

Email from Potts & Associates January 25, 2021

Commissioners & Others,

Good evening and I hope this finds you all well this week.

As we enter the third week of the 2021 legislative session we are starting to get a feel for the process and how things are going to proceed as we move through session. There are a few important pieces of information we have learned. The most important piece of information we learned is in regards to commenting on bills: when you comment on a bill outside of signing in as an active participant during the hearing (not necessarily testifying but signing in for the hearing) it is very likely that your position will not be recognized or even seen. The system is designed with an odd feature that requires a legislature to personally pull your comment from the darkness that is the legislative interwebs onto the public forum, this means that unless you ask a legislator to pull your comment no one will see it. In light of this information we are recommending you send comments or testimony either directly to the sponsors of bills and other legislators or register your comments in the actual committee hearing. To sign in on a bill that is in committee click [HERE](#). Follow the link to the committee hearing in the house you desire and sign in as pro, con, or other on the bill. If you would like for us to sign in on your behalf, please just let me know and we'll get you on the record. On that note, it is always better to touch bases with the legislators prior to a hearing so if there is something you would like for us to mention to a legislator please don't hesitate to let us know. The general Testimony page can be found [HERE](#).

The session seems to be moving at a pace that would be expected when asking all of the legislators, aides, and staff to sign into remote meetings at the same time. There have been some bandwidth difficulties and we are seeing a larger number of citizens signed in on bills than we normally would so community engagement is up from the looks of things.

One bill that stood out this week was SB 5114 which addresses Safely reopening Washington. The committee heard the bi-partisan bill on Wednesday the 20th and over 1,000 people signed in to testify in favor of the bill. The bill was scheduled for a vote in the same hearing but the committee chair, Senator Hunt, decided to wait on a vote until a later date. We will keep an eye on this bill but since it flies directly in the face of the Governor there will need to be some conversations and negotiating before it sees any sort of a vote.

The Governor is pushing harder than ever for his climate initiatives. The exact vehicle and path to his end goal is unclear but, as I'm sure you've read, an increased gas tax is on the list. It is too early in the session to know exactly what will happen and how the endgame will play out but don't be surprised to see an increased burden or regulation on carbon producers.

Listed below are the highlights from WSAC:

HB 1069 - Concerning local government fiscal flexibility. House Finance on Monday at 10 am. WSAC will testify in support.

HB 1260 - Concerning the development of the marijuana market. House Commerce & Gaming on Tuesday at 8 am. WSAC will testify opposed.

HB 1203 - Concerning community oversight boards. House Public Safety on Tuesday at 8 am. WSAC will testify with concerns.

HB 1202 - Addressing meaningful civil remedies for persons injured as a result of police misconduct,

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including by allowing for an award of attorney fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief. House Civil Rights & Judiciary on Tuesday at 10 am. WSAC will testify opposed.

Additionally, listed below are bills with hearings this week that may interest you. There are a few GMA pieces and some agency authority clarification language lines you might find interesting but nothing is a huge change to regulations, if you have any specific questions or if you would like to comment or take an active position please let us know.

Monday, January 25

Law & Justice @ 9:30 AM

SB 5078 Addressing firearm safety measures to increase public safety. (High capacity magazines, companion: HB 1164)

Finance @ 10:00 am

SHB 1069 - Concerning local government fiscal flexibility

Health Care & Wellness @ 1:30 pm.

HB 1110 - Concerning the composition of local boards of health.

Transportation @ 3:30 pm

HB 1030 - Concerning a community aviation revitalization loan program. Transportation

HB 1137 - Elevating road maintenance and preservation in transportation planning

Tuesday

Public Safety @ 8:00 am

HB 1203 - Concerning community oversight boards.

Civil Rights & Judiciary @ 10:00 am

HB 1202 - Addressing meaningful civil remedies for persons injured as a result of police misconduct, including by allowing for an award of attorney fees in addition to damages and injunctive and declaratory relief.

Local Government @ 10:00 am

HB 1180 - Concerning public testimony at public meetings, including virtual meetings.

HB 1184 - Concerning risk-based water quality standards for on-site nonpotable water systems.

HB 1329 - Concerning public meeting accessibility and participation.

Agriculture & Natural Resources @ 10:00 am

HB 1216 - Concerning urban and community forestry. Rural Development

Environment, Energy & Technology @ 10:30 am

SB 5022 - Concerning the management of certain materials to support recycling and waste and litter reduction

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Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks @ 1:30 pm
SB 5207 - Concerning environmental permit streamlining.
SB 5273 - Concerning the replacement of shoreline armoring.

Finance @ 1:30 pm
HB 1189 - Authorizing tax increment financing for local governments.
HB 1332 - Concerning property tax deferral during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wednesday

Environment, Energy & Technology @ 8:00 am
SB 5174 - Providing for the recycling of wind turbine blades.

Health & Long Term Care @ 8:00 am
SB 5149 - Funding foundational public health services. ro.

Community & Economic Development @ 10:00 am
HB 1263 - Concerning rural infrastructure.

Local Government @ 10:00 am
HB 1144 - Concerning standing before the growth management hearings board.

Housing & Local Government @ 10:30 am
SB 5269 - Including the value of increased residential building capacity in the property tax levy limit calculation.
SB 5275 - Enhancing opportunity in limited areas of more intense rural development

Friday

Local Government @ 8:00 am
HB 1233 - Concerning limited areas of more intensive rural development.
HB 1258 - Concerning the operation, authorization, and permitting of microenterprise home kitchens.
(This bill would require local jurisdictions to inspect micro kitchens.)

As always, please call or email anytime with questions, comments, or for clarification.

Thank you,

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