

**WEEK 5 REPORT ON 2021 SESSION OF THE LEGISLATURE & WEEK 6 HEARINGS/'EXEC'S'  
For WRPA President, Executive Board, Executive Dir., Legislative Committee**

*Doug Levy – 2/15/2021*

During Week 5, legislators and the Governor acted on important COVID-19 relief bills, while key transportation leaders took additional steps toward a new revenue package. Meanwhile, cutoff deadlines are looming ever closer, helping determine which stack of bills will have life and which ones are likely to 'die.'

The COVID-19 relief actions last week were from both the Executive and legislative branches of government. Last Monday, Governor Inslee signed **ESSB 5061** into law, with an emergency clause that has the bill taking effect immediately. The bill minimizes the increase in unemployment insurance premiums paid to the state, with future increases spread over five years and a "solvency surcharge" suspended for the next five years. **5061** also expands the pool of people eligible for unemployment assistance and increases minimum weekly benefit amounts. For the lowest-paid workers, weekly checks go from \$201 to \$268. The bill provides \$1.7 billion in short-term private-sector tax relief and \$1.2 billion in future assistance to lower-wage workers.

Two days after the Governor signed **ESSB 5061**, the Senate passed **ESHB 1368** 47-2 and sent it to the Governor to be signed into law. The bill appropriates \$2.2 billion in federal funds going to Washington State via the late-December 2020 COVID relief measure enacted by Congress. **1368** uses the federal funds to address several needs, including \$714 million for assistance to K-12 schools; \$618 million for public health, including \$438 million for testing and contact tracing; \$68 million for vaccines; \$365 million for a variety of housing-related items, including rental assistance; \$240 million for business assistance grants; \$50 million for a variety of childcare-related items; and \$26 million for food banks and other food related programs.

While COVID relief is on a fast track, the move toward more formal transportation new-revenue packages is on a 'slow-and-steady' pace. We saw lawmakers trot out a few fee bills and schedule a House Transportation Committee Work Session to go over transportation funding needs. On the Senate Republican side, leaders introduced **SB 5451**, an alternative approach to the 2021-23 Operating Budget that also includes shifting the sales tax on automobile sales and auto parts from the General Fund to the Transportation Budget -- \$721.3 million revenue shift in 2021-23 alone and a \$2.4 billion shift over six years. The bill to implement this major sales tax shift is **SB 5449**, tellingly sponsored by three Republican Senators and no majority Democrats.

As we keep our eye on budgets that will be sorted out over the next several weeks, we also need to put immediate focus to policy committee and fiscal committee cutoff deadlines arriving today (Feb. 15) and next Monday (Feb. 22). We will have a much better sense of which bills to zero in on after cutoffs.

Week 5 gets a mixed review for WRPA. Our "Parks Rx" bill passed a policy committee on Friday, but our local funding options bills (**HB 1025/SB 5006**) are stuck in fiscal committees. We may need to issue an "Action Alert" on this legislation first thing Tuesday pending a meeting with House Leadership today.

Below is an overview of where we stand on WRPA's 2021 Legislative Agenda priorities. I also have provided the usual rundown of other bills impacting local parks and recreation and/or outdoor recreation. A Week 6 hearings list is attached separately, with recommendations on where to testify, sign in, or simply monitor. Because the action is transitioning from hearing to committee votes, I have listed numerous "Executive Session" items as well.

See Page 2 for all that – and have a great week everyone!

## 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, candidly, in a frustrating place on these bills – caught between a philosophical discussion among House Democrats in particular on how to promote more “progressive” revenues vs. advancing a bill (ours) with a sales tax funding tool that is considered “regressive.” The 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 cent sales tax tool (*subject to voter approval*) in our bills is considered a regressive funding source because those at lower income levels pay a much higher percentage of their income on it than do those at higher income levels. Nonetheless, we have pointed out that the services parks agencies provide are decidedly *progressive* and that this legislation is an important COVID recovery tool for our folks. **HB 1025** thus has not moved from the Finance Committee as we draw closer to a final fiscal cutoff deadline. The Ways & Means Chair has indicated to me that since the House bill is considered the ‘vehicle’ for this Session, **SB 5006** is on hold until we see what the House does or does not do with **HB 1025**. We are continuing to meet with House Finance Committee Members and are part of a discussion today with House Speaker Laurie Jinkins (D-Tacoma/27<sup>th</sup> Dist.). My thanks to Metro Parks Tacoma for setting today’s meeting up!

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

*(Operating Budget)* We are not seeing any general revenue relief measures for local agencies this Session – at a state level. At the federal level, there is the very real possibility for Congress to act on a \$2 trillion initiative from the Biden Administration that includes a \$350 billion allocation for state and local governments across the U.S. Even that measure appears likely to route most new local government revenue through the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program.

