

Weekly Legislative Update: **Growth Management**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

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Thank you for signing in PRO last week for **SB 5412, Reducing local governments' land use permitting workloads**, and **HB 1611, Local government permitting**. HB 5412 passed and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. Unfortunately, HB 1611, died because it did not get passed out of committee by the cut-off date.

There are no action items this week.

Bills that Passed

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 Local Government Committee as a substitute on February 3 and moved through the Rules Committee to the floor, where it passed as a substitute on February 9. It has been referred to the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee.

Updates

HB 1110 Increasing middle housing in areas traditionally dedicated to single-family detached housing. This bill passed the House Housing Committee and the Appropriations Committee and has been referred to the House Rules Committee as a substitute. Its companion bill, SB 5190, 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 is now in the House Rules Committee. Its companion bill, SB 5357, died.

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 Housing Committee and the House Appropriations Committee and is now in the House Rules Committee.

HB 1181 Improving the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework. This bill passed out of the House Local Government Committee as a substitute bill and referred to the House Appropriations Committee, from which it passed as a second substitute and it is now in the House Rules Committee.

HB 1245/SB 5364 Increasing housing options through lot splitting, HB 1245 passed the House Housing Committee as a substitute on February 2 and has been referred to the Rules Committee. It is on second reading. **SB 5364** passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

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 has been referred to the House Rules Committee. 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 has been referred to the Rules Committee.

SB 5235 Concerning accessory dwelling units. This passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute on February 9 and has been referred to the Rules Committee, where it is now on second reading.

SB 5412 Reducing local governments' land use permitting workloads. This bill passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee and has now passed the Transportation Committee and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

SB 5466 Promoting transit-oriented development, passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee and the Transportation Committee and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

Bills That Died

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 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, to receive additional information.