

Whatcom County Report

Upcoming Events

Thursday, March 13

[SB 5224](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning officer certification definitions, processes, and commissioning.

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

[HB 1054](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning county ferry maintenance and repair contracts. (Support)

[HB 1039](#) - Exec Session - Concerning extending governmental services from cities to tribal lands.

[HB 1494](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning the property tax exemptions for new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers.

[SHB 1260](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning administrative costs associated with the document recording fee.

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

Friday, March 14

[HB 1287](#) - Public Hearing - Addressing the disclosure of health information for care coordination.

[SSB 5212](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning filing of adjudication claims for precode uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication. (Support)

[SHB 1353](#) - Public Hearing - Establishing a self-certification program for accessory dwelling unit project permit applications.

[ESSB 5184](#) - Public Hearing - Concerning minimum parking requirements.

County Priority

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Position</u>
County REET admin. fees Concerning county fees for administration of the real estate excise tax. HB 1044 Increases REET fees to support County Assessor and Treasurer. These revenues are placed into two new county funds, which are not subject to appropriation by the county legislative authority. The bill has passed out of a policy and fiscal committee.	H Rules R	Wylie	Support
County ferry contracts HB 1054 Concerning county ferry maintenance and repair contracts.	S Loc Gov	Leavitt	Support

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 unanimously voted off the House floor on February 12.

<u>SHB 1811</u>	Crisis co-response Enhancing crisis response services through co-response integration and support.	S Health & Long-T	Salahuddin	Support
<u>SHB 1811</u>	Develops a statewide internal peer support program to assist co-response professionals who have faced life-threatening or traumatic incidents on the job. The House passed the bill 92 to 3. WSAC supports.			
<u>2SHB 1813</u>	Medical assist reprocurement Concerning the reprocurement of medical assistance services, including the realignment of behavioral health crisis services for medicaid enrollees.	H Rules R	Macri	Support
	Substitute versions of the bill have been passed out of the policy and fiscal committees with numerous changes to the original bill. WSAC priority.			
<u>SHB 1867</u>	Affordable housing REET 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.	H Rules R	Ramel	Support
	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 up to 0.5 percent of the selling price. The proceeds of the tax must be used exclusively for the development of affordable housing. The Finance Committee passed a substitute that requires that if a county imposes the affordable housing REET after a city has done so, the county must credit against its tax for the amount of tax imposed by the city. WSAC and AWC supports the bill.			
<u>SSB 5212</u>	Water adjudication in WRIA 1 Concerning filing of adjudication claims for precode uses of groundwater and surface water in the water resource inventory area 1 water rights adjudication.	H Ag&Nr	Shewmake	Support
	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.			

Monitoring

Bill Details	Status	Sponsor
<u>HB 1039</u> (SSB 5301)	S Loc Gov	Abbarno
Gov. services/tribal lands 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 unanimously voted off the House floor on February 13.		
<u>SHB 1260</u>	S Ways & Means	Schmidt
Document recording fee admin Concerning administrative costs associated with the document recording fee.		

Allows cities, meeting certain criteria, to a portion of document recording fee surcharge. The bill was unanimously passed off the House floor.

<u>SHB 1488</u> (SSB 5510)	Conservation district limits 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. The House passed the bill with a 57 to 39 vote.	S Ways & Means	Berg
<u>HB 1494</u>	Multiple-unit dwellings/tax 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. The House passed the bill 63 to 34.	S Ways & Means	Ramel
<u>ESSB 5184</u> (HB 1299)	Minimum parking requirements Concerning minimum parking requirements. The bill limits mandatory parking requirements with certain exemptions. The Senate passed the bill off the floor with several amendments. These amendments include allowing a county to require off-street parking if the county's roads are not developed to the standards for streets; if a city or county believes the parking limitations will be unsafe, they can submit to Commerce to review to be exempt from the bill; and the bill only applies to cities with a population of over 20,000. WSAC has concerns.	H Local Govt	Bateman
<u>SB 5224</u> (HB 1400)	Officer certification Concerning officer certification definitions, processes, and commissioning. WSAC supports.	H Community Safet	Lovick
<u>SB 5317</u>	EFSEC/services by local gov. WSAC priority. Exempting local governments providing certain services for projects under the jurisdiction of the energy facility siting evaluation council from certain appeals. The bill passed off the Senate floor unanimously. This is a WSAC priority bill.	H Env & Energy	Goehner
