



# LEGISLATIVE DAY PRIORITIES 2026



## LOCAL TAX INCREMENT FINANCING

**SUPPORT HB 2451**, sponsored by Rep. Davina Duerr (D). The bill modifies Washington's Tax Increment Financing (TIF) laws to enhance cooperation, oversight, and transparency. Critically, the bill strengthens protections for impacted taxing districts via a negotiated participation framework that allows for up front consultation, mitigation agreements, and ongoing cooperation throughout the life of the TIF area. Additional improvements include improved transparency and accountability via annual public reporting, clarification regarding eligible public improvements, clearer sunset dates, and stronger language regarding the "but for" test to exclude areas where private development is already occurring. Additionally, the bill allows for modest growth enhancement for project sponsors by including an inflationary growth factor tied to CPI.

Public hearing in the House  
Local Government Committee 1/27



## CONCERNING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICTS CREATING MUNICIPAL FIRE AUTHORITIES

**SUPPORT HB 2224/SB 6037**, sponsored in the House by Rep. David Stuebe (R) & in the Senate by Sen. Adrian Cortes (D). This bill modifies state laws for fire protection districts, by enabling cities and towns to establish districts matching their corporate limits, subject to voter approval. The process requires a detailed financing plan outlining property tax levies, potential reductions, and financial impact estimates. Crucially, the bill includes provisions that reduce a city's statutory levy capacity by the amount levied by the new fire district, while ensuring the levy rate is unaffected. The language also allows for a portion (\$0.25) of the new fire district's levy to be outside of the statutory \$5.90 cap.

HB 2224 heard in H. Local Government 1/12, with  
committee vote 1/23 / SB 6037 heard in S. Local  
Government 1/15, with committee vote 1/22



## AVIATION ASSURANCE FUNDING IN RESPONSE TO WILDLAND FIRES

**SUPPORT HB 2104**, sponsored by Rep. Tom Dent (R). This bill permanently codifies a pilot program that provides financial support to Washington's local fire departments for utilizing aviation resources during initial wildfire suppression efforts. By removing the program's sunset date, the legislation ensures that local fire chiefs can continue to deploy certified aircraft to drop water or retardant without exhausting their own budgets, facilitating faster response times to prevent small fires from escalating. This state support, administered through the Department of Natural Resources, helps protect natural resources and air quality while reducing the overall need for more expensive state and federal mobilizations. The permanent status of the program provides long-term financial assurance to local and tribal departments, maintaining their capacity to effectively control wildfires throughout the season.

Public hearing in the House  
Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee 1/23



## REQUIRING TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT TO AGENCIES DEPLOYED THROUGH THE WA STATE MOBILIZATION PLAN

**SUPPORT HB 2397**, sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D). This bill requires the Washington State Patrol to ensure that Washington Fire Service Resource Mobilization Plan procedures provide reimbursement to host districts and to mobilized state agencies and jurisdictions within 60 days of the conclusion of mobilization. The legislation replaces the previous requirement for reimbursement in "as timely a manner as possible" with a strict 60-day deadline following the conclusion of a mobilization. This change ensures that host districts, state agencies, and local jurisdictions participating in the Washington state fire services mobilization plan receive necessary financial compensation within a fixed timeframe.

Public hearing in the House Committee on Technology, Economic Development, & Veterans 1/23



## WILDFIRE RISK MODELS AND SCORE DISCLOSURE

**SUPPORT HB 2277 / SB 5928**, sponsored by Rep. Zach Hall (D) in the House & Sen. Judy Warnick (R) in the Senate. This legislation mandates transparency in how insurance companies use wildfire risk modeling to determine property coverage in Washington state. Insurers are now required to disclose detailed information regarding a property's wildfire risk score, including the factors used to calculate it and specific actions a homeowner can take to lower that score. This information must be provided promptly during the application process and included in any policy renewal or cancellation notices. Furthermore, the bill empowers property owners to appeal their risk scores by submitting evidence of mitigation efforts, which insurers must formally reconsider. To ensure accountability, companies must submit their risk models to the state insurance commissioner and clearly advertise available premium discounts for mitigation on their websites.

HB 2277 referred to House Consumer Protection & Business Committee 1/12 / SB 5928 heard and passed by the Senate Committee on Business, Trade & Economic Development 1/21



## CREATING A WILDFIRE MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM

**SUPPORT HB 2407/ SB 6079**, sponsored by Rep. Alex Ramel (D) in the House and Sen. Marcus Riccelli (D) in the Senate. This bill will create the Strengthen Washington Homes Program, a newly established state grant initiative created to lower wildfire risks for residential properties, including both single-family and multi-family dwellings. By funding mitigation efforts that adhere to specific safety standards set by organizations like the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety, the program seeks to protect communities and stabilize the local economy against rising insurance costs. To support these efforts, the legislation redirects unspent funds from the Office of the Insurance Commissioner's regulatory accounts and mandates that insurers cannot deny coverage to properties that have successfully achieved an official wildfire-prepared designation.

HB 2407 scheduled for public hearing in the House Consumer Protection & Business Committee 1/23/ SB 6079 heard in the Senate Business, Trade & Economic Development Committee 1/22



## EXPANSION OF EMERGENCY MEDICAL LEVIES

**SUPPORT HB 2326**, sponsored by Rep. Dan Bronoske (D). This bill authorizes a fire protection district that is partially covered by another taxing district's EMS levy to impose an EMS levy for the portion of its district not subject to the existing EMS levy. The fire protection district must clearly identify the boundaries where the new EMS levy will be imposed, and voters within those boundaries must approve the levy.

Public hearing in the House Committee on Finance, 1/23



## SUPPORTING WILDFIRE MITIGATION BY FUNDING DNR'S 1168 PROGRAM

**SUPPORT Full Funding of DNR's 1168 Program.** In 2021, the state Legislature passed HB 1168, committing \$125 million each biennium to meet the challenges of wildfire through 2029. These investments are working. They support firefighters' ability to better manage fire. They have improved the health of nearly 90,000 acres of forests. They invest in community-led solutions for wildfire resilience. However, the 2025-2027 state biennial budget cut this funding commitment in half. This not only threatens to halt but to reverse hard-won progress against the growing threat of catastrophic wildfire. We urge the Legislature to restore full funding (\$60 million) to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.