcement hiring grant program.  Creates a grant program for local and tribal law enforcement hiring. WSAC supports. This is an AWC priority bill.	H Approps	Abell
<a href="#"><u>HB 1436</u></a> (SB 5285)	<b>Law enf. officers/increase</b> Incentivizing cities and counties to increase employment of commissioned law enforcement officers.  Allows cities and counties to impose a sales and use tax to hire law enforcement officers. It also allows the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to expand basic law enforcement training classes. WSAC and AWC support this bill.	H Finance	Abell
<a href="#"><u>HB 1438</u></a>	<b>Housing permit approval</b> Ensuring efficient approval of certain housing permit applications.  WSAC has concerns.	H Local Govt	Connors
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1443</u></a> (SSB 5332)	<b>Mobile dwellings</b> Concerning mobile dwellings.  Any city or county must allow at least one home on wheels on each lot zoned for residential use if the certain conditions are met. A substitute bill was passed out of the committee that removed certain language requiring cities and counties to use standard permitting and inspection procedures for new utility hookups for mobile dwellings and allows a city or county to prohibit mobile dwellings located in designated critical areas, natural resource lands, or shorelines of the state.	H HOUSDPS	Gregerson
<a href="#"><u>HB 1448</u></a>	<b>Local elections</b> Increasing representation and voter participation in local elections.  Creates an opt-in option for ranked choice voting in local elections. It also creates a uniformed ranked choice process if implemented.	H State Govt & T	Gregerson
<a href="#"><u>HB 1454</u></a>	<b>Drug task force funding</b> Funding multijurisdictional drug task forces.  Appropriates \$7 million from the general fund to the Criminal Justice Training Commission for the purpose of the Washington Association of Sheriffs and	H Approps	Griffey

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Police Chiefs to administer a grant program for multijurisdictional drug task forces.

[HB 1480](#)

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**Affordable housing REET**                      H Finance                      Ramel                      Support  
Allowing all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters.

Allows all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing.

[HB 1488](#)  
[\(SB 5510\)](#)

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**Conservation district limits**                      H Finance                      Berg  
Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.

Counties would be limited to deducting either the actual costs incurred, or 1 percent of the total amount collected, whichever is lower.

[HB 1494](#)

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**Multiple-unit dwellings/tax**                      H Finance                      Ramel  
Concerning the property tax exemptions for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers.

Modifies property tax exemption criteria for multi-unit housing. It maintains existing exemption periods of 8, 12, and 20 years but imposes stricter affordability requirements, particularly for 12- and 20-year exemptions, and includes provisions for covenants or deed restrictions to ensure compliance.

[SHB 1497](#)

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**Waste material management**                      H ENVIDPS                      Doglio  
Improving outcomes associated with waste material management systems.

Among the various aspects of the bill, the Department of Agriculture must develop an education and outreach program focused on residential organics, participation and contamination reduction; requirements regarding the distribution of certain grants; creates container and collection consistency across the state, with certain exceptions; and establishes waste collection rules for private and public entities. A substitute bill passed out of the committee that numerous changes to the original bill.

[HB 1499](#)

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**Legal financial obligations**                      H Civil R & Judi                      Reed  
Concerning legal financial obligations.

[HB 1508](#)

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**Ecosystem services**                      H Ag&Nr                      Reeves  
Expanding revenue generation and economic opportunities from natural climate solutions and ecosystem services.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized to enter into contracts for payment for ecosystem service projects on public lands on terms and conditions acceptable to DNR, after approval by the board of natural resources,

only for the purpose of generating additional revenue by providing ecosystem services.

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**Cities/county road resources**      H Local Govt      Griffey  
Increasing opportunities for cities to utilize county resources for road construction and maintenance.

[HB 1529](#)

Counties, through agreements with cities and towns, can provide repairs, striping, maintenance, and construction work on roads throughout the county in order to keep the highway system in a state of good repair.

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**Clean buildings standard**      H ENVIDPS      Doglio  
Increasing compliance pathways for the clean buildings performance standard.

[SHB 1543](#)  
([SB 5514](#))

This would expand compliance options for clean building performance standards by introducing alternative metrics, conditional compliance pathways, and flexibility for building owners. Allows the Department of Commerce to adopt alternative metrics for energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, provides extensions for compliance deadlines under specific conditions, and ensures that energy efficiency requirements do not compromise the historical integrity of registered historic buildings. AWC supports the bill. A proposed substitute was passed out of the committee that adds penalties incurred from non-compliance may not be passed along to tenants.

---

**Public defense services**      H Civil R & Judi      Peterson      Support  
Concerning public defense services.

[HB 1592](#)  
([SB 5404](#))

**This is a WSAC priority.** Starting in 2026, funding for public defense services will be shared by the state, counties, and cities. The State will be responsible for 50 percent of the cost, and eligible counties shall not be responsible for public defense services costs that exceed the five-year average stated in the bill. Counties with a population density of less than 50 persons per square mile may request that the Office of Public Defense assume responsibility for providing all or a designated portion of the public defense services.

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**Social equity land trust**      H Ag&Nr      Reeves  
Creating the children's social equity land trust.

[HB 1593](#)

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**Recycling & waste reduction**      H Env & Energy      Stonier  
Concerning recycling and waste reduction.

[HB 1607](#)  
([SB 5502](#))

This would create a statewide recycling refund program. The bill requires producers of glass, plastic, and metal beverage containers to join a nonprofit Recycling Refund Producer Responsibility Organization to implement and finance the program. WSAC and AWC supports the bill.

**Back country search & rescue** H Tech, Econ Dev Stuebe  
Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.  
[HB 1625](#)  
([SB 5631](#))  
In addition to the grant program, the bill allows counties, cities, and towns to recover back country search and rescue costs that are not reimbursed through other sources.

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**State marine forest** H Exec Action Nance  
Establishing the state marine forest.

[HB 1631](#)  
Designates bull kelp forests as the official marine forest of the state of Washington. The bill passed out of the committee on February 7.

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**History museum funding** H Local Govt Waters  
Ensuring dedicated funding for history and heritage museums and county historic preservation programs.

