



AWC Hot Sheet – Bills of interest

Week of January 27, 2025

AWC creates this list as an easy reference guide for certain bills of interest to cities. It is not intended to be a comprehensive list of the bills that AWC is [tracking](#) or taking a position on. The list is updated weekly, and bills may be removed, added, or moved within categories at any time.

Priority bills – Support

HB 1334	Revises the property tax cap up to 3% tied to inflation providing a more flexible local option.	Needs committee action
HB 1428	Increases the funding to the Municipal Criminal Justice Assistance Account by \$25 million for public safety to recruit and retain officers.	Needs committee action
SB 5060	\$100 million in grants for hiring law enforcement officers. Competitive grants would cover 75% of the costs up to \$125,000 for up to 3 years. AWC will be asking for sustainable ongoing support beyond one-time grants. The bill was amended to allow the grants to cover co-responders and it now contains additional criteria a city must meet to qualify for funding.	Needs committee action

Other bills – Support

HB 1037 / SB 5053	Updates the population restrictions to allow smaller communities to develop public facilities districts.	Needs committee action
HB 1135	Addresses issues where ordinances are found to be non-compliant by the Growth Management Hearings Board and are reverted to other non-compliant ordinances. AWC is proposing amendments to further clarify.	Needs committee action
HB 1139	Increases criminal penalties for unlawful possession of a firearm.	Needs committee action
HB 1150 / SB 5284	Creates an extended producer responsibility (EPR) system to improve residential recycling access, increase recycling rates, and require accountability by producers of paper and packaging.	Needs committee action
HB 1212	Requires cities to allow childcare centers in all but industrial zones. AWC working on amendments to exempt additional zones with incompatible uses.	Needs committee action
HB 1403	Condo reform proposal targets the issue around defects in condominium construction and how the current law has impacted insurance coverage of these building types.	Needs committee action
HB 1515	Allows cities to request Liquor Control Board authorize libation zones in preparation for the 2026 World Cup festivities.	Needs committee action
HB 1543	Allows "alternative metrics" other than energy use intensity targets to be used to comply with clean buildings standards.	Needs committee action
HB 1607 / SB 5502	Establishes bottle deposit and return system under Recycling Refund PROs regulated by the Department of Ecology.	Needs committee action
SB 5034	Authorizes continuation of the interagency, multijurisdictional system improvement team that works to coordinate on infrastructure programs.	Needs committee action
SB 5068	Expands eligibility to serve as firefighter, prosecutor, or police officer to anyone eligible to work in the US.	Needs committee action
SB 5268	Increases criminal penalties for unlawful possession of a firearm.	Needs committee action
SB 5285	Creates a new 0.10% sales tax for cities and towns that is a credit against the state sales tax. The new funds must be used for hiring additional police officers until the city or town reaches the national average per capita	Needs committee action



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	number of officers, then the funds can be used for other criminal justice purposes. The current national average per capita is 2.3 officers/1,000 population.	
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Other – Monitoring or requesting amendments

<u>HB 1096</u>	Lot splitting bill requires cities to set up an administrative process to approve a parcel split without a public hearing when certain conditions are met. With requested amendments AWC will be supportive.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1175</u>	Neighborhood café bill. Authorizes small cafes and corner stores in residential areas. AWC is neutral on the proposal.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1183</u>	Omnibus development regulation bill adds six new sections to the GMA, requires all cities and towns to comply with two of them, and amends an existing chapter of GMA. It also includes problematic parking requirements.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1237 / SB5246</u>	Facilitating predictable and timely application decisions by the energy facility site evaluation council. Improves consistency with local regulations. AWC is monitoring.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1256</u>	For projects receiving more than \$500K in state funding, requires that iron, steel, aluminum, manufactured products used are produced in the US. Can be waived if inconsistent with public interest, sufficient products/materials are unavailable, project cost would increase by more than 25%.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1308</u>	Requires and employer to provide an employee copies of their personnel files and other employment records. AWC is seeking amendments to extend the time frame and change the penalty provisions to remove the private right of action and instead allow L&I to enforce reasonable fines for compliance.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1328</u>	Creates the Clean Energy Development Office at Commerce with rule-making authority to support the development of clean energy projects. Functions include providing support to local governments with siting, permitting, policy development, and alternative dispute resolution, etc.	Needs committee action
<u>HB 1399</u>	Updates statutes to create consistency for police chief certification requirements. Also restricts what volunteers can do without being commissioned officers. These restrictions may limit the ability to use volunteers in traditional roles like search and rescue and parking enforcement.	Needs committee action
<u>SB 5061</u>	Requires wages for public works projects to be paid at the prevailing wage in effect when work is performed.	Needs committee action
<u>SB 5085</u>	Merges the 3 closed public pension plans (LEOFF 1, PERS 1, TRS 1). AWC supports the proposal with the guarantee that it will not create additional financial exposure for future unfunded liabilities.	Needs committee action
<u>SB 5360</u>	Adds first, second-, and third-class distinctions for environmental crimes related to Water Pollution Control Act, Clean Air Act, and Hazardous Waste Management (70A.300). Defines “knowing/knowingly” and “negligent/negligently.”	Needs committee action

