

**WEEK 3 REPORT ON 2021 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE & WEEK 4 HEARINGS**  
**For WRPA President, Executive Board, Executive Dir., Legislative Committee**

*Doug Levy – 2/8/2021*

***This “Great Outdoors Day” Was Virtual, But Your Enthusiasm & Great Attendance Were Very Real!***

*A heartfelt “thank you” to so many of you who took time in your schedule for “Great Outdoors Day” last Thursday, and for preview sessions with House Members on Jan. 29 and Senators on Feb. 1. Your attendance for this first-ever ‘virtual’ event was the real deal! Our partners in the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition (WWRC) indicated that more than 150 people attended Great Outdoors Day last Thursday. Add to that a crew of 67 for our by-Zoom preview with House Capital Budget and outdoor recreation leaders on Jan. 29, and another 77 for the by-Zoom gathering with Senators last Monday, and you have yourself a rousing success! Woo!*

Capital gains and “wealth tax” bills heard. A different ‘herd’ – of local parks and outdoor recreation advocates – (virtually) descending on the Legislature. Bill introductions finally slowing down, and cutoff deadlines quickly coming up. That sums up the latest with this nearly-all-virtual 2021 Session of the State Legislature.

In Week 4, we saw the House Finance Committee hold a public hearing on **HB 1406**, the “wealth tax” bill prime-sponsored by Committee Chair Noel Frame (D-Seattle/36<sup>th</sup> Dist.) and co-sponsored by nearly half of the House Democratic Caucus. The bill would impose a 1 percent wealth tax on financial intangible assets such as cash and cash equivalents, bonds, stocks, commodities, and pension funds. The fiscal note on the bill projects that it would generate \$9.7 billion of new revenue to the state in the 2023-25 and 2025-27 biennia.

On the heels of that bill, we will see a Thursday House Finance public hearing on a capital gains tax bill (**HB 1496**) sponsored by Rep. Tana Senn (D-Mercer Island/41<sup>st</sup> Dist.) and co-sponsored by 27 of her colleagues. The fate of these bills and whether a jolt of significant new state revenue is needed will be impacted significantly by next month’s state revenue forecast updates. Another big factor will be the Congressional votes on a COVID-19 relief package that contains \$350 billion for state and local government revenue relief.

As bills like these go into the legislative blender, we saw (virtually, of course) hundreds of you mixing with legislators as part of the annual Great Outdoors Day. Zoom meetings and even a zoom happy hour replaced the usual on-the-ground meetings and reception at the Governor’s mansion – but it worked!

Amidst this backdrop, we are finally seeing new bill introductions slow to a trickle, and for a very good reason: the cutoff deadlines for bills are rapidly approaching. A week from today (Feb. 15) is when policy bills must clear their committee or be considered ‘dead’ for the Session as stand-alone bills. A week later (Feb. 22), it is the same story for bills with some type of fiscal impact. As I perennially remind folks, though, bills can gain new ‘life’ by being amended onto other bills, or with a determination that they are considered “NTIB” (*Necessary to Implement the Budget*).

Week 4 will go in the books as a very good one for WRPA. Our “Parks Rx” bill had a positive public hearing last Friday, five Senators and House Members and several key organizations endorsed our \$200,000 multi-modal trails database request, and “Great Outdoors Day” was an online hit!

Below is an overview of where we stand on WRPA’s 2021 Legislative Agenda priorities. I also have provided a rundown of other bills impacting local parks and recreation and/or outdoor recreation. A Week 5 hearings list is attached separately, with recommendations on where to testify, sign in, or simply monitor. I’ve color-coded it to show you where I recommend support (**green** highlight), some caution or concern (**yellow** highlight), or simply a need to track and monitor legislation (**blue** highlight).

## 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)* We are now awaiting a Senate Ways & Means Committee hearing for **SB 5006** while the companion House bill, **HB 1025**, remains pending before the House Finance Committee. House Finance is doing all public hearings this coming week and is reserving the week of Feb. 15-22 for votes on bills.