[HB 1658](#)

**Water and sewer systems** H Local Govt Wylie  
Assessing the state's existing water and sewer systems.

[HB 1690](#)

**City & county REET revenues** H Finance Thai  
Concerning revenues from the excise tax on real estate transactions imposed by cities and counties under RCW 82.46.035.

[HB 1694](#)

Allows REET revenues generated by the tax may be used towards planning, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, repair, replacement, rehabilitation, or improvement of facilities for those experiencing homelessness and affordable housing projects that are supported through an interlocal housing collaboration.

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**Public utility tax, counties** H Finance Wylie  
Authorizing counties to impose a public utility tax.

[HB 1702](#)

Allows the legislative authority of any county to impose an excise tax on the privilege of engaging in business as a utility.

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**Cannabis revenue/local gov.** H Approps Schmidt  
Increasing cannabis revenue distributions to local governments.

[HB 1704](#)

Increases the cannabis revenue distributions for cities and counties, and decreases the revenue for the state general fund.

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**Affordable housing/sales tax** H Finance Leavitt  
Creating a sales and use tax remittance program for affordable housing.

[HB 1717](#)  
([SB 5591](#))

The program allows eligible organizations to apply for a 50% remittance of state and local sales and use taxes paid on qualifying affordable housing projects, provided at least 50% of residential units are dedicated to low-income households for a minimum of 40 years. Local governments may adopt the program through a public process, and remitted funds must be used for affordable housing-related activities.

[HB 1749](#)

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**SEPA considerations**                      H Env & Energy                      Pollet  
Ensuring consideration of climate change, carbon sequestration, environmental health disparities, and treaty-protected and cultural resources in the state environmental policy act.

The bill updates the state's environment policy checklist.

[HB 1763](#)  
[\(SB 5576\)](#)

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**Affordable housing funding**                      H Finance                      Parshley  
Providing state funding for essential affordable housing programs.  
Beginning January 1, 2026, there is levied and collected a special excise tax of six percent on each retail sale of the furnishing of lodging constituting a short-term rental subject to tax to help fund affordable housing projects.

[HB 1791](#)

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**Local real estate excise tax**                      H Finance                      Paul  
Increasing the flexibility of existing funding sources to fund public safety and other facilities by modifying the local real estate excise tax.  
Expands the permissible uses of local REET revenues to include affordable housing, homelessness facilities, and community services, in addition to traditional capital projects.

[HB 1805](#)

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**Children services/local tax**                      H Finance                      Tharinger  
Creating a local sales and use tax to fund services for children and families that enhance well-being, promote mental health, and provide early interventions.  
Authorizes counties in Washington to impose a local sales and use tax of up to 0.01 percent to fund services for children and families.

[HB 1809](#)

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**Behavioral health response**                      H HC/Wellness                      Nance  
Professionalizing first responders and co-responders through training and reimbursement for behavioral health emergency response.  
WSAC supports.

[HB 1811](#)

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**Crisis co-response**                      H HC/Wellness                      Salahuddin  
Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.  
WSAC supports.

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**Medical assist reprocurement**      H HC/Wellness      Macri      Support  
[HB 1813](#)      Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.  
**WSAC priority.**

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**Administration of plats**      H Local Govt      Penner  
[HB 1818](#)      Concerning the administration of plats.  
The bill consolidates short plat and subdivision processes into a single administrative review framework by administrative lot splits, streamlined public notice and comment periods, and the requirement that final plats be approved administratively if they meet preliminary conditions.

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**Cannabis licensing/zoning**      H ConsPro&Bus      Burnett  
[HB 1835](#)      Aligning cannabis licensing decisions by the liquor and cannabis board with local zoning ordinances.  
Aligns cannabis licensing decisions by the Liquor and Cannabis Board with local zoning ordinances and expands the authority of local and tribal governments in the licensing process.

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**Middle housing**      H Housing      Peterson  
[HB 1840](#)  
[\(SB 5471\)](#)      Authorizing middle housing in unincorporated growth areas and unincorporated urban growth areas, certain limited areas of more intensive rural development, and fully contained communities.  
**This is a WSAC priority.**

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**Ambulances/transport options**      H HC/Wellness      Thomas  
[HB 1864](#)      Transporting patients by ambulance to facilities other than emergency departments.  
Allows for ambulances to transport patients to a facility other than an emergency department.

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**Affordable housing REET**      H Finance      Ramel      Support  
[HB 1867](#)      Allowing counties or cities to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters.  
If a county has not imposed the excise tax by January 1, 2027, the legislative authority of a city within that county may impose an excise tax on the purchase and sale of real property in the city at the rate of 0.5 percent of the selling price. The proceeds of the tax must be used exclusively for the development of affordable housing. WSAC supports the bill.

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**Local law enf. officers** H Finance Abell  
Increasing local law enforcement officers by authorizing a local sales and use tax credited against the state portion to hire additional officers and increasing the number of basic law enforcement courses offered by the criminal justice training commission.

[HB 1896](#)

Allows a county or city to impose a sales and use tax to hire additional law enforcement officers and increases the basic law enforcement courses for 2026 and 2027.

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**Transp. project permitting** H Transportation Richards  
Convening a work group regarding the streamlining of permitting for transportation projects.

[HB 1902](#)

The DOT, in consultation with the Department of Ecology, shall convene a work group to develop recommendations to streamline the permitting of transportation projects

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**Invol. treatment counsel** Macri  
Concerning appointed counsel for individuals detained under the involuntary treatment act.

[HB 1905](#)

Individuals detained under the Involuntary Treatment Act are entitled to the assistance of counsel, if the individual is indigent, the court shall appoint council. The county where the person is detained shall administer the appointed council.

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**Court unification task force** Taylor  
Establishing the court unification task force.

[HB 1909](#)

Creates the Court Unification Task Force to study the inefficiencies and inequities resulting from disparate local court rules, funding, and technology.

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**Juvenile rehabilitation** Callan  
Concerning management of individuals who are placed in juvenile rehabilitation institutions.

[HB 1917](#)

The bill would develop rules related to the safe operational capacity of juvenile rehabilitation institutions and revise those rules as necessary. It also prohibits DCY from transferring an individual to a Department of Corrections facility until they are 25 years old, with certain exceptions.

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**Transportation revenue** Fey  
Establishing new sources of transportation revenue based on motor vehicle use of public roadways.

