

## **Proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute House Bill 1181 (H-1098.1)**

House Appropriations Committee

By Representative Fitzgibbon

### **Substitute House Bill (as recommended by the Local Government Committee):**

- Updates existing goals of the Growth Management Act (GMA) and adds a climate change and resiliency goal.
- Updates mandatory elements of the comprehensive plan to include various climate-related provisions.
- Adds a climate change and resiliency element to the comprehensive plan requirements.
- Specifies the process by which the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction subelement of the climate change and resiliency element takes effect.
- Requires the Department of Commerce, in consultation with other state agencies, to adopt guidance and a model climate change and resiliency element.
- Exempts certain actions related to the GHG emissions reduction subelement from appeals under the State Environmental Policy Act.
- Requires the Department of Transportation to annually publish a summary of per capita vehicle miles traveled.
- Requires the Department of Ecology to update its Shoreline Master Program guidelines to address the impact of sea level rise and increased storm severity.
- Adds consideration of climate change impacts to the list of elements that must be contained in optional comprehensive flood control management plans.
- Requires the Department of Health to ensure certain water system plans initiated after June 30, 2024, include a climate resilience element at the time of approval, and to update its guidebook to assist with the implementation of a climate resilience element.

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### **Proposed 2<sup>nd</sup> Substitute House Bill (H-1098.1) compared to the Substitute House Bill (as recommended by the Local Government Committee):**

- Makes changes to the land use element that specify that reducing and mitigating the risk posed by wildfires must reduce wildfire risks to residential development in high-risk areas and the wildland urban interface area, rather than reduce residential development in the wildland urban interface area.
- Removes some internal references to the Healthy Environment for All Act.
- Revises the definition of "environmental justice" to include good-faith efforts to eliminate harm in vulnerable and overburdened communities.
- Defines "wildland urban interface."
- Changes the date by which water system plans must begin including a climate resilience element from June 30, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

Staff: Elizabeth Allison

Date: February 6, 2023

1 AN ACT Relating to improving the state's climate response through  
2 updates to the state's planning framework; amending 36.70A.020,  
3 36.70A.480, 36.70A.280, 36.70A.320, 36.70A.190, 86.12.200,  
4 36.70A.030, and 70A.125.180; reenacting and amending RCW 36.70A.070  
5 and 36.70A.130; adding new sections to chapter 36.70A RCW; adding a  
6 new section to chapter 70A.45 RCW; adding a new section to chapter  
7 47.80 RCW; adding a new section to chapter 90.58 RCW; adding a new  
8 section to chapter 43.21C RCW; adding a new section to chapter 43.20  
9 RCW; and providing an expiration date.

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

11 **Sec. 1.** RCW 36.70A.020 and 2021 c 254 s 1 are each amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 The following goals are adopted to guide the development and  
14 adoption of comprehensive plans and development regulations of those  
15 counties and cities that are required or choose to plan under RCW  
16 36.70A.040 and, where specified, also guide the development of  
17 regional policies, plans, and strategies adopted under RCW 36.70A.210  
18 and chapter 47.80 RCW. The following goals are not listed in order of  
19 priority and shall be used exclusively for the purpose of guiding the  
20 development of comprehensive plans (~~and~~), development regulations,  
21 and, where specified, regional plans, policies, and strategies:

1 (1) Urban growth. Encourage development in urban areas where  
2 adequate public facilities and services exist or can be provided in  
3 an efficient manner.

4 (2) Reduce sprawl. Reduce the inappropriate conversion of  
5 undeveloped land into sprawling, low-density development.

6 (3) Transportation. Encourage efficient multimodal transportation  
7 systems that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and per capita  
8 vehicle miles traveled, and are based on regional priorities and  
9 coordinated with county and city comprehensive plans.

10 (4) Housing. Plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all  
11 economic segments of the population of this state, promote a variety  
12 of residential densities and housing types, and encourage  
13 preservation of existing housing stock.

14 (5) Economic development. Encourage economic development  
15 throughout the state that is consistent with adopted comprehensive  
16 plans, promote economic opportunity for all citizens of this state,  
17 especially for unemployed and for disadvantaged persons, promote the  
18 retention and expansion of existing businesses and recruitment of new  
19 businesses, recognize regional differences impacting economic  
20 development opportunities, and encourage growth in areas experiencing  
21 insufficient economic growth, all within the capacities of the  
22 state's natural resources, public services, and public facilities.

23 (6) Property rights. Private property shall not be taken for  
24 public use without just compensation having been made. The property  
25 rights of landowners shall be protected from arbitrary and  
26 discriminatory actions.

27 (7) Permits. Applications for both state and local government  
28 permits should be processed in a timely and fair manner to ensure  
29 predictability.

30 (8) Natural resource industries. Maintain and enhance natural  
31 resource-based industries, including productive timber, agricultural,  
32 and fisheries industries. Encourage the conservation of productive  
33 forestlands and productive agricultural lands, and discourage  
34 incompatible uses.

35 (9) Open space and recreation. Retain open space and green space,  
36 enhance recreational opportunities, (~~conserve~~) enhance fish and  
37 wildlife habitat, increase access to natural resource lands and  
38 water, and develop parks and recreation facilities.

1 (10) Environment. Protect and enhance the environment and enhance  
2 the state's high quality of life, including air and water quality,  
3 and the availability of water.

4 (11) Citizen participation and coordination. Encourage the  
5 involvement of citizens in the planning process, including the  
6 participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities,  
7 and ensure coordination between communities and jurisdictions to  
8 reconcile conflicts.

9 (12) Public facilities and services. Ensure that those public  
10 facilities and services necessary to support development shall be  
11 adequate to serve the development at the time the development is  
12 available for occupancy and use without decreasing current service  
13 levels below locally established minimum standards.

14 (13) Historic preservation. Identify and encourage the  
15 preservation of lands, sites, and structures, that have historical or  
16 archaeological significance.

17 (14) Climate change and resiliency. Ensure that comprehensive  
18 plans, development regulations, and regional policies, plans, and  
19 strategies under RCW 36.70A.210 and chapter 47.80 RCW adapt to and  
20 mitigate the effects of a changing climate; support reductions in  
21 greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled;  
22 prepare for climate impact scenarios; foster resiliency to climate  
23 impacts and natural hazards; protect and enhance environmental,  
24 economic, and human health and safety; and advance environmental  
25 justice.

26 (15) Shorelines of the state. For shorelines of the state, the  
27 goals and policies of the shoreline management act as set forth in  
28 RCW 90.58.020 shall be considered an element of the county's or  
29 city's comprehensive plan.

30 **Sec. 2.** RCW 36.70A.480 and 2010 c 107 s 2 are each amended to  
31 read as follows:

32 (1) For shorelines of the state, the goals and policies of the  
33 shoreline management act as set forth in RCW 90.58.020 are added as  
34 one of the goals of this chapter as set forth in RCW 36.70A.020  
35 without creating an order of priority among the (~~fourteen~~) 15  
36 goals. The goals and policies of a shoreline master program for a  
37 county or city approved under chapter 90.58 RCW shall be considered  
38 an element of the county or city's comprehensive plan. All other  
39 portions of the shoreline master program for a county or city adopted

1 under chapter 90.58 RCW, including use regulations, shall be  
2 considered a part of the county or city's development regulations.

3 (2) The shoreline master program shall be adopted pursuant to the  
4 procedures of chapter 90.58 RCW rather than the goals, policies, and  
5 procedures set forth in this chapter for the adoption of a  
6 comprehensive plan or development regulations.

7 (3)(a) The policies, goals, and provisions of chapter 90.58 RCW  
8 and applicable guidelines shall be the sole basis for determining  
9 compliance of a shoreline master program with this chapter except as  
10 the shoreline master program is required to comply with the internal  
11 consistency provisions of RCW 36.70A.070, 36.70A.040(4), 35.63.125,  
12 and 35A.63.105.

13 (b) Except as otherwise provided in (c) of this subsection,  
14 development regulations adopted under this chapter to protect  
15 critical areas within shorelines of the state apply within shorelines  
16 of the state until the department of ecology approves one of the  
17 following: A comprehensive master program update, as defined in RCW  
18 90.58.030; a segment of a master program relating to critical areas,  
19 as provided in RCW 90.58.090; or a new or amended master program  
20 approved by the department of ecology on or after March 1, 2002, as  
21 provided in RCW 90.58.080. The adoption or update of development  
22 regulations to protect critical areas under this chapter prior to  
23 department of ecology approval of a master program update as provided  
24 in this subsection is not a comprehensive or segment update to the  
25 master program.

26 (c)(i) Until the department of ecology approves a master program  
27 or segment of a master program as provided in (b) of this subsection,  
28 a use or structure legally located within shorelines of the state  
29 that was established or vested on or before the effective date of the  
30 local government's development regulations to protect critical areas  
31 may continue as a conforming use and may be redeveloped or modified  
32 if: (A) The redevelopment or modification is consistent with the  
33 local government's master program; and (B) the local government  
34 determines that the proposed redevelopment or modification will  
35 result in no net loss of shoreline ecological functions. The local  
36 government may waive this requirement if the redevelopment or  
37 modification is consistent with the master program and the local  
38 government's development regulations to protect critical areas.

39 (ii) For purposes of this subsection (3)(c), an agricultural  
40 activity that does not expand the area being used for the

1 agricultural activity is not a redevelopment or modification.  
2 "Agricultural activity," as used in this subsection (3)(c), has the  
3 same meaning as defined in RCW 90.58.065.

4 (d) Upon department of ecology approval of a shoreline master  
5 program or critical area segment of a shoreline master program,  
6 critical areas within shorelines of the state are protected under  
7 chapter 90.58 RCW and are not subject to the procedural and  
8 substantive requirements of this chapter, except as provided in  
9 subsection (6) of this section. Nothing in chapter 321, Laws of 2003  
10 or chapter 107, Laws of 2010 is intended to affect whether or to what  
11 extent agricultural activities, as defined in RCW 90.58.065, are  
12 subject to chapter 36.70A RCW.

13 (e) The provisions of RCW 36.70A.172 shall not apply to the  
14 adoption or subsequent amendment of a local government's shoreline  
15 master program and shall not be used to determine compliance of a  
16 local government's shoreline master program with chapter 90.58 RCW  
17 and applicable guidelines. Nothing in this section, however, is  
18 intended to limit or change the quality of information to be applied  
19 in protecting critical areas within shorelines of the state, as  
20 required by chapter 90.58 RCW and applicable guidelines.

21 (4) Shoreline master programs shall provide a level of protection  
22 to critical areas located within shorelines of the state that assures  
23 no net loss of shoreline ecological functions necessary to sustain  
24 shoreline natural resources as defined by department of ecology  
25 guidelines adopted pursuant to RCW 90.58.060.

