

2018 FOCUS: Preventing homelessness

This session, the state legislature invested in **affordable housing** (\$106.8 million for the Housing Trust Fund, including a 5 percent set aside for projects benefiting people with developmental disabilities) and increased **funds for local communities** to address homelessness. Other efforts focused on people who are marginalized: ending **source-of-income discrimination**; encouraging **gifting of homes** to benefit people with developmental disabilities; and **expanding eligibility** for referrals to the Housing and Essential Needs Referral program to include recipients of the Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance program. No action was taken to create rules for adult family homes specific to people with developmental disabilities.

HOUSING BILLS PASSED:

[HB 1570](#) - Homeless housing and assistance

SPONSOR: Macri (Seattle). **King County**
co-sponsors: McBride, Kagi, Pollet, Cody, Bergquist, Hudgins, Senn, Frame, Gregerson, Tarleton, Ryu, Fitzgibbon, Goodman, Slatter, Pettigrew, Kloba, Orwall, Clibborn, Farrell (since resigned), Stanford

Makes a temporary local homeless housing and assistance surcharge permanent. Allows counties to charge and retain an additional surcharge for homeless housing and assistance. Creates new and updated reporting requirements and studies for certain homeless assistance programs.

Passed the House 51-47. Passed the Senate 21-27 (1 excused). House concurred with Senate changes 54-42 (2 excused).

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[HB 2444](#) - Real estate excise tax exemption for certain transfers of low-income housing

SPONSOR: Slatter (Bellevue). **King County**
co-sponsors: McBride, Clibborn, Kloba, Tarleton

Provides a real estate excise tax exemption for the transfer of a qualified low-income housing

development or controlling interest in a qualified low-income housing development.

Passed the House 98-0. Passed the Senate 48-1.

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[HB 2448](#) - Housing for developmentally disabled persons

SPONSOR: Senn (Mercer Island). **King County**
co-sponsors: Macri, Kloba, Pollet, Santos, Tarleton

Facilitates the gifting of homes to Supported Living agencies. Also makes remodeling and improvements that are necessary for Supported Living use eligible for Housing Trust Fund monies.

Passed the House 94-0 (4 excused). Passed the Senate 48-0 (1 excused). House concurred with Senate changes 98-0.

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[HB 2578](#) - Rental housing options for persons whose source of income is derived from or includes sources other than employment

SPONSOR: Riccelli (Spokane). **King County**
co-sponsors: Macri, McBride, Frame, Stanford, Goodman, Senn, Gregerson, Kloba, Santos, Bergquist

Prohibits discrimination based on a tenant's source of income and creates a civil cause of action for violations. Creates the Landlord Mitigation Program and Account from which landlords of private market rental units rented to low-income tenants using a housing subsidy program may be reimbursed for damages.

Passed the House 67-31. Passed the Senate 36-13. House concurred with Senate changes 67-31.

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[HB 2667](#) - Eligibility for the essential needs and housing support and the aged, blind, or disabled assistance programs

SPONSOR: Macri. **King County co-sponsors:** McBride, Stanford, Senn, Kloba, Gregerson, Pollet, Slatter, Goodman, Santos

Expands eligibility for referrals to the Housing and Essential Needs Referral program (HEN) to include recipients of the Aged, Blind, or Disabled cash assistance program.

Passed the House 88-10. Passed the Senate 32-17. House concurred with Senate changes 90-7 (1 excused).

RELATED BILL:

[1831](#) - Revising resource limitations for public assistance.

SPONSOR: Pettigrew (Seattle). **King County co-sponsors:** Macri, Santos, Frame, Kagi, Fitzgibbon, Stanford, Pollet

Revises exemptions for personal resources used in determining eligibility for public assistance.

Passed the House 75-22 (1 excused). Passed the Senate 36-12 (1 excused)

BILLS THAT DID NOT PASS

[HB 2437](#) - Encouraging investments in affordable and supportive housing. (Robinson)

Gives counties the ability to redirect a portion of the sales tax that would otherwise go to the state, to use for affordable homes in their communities.

Passed the House 52-46.

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[HB 2381](#) - Allowing certain adult family homes to increase capacity to eight beds (Macri)

Passed the House 97-1.

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[SB 5182](#) - Local government options to preserve affordable housing in their communities (Fain)

Allows a city or county to adopt a property tax exemption program to preserve affordable housing for very low-income households. To qualify for this exemption, a minimum of 25 percent of units in a multiple-unit property must be affordable, and in return the property is exempt from local property taxes for 15 consecutive years.

Passed Senate Human Services and Ways and Means committees.

ADVOCACY TIP:

If there is a bill you like, send the sponsor a thank-you note. Are your legislators listed as sponsors or co-sponsors on these bills? Let them know you appreciate their work on housing issues. If you don't see their names, make an appointment to discuss your concerns about housing in King County.