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**Jail system** S Ways & Means Saldana  
Concerning transparency, public safety, and independent oversight of the city, county, and regional jail system in Washington state.

[SSB 5005](#)  
(HB 1424)

Establishes the Jail Oversight Board within the Office of the Governor. The Board is tasked with monitoring jails, publishing compliance reports, and maintaining a public database of jail data. An amended version of the bill passed out of the policy committee. The amended version changes the Jail Oversight Board to the Washington Jail Council (WJC) and makes other changes to the duties and requirements of the WJC.

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**Election security** S State Gov/Trib Boehnke  
Concerning election security.

[SB 5014](#)

Request legislation from the Secretary of State. The bill would create greater cybersecurity protections. A substitute version was passed by the committee.

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**Confinement health coord.** S Ways & Means Wilson  
Concerning health care coordination regarding confined individuals.

[SSB 5031](#)

Creates the Council of Health Care Coordination for Youth and Adults in Facilities of Confinement within the Department of Health. The Council will review current law and practices and provide a report of recommendations to the Legislature. The bill was passed out of the committee.

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**Law enf. juvenile contact** S Human Services Salomon  
Modifying law enforcement ability to contact juvenile witnesses and victims not suspected of criminal involvement or activity.

[SB 5052](#)

This bill expands the circumstances in which law enforcement can question a juvenile without a lawyer present.

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**Agritourism** S Loc Gov Warnick  
Promoting agritourism in Washington.

[SB 5055](#)

Allows cities and counties to permit agritourism and agritourism activities as accessory uses on agricultural lands, such as direct sales, educational activities, and seasonal outdoor events.

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**Law enforcement personnel** S Ways & Means Holy  
Creating a law enforcement hiring grant program.

[SSB 5060](#)  
(HB 1435)

Creates a grant program for local and tribal law enforcement hiring. WSAC supports and this is an AWC priority. The substitute bill passed out of the committee unanimously and will allow the grants to cover co-responders, and it now contains additional criteria a city must meet to qualify for funding.

<a href="#"><u>SB 5088</u></a>	<b>Public utility tax, counties</b>	S Loc Gov	Chapman	Authorizing counties to impose a public utility tax.
	Counties may impose an excise tax up to 3 percent on the gross income of utilities. Counties may provide exemptions for business customers but not residential customers unless business customers are also exempt. <b>WSAC priority.</b>			
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5098</u></a>	<b>Weapons in certain areas</b>	S Transportation	Valdez	Restricting the possession of weapons on the premises of state or local public buildings, parks or playground facilities where children are likely to be present, and county fairs and county fair facilities.
	This expansion aims to reduce firearms in areas where children and public employees are likely to be present, while allowing exemptions for law enforcement officers, and guns shows held at county grounds. WSAC opposes this bill. An amended bill passed out of the committee that exempts individuals who maintain a valid concealed pistol license from the weapons prohibitions.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 5107</u></a>	<b>Local gov. vehicle insurance</b>	S Loc Gov	Boehnke	Concerning underinsured motorist coverage for local government employees.
	Local governments, either individually or with other entities, shall provide underinsured coverage for vehicles owned and operated by local government employees. AWC is opposed.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 5117</u></a>	<b>Agriculture impacts</b>	S Ag & Natural R	Muzzall	Protecting agriculture.
	The Office of Financial Management must establish a mechanism for the determination of the fiscal impact of proposed legislation that would change regulatory costs for those engaged in agriculture.			
<a href="#"><u>SSB 5147</u></a>	<b>Criminal insanity</b>	S Ways & Means	Torres	Reviewing laws related to criminal insanity and competency to stand trial.
	WSAC supports.			
<a href="#"><u>SB 5148</u></a> <a href="#"><u>(HB 1235)</u></a>	<b>GMA housing element</b>	S Housing	Bateman	Ensuring compliance with the housing element requirements of the growth management act.
	The Department of Commerce must review whether the housing element or housing development regulations comply with the laws and regulations. A county or city that is required or chooses to plan under the GMA must submit any			



housing element required and any housing development regulations adopted or amended on or after the effective date of this proposed new section to the Department. AWC is concerned, trying to fix it. A substitute version was passed by the committee that allows a city or county to submit any housing element or development regulations to Commerce for review. It also allows cities and counties 60 days to amend their housing element and regulations to address any deficiency noted by Commerce in its compliance decision.

[SB  
5154](#)

**County auditor duties**                      S Loc Gov                      Goehner  
Clarifying the duties of county auditors.

Expands new duties and clarifies existing duties of county auditors.

[SSB  
5155  
\(HB  
1208\)](#)

**Salmon recovery projects**                      S Ways & Means                      Salomon  
Extending a program to streamline the environmental permitting process for salmon recovery projects.

The bill makes the Habitat Recovery Pilot Program a permanent program and creates an expedited review process for applications. An amended bill was passed out of the committee. The amended version clarifies that the habitat restoration permit pathway program is an optional permit pathway, and it adds projects under regional recovery organizations or regional salmon recovery organizations.

[SB  
5173](#)

**County comprehensive plans**                      S Loc Gov                      Short  
Concerning county comprehensive plans and development regulations.

Allows counties and cities to adopt a 10-year review cycle for their comprehensive plans and development regulations.

[SSB  
5184  
\(HB  
1299\)](#)

**Minimum parking requirements**                      S Rules 2                      Bateman  
Concerning minimum parking requirements.

The bill limits mandatory parking requirements with certain exemptions. AWC and WSAC are both opposed. The bill passed out of the committee with an amendment modifying certain parking requirements.

[SB  
5197](#)

**Local government planning**                      S Loc Gov                      Salomon  
Ensuring that local government planning complies with the growth management act.

The bill would allow counties or cities to repeal invalidated parts of their comprehensive plans or regulations, provided they replace them with versions that do not substantially interfere with GMA goals. Additionally, the Growth Management Hearings Board cannot issue a compliance finding solely based on

the repeal of noncompliant regulations unless the new or remaining regulations meet GMA standards. WSAC has concerns.

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**Water adjudication in WRIA 1**      S 2nd RdConsCal      Shewmake      Support  
Concerning filing of adjudication claims for precode uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication.

