



AWC Hot Sheet – Bills of interest

Week of February 24, 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.

Highlighting indicates a bill scheduled for committee hearing this week.

Priority bills – Support

HB 1095	Creates a new 0.10% sales tax for cities and towns that is a credit against the state sales tax. Half of any new revenue is for recruiting and retaining officers and the other half is for criminal justice purposes.	Needs committee action
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 fund criminal justice needs.	Needs committee action
HB 1791	Very helpful bill that harmonizes uses of local REET and permanent authority for use for affordable housing and operations and maintenance purposes.	Needs committee action
HB 1896	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 number of officers, then the funds can be used for other criminal justice purposes. The current national average is 2.3 officers/1,000 population.	Needs committee action
HB 1907	Closes the state tax exemptions for storage facilities. AWC asks that the new revenue is directed towards funding housing needs.	Needs committee action
HB 1921 / SB 5726	Creating a Road Usage Charge (RUC) and sharing revenues with local governments for transportation purposes.	Needs committee action*
HB 2015	Creates a new councilmanic 0.10% sales tax authority for funding criminal justice. Cities that impose the new tax are eligible to apply for a new grant program to help recruit, retain, and train officers. The bill does not specify an amount of funding for the grant program.	Needs committee action
SB 5060 / HB 1435	\$100 million in grants for hiring law enforcement officers. Competitive grants would cover 75% of the costs up to \$125,000 for up to three years. AWC will be asking for sustainable ongoing support beyond one-time grants. The Senate bill was amended to for the grants to cover co-responders and add criteria a city must meet to qualify for funding.	Needs committee action
SB 5775	Expands the existing public safety sales tax authority making it councilmanic and increasing the amount a city pay impose.	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 / SB 5197	Addresses issues where ordinances are found non-compliant by the Growth Management Hearings Board and revert to other non-compliant ordinances.	Needs floor 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
SB 5509	Requires cities to allow childcare centers in all but industrial, light industrial and open space zones. AWC I supportive	Needs committee action



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HB 1403	Condo reform proposal targeting issues around defects in condominium construction and how the current law has impacted insurance coverage.	Needs floor 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.	Passed House; Needs Senate committee hearing
HB 1592	Increases funding for public defense. AWC will be working with counties to increase the funding for municipal public defense.	Needs committee action
HB 1653 / SB 5484	Preferred bill dealing with towing of vehicles when people who live in their vehicles (preferred over HB 1240)	Needs floor action
HB 1607 / SB 5502	Establishes bottle deposit and return system under Recycling Refund PROs regulated by the Department of Ecology.	Needs committee action
HB 1610	Exempts "critical energy infrastructure information" from disclosure under the Public Records Act.	Needs floor action
HB 1694	Clarifies that the use of local Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) funds for housing purposes can be used through regional housing collaboratives. (AWC asks that this be incorporated into HB 1791).	Needs committee action
HB 1700	Provides an additional six-month extension to the 2026 GMA update cohort.	Needs floor action
HB 1717	Creates a local option sales and use tax exemption for qualifying affordable housing projects and shares 50% of state share of sales tax to city for reinvestment for housing purposes.	Needs committee action
HB 1867	Provides a local option voter approved 0.5% REET for affordable housing	Needs committee action
HB 1934	Expands protections to releasing employee information when the individual is a victim or witness in a harassment investigation.	Needs floor action
SB 5034	Authorizes continuation of the interagency, multijurisdictional system improvement team that works to coordinate on infrastructure programs.	Passed Senate; Needs House committee hearing
SB 5068	Expands eligibility to serve as firefighter, prosecutor, or police officer to anyone eligible to work in the US.	Passed House; Needs Senate committee hearing
SB 5547 & HB 1704	These bills are not companions, but both would increase cannabis revenue distributions to cities and counties.	Needs committee action
SB 5576 / HB 1763	Imposes a 6% tax on short term rentals to help fund affordable housing programs.	Needs committee action

Other – Monitoring or requesting amendments

HB 1096	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.	Needs floor action
HB 1175	Neighborhood café bill. Authorizes small cafes and corner stores in residential areas. AWC is neutral on the proposal.	Needs committee action
HB 1183	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



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HB 1240	Requires cities to pay for storage costs when vehicles used as residences are towed. AWC participated in the vehicle resident task force and supports HB 1653/SB 5484 as a more workable approach.	Amend to match HB 1653
HB 1308	Requires and employer to provide an employee copies of their personnel files and employment records. HB 1308 has been amended to keep public employer requirements consistent with the public records act.	Needs floor action
HB 1399	Updates statutes to create consistency for police chief certification requirements. Limits police volunteer activities. AWC requesting the section on volunteers be removed.	Needs committee action
HB 1491	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 asks to delay taking any action on TOD proposals until a legislative directed study under way is completed later this year.	Do not advance without significant amendments
HB 1549	Adds criteria for "responsible bidders": must have completed at least one PW project in the last three years, must not have received a citation under responsible bidder or prevailing wage RCWs OR have designated person that has received RB and PW training within the previous three years. Removes exemption for those who have completed three or more projects and maintained WA license for three years.	Needs committee action
HB 1633	Within one hour of bid submittal time, prime contractor must submit list of licensed HVAC, plumbing, and electrical subcontractors or to name itself, if licensed to perform the work.	Needs committee action
SB 5061	Requires wages for public works projects to be paid at the prevailing wage in effect when work is performed. AWC working with stakeholders on revisions including exempting small projects and other technical adjustments.	Needs committee action
SB 5176	Implementing prompt pay recommendations from the capital projects advisory review board. AWC is requesting some technical amendments.	Needs committee action
SB 5085	Merges the three 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 floor action

Opposed

HB 1070	Expands occupational disease presumptions for workers compensation claims for PTSD to all jail staff.	Do not advance
HB 1195	STEP housing bill. Requires that comprehensive plans, developments regulations, and permit processes must not deny or preclude supportive, transitional, or emergency housing/shelter <i>on every residential parcel</i> . Requires Commerce to enforce requirements by withholding city revenues including sales, motor vehicle, liquor, and other taxes.	Do not advance
HB 1213	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
HB 1218	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



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HB 1380	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
HB 1443 / SB 5332	Requires cities authorize mobile homes and other temporary structures as permanent living spaces and allow one per residential lot.	Do not advance
HB 1622 / SB 5422	Requires public employers to bargain the adoption of AI related technology. This interferes with management rights to make business decisions and includes a very expansive definition of AI.	Do not advance
HB 1710	Modifies the Voting Rights Act to add very prescriptive restrictions for jurisdictions before they can take actions like annexations or updating council districts increasing costs and liability exposure.	Do not advance
HB 1750	Revises the Voting Rights Act to create additional enforcement actions.	Do not advance
SB 5040	Extends interest arbitration for collective bargaining for law enforcement officers to cities and towns under 2,500 in population creating costs.	Do not advance
SB 5041	Allows striking workers to collect unemployment insurance. The bill requires a final judgment declaring a strike illegal before declining or requiring repayment of benefits paid to striking employees. 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
SB 5066	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
SB 5148	Housing Accountability Act. In its current form the bill would encourage cities to go through a voluntary approval process, which 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
SB 5184	Significantly reduces local authority to set on-site parking requirements for cities over 20,000 in population, down to no parking requirements at all for several uses.	Do not advance
SB 5757	Would require 50% of local automated traffic enforcement infraction fines be sent to the state instead of retained locally.	Do not advance

Notes:

- Upcoming deadlines: February 28 Fiscal Committee cut-off; House of origin cut-off March 12
- *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