

WEEK 11 REPORT ON 2021 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE & WEEK 12 HEARINGS LIST
For WRPA President, Executive Board, Executive Director, Legislative Committee

Doug Levy – 3/29/2021

Budgets covered the (virtual) landscape, a crucial Committee cutoff deadline hit, and the House scheduled what will be the first rollout of a new-revenue transportation package spending list.

A week ago, we had not seen *any* 2021-23 budget proposals from the Legislature; by week's end, we had seen all six (6). Both the Senate and the House unveiled their Transportation Budgets last Monday, followed a couple days later by the House's Capital Budget proposal. On Thursday, it was the Senate's turn, with a release of both 2021-23 Operating and Capital Budgets. Finally, on Friday, we saw the House's two-year Operating Budget.

Over the weekend, the Senate Ways & Means Committee approved **SSB 5083** (2021-23 Capital Budget), and the number of Committee and Floor approvals will multiply rapidly this coming week. We expect both the Senate and House to have moved amended Operating and Capital Budgets – and possibly Transportation Budgets as well -- off the Floor by the end of Week 12. *A more complete memo on the Operating and Capital Budgets is being attached along with this report.*

While budgets are well on their way, progress has been slower to come on a new-revenue transportation package as nearly all the action has been behind the scenes. That will change a bit Thursday, April 1 (I'm not fooling 😊), when the House Transportation Committee holds a hearing on **House Bill 1564**, an "additive funding" measure showing how House leaders propose to invest monies from a new-revenue package.

Let me round out this introduction by noting that more important legislative cutoff deadlines march inexorably forward. Last Friday was the deadline for policy bills to clear the "opposite chamber" (House bills passing Senate policy committees, and vice-versa), and this coming Friday is D-Day for fiscal bills to clear opposite-chamber fiscal committees. After that, we will see nine (9) days of Floor action, followed by two weeks of final budget negotiations and final reconciling of bills that passed both chambers but have differing provisions within them. The scheduled "Sine Die" (final day) for the 2021 Session is Sunday, April 25.

Week 11 stacked up as a fantastic one for WRPA! Capital budgets have robust if not historic funding for the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP); fund virtually the whole Youth Athletic Facilities (YAF) list of projects; and include a \$200,000 allocation to enable the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to build, maintain and update a statewide multi-modal trails database.

Additionally, the Senate's Operating Budget includes our "Parks Rx" priority and funding and allocates a record \$6 million to the No Child Left Inside program (*the House Operating Budget includes "only" \$2 million for NCLI – still a \$500,000 increase 😊*)! As I reported, the one 'hiccup' is that both the Senate and House Capital Budgets do less on the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) than the fund-the-full-list \$9.1 million proposed by the Governor. The Senate is just under \$7.9 million and leaves three projects unfunded, while the House is at \$6.86 million and leaves five projects unfunded. Still, these are superb budgets for us.

Below is an overview of where we stand on WRPA's 2021 Legislative Agenda priorities. I also have provided my usual rundown of other bills impacting local parks and recreation and/or outdoor recreation. There is additionally a Week 12 list of hearings and "Executive Sessions" where Committee votes on bills are scheduled – and the aforementioned budgets memo.

Top Priorities

***Provide Local Parks and Recreation Agencies with new Funding Options to Address Vital M&O and Preservation Needs which only became more challenging under COVID-19 – SB 5006/HB 1025**

(Policy/Fiscal Bill) Unfortunately, every indication is that we are in ‘wait til next year’ mode on **5006/1025**. Still, for our hopes of surmounting the hurdle we faced in the House this Session – namely, that we were advancing a bill providing a “regressive” taxing option at a time when Members want to see more “progressive” revenue reform – it is worth noting that both Operating Budgets account for a Capital Gains tax and include the funding to implement a significant ramp-up to the Working Families Tax Credit program.

***Actively participate in efforts to replace and recover lost revenue for parks and recreation agencies – while protecting existing resources**

(Operating Budget) I have previously reported on H.R. 1319, the American Rescue Plan, which will enable City- and county-run parks agencies who receive this report to be eligible for COVID-19-related replacement revenues. Metropolitan Park Districts (MPDs) and Park Districts will not receive direct funds under the American Rescue Plan. However, the Districts definitely should lobby their cities and counties, as the Act allows these funds to be distributed to other local governments.

