



About HB 1220, sponsored by Rep. Peterson and Rep. Macri
A bill to bring more housing choices to Washington's communities

In 2021, Washington state legislators have the opportunity to meet the full range of housing needs in our communities through an update to the Growth Management Act.

Thirty years ago, Washington state passed the Growth Management Act to help our cities and counties to accommodate rapid growth, while protecting what makes the Evergreen state a great place to live: from vibrant cities to working farms and forests, and a beautiful rural landscape.

HB 1220 is an update to the Growth Management Act that will encourage the development of attractive, convenient, affordable neighborhoods that help communities meet a range of housing needs.

Why now?

Communities across Washington are in a housing affordability crisis. 32% of Washingtonians struggle to balance housing costs with the rest of their expenses. Cities have a major part to play in ensuring housing is available for all income levels, and in encouraging more equitable housing solutions that address the unfairness of the past, particularly redlining.



A legislative solution to our statewide housing crisis

This update to the GMA will help cities to plan for housing at every income level, including reducing burdensome requirements for low-income housing that currently impede the creation of diverse, equitable and accessible neighborhoods, including. The updates will require cities to:

- Fully plan for a diversity of housing options including by home type and incomes, including creating implementation plans and timelines for updating zoning requirements and development regulation to achieve housing options.
- Identify and address particular historical racial bias and exclusion in housing; plan and implement policies to undo historical policies.
- Identify areas with high risk of displacement and implement policies to prevent displacement.
- Plan for homeless housing, allowing shelters and permanent supportive housing.

Housing-rich cities

Safe, convenient housing is out of reach for many Washingtonians. This update to the Growth Management Act will help improve local economic stability by providing a diversity of affordable homes to teachers, childcare workers and so many other vital members of our communities, as well as support communities at risk of displacement. Together, we can say goodbye to past exclusionary policies and provide everyone with opportunities to live in a neighborhood that truly works for them and their families.

We must act now to bring more housing choices to our communities through a legislative solution, HB 1220.