



# Legislative Bulletin

February 5, 2018

## Hot topics

### Voting Rights Act bill moving

AWC has been actively engaged with House legislators in discussing ways to improve this bill by reducing the chance for unintended consequences and improving the clarity of language that pertains to implementation. Read AWC's suggestions on ways to improve the bill. Now is the time to contact your legislator if you have input.

## From the Director

### City priorities and issues of concern at the halfway point

We are halfway through the legislative session and past an important legislative cutoff deadline. Find out which city priorities failed to move past the deadline, and which ones are moving through the process. Also discover the issues of concern to cities that we are tracking closely, and how you can help.

## Things you can do

### Local Records Grant Program accepting applications until February 28

Cities can now apply online for the Washington State Archives Local Records Grant Program. Grant-funded projects can include technology tools, organization of files, or digital imaging. Only one type of grant project is allowed per grant cycle. Applications for this grant cycle close on February 28, 2018. Another grant cycle will start again in July 2018.

## Media time

### Local drug take-back laws are successful

The pharmaceutical industry's MED-Project program provides more secure medicine drop boxes under local ordinances. Local health boards adopted these laws to help prevent medicine abuse, addiction, and overdose deaths by helping residents clean old drugs out of their medicine cabinets. **SHB 1047** would expand this successful model statewide. Watch this video to learn how it works.

## What you need to know

### Budget & finance

Local revenue flexibility bill in House Rules Committee.

Bill to create study on state and local property taxes heard in committee.

### Economic development

Bill seeking to incentivize commercial office space development passed out of committee.

### Environment & land use

Military land use compatibility bill hits unexpected snag in House, moves in Senate.

Bill requiring six dwelling units per acre in all residential zones fails to pass, for now.

### General government

Bill would set disclosure requirements for utility bills.

### Housing

Local Government Committee sends local option levy lid lift exemption to Ways and Means.

### Human services

Here's the latest on housing, homelessness and behavioral health bills.

A major milestone may be close at hand. Prescription drug take-back bill poised for action in the House.

### Marijuana

Bill requiring a public vote to ban marijuana businesses passes out of committee. Currently cities have the authority to place bans or moratoriums on marijuana businesses through ordinances.

### Personnel

Three separate proposals to expand first responder occupational diseases all pass out of committee. AWC opposes these costly expansions.

Bill that encourages disclosure of sexual harassment in the workplace passes out of committee. The bill has until Wednesday, February 14 to pass out of the Senate.

Both wrongful death bills expanding city tort liability pass out of committee. If you haven't already, please consider reaching out to your legislators and voice your opposition.

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### **Public safety & criminal justice**

AWC-supported body worn cameras bill passes out of committee. The bill came out of a two-year-long task force which issued a report and set of recommendations in December.

Bills to provide funding for mental health first responders pass out of committee. Two bills propose grant programs for local law enforcement agencies to develop and operate mental health field response teams.

A bill that would eventually provide 100 percent of public defense funding has passed first hurdle.

Bill changes how law enforcement may seize property in civil asset forfeiture cases

### **Transportation**

Bill would increase city population threshold for enhanced state route maintenance responsibilities.

Proposal could help cities deal with abandoned recreational vehicles on public property.

## **From the Legislative Director**

### **City priorities and issues of concern at the halfway point**

AWC's goals for the short 60-day legislative session are to:

1. Advance city legislative priorities; and
2. Ensure that cities aren't burdened by new costly mandates or constrained on how they make decisions and spend local revenues.

February 2 was the deadline to advance policy bills for further consideration. Many bills of concern to cities failed to move forward, while several key ones continued to make progress. The February 6 deadline to advance bills with a state fiscal impact will likely further narrow the list of bills that can help or hinder meeting our goals listed above.

We are making some progress on providing tools and avoiding some mandates, but we continue to fight some uphill battles to protect cities from new costly mandates and stop intrusions into how local decisions are made.

### **The good news**

As reported in this week's series of Bulletin articles, most of AWC's proactive bills that seek housing and human service tools are under consideration, or are up for further consideration. We hope that the House will move key bills to the floor for votes, which will move them over to the Senate. A smattering of bills didn't advance that would have mandated minimum residential zoning densities or impeded the ability of cities to annex and extend utilities.

