
Local Government Committee

HB 3315

Brief Description: Addressing the needs of an aging population within the growth management act.

Sponsors: Representatives Morrell, Bailey, Santos, Kenney, Cody, Simpson, Roberts, Linville, Kelley and Campbell.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Requires land use elements adopted by jurisdictions planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) to, whenever possible, consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote the needs of the aging population.
- Requires housing elements adopted by jurisdictions planning under the GMA to consider the needs of the aging population.

Hearing Date: 2/14/08

Staff: Ethan Moreno (786-7386).

Background:

The Growth Management Act (GMA or Act) is the comprehensive land use planning framework for county and city governments in Washington. Enacted in 1990 and 1991, the GMA establishes numerous requirements for local governments obligated by mandate or choice to fully plan under the Act (planning jurisdictions) and a reduced number of directives for all other counties and cities. Twenty-nine of Washington's 39 counties, and the cities within those counties, are planning jurisdictions.

The GMA directs planning jurisdictions to adopt internally consistent comprehensive land use plans that are generalized, coordinated land use policy statements of the governing body. Comprehensive plans must address specified planning elements, each of which is a subset of a comprehensive plan. Planning jurisdictions must also adopt development regulations that implement and conform with the comprehensive plan.

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

The land use element of a comprehensive plan must designate the proposed distribution, location and use intensity provisions of land. Examples of categories by which land may be designated under the element include housing, commerce, industry, and recreation. In addition to specified requirements, land use elements should, wherever possible, consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote physical activity.

The housing element of a comprehensive plan must ensure the vitality and character of established residential neighborhoods and must include a statement of goals, policies, and provisions for the preservation, improvement, and development of housing. Housing elements must also include provisions for existing and projected housing needs for all economic segments of the community.

Summary of Bill:

New provisions are added to the comprehensive plan requirements of the GMA. Wherever possible, land use elements adopted by planning jurisdictions should consider utilizing urban planning approaches that promote the needs of the aging population. Similarly, adopted housing elements must consider the needs of the aging population.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on 2/8/2008.

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