### **\*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 continue to feel very positive about the willingness of Senate and House Capital Budget leads to make a robust 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). I had a good meeting Friday with Senate Ways & Means Capital Budget Chair David Frockt (D-Seattle/46<sup>th</sup> Dist.) on these budget items. 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. On a YAF front, we have 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 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’ portion of property tax. As previously indicated, **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. I can also report that the Governor’s office,

the Office of Financial Management (OFM), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) are in alignment with NOVA funding advocates with respect to a Section 961 provision of the 2021-23 *Operating Budget* that impacts NOVA monies. The budget language codifies a funding allocation that dates to the 2009-11 biennium. Nonetheless, the two sides agreed to add this provision: *During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, the legislature may appropriate moneys pursuant to Section 310 of this bill from the NOVA account to the department of natural resources to support programs that benefit ORV, non-highway road and non-motorized recreational facilities. The department of natural resources, in collaboration with motorized and non-motorized outdoor recreation stakeholders, must submit to the appropriate committees of the legislature recommendations on direct appropriations from the NOVA account to DNR's budget by September 30, 2022.*

**\*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 add funds for “Foundational Public Health” are in 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 – SSB 5292**

*(Policy Bill)* Last Friday, with seven Democrats voting yes, four Republican members voting no, and one Member voting “without recommendation,” the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee passed an amended **Substitute Senate Bill 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 setting up a collaboration between representatives of local parks, public and community health, health care providers, and health insurers to design three pilot projects around the state. The amendments to **5292** restructure representation on a Task Force established under the bill, set up advisory committees to ensure strong public outreach, and add more time to design the three pilot projects. **SSB 5292** now moves to the Ways & Means Committee, where it needs to be heard and moved in the next week to stay alive.

### 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.) remains in the House Rules Committee. It allows 2020-enacted **HB 1590** funds (*ironically, a 1/10<sup>th</sup> of 1 cent sales tax for affordable housing*) to be used to acquire properties for emergency shelters and 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.), has passed the House and 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 now before the House Appropriations Committee. City officials have concerns with two sections of **1220** 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:** The House bill remains before the House Appropriations Committee. It adds a \$100 surcharge to document recording fees paid on various housing and real estate transactions. 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 did not move this bill last week and it likely has ‘died’ for the 2021 Session. Prime-sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson (D-SeaTac/33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.), **1337** would have provided 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, cities would have had to meet about 17 different conditions in the bill to qualify.
- **SHB 1477, implementing the national 988 system to enhance and expand behavioral health crisis response and suicide prevention services:** This legislation, which puts in place a tax on phone lines to pay for a crisis and mental health response “988” hotline, is to be voted upon Tuesday in House Finance. Funds from the bill would pay for a crisis and mental health response “988” hotline enacted at the federal level.
- **SB 5235, relating to “increasing housing unit inventory by removing arbitrary limits on housing options”:** This bill is in the Senate Rules Committee. **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.
- **PSSB 5287, making changes to the Multi-Family Tax Exemption (MFTE) program for multi-family housing projects:** With a compromise agreed to by most stakeholders, this bill is now on the move. A compromise worked out among the Association of Washington Cities (AWC), the Washington Low-Income Housing Alliance, and others preserves an 8-year property tax exemption program that many cities have used to bring new market-rate multi-family housing into city centers. It also temporarily, opens the MFTE program to all cities. The compromise creates a new 20-year exemption program toward permanently affordable housing and authorizes cities to offer a second 12-year exemption program to projects that are in either the 8-year or 12-year program – if affordability requirements are met. The substitute will be heard Friday in Senate Ways & Means.
- **SB 5312, incentivizing Transit-Oriented Development:** This bill by Sen. Mark Mullet (D-Issaquah/5<sup>th</sup> Dist.) advanced to the Senate Floor last Friday. It uses Planning and Environmental Review Fund (PERF) dollars as an incentive for local communities to engage in TOD efforts.
- **SSB 5390/SHB 1157, Increasing housing supply through the growth management act and housing density tax incentives:** *We 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. The bills passed out of the Senate Housing & Local Government and House Local Government Committees, respectively, late last week.

### **\*“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 are interested in attending either 8:45 a.m. Monday policy calls convened by the Big Tent or the Thursday 7 a.m. meetings of the Outdoor Recreation Caucus, let me know!](#)

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

*(Capital Budget)* No Week 5 news to report. 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 Capital Budget requests for establishing and maintaining a statewide multi-modal trails database. We have also sent budget writers a 1-page sign-on letter demonstrating coalition 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.

### 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 believe it will be after fiscal committee cutoffs before we see the Transportation new-revenue packages roll out (*they are directly related to the budget and thus exempt from deadlines*). Here’s my brief comparison of the two packages as announced:

- ✓ **Size of package:** The House package is \$26 billion+. The Senate proposal totals \$18.26 to \$19.16 billion in overall revenue – with investment levels ranging from \$15.7 billion to \$15.85 billion after bonding costs are deducted;
  - ✓ **Bonding?** The Senate package more traditionally relies 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 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 appears this will be included in both the Senate and the House packages when bills are formally introduced.
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- **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** remains in the Senate Rules Committee.
  - **SSB 5052, creation of “health equity zones”:** The WRPA is in *support* this legislation sponsored by Sen. Karen Keiser (D-Des Moines/33<sup>rd</sup> Dist.). **5052** has a hearing today in the Senate Ways & Means Committee and is due for a Committee vote on Wednesday. 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.