We are making progress on protecting city interests and authority when it comes to welcoming new cellular technology – when and if it's ready to come to your community. Efforts by the industry to replicate preemption of local regulatory authorities (which has occurred in many other states around the country) have so far failed to interest decision-makers in our state. House and Senate bills moving forward maintain local control, while encouraging preparations for this new technology. Efforts to expand high-speed broadband access to all parts of the state continue, but will be costly and likely move forward in small steps over time.

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## **Of concern**

We continue to work with our county partners seeking to obtain funding for state-mandated indigent defense costs. While our ideas are under consideration, budget writers appear reluctant to commit to significant initial investments or longer-term obligations to fund these services. We're also witnessing legislative interest in passing bills that would extend workers' compensation benefits for local firefighters, investigators, and law enforcement personnel that will be costly for local governments, but not burden the state. Similarly, bills are advancing that would expand city tort responsibilities in wrongful death cases that could be very costly and litigious.

Finally, we continue to offer ideas on how to improve the voting rights legislation moving swiftly forward. We know a bill will pass providing new legal means to challenge whether a city's system of choosing council candidates provides access to minority residents. How challenges can be brought (whether only by a resident voter, or any person), how courts view any city remedy, and what size city this applies to – are all items still under consideration. We will know more about how our recommendations are being considered when the bill comes up for a vote in the House State Government, Elections & Information Technology Committee on February 7.

## **Add your voice at critical times**

Senators and Representatives have until Valentine's Day to vote on bills in their respective chambers to either advance or stop them from being considered in the opposite one. If you believe that there's a bill on their plate that either helps or hinders what you're trying to achieve in your city, a phone call – not an email – can and does make a difference. It takes just a few minutes, but can make a real difference. Check out our online Legislative Directory for their office number.

## **Budget & finance**

### **Bill giving cities greater flexibility with sales tax and levy lid lifts in House Rules Committee**

**HB 2006** passed out of the House Appropriations Committee on January 24 and is waiting on further action by the House Rules Committee. The bill removes the non-supplanting clause for the 0.1 percent voter approved mental health sales and use tax. By removing the non-supplanting clause, cities that have instituted the mental health sales tax would be able to use this funding stream to existing programs or programs that were implemented using this funding source.

The bill also removes the non-supplanting requirement for property tax levy lid lifts and expands eligibility for the local option \$0.50 county criminal justice voter-approved property tax levy to all counties.

The bill passed out of the House during the 2017 session but the bill did not pass out of the Senate during the protracted legislative session.

AWC supports the increased revenue flexibility for cities.

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## **Bill to create study on state and local property taxes heard**

**SB 6382** would create a 14-member legislative task force to study state and local property taxes. The task force would be required to provide recommendations on improving the equity,

adequacy, reliability, transparency, and simplicity of Washington's property tax system related to the following issues and report to the Legislature by January 2020:

- Property taxes as a state and local revenue source;
- Impacts of and potential modifications to current exclusions to the state and local government property tax base;
- Tax assessment and collection procedures and methods;
- The tax burden and regressive nature of property taxes by type of property and region and tax burdens in comparison to other revenue sources; and
- Potential amendments to the state Constitution to provide more legislative flexibility.

The bill was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on January 25.

## **Cannabis**

### **Bill limiting city authority to ban marijuana businesses passes out of committee**

**HB 2336** limits a city's ability to prohibit the production, processing and sale of marijuana in their community by requiring any such prohibition to only be enacted by a public vote. Currently cities have the authority to place bans or moratoriums on marijuana businesses through ordinances.

The bill:

- Preempts municipal ordinances or regulations pertaining to recreational and medical marijuana;
- Retains city zoning authority, but prohibits a municipality from enacting an ordinance or regulation that has the effect of precluding the siting of licensed marijuana businesses within its borders unless the municipality already prohibits the same type of business; and
- Establishes two alternative electoral processes through which a municipality may avoid state preemption and enact an ordinance banning the operation of marijuana businesses within its borders.

A substitute version of **HB 2336** passed out of its policy committee and is now under review in House Rules Committee. The substitute bill makes the following changes to the original bill: Requires that the public vote on a proposed ordinance prohibiting the siting of marijuana businesses with a jurisdiction take place at a general election occurring in an even-numbered year.

AWC opposes this bill and will continue to work to defeat it. Contact Logan with any questions or concerns.

