

## Weekly Legislative Update: **Housing/Homelessness**

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### Overview

This supplemental short session will not generate as much legislation as last year related to housing, but key legislators have indicated that they want to keep the momentum up to address the housing problems and homelessness crisis.

The Governor's supplemental budget included a great deal of additional funding for affordable housing, including nearly \$107 million for capital, including land trusts; \$24 million for supportive programs; and \$10 million for the right of way initiative to move unhoused campers from highway rights of way.

Legislators have additional policy proposals, including those listed below.

### Bills We Are Following

This is a limited list, which will be expanded next week.

**HB 1892 Concerning the workforce housing accelerator program.** This bill would establish a program within the Department of Commerce (DOC) under which loans may be issued to eligible organizations to assist with the development of housing for low-income households. This bill had a public hearing and executive session in the House Housing Committee, but the next step has not been posted yet.

**HB 1998/SB 5901 Concerning co-living housing.** This bill would authorize shared housing where residents each have their own bedroom and share living and kitchen space, in any area where multi-family housing is permitted. This type of housing, formerly considered "boarding houses", has been prohibited in many jurisdictions but could offer lower cost housing for those who need it. HB 1998 had a public hearing and was passed out of the House Housing Committee as a substitute bill on January 11. SB 5901 had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee but has not been scheduled yet for executive session.

**HB 2008 Creating a task force on housing cost driver analysis.** This bill would create a task force to ascertain the primary factors driving housing costs in Washington. It has had a public hearing and executive session in the House Housing Committee, but the next step has not been posted yet.

**HB 2114/SB 5961 Improving housing stability for tenants subject to the residential landlord-tenant act and the manufactured/mobile home landlord-tenant act.** This bill would limit rent and fee increases, require notice of rent and fee increases, limit fees and deposits, establish a landlord resource center and associated services, authorize tenant lease termination, create parity between lease types, and provide for attorney general enforcement. HB 2114 had a public hearing on January 11 and is scheduled for executive session in the House Housing Committee on January 16. SB 5961 had a public hearing on January 12 in the Senate Housing Committee but has not yet been scheduled for executive session.

**HB 2160/SB 6024 Promoting community and transit-oriented housing development.** These bills would make a number of changes to regulatory requirements to facilitate more development of multi-family housing near transit facilities. HB 2160 has had a public hearing and is scheduled for executive session in the House Housing Committee on Monday, January 15. SB 6024 has had a public hearing in the Senate Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs Committee but has not been scheduled for executive session yet.

**HB 2234 Concerning energy assistance for low-income households.** This bill would require all electric utilities to provide one or more programs and funding available for energy assistance to low-income households.

- Respond to Action Alerts in the legislative newsletter. These will primarily appear in the section of the newsletter related to transportation.
- Contact Cynthia Stewart, [cstewart@lwvwa.org](mailto:cstewart@lwvwa.org), to receive additional information.