[SSB 5212](#)

Notwithstanding existing time restrictions for registering an existing water right, filing an adjudication claim form for an adjudication filed in WRIA 1 after June 1, 2023, satisfies the statement of claim filing requirements under current law. An amended bill was passed by the committee.

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**Vehicle debris escape**      S Rules 2      Shewmake  
Concerning debris escaping from vehicles on public highways.

[SSB 5215](#)

Modifies existing law regarding that all vehicles on public highways in Washington state must secure and cover their loads to prevent debris-related accidents. An amended bill was passed by the committee that, among other things, restores the current law language around cleaning the public highway of all fallen and current penalty law language.

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**Green energy/community**      S Environment, E      Shewmake  
Concerning green energy community funds to support school districts and nonprofit organizations that service the communities where renewable energy projects are located.

[SB 5216](#)

Creates the Washington Green Energy Community Funds Act to support school districts and nonprofits in communities hosting renewable energy projects. The bill allows qualifying light and power businesses to receive tax credits for cash contributions to local entities, with the credits capped at 75 percent of the contribution amount and a maximum of \$250,000 per business annually.

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**Officer certification**      S 2nd Reading      Lovick  
Concerning officer certification definitions, processes, and commissioning.

[SB 5224](#)  
([HB 1400](#))

WSAC supports.

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**Lodging tax revenues**      S Business, Fin      Christian  
Concerning lodging tax revenues.

[SB 5251](#)

Expands the uses of lodging tax revenues to include capital expenditures on tourism-related facilities owned by nonprofit organizations.

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**Juvenile correctional pop.**      S Human Services      Christian  
Concerning emergency measures for managing juvenile populations at state juvenile correctional institutions.

[SB 5260](#)

WSAC supports.

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**Nonconsumptive hydropower**      S Ag & Natural R      Shewmake  
Issuing water right permits for nonconsumptive hydropower use in water resource inventory areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.

[SB 5261](#)

Allows the Department of Ecology to issue a water right permit for a nonconsumptive hydropower use in a water resource inventory in areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.

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**Sentence modification**      S Law & Justice      Frame  
Providing judicial discretion to modify sentences in the interest of justice.

[SB 5269](#)  
[\(SHB 1125\)](#)

WSAC has concerns.

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**Solid waste management**      S Environment, E      Lovelett  
Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.

[SB 5284](#)  
[\(HB 1150\)](#)

The bill requires producers to participate in Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) by January 1, 2026, to manage the lifecycle of packaging and paper products, from design to disposal. Key provisions include setting performance targets for recycling and composting, establishing an advisory council, and conducting statewide needs assessments and equity studies. AWC is supportive. WSAC is neutral.

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**Law enf. officers/increase**      S Loc Gov      Holy  
Incentivizing cities and counties to increase employment of commissioned law enforcement officers.

[SB 5285](#)  
[\(HB 1436\)](#)

Allows cities and counties to impose a sales and use tax to hire law enforcement officers. It also allows the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to expand basic law enforcement training classes. WSAC and AWC supports this bill.

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**Juvenile offenses**      S Human Services      Wilson  
Improving outcomes for individuals adjudicated of juvenile offenses by increasing opportunities for community placement options and refining procedural requirements.

[SB 5296](#)  
[\(HB 1322\)](#)

WSAC is concerned.

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**Gov. services/tribal lands**      S Loc Gov      Braun  
Concerning extending governmental services from cities to tribal lands.

[SB 5301](#)  
[\(HB 1039\)](#)

The Legislature is providing a clear statement of the authority for a city and tribal

government to mutually agree to contract for urban governmental services beyond the urban growth boundary of the city to tribal lands with urban development and be in compliance with the provisions of the GMA.

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**Salmon recovery accelerator**      S Ag & Natural R      Muzzall

Concerning the new environmental accelerator for salmon recovery and ecological resiliency projects.

[SB  
5305](#)

Creates an environmental accelerator within the Office of Regulatory Assistance to provide regulatory flexibility for salmon recovery and ecological resiliency projects and programs funded with CCA revenue. Also requires a joint committee to create a report that must include recommendations on whether to continue the environmental accelerator in its existing form and any legislative changes that may be needed to improve the program.

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**EFSEC/services by local gov.**      S Environment, E      Goehner

WSAC priority. Exempting local governments providing certain services for projects under the jurisdiction of the energy facility siting evaluation council from certain appeals.

[SB  
5317](#)

**WSAC priority bill.**

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**Mobile dwellings**      S Ways & Means      Shewmake

Concerning mobile dwellings.

[SSB  
5332  
\(SHB  
1443\)](#)

Any city or county must allow at least one home on wheels on each lot zoned for residential use if the certain conditions are met. An amended bill was passed by the committee.

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**Even-numbered year elections**      S State Gov/Trib      Ramos

Shifting general elections for local governments to even-numbered years to increase voter participation.

[SB  
5373  
\(HB  
1339\)](#)

Allows cities, towns, and certain special purpose districts to move elections to even-numbered years.

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**Environmental justice**      S Environment, E      Lovelett

Increasing environmental justice by improving government decisions.

[SB  
5380  
\(HB  
1303\)](#)

The Department of Ecology shall add environmental justice as an element of the environment within their rules and as a component of the environmental checklist.

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**Riparian programs review**      S Ag & Natural R      Dozier

Conducting a review of Washington's riparian programs.

[SB  
5384](#)

Requires the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee to review and report on the State's riparian programs. The preliminary report is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2025, and the final report is due June 1, 2027.

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**Liquor revenue/local gov.**                      S Ways & Means                      Wagoner  
Restoring liquor sales revenue distributions to local governments.

[SB  
5389](#)

Changes how liquor sales revenue is distributed. The amount remaining after distributions is 50 percent to the general fund of the state, 10 percent to the counties of the state, and 40 percent to the incorporated cities and towns of the state.

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**Public defense services**                      S Law & Justice                      Trudeau                      Support  
Concerning public defense services.

[SB  
5404  
\(HB  
1592\)](#)

**This is a WSAC priority** and AWC supports. Starting in 2026, funding for public defense services will be shared by the state, counties, and cities. The State will be responsible for 50 percent of the cost, and eligible counties shall not be responsible for public defense services costs that exceed the five-year average stated in the bill. Counties with a population density of less than 50 persons per square mile may request that the Office of Public Defense assume responsibility for providing all or a designated portion of the public defense services.

