
ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL 1337

AS AMENDED BY THE SENATE

Passed Legislature - 2023 Regular Session

State of Washington 68th Legislature 2023 Regular Session

By Representatives Gregerson, Barkis, Berry, Christian, Duerr, Fitzgibbon, Taylor, Ramel, Reeves, Simmons, Walen, Graham, Bateman, Reed, Lekanoff, Doglio, Tharinger, Cortes, Macri, and Stonier

Read first time 01/16/23. Referred to Committee on Housing.

1 AN ACT Relating to expanding housing options by easing barriers
2 to the construction and use of accessory dwelling units; amending RCW
3 36.70A.696, 43.21C.495, and 36.70A.280; adding new sections to
4 chapter 36.70A RCW; adding a new section to chapter 64.34 RCW; adding
5 a new section to chapter 64.32 RCW; adding a new section to chapter
6 64.38 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 64.90 RCW; creating a new
7 section; and repealing RCW 35.63.210, 35A.63.230, 36.70A.400,
8 36.70.677, and 43.63A.215.

9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature makes the following
11 findings:

12 (a) Washington state is experiencing a housing affordability
13 crisis. Many communities across the state are in need of more housing
14 for renters across the income spectrum.

15 (b) Many cities dedicate the majority of residentially zoned land
16 to single detached houses that are increasingly financially out of
17 reach for many households. Due to their smaller size, accessory
18 dwelling units can provide a more affordable housing option in those
19 single-family zones.

20 (c) Localities can start to correct for historic economic and
21 racial exclusion in single-family zones by opening up these

1 neighborhoods to more diverse housing types, including accessory
2 dwelling units, that provide lower cost homes. Increasing housing
3 options in expensive, high-opportunity neighborhoods will give more
4 families access to schools, parks, and other public amenities
5 otherwise accessible to only the wealthy.

6 (d) Accessory dwelling units are frequently rented below market
7 rate, providing additional affordable housing options for renters.

8 (e) Accessory dwelling units can also help to provide housing for
9 very low-income households. More than 10 percent of accessory
10 dwelling units in some areas are occupied by tenants who pay no rent
11 at all; among these tenants are grandparents, adult children, family
12 members with disabilities, friends going through life transitions,
13 and community members in need. Accessory dwelling units meet the
14 needs of these people who might otherwise require subsidized housing
15 space and resources.

16 (f) Accessory dwelling units can meet the needs of Washington's
17 growing senior population, making it possible for this population to
18 age in their communities by offering senior-friendly housing, which
19 prioritizes physical accessibility, in walkable communities near
20 amenities essential to successful aging in place, including transit
21 and grocery stores, without requiring costly renovations of existing
22 housing stock.

23 (g) Homeowners who add an accessory dwelling unit may benefit
24 from added income and an increased sense of security.

25 (h) Accessory dwelling units provide environmental benefits. On
26 average they are more energy efficient than single detached houses,
27 and they incentivize adaptive reuse of existing homes and materials.

28 (i) Siting accessory dwelling units near transit hubs, employment
29 centers, and public amenities can help to reduce greenhouse gas
30 emissions by increasing walkability, shortening household commutes,
31 and curtailing sprawl.

32 (2) The legislature intends to promote and encourage the creation
33 of accessory dwelling units as a means to address the need for
34 additional affordable housing options.

35 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.696 and 2021 c 306 s 2 are each amended to
36 read as follows:

37 The definitions in this section apply throughout RCW 36.70A.697
38 (~~and~~), 36.70A.698, and sections 3 and 4 of this act unless the
39 context clearly requires otherwise.

1 (1) "Accessory dwelling unit" means a dwelling unit located on
2 the same lot as a single-family housing unit, duplex, triplex,
3 townhome, or other housing unit.

4 (2) "Attached accessory dwelling unit" means an accessory
5 dwelling unit located within or attached to a single-family housing
6 unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit.

7 (3) "City" means any city, code city, and town located in a
8 county planning under RCW 36.70A.040.

9 (4) "County" means any county planning under RCW 36.70A.040.

10 (5) "Detached accessory dwelling unit" means an accessory
11 dwelling unit that consists partly or entirely of a building that is
12 separate and detached from a single-family housing unit, duplex,
13 triplex, townhome, or other housing unit and is on the same property.

