

Weekly Legislative Update: **Housing and Homelessness**

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January 16, 2022

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.”

[HB 1904](#) Protecting tenants from excessive rent and related fees by providing at least six months' notice for rent increases over a certain amount, allowing tenants the right to terminate a tenancy, and limiting late fees. Protecting tenants from excessive rent and related fees by providing at least six months' notice for rent increases over a certain amount, allowing tenants the right to terminate a tenancy, and limiting late fees.

⚠️ The bill will be heard in the House Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee on January 18th. To express your opinion, go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/house#> Enter *Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee and January 18*, then click on the bill number, followed by “I would like my position noted for the legislative record.”

[HB 1908](#) Addressing surplus public property for affordable housing. Protecting tenants from excessive rent and related fees by providing at least six months' notice for rent increases over a certain amount, allowing tenants the right to terminate a tenancy, and limiting late fees.

⚠️ The bill will be heard in the House Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee on January 18th. To express your opinion, go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/csi/house#> Enter *Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee and January 18*, then click on the bill number, followed by “I would like my position noted for the legislative record.”

[SB 5825](#) Establishing a rental and vacant property registration program work group.

Establishes a rental and vacant property registration program work group.

⚠ The bill will be heard in the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee on January 19th at 10:30 AM. To express your opinion, go to:

<https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSI/Senate> Enter *Housing & Local Government Committee and January 19*, and then click on the bill number, followed by “*I would like my position noted for the legislative record.*”

[SB 5818](#) Promoting housing construction in cities through amendments to and limiting appeals under the state environmental policy act and growth management act. Promotes housing construction in cities through amendments to and limiting appeals under the state environmental policy act and growth management act, would encourage cities to increase density and development in areas supported by commuter or light rail or frequent transit service with a variety of incentives including appeal rights under SEPA and GMA for the ordinances (note that does not remove the requirements under SEPA for the actual construction).

⚠ The bill will be heard in the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee on January 20th. To express your opinion, go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSI/Senate> Enter *Housing & Local Government Committee and January 20*, and then click on the bill number, followed by “*I would like my position noted for the legislative record.*”

[HB 1880](#) Concerning housing benefit districts. Relates to housing benefit districts, would authorize certain jurisdictions to establish a housingbenefit district within their city boundaries for the purpose of acquiring, land banking, predevelopment contracting, selling, improving, funding, and leasing land for the creation of affordable low-income and middle-income housing and community development projects within their city boundaries.

⚠ The bill will be heard in the House Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee on January 21st. To express your opinion, go to: <https://app.leg.wa.gov/CSI/Senate> Enter *Housing, Human Services & Veterans Committee and January 21*, and then click on the bill number, followed by “*I would like my position noted for the legislative record.*”

Bills We Support

Public hearings were held last week on several housing related bills that the League supported. See the page on Growth Management for additional related bills.

[HB 1593](#) Expands the landlord mitigation program to alleviate the financial burden on victims attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, unlawful harassment, or stalking.

[HB 1724](#) Ensures oversight and coordination of permanent supportive housing resources to maximize the creation of high quality housing opportunities for people living with disabling conditions in communities across Washington.

[HB 1601](#), Relates to the student homelessness pilot, expanding the prior pilot project to all community and technical colleges.

[SB 5566](#) Expands eligibility for the independent youth housing program.

[SB 5576](#) Addresses landlord-tenant relations by providing technical changes to eviction notice and summons forms and modifying certain eviction processes and programs.

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 LWVWA issue chairs. We will take your perspectives under consideration as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Cynthia Stewart, Growth Management Issue Chair, cstewart@lwvwa.org