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[SB  
5413](#)

**Detached ADUs**                                      S Housing                                      Lovelett  
Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside urban growth areas.

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[SSB  
5426  
\(HB  
1391\)](#)

**Court alternatives/youth**                      S Ways & Means                      Wilson  
Improving developmentally appropriate alternatives for youth outside the formal court process.

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[SB  
5428  
\(HB  
1158\)](#)

**Community inclusion services**                      S Human Services                      Harris  
Improving community inclusion services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

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[SB  
5461](#)

**Intensive rural dev. areas**                      S Loc Gov                                      Lovelett  
Concerning residential development in limited areas of more intensive rural development.

A county may authorize development of four units or six units if at least two units are affordable housing on lots zoned for residential use in limited areas of more intensive rural development. WSAC supports this bill.

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**Detached ADUs**                                      S Housing                                      Goehner

[SB 5470](#)

**WSAC priority.** Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside urban growth areas.

Allows counties to have detached accessory dwelling units outside of urban growth areas meeting certain requirements.

[SB 5471](#)  
(HB 1840)

**Middle housing** S Housing Goehner  
Authorizing middle housing in unincorporated growth areas and unincorporated urban growth areas, certain limited areas of more intensive rural development, and fully contained communities.

**This is a WSAC priority bill.** This bill passed out of the committee on February 7.

[SB 5475](#)

**Salmon recovery maintenance** S Loc Gov Dozier  
Concerning maintenance for salmon recovery projects.

Creates the Salmon Recovery Project Maintenance Account and has the Salmon Recovery Funding Board create a plan for long-term funding for ongoing maintenance.

[SB 5479](#)  
(HB 1261)

**Open space incidental use** S Ag & Natural Re Lias  
Providing tax relief for certain incidental uses on open space land.

Adds agrotourism land to the list of open space land that can receive tax relief.

[SB 5497](#)  
(SHB 1195)

**Housing & shelters** S Housing Alvarado  
Concerning compliance with siting, development permit processes and standards, and requirements for permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

WSAC and AWC are opposed.

[SB 5502](#)  
(HB 1607)

**Recycling & waste reduction** S Environment, E Robinson  
Concerning recycling and waste reduction.

This creates a statewide beverage container recycling refund program. The program mandates a 10-cent refund for beverage containers, including glass, plastic, and metal containers of one gallon or less, with producers required to join a nonprofit Recycling Refund Producer Responsibility Organization (RRPRO) to implement and finance the system by 2026. AWC supports the bill.

[SB 5510](#)  
(HB 1488)

**Conservation district limits** S Ways & Means Shewmake  
Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.

Counties would be limited to deducting either the actual costs incurred, or 1 percent of the total amount collected, whichever is lower.

<p><b>Clean buildings standard</b></p> <p><a href="#"><u>SB 5514</u></a> (SHB 1543)</p>	<p>S Environment, E</p> <p>Increasing compliance pathways for the clean buildings performance standard.</p> <p>This would expand compliance options for clean building performance standards by introducing alternative metrics, conditional compliance pathways, and flexibility for building owners. Allows the Department of Commerce to adopt alternative metrics for energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, provides extensions for compliance deadlines under specific conditions, and ensures that energy efficiency requirements do not compromise the historical integrity of registered historic buildings. AWC and WSAC support the bill.</p>	<p>Shewmake</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>SB 5544</u></a> (HB 1098)</p>	<p><b>County local roads</b></p> <p>Concerning county local roads.</p>	<p>S Transportation</p> <p>Liias</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>SB 5547</u></a></p>	<p><b>Cannabis revenue/local gov.</b></p> <p>WSAC priority. Increasing cannabis revenue distributions to local governments.</p> <p>The bill would increase cannabis revenue distribution to cities and counties every two years, while decreasing the amount for the state general fund. <b>This is a WSAC priority bill</b> and AWC supports.</p>	<p>S Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>Wagoner</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>SB 5567</u></a></p>	<p><b>Natural resources careers</b></p> <p>Expanding secondary training for careers in natural resources and conservation.</p> <p>The OSPI can partner with private and nonprofit partners to expand training for careers in sustainable natural resource conservation for youth aged 14-17.</p>	<p>S EL/K-12</p> <p>Nobles</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>SB 5576</u></a> (HB 1763)</p>	<p><b>Affordable housing funding</b></p> <p>Providing state funding for essential affordable housing programs.</p> <p>Beginning January 1, 2026, there is levied and collected a special excise tax of six percent on each retail sale of the furnishing of lodging constituting a short-term rental subject to tax to help fund affordable housing projects.</p>	<p>S Ways &amp; Means</p> <p>Lovelett</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>SB 5587</u></a></p>	<p><b>Affordable housing dev.</b></p> <p>Concerning affordable housing development in counties not closing the gap between estimated existing housing units within the county and existing housing needs.</p> <p>The bill modifies \reporting elements and if the report finds that a county's gap between estimated existing housing units and existing housing needs has not decreased from the preceding year, the county, or any city within the county may not deny an affordable housing development, or approve an affordable housing development with conditions or restrictions that have a substantial adverse</p>	<p>S Housing</p> <p>Cleveland</p>

impact on the viability of the development or the degree of affordability the development unless certain requirements are met.

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**Microenterprise home kitchen**      S Ag & Natural R      Frame  
[SB 5605](#)      Concerning the operation, authorization, and permitting of microenterprise home kitchens.  
WSAC/WSALPHO opposed.

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**Land use permitting workload**      S Loc Gov      Salomon  
[SB 5611](#)      Streamlining and clarifying local governments' land use permitting workloads.  
Expands the definition of "commercially zoned property", prohibits additional land use requirements for condominiums or cooperatives. It also restricts local governments from denying or imposing conditions on permits for residential housing in UGAs if required timelines are not met, with certain exceptions.

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**Multiunit housing/SEPA**      S Housing      Salomon  
[SB 5612](#)      Creating a categorical exemption for multiunit housing development within the incorporated areas in an urban growth area under the state environmental policy act.  
Allows a new temporary exemption for projects proposing four or more attached housing units in UGAs.