14 (6) "Dwelling unit" means a residential living unit that provides
15 complete independent living facilities for one or more persons and
16 that includes permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating,
17 cooking, and sanitation.

18 (7) "Gross floor area" means the interior habitable area of a
19 dwelling unit including basements and attics but not including a
20 garage or accessory structure.

21 (8) "Major transit stop" means:

22 (a) A stop on a high capacity transportation system funded or
23 expanded under the provisions of chapter 81.104 RCW;

24 (b) Commuter rail stops;

25 (c) Stops on rail or fixed guideway systems, including
26 transitways;

27 (d) Stops on bus rapid transit routes or routes that run on high
28 occupancy vehicle lanes; or

29 (e) Stops for a bus or other transit mode providing actual fixed
30 route service at intervals of at least fifteen minutes for at least
31 five hours during the peak hours of operation on weekdays.

32 ((+8)) (9) "Owner" means any person who has at least 50 percent
33 ownership in a property on which an accessory dwelling unit is
34 located.

35 ((+9)) (10) "Principal unit" means the single-family housing
36 unit, duplex, triplex, townhome, or other housing unit located on the
37 same lot as an accessory dwelling unit.

38 (11) "Short-term rental" means a lodging use, that is not a hotel
39 or motel or bed and breakfast, in which a dwelling unit, or portion

1 thereof, is offered or provided to a guest by a short-term rental
2 operator for a fee for fewer than 30 consecutive nights.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) (a) Cities and counties planning under this chapter must adopt
6 or amend by ordinance, and incorporate into their development
7 regulations, zoning regulations, and other official controls the
8 requirements of this section and of section 4 of this act, to take
9 effect six months after the jurisdiction's next periodic
10 comprehensive plan update required under RCW 36.70A.130.

11 (b) In any city or county that has not adopted or amended
12 ordinances, regulations, or other official controls as required under
13 this section, the requirements of this section and section 4 of this
14 act supersede, preempt, and invalidate any conflicting local
15 development regulations.

16 (2) Ordinances, development regulations, and other official
17 controls adopted or amended pursuant to this section and section 4 of
18 this act must only apply in the portions of towns, cities, and
19 counties that are within urban growth areas designated under this
20 chapter.

21 (3) Any action taken by a city or county to comply with the
22 requirements of this section or section 4 of this act is not subject
23 to legal challenge under this chapter or chapter 43.21C RCW.

24 (4) Nothing in this section or section 4 of this act requires or
25 authorizes a city or county to authorize the construction of an
26 accessory dwelling unit in a location where development is restricted
27 under other laws, rules, or ordinances as a result of physical
28 proximity to on-site sewage system infrastructure, critical areas, or
29 other unsuitable physical characteristics of a property.

30 (5) Nothing in this section or in section 4 of this act prohibits
31 a city or county from:

32 (a) Restricting the use of accessory dwelling units for short-
33 term rentals;

34 (b) Applying public health, safety, building code, and
35 environmental permitting requirements to an accessory dwelling unit
36 that would be applicable to the principal unit, including regulations
37 to protect ground and surface waters from on-site wastewater;

38 (c) Applying generally applicable development regulations to the
39 construction of an accessory unit, except when the application of

1 such regulations would be contrary to this section or to section 4 of
2 this act;

3 (d) Prohibiting the construction of accessory dwelling units on
4 lots that are not connected to or served by public sewers; or

5 (e) Prohibiting or restricting the construction of accessory
6 dwelling units in residential zones with a density of one dwelling
7 unit per acre or less that are within areas designated as wetlands,
8 fish and wildlife habitats, flood plains, or geologically hazardous
9 areas.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
11 RCW to read as follows:

12 (1) In addition to ordinances, development regulations, and other
13 official controls adopted or amended to comply with this section and
14 section 3 of this act, a city or county must comply with all of the
15 following policies:

16 (a) The city or county may not assess impact fees on the
17 construction of accessory dwelling units that are greater than 50
18 percent of the impact fees that would be imposed on the principal
19 unit;