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

*(Operating Budget)* While the Legislature has trotted out bills such as **HB 1406** and **HB 1496** in view of its own revenue constraints, and while we are seeing targeted revenue bills around carbon taxes and Tax Increment Financing, we are not seeing revenue relief efforts toward any particular sectors, including local parks. Where our local parks agencies – at least those run by cities and counties – are more likely to see general revenue relief may be in that ‘other Washington.’ The U.S. House and U.S. Senate may be voting soon on President Biden’s \$2 trillion COVID relief package that includes a \$350 billion allocation for state and local governments across the U.S.

### **\*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)* We are confident after hearing from Senate and House Capital Budget leads that they are poised to make a robust level of investment in key outdoor recreation grant programs used by local parks agencies, especially the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP), the Youth Athletic Facilities program (YAF), and the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA). We appreciate the \$100 million, \$11.2+ million, and \$9.1 million allocations in the Governor’s Budget, which funds virtually all of the YAF and ALEA lists. We join the WWRC in asking for consideration of a \$140 million investment in WWRP. With YAF, we have even encouraged budget writers to think about a full \$11.3 million allocation (*the \$11.2 million+ in the Governor’s budget would leave two funding alternates at the bottom of the list*).

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

*(Policy Bill)* This bill remains pending in the House Rules Committee. Prime-sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-Burien/34<sup>th</sup> Dist.) **HB 1034** is designed to prevent the ‘pro-rationing’ of the Vashon Parks District by removing their property tax allocation from the \$5.90 limit and shifting it to a 50-cent ‘gap’ part of the property tax. As I previously reported, **1034** could *potentially* assist other Park Districts as well. Metro Parks districts are not included in the bill because they are already in the 50 cent gap, just ahead of where Parks and Recreation Districts are placed in the proration order under **HB 1034**.

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

*(Capital Budget)* I have reported that the Governor’s proposed 2021-23 Capital Budget does a good job of maintaining and funding dedicated outdoor recreation accounts. It also appears that the Governor’s office, the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are closer to alignment with NOVA funding advocates with respect to a Section 961 provision of the 2021-23 *Operating Budget* that impacts NOVA monies. The Governor’s office convened a meeting last week to emphasize that the language in the budget continues to codify a funding allocation that dates to the 2009-11 biennium. The two sides are now trading budget language ideas to refine and clarify the Section 961 provisions.

**\*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 the following types of funding (see list below). Please note that a) in the Governor’s proposed Operating Budget (**SB 5092/HB 1094**), an additional \$500,000 is allocated to the No Child Left Inside program run by State Parks; b) efforts to more robustly fund public health are underway through both **SB 5149** and **SB 5371**; and c) additional multi-modal and “Complete Streets” funding is proposed under Transportation new-revenue packages proposed in both the Senate and House (see entry below). Here is our tracking list from the budgets:

- *Public Health District funding -- Operating Budget;*
- *Bicycle and Pedestrian Grant, Safe Routes to Schools, “Complete Streets” and fuel-tax-distribution funding in the Transportation Budget;*
- *“No Child Left Inside” within the Operating Budget;*
- *‘Target Zero’ programs run by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission;*
- *Dedicated accounts and grant programs in the Capital Budget such as WWRP, YAF, ALEA, NOVA, BFP.*

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

(*Policy Bill*) Last Friday in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee, Pete Mayer of Metro Parks Tacoma and Mary Dodsworth of Lakewood Parks and Recreation joined me in providing testimony in strong support of **SB 5292**, the “Parks Rx” bill prime-sponsored by newly-elected Sen. T’wina Nobles (D-University Place/28<sup>th</sup> Dist.). **5292** seeks to parallel the wellness program and health insurance incentives used by the private sector – in this case through the prescribed use of public parks, spaces, trails, and facilities. The legislation does not mandate what a Parks Rx program should look like, rather that a collaboration occur among representatives of local parks, public and community health, health care providers, and insurance sector folks to design three pilot projects around the state. We anticipate amendments to **5292** to restructure representation on a Task Force established under the bill, to craft an Advisory Group and robust public outreach, and to add time for the work to design the three pilot projects. Additionally, Pete Mayer and I will meet Thursday with the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Healthcare Plans on **5292**.

