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## Capital Budget Committee

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### HB 2097

**Brief Description:** Changing the definition of first-time home buyer.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Donaghy, Ryu, Macri, Ramel, Walen, Paul, Frame and Taylor.

<p><b>Brief Summary of Bill</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Changes the definition of first-time home buyer for the Housing Trust Fund program.</li></ul>
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**Hearing Date:** 2/1/22

**Staff:** Kelci Karl-Robinson (786-7116).

**Background:**

Established in 1986, the Washington Housing Trust Fund (HTF) program provides grants or loans to help communities develop and preserve affordable housing to meet the needs of low-income and special needs populations. Since 1986, the HTF has awarded over \$1 billion in funding and helped build or preserve over 50,000 units of affordable housing statewide.

The definition of "first-time home buyer" in the statute governing the HTF program is an individual or his or her spouse or domestic partner who has not owned a home during the prior three-year period. The 2021-23 biennial capital budget includes an expanded definition for "first-time home buyer" for the HTF appropriation to include an individual who meets any of the following:

- a single parent who has only owned a home with a former spouse while married;
- an individual who is a displaced homemaker and has only owned a home with a spouse;
- an individual who has only owned a principal residence not permanently affixed to a permanent foundation; and

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- an individual who has only owned a property that is discerned to be uninhabitable by a licensed building inspector.

**Summary of Bill:**

The expanded definition of "first-time home buyer" governing the HTF in the 2021-23 biennial capital budget is codified into ongoing statutory law.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.