20 (b) The city or county may not require the owner of a lot on
21 which there is an accessory dwelling unit to reside in or occupy the
22 accessory dwelling unit or another housing unit on the same lot;

23 (c) The city or county must allow at least two accessory dwelling
24 units on all lots that are located in all zoning districts within an
25 urban growth area that allow for single-family homes in the following
26 configurations:

27 (i) One attached accessory dwelling unit and one detached
28 accessory dwelling unit;

29 (ii) Two attached accessory dwelling units; or

30 (iii) Two detached accessory dwelling units, which may be
31 comprised of either one or two detached structures;

32 (d) The city or county must permit accessory dwelling units in
33 structures detached from the principal unit;

34 (e) The city or county must allow an accessory dwelling unit on
35 any lot that meets the minimum lot size required for the principal
36 unit;

37 (f) The city or county may not establish a maximum gross floor
38 area requirement for accessory dwelling units that is less than 1,000
39 square feet;

1 (g) The city or county may not establish roof height limits on an
2 accessory dwelling unit of less than 24 feet, unless the height
3 limitation that applies to the principal unit is less than 24 feet,
4 in which case a city or county may not impose roof height limitation
5 on accessory dwelling units that is less than the height limitation
6 that applies to the principal unit;

7 (h) A city or county may not impose setback requirements, yard
8 coverage limits, tree retention mandates, restrictions on entry door
9 locations, aesthetic requirements, or requirements for design review
10 for accessory dwelling units that are more restrictive than those for
11 principal units;

12 (i) A city or county must allow detached accessory dwelling units
13 to be sited at a lot line if the lot line abuts a public alley,
14 unless the city or county routinely plows snow on the public alley;

15 (j) A city or county must allow accessory dwelling units to be
16 converted from existing structures, including but not limited to
17 detached garages, even if they violate current code requirements for
18 setbacks or lot coverage;

19 (k) A city or county may not prohibit the sale or other
20 conveyance of a condominium unit independently of a principal unit
21 solely on the grounds that the condominium unit was originally built
22 as an accessory dwelling unit; and

23 (l) A city or county may not require public street improvements
24 as a condition of permitting accessory dwelling units.

25 (2)(a) A city or county subject to the requirements of this
26 section may not:

27 (i) Require off-street parking as a condition of permitting
28 development of accessory dwelling units within one-half mile walking
29 distance of a major transit stop;

30 (ii) Require more than one off-street parking space per unit as a
31 condition of permitting development of accessory dwelling units on
32 lots smaller than 6,000 square feet before any zero lot line
33 subdivisions or lot splits; and

34 (iii) Require more than two off-street parking spaces per unit as
35 a condition of permitting development of accessory dwelling units on
36 lots greater than 6,000 square feet before any zero lot line
37 subdivisions or lot splits.

38 (b) The provisions of (a) of this subsection do not apply:

39 (i) If a local government submits to the department an empirical
40 study prepared by a credentialed transportation or land use planning

1 expert that clearly demonstrates, and the department finds and
2 certifies, that the application of the parking limitations of (a) of
3 this subsection for accessory dwelling units will be significantly
4 less safe for vehicle drivers or passengers, pedestrians, or
5 bicyclists than if the jurisdiction's parking requirements were
6 applied to the same location for the same number of detached houses.
7 The department must develop guidance to assist cities and counties on
8 items to include in the study; or

9 (ii) To portions of cities within a one mile radius of a
10 commercial airport in Washington with at least 9,000,000 annual
11 enplanements.

12 (3) When regulating accessory dwelling units, cities and counties
13 may impose a limit of two accessory dwelling units, in addition to
14 the principal unit, on a residential lot of 2,000 square feet or
15 less.

16 (4) The provisions of this section do not apply to lots
17 designated with critical areas or their buffers as designated in RCW
18 36.70A.060, or to a watershed serving a reservoir for potable water
19 if that watershed is or was listed, as of the effective date of this
20 section, as impaired or threatened under section 303(d) of the
21 federal clean water act (33 U.S.C. Sec. 1313(d)).