**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 are several bills we are tracking in this space:

- **SHB 1070, providing updated and expanded authority for the ‘HB 1590’ 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 cent sales tax enacted in 2020:** This bill by Rep. Cindy Ryu (D-Shoreline/32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) is in the House Rules Committee. The main thrust of this bill is to allow ‘1590’ monies to be used for the acquisition of properties for purposes such as permanent supportive housing. **SHB 1070** also expands the use of funding toward those experiencing homeless to include homeless *individuals*.
- **SHB 1108, maintaining funding and assistance for homeowners navigating the foreclosure process:** This legislation, prime-sponsored by Rep. Tina Orwall (D-Des Moines/33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.), is on a fast track, having already passed out of the House. **1108** awaits a hearing in the Senate Business, Financial Services & Trade Committee. It extends mediation and remittance requirements within the Foreclosure Assistance program, to Dec. 31, 2022.
- **HB 1128, establishment of Housing Benefit Districts:** Lawmakers referred this bill to House Finance last Tuesday. The bill and a companion Capital Budget request are promoted by Sound Communities, which is working with Renton, Tacoma, and Everett on pilot Transit Oriented Development (TOD) projects. **1128** allows cities and counties to form “Housing Benefit Districts” to finance acquisition, improvements, land-banking, or leasing of lands for affordable housing in

designated areas. The Districts have a 2/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 cent sales tax authority subject to voter approval, and \$1 per \$1000 property tax that may be assessed up to six (6) years with voter approval.

- **HB 1220, supporting emergency shelters and housing through local planning and development regulations:** This bill is due for a House Local Government Committee vote either today or Tuesday. City officials have concerns with a couple of sections of this bill which pre-empt local authority over the zoning of emergency shelters and permanent supportive housing.
- **SHB 1277/SB 5279, providing an additional revenue source for eviction prevention and housing stability:** This legislation moved last Tuesday to the House Appropriations Committee. It adds a \$100 surcharge to document recording fees paid on various housing and real estate transactions. The *extent* of the increase may be a challenge, but on the other hand, the need for rental assistance funding is acute. The fiscal impact note on **1277** shows it could raise \$292 million a biennium for rent relief and other assistance to lower-income individuals.
- **HB 1337, concerning Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs):** The House Local Government Committee will continue its public hearing on this bill Tuesday. Prime-sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson (D-SeaTac/33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.), **1337** would provide sales and property tax incentives to a limited number of local communities that allow ADUs under a series of conditions prescribed in the bill. However, as the bill is currently structured, a city would have to meet a dozen and a half different conditions in the bill to qualify.
- **HB 1477, implementing the national 988 system to enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services:** This legislation would create a revenue source to pay for a crisis and mental health response “988” hotline enacted at the federal level. This bill had previously been **HB 1182** but needed to have a new title, so it has been redrafted as **HB 1477**, scheduled for a 10 a.m. Monday hearing in the House Finance Committee.
- **SB 5235, relating to “increasing housing unit inventory by removing arbitrary limits on housing options”:** This bill easily passed out of the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee last Thursday. **5235** has drawn some objections from city officials because it would prohibit cities from requiring any housing unit on the same lot as an ADU to be owner-occupied, unless that owner owns more than five ADUs within the same city. The pre-emption approach contrasts with the incentive-based House bill (**HB 1337**) listed above.
- **SB 5287, making changes to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program for multi-family housing projects:** The Association of Washington Cities (AWC), the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance, and others are working on a compromise version of this bill. We saw broad-based *concerns* expressed with the underlying version of **5287**, which makes a series of changes to the MFTE program. One of the most oft-cited was the inclusion of new affordability requirements into the 8-year property tax exemption program that many cities have successfully used to induce new multi-family housing into their city centers.
- **SB 5312, incentivizing Transit-Oriented Development:** This bill by Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah/5<sup>th</sup> Dist.) passed unanimously out of the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee last Thursday and is now in Senate Rules. It would use appropriated Planning and Environmental Review Fund (PERF) dollars as an incentive for local communities to engage in TOD efforts.
- **SB 5390/HB 1157, Increasing housing supply through the growth management act and housing density tax incentives:** Local governments *support* the incentives-driven approach of these bills, which seek to help local governments with things such as Real Estate Excise Tax revenues in exchange for taking on additional housing density and housing types. **5390** will be heard Tuesday in the Senate Housing & Local Government Committee.