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# Economic development

## Bill seeking to incentivize commercial office space development on the move

**HB 2981**, Rep. Jake Fey (D-Tacoma), saw swift action on February 1 in the House Local Government Committee when it received both a public hearing and was voted out of committee.

**HB 2981** would allow a city in a county with a population less than 1,500,000 to create a local sales and use tax remittance program and a local property tax reinvestment program to incentivize the development of commercial office space. The bill would also require the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to study its effectiveness and submit a report to the Legislature by October 1, 2028.

AWC supports this measure as it aligns with our economic development priority to encourage economic vitality in cities across the state.

# Environment & land use

## Mandatory minimum density bill appears to die

We may have dodged a bullet when the Senate Local Government Committee concluded action on February 1 without taking up **SB 6077**, which would have required a minimum density of six units per acre in all residential zones within cities and Urban Growth Areas.

With no further hearings scheduled before the cutoff it appears that this bill is dead for the year. Unless it's not. Stay vigilant!

## Military land use compatibility bill hits snag in House, moves in Senate

There was a strange explosion of concern with the military land use compatibility bill over the weekend of January 27. The story we heard is that liberal and conservative activists both decided the bill was giving up too much land use control to the military and promoting militarization of our state. This seemingly low-profile bill suddenly became very controversial.

Cities had some initial concerns about ceding too much control to military base commanders but we don't believe the bill sponsors have any negative intents. In addition, later drafts of the bill had improvements that decreased our concerns. So far the House bill (**HB 2341**) has not passed from committee and it may not before cutoff. The Senate bill (**SB 6456**) did move, but the proposed blanket restriction on allowing incompatible uses was removed.

Some of the progress we made in House negotiations has not yet been reflected in what the Senate moved from committee, particularly our request to soften the requirement to incorporate any joint agreements between cities and neighboring military installations into comprehensive plans. The Senate did remove the provision authorizing the Puget Sound Regional Council to name a military installation as a regional center – a policy dispute that pitted jurisdictions from different sides of the region against each other.

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# General government

## Voting Rights Act bill scheduled for committee action on Wednesday

**SB 6002** is scheduled for action by the House State Government, Elections & IT Committee at 8 am on Wednesday, February 7. Because this bill moved so fast at the start of session, the next cutoff date that applies is February 23, when it needs to pass out of its current House committee, although it could get to the House floor for consideration prior to that.

AWC has been actively engaged with House legislators in discussing ways to improve this bill by reducing the chance for unintended consequences and improving the clarity of language that pertains to implementation. AWC is in focused discussions to support an increase in the current 1,000 population threshold in the bill. As written, the bill would only exempt cities under 1,000 people. AWC has offered suggestions to provide a more tailored metric to achieve the bill's policy goals. For example, additional or replacement threshold data using voting age population based on census information, the number of registered voters, a certain percentage of minority populations, or some combination of these.

AWC's other suggestions on ways to improve the bill are summarized as follows:

- Clarify that only a local voter can bring a notice or a suit
- Require the notice to include a description of the problem
- Require a showing of actual lack of opportunity of the protected class for a violation
- Clarify what constitutes "working in good faith" during the notice period
- Clarify the notice requirements if a significant segment of the community has limited English proficiency
- Allow the possibility that the jurisdiction's electoral process complies with the Act and can be approved by a court order – in other words, a violation is not presumed in every case
- Allow additional time if a jurisdiction receives two or more notices with materially different proposed remedies

If you have concerns about this bill and you haven't already contacted your legislator, now is the time to do so. We are working hard on your behalf, but your individual stories and concerns are the most meaningful. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dave Williams or Shannon McClelland.

## Housing

### Senate local option levy lid lift exemption bill moves

Sen. Manka Dhingra (D-Redmond) sponsored **SB 6314** which allows cities the option to extend the state's property tax exemption to local property tax levy lid lifts. This option would exist if it is stated in the ballot measure for individuals that have a service related total disability, or at least 61-years-old and medically retired for the reason of disability, or their spouses or domestic partners.

The bill was passed out of the Senate Local Government Committee on February 1 and is headed to the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

AWC supports the measure. This local option will give communities a tool to support low-income seniors, disabled veterans, and their families in areas of rising housing costs.

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## **Housing, homelessness and behavioral health bill status updates**

It has been an eventful week in the human services and housing arena. Here is a quick update on some of the bills that we have been tracking.