***Actively promote a 2021-2023 Capital Budget with robust funding levels for key grant programs that significantly benefit parks and recreation and the Great Outdoors**

(Capital Budget) Wowza! Last Wednesday and Thursday, we saw the House and Senate propose \$110 million and \$100 million, respectively, for WWRP! The \$110 million would be a historic high for the program. We also saw both Capital Budgets allocate \$11.227 million for YAF, and fully include the \$200,000 for the statewide multi-modal trails database. We will work to ramp up the ALEA allocation. I want to thank Lakewood Parks Director and past WRPA President Mary Dodsworth for her testimony last Thursday in support of the Senate Capital Budget and with an encouragement to increase the ALEA allocation. This morning (March 29), I will testify and be joined by Kirkland Mayor Penny Sweet, whose city would see its ALEA project go from ‘funded’ to ‘unfunded’ under the House allocation.

***Protecting Property Tax-Based Parks Districts and MPDs from “Pro-Rationing” – HB 1034**

(Policy Bill) On Saturday the Senate Ways & Means Committee approved an *amended* version of **HB 1034**. As amended, the legislation provides a fix *only* to the Vashon Parks District and *only* for a five-year time period. The Committee Chair informed our **1034** bill sponsor (Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon, D-Burien/34th Dist.) that she would not have been able to advance the bill without this amendment. So we are en route to have an **HB 1034** that offers a very focused fix in the Senate and a broader one in the House. The House-passed version would prevent ‘pro-rationing’ of the Vashon Parks District – *and* other Park Districts -- by removing their property tax allocation from the \$5.90 limit and shifting it to a 50-cent ‘gap’ portion of property tax. MPDs are already in that 50-cent gap, just ahead of where Parks and Recreation Districts are placed under **HB 1034**. It will now be important for us to find out if there are any other Park Districts beyond Vashon in immediate danger of running up against property tax pro-rationing. If there are, we will want to push for the broader House fix; if not, we can live with either version of the bill.

***Protect Funding for Dedicated Accounts within the Capital Budget**

(Capital Budget) Last week confirmed that we will not need to fret over this one. Both the Senate and House Capital Budgets for 2021-23 do a good job of maintaining and funding dedicated outdoor recreation accounts. Also, the Governor’s office, Office of Financial Management (OFM), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) came to agreement with NOVA advocates regarding a provision of the *Senate Operating Budget* that impacts NOVA monies.

***Advocate for Key “Healthy & Active Communities” Funding within the State Budget Process**

(Capital, Transportation, Operating Budgets) Under WRPA’s “healthy and active communities” initiative, we work to support several funding allocations. Note that: The Senate’s Operating Budget (**PSSB 5092**) includes an additional \$4.5 million (for a total of \$6 million) for No Child Left Inside, while the House Operating Budget (**PSHB 1094**) provides an additional \$500,000 to this program run by State Parks; b) the Senate Operating Budget includes about \$150 million in new funds for “Foundational Public Health” while the House budget is at \$100 million; and c) we expect a significant increase in multi-modal and “Complete Streets” funding in the Transportation spending plan coming out later this week. Here is a snapshot of our tracking list:

- *Public Health District funding -- Operating Budget:* Maintenance levels of funding distributions to all Public Health Districts statewide – Sec. 710 of both budgets has a complete listing.
- *Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant, Safe Routes to Schools, “Complete Streets” and fuel-tax-distribution funding in the Transportation Budget:* I will report on this after Thursday’s release of **HB 1564**.
- *“No Child Left Inside” within the Operating Budget:* \$6 million Senate; \$2 million House.
- *‘Target Zero’ programs run by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission:* No new funds in either current-law budget released last Monday (**SSB 5165/SHB 1135**).
- *Dedicated accounts and grant programs in the Capital Budget such as WWRP, YAF, ALEA, NOVA, BFP:* In addition to the WWRP, YAF, and ALEA allocations noted above, NOVA is \$10 million in both budgets and the Boating Facilities Program (BFP) is funded at \$14.95 million in both budgets.

