

2026 Returning Bills of Interest

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Goals & Agenda

- Begin thinking about 2026 session
- Re-orient Council to 2025 bills set to return in 2026
- Receive Council direction
- Understand timeline between now and start of 2026 session



Returning Bills Council Supported in 2025

- [HB 1098](#) creates the County Local Road grant program with the County Road Administration Board. The transportation budget bill created the new program but did not provide funding
- [SB 5278](#) requires the Department of Children, Youth, and Families (DCYF) to develop rules related to bed capacity usage and ways to avoid overcrowding at juvenile rehabilitation institutions. The bill also makes changes about how DCYF is allowed to transfer individuals convicted in an adult court



Returning Bills Council Neutral on in 2025

- HB 1058 provides sales and B&O tax credit for projects that improve railroad infrastructure



Returning Bills Council Opposed in 2025

- [SB 5296](#), sponsored by Senator Claire Wilson (D-30 LD), requires the court to make an independent finding that juvenile rehabilitation is needed because a community-based placement would not be adequate. The bill also expands eligibility for juvenile disposition alternatives and provisions and requirements related to juvenile rehabilitation institutions and community facilities. WSAC opposed this bill.



Other Potential Bills of Interest

- [HB 1508](#) expands revenue generation and economic opportunities from natural climate solutions and ecosystem services on state trust lands.
- [HB 1593](#) creates the Children's Social Equity Land Trust. This would be a new classification of state trust lands that would be managed to provide revenue to support childcare sites and would authorize the acquisition of land as the corpus of the trust.
- [HB 1044](#) would replace the current \$5 fee on the filing of a real estate excise tax affidavit with a county treasurer with a new \$20 fee, to be increased every four years based on inflation, with revenue from the fee used to fund the statutory duties of the county assessor and county treasurer.
- [SB 5576](#) allows cities and counties to impose a short-term rental tax up to 4 percent. That tax would only be on short-term rentals that are booked through a short-term rental platform or smartphone application. The funds from the tax will be placed in the Essential Affordable Housing Local Assistance Account (Account), which is also created in this bill. The revenues generated by this bill and placed in the Account can only be used for acquiring, maintaining, assisting with, or constructing affordable housing, or with rental assistance



Next Steps

- Fall meeting with legislative delegation (in process of scheduling)
- Identify Council 2026 priorities
- Put together county legislative agenda for 2026
- Short 60 day session begins January 12, 2026



Thank you!

Comments and questions

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