### **HB 1797**

The local options housing tools bill remains ready for House floor action. We are assured that the bill will come up for a vote, but the right timing continues to elude us. We believe that we will see significant bipartisan support when and if the bill finally moves to the floor.

### **HB 1570**

The document recording fee increase is also awaiting floor action in the House. This fee funds the bulk of the state and local homelessness efforts. The bill makes the fee permanent and creates a county local option to increase the fee by another \$50.

### **HB 2667/SB 6502**

These bills would fix a problem in the integration of state programs that provide support to the temporarily and permanently disabled which is causing people to be made homeless when their temporary disability becomes permanent. The companion bills are moving in both chambers. The House fiscal committee had a hearing on **HB 2667**, while the Senate companion **SB 6502** has moved from policy committee and is awaiting action in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Recent good news on a reduced fiscal impact for the state is improving the chances for this bill. This is possibly one of the biggest no-brainers of the session and would stop the unnecessary creation of more homelessness on our streets.

### **HB 2437**

Legislators continue to work on a bill that would create an opportunity to opt-in to a small slice of the state sales tax stream to fund housing construction, operations, maintenance, and rental vouchers. The proposal has not moved from the House Finance Committee but we're hopeful that it will move before cutoff. We understand that legislators are working to reduce the upfront fiscal impact and may be considering a matching requirement for local governments who take advantage of this tool.

### **HB 2711/SB 6417**

The ill-conceived "Housing Opportunity Zone" bills are intended to create an incentive program for private sector affordable housing development. Unfortunately the bills include some very serious assaults on local control. **HB 2711** has been stalled in the House but **SB 6417** did pass out of the Senate Local Government Committee in a form that limits the applicability to Snohomish County. Due to the extreme level of local authority preemption in some elements of this bill, and the precedent that would set, we will still be opposing the bill.

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## Human services

### Prescription drug take-back bill poised for action in the House

A major milestone may be close at hand for the long-running effort to start a producer-funded medication take-back program in the state. Such a program has the potential to reduce the availability and abuse of unused prescription opioids as patients will have a new option to safely dispose of excess or unneeded medications.

We have been told for over a week that the House is close to bringing the bill (**HB 1047**) up for a vote, and behind the scenes negotiations between Rep. Strom Peterson (D-Edmonds) and the pharmaceutical industry may be bearing fruit.

Now would be a good time to contact your House members and urge their support of this bill. If there is no agreement with the pharmaceutical industry, this will be a very close vote. Your calls could make a real difference.

## Infrastructure

### Bill would set disclosure requirements for utility bills

**SB 6587** would require cities to disclose on utility bills an “itemized listing of all rates and charges, including the amount of state and local taxes collected and paid by the city or town, and whether taxes are collected on behalf of other political subdivisions.”

The bill was the subject of a public hearing in the Senate Local Government Committee on February 1 and then passed out of committee on the same day.

We believe that many cities are already complying with this requirement. For others it would require adjustments to the utility billing system which can have significant cost, especially for smaller utilities.

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# Open government

## Local Records Grant Program accepting applications until February 28

Cities can now apply online for the Washington State Archives Local Records Grant Program. Grant-funded projects can include technology tools, organization of files, or digital imaging. Only one type of grant project is allowed per grant cycle.

Applications for this grant cycle close on February 28, 2018. Another grant cycle will start again in July 2018.

Please send any questions to [recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov](mailto:recordsmanagement@sos.wa.gov) or call (360) 586-7810.

# Personnel

## Bill that encourages disclosure of sexual harassment in the workplace passes out of committee

A bill by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines), **SB 5996**, proposes some changes to how sexual harassment gets handled in the workplace. The bill does the following:

- Prohibits an employer from requiring an employee, as a condition of employment, to sign a nondisclosure agreement that prevents the employee from disclosing sexual harassment or sexual assault;
- Provides that any nondisclosure agreement that has the purpose or effect of preventing an employee from disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault is void and unenforceable;
- Provides that it is an unfair practice under the Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD) for an employer to retaliate against an employee for disclosing or discussing sexual harassment or sexual assault;
- Human resources employees that are expected to maintain the confidentiality of an investigation as part of their official duties and employees requested to maintain confidentiality of an ongoing human resources investigation are excluded from the definition of employee; and
- Confidential settlements between an employee alleging sexual harassment and an employer are excluded from the provisions of the bill.