***Support Legislation Promoting Parks and Wellness Connections with Public Health – SSB 5292**

(Policy Bill) Yippee! While **SSB 5292** is not moving, the provisions, Task Force, and pilot-project aspects of the bill were all included in the Senate Operating Budget released last Thursday – go to Sec. 222 (Department of Health), subsection (21)(a), bottom Page 178 and 179:

[PSSB 5092 - Proposed 2021-23 Biennial and 2021 Supplemental Operating Budgets - Senate Chair - 03/25/21 \(wa.gov\)](#)

What are now the Senate Operating Budget provisions seek to parallel the wellness program and health insurance incentives used by the private sector – through the prescribed use of public parks, spaces, trails, and facilities. The budget language does not mandate what a Parks Rx program should include. It establishes a Task Force where representatives of local parks, public and community health, health care providers, and health insurers can collaborate on the design of three pilot projects around the state. This was not in the House Operating Budget, so we will need to work to hold it in the final Operating Budget.

Support/Oppose Items

***Efforts to Address Mental Health, Homelessness, Affordable Housing**

(Policy Bills, Budgetary Items) Our Legislative Agenda notes that WRPA will support efforts led by cities and counties, the Low-Income Housing Alliance, and others, to ensure the Legislature continues to provide funding and tools for local governments to address growing mental health, homelessness, and affordable housing crises in their communities. Here is an update on several of them:

- **ESHB 1070, modifying allowable uses of ‘1590’ sales tax revenue for affordable housing and related services:** This bill awaits a Senate Floor vote. A major thrust of the bill, promoted by King County, is to allow for “HB 1590” funds to be explicitly applied to the acquisition of properties to be used for affordable housing and homelessness. The bill also more clearly states the eligibility of homeless individuals for 1590 funds.
- **E2SHB 1083, relocation assistance for tenants of closed or converted manufactured/mobile home parks:** This bill is in Senate Rules. Its already solid odds of passing the Legislature improved last week when it was included in the House’s Operating Budget (\$1 million additional expenditure authority). **1083** increases the maximum amount eligible tenants can receive in relocation assistance when a manufactured or mobile home park is scheduled to be closed or converted.

- **ESHB 1108, maintaining funding and assistance for homeowners navigating the foreclosure process:** This bill advanced Friday to the Senate Floor Calendar. It extends remittance payments under the Foreclosure Fairness Act. Foreclosure assistance is well funded in the House Operating Budget - \$13.4 million in federal pass-through funds, plus \$150,000 for compliance assistance.
- **SHB 1157, increasing housing supply through housing density tax incentives:** This bill impacts state real estate excise tax revenues and thus was exempted from cutoff deadlines. It passed off the House Floor on Sunday by a 93-4 vote and now moves to the Senate. Under **1157**, cities can qualify to receive a percentage of state Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) revenue if they establish a “real estate excise tax density incentive zone” within an Urban Growth Area and allow for ‘missing middle’ housing (duplexes, triplexes, fourplexes) at a net density of at least six dwelling units per acre.
- **E2SHB 1220, supporting emergency shelters and housing through local planning and development regulations:** This bill passed out of the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee last Thursday on a party-line 5-4 vote. Although the bill now includes amended Sec. 3-4 language offered by Sen. Mona Das (D-Kent/47th Dist.), it continues to be opposed as pre-emptive by the Association of Washington Cities (AWC) and many individual cities (some others support it). The Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance and FutureWise support **1220**.
- **SHB 1277, establishing a \$100 surcharge on Document Recording Fees (DRF) to address affordable housing and emergency rent relief:** By a mostly-party-line vote of 57-40 (three Democrats voted no and three Republicans voted yes), the House passed **1277** on Sunday. The bill now moves to the Senate. As noted above, **1277** is written into the House Operating Budget and the \$292 million a biennium that would be generated is reflected in budget documents as well.
- **E2SHB 1477, establishing and financing a “988” crisis and mental health response line:** This bill by Rep. Tina Orwall (D-Des Moines/33rd Dist.) is on the move and funded with an anticipated \$75 million booked into the House Operating Budget. **1477** would fund a crisis and mental health response “988” hotline. It passed out of the Senate Behavioral Health Subcommittee last Friday on a 4-1 vote and now heads to the Ways & Means Committee.
- **ESSB 5235, regarding Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) ‘owner-occupancy’ requirements:** This bill advanced to the House Floor Calendar on Friday. Amendments approved by the House Local Government Committee allow cities to maintain their owner-occupancy requirements so long as they accept “hardship exemptions” within their ordinances by the time their GMA comprehensive plan updates are due.
- **E2SSB 5287, making changes to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program for multi-family housing projects:** The compromise version of **5287**, worked out among several parties, preserves the 8-year property tax exemption program that numerous cities have used to bring new market-rate multi-family housing into city centers. It also temporarily opens the MFTE program to all cities. Additionally, the compromise authorizes cities to offer a second 12-year exemption program to projects that are in either the 8-year or 12-year program. **5287’s** outlook for passing has improved markedly as the bill and funding (\$224,000) to study the MFTE program are in the Senate’s Operating Budget – Sec. 129(71), page 47.
- **SB 5312, facilitating Transit-Oriented Development (TOD):** This legislation continues its run to the legislative finish line. It is scheduled for a Tuesday afternoon hearing in House Appropriations. **5312** would use Planning and Environmental Review Funds (PERF Funds) to fund grants to cities to pay for certain planning-related costs related to transit-oriented development, including subarea plans and environmental impact statements.

