

Weekly Legislative Update: **Growth Management**

Issue Team Chair: Cynthia Stewart

Contact: cstewart@lwvwa.org

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This week several bills have moved from the house of origin to the opposite chamber. Two have action alerts this week. Others are awaiting public hearings. Several bills are in the respective Rules Committees as of this writing and could pass if the Legislature convenes over the weekend.

Please take Action

SB 5235 Concerning accessory dwelling units. This passed the Senate on February 27 with a vote of 42-6 and has been referred to the House Housing Committee, where it is scheduled for public hearing at 8:00 am on Thursday, March 9.

Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 7:00 am on Thursday.

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 and has been referred to the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee, where it has a public hearing at 10:30 am on Thursday, March 9.

Please sign in PRO [here](#) before 9:30 am on Thursday.

Other Bills that Passed the House of Origin

SB 5466 Promoting transit-oriented development, passed the Senate with a vote of 40 – 8 and has been referred to the House Housing 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 with a vote of 57-41. It has not yet been assigned a committee in the Senate.

HB 1245 Increasing housing options through lot splitting, HB 1245 passed the House with a vote of 94-2 and has been referred to the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee. Its companion bill, SB 5364 passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.

[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 not yet been assigned to a Senate 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.

[SB 5364](#) Increasing housing options through lot splitting, SB 5364 passed the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee as a substitute and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. Its companion bill, HB 1245, is described above. It has passed the House and is now in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs 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 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.

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@lwwa.org, to receive additional information.