26 (5) Shorelines of the state shall not be considered critical  
27 areas under this chapter except to the extent that specific areas  
28 located within shorelines of the state qualify for critical area  
29 designation based on the definition of critical areas provided by RCW  
30 36.70A.030(~~((5))~~) (6) and have been designated as such by a local  
31 government pursuant to RCW 36.70A.060(2).

32 (6) If a local jurisdiction's master program does not include  
33 land necessary for buffers for critical areas that occur within  
34 shorelines of the state, as authorized by RCW 90.58.030(2)(~~((f))~~)  
35 (d), then the local jurisdiction shall continue to regulate those  
36 critical areas and their required buffers pursuant to RCW  
37 36.70A.060(2).

38 **Sec. 3.** RCW 36.70A.070 and 2022 c 246 s 2 and 2022 c 220 s 1 are  
39 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

1 The comprehensive plan of a county or city that is required or  
2 chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 shall consist of a map or maps,  
3 and descriptive text covering objectives, principles, and standards  
4 used to develop the comprehensive plan. The plan shall be an  
5 internally consistent document and all elements shall be consistent  
6 with the future land use map. A comprehensive plan shall be adopted  
7 and amended with public participation as provided in RCW 36.70A.140.  
8 Each comprehensive plan shall include a plan, scheme, or design for  
9 each of the following:

10 (1) A land use element designating the proposed general  
11 distribution and general location and extent of the uses of land,  
12 where appropriate, for agriculture, timber production, housing,  
13 commerce, industry, recreation, open spaces and green spaces, general  
14 aviation airports, public utilities, public facilities, and other  
15 land uses. The land use element shall include population densities,  
16 building intensities, and estimates of future population growth. The  
17 land use element shall provide for protection of the quality and  
18 quantity of groundwater used for public water supplies. The land use  
19 element must give special consideration to achieving environmental  
20 justice in its goals and policies, including efforts to avoid  
21 creating or worsening environmental health disparities. Wherever  
22 possible, the land use element should consider utilizing urban  
23 planning approaches that promote physical activity and reduce per  
24 capita vehicle miles traveled within the jurisdiction, but without  
25 increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state. Where  
26 applicable, the land use element shall review drainage, flooding, and  
27 stormwater runoff in the area and nearby jurisdictions and provide  
28 guidance for corrective actions to mitigate or cleanse those  
29 discharges that pollute waters of the state, including Puget Sound or  
30 waters entering Puget Sound. The land use element must reduce and  
31 mitigate the risk to lives and property posed by wildfires by using  
32 land use planning tools, which may include, but are not limited to,  
33 reducing wildfire risks to residential development in high risk areas  
34 and the wildland urban interface area, separating human development  
35 from wildfire prone landscapes, and protecting existing residential  
36 development and infrastructure through community wildfire  
37 preparedness and fire adaptation measures.

38 (2) A housing element ensuring the vitality and character of  
39 established residential neighborhoods that:

1 (a) Includes an inventory and analysis of existing and projected  
2 housing needs that identifies the number of housing units necessary  
3 to manage projected growth, as provided by the department of  
4 commerce, including:

5 (i) Units for moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income  
6 households; and

7 (ii) Emergency housing, emergency shelters, and permanent  
8 supportive housing;

9 (b) Includes a statement of goals, policies, objectives, and  
10 mandatory provisions for the preservation, improvement, and  
11 development of housing, including single-family residences, and  
12 within an urban growth area boundary, moderate density housing  
13 options including, but not limited to, duplexes, triplexes, and  
14 townhomes;

15 (c) Identifies sufficient capacity of land for housing including,  
16 but not limited to, government-assisted housing, housing for  
17 moderate, low, very low, and extremely low-income households,  
18 manufactured housing, multifamily housing, group homes, foster care  
19 facilities, emergency housing, emergency shelters, permanent  
20 supportive housing, and within an urban growth area boundary,  
21 consideration of duplexes, triplexes, and townhomes;

22 (d) Makes adequate provisions for existing and projected needs of  
23 all economic segments of the community, including:

24 (i) Incorporating consideration for low, very low, extremely low,  
25 and moderate-income households;

26 (ii) Documenting programs and actions needed to achieve housing  
27 availability including gaps in local funding, barriers such as  
28 development regulations, and other limitations;

29 (iii) Consideration of housing locations in relation to  
30 employment location; and

31 (iv) Consideration of the role of accessory dwelling units in  
32 meeting housing needs;

33 (e) Identifies local policies and regulations that result in  
34 racially disparate impacts, displacement, and exclusion in housing,  
35 including:

36 (i) Zoning that may have a discriminatory effect;

37 (ii) Disinvestment; and

38 (iii) Infrastructure availability;



1 (f) Identifies and implements policies and regulations to address  
2 and begin to undo racially disparate impacts, displacement, and  
3 exclusion in housing caused by local policies, plans, and actions;

4 (g) Identifies areas that may be at higher risk of displacement  
5 from market forces that occur with changes to zoning development  
6 regulations and capital investments; and

7 (h) Establishes antidisplacement policies, with consideration  
8 given to the preservation of historical and cultural communities as  
9 well as investments in low, very low, extremely low, and moderate-  
10 income housing; equitable development initiatives; inclusionary  
11 zoning; community planning requirements; tenant protections; land  
12 disposition policies; and consideration of land that may be used for  
13 affordable housing.

14 In counties and cities subject to the review and evaluation  
15 requirements of RCW 36.70A.215, any revision to the housing element  
16 shall include consideration of prior review and evaluation reports  
17 and any reasonable measures identified. The housing element should  
18 link jurisdictional goals with overall county goals to ensure that  
19 the housing element goals are met.

20 The adoption of ordinances, development regulations and  
21 amendments to such regulations, and other nonproject actions taken by  
22 a city that is required or chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 that  
23 increase housing capacity, increase housing affordability, and  
24 mitigate displacement as required under this subsection (2) and that  
25 apply outside of critical areas are not subject to administrative or  
26 judicial appeal under chapter 43.21C RCW unless the adoption of such  
27 ordinances, development regulations and amendments to such  
28 regulations, or other nonproject actions has a probable significant  
29 adverse impact on fish habitat.

30 (3) A capital facilities plan element consisting of: (a) An  
31 inventory of existing capital facilities owned by public entities,  
32 including green infrastructure, showing the locations and capacities  
33 of the capital facilities; (b) a forecast of the future needs for  
34 such capital facilities; (c) the proposed locations and capacities of  
35 expanded or new capital facilities; (d) at least a six-year plan that  
36 will finance such capital facilities within projected funding  
37 capacities and clearly identifies sources of public money for such  
38 purposes; and (e) a requirement to reassess the land use element if  
39 probable funding falls short of meeting existing needs and to ensure  
40 that the land use element, capital facilities plan element, and

1 financing plan within the capital facilities plan element are  
2 coordinated and consistent. Park and recreation facilities shall be  
3 included in the capital facilities plan element.

4 (4) (a) A utilities element consisting of the general location,  
5 proposed location, and capacity of all existing and proposed  
6 utilities, including, but not limited to, components of drinking  
7 water, stormwater, wastewater, electrical (~~(lines)~~),  
8 (~~(telecommunication lines)~~), telecommunications and natural gas  
9 (~~(lines)~~) systems.

10 (b) The county or city shall identify all public entities that  
11 own utility systems and endeavor in good faith to work with other  
12 public entities, such as special purpose districts, to gather and  
13 include within its utilities element the information required in (a)  
14 of this subsection. However, if, after a good faith effort, the  
15 county or city is unable to gather the information required in (a) of  
16 this subsection from the other public entities, the failure to  
17 include such information in the utilities element shall not be  
18 grounds for a finding of noncompliance or invalidity under this act.

19 (5) Rural element. Counties shall include a rural element  
20 including lands that are not designated for urban growth,  
21 agriculture, forest, or mineral resources. The following provisions  
22 shall apply to the rural element:

23 (a) Growth management act goals and local circumstances. Because  
24 circumstances vary from county to county, in establishing patterns of  
25 rural densities and uses, a county may consider local circumstances,  
26 but shall develop a written record explaining how the rural element  
27 harmonizes the planning goals in RCW 36.70A.020 and meets the  
28 requirements of this chapter.

29 (b) Rural development. The rural element shall permit rural  
30 development, forestry, and agriculture in rural areas. The rural  
31 element shall provide for a variety of rural densities, uses,  
32 essential public facilities, and rural governmental services needed  
33 to serve the permitted densities and uses. To achieve a variety of  
34 rural densities and uses, counties may provide for clustering,  
35 density transfer, design guidelines, conservation easements, and  
36 other innovative techniques that will accommodate appropriate rural  
37 economic advancement, densities, and uses that are not characterized  
38 by urban growth and that are consistent with rural character.

1 (c) Measures governing rural development. The rural element shall  
2 include measures that apply to rural development and protect the  
3 rural character of the area, as established by the county, by:

4 (i) Containing or otherwise controlling rural development;

5 (ii) Assuring visual compatibility of rural development with the  
6 surrounding rural area;

7 (iii) Reducing the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land  
8 into sprawling, low-density development in the rural area;

9 (iv) Protecting critical areas, as provided in RCW 36.70A.060,  
10 and surface water and groundwater resources; and

11 (v) Protecting against conflicts with the use of agricultural,  
12 forest, and mineral resource lands designated under RCW 36.70A.170.

13 (d) Limited areas of more intensive rural development. Subject to  
14 the requirements of this subsection and except as otherwise  
15 specifically provided in this subsection (5)(d), the rural element  
16 may allow for limited areas of more intensive rural development,  
17 including necessary public facilities and public services to serve  
18 the limited area as follows:

19 (i) Rural development consisting of the infill, development, or  
20 redevelopment of existing commercial, industrial, residential, or  
21 mixed-use areas, whether characterized as shoreline development,  
22 villages, hamlets, rural activity centers, or crossroads  
23 developments.

24 (A) A commercial, industrial, residential, shoreline, or mixed-  
25 use area are subject to the requirements of (d)(iv) of this  
26 subsection, but are not subject to the requirements of (c)(ii) and  
27 (iii) of this subsection.

28 (B) Any development or redevelopment other than an industrial  
29 area or an industrial use within a mixed-use area or an industrial  
30 area under this subsection (5)(d)(i) must be principally designed to  
31 serve the existing and projected rural population.