***“Big Tent” Outdoor Recreation Coalition**

(Budgetary, Policy Items) Last Friday, leaders of the Big Tent indicated their desire to put together a letter to both Senate and House Capital Budget writers highlighting key investment categories and funding levels the outdoor recreation sector would like to see in a final budget. This should be helpful to our ALEA efforts.

***Statewide Trail Plan – Multi-Modal Trails Database**

(Capital Budget) Yahoo! As I noted above, our \$200,000 request for establishing and maintaining a statewide multi-modal trails database is in both Capital Budgets. I will testify in appreciation in the House this morning.

Other Bills WRPA is Tracking (Bills/Items Newly Added are in **Yellow**)

(NOTE: If you have bills you think we should add, or questions on particular bills impacting local parks and recreation, e-mail me: Doug@outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com)

- **Operating and Capital Budgets:** See the attached memo and detailed information provided in other parts of my report.
- **Transportation new-revenue packages in the House and Senate – HB 1564 et al:** We continue to await more detail regarding a revenue package. A **1564** placeholder is at the bottom of this report.
- **SB 5016, all-terrain vehicles:** This bill by Sen. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake/13th Dist.) is now on the House Floor Calendar. It allows a wheeled all-terrain vehicle (WATV) to also be registered and used as a snowmobile-like vehicle defined as a tracked all-terrain vehicle.
- **E2SSB 5052, creation of “health equity zones”:** The WRPA *supports* this legislation sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines/33rd Dist.). **5052** is due for a Tuesday hearing and Wednesday Committee vote in House Appropriations. The bill is also funded (\$1.406 million) in the House Operating Budget. The revised bill allows communities to self-identify health equity zones, requires funding before zones are developed, and add tribal communities as partners. Committee amendments also enable individuals and communities experiencing poverty to be part of the Zones.
- **SB 5056, wilderness therapy programs:** This bill has “died” for the 2021 Session. It required Department of Health to create a business license for “wilderness therapy” programs, established parameters for what constitutes a program, and a rulemaking to be completed by Dec. 31, 2022.
- **SB 5063, Concerning the expiration date of the invasive species council:** This bill extends the Washington State Invasive Species Council from June 30, 2022, to June 30, 2032. The Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) request bill passed unanimously last Wednesday out of the House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. The bill is also funded (\$112,000) in the Senate’s Operating Budget.
- **SB 5107, addressing homelessness:** This bill ‘died’ in committee without a vote. **5107** required every city with a population of 50,000 or more to have at least one emergency shelter and added penalties for unauthorized camping on public property.
- **SB 5110, HB 1440, streamlining permitting for wireless telecommunications facilities:** These bills attracted adamant local government opposition and ‘died’ in committee.
- **SB 5149/HB 1201, Funding Foundational Public Health Services:** This bill could still be “NTIB” as some of its funding components are in the Senate Operating Budget. **5149** imposes a \$3.25/month assessment on health insurance carriers for all “covered lives.” It directs that \$143 million from the assessment be used for foundational public health in 2024 and \$200 million in 2025. As I have reported, while we *support 5149*, it faces stiff opposition.
- **SB 5159, Payments in Lieu of Property Taxes (PILT) by the Department of Fish and Wildlife:** This bill is scheduled for a Tuesday hearing and Wednesday Committee vote in House Appropriations. It directs the state treasurer, on behalf of WDFW, to distribute PILT to counties by April 30 of each year.
- **SB 5176, HB 1018 – Boating safety:** These bills are “dead” for the Session. They would have required human-powered vessel operators to obtain a boater education card (**1018**) or for those operating in saltwater to obtain a certificate (**PSSB 5176**). Both bills were strongly opposed by the paddle craft community, whose members appear to prefer a mandatory Personal Flotation Device (PFD) solution. Washington State Parks is holding an April 21 “Summit” to further discuss this issue.
- **2SSB 5253, Implementing the recommendations of the pollinator health task force:** This bill is well on its way to passage, having cleared the House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee last Wednesday. Additionally, there is \$803,000 allocated toward the bill (across several agencies) in the Senate’s Operating Budget. WRPA is neutral on this bill. **5253** would impact the way local parks and recreation officials apply pesticides within parks properties. Some of you are concerned with unfunded mandate aspects of this bill. Others have indicated support.
- **SSB 5332, clarifying equipment requirements for wheeled all-terrain vehicles (WATVs):** This bill prime-sponsored by Sen. Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley/4th Dist.) is to be voted on today