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**Residential development**      S Housing      Salomon  
[SB 5613](#)      Concerning the development of clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures for residential development.  
Requires cities and counties to adopt clear and objective standards, conditions, and procedures for residential development under the GMA.

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**Impact fees**      S Housing      Salomon  
[SB 5614](#)      Concerning impact fees.  
Revises the framework for deferring impact fees for single-family residential construction by replacing the existing lien system with a promissory note requirement. WSAC is concerned.

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**Residential housing permits**      S Housing      Salomon  
[SB 5615](#)      Concerning project permit applications for residential housing units.  
A proposed project to provide one or more residential housing units within the incorporated areas in an UGA area shall be considered under the zoning or other



land use control ordinances in effect at the time a fully completed project permit application has been submitted.

[SB 5631](#)  
(HB 1625)

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**Back country search & rescue**      S State Gov/Trib      Goehner

Supporting back country search and rescue organizations and volunteers through the creation of the back country search and rescue grant program.

In addition to the grant program, the bill allows counties, cities, and towns to recover back country search and rescue costs that are not reimbursed through other sources.

[SB 5633](#)

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**Subdivision of land**      S Loc Gov      Lovelett

Concerning the subdivision of land.

The bill moves subdivision approvals to an administrative process in jurisdictions planning under the GMA, introduces a "minor plat" process for dividing single lots, and mandates procedures for unit lot subdivisions to support multifamily development. It establishes uniform standards for subdivision design, expands the use of binding site plans, and sets clear timelines for application review to improve efficiency.

[SB 5650](#)

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**Cannabis local excise tax**      S Ways & Means      Wagoner

Authorizing a local excise tax on cannabis.

Counties and cities in Washington can impose a local excise tax of up to two percent on retail cannabis sales, subject to voter approval. Counties have the initial authority to impose the tax, but if they fail to do so by, cities within those counties may enact the tax under similar conditions.

[SB 5659](#)

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**Housing shortage/local share**      S Housing      Goehner

Eliminating each local government's proportional share of Washington's housing shortage.

Local jurisdictions can approve sufficient housing construction to eliminate their proportional share of the statewide housing shortage. The Department of Commerce will determine each jurisdictions proportional share.

[SB 5660](#)

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**Water & sewage system access**      S Loc Gov      Goehner

Making it possible for more properties to have access to water, storm drains, and sanitary sewage systems.

Allows the extension of water, sewer, and stormwater services beyond urban growth boundaries under specific conditions to address public health and environmental needs.

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**Multifamily tax exemption** S Housing Dozier  
 Expanding eligibility to utilize the multifamily tax exemption program to all counties required or choosing to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.

[SB 5679](#)  
 (HB 1206)

The bill will expand the multifamily tax exemption program's eligibility to more counties in Washington State by broadening the definition of "county" to include any that are required or choose to plan under the GMA. The bill simplifies the criteria for designating residential targeted areas by removing specific conditions. WSAC supports this bill.

**Utility relocation** S Transportation MacEwen  
 Concerning utility relocation.

[SB 5690](#)

DOT is directed to adopt and maintain agency procedures to proactively provide utility providers with information about planned state fish barrier removal projects with at least one year of advance notice whenever feasible. The DOT is also directed to request any available federal funding for fish barrier removal projects and to include utility relocation costs within the request for federal funds.

**Mental health treatment/tax** S Ways & Means King  
 Concerning the sales and use tax supporting chemical dependency and mental health treatment programs.

[SB 5696](#)

Allows for sales and use tax to support chemical dependency and mental health treatment programs, including for new construction of facilities.

## Delegation Bills

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
<a href="#"><u>HB 1144</u></a> <b>Superior court judge/Skagit</b> Adding an additional superior court judge in Skagit county.	H Approps	Lekanoff	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1287</u></a> <b>Health info./coordination</b> Addressing the disclosure of health information for care coordination.	H Rules R	Rule	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1291</u></a> <b>Maternity services costs</b> Concerning cost sharing for maternity services.	H Exec Action	Rule	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1318</u></a> <b>Children's diapers sales tax</b> Providing a sales and use tax exemption for children's diapers.	H Finance	Rule	
<b>PEBB &amp; SEBB consolidation</b>	H Approps	Lekanoff	

<a href="#"><u>HB 1330</u></a> (SB 5086)	Consolidating the public employees' benefits board and the school employees' benefits board.			
<a href="#"><u>HB 1353</u></a>	<b>ADU self-certification</b> Establishing a self-certification program for accessory dwelling unit project permit applications.	H Local Govt	Ramel	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1379</u></a> (SB 5084)	<b>Health carrier reporting</b> Concerning health carrier reporting.	H Rules R	Lekanoff	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1418</u></a>	<b>PTBA governing body members</b> Adding two voting members that are transit users to the governing body of public transportation benefit areas.	H Exec Action	Timmons	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1428</u></a>	<b>Criminal justice assistance</b> Concerning the county criminal justice assistance account and municipal criminal justice assistance account.  The bill increases funding for the County and Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Accounts annually. This is an AWC priority, and WSAC supports the bill as well.	H Approps	Rule	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 1478</u></a>	<b>Death cert./subst. homicide</b> Modifying the manner of death listed in a death certificate following a conviction of controlled substance homicide.	H HC/Wellness	Lekanoff	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1479</u></a>	<b>Office of native ed. grants</b> Establishing a state matching grant to support American Indian and Alaska Native students.	H Education	Lekanoff	
<a href="#"><u>HB 1480</u></a>	<b>Affordable housing REET</b> Allowing all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing, subject to the will of the voters.  Allows all counties to impose a real estate excise tax for the purpose of developing affordable housing.	H Finance	Ramel	Support
<a href="#"><u>HB 1494</u></a>	<b>Multiple-unit dwellings/tax</b> Concerning the property tax exemptions for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers.	H Finance	Ramel	

Modifies property tax exemption criteria for multi-unit housing. It maintains existing exemption periods of 8, 12, and 20 years but imposes stricter affordability requirements, particularly for 12- and 20-year exemptions, and includes provisions for covenants or deed restrictions to ensure compliance.