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

*(Budgetary, Policy Items)* WRPA supports the continued work of the “Big Tent” Outdoor Recreation Coalition, which is holding weekly policy calls during the 2021 Session. Additionally, we are part of the group that attends weekly meetings of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus (ORC). If you have an interest in attending either the 8:45 a.m. Monday policy calls convened by the Big Tent, or the Thursday 7 a.m. meetings of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus, please feel free to email me.

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

(Capital Budget) We thank Sens. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake/13<sup>th</sup> Dist.) and Liz Lovelett (D-Anacortes/40<sup>th</sup> Dist.) and Reps. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> Dist.), Alex Ramel (D-Bellingham/40<sup>th</sup> Dist.), and Marcus Riccelli (D-Spokane/3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.) for submitting \$200,000 requests for the Capital Budget towards establishing and maintaining a statewide multi-modal trails database. In addition to having this request submitted by legislators, last Thursday, we transmitted a 1-page sign-on letter demonstrating support from Washington Bikes, Washington State Trails Coalition, Washington Trails Association, the Trust for Public Land, Leafline Coalition, Palouse to Cascades Trail Coalition, ForEvergreen Trails, and the Thurston Regional Planning Council. Wahoo!

### Other Bills WRPA is Tracking (Bills/Items Newly Added This Week 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](mailto:Doug@outcomesbylevy.onmicrosoft.com))

### **Transportation new-revenue packages now unveiled in both House and Senate – No bill numbers yet:**

We now await formal bill numbers for the new-revenue packages proposed in both the House and Senate these last couple of weeks. A quick recap of similarities and differences in the two packages as announced:

- ✓ **Size of package:** A total of \$18.26 to \$19.16 billion in overall revenue – spending ranges from \$15.7 billion to \$15.85 billion after bonding of the package;
- ✓ **Bonding?** The Senate package more traditionally relies in part on bond proceeds – a range of \$2.4 billion to \$3.5 billion depending on which of two options is selected for the package. The House package at this point does not include any bonding;
- ✓ **Fuel tax:** The Senate proposes a 6-cent increase in the gas tax. The House package would increase gas taxes a total of 18 cents and index gas prices beginning in the third year of the package;
- ✓ **Carbon tax or fee?** Both packages include significant funding from a carbon fee on transportation-related fuels – the Senate also contemplates the option of a “cap and invest” revenue method;
- ✓ **Projects?** The Senate lists out 38 highway projects. The House package at this point only called out one project (I-5 Columbia River Bridge replacement) with the rest to be determined;
- ✓ **Direct Distribution?** The Senate package would allocate \$375 million over 16 years to cities and counties for direct distribution payments of gas tax proceeds. The House package does not include direct distribution but would devote significant investments to local maintenance and preservation to be granted through the Transportation Investment Board (TIB) and County Road Administration Board (CRAB).
- ✓ **Local transportation funding options for cities/counties?** It now appears likely this will be included in both the Senate and the House packages when bills are formally introduced.

