

**Briefing No. 2019-B0169: State Legislative Agenda
Committee of the Whole, Nov. 4, 2019**

2019 State Agenda Item	Legislative action in 2019?	Carry forward to 2020?
State and local tax system		
Reform tax policies to implement a more fair, sustainable, and reliable tax system for taxpayers, businesses, and local governments.	Yes--Tax structure work group proviso in budget, runs through 2024.	Highly unlikely legislature will take any action pending study by work group.
Replace arbitrary local cap with a growth limit directly tied to inflation plus population growth.	No. HB 2145 Introduced late, no action.	Yes. Continue to build momentum towards 2021 push.
Eliminate non-supplant restriction on voter-approved levies.	No. HB 1718 Died on House Floor Calendar.	Yes. Passed House in 2017 and 2018.
Increase access to existing property tax exemption for seniors, veterans, and people with disabilities by indexing the limit to county median income.	Yes. SSB 5160 (Concerning property tax exemptions for service-connected disabled veterans and senior citizens)	
Equitably reduce property taxes by adopting a homestead exemption tied to regional home values.		
Housing		
Support recommendations of the Regional Affordable Housing Task Force and One Table to increase the supply of affordable housing by 17,600 homes in the next two years and address root causes of homelessness.	The legislature passed several bills consistent with RAHTF recommendations: HB 1440 (Providing longer notice of rent increases); SB 5600 (Concerning residential tenant protections); HB 1105 (Protecting taxpayers from home foreclosure)	Continue to use as guideline as likely more work on housing issues in upcoming session.

Provide new tools to local government to help preserve and expand affordable housing, behavioral health facilities, and homelessness services, including allowing local bonding against state sales tax.	HB 1406 (Encouraging investments in affordable and supportive housing); HB 1219 (Providing cities and counties authority to use real estate excise taxes to support affordable housing and homelessness projects)	HB 1590 still in-play and being worked by sponsor—this makes sales tax for housing/behavioral health facilities councilmanic.
Invest at least \$200 million in the Housing Trust Fund to increase affordable housing supply.	Budget: \$175M	
Enact condominium liability reform that better balances homeowner protections and developer risk to increase access to affordable homeownership options.	SB 5334 (Concerning the Washington uniform common interest ownership act)	
Reduce barriers to building more housing inside cities.	HB 1923 (Increasing urban residential building capacity)	
Health and human services		
Stabilize local foundational public health programs that protect Washington residents against the spread of disease.	Statewide ask was \$100M, got \$22M (\$10M GF state + \$12M from vape tax); HB 1497 (Concerning foundational public health services)	Yes: Ask for additional FPHS funding and for backfill from decreased revenues from vape tax.
Invest in local behavioral health crisis systems, leverage state Medicaid plan to secure additional federal behavioral health funding, and increase community capacity for behavioral health.	Budget: \$47M for competitive BH capacity grants; \$70.9M community-based BH projects; \$33.2M UW Teaching Hospital; \$20M mixed-use psychiatric care facility (Auburn); \$6M DESC health clinic; \$500K BHI at Harborview	Keep adequate funding of behavioral health system as priority.

Provide additional resources to combat the opioid crisis and increase the availability of medication assisted treatment programs.	Budget: \$15.6M for secure detox facilities; \$2.2M for SUD support; SB 5380 (Concerning opioid use disorder treatment, prevention, and related services).	
Prohibit the sale of tobacco and vapor products to persons under the age of 21.	Yes. HB 1074	
Continue to ensure access to affordable health care coverage for low-income Washingtonians.	HB 1870 (An act relating to making state law consistent with selected federal consumer protections in the patient protection and affordable care act)	
Increase investments in Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) and Aged, Blind, or Disabled (ABD) programs to prevent new people from becoming homeless in King County.	HEN: \$14.5M; No ABD cash grant increase	
Support county-based, other regional, or statewide health coverage programs as a new approach to providing comprehensive health coverage to uninsured individuals across Washington State.	SB 5526 (Increasing the availability of quality, affordable health coverage in the individual market)	
Mobility and Infrastructure		
Address underfunded county regional and local road projects and provide countywide tools to fund county regional roads as the unincorporated population decreases over time.		Yes.
Increase investments to speed up local and regional transit, and connect bicycle and pedestrian trails, including the Eastside Rail Corridor and Wilburton Trestle.	Increased regional mobility grant and special needs funding (HB 2042); \$2.5M for Wilburton Trestle; no ERC funding.	