(Monday) in the House Transportation Committee. It clarifies the equipment requirements for WATVs both for public road usage and off-road usage.

- **SB 5371, funding public health services through a statewide sweetened beverage tax:** This bill is 'dead' for the 2021 Session. **5371** would have imposed a tax of \$0.0175 per fluid ounce.
 - **ESSB 5452, concerning electric-assisted bicycles:** This bill passed unanimously last Tuesday out of the House Rural Development, Agriculture, and Natural Resources Committee. It directs the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to collect information on e-bike use on natural surface trails and roads that are limited to non-motorized use. The agencies are to report to the Legislature by Jan. 1, 2022.
 - **HB 1039, reporting on, updating, and expanding deployment of existing government programs that provide education on bicycle and pedestrian travel:** Sec. 5(2) of this bill had been of particular concern to local governments and Washington Bikes, in that it allowed the Safe Routes to Schools program to award more funding to school districts while potentially providing less for local projects. **1039** has 'died' for the Session.
 - **SHB 1057, clean air enjoyment:** This bill has "died" for the 2021 Session. The legislation would have modified Clean Air Act definitions of "air pollutant" and added the term "enjoyment of life and property" to allow individuals going to a public park, public recreational facility, or trail to register complaints with regional clean air agencies regarding properties that emit significant odors. WRPA was neutral on **1057**.
-
- **SHB 1059, fireworks prohibitions:** This legislation has "died" for the 2021 Session. It would have allowed fireworks bans to take effect immediately when doing so was necessitated by environmental conditions and other burning prohibitions were in place.
 - **E2SHB 1099, adding a 14th climate change goal to the Growth Management Act statutory list of goals:** This bill had a hearing in Senate Ways & Means Saturday and is scheduled for a Committee vote Monday. Section 15 of the bill includes a "null and void" clause, but it has been weakened, with previous "sufficient funding" wording removed. Whether there will be enough money to cover the climate-change-planning costs associated with **1099** is the central question now. The House budget has about \$6.36 million booked for this bill, and separate sections of the House budget (Sec. 763, 764) include \$144 million to cover the costs of enacting legislation with costs to cities. AWC and the Washington State Association of Counties (WSAC) both testified Saturday to the need to fund this bill.
 - **E2SHB 1117, integrating salmon recovery and ecological "net gain" requirements into GMA comprehensive planning:** This bill has been running on a parallel track to **1099**. It has a Wednesday hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee, and it has been written into the House Operating Budget. In this case, the estimated \$12 million in the House budget comes awfully close to covering the estimated \$13 million implementation costs cities have estimated for **1117**. Counties have also testified in support of the bill.
 - **2SHB 1152, creating comprehensive public health districts:** This far-reaching bill passed out of the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee last Friday on a party-line vote and now heads to a Wednesday hearing in Senate Ways & Means. **1152** establishes four regional comprehensive public health districts around the state and a new "Foundational Public Health Services Steering Committee." It also adds new members to public health district boards in all non-Central Puget Sound counties (*those with a population under 800,000*). The bill also has a "null and void" clause specifying that the new regional centers called for in the bill will not be established unless the Operating Budget includes at least \$60 million in new funding for Foundational Public Health Services. The House Operating Budget includes \$100 million for Foundational Public Health, the Senate \$150 million.
 - **E2SHB 1213/E2SSB 5237, expanding childcare and early learning opportunities for kids:** We *support* these companion bills to expand access to childcare and early learning – and the Legislature still seems to be determining which will be "the one." Funds for each bill are covered in the respective Operating Budgets. **1213** passed out of the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee last Wednesday on party-line vote. **5237** also had a party-line-vote to approve, last Wednesday in the House Children, Youth & Families Committee.
 - **E2SHB 1216, concerning urban and community forestry:** This bill will be heard Tuesday in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **1216** directs DNR to conduct analyses of the needs and