32 (C) Any development or redevelopment in terms of building size,  
33 scale, use, or intensity may be permitted subject to confirmation  
34 from all existing providers of public facilities and public services  
35 of sufficient capacity of existing public facilities and public  
36 services to serve any new or additional demand from the new  
37 development or redevelopment. Development and redevelopment may  
38 include changes in use from vacant land or a previously existing use  
39 so long as the new use conforms to the requirements of this  
40 subsection (5) and is consistent with the local character. Any

1 commercial development or redevelopment within a mixed-use area must  
2 be principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural  
3 population and must meet the following requirements:

4 (I) Any included retail or food service space must not exceed the  
5 footprint of previously occupied space or 5,000 square feet,  
6 whichever is greater, for the same or similar use; and

7 (II) Any included retail or food service space must not exceed  
8 2,500 square feet for a new use;

9 (ii) The intensification of development on lots containing, or  
10 new development of, small-scale recreational or tourist uses,  
11 including commercial facilities to serve those recreational or  
12 tourist uses, that rely on a rural location and setting, but that do  
13 not include new residential development. A small-scale recreation or  
14 tourist use is not required to be principally designed to serve the  
15 existing and projected rural population. Public services and public  
16 facilities shall be limited to those necessary to serve the  
17 recreation or tourist use and shall be provided in a manner that does  
18 not permit low-density sprawl;

19 (iii) The intensification of development on lots containing  
20 isolated nonresidential uses or new development of isolated cottage  
21 industries and isolated small-scale businesses that are not  
22 principally designed to serve the existing and projected rural  
23 population and nonresidential uses, but do provide job opportunities  
24 for rural residents. Rural counties may allow the expansion of small-  
25 scale businesses as long as those small-scale businesses conform with  
26 the rural character of the area as defined by the local government  
27 according to RCW 36.70A.030(23). Rural counties may also allow new  
28 small-scale businesses to utilize a site previously occupied by an  
29 existing business as long as the new small-scale business conforms to  
30 the rural character of the area as defined by the local government  
31 according to RCW 36.70A.030(23). Public services and public  
32 facilities shall be limited to those necessary to serve the isolated  
33 nonresidential use and shall be provided in a manner that does not  
34 permit low-density sprawl;

35 (iv) A county shall adopt measures to minimize and contain the  
36 existing areas of more intensive rural development, as appropriate,  
37 authorized under this subsection. Lands included in such existing  
38 areas shall not extend beyond the logical outer boundary of the  
39 existing area, thereby allowing a new pattern of low-density sprawl.  
40 Existing areas are those that are clearly identifiable and contained

1 and where there is a logical boundary delineated predominately by the  
2 built environment, but that may also include undeveloped lands if  
3 limited as provided in this subsection. The county shall establish  
4 the logical outer boundary of an area of more intensive rural  
5 development. In establishing the logical outer boundary, the county  
6 shall address (A) the need to preserve the character of existing  
7 natural neighborhoods and communities, (B) physical boundaries, such  
8 as bodies of water, streets and highways, and land forms and  
9 contours, (C) the prevention of abnormally irregular boundaries, and  
10 (D) the ability to provide public facilities and public services in a  
11 manner that does not permit low-density sprawl;

12 (v) For purposes of this subsection (5)(d), an existing area or  
13 existing use is one that was in existence:

14 (A) On July 1, 1990, in a county that was initially required to  
15 plan under all of the provisions of this chapter;

16 (B) On the date the county adopted a resolution under RCW  
17 36.70A.040(2), in a county that is planning under all of the  
18 provisions of this chapter under RCW 36.70A.040(2); or

19 (C) On the date the office of financial management certifies the  
20 county's population as provided in RCW 36.70A.040(5), in a county  
21 that is planning under all of the provisions of this chapter pursuant  
22 to RCW 36.70A.040(5).

23 (e) Exception. This subsection shall not be interpreted to permit  
24 in the rural area a major industrial development or a master planned  
25 resort unless otherwise specifically permitted under RCW 36.70A.360  
26 and 36.70A.365.

27 (6) A transportation element that implements, and is consistent  
28 with, the land use element.

29 (a) The transportation element shall include the following  
30 subelements:

31 (i) Land use assumptions used in estimating travel;

32 (ii) Estimated (~~traffic~~) multimodal level of service impacts to  
33 state-owned transportation facilities resulting from land use  
34 assumptions to assist (~~the department of transportation~~) in  
35 monitoring the performance of state facilities, to plan improvements  
36 for the facilities, and to assess the impact of land-use decisions on  
37 state-owned transportation facilities;

38 (iii) Facilities and services needs, including:

39 (A) An inventory of air, water, and ground transportation  
40 facilities and services, including transit alignments, active

1 transportation facilities, and general aviation airport facilities,  
2 to define existing capital facilities and travel levels (~~(as a basis~~  
3 ~~for~~) to inform future planning. This inventory must include state-  
4 owned transportation facilities within the city or county's  
5 jurisdictional boundaries;

6 (B) (~~Level~~) Multimodal level of service standards for all  
7 locally owned arterials (~~and~~), locally and regionally operated  
8 transit routes that serve urban growth areas, state-owned or operated  
9 transit routes that serve urban areas if the department of  
10 transportation has prepared such standards, and active transportation  
11 facilities to serve as a gauge to judge performance of the system and  
12 success in helping to achieve the goals of this chapter consistent  
13 with environmental justice. These standards should be regionally  
14 coordinated;

15 (C) For state-owned transportation facilities, multimodal level  
16 of service standards for highways, as prescribed in chapters 47.06  
17 and 47.80 RCW, to gauge the performance of the system. The purposes  
18 of reflecting multimodal level of service standards for state  
19 highways in the local comprehensive plan are to monitor the  
20 performance of the system, to evaluate improvement strategies, and to  
21 facilitate coordination between the county's or city's six-year  
22 street, road, active transportation, or transit program and the  
23 office of financial management's ten-year investment program. The  
24 concurrency requirements of (b) of this subsection do not apply to  
25 transportation facilities and services of statewide significance  
26 except for counties consisting of islands whose only connection to  
27 the mainland are state highways or ferry routes. In these island  
28 counties, state highways and ferry route capacity must be a factor in  
29 meeting the concurrency requirements in (b) of this subsection;

30 (D) Specific actions and requirements for bringing into  
31 compliance (~~locally owned~~) transportation facilities or services  
32 that are below an established multimodal level of service standard;

33 (E) Forecasts of (~~traffic~~) multimodal transportation demand and  
34 needs within cities and urban growth areas, and forecasts of  
35 multimodal transportation demand and needs outside of cities and  
36 urban growth areas, for at least ten years based on the adopted land  
37 use plan to (~~provide information on the location, timing, and~~  
38 ~~capacity needs of future growth~~) inform the development of a  
39 transportation element that balances transportation system safety and  
40 convenience to accommodate all users of the transportation system to

1 safely, reliably, and efficiently provide access and mobility to  
2 people and goods. Priority must be given to inclusion of  
3 transportation facilities and services providing the greatest  
4 multimodal safety benefit to the highest number of roadway users;

5 (F) Identification of state and local system needs to equitably  
6 meet current and future demands. Identified needs on state-owned  
7 transportation facilities must be consistent with the statewide  
8 multimodal transportation plan required under chapter 47.06 RCW.  
9 Local system needs should reflect the regional transportation system  
10 and local goals, and strive to equitably implement the multimodal  
11 network;

12 (G) A transition plan for transportation as required in Title II  
13 of the Americans with disabilities act of 1990 (ADA). As a necessary  
14 step to a program access plan to provide accessibility under the ADA,  
15 state and local government, public entities, and public agencies are  
16 required to perform self-evaluations of their current facilities,  
17 relative to accessibility requirements of the ADA. The agencies are  
18 then required to develop a program access plan, which can be called a  
19 transition plan, to address any deficiencies. The plan is intended to  
20 achieve the following:

21 (I) Identify physical obstacles that limit the accessibility of  
22 facilities to individuals with disabilities;

23 (II) Describe the methods to be used to make the facilities  
24 accessible;

25 (III) Provide a schedule for making the access modifications; and

26 (IV) Identify the public officials responsible for implementation  
27 of the transition plan;

28 (iv) Finance, including:

29 (A) An analysis of funding capability to judge needs against  
30 probable funding resources;

31 (B) A multiyear financing plan based on the needs identified in  
32 the comprehensive plan, the appropriate parts of which shall serve as  
33 the basis for the six-year street, road, or transit program required  
34 by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW  
35 35.58.2795 for public transportation systems. The multiyear financing  
36 plan should be coordinated with the ten-year investment program  
37 developed by the office of financial management as required by RCW  
38 47.05.030;

39 (C) If probable funding falls short of meeting the identified  
40 needs of the transportation system, including state transportation

1 facilities, a discussion of how additional funding will be raised, or  
2 how land use assumptions will be reassessed to ensure that level of  
3 service standards will be met;

4 (v) Intergovernmental coordination efforts, including an  
5 assessment of the impacts of the transportation plan and land use  
6 assumptions on the transportation systems of adjacent jurisdictions;

7 (vi) Demand-management strategies;

8 (vii) (~~(Pedestrian and bicycle)~~) Active transportation component  
9 to include collaborative efforts to identify and designate planned  
10 improvements for (~~(pedestrian and bicycle)~~) active transportation  
11 facilities and corridors that address and encourage enhanced  
12 community access and promote healthy lifestyles.

13 (b) After adoption of the comprehensive plan by jurisdictions  
14 required to plan or who choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040, local  
15 jurisdictions must adopt and enforce ordinances which prohibit  
16 development approval if the development causes the level of service  
17 on a locally owned or locally or regionally operated transportation  
18 facility to decline below the standards adopted in the transportation  
19 element of the comprehensive plan, unless transportation improvements  
20 or strategies to accommodate the impacts of development are made  
21 concurrent with the development. These strategies may include  
22 (~~(increased)~~) active transportation facility improvements, increased  
23 or enhanced public transportation service, ride-sharing programs,  
24 demand management, and other transportation systems management  
25 strategies. For the purposes of this subsection (6), "concurrent with  
26 the development" means that improvements or strategies are in place  
27 at the time of development, or that a financial commitment is in  
28 place to complete the improvements or strategies within six years. If  
29 the collection of impact fees is delayed under RCW 82.02.050(3), the  
30 six-year period required by this subsection (6)(b) must begin after  
31 full payment of all impact fees is due to the county or city. A  
32 development proposal may not be denied for causing the level of  
33 service on a locally owned or locally or regionally operated  
34 transportation facility to decline below the standards adopted in the  
35 transportation element of the comprehensive plan where such impacts  
36 could be adequately mitigated through active transportation facility  
37 improvements, increased or enhanced public transportation service,  
38 ride-sharing programs, demand management, or other transportation  
39 systems management strategies funded by the development.



1 (c) The transportation element described in this subsection (6),  
2 the six-year plans required by RCW 35.77.010 for cities, RCW  
3 36.81.121 for counties, and RCW 35.58.2795 for public transportation  
4 systems, and the ten-year investment program required by RCW  
5 47.05.030 for the state, must be consistent.

6 (7) An economic development element establishing local goals,  
7 policies, objectives, and provisions for economic growth and vitality  
8 and a high quality of life. A city that has chosen to be a  
9 residential community is exempt from the economic development element  
10 requirement of this subsection.