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
23 RCW to read as follows:

24 To encourage the use of accessory dwelling units for long-term
25 housing, cities and counties may adopt ordinances, development
26 regulations, and other official controls which waive or defer fees,
27 including impact fees, defer the payment of taxes, or waive specific
28 regulations. Cities and counties may only offer such reduced or
29 deferred fees, deferred taxes, waivers, or other incentives for the
30 development or construction of accessory dwelling units if:

31 (1) The units are located within an urban growth area; and

32 (2) The units are subject to a program adopted by the city or
33 county with effective binding commitments or covenants that the units
34 will be primarily utilized for long-term housing consistent with the
35 public purpose for this authorization.

36 **Sec. 6.** RCW 43.21C.495 and 2022 c 246 s 3 are each amended to
37 read as follows:

1 (1) Adoption of ordinances, development regulations and
2 amendments to such regulations, and other nonproject actions taken by
3 a city to implement: The actions specified in section 2, chapter 246,
4 Laws of 2022 unless the adoption of such ordinances, development
5 regulations and amendments to such regulations, or other nonproject
6 actions has a probable significant adverse impact on fish habitat;
7 and the increased residential building capacity actions identified in
8 RCW 36.70A.600(1), with the exception of the action specified in RCW
9 36.70A.600(1)(f), are not subject to administrative or judicial
10 appeals under this chapter.

11 (2) Adoption of ordinances, development regulations and
12 amendments to such regulations, and other nonproject actions taken by
13 a city or county consistent with the requirements of sections 3 and 4
14 of this act are not subject to administrative or judicial appeals
15 under this chapter.

16 **Sec. 7.** RCW 36.70A.280 and 2011 c 360 s 17 are each amended to
17 read as follows:

18 (1) The growth management hearings board shall hear and determine
19 only those petitions alleging either:

20 (a) That, except as provided otherwise by this subsection, a
21 state agency, county, or city planning under this chapter is not in
22 compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW
23 as it relates to the adoption of shoreline master programs or
24 amendments thereto, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to plans,
25 development regulations, or amendments, adopted under RCW 36.70A.040
26 or chapter 90.58 RCW. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the board
27 to hear petitions alleging noncompliance (~~with RCW 36.70A.5801~~)
28 based on a city or county's actions taken to implement the
29 requirements of sections 3 and 4 of this act within an urban growth
30 area;

31 (b) That the (~~twenty~~) 20-year growth management planning
32 population projections adopted by the office of financial management
33 pursuant to RCW 43.62.035 should be adjusted;

34 (c) That the approval of a work plan adopted under RCW
35 36.70A.735(1)(a) is not in compliance with the requirements of the
36 program established under RCW 36.70A.710;

37 (d) That regulations adopted under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(b) are not
38 regionally applicable and cannot be adopted, wholly or partially, by
39 another jurisdiction; or

1 (e) That a department certification under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(c) is
2 erroneous.

3 (2) A petition may be filed only by: (a) The state, or a county
4 or city that plans under this chapter; (b) a person who has
5 participated orally or in writing before the county or city regarding
6 the matter on which a review is being requested; (c) a person who is
7 certified by the governor within (~~sixty~~) 60 days of filing the
8 request with the board; or (d) a person qualified pursuant to RCW
9 34.05.530.

10 (3) For purposes of this section "person" means any individual,
11 partnership, corporation, association, state agency, governmental
12 subdivision or unit thereof, or public or private organization or
13 entity of any character.

14 (4) To establish participation standing under subsection (2)(b)
15 of this section, a person must show that his or her participation
16 before the county or city was reasonably related to the person's
17 issue as presented to the board.

18 (5) When considering a possible adjustment to a growth management
19 planning population projection prepared by the office of financial
20 management, the board shall consider the implications of any such
21 adjustment to the population forecast for the entire state.

22 The rationale for any adjustment that is adopted by the board
23 must be documented and filed with the office of financial management
24 within ten working days after adoption.

25 If adjusted by the board, a county growth management planning
26 population projection shall only be used for the planning purposes
27 set forth in this chapter and shall be known as the "board adjusted
28 population projection." None of these changes shall affect the
29 official state and county population forecasts prepared by the office
30 of financial management, which shall continue to be used for state
31 budget and planning purposes.