[2021-23 Biennium Senate Transportation Budget -- Senator Hobbs New Law Balance Sheet \(wa.gov\)](#)

[2021-23 Biennium Senate Transportation Budget -- Senator Hobbs New Law Revenue Summary \(wa.gov\)](#)

[2021-23 Biennium Senate Transportation Budget -- LEAP Document 2021 NL-1 Forward Washington Project List](#)

- **SB 5016, all-terrain vehicles:** This bill by Sen. Judy Warnick (R-Moses Lake/13<sup>th</sup> Dist.) 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. **5016** passed unanimously out of the Senate Transportation Committee last Monday and is now in the Senate Rules Committee.
- **SSB 5052, creation of “health equity zones”:** The WRPA has reviewed and decided to *support* this legislation sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines/33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.). **5052** passed out of the Senate Health and Long-Term Care Committee last Wednesday on a 7-4 vote, with several changes. Revisions to the bill allow communities to self-identify health equity zones, for funding to be in place

before the zones are developed, and for tribal communities to be added as partners who those promoting the zones must work with. This bill remains pending in the Ways & Means Committee.

- **SB 5056, wilderness therapy programs:** Sen. Jesse Salomon (D-Shoreline/32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) is sponsoring this legislation. A scheduled Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee vote had been scheduled but not taken. The bill requires the Department of Health to create a business license for “wilderness therapy” programs, provides parameters for what constitutes such a program, and directs a rulemaking to be completed by Dec. 31, 2022.
  - **SB 5107, addressing homelessness:** This bill by Senate Housing & Local Government Committee Ranking Member Phil Fortunato (R-31<sup>st</sup> Dist.) had what will likely end up being a “courtesy hearing.” last Wednesday. **5107** requires every city with a population of 50,000 or more have at least one emergency shelter, and adds penalties for unauthorized camping on public property.
  - **SB 5110, HB 1440, streamlining permitting for wireless telecommunications facilities:** Local government representatives have had major heartburn with both of these bills, sharing a series of concerns with **5110** back on Jan. 21 and preparing to do the same this coming Wednesday in the House Community & Economic Development Committee. The Chair of the Committee, after learning of significant opposition to **1440**, decided *not* to hear the bill at all, instead opting to hold a Work Session on the topic.
  - **SB 5149/HB 1201, Funding Foundational Public Health Services:** Sen. June Robinson (D-Everett/38<sup>th</sup> Dist.) and Rep. Marcus Riccelli (D-Spokane/3<sup>rd</sup> Dist.) are the prime sponsors of this Governor-request legislation, which would impose a \$3.25/month assessment on health insurance carriers for all “covered lives.” The legislation indicates \$143 million from the assessment should be used toward foundational public health in 2024 and \$200 million in 2025. Only the Senate version of these WRPA-supported bills has had a hearing. The legislation faces strong opposition.
  - **SB 5159, Payments in Lieu of Property Taxes (PILT) by the Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Sen. Warnick is the sponsor of this year’s version of the PILT bill, which passed easily out of the Senate Agriculture, Natural Resources, Water and Parks Committee and awaits a hearing in Senate Ways & Means. Under the bill, the state treasurer, on behalf of WDFW, must distribute PILT to counties by April 30 of each year on game lands.
  - **PSSB 5176, HB 1018 – Boating safety:** The Senate version of this legislation never received a hearing, and the House version has not moved following a Jan. 20 hearing. These bills would require human-powered vessel operators to obtain a boater education card (**1018**) or a certificate (**PSSB 5176**). Both bills are adamantly opposed by the paddle craft community, whose members are probably more inclined to support mandatory Personal Flotation Device (PFD) wear requirements.
  - **SB 5332, clarifying equipment requirements for wheeled all-terrain vehicles (WATVs):** This bill is prime-sponsored by Sen. Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley/4<sup>th</sup> Dist.) and had a Senate Transportation hearing last Monday. The bill 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 measure by Sen. June Robinson (D-Everett/38<sup>th</sup> Dist.) continues to await a hearing in Senate Health & Long-Term Care. It would impose a tax of \$0.0175 per fluid ounce. Beginning July 1, 2022, and every July after, it would increase by a Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate. Of revenue generated, 60 percent would go to a “health equity account” and 40 percent to “Foundational Public Health.”
  - **HB 1039, bicycle and pedestrian travel:** This bill is non-controversial except for Sec. 5(2), which allows the Safe Routes to Schools program to award funding not just to cities and counties but potentially to school districts as well. City officials testified “other” last Thursday, with concerns over what this section of the bill might lead to. Prime sponsor Bob McCaslin (R-Spokane Valley/4<sup>th</sup> Dist.) has offered to work on clarifying amendments for this bill.