11 (8) A park and recreation element that implements, and is  
12 consistent with, the capital facilities plan element as it relates to  
13 park and recreation facilities. The element shall include: (a)  
14 Estimates of park and recreation demand for at least a ten-year  
15 period; (b) an evaluation of facilities and service needs; (c) an  
16 evaluation of tree canopy coverage; and ~~((+e+))~~ (d) an evaluation of  
17 intergovernmental coordination opportunities to provide regional  
18 approaches for meeting park and recreational demand.

19 (9)(a) A climate change and resiliency element that is designed  
20 to result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions and that  
21 must enhance resiliency to and avoid the adverse impacts of climate  
22 change, which must include efforts to reduce localized greenhouse gas  
23 emissions and avoid creating or worsening localized climate impacts  
24 to vulnerable populations and overburdened communities.

25 (b) The climate change and resiliency element shall include the  
26 following subelements:

27 (i) A greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement;

28 (ii) A resiliency subelement.

29 (c) The greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement of the  
30 climate change and resiliency element is mandatory for the  
31 jurisdictions specified in section 4(1) of this act and is encouraged  
32 for all other jurisdictions, including those planning under RCW  
33 36.70A.040 and those planning under chapter 36.70 RCW. The resiliency  
34 subelement of the climate change and resiliency element is mandatory  
35 for all jurisdictions planning under RCW 36.70A.040 and is encouraged  
36 for those jurisdictions planning under chapter 36.70 RCW.

37 (d)(i) The greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement of the  
38 comprehensive plan, and its related development regulations, must  
39 identify the actions the jurisdiction will take during the planning

1 cycle consistent with the guidelines published by the department  
2 pursuant to section 5 of this act that will:

3 (A) Result in reductions in overall greenhouse gas emissions  
4 generated by transportation and land use within the jurisdiction but  
5 without increasing greenhouse gas emissions elsewhere in the state;

6 (B) Result in reductions in per capita vehicle miles traveled  
7 within the jurisdiction but without increasing greenhouse gas  
8 emissions elsewhere in the state; and

9 (C) Prioritize reductions that benefit overburdened communities  
10 in order to maximize the cobenefits of reduced air pollution and  
11 environmental justice.

12 (ii) Actions not specifically identified in the guidelines  
13 developed by the department pursuant to section 5 of this act may be  
14 considered consistent with these guidelines only if:

15 (A) They are projected to achieve greenhouse gas emissions  
16 reductions or per capita vehicle miles traveled reductions equivalent  
17 to what would be required of the jurisdiction under the guidelines  
18 adopted by the department; and

19 (B) They are supported by scientifically credible projections and  
20 scenarios that indicate their adoption is likely to result in  
21 reductions of greenhouse gas emissions or per capita vehicle miles  
22 traveled.

23 (iii) A jurisdiction may not restrict population growth or limit  
24 population allocation in order to achieve the requirements set forth  
25 in this subsection (9) (d).

26 (e) (i) The resiliency subelement must equitably enhance  
27 resiliency to, and avoid or substantially reduce the adverse impacts  
28 of, climate change in human communities and ecological systems  
29 through goals, policies, and programs consistent with the best  
30 available science and scientifically credible climate projections and  
31 impact scenarios that moderate or avoid harm, enhance the resiliency  
32 of natural and human systems, and enhance beneficial opportunities.  
33 The resiliency subelement must prioritize actions that benefit  
34 overburdened communities as defined in chapter 70A.02 RCW that will  
35 disproportionately suffer from compounding environmental impacts and  
36 will be most impacted by natural hazards due to climate change.  
37 Specific goals, policies, and programs of the resiliency subelement  
38 must include, but are not limited to, those designed to:

1 (A) Identify, protect, and enhance natural areas to foster  
2 resiliency to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for  
3 safe passage and species migration;

4 (B) Identify, protect, and enhance community resiliency to  
5 climate change impacts, including social, economic, and built  
6 environment factors, that support adaptation to climate impacts  
7 consistent with environmental justice; and

8 (C) Address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate  
9 change, including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought,  
10 heat, smoke, wildfire, and other effects of changes to temperature  
11 and precipitation patterns.

12 (ii) A natural hazard mitigation plan or similar plan that is  
13 guided by RCW 36.70A.020(14), that prioritizes actions that benefit  
14 overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010, and that  
15 complies with the applicable requirements of this chapter, including  
16 the requirements set forth in this subsection (9)(e), may be adopted  
17 by reference to satisfy these requirements, except that to the extent  
18 any of the substantive requirements of this subsection (9)(e) are not  
19 addressed, or are inadequately addressed, in the referenced natural  
20 hazard mitigation plan, a county or city must supplement the natural  
21 hazard mitigation plan accordingly so that the adopted resiliency  
22 subelement complies fully with the substantive requirements of this  
23 subsection (9)(e).

24 (A) If a county or city intends to adopt by reference a federal  
25 emergency management agency natural hazard mitigation plan in order  
26 to meet all or part of the substantive requirements set forth in this  
27 subsection (9)(e), and the most recently adopted federal emergency  
28 management agency natural hazard mitigation plan does not comply with  
29 the requirements of this subsection (9)(e), the department may grant  
30 the county or city an extension of time in which to submit a natural  
31 hazard mitigation plan.

32 (B) Eligibility for an extension under this subsection prior to  
33 July 1, 2027, is limited to a city or county required to review and,  
34 if needed, revise its comprehensive plan on or before June 30, 2025,  
35 as provided in RCW 36.70A.130, or for a city or county with an  
36 existing, unexpired federal emergency management agency natural  
37 hazard mitigation plan scheduled to expire before December 31, 2024.

38 (C) Extension requests after July 1, 2027, may be granted if  
39 requirements for the resiliency subelement are amended or added by  
40 the legislature or if the department finds other circumstances that

1 may result in a potential finding of noncompliance with a  
2 jurisdiction's existing and approved federal emergency management  
3 agency natural hazard mitigation plan.

4 (D) A city or county that wishes to request an extension of time  
5 must submit a request in writing to the department no later than the  
6 date on which the city or county is required to review and, if  
7 needed, revise its comprehensive plan as provided in RCW 36.70A.130.

8 (E) Upon the submission of such a request to the department, the  
9 city or county may have an additional 48 months from the date  
10 provided in RCW 36.70A.130 in which to either adopt by reference an  
11 updated federal emergency management agency natural hazard mitigation  
12 plan or adopt its own natural hazard mitigation plan, and to then  
13 submit that plan to the department.

14 (F) The adoption of ordinances, amendments to comprehensive  
15 plans, amendments to development regulations, and other nonproject  
16 actions taken by a county or city pursuant to (d) or (f) of this  
17 subsection in order to implement measures specified by the department  
18 pursuant to section 5 of this act are not subject to administrative  
19 or judicial appeal under chapter 43.21C RCW.

20 (10) It is the intent that new or amended elements required after  
21 January 1, 2002, be adopted concurrent with the scheduled update  
22 provided in RCW 36.70A.130. Requirements to incorporate any such new  
23 or amended elements shall be null and void until funds sufficient to  
24 cover applicable local government costs are appropriated and  
25 distributed by the state at least two years before local government  
26 must update comprehensive plans as required in RCW 36.70A.130.

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

29 (1) The requirements of the greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
30 subelement of the climate change and resiliency element set forth in  
31 RCW 36.70A.070 apply only to those counties that are required or that  
32 choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and that also meet either of the  
33 criteria set forth in (a) or (b) of this subsection on or after April  
34 1, 2021, and the cities with populations greater than 6,000 as of  
35 April 1, 2021, within those counties:

36 (a) A county with a population density of at least 100 people per  
37 square mile and a population of at least 200,000;

1 (b) A county bordering on the Columbia and Snake rivers with a  
2 population density of at least 75 people per square mile and an  
3 annual growth rate of at least 1.65 percent; or

4 (c) A county located to the west of the crest of the Cascade  
5 mountains with a population of at least 130,000.

6 (2) The requirements of the amendments to the transportation  
7 element of RCW 36.70A.070 set forth in this act apply only to: (a)  
8 Counties and cities that meet the population criteria set forth in  
9 subsection (1) of this section; and (b) cities with populations of  
10 6,000 or greater as of April 1, 2021, that are located in a county  
11 that is required or that chooses to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.

12 (3) The requirements of the amendments to the land use element of  
13 RCW 36.70A.070 set forth in this act apply only to: (a) Counties and  
14 cities that meet the population criteria set forth in subsection (1)  
15 or (2) of this section; and (b) counties that have a population of  
16 20,000 or greater as of April 1, 2021, and that are required or that  
17 choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040.

18 (4) The requirements of the amendments to the rural element of  
19 RCW 36.70A.070 set forth in this act apply only to counties that are  
20 required or that choose to plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and that have a  
21 population of 20,000 or greater as of April 1, 2021.

22 (5) Once a county meets either of the sets of criteria set forth  
23 in subsection (1) of this section, the requirement to conform with  
24 the greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement of the climate  
25 change and resiliency element set forth in RCW 36.70A.070 remains in  
26 effect, even if the county no longer meets one of these sets of  
27 criteria.

28 (6) If the population of a county that previously had not been  
29 required to conform with the greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
30 subelement of the climate change and resiliency element set forth in  
31 RCW 36.70A.070 changes sufficiently to meet either of the sets of  
32 criteria set forth in subsection (1) of this section, the county, and  
33 the cities with populations greater than 6,000 as of April 1, 2021,  
34 within that county, shall adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
35 subelement of the climate change and resiliency element set forth in  
36 RCW 36.70A.070 at the next scheduled update of the comprehensive plan  
37 as set forth in RCW 36.70A.130.

38 (7) The population criteria used in this section must be based on  
39 population data as determined by the office of financial management.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** A new section is added to chapter 70A.45

2 RCW to read as follows:

3 (1) The department of commerce, in consultation with the  
4 department of ecology, the department of health, and the department  
5 of transportation, shall publish guidelines that specify a set of  
6 measures counties and cities may implement via updates to their  
7 comprehensive plans and development regulations that have a  
8 demonstrated ability to increase housing capacity within urban growth  
9 areas or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, allowing for consideration  
10 of the emissions reductions achieved through the adoption of  
11 statewide programs. The guidelines must prioritize measures that  
12 benefit overburdened communities as defined in RCW 70A.02.010,  
13 including communities that have experienced disproportionate harm due  
14 to air pollution and may draw upon the most recent health disparities  
15 data from the department of health to identify high pollution areas  
16 and disproportionately burdened communities. These guidelines must be  
17 developed consistent with an environmental justice assessment  
18 pursuant to RCW 70A.02.060 and the guidelines must include  
19 environmental justice assessment processes. The guidelines must be  
20 based on:

21 (a) The most recent greenhouse gas emissions report prepared by  
22 the department of ecology and the department of commerce pursuant to  
23 RCW 70A.45.020(2);

24 (b) The most recent city and county population estimates prepared  
25 by the office of financial management pursuant to RCW 43.62.035;

26 (c) The locations of major employment centers and transit  
27 corridors, for the purpose of increasing housing supply in these  
28 areas; and

29 (d) Available environmental justice data and data regarding  
30 access to public transportation for people with disabilities and for  
31 vulnerable populations as defined in RCW 70A.02.010.