32 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 8.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A
33 RCW to read as follows:

34 (1) By December 31, 2023, the department must revise its
35 recommendations for encouraging accessory dwelling units to include
36 the provisions of sections 3 and 4 of this act.

37 (2) During each comprehensive plan review required by RCW
38 36.70A.130, the department must review local government comprehensive
39 plans and development regulations for compliance with sections 3 and

1 4 of this act and the department's recommendations under subsection
2 (1) of this section.

3 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 9.** A new section is added to chapter 64.34
4 RCW to read as follows:

5 (1) Except a declaration created to protect public health and
6 safety, and ground and surface waters from on-site wastewater, a
7 declaration created after the effective date of this section and
8 applicable to a property located within an urban growth area may not
9 impose any restriction or prohibition on the construction,
10 development, or use on a lot of an accessory dwelling unit that the
11 city or county in which the urban growth area is located would be
12 prohibited from imposing under section 4 of this act.

13 (2) For the purposes of this section, "urban growth area" has the
14 same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

15 (3) A city or county issuing a permit for the construction of an
16 accessory dwelling unit may not be held civilly liable on the basis
17 that the construction of the accessory dwelling unit would violate a
18 restrictive covenant or deed restriction.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 10.** A new section is added to chapter 64.32
20 RCW to read as follows:

21 (1) Except a declaration created to protect public health and
22 safety, and ground and surface waters from on-site wastewater, a
23 declaration created after the effective date of this section and
24 applicable to a property located within an urban growth area may not
25 impose any restriction or prohibition on the construction,
26 development, or use on a lot of an accessory dwelling unit that the
27 city or county in which the urban growth area is located would be
28 prohibited from imposing under section 4 of this act.

29 (2) For the purposes of this section, "urban growth area" has the
30 same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

31 (3) A city or county issuing a permit for the construction of an
32 accessory dwelling unit may not be held civilly liable on the basis
33 that the construction of the accessory dwelling unit would violate a
34 restrictive covenant or deed restriction.

35 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 11.** A new section is added to chapter 64.38
36 RCW to read as follows:

1 (1) Except governing documents of associations created to protect
2 public health and safety, and ground and surface waters from on-site
3 wastewater, governing documents of associations created after the
4 effective date of this section and applicable to a property located
5 within an urban growth area may not impose any restriction or
6 prohibition on the construction, development, or use on a lot of an
7 accessory dwelling unit that the city or county in which the urban
8 growth area is located would be prohibited from imposing under
9 section 4 of this act.

10 (2) For the purposes of this section, "urban growth area" has the
11 same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

12 (3) A city or county issuing a permit for the construction of an
13 accessory dwelling unit may not be held civilly liable on the basis
14 that the construction of the accessory dwelling unit would violate a
15 restrictive covenant or deed restriction.

16 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 12.** A new section is added to chapter 64.90
17 RCW to read as follows:

18 (1) Except declarations and governing documents of common
19 interest communities created to protect public health and safety, and
20 ground and surface waters from on-site wastewater, declarations and
21 governing documents of common interest communities created after the
22 effective date of this section and applicable to a property located
23 within an urban growth area may not impose any restriction or
24 prohibition on the construction, development, or use on a lot of an
25 accessory dwelling unit that the city or county in which the urban
26 growth area is located would be prohibited from imposing under
27 section 4 of this act.

28 (2) For the purposes of this section, "urban growth area" has the
29 same meaning as in RCW 36.70A.030.

30 (3) A city or county issuing a permit for the construction of an
31 accessory dwelling unit may not be held civilly liable on the basis
32 that the construction of the accessory dwelling unit would violate a
33 restrictive covenant or deed restriction.

34 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** The following acts or parts of acts are
35 each repealed:

36 (1) RCW 35.63.210 (Accessory apartments) and 1993 c 478 s 8;

37 (2) RCW 35A.63.230 (Accessory apartments) and 1993 c 478 s 9;

38 (3) RCW 36.70A.400 (Accessory apartments) and 1993 c 478 s 11;

1 (4) RCW 36.70.677 (Accessory apartments) and 1993 c 478 s 10; and
2 (5) RCW 43.63A.215 (Accessory apartments—Development and
3 placement—Local governments) and 1993 c 478 s 7.

--- **END** ---