

Weekly Legislative Update: Growth Management

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart
Contact: cstewart@lwvwa.org

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Bills Seeing Action This Week

SB 5670 Creating additional middle housing near transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. Creates additional middle housing near transit and in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing, would amend the Growth Management Act to require cities over a certain size to include middle housing, such as courtyard apartments and townhouses, in single family neighborhoods; with technical assistance from the Department of Commerce

⚠ The bill will be heard in the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee on January 18th. To express your opinion, go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSI/Senate> Enter Housing & Local Government Committee and January 18, and then click on the bill number, followed by "I would like my position noted for the legislative record."

Bills We Support

HB 1717 - Concerning tribal participation in planning under the growth management act.

ESHB 1241 – Planning under the growth management act, which would extend the planning period to 10 years from the current eight and also require interim reports at five years.

Bills We Oppose

HB 1627 - Making it possible for more properties to have access to water, storm drains, and sanitary sewage systems. This bill would allow extension of urban levels of service into the rural areas.

League Offers Testimony

There were three bills to amend the Growth Management Act, all dealing with accessory dwelling units in different ways. They were heard together in the House Local Government Committee on Wednesday. League testimony was to the effect of recommending a single bill that would combine the best features of all three, to incentivize development of ADUs as beneficial for adding lower cost housing for these reasons:

- They offer smaller units at typically lower than standard prices.
- They offer opportunities for families or others to remain close together.

- They can be a way that some people can enter into home ownership.
- They are often more acceptable than many other types of new development would be in some neighborhoods facing the need for increased density.

These bills were:

[HB 1660](#) - Concerning accessory dwelling units, would require cities and counties to incorporate ADUs as permissible development by 7/1/24, and prohibited requiring owner occupancy in the primary residence unless ADU is offered for short-term rental

[HB 1711](#) - Concerning accessory dwelling units, would authorize cities and counties to adopt ordinances, development regulations, and other official controls which waive or defer fees, including impact fees; defer the payment of taxes; or waive specific regulations to encourage use of ADUs; provided the ADUs are not used for short-term rental. Incentives would be authorized.

[HB 1337](#) - Concerning accessory dwelling units, would create an incentive account for local governments to allow ADUs and prescribed a list of conditions necessary to qualify for the incentive account. The funding would aid the jurisdiction in development of the plans and regulations.

How You Can Be Involved

- During the legislative session we will send Action Alerts in the [Legislative Newsletter](#). Please respond to these, which will direct you to an application to facilitate communicating with your legislators on an important vote in committees or on the chamber floor.
- Local Leagues in Washington have action chairs who coordinate action teams. Some local Leagues have education teams to take action locally. Contact your local League action chair to find out and join.
- You may also express your opinion on legislation with the LWWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Cynthia Stewart, Growth Management Issue Chair, cstewart@lwawa.org