32 (2)(a) The department of commerce, in consultation with the  
33 department of transportation, shall publish guidelines that specify a  
34 set of measures counties and cities may have available to them to  
35 take through updates to their comprehensive plans and development  
36 regulations that have a demonstrated ability to reduce per capita  
37 vehicle miles traveled, including measures that are designed to be  
38 achievable throughout the state, including in small cities and rural  
39 cities.

40 (b) The guidelines must be based on:

1 (i) The most recent greenhouse gas emissions report prepared by  
2 the department of ecology and the department of commerce pursuant to  
3 RCW 70A.45.020(2);

4 (ii) The most recent city and county population estimates  
5 prepared by the office of financial management pursuant to RCW  
6 43.62.035; and

7 (iii) The most recent summary of per capita vehicle miles  
8 traveled as compiled by the department of transportation.

9 (3) The department of commerce shall first publish the full set  
10 of guidelines described in subsections (1) and (2) of this section no  
11 later than December 31, 2025. The department of commerce shall update  
12 these guidelines at least every five years thereafter based on the  
13 most recently available data, and shall provide for a process for  
14 local governments and other parties to submit alternative actions for  
15 consideration for inclusion into the guidelines at least once per  
16 year. The department of commerce shall publish an intermediate set of  
17 guidelines no later than December 31, 2023, in order to be available  
18 for use by jurisdictions whose periodic updates are required by RCW  
19 36.70A.130(5) to occur prior to December 31, 2025.

20 (4) (a) In any updates to the guidelines published after 2025, the  
21 department of commerce shall include an evaluation of the impact that  
22 locally adopted climate change and resiliency elements have had on  
23 local greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled  
24 reduction goals. The evaluation must also address the impact that  
25 locally adopted greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelements have  
26 had on meeting local housing goals and targets.

27 (b) The updates must also include an estimate of the impacts that  
28 locally adopted climate change and resiliency elements will have on  
29 achieving local greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles  
30 traveled reduction goals. The evaluation must also include an  
31 estimate of the impact that locally adopted greenhouse gas emissions  
32 reduction subelements will have on meeting local housing goals and  
33 targets.

34 (c) The department may include in the specified guidelines what  
35 additional measures cities and counties should take to make  
36 additional progress on local reduction goals, including any measures  
37 that increase housing capacity within urban growth areas.

38 (5) The department of commerce may not propose or adopt any  
39 guidelines that would include any form of a road usage charge or any  
40 fees or surcharges related to vehicle miles traveled.

1 (6) The department of commerce may not propose or adopt any  
2 guidelines that would direct or require local governments to regulate  
3 or tax, in any form, transportation service providers, delivery  
4 vehicles, or passenger vehicles.

5 (7) The department of commerce, in the course of implementing  
6 this section, shall provide and prioritize options that support  
7 increased housing supply and diversity of housing types that assist  
8 counties and cities in meeting greenhouse gas emissions reduction,  
9 housing supply, and other requirements established under this  
10 chapter.

11 (8) The provisions of this section as applied to the department  
12 of transportation are subject to the availability of amounts  
13 appropriated for this specific purpose.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 6.** A new section is added to chapter 36.70A  
15 RCW to read as follows:

16 (1) A county or city required to complete a greenhouse gas  
17 emissions reduction subelement may submit the subelement to the  
18 department for approval. When submitted to the department for  
19 approval, the subelement becomes effective when approved by the  
20 department as provided in this section. If a county or city does not  
21 seek department approval of the subelement, the effective date of the  
22 subelement is the date on which the comprehensive plan is adopted by  
23 the county or city.

24 (2) Notice of intent to apply for approval. (a) Not less than 120  
25 days prior to applying for approval of a subelement, the county or  
26 city must notify the department in writing that it intends to apply  
27 for approval. The department shall review proposed subelements prior  
28 to final adoption and advise the county or city of the actions  
29 necessary to receive approval.

30 (b) The department may consult with other relevant state agencies  
31 in making its determination.

32 (c) The department shall publish notice in the Washington State  
33 Register that a city or county has notified the department of its  
34 intent to apply for approval and the department shall post a copy of  
35 the notice on the department website.

36 (3) Procedures for an application for approval. (a) After taking  
37 final action to adopt a greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
38 subelement, a city or county may apply to the department for approval



1 of the subelement. A city or county must submit its application to  
2 the department within 10 days of taking final action.

3 (b) An application for approval must include, at a minimum, the  
4 following:

5 (i) A cover letter from the legislative authority requesting  
6 approval;

7 (ii) A copy of the adopted ordinance or resolution taking the  
8 legislative action or actions required to adopt the greenhouse gas  
9 emissions reduction subelement;

10 (iii) A statement explaining how the adopted subelement complies  
11 with the provisions of this chapter; and

12 (iv) A copy of the record developed by the city or county at any  
13 public meetings or public hearings at which action was taken on the  
14 greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement.

15 (c) For purposes of this subsection, the terms "action" and  
16 "meeting" have the same definition as in RCW 42.30.020.

17 (4) Approval procedures. (a) The department shall strive to  
18 achieve final action to approve or deny an application within 180  
19 days of the date of receipt of the application.

20 (b) The department must issue its decision in the form of a  
21 written statement, including findings of fact and conclusions, and  
22 noting the date of the issuance of its decision. The department's  
23 issued decision must conspicuously and plainly state that it is the  
24 department's final decision and that there will be no further  
25 modifications to the proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction  
26 subelement.

27 (c) The department will promptly publish its decision on the  
28 application for approval as follows:

29 (i) Notify the city or county in writing of its determination;

30 (ii) Publish a notice of action in the Washington State Register;

31 (iii) Post a notice of its decision on the agency website; and

32 (iv) Notify other relevant state agencies regarding the approval  
33 decision.

34 (5) The department shall approve a proposed greenhouse gas  
35 emissions reduction subelement unless it determines that the proposed  
36 greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement is not consistent with  
37 the policy of RCW 36.70A.070 and, after they are adopted, the  
38 applicable guidelines.

39 (6) The department's final decision to approve or reject a  
40 proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement or amendment

1 by a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may be appealed  
2 according to the following provisions:

3 (a) The department's final decision to approve or reject a  
4 proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement or amendment  
5 by a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 may be appealed  
6 to the growth management hearings board by filing a petition as  
7 provided in RCW 36.70A.290.

8 (b) A decision of the growth management hearings board concerning  
9 an appeal of the department's final decision to approve or reject a  
10 proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement or amendment  
11 must be based solely on whether or not the adopted or amended  
12 greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement, any adopted amendments  
13 to other elements of the comprehensive plan necessary to carry out  
14 the subelement, and any adopted or amended development regulations  
15 necessary to implement the subelement, comply with the goal set forth  
16 in RCW 36.70A.020(14) as it applies to greenhouse gas emissions  
17 reductions, RCW 36.70A.070(9) excluding RCW 36.70A.070(9)(e), the  
18 guidelines adopted under section 5 of this act applicable to the  
19 greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement, or chapter 43.21C RCW.

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

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

24 (a) That, except as provided otherwise by this subsection, a  
25 state agency, county, or city planning under this chapter is not in  
26 compliance with the requirements of this chapter, chapter 90.58 RCW  
27 as it relates to the adoption of shoreline master programs or  
28 amendments thereto, or chapter 43.21C RCW as it relates to plans,  
29 development regulations, or amendments, adopted under RCW 36.70A.040  
30 or chapter 90.58 RCW. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the board  
31 to hear petitions alleging noncompliance with RCW 36.70A.5801;

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

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

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

4 (e) That a department certification under RCW 36.70A.735(1)(c) is  
5 erroneous; or

6 (f) That the department's final decision to approve or reject a  
7 proposed greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement or amendments  
8 by a local government planning under RCW 36.70A.040 was not in  
9 compliance with the joint guidance issued by the department pursuant  
10 to section 5 of this act.

11 (2) A petition may be filed only by: (a) The state, or a county  
12 or city that plans under this chapter; (b) a person who has  
13 participated orally or in writing before the county or city regarding  
14 the matter on which a review is being requested; (c) a person who is  
15 certified by the governor within (~~sixty~~) 60 days of filing the  
16 request with the board; or (d) a person qualified pursuant to RCW  
17 34.05.530.

18 (3) For purposes of this section "person" means any individual,  
19 partnership, corporation, association, state agency, governmental  
20 subdivision or unit thereof, or public or private organization or  
21 entity of any character.

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

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

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

33 If adjusted by the board, a county growth management planning  
34 population projection shall only be used for the planning purposes  
35 set forth in this chapter and shall be known as the "board adjusted  
36 population projection." None of these changes shall affect the  
37 official state and county population forecasts prepared by the office  
38 of financial management, which shall continue to be used for state  
39 budget and planning purposes.

1       **Sec. 8.** RCW 36.70A.320 and 1997 c 429 s 20 are each amended to  
2 read as follows:

3       (1) Except as provided in subsections (5) and (6) of this  
4 section, comprehensive plans and development regulations, and  
5 amendments thereto, adopted under this chapter are presumed valid  
6 upon adoption.

7       (2) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this  
8 section, the burden is on the petitioner to demonstrate that any  
9 action taken by a state agency, county, or city under this chapter is  
10 not in compliance with the requirements of this chapter.

11       (3) In any petition under this chapter, the board, after full  
12 consideration of the petition, shall determine whether there is  
13 compliance with the requirements of this chapter. In making its  
14 determination, the board shall consider the criteria adopted by the  
15 department under RCW 36.70A.190(4). The board shall find compliance  
16 unless it determines that the action by the state agency, county, or  
17 city is clearly erroneous in view of the entire record before the  
18 board and in light of the goals and requirements of this chapter.

19       (4) A county or city subject to a determination of invalidity  
20 made under RCW 36.70A.300 or 36.70A.302 has the burden of  
21 demonstrating that the ordinance or resolution it has enacted in  
22 response to the determination of invalidity will no longer  
23 substantially interfere with the fulfillment of the goals of this  
24 chapter under the standard in RCW 36.70A.302(1).

25       (5) The shoreline element of a comprehensive plan and the  
26 applicable development regulations adopted by a county or city shall  
27 take effect as provided in chapter 90.58 RCW.

