

SENATE BILL REPORT

SSB 6150

As Passed Senate, February 6, 2024

Title: An act relating to extending the comprehensive plan revision schedule for select local governments.

Brief Description: Extending the comprehensive plan revision schedule for select local governments.

Sponsors: Senate Committee on Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs (originally sponsored by Senators Cleveland, MacEwen and Rivers).

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs: 1/23/24, 1/30/24 [DPS].

Floor Activity: Passed Senate: 2/6/24, 49-0.

Brief Summary of First Substitute Bill

- Temporarily amends the date in which Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties are required to review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAND USE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Majority Report: That Substitute Senate Bill No. 6150 be substituted therefor, and the substitute bill do pass.

Signed by Senators Lovelett, Chair; Salomon, Vice Chair; Torres, Ranking Member; Kauffman and Short.

Staff: Maggie Douglas (786-7279)

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Background: Growth Management Act. The Growth Management Act (GMA) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for counties and cities in Washington. The GMA establishes land use designation and environmental protection requirements for all Washington counties and cities. The GMA also establishes a significantly wider array of planning duties for 28 counties, and the cities within those counties, that are obligated to satisfy all planning requirements of the GMA. These jurisdictions are sometimes said to be fully planning under the GMA.

The GMA directs fully planning jurisdictions to adopt internally consistent comprehensive land use plans. Comprehensive plans are implemented through locally adopted development regulations, and both the plans and the local regulations are subject to review and revision requirements prescribed in the GMA. When developing their comprehensive plans, counties and cities must consider various goals set forth in statute.

Comprehensive Plan Updates. Counties and cities are required to review and, if necessary, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations every ten years. Counties, and the cities within them, are grouped into four different year classes for purposes of when the obligation to review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations commences.

In 2022 the Legislature passed HB 1241 temporarily amending the deadline to review and, if necessary, revise the comprehensive plans of King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties, and the cities within those counties. These counties are required to review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations no later than December 31, 2024, and every ten years thereafter. Following the 2024 review cycle, King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish counties return to the regularly scheduled ten year review date of June 30, 2034.

Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties are required to review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations no later than June 30, 2025, and every ten years thereafter. For Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas, Skamania, Spokane, Walla Walla and Yakima counties, the same requirements apply for June 30, 2026, and for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Whitman counties, the same requirements apply for June 30, 2027.

Summary of First Substitute Bill: Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties are required to review and revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations no later than December 31, 2025. Following the extension provided for the 2025 review cycle, these jurisdictions will resume the regularly scheduled ten-year review cycle on June 30, 2035.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Testimony on Original Bill. *The committee recommended a different version of the bill than what was heard.* PRO: Cities and counties are actively working to integrate the 32 housing bills that have been passed since 2019, and local governments need some additional time to address the complexity of work to implement them. The six month extension is comparable to what the Puget Sound jurisdictions planning in 2024 received. The joint planning process requires an extra level of regional collaboration and additional time allows jurisdictions to thoughtfully engage with their partners. Extending the deadline would also help account for any funding agreements that need to be signed or adjusted because of the timing of the periodic update grants.

OTHER: This bill should move forward, but it's important that ongoing extensions are not consistently provided for the due date for comprehensive plans reviews. It makes sense that the 2025 comprehensive plan timeline is extended because of all the housing bills.

Persons Testifying: PRO: Senator Annette Cleveland, Prime Sponsor; Rebecca Kennedy, City of Vancouver; Ashley Arai, Thurston County; Mindy Brooks, Lewis County; Debora Munguia, Mason County.

OTHER: Bryce Yadon, Futurewise.

Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying: No one.