The substitute version of the bill passed out of its policy committee and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. The bill has until Wednesday, February 14 to pass out of the Senate or the bill will die.

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## First responder occupational disease bills pass out of committee

**HB 2633** and its companion **SB 6213** expand presumptive occupational disease coverage to fire investigators and adds the following new diseases:

- Strokes for fire personnel, if experienced within seventy-two hours of exposure to smoke, fumes, or toxic substances, or experienced within twenty-four hours of strenuous physical exertion in the line of duty.
- Heart problems and strokes for law enforcement officers, experienced within seventy-two hours of exposure to smoke, fumes, or toxic substances, or experienced within twenty-four hours of strenuous physical exertion in the line of duty. Heart problems are already covered for fire personnel.
- Five infectious diseases for law enforcement and fire investigators including HIV, hepatitis, meningococcal meningitis, mycobacterium tuberculosis, and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA). MRSA has been added for firefighters who were already covered for the other infectious diseases.
- Nine additional cancers for firefighters and investigators including mesothelioma, adenocarcinoma, stomach cancer, esophageal cancer, buccal cancer, pharynx cancer, nonmelanoma skin cancer, breast cancer, and cervical cancer.

**HB 2633** passed out of its policy committee and is scheduled for a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on Saturday, February 3. The bill will die if it does not pass out of that committee by Tuesday, February 6. **SB 6213** is in Rules Committee.

**SB 6214** creates a rebuttable presumption for classifying post-traumatic stress disorder as an occupational disease for officers and firefighters who have served at least 10 years. A substitute version passed out of its policy committee and is in Rules Committee.

Related, **HB 1655**, removes the exclusion for mental conditions or disabilities caused by stress as applied to members of the Law Enforcement Officers' and Fire Fighters' Retirement System (LEOFF). A substitute version of this bill already passed out of the House and has been referred to the Senate Labor & Commerce Committee.

AWC opposes these costly expansions of occupational disease presumption.

## Both wrongful death bills expanding city tort liability pass out of committee

**SB 6015** and its companion, **HB 2262**, have passed out of their policy committees ahead of the committee cutoff deadline on Feb. 2. The Senate Law & Justice Committee passed a substitute version of **SB 6015**. The substitute version removed the expansion of damages for future losses under a special survival action. **SB 6015** had a hearing in Senate Ways & Means Committee and must pass out of that committee before the fiscal committee cutoff date on Tuesday, February 6 to stay alive.

The House Judiciary Committee passed a substitute version of **HB 2262**. The bill has not been scheduled for a fiscal committee in the House.

The bills would amend the current wrongful death statutes in a few important ways:

- Removes dependency requirements for claimants;
- Allows parents to bring an action for children over 18 years old; and
- Clarifies noneconomic damages.

AWC opposes these bills as they would significantly increase cities' claims and defense costs. If you haven't already, please consider reaching out to your legislators and voice your opposition.

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# Public safety & criminal justice

## Bill changes how law enforcement may seize property in civil asset forfeiture cases

When authorized by statute, a law enforcement agency may take possession of property for the purpose of forfeiting a person's right to own or possess that property. Generally, civil asset forfeiture is permitted when the property itself is illegal, was used to facilitate a crime, is an actual proceed of a crime, or was purchased from proceeds traceable to criminal activity. Civil asset forfeiture is permitted under a variety of statutes, including in the case of drug crimes, crimes committed with a firearm, and human sex trafficking and sexual exploitation crimes.

**HB 2718** creates a new chapter with respect to civil asset forfeiture proceedings. The bill makes changes to a variety of civil asset forfeiture statutes, including:

- Explicitly providing that the burden of proof is on the seizing agency;
- Allowing prevailing claimants to recover attorneys' fees;
- Requiring that, when ordered to return property, the seizing agency return it in the same or substantially similar condition as when seized; and
- Making all seizing agencies subject to detailed reporting requirements.

A substitute version passed out of the policy committee and is scheduled for a hearing in House Appropriations Committee on Saturday, February 3. The cutoff date for that committee is Tuesday, February 6.

The substitute retains the underlying bill with the following changes and additions:

- The felony forfeiture statute is included in the substitute and is amended in a manner consistent with the amendments to the other forfeiture statutes, making the entirety of the new chapter governing forfeiture proceedings applicable to seizures under this statute as well.
- The requirement that the State Auditor annually perform a financial audit under generally accepted government auditing standards and submit the report to the State Treasurer is stricken.
- The provisions regarding reporting by seizing agencies are amended.
- The provision that would allow prevailing claimants to recover damages and expenses for loss of use of the property is stricken.