28       (6) The greenhouse gas emissions reduction subelement required by  
29 RCW 36.70A.070 shall take effect as provided in section 6 of this  
30 act.

31       **Sec. 9.** RCW 36.70A.190 and 2022 c 252 s 5 are each amended to  
32 read as follows:

33       (1) The department shall establish a program of technical and  
34 financial assistance and incentives to counties and cities to  
35 encourage and facilitate the adoption and implementation of  
36 comprehensive plans and development regulations throughout the state.

37       (2) The department shall develop a priority list and establish  
38 funding levels for planning and technical assistance grants both for  
39 counties and cities that plan under RCW 36.70A.040. Priority for

1 assistance shall be based on a county's or city's population growth  
2 rates, commercial and industrial development rates, the existence and  
3 quality of a comprehensive plan and development regulations, the  
4 presence of overburdened communities, and other relevant factors. The  
5 department shall establish funding levels for grants to community-  
6 based organizations for the specific purpose of advancing  
7 participation of vulnerable populations and overburdened communities  
8 in the planning process.

9 (3) The department shall develop and administer a grant program  
10 to provide direct financial assistance to counties and cities for the  
11 preparation of comprehensive plans under this chapter. The department  
12 may establish provisions for county and city matching funds to  
13 conduct activities under this subsection. Grants may be expended for  
14 any purpose directly related to the preparation of a county or city  
15 comprehensive plan as the county or city and the department may  
16 agree, including, without limitation, the conducting of surveys,  
17 inventories and other data gathering and management activities, the  
18 retention of planning consultants, contracts with regional councils  
19 for planning and related services, and other related purposes.

20 (4) The department shall establish a program of technical  
21 assistance:

22 (a) Utilizing department staff, the staff of other state  
23 agencies, and the technical resources of counties and cities to help  
24 in the development of comprehensive plans required under this  
25 chapter. The technical assistance may include, but not be limited to,  
26 model land use ordinances, regional education and training programs,  
27 and information for local and regional inventories; and

28 (b) Adopting by rule procedural criteria to assist counties and  
29 cities in adopting comprehensive plans and development regulations  
30 that meet the goals and requirements of this chapter. These criteria  
31 shall reflect regional and local variations and the diversity that  
32 exists among different counties and cities that plan under this  
33 chapter.

34 (5) The department shall provide mediation services to resolve  
35 disputes between counties and cities regarding, among other things,  
36 coordination of regional issues and designation of urban growth  
37 areas.

38 (6) The department shall provide services to facilitate the  
39 timely resolution of disputes between a federally recognized Indian  
40 tribe and a city or county.

1 (a) A federally recognized Indian tribe may request the  
2 department to provide facilitation services to resolve issues of  
3 concern with a proposed comprehensive plan and its development  
4 regulations, or any amendment to the comprehensive plan and its  
5 development regulations.

6 (b) Upon receipt of a request from a tribe, the department shall  
7 notify the city or county of the request and offer to assist in  
8 providing facilitation services to encourage resolution before  
9 adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan. Upon receipt of the  
10 notice from the department, the city or county must delay any final  
11 action to adopt any comprehensive plan or any amendment or its  
12 development regulations for at least 60 days. The tribe and the city  
13 or county may jointly agree to extend this period by notifying the  
14 department. A county or city must not be penalized for noncompliance  
15 under this chapter due to any delays associated with this process.

16 (c) Upon receipt of a request, the department shall provide  
17 comments to the county or city including a summary and supporting  
18 materials regarding the tribe's concerns. The county or city may  
19 either agree to amend the comprehensive plan as requested consistent  
20 with the comments from the department, or enter into a facilitated  
21 process with the tribe, which must be arranged by the department  
22 using a suitable expert to be paid by the department. This  
23 facilitated process may also extend the 60-day delay of adoption,  
24 upon agreement of the tribe and the city or county.

25 (d) At the end of the 60-day period, unless by agreement there is  
26 an extension of the 60-day period, the city or county may proceed  
27 with adoption of the proposed comprehensive plan and development  
28 regulations. The facilitator shall write a report of findings  
29 describing the basis for agreements or disagreements that occurred  
30 during the process that are allowed to be disclosed by the parties  
31 and the resulting agreed-upon elements of the plan to be amended.

32 (7) The department shall provide planning grants to enhance  
33 citizen participation under RCW 36.70A.140.

34 (8) The department shall develop, in collaboration with the  
35 department of ecology, the department of fish and wildlife, the  
36 department of natural resources, the department of health, the  
37 emergency management division of the military department, as well as  
38 any federally recognized tribe who chooses to voluntarily  
39 participate, and adopt by rule guidance that creates a model climate  
40 change and resiliency element that may be used by counties, cities,

1 and multiple-county planning regions for developing and implementing  
2 climate change and resiliency plans and policies required by RCW  
3 36.70A.070(9), subject to the following provisions:

4 (a) The model element must establish minimum requirements, and  
5 may include model options or voluntary cross-jurisdictional  
6 strategies, or both, for fulfilling the requirements of RCW  
7 36.70A.070(9);

8 (b) The model element should provide guidance on identifying,  
9 designing, and investing in infrastructure that supports community  
10 resilience to climate impacts, including the protection, restoration,  
11 and enhancement of natural infrastructure as well as traditional  
12 infrastructure and protecting and enhancing natural areas to foster  
13 resiliency to climate impacts, as well as areas of vital habitat for  
14 safe passage and species migration;

15 (c) The model element should provide guidance on identifying and  
16 addressing natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change,  
17 including sea level rise, landslides, flooding, drought, heat, smoke,  
18 wildfires, and other effects of reasonably anticipated changes to  
19 temperature and precipitation patterns; and

20 (d) The rule must recognize and promote as many cobenefits of  
21 climate resilience as possible such as climate change mitigation,  
22 salmon recovery, forest health, ecosystem services, and socioeconomic  
23 health and resilience.

24 NEW SECTION. Sec. 10. A new section is added to chapter 47.80  
25 RCW to read as follows:

26 The department shall compile, maintain, and publish a summary of  
27 the per capita vehicle miles traveled annually in each city in the  
28 state, and in the unincorporated portions of each county in the  
29 state.

30 NEW SECTION. Sec. 11. A new section is added to chapter 90.58  
31 RCW to read as follows:

32 The department shall update its shoreline master program  
33 guidelines to require shoreline master programs to address the impact  
34 of sea level rise and increased storm severity on people, property,  
35 and shoreline natural resources and the environment.

36 **Sec. 12.** RCW 86.12.200 and 1991 c 322 s 3 are each amended to  
37 read as follows:

1 The county legislative authority of any county may adopt a  
2 comprehensive flood control management plan for any drainage basin  
3 that is located wholly or partially within the county.

4 A comprehensive flood control management plan shall include the  
5 following elements:

6 (1) Designation of areas that are susceptible to periodic  
7 flooding, from inundation by bodies of water or surface water runoff,  
8 or both, including the river's meander belt or floodway;

9 (2) Establishment of a comprehensive scheme of flood control  
10 protection and improvements for the areas that are subject to such  
11 periodic flooding, that includes: (a) Determining the need for, and  
12 desirable location of, flood control improvements to protect or  
13 preclude flood damage to structures, works, and improvements, based  
14 upon a cost/benefit ratio between the expense of providing and  
15 maintaining these improvements and the benefits arising from these  
16 improvements; (b) establishing the level of flood protection that  
17 each portion of the system of flood control improvements will be  
18 permitted; (c) identifying alternatives to in-stream flood control  
19 work; (d) identifying areas where flood waters could be directed  
20 during a flood to avoid damage to buildings and other structures; and  
21 (e) identifying sources of revenue that will be sufficient to finance  
22 the comprehensive scheme of flood control protection and  
23 improvements;

24 (3) Establishing land use regulations that preclude the location  
25 of structures, works, or improvements in critical portions of such  
26 areas subject to periodic flooding, including a river's meander belt  
27 or floodway, and permitting only flood-compatible land uses in such  
28 areas;

29 (4) Establishing restrictions on construction activities in areas  
30 subject to periodic floods that require the flood proofing of those  
31 structures that are permitted to be constructed or remodeled; ~~((and))~~

32 (5) Establishing restrictions on land clearing activities and  
33 development practices that exacerbate flood problems by increasing  
34 the flow or accumulation of flood waters, or the intensity of  
35 drainage, on low-lying areas. Land clearing activities do not include  
36 forest practices as defined in chapter 76.09 RCW; and

37 (6) Consideration of climate change impacts, including the impact  
38 of sea level rise and increased storm severity on people, property,  
39 natural resources, and the environment.



1 A comprehensive flood control management plan shall be subject to  
2 the minimum requirements for participation in the national flood  
3 insurance program, requirements exceeding the minimum national flood  
4 insurance program that have been adopted by the department of ecology  
5 for a specific floodplain pursuant to RCW 86.16.031, and rules  
6 adopted by the department of ecology pursuant to RCW 86.26.050  
7 relating to floodplain management activities. When a county plans  
8 under chapter 36.70A RCW, it may incorporate the portion of its  
9 comprehensive flood control management plan relating to land use  
10 restrictions in its comprehensive plan and development regulations  
11 adopted pursuant to chapter 36.70A RCW.

12 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 13.** A new section is added to chapter 43.21C  
13 RCW to read as follows:

14 The adoption of ordinances, amendments to comprehensive plans,  
15 amendments to development regulations, and other nonproject actions  
16 taken by a county or city pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070(9) (d) or (e) in  
17 order to implement measures specified by the department of commerce  
18 pursuant to section 5 of this act are not subject to administrative  
19 or judicial appeals under this chapter.

20 **Sec. 14.** RCW 36.70A.030 and 2021 c 254 s 6 are each amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, the definitions in  
23 this section apply throughout this chapter.

24 (1) "Adopt a comprehensive land use plan" means to enact a new  
25 comprehensive land use plan or to update an existing comprehensive  
26 land use plan.

27 (2) "Affordable housing" means, unless the context clearly  
28 indicates otherwise, residential housing whose monthly costs,  
29 including utilities other than telephone, do not exceed thirty  
30 percent of the monthly income of a household whose income is:

31 (a) For rental housing, (~~sixty~~) 60 percent of the median  
32 household income adjusted for household size, for the county where  
33 the household is located, as reported by the United States department  
34 of housing and urban development; or

35 (b) For owner-occupied housing, (~~eighty~~) 80 percent of the  
36 median household income adjusted for household size, for the county  
37 where the household is located, as reported by the United States  
38 department of housing and urban development.

1 (3) "Agricultural land" means land primarily devoted to the  
2 commercial production of horticultural, viticultural, floricultural,  
3 dairy, apiary, vegetable, or animal products or of berries, grain,  
4 hay, straw, turf, seed, Christmas trees not subject to the excise tax  
5 imposed by RCW 84.33.100 through 84.33.140, finfish in upland  
6 hatcheries, or livestock, and that has long-term commercial  
7 significance for agricultural production.