Preserve existing managed lane programs and allow excess toll revenue to be reinvested in transit service on the corridor.	SB 5825 permanently authorizes I-405 and SR 167 ETLs; no language authorizing excess revenue to be reinvested in transit service on the corridor.	
Invest in the Fall City sewer system to protect public health and the environment.	No money in budget	
Fund the Floodplains by Design grant program for critical floodplain management projects.	\$50.4M	
Enhance dam safety and emergency planning and preparedness.		
Improve transit efficiency by allowing local jurisdictions to use traffic camera enforcement of transit-only lanes.	HB 1793 Died on Senate floor calendar	Yes.
Clarify and affirm that Puget Sound Taxpayer Accountability funds can be used to construct facilities.	SB 5851/ appropriation authority in budget	
Fully support the Public Works Trust Fund as a way to help local governments build critical infrastructure projects.	\$95M infrastructure spending; but \$160M transferred out of account to Education Legacy Trust Account.	
Energy and Environment		
Support policies and investments to improve building energy efficiency, accelerate transition to clean electricity supplies and transportation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and strengthen Washington's clean energy economy.	<u>Passed:</u> HB 1257 (Concerning energy efficiency); SB 5116 (Supporting Washington's clean energy economy and transitioning to a clean, affordable, and reliable energy future). <u>Did Not Pass:</u> HB 1101 (Reducing the greenhouse gas emissions associated with transportation fuels)	Keep "reduce greenhouse gas emissions" (didn't pass in 2019).

Invest in retrofits of culverts and other infrastructure to restore fish passage and habitat.	\$26M of capital funds to Fish Barrier Removal Board (FBRB) for grants to local governments for culvert replacement; \$100M of transportation funds to WSDOT for statewide fish passage barrier removal projects, and WSDOT directed to coordinate with FBRB on a watershed approach to maximize habitat gain by replacing both state and local culverts.	Culvert funding on WSAC legislative agenda.
Support efforts for Orca and salmon recovery, including improving water quality and reducing toxins in wastewater effluent.	HB 1578 (Reducing threats to southern resident killer whales by improving the safety of oil transportation); HB 1579 (Implementing recommendations of the southern resident killer whale task force related to increasing chinook abundance); Budget items.	
Good government		
Maintain public records transparency and consistency across all levels of government, and ensure that funding is provided commensurate to expenses incurred in complying with obligations of the Public Records Act.	<u>Did Not Pass (good outcome)</u> : SB 5784 (Concerning records disclosure and retention obligations of the legislative branch). <u>Did Pass</u> : HB 1667 (Concerning public records request administration) did pass.	Await Wash. Supreme Court decision on the issue (argued June 2019). But keep an eye on issue in case Legislature decides to take it up.
Increase cultural access program flexibility.	HB 1435/SB 5418 Died on House Floor Calendar	Yes, with new language.
Update All Payers Claim Database to deliver a better functioning database to provide greater transparency for health care costs.	Yes. SSB 5741	

Focus on ensuring the fair treatment of underserved groups in public employment, education, and contracting.	I-1000	
Public safety system		
Allow earlier intervention by authorizing juvenile courts to use existing state diversion funding pre-adjudication.	SB 5429 (Including referred and diverted youth in establishing community juvenile accountability program guidelines)	.
Enable convicted youth to stay in state juvenile rehabilitation facilities up to the age of 25.	HB 1646 (Concerning confinement in juvenile rehabilitation facilities)	
Support efforts to reduce youth interaction with the juvenile legal system.	SB 5290 (Eliminating the use of the valid court order exception to place youth in detention for noncriminal behavior)	
Ensure adequate resources to provide local criminal justice services, including state funding for indigent defense, increasing daily rates paid by the Department of Corrections, and adding academy classes for Corrections Officers and Sheriff Deputy training.	No indigent defense funding; \$3.9M for DOC rate increases for local governments who house offenders who violate community supervision; increased CJTC BLEA and Corrections officer training classes.	Keep on Indigent defense funding (also WSAC priority).
Reduce disproportionality in the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems.	SB 5288 (Removing robbery in the second degree from the list of offenses that qualify an individual as a persistent offender)	Yes.