

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Growth Management**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: [cstewart@lwvwa.org](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org)

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**Thank you to all who signed in PRO on HB 1181 last week. Your voice matters!**

During the last week, HB 1620 passed the Senate and several bills had public hearings. HB 1110, HB 1167, HB 1181 and HB 1425 are all awaiting executive sessions next week on Monday or Tuesday in the Senate Ways & Means Committee, while SB 5235 and SB 5412 are in the House Rules Committee, where they await floor action. One bill, HB 1245, died in committee.

### **Bills that Passed Both Chambers**

**HB 1620 Concerning the number of inhabitants required for incorporation as a city or town** would remove the requirement that an area must have at least 3,000 inhabitants, instead of the otherwise standard 1,500, to incorporate if it is within 5 air miles of a city with a population of 15,000 or more. This bill passed the House on February 9 with a vote of 97 to 0; and passed the Senate on March 31, with a vote of 47-1.

### **Bills that Passed the House of Origin**

**HB 1110 Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing.** This bill passed the House as a second substitute with a vote of 75-21 on March 6. It was referred to the Senate Housing Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 17 and was passed as a substitute to the Ways & Means Committee on March 24. It was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on March 31 and is scheduled for executive session in that committee on April 3.

**HB 1167 Concerning residential housing regulations,** establishes a grant program to assist counties and cities adopt preapproved middle housing plans and prohibits a city or county from imposing any regulations, reviews, or standards on multiplex housing that is not applied to detached single family residences. This bill passed the House on March 4 with a vote of 95-0 had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee on March 14. It passed that committee as a substitute in executive session on March 16 and was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 23. It is scheduled for executive session on Monday, April 3.

**HB 1181 Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.** This bill passed out of the House on March 3 with a vote of 57-41. It had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee on March 14 and

passed out of committee and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 23. It has been scheduled for executive session on Monday, April 3.

**HB 1425 Facilitating municipal annexations** would change the number of residents required for annexation in small communities passed the House with a vote of 96-0 on March 3. It has been scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee on March 21. At the executive session in that committee on March 23, it was passed and referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 31. This bill is scheduled for executive session on April 4.

**SB 5235 Concerning accessory dwelling units.** This passed the Senate on February 27 with a vote of 42-6 and had a public hearing in the House Housing Committee on March 13 and at executive session on March 27 was referred to the House Rules Committee.

**SB 5412 Reducing local governments' land use permitting workloads.** This bill passed the Senate on March 6 with a vote of 49-0 and was assigned to the House Local Government Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 21. On March 24, it was referred to the House Rules Committee. Permitting has been described as one of the barriers to development of affordable housing. League has taken the position that no regulations related to safety or environmental protection should be removed, but that processes to expedite permitting should be enhanced.

**SB 5466 Promoting transit-oriented development,** passed the Senate with a vote of 40 – 8 and was referred to the House Housing Committee, where it had a public hearing on March 16. It moved to the Capital Budget Committee as a substitute, where it had a public hearing on March 31 and executive session on March 31, but the outcome was not available as of this writing.

## **Bills That Died**

**HB 1133 Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside urban growth areas.** (*Recall that League is watching this, in case it is amended to allow more than nominal change in rural areas.*) This bill had a public hearing on January 19 and was passed out of the House Housing Committee as a substitute bill on January 26. It was in the House Rules Committee but died because it was not sent to the floor for a vote by the cutoff date. Its companion bill, SB 5357, also died.

**HB 1245 Increasing housing options through lot splitting,** HB 1245 passed the House with a vote of 94-2 and had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee on March 14. It had an executive session on March 28 but no action was taken. Because it did not pass out of committee by the cutoff of March 29, it has died.

**HB 1351 Encouraging transit-oriented development through a prohibition on the imposition of minimum parking requirements.** This bill passed the House Local Government Committee on

February 8 and was in the House Rules Committee but did not make it to the floor for a vote by the cutoff date. Its companion bill, SB 5456, died in committee.

**HB 1401 Allowing cities and counties to create a simple, standardized housing permit process for affordable housing units in areas designated for housing.** This bill passed the House Housing Committee on February 2 and was referred to the Rules Committee but died because it was not sent to the floor for a vote by the cutoff date.

**HB 1611 Local government permitting.** This bill passed the House Housing Committee on February 7 and has been referred to the Finance Committee but it did not pass out of that committee by the cut-off date.

**HB 1723/SB 5651 Concerning equity and environmental justice in the growth management act** would add environmental justice and equity as a goal in the Growth Management Act and as an element in local comprehensive plans. Both bills died because they were not passed out of the committees by the cut-off dates.

**HB 1735 Adding net ecological gain as a voluntary element of comprehensive plans under the growth management act** passed the House Environment and Energy Committee on February 13 and was referred to the Appropriations Committee, but it died there because it did not pass by the cut-off date.

**SB 5190 Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing** was passed from the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs on January 12 and referred to the Senate Housing Committee, where it was moved out of committee as a substitute bill and has been referred to the Ways & Means Committee but was never scheduled for public hearing in that committee. So it died because it did not pass out of the policy committee by the cut-off date.

**SB 5203 Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework.** This bill passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use and Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute and has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee but did not pass out of that committee by the fiscal cut-off date.

**SB 5364 Increasing housing options through lot splitting,** passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute and died in the Senate Rules Committee. Its companion bill, HB 1245, is described above.

**SB 5357 Establishing limitations on detached accessory dwelling units outside urban growth areas.** This bill had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee on January 26 was never scheduled for executive session, so it died.

**SB 5456 Encouraging transit-oriented development through a prohibition on the imposition of minimum parking requirements.** SB 5456 had a public hearing in the Senate Local

Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee but no action was taken in executive session. It died because it did not pass out of the committee by the cut-off date.

## **How You Can Be Involved**

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to growth management.
- Contact Cynthia Stewart, [cstewart@lwvwa.org](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org), to receive additional information.