AWC has concerns with this bill and is monitoring it. Please contact Logan Bahr with any questions or concerns.

## AWC-supported body worn cameras bill passes out of committee

**SB 6408** concerns law enforcement body worn cameras, including policies related to their use and disclosure exemptions under the Public Records Act. The bill makes minimal changes to the current body worn camera statutes but, importantly, does remove the sunset clauses which would ensure that these statutes continue to remain in law. The bill came out of a two-year-long task force which issued a report and set of recommendations in December.

**SB 6408** passed out of its policy committee before the cutoff on Friday, February 2. It has until Valentine's Day to be voted out of the Senate or else it will die.

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## **Public defense funding bill has passed first hurdle**

**HB 2687** passed out of House Judiciary Committee before the cutoff on February 2. The bill requires the state to increase public defense services funding by ten percent every year, with full funding provided by 2028. Counties and cities would be required to apply annually for reimbursement of public defense services funds from the Office of Public Defense.

AWC and the Washington State Association of Counties have been working closely in support of this bill.

## **Bills to provide funding for mental health first responders pass out of committee**

**SB 5970** and **HB 2892** propose grant programs for local law enforcement agencies to develop and operate mental health field response teams. The grant-funded teams would consist of mental health professionals trained to professionally, humanely, and safely respond to encounters involving persons with mental health issues. Both bills include data collection and reporting used to evaluate whether the use of crisis intervention response teams improve outcomes of interactions with persons experiencing behavioral health crises, including reduced rates of violence and harm.

A substitute version of **SB 5970** passed out of the Senate Law & Justice Committee and was referred to the Ways & Means Committee. The bill has until Tuesday, February 6 to pass out of that committee.

The House Public Safety Committee passed **HB 2892** in its original form.

AWC supports both bills.

Please contact Logan Bahr or Shannon McClelland with any questions.

## **Transportation**

### **Bill would increase population threshold for enhanced state route maintenance responsibilities**

Companion bills have been introduced in the House and Senate that would increase the population threshold for cities required to take on increased state route maintenance responsibilities. Currently, cities with a population of more than 25,000 carry greater responsibilities for the maintenance of state routes that run through their communities. These include requirements around maintaining traffic control signals and slope stability. **HB 2948/SB 6576**, Rep. Paul Graves (R-Fall City)/Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah), would increase the population threshold from 25,000 to 35,000.

AWC supports this legislation because the burden of maintaining our current transportation infrastructure is often difficult with the limited resources we have. When state route responsibilities are added on, many communities lack the adequate resources to address these new requirements.

Both bills are scheduled for public hearing in their respective transportation committees on Monday, February 5. AWC plans to testify in support.

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## Bill seeks to address disposal costs of abandoned recreational vehicles on public property

**SB 6437/ HB 2925**, Sen. Curtis King (R-Yakima)/Rep. Jake Fey (D-Tacoma), would set up a program within the Department of Licensing that would provide financial assistance to tow-truck operators in situations where they recover abandoned recreational vehicles on public property. The monies would be generated through a fee on recreational vehicle registrations. The bill would also allow registered tow truck operators to transport an abandoned recreational vehicle to a solid waste disposal site without being licensed as a hulk hauler.

Currently, tow-truck operators who are summoned to retrieve an abandoned recreational vehicle are required to tow the vehicle regardless of condition. Frequently, these vehicles are in disarray, and may be contaminated. While they are entitled to levy fines on the owner of the vehicle, owners of abandoned vehicles frequently are unable to pay for the costs of retrieval and/or cannot be found. In recent years, tow-truck operators have experienced an uptick in requests for retrievals.

As cities experience an uptick of abandonment of recreational vehicles on our properties, we support measures that ensure the safe disposal of these vehicles and do not create an undue financial burden on local governments. **SB 6437** received a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on January 29. The House version is scheduled for public hearing on February 6 in the House Transportation Committee.

## AWC Legislative Contacts

During the legislative session, AWC's lobbyists often are unable to return your phone calls immediately. If you have a legislative or specific issue question, please request AWC's analyst staff, or send them an email.

Call AWC at (360) 753-4137 or 1-800-562-8981

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