opportunities related to urban forestry in Washington. The House Operating Budget includes \$2.689 million for Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement the bill.

- **EHB 1251, wheeled ATVs on state highways:** Rep. Ed Orcutt (R-Kalama/20th Dist.) is sponsoring this bill, which will be voted upon Tuesday in the Senate Transportation Committee. **1251** expands the locations where a person may potentially operate a wheeled all-terrain vehicle on state highways to unincorporated areas with a speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. It also allows operations of a wheeled ATV on unincorporated stretches of state highways if there is a local ordinance approving it.
 - **SHB 1322, off-road vehicle enforcement:** Rep. Sharon Wylie (D-Vancouver/49th Dist.), a vice-chair of the House Transportation Committee, is prime-sponsoring this legislation. Like **1251** above, it is due for a Tuesday Senate Transportation Committee. The bill aims to better enforce state licensing requirements on off-road vehicles brought in from Oregon.
 - **SHB 1330, electric bicycles/sales tax:** It's not clear if this bill sponsored by Rep. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham/42nd Dist.) hit a temporary or permanent roadblock last Thursday. It had been scheduled for a Senate Ways & Means Committee vote, but that vote was never taken. **1330** would provide a sales tax exemption on purchases of new electric bikes and up to \$200 in related cycling equipment.
 - **SHB 1331, concerning early learning facility impact fees:** This bill advanced to the Senate Floor Calendar last Friday. **1331** authorizes cities to reduce or waive impact fees for early learning centers. We also worked with the prime sponsor on amendment language to help ensure early learning centers would not be assessed disproportionately higher impact fees than comparable (*in terms of trips generated*) commercial or retail facilities.
 - **HB 1362, Adjusting the Annual 1 percent Property Tax Limit:** This one had a courtesy hearing in House Finance last Thursday, and is not expected to progress any further. That said, the City of Everett is circulating a sign-on letter to try and keep some momentum alive on this one.
 - **SHB 1431, encouraging youth participation in fishing and shellfishing:** The House Operating Budget does not include this bill or any funding for it, so it looks like the legislation by Rep. Alicia Rule (D-Bellingham/42nd Dist.) may well be "dead" for the 2021 Session.
 - **HB 1435, authorizing local authorities to implement bicycle tour permits:** This bill has 'died' for this Session. It would have enabled a rural county to adopt an ordinance requiring a bicycle tour permit for use of public roads, trails, and paths within the county by groups of six or more bicyclists.
 - **HB 1466, promoting access to outdoor education:** This bill by Rep. Rule (D-Bellingham/42nd Dist.) would direct the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) to establish a pilot project for outdoor, nature-based education programs in public schools. It is probably "dead" for Session, as the House Operating Budget does not reflect the legislation or contain funding for it.
 - **HB 1523, concerning renewal of the sales and use tax for Transportation Benefit Districts (TBDs):** This bill may be "dead" for the Session. It would have allowed cities and counties that enacted Transportation Benefit District (TBD) sales taxes to renew them every 10 years with voter approval. That said, we may see a "local funding options" provision in the House's new-revenue package to enable the every-10-year renewals.
 - **HB 1564, "additive funding" for transportation:** This is what we call a "title only" bill at this point. It includes a bill title, but the specifics are not there yet – we will look for details on Thursday.
-