Opposed

<u>HB 1045 / SB 5040</u>	Extends binding interest arbitration for collective bargaining for law enforcement officers to jurisdictions under 2,500 in population creating costs for very small cities and towns.	Do not advance
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<u>HB 1195</u>	STEP housing bill. Requires that comprehensive plans, developments regulations, and permit processes must not deny or preclude supportive, transitional, or emergency housing/shelter. Allows Commerce to enforce requirements by withholding city revenues including sales, motor vehicle, liquor, and other taxes.	Do not advance
<u>HB 1213</u>	Expands the Paid Family Medical Leave program by lowering the eligibility requirements and increasing job protection elements creating more administrative burden and costs.	Do not advance
<u>HB 1218</u>	Establishes unworkable county-wide caps on the number of individuals charged with crimes that can be referred for competency evaluation and restoration and creates a financial penalty for exceeding the cap.	Do not advance
<u>HB 1380</u>	Safe spaces bill. Creates significant new restrictions on cities’ ability to regulate camping in public spaces. The vague language around the restrictions creates significant litigation concerns.	Do not advance
<u>HB 1491</u>	Transit Oriented Development (TOD) proposal similar to previous proposals the bill seeks to increase density and reduce regulations in areas around transit. The bill does contain a proposed grant program to support infrastructure. AWC is asking the legislature to delay taking any action on TOD proposals until a legislative directed study currently under way is completed later this year.	Do not advance
<u>SB 5041</u>	Allows striking workers to collect unemployment insurance. The bill was amended in the Senate to require a final judgment declaring a strike illegal before declining benefit payments to striking employees. This is problematic for cities because it has the potential to leave taxpayers funding benefits paid during an illegal strike without taking costly legal action. Public employees are statutorily prohibited from striking.	Do not advance
<u>SB 5066</u>	Creates new broad authority for the Attorney General to investigate police departments. The Attorney General’s office already has authority to bring suit when they believe there is a pattern or wrongdoing in a department.	Do not advance
<u>SB 5107</u>	Creates a requirement for cities to provide additional insurance to cover public employees harmed by uninsured motorists. This bill is in conflict with the underlying workers compensation insurance provisions.	Do not advance
<u>SB 5148</u> / <u>HB 1235</u>	Housing Accountability Act. In its current form the bill would delay adoption of a cities’ new, updated housing GMA elements and development regulations until they are approved by the state—including those updates the state directed cities to make.	Do not advance without significant amendments
<u>SB 5184</u> / <u>HB 1299</u>	Significantly reduces local authority to set on-site parking requirements, down to no parking requirements at all for several uses.	Do not advance

Notes:

- Upcoming deadlines: February 21 Policy Committee cut-off; February 28 Fiscal Committee cut-off
- *Indicates a bill believed to be Necessary to Implement the Budget (NTIB) and exempt from deadlines
- Committee action indicates the bill needs to be heard and/or voted on by a policy or fiscal committee
- Floor action indicates the bill needs to move to the floor to be voted on by the full House or Senate