8 (4) "City" means any city or town, including a code city.

9 (5) "Comprehensive land use plan," "comprehensive plan," or  
10 "plan" means a generalized coordinated land use policy statement of  
11 the governing body of a county or city that is adopted pursuant to  
12 this chapter.

13 (6) "Critical areas" include the following areas and ecosystems:  
14 (a) Wetlands; (b) areas with a critical recharging effect on aquifers  
15 used for potable water; (c) fish and wildlife habitat conservation  
16 areas; (d) frequently flooded areas; and (e) geologically hazardous  
17 areas. "Fish and wildlife habitat conservation areas" does not  
18 include such artificial features or constructs as irrigation delivery  
19 systems, irrigation infrastructure, irrigation canals, or drainage  
20 ditches that lie within the boundaries of and are maintained by a  
21 port district or an irrigation district or company.

22 (7) "Department" means the department of commerce.

23 (8) "Development regulations" or "regulation" means the controls  
24 placed on development or land use activities by a county or city,  
25 including, but not limited to, zoning ordinances, critical areas  
26 ordinances, shoreline master programs, official controls, planned  
27 unit development ordinances, subdivision ordinances, and binding site  
28 plan ordinances together with any amendments thereto. A development  
29 regulation does not include a decision to approve a project permit  
30 application, as defined in RCW 36.70B.020, even though the decision  
31 may be expressed in a resolution or ordinance of the legislative body  
32 of the county or city.

33 (9) "Emergency housing" means temporary indoor accommodations for  
34 individuals or families who are homeless or at imminent risk of  
35 becoming homeless that is intended to address the basic health, food,  
36 clothing, and personal hygiene needs of individuals or families.  
37 Emergency housing may or may not require occupants to enter into a  
38 lease or an occupancy agreement.

39 (10) "Emergency shelter" means a facility that provides a  
40 temporary shelter for individuals or families who are currently

1 homeless. Emergency shelter may not require occupants to enter into a  
2 lease or an occupancy agreement. Emergency shelter facilities may  
3 include day and warming centers that do not provide overnight  
4 accommodations.

5 (11) "Extremely low-income household" means a single person,  
6 family, or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is  
7 at or below thirty percent of the median household income adjusted  
8 for household size, for the county where the household is located, as  
9 reported by the United States department of housing and urban  
10 development.

11 (12) "Forestland" means land primarily devoted to growing trees  
12 for long-term commercial timber production on land that can be  
13 economically and practically managed for such production, including  
14 Christmas trees subject to the excise tax imposed under RCW 84.33.100  
15 through 84.33.140, and that has long-term commercial significance. In  
16 determining whether forestland is primarily devoted to growing trees  
17 for long-term commercial timber production on land that can be  
18 economically and practically managed for such production, the  
19 following factors shall be considered: (a) The proximity of the land  
20 to urban, suburban, and rural settlements; (b) surrounding parcel  
21 size and the compatibility and intensity of adjacent and nearby land  
22 uses; (c) long-term local economic conditions that affect the ability  
23 to manage for timber production; and (d) the availability of public  
24 facilities and services conducive to conversion of forestland to  
25 other uses.

26 (13) "Freight rail dependent uses" means buildings and other  
27 infrastructure that are used in the fabrication, processing, storage,  
28 and transport of goods where the use is dependent on and makes use of  
29 an adjacent short line railroad. Such facilities are both urban and  
30 rural development for purposes of this chapter. "Freight rail  
31 dependent uses" does not include buildings and other infrastructure  
32 that are used in the fabrication, processing, storage, and transport  
33 of coal, liquefied natural gas, or "crude oil" as defined in RCW  
34 90.56.010.

35 (14) "Geologically hazardous areas" means areas that because of  
36 their susceptibility to erosion, sliding, earthquake, or other  
37 geological events, are not suited to the siting of commercial,  
38 residential, or industrial development consistent with public health  
39 or safety concerns.

1 (15) "Long-term commercial significance" includes the growing  
2 capacity, productivity, and soil composition of the land for long-  
3 term commercial production, in consideration with the land's  
4 proximity to population areas, and the possibility of more intense  
5 uses of the land.

6 (16) "Low-income household" means a single person, family, or  
7 unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or  
8 below eighty percent of the median household income adjusted for  
9 household size, for the county where the household is located, as  
10 reported by the United States department of housing and urban  
11 development.

12 (17) "Minerals" include gravel, sand, and valuable metallic  
13 substances.

14 (18) "Moderate-income household" means a single person, family,  
15 or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or  
16 below 120 percent of the median household income adjusted for  
17 household size, for the county where the household is located, as  
18 reported by the United States department of housing and urban  
19 development.

20 (19) "Permanent supportive housing" is subsidized, leased housing  
21 with no limit on length of stay that prioritizes people who need  
22 comprehensive support services to retain tenancy and utilizes  
23 admissions practices designed to use lower barriers to entry than  
24 would be typical for other subsidized or unsubsidized rental housing,  
25 especially related to rental history, criminal history, and personal  
26 behaviors. Permanent supportive housing is paired with on-site or  
27 off-site voluntary services designed to support a person living with  
28 a complex and disabling behavioral health or physical health  
29 condition who was experiencing homelessness or was at imminent risk  
30 of homelessness prior to moving into housing to retain their housing  
31 and be a successful tenant in a housing arrangement, improve the  
32 resident's health status, and connect the resident of the housing  
33 with community-based health care, treatment, or employment services.  
34 Permanent supportive housing is subject to all of the rights and  
35 responsibilities defined in chapter 59.18 RCW.

36 (20) "Public facilities" include streets, roads, highways,  
37 sidewalks, street and road lighting systems, traffic signals,  
38 domestic water systems, storm and sanitary sewer systems, parks and  
39 recreational facilities, and schools.

1 (21) "Public services" include fire protection and suppression,  
2 law enforcement, public health, education, recreation, environmental  
3 protection, and other governmental services.

4 (22) "Recreational land" means land so designated under RCW  
5 36.70A.1701 and that, immediately prior to this designation, was  
6 designated as agricultural land of long-term commercial significance  
7 under RCW 36.70A.170. Recreational land must have playing fields and  
8 supporting facilities existing before July 1, 2004, for sports played  
9 on grass playing fields.

10 (23) "Rural character" refers to the patterns of land use and  
11 development established by a county in the rural element of its  
12 comprehensive plan:

13 (a) In which open space, the natural landscape, and vegetation  
14 predominate over the built environment;

15 (b) That foster traditional rural lifestyles, rural-based  
16 economies, and opportunities to both live and work in rural areas;

17 (c) That provide visual landscapes that are traditionally found  
18 in rural areas and communities;

19 (d) That are compatible with the use of the land by wildlife and  
20 for fish and wildlife habitat;

21 (e) That reduce the inappropriate conversion of undeveloped land  
22 into sprawling, low-density development;

23 (f) That generally do not require the extension of urban  
24 governmental services; and

25 (g) That are consistent with the protection of natural surface  
26 water flows and groundwater and surface water recharge and discharge  
27 areas.

28 (24) "Rural development" refers to development outside the urban  
29 growth area and outside agricultural, forest, and mineral resource  
30 lands designated pursuant to RCW 36.70A.170. Rural development can  
31 consist of a variety of uses and residential densities, including  
32 clustered residential development, at levels that are consistent with  
33 the preservation of rural character and the requirements of the rural  
34 element. Rural development does not refer to agriculture or forestry  
35 activities that may be conducted in rural areas.

36 (25) "Rural governmental services" or "rural services" include  
37 those public services and public facilities historically and  
38 typically delivered at an intensity usually found in rural areas, and  
39 may include domestic water systems, fire and police protection  
40 services, transportation and public transit services, and other

1 public utilities associated with rural development and normally not  
2 associated with urban areas. Rural services do not include storm or  
3 sanitary sewers, except as otherwise authorized by RCW 36.70A.110(4).

4 (26) "Short line railroad" means those railroad lines designated  
5 class II or class III by the United States surface transportation  
6 board.

7 (27) "Urban governmental services" or "urban services" include  
8 those public services and public facilities at an intensity  
9 historically and typically provided in cities, specifically including  
10 storm and sanitary sewer systems, domestic water systems, street  
11 cleaning services, fire and police protection services, public  
12 transit services, and other public utilities associated with urban  
13 areas and normally not associated with rural areas.

14 (28) "Urban growth" refers to growth that makes intensive use of  
15 land for the location of buildings, structures, and impermeable  
16 surfaces to such a degree as to be incompatible with the primary use  
17 of land for the production of food, other agricultural products, or  
18 fiber, or the extraction of mineral resources, rural uses, rural  
19 development, and natural resource lands designated pursuant to RCW  
20 36.70A.170. A pattern of more intensive rural development, as  
21 provided in RCW 36.70A.070(5)(d), is not urban growth. When allowed  
22 to spread over wide areas, urban growth typically requires urban  
23 governmental services. "Characterized by urban growth" refers to land  
24 having urban growth located on it, or to land located in relationship  
25 to an area with urban growth on it as to be appropriate for urban  
26 growth.

27 (29) "Urban growth areas" means those areas designated by a  
28 county pursuant to RCW 36.70A.110.

29 (30) "Very low-income household" means a single person, family,  
30 or unrelated persons living together whose adjusted income is at or  
31 below fifty percent of the median household income adjusted for  
32 household size, for the county where the household is located, as  
33 reported by the United States department of housing and urban  
34 development.

35 (31) "Wetland" or "wetlands" means areas that are inundated or  
36 saturated by surface water or groundwater at a frequency and duration  
37 sufficient to support, and that under normal circumstances do  
38 support, a prevalence of vegetation typically adapted for life in  
39 saturated soil conditions. Wetlands generally include swamps,  
40 marshes, bogs, and similar areas. Wetlands do not include those

1 artificial wetlands intentionally created from nonwetland sites,  
2 including, but not limited to, irrigation and drainage ditches,  
3 grass-lined swales, canals, detention facilities, wastewater  
4 treatment facilities, farm ponds, and landscape amenities, or those  
5 wetlands created after July 1, 1990, that were unintentionally  
6 created as a result of the construction of a road, street, or  
7 highway. Wetlands may include those artificial wetlands intentionally  
8 created from nonwetland areas created to mitigate conversion of  
9 wetlands.

10 (32) "Per capita vehicle miles traveled" means the number of  
11 miles traveled using cars and light trucks in a calendar year divided  
12 by the number of residents in Washington. The calculation of this  
13 value excludes vehicle miles driven conveying freight.

