

Weekly Legislative Update: **Housing and Homelessness**

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Thank you to those of you who signed in PRO on bills last week. None were lost this week. Given the status of these bills, there is not much action to recommend as of this writing; but it is possible there will be some action to suggest mid-week. Please watch for supplemental information.

This House bill is currently in Senate Rules Committee awaiting floor action next week before the March 4 deadline.

- [HB 1724](#), Ensuring 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

Two other House bills are awaiting executive sessions to vote on them, following public hearings last week. These are scheduled for Monday, February 28, which is the last day they can pass out of committee.

- [HB 1593](#), Expanding the landlord mitigation program to alleviate the financial burden on victims attempting to flee domestic violence, sexual assault, unlawful harassment, or stalking
- [HB 1643](#), Exempting a sale or transfer of real property for affordable housing to a nonprofit entity, housing authority, public corporation, county, or municipal corporation from the real estate excise tax

Three Senate bills are in the House Rules Committee, awaiting floor action next week before the March 4 deadline:

- [SB 5749](#), Concerning payments made by residential tenants
- [SB 5868](#), Expanding the use of the rural counties public facilities sales and use tax to include affordable workforce housing
- [SB 5883](#), Concerning an unaccompanied homeless youth's ability to provide informed consent ...*[the title is quite long]*

Additionally, these bills are in various positions in committees but still alive as of this writing:

- [SB 5566](#), Expanding eligibility for the independent youth housing program, had a public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee this week but has not yet been

scheduled for executive session. It could still be on an agenda Monday, February 28, which is the cut-off.

- [SB 5755](#), Authorizing certain cities to establish a limited sales and use tax incentive program to encourage redevelopment of vacant lands in urban areas, is scheduled for a vote in executive session of the House Ways & Means Committee on Monday, February 28.
- [SB 5832](#), Expanding the multifamily tax exemption program to include converting existing multifamily units, had a public hearing in the House Finance Committee on February 21. It has not had a vote in executive session but could still get one on Monday, February 28, which is the cut-off.

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 considerations as we determine our support for legislation and prepare testimony. Cynthia Stewart, Growth Management Issue Chair, cstewart@lwwa.org