<a href="#"><u>HB 1502</u></a>	<b>Behavioral health teaching</b>	H HC/Wellness	Rule
	Establishing a behavioral health teaching clinic designation and enhancement rate.		
<a href="#"><u>SHB 1514</u></a>	<b>Low carbon thermal energy</b>	H ENVIDPS	Ramel
	Encouraging the deployment of low carbon thermal energy networks.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1521</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB 5504</u></a> )	<b>Complex care serv./children</b>	H HC/Wellness	Rule
	Supporting caregivers who provide complex care services to children with heightened medical needs.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1540</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB 5304</u></a> )	<b>Homelessness/tribal colleges</b>	H Approps	Timmons
	Expanding eligibility for the students experiencing homelessness and foster youth program to an accredited tribal college.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1544</u></a>	<b>Child abuse risk assessment</b>	H Exec Action	Rule
	Improving the risk assessment process used when investigating alleged child abuse and neglect referrals.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1548</u></a>	<b>Cannabis retail robberies</b>	H Community Safe	Rule
	Deterring robberies from cannabis retail establishments.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1554</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB 5543</u></a> )	<b>College bound scholarship</b>	H Postsec Ed & W	Timmons
	Providing equity in eligibility for the college bound scholarship.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1566</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB 5395</u></a> )	<b>Prior authorization/health</b>	H HC/Wellness	Rule
	Making improvements to transparency and accountability in the prior authorization determination process.		
<a href="#"><u>HB 1570</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB 5119</u></a> )	<b>Academic employee bargaining</b>	H Labor & Workpl	Timmons
	Concerning collective bargaining for certain employees who are enrolled in academic programs at public institutions of higher education.		

<a href="#"><u>HB 1583</u></a>	<b>Traditional health/medicaid</b> Concerning medicaid coverage for traditional health care practices.	H HC/Wellness	Lekanoff
<a href="#"><u>HB 1590</u></a>	<b>Self-resiliency skills</b> Supporting student success through instruction in self-resiliency skills.	H Education	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 1626</u></a> (SB 5378)	<b>PFML grants/school districts</b> Expanding access to grants within the paid family and medical leave insurance program for small school districts.	H Labor & Workpl	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 1632</u></a> (SSB 5480)	<b>Medical debt</b> Protecting consumers by removing barriers created by medical debt.	H Civil R & Judi	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 1652</u></a> (SB 5519)	<b>Ocean vessels/environment</b> Reducing environmental impacts associated with the operation of certain ocean-going vessels.	H Env & Energy	Lekanoff
<a href="#"><u>HB 1659</u></a> (SSB 5149)	<b>Early childhood court prg.</b> Expanding the early childhood court program.	H EL & Human Svc	Timmons
<a href="#"><u>HB 1663</u></a> (SB 5369)	<b>Youth mental health/schools</b> Enhancing youth mental health and well-being through advanced training and expansion of the workforce in schools.	H Education	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 1667</u></a>	<b>Cancer education programs</b> Concerning comprehensive cancer education programs.	H Approps	Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB 1673</u></a> (SB 5466)	<b>Electric transmission system</b> Improving reliability and capacity of the electric transmission system in Washington state.	H Env & Energy	Ramel
<a href="#"><u>HB 1692</u></a>	<b>Tribes/PRA exemption</b> Exempting certain data related to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Indian tribes from public inspection and copying.	H State Govt & T	Lekanoff
	<b>School library info and tech</b>	H Education	Rule

[HB  
1727](#)

Concerning school library information and technology programs.

[HB  
1734](#)

**Outdoor learning grants** H Cap Budget Rule  
Concerning outdoor learning grants to expand and improve the delivery of outdoor learning opportunities.

[HB  
1736](#)

**Missing persons** H Community Safe Lekanoff  
Concerning procedures and requirements for reporting and investigating missing persons.

[HB  
1751](#)

**Course materials sales tax** H Finance Timmons  
Establishing a sales and use tax exemption for required course materials at public institutions of higher education.

[HB  
1753](#)

**Child removal/opioid use** H EL & Human Svc Rule  
Addressing threats of harm to children by modifying the child removal standard related to another person's use or possession of a high-potency synthetic opioid.

[HB  
1768](#)

**Manuf. housing purchases** H Housing Lekanoff  
Preserving manufactured housing communities by limiting purchases by certain entities.

[HB  
1803](#)

**Safety of youth sports** H EL & Human Svc Rule  
Promoting safety of youth sports.

[HB  
1812](#)

**Anesthesia services** H HC/Wellness Rule  
Concerning patient-centered equitable access to anesthesia services and reimbursement.

[HB  
1829  
\(SB  
5585\)](#)

**Tribal warrants** H Community Safe Lekanoff  
Concerning tribal warrants.

[HB  
1836  
\(SB  
5400\)](#)

**Local news journalism** H Finance Ramel  
Supporting local news journalism.

**Schools/cardiac emergencies** H Education Rule

<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1863</u></a>	Promoting cardiac emergency response plans in schools.		
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1894</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5570</u></a> )	<b>Tribes/K-12 instruction</b> Supporting public school instruction in tribal sovereignty and federally recognized Indian tribes.	H Education	Lekanoff
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1910</u></a>	<b>Teacher-librarian funding</b> Increasing funding for teacher-librarians.		Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1925</u></a>	Expanding secondary training for careers in natural resources and conservation.		Rule
<a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1926</u></a>	Regarding training and testing of home care aides.		Timmons
<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5159</u></a>	<b>Trick-or-treat day</b> Establishing trick-or-treat day.	S State Gov/Trib	Shewmake
<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5174</u></a>	<b>Wood burning devices</b> Concerning wood burning devices.	S Environment, E	Shewmake
<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5175</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>HB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1789</u></a> )	<b>Photovoltaic modules</b> Concerning the photovoltaic module stewardship and takeback program.	S Environment, E	Shewmake
<a href="#"><u>SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5212</u></a>	<b>Water adjudication in WRIA 1</b> Concerning filing of adjudication claims for precode uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication.  Notwithstanding existing time restrictions for registering an existing water right, filing an adjudication claim form for an adjudication filed in WRIA 1 after June 1, 2023, satisfies the statement of claim filing requirements under current law. An amended bill was passed by the committee.	S 2nd RdConsCal	Shewmake <b>Support</b>
<a href="#"><u>SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5214</u></a> ( <a href="#"><u>SHB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>1388</u></a> )	<b>Mobile market programs</b> Concerning mobile market programs.	S 2nd Reading	Shewmake
	<b>Vehicle debris escape</b>	S Rules 2	Shewmake

[SSB 5215](#)

Concerning debris escaping from vehicles on public highways.