- **SB 5056, wilderness therapy programs:** Sen. Jesse Salomon (D-Shoreline/32<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) is sponsoring this legislation, which appears on the verge of ‘dying’ unless the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee acts on it today. 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-Auburn/31<sup>st</sup> Dist.) appears ready to ‘die’ in Committee. **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 strongly opposed both these bills. **5110** has not moved since a Jan. 21 hearing and **1440** did not receive a public hearing.
  - **SB 5149/HB 1201, Funding Foundational Public Health Services:** The Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee approved **5149** on Friday on a party-line vote. It now goes to the Ways & Means Committee. 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. 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 will be heard Friday 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 will almost surely ‘die’ barring any surprise action today in the House Community & Economic Development Committee. These bills would have required human-powered vessel operators to obtain a boater education card (**1018**) or for those in saltwater to obtain a certificate (**PSSB 5176**). Both bills were strongly opposed by the paddle craft community, whose members are more inclined to support mandatory Personal Flotation Device (PFD) wear.
  - **SB 5332, clarifying equipment requirements for wheeled all-terrain vehicles (WATVs):** This bill prime-sponsored by Sen. Mike Padden (R-Spokane Valley/4<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is due to be voted on today by the Senate Transportation Committee. 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.) never received a hearing in Senate Health & Long-Term Care – meaning **SSB 5149** is now the ‘vehicle’ for foundational public health funding. **5371** would have imposed a tax of \$0.0175 per fluid ounce. Beginning July 1, 2022, and every July after, it would have increased the tax by a Consumer Price Index (CPI) inflation rate.
  - **HB 1039, bicycle and pedestrian travel:** This bill remains in the House Transportation Committee and its fate is uncertain. Washington Bikes has a series of concerns with the bill and cities have submitted amendment language to limit usage of the Safe Routes to Schools program to award funding to school districts. Prime sponsor Bob McCaslin (R-Spokane Valley/4<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is trying 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, which passed out of the House Environment & Energy Committee last Friday on a party-line 7-5 vote. 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 is taking 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 when doing so is necessitated by environmental conditions and other burning prohibitions are in place.

- **SHB 1099, adding a 14<sup>th</sup> climate change goal to the Growth Management Act statutory list of goals:** This bill, scheduled for a Tuesday hearing in House Appropriations, has undergone a shift. Instead of having the Departments of Ecology and Commerce identify and allocate specific emission reduction targets for every city and county, the bill now has the Department of Commerce create a menu of options from which cities and counties would select to meet their climate change planning obligations. We at WRPA are working with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), cities, and counties on amending language to ensure the bill calls out not just “active transportation” within the transportation elements of GMA plans, but “trails” as well.
  - **SHB 1117, integrating salmon recovery and ecological “net gain” requirements into GMA comprehensive planning:** This bill is also scheduled for a Tuesday hearing in House Appropriations – and has taken some twists and turns. The “net gain” part of the bill is less flexible than it had been, leading cities and counties to renew discussions with the bill sponsor.
  - **HB 1213, expanding childcare and early learning opportunities for kids:** This bill by Rep. Tana Senn (D-Mercer Island/41<sup>st</sup> Dist.) is up for a Tuesday afternoon hearing in the House Appropriations Committee. I have added it to our tracking list in recognition of the active interest several of our parks and recreation agencies have in childcare programs and funding.
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- **HB 1251, wheeled ATVs on state highways:** Rep. Ed Orcutt (R-Kalama/20<sup>th</sup> Dist.) is sponsoring this bill, which remains in 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** may end up ‘dying,’ as House Transportation did not act on it last Thursday after scheduling a vote.
  - **HB 1330, electric bicycles/sales tax:** Rep. Sharon Shewmake (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> Dist.), is the sponsor of **1330**, which is now scheduled for a Wednesday morning hearing in the House Finance Committee. It would provide a sales tax exemption on purchases of new electric bikes and up to \$200 in related cycling equipment.
  - **SHB 1331, impact fees for early learning centers:** This bill by newly elected Rep. Kirsten Harris-Talley (D-Seattle/37<sup>th</sup> Dist.) passed unanimously out of the House Local Government Committee last Tuesday. The bill gives local governments the authority to exempt impact fees for early learning facilities and makes other changes to ensure that impact fees assessed on early learning facilities are not disproportionately higher than those imposed on commercial and retail buildings.
  - **SHB 1431, encouraging youth participation in fishing and shellfishing:** This bill by newly elected Rep. Alicia Rule (D-Bellingham/42<sup>nd</sup> Dist.) passed Wednesday out of the House Rural Development, Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee. One key amendment changes the mandatory age for purchase of a fishing license from 19 to 16.
  - **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 likely to ‘die’ 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 still awaiting a hearing in House Appropriations.

