

Weekly Legislative Update: Revenue

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The emphasis in this session has been on continuing to balance the tax structure by both adding taxes for those with wealth and adding payments or exemptions to those at the lower income levels, who continue to pay more as a share of their income than those at higher income levels. Unfortunately several bills that League was supporting did not make it through the process. It is possible that some could be rejuvenated, since they relate to fiscal matters; but not likely.

The second tier of emphasis was on bills that would provide additional revenue for housing and homelessness, either prevention or response, or for other local government functions.

Unfortunately, it does not appear that the public bank bill, SB 5188, while still “alive”, is not going to get to the floor for a Senate vote. This could change, but at this point, it is not a promising prospect. In other cases, bills that are still alive but not listed below are pending Rules Committee action to place them on the floor for a vote.

Meanwhile, the House and Senate will be releasing their respective operating and capital budget proposals within the next week or so. **The Senate has announced a public hearing on [SB 5651](#) Concerning the capital budget, on February 17 at 4:00 pm in the Ways & Means Committee.** To date, the bill is the Governor’s proposal; the substitute on which this hearing has been announced is not yet available (as of this writing).

One bill that has not yet passed but is related to revenue so is less subject to cutoffs is:

⚠️ [SB 5901](#) Concerning economic development tax incentives for targeted counties. This has been scheduled for public hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee at 4:00 pm on **February 17**. Sign in **PRO** [here](#).

Bills that have passed:

- [SB 5713](#), Providing a property tax exemption for limited equity cooperative housing. This bill has not yet been assigned to a committee in the House.
- [SB 5868](#), Expanding the use of the rural counties public facilities sales and use tax to include affordable workforce housing. This bill has been assigned to the House Finance Committee but has not been scheduled for a public hearing yet.
- [HB 1765](#), Ensuring the ongoing sustainability and vitality of the Washington health benefit exchange by eliminating the expiration date of its business and occupation tax exemption. This bill has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee but has not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

- [HB 1789](#), Establishing a property tax exemption for adult family homes serving people with intellectual or developmental disabilities and owned by a nonprofit. This bill has been referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee but has not yet been scheduled for public hearing.

Bills that died because they did not move by the cut-off:

- SB 5513, Relating to expanding flexibility of existing lodging taxes for affordable workforce housing
- SB 5654, Ensuring the ongoing sustainability and vitality of the Washington health benefit exchange by eliminating the expiration date of its business and occupation tax exemption.
- SB 5769, Reforming the state tax system by providing tax relief to residents, employees, and employers.
- HB 1035, Providing local governments with options to grant rent relief and preserve affordable housing in their communities
- HB 1465, Making the estate tax more progressive by exempting small estates, reducing estate taxes on medium estates, increasing the estate tax on larger estates, and addressing equity in homeownership and homelessness
- HB 1672, Concerning local property tax levies for conservation futures
- HB 2009, Creating the evergreen basic income trust (Guaranteed Basic Income)

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@lwvwa.org