  - **HB 1057, clean air enjoyment:** Rep. Gerry Pollet (D-Seattle/46<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is the prime sponsor of this bill, due for a vote this coming Friday in the House Environment & Energy Committee. The legislation modifies Clean Air Act definitions of “air pollutant” and adds 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’s Legislative Committee reviewed this bill and decided the Association will take a neutral stand on **1057**.
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- **SHB 1059, fireworks prohibitions:** This legislation sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-Burien/34<sup>th</sup> Dist.) remains in House Rules. The amended **1059** allows fireworks bans to take effect immediately only when doing so is necessitated by environmental conditions and other burning prohibitions are in place.
- **HB 1099, adding a 14<sup>th</sup> climate change goal to Growth Management Act plans:** This bill moved last Tuesday to the House Appropriations Committee, where it awaits a hearing. I have noted that one of the to-do items remaining for **1099** is to ensure cities and counties have adequate funding to do the work specified within the legislation. WRPA Legislative Committee leads asked last week that we also explore whether explicit references to trails could be added to the legislation.
- **HB 1117, integrating salmon recovery into GMA comprehensive planning:** This legislation by Rep. Debra Lekanoff (D-40<sup>th</sup> Dist.) passed on an 8-5 party-line vote out of the House Environment & Energy Committee vote last Thursday with technical amendments and definitional changes. It asks local governments to do more to integrate salmon recovery planning into their comprehensive plans. Rep. Lekanoff inserted “null and void” language in her bill to ensure that the legislation will not move forward unless specific funding is appropriated to implement it. The null-and-void clause was softened somewhat to indicate that an appropriation from the state would have to come at least two years in advance of GMA comprehensive plan updates.
- **HB 1251, wheeled ATVs on state highways:** Rep. Ed Orcutt (R-Kalama/20<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is sponsoring this bill, which passed unanimously last Tuesday out of the House Transportation Committee and now goes to House Rules. **1251** expands the locations where a person may potentially operate a wheeled all-terrain vehicle on state highways to unincorporated areas with a posted speed limit of 35 miles per hour or less. It also makes the operation of a wheeled all-terrain vehicle on unincorporated stretches of state highways contingent upon the passage of an ordinance approving their operation.
- **HB 1322, off-road vehicle enforcement:** Rep. Sharon Wylie (D-Vancouver/49<sup>th</sup> Dist.), a vice-chair of the House Transportation Committee, is prime-sponsoring this legislation. **1322** had a hearing last Monday afternoon in House Transportation. It is designed to close an exemption loophole provided to off-road vehicles owned by residents of Oregon.
- **HB 1330, electric bicycles/sales tax:** Rep. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> Dist.), is the sponsor of **1330**, which continues to await a House Finance Committee hearing. It would provide a sales tax exemption on purchases of new electric bikes and up to \$200 in related cycling equipment.
- **HB 1331, impact fees for early learning centers:** This bill by newly elected Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley (D-Seattle/37<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is due for a vote Tuesday in the House Local Government Committee. I have listed it due to the objective within the bill to make it easier to build and locate early learning facilities. The main thrust of **HB 1331** is to allow local governments the authority to exempt impact fees for early learning facilities.
- **HB 1431, encouraging youth participation in fishing and shellfishing:** This bill by newly elected Rep. Alicia Rule (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) had a hearing last Friday and is scheduled for a vote this coming Wednesday in the House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee.
- **HB 1435, authorizing local authorities to implement bicycle tour permits:** This bill sponsored by Rep. Joel Kretz (R-Wauconda/7<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is up for hearing Wednesday in the House Local Government Committee. The bill enables 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 that are not family members and who do not reside in the same household.
- **HB 1466, promoting access to outdoor education:** This bill by Rep. Alicia Rule (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> 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. The pilot project would have to begin in the 2021-22 school year. **1466** is pending in House Appropriations.