Modifies existing law regarding that all vehicles on public highways in Washington state must secure and cover their loads to prevent debris-related accidents. An amended bill was passed by the committee that, among other things, restores the current law language around cleaning the public highway of all fallen and current penalty law language.

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**Green energy/community**

S Environment, E

Shewmake

Concerning green energy community funds to support school districts and nonprofit organizations that service the communities where renewable energy projects are located.

[SB 5216](#)

Creates the Washington Green Energy Community Funds Act to support school districts and nonprofits in communities hosting renewable energy projects. The bill allows qualifying light and power businesses to receive tax credits for cash contributions to local entities, with the credits capped at 75 percent of the contribution amount and a maximum of \$250,000 per business annually.

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[SB 5220](#)

**City small works rosters**

S Loc Gov

Shewmake

Modifying small works roster requirements for cities.

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[SB 5234](#)

**Snowmobile registration fees**

S Ways & Means

Shewmake

Concerning snowmobile registration fees.

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[SB 5246](#)

(HB 1237)

**Energy facility site eval.**

S Environment, E

Shewmake

Facilitating predictable and timely application decisions by the energy facility site evaluation council.

This would streamline the processes of EFSEC in the State by amending and repealing certain provisions. The bill mandates that if a proposed energy facility site is inconsistent with local land use plans, an adjudicative proceeding must be held before the council can recommend the preemption of such plans.

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[SSB 5252](#)

**Assembly halls/property tax**

S WMDPS

Shewmake

Removing the acreage limit on the property tax exemption for nonprofit public assembly halls and meeting places.

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[SB 5259](#)

**Commercial fishing bait tax**

S Ways & Means

Shewmake

Creating a sales and use tax exemption for bait purchased for commercial fishing.

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[SB 5261](#)

**Nonconsumptive hydropower**

S Ag & Natural R

Shewmake

Issuing water right permits for nonconsumptive hydropower use in water resource inventory areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.



Allows the Department of Ecology to issue a water right permit for a nonconsumptive hydropower use in a water resource inventory in areas in which minimum instream flows are not being met.

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<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5284</u></a> (HB 1150)	<b>Solid waste management</b>	S Environment, E	Lovelett
	Improving Washington's solid waste management outcomes.		
	The bill requires producers to participate in Producer Responsibility Organizations (PROs) by January 1, 2026, to manage the lifecycle of packaging and paper products, from design to disposal. Key provisions include setting performance targets for recycling and composting, establishing an advisory council, and conducting statewide needs assessments and equity studies. AWC is supportive. WSAC is neutral.		

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<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5319</u></a> (HB 1647)	<b>Surface mine reclamation</b>	S Ag & Natural R	Shewmake
	Establishing surface mine reclamation permit fees.		

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<a href="#"><u>SSB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5332</u></a> (SHB 1443)	<b>Mobile dwellings</b>	S Ways & Means	Shewmake
	Concerning mobile dwellings.		
	Any city or county must allow at least one home on wheels on each lot zoned for residential use if the certain conditions are met. An amended bill was passed by the committee.		

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<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5359</u></a> (HB 1328)	<b>Clean energy development</b>	S Environment, E	Shewmake
	Accelerating the development of clean energy and transmission.		
	The bill creates a framework for the State to provide the information, planning, and support needed to accelerate the pace of development for clean energy projects and electrical transmission facilities. It also creates the Clean Energy Development Office and outlines their roles and responsibilities.		

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<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5461</u></a>	<b>Intensive rural dev. areas</b>	S Loc Gov	Lovelett
	Concerning residential development in limited areas of more intensive rural development.		
	A county may authorize development of four units or six units if at least two units are affordable housing on lots zoned for residential use in limited areas of more intensive rural development. WSAC supports this bill.		

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<a href="#"><u>SB</u></a> <a href="#"><u>5510</u></a> (HB 1488)	<b>Conservation district limits</b>	S Ways & Means	Shewmake
	Concerning conservation district revenue limitations.		

Counties would be limited to deducting either the actual costs incurred, or 1 percent of the total amount collected, whichever is lower.

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<a href="#"><u>SB 5514</u></a> (SHB 1543)	<b>Clean buildings standard</b>	S Environment, E	Shewmake
	Increasing compliance pathways for the clean buildings performance standard.		
	This would expand compliance options for clean building performance standards by introducing alternative metrics, conditional compliance pathways, and flexibility for building owners. Allows the Department of Commerce to adopt alternative metrics for energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, provides extensions for compliance deadlines under specific conditions, and ensures that energy efficiency requirements do not compromise the historical integrity of registered historic buildings. AWC and WSAC support the bill.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5515</u></a> (HB 1598)	<b>Community solar</b>	S Environment, E	Shewmake
	Concerning fair access to community solar.		
	The bill increases the allowable size of community solar projects to 5,000 kW, requires at least 50 percent of project capacity to be subscribed by residential customers and 30 percent by low-income subscribers, and introduces new terms such as "community solar bill credit" and "net-crediting."		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5519</u></a> (HB 1652)	<b>Ocean vessels/environment</b>	S Environment, E	Lovelett
	Reducing environmental impacts associated with the operation of certain ocean-going vessels.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5548</u></a> (HB 1788)	<b>Workers' compensation</b>	S Labor & Comm	Shewmake
	Concerning workers' compensation benefits.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5559</u></a>	<b>UGA subdivision process</b>	S Loc Gov	Lovelett
	Streamlining the subdivision process inside urban growth areas.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5581</u></a>	<b>Safe system approach strat.</b>	S Transportation	Shewmake
	Implementing safe system approach strategies for active transportation infrastructure.		
<a href="#"><u>SB 5625</u></a>	<b>State clam/Pacific geoduck</b>	S State Gov/Trib	Shewmake
	Designating the Pacific geoduck as the state clam.		

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**SB**  
**5634**  
**(HB**  
**1804)**

**Community solar projects**      S Environment, E      Lovelett  
Improving accessibility of community solar projects in Washington state.