14 (33) "Active transportation" means forms of pedestrian mobility  
15 including walking or running, the use of a mobility assistive device  
16 such as a wheelchair, bicycling and cycling irrespective of the  
17 number of wheels, and the use of small personal devices such as foot  
18 scooters or skateboards. Active transportation includes both  
19 traditional and electric assist bicycles and other devices. Planning  
20 for active transportation must consider and address accommodation  
21 pursuant to the Americans with disabilities act and the distinct  
22 needs of each form of active transportation.

23 (34) "Transportation system" means all infrastructure and  
24 services for all forms of transportation within a geographical area,  
25 irrespective of the responsible jurisdiction or transportation  
26 provider.

27 (35) "Environmental justice" means the fair treatment and  
28 meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color,  
29 national origin, or income with respect to development,  
30 implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations,  
31 and policies. Environmental justice includes addressing  
32 disproportionate environmental and health impacts in all laws, rules,  
33 and policies with environmental impacts by prioritizing vulnerable  
34 populations and overburdened communities, the equitable distribution  
35 of resources and benefits, and good-faith efforts to eliminate harm.

36 (36) "Active transportation facilities" means facilities provided  
37 for the safety and mobility of active transportation users including,  
38 but not limited to, trails, as defined in RCW 47.30.005, sidewalks,  
39 bike lanes, shared-use paths, and other facilities in the public  
40 right-of-way.

1 (37) "Green space" means an area of land, vegetated by natural  
2 features such as grass, trees, or shrubs, within an urban context and  
3 less than one acre in size that creates public value through one or  
4 more of the following attributes:

5 (a) Is accessible to the public;

6 (b) Promotes physical and mental health of residents;

7 (c) Provides relief from the urban heat island effects;

8 (d) Promotes recreational and aesthetic values;

9 (e) Protects streams or water supply; or

10 (f) Preserves visual quality along highway, road, or street  
11 corridors.

12 (38) "Green infrastructure" means a wide array of natural assets,  
13 built structures, and management practices at multiple scales that  
14 manage wet weather and that maintain and restore natural hydrology by  
15 storing, infiltrating, evapotranspiring, and harvesting and using  
16 stormwater.

17 (39) "Wildland urban interface" means the geographical area where  
18 structures and other human development meets or intermingles with  
19 wildland vegetative fuels.

20 **Sec. 15.** RCW 36.70A.130 and 2022 c 287 s 1 and 2022 c 192 s 1  
21 are each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

22 (1)(a) Each comprehensive land use plan and development  
23 regulations shall be subject to continuing review and evaluation by  
24 the county or city that adopted them. Except as otherwise provided, a  
25 county or city shall take legislative action to review and, if  
26 needed, revise its comprehensive land use plan and development  
27 regulations to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the  
28 requirements of this chapter according to the deadlines in  
29 subsections (4) and (5) of this section.

30 (b) Except as otherwise provided, a county or city not planning  
31 under RCW 36.70A.040 shall take action to review and, if needed,  
32 revise its policies and development regulations regarding critical  
33 areas and natural resource lands adopted according to this chapter to  
34 ensure these policies and regulations comply with the requirements of  
35 this chapter according to the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of  
36 this section. Legislative action means the adoption of a resolution  
37 or ordinance following notice and a public hearing indicating at a  
38 minimum, a finding that a review and evaluation has occurred and



1 identifying the revisions made, or that a revision was not needed and  
2 the reasons therefor.

3 (c) The review and evaluation required by this subsection shall  
4 include, but is not limited to, consideration of critical area  
5 ordinances and, if planning under RCW 36.70A.040, an analysis of the  
6 population allocated to a city or county from the most recent (~~ten~~)  
7 10-year population forecast by the office of financial management.

8 (d) Any amendment of or revision to a comprehensive land use plan  
9 shall conform to this chapter. Any amendment of or revision to  
10 development regulations shall be consistent with and implement the  
11 comprehensive plan.

12 (2)(a) Each county and city shall establish and broadly  
13 disseminate to the public a public participation program consistent  
14 with RCW 36.70A.035 and 36.70A.140 that identifies procedures and  
15 schedules whereby updates, proposed amendments, or revisions of the  
16 comprehensive plan are considered by the governing body of the county  
17 or city no more frequently than once every year. "Updates" means to  
18 review and revise, if needed, according to subsection (1) of this  
19 section, and the deadlines in subsections (4) and (5) of this section  
20 or in accordance with the provisions of subsection (6) of this  
21 section. Amendments may be considered more frequently than once per  
22 year under the following circumstances:

23 (i) The initial adoption of a subarea plan. Subarea plans adopted  
24 under this subsection (2)(a)(i) must clarify, supplement, or  
25 implement jurisdiction-wide comprehensive plan policies, and may only  
26 be adopted if the cumulative impacts of the proposed plan are  
27 addressed by appropriate environmental review under chapter 43.21C  
28 RCW;

29 (ii) The development of an initial subarea plan for economic  
30 development located outside of the one hundred year floodplain in a  
31 county that has completed a state-funded pilot project that is based  
32 on watershed characterization and local habitat assessment;

33 (iii) The adoption or amendment of a shoreline master program  
34 under the procedures set forth in chapter 90.58 RCW;

35 (iv) The amendment of the capital facilities element of a  
36 comprehensive plan that occurs concurrently with the adoption or  
37 amendment of a county or city budget; or

38 (v) The adoption of comprehensive plan amendments necessary to  
39 enact a planned action under RCW 43.21C.440, provided that amendments  
40 are considered in accordance with the public participation program

1 established by the county or city under this subsection (2)(a) and  
2 all persons who have requested notice of a comprehensive plan update  
3 are given notice of the amendments and an opportunity to comment.

4 (b) Except as otherwise provided in (a) of this subsection, all  
5 proposals shall be considered by the governing body concurrently so  
6 the cumulative effect of the various proposals can be ascertained.  
7 However, after appropriate public participation a county or city may  
8 adopt amendments or revisions to its comprehensive plan that conform  
9 with this chapter whenever an emergency exists or to resolve an  
10 appeal of a comprehensive plan filed with the growth management  
11 hearings board or with the court.

12 (3)(a) Each county that designates urban growth areas under RCW  
13 36.70A.110 shall review, according to the schedules established in  
14 subsections (4) and (5) of this section, its designated urban growth  
15 area or areas, patterns of development occurring within the urban  
16 growth area or areas, and the densities permitted within both the  
17 incorporated and unincorporated portions of each urban growth area.  
18 In conjunction with this review by the county, each city located  
19 within an urban growth area shall review the densities permitted  
20 within its boundaries, and the extent to which the urban growth  
21 occurring within the county has located within each city and the  
22 unincorporated portions of the urban growth areas.

23 (b) The county comprehensive plan designating urban growth areas,  
24 and the densities permitted in the urban growth areas by the  
25 comprehensive plans of the county and each city located within the  
26 urban growth areas, shall be revised to accommodate the urban growth  
27 projected to occur in the county for the succeeding (~~twenty~~) 20-  
28 year period. The review required by this subsection may be combined  
29 with the review and evaluation required by RCW 36.70A.215.

30 (c) If, during the county's review under (a) of this subsection,  
31 the county determines revision of the urban growth area is not  
32 required to accommodate the urban growth projected to occur in the  
33 county for the succeeding 20-year period, but does determine that  
34 patterns of development have created pressure in areas that exceed  
35 available, developable lands within the urban growth area, the urban  
36 growth area or areas may be revised to accommodate identified  
37 patterns of development and likely future development pressure for  
38 the succeeding 20-year period if the following requirements are met:

39 (i) The revised urban growth area may not result in an increase  
40 in the total surface areas of the urban growth area or areas;

1 (ii) The areas added to the urban growth area are not or have not  
2 been designated as agricultural, forest, or mineral resource lands of  
3 long-term commercial significance;

4 (iii) Less than 15 percent of the areas added to the urban growth  
5 area are critical areas;

6 (iv) The areas added to the urban growth areas are suitable for  
7 urban growth;

8 (v) The transportation element and capital facility plan element  
9 have identified the transportation facilities, and public facilities  
10 and services needed to serve the urban growth area and the funding to  
11 provide the transportation facilities and public facilities and  
12 services;

13 (vi) The urban growth area is not larger than needed to  
14 accommodate the growth planned for the succeeding 20-year planning  
15 period and a reasonable land market supply factor;

16 (vii) The areas removed from the urban growth area do not include  
17 urban growth or urban densities; and

18 (viii) The revised urban growth area is contiguous, does not  
19 include holes or gaps, and will not increase pressures to urbanize  
20 rural or natural resource lands.

21 (4) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (6) and (8) of  
22 this section, counties and cities shall take action to review and, if  
23 needed, revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations  
24 to ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of  
25 this chapter as follows:

26 (a) On or before June 30, 2015, for King, Pierce, and Snohomish  
27 counties and the cities within those counties;

28 (b) On or before June 30, 2016, for Clallam, Clark, Island,  
29 Jefferson, Kitsap, Mason, San Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom  
30 counties and the cities within those counties;

31 (c) On or before June 30, 2017, for Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz,  
32 Douglas, Kittitas, Lewis, Skamania, Spokane, and Yakima counties and  
33 the cities within those counties; and

34 (d) On or before June 30, 2018, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia,  
35 Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln,  
36 Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and  
37 Whitman counties and the cities within those counties.

38 (5) Except as otherwise provided in subsections (6) and (8) of  
39 this section, following the review of comprehensive plans and  
40 development regulations required by subsection (4) of this section,

1 counties and cities shall take action to review and, if needed,  
2 revise their comprehensive plans and development regulations to  
3 ensure the plan and regulations comply with the requirements of this  
4 chapter as follows:

5 (a) On or before December 31, 2024, with the following review  
6 and, if needed, revision on or before June 30, 2034, and then every  
7 (~~ten~~) 10 years thereafter, for King, Kitsap, Pierce, and Snohomish  
8 counties and the cities within those counties;

9 (b) On or before June 30, 2025, and every (~~ten~~) 10 years  
10 thereafter, for Clallam, Clark, Island, Jefferson, Lewis, Mason, San  
11 Juan, Skagit, Thurston, and Whatcom counties and the cities within  
12 those counties;

13 (c) On or before June 30, 2026, and every (~~ten~~) 10 years  
14 thereafter, for Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Douglas, Franklin, Kittitas,  
15 Skamania, Spokane, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties and the cities  
16 within those counties; and

17 (d) On or before June 30, 2027, and every (~~ten~~) 10 years  
18 thereafter, for Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Garfield, Grant,  
19 Grays Harbor, Klickitat, Lincoln, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille,  
20 Stevens, Wahkiakum, and Whitman counties and the cities within those  
21 counties.

22 (6)(a) Nothing in this section precludes a county or city from  
23 conducting the review and evaluation required by this section before  
24 the deadlines established in subsections (4) and (5) of this section.  
25 Counties and cities may begin this process early and may be eligible  
26 for grants from the department, subject to available funding, if they  
27 elect to do so.

28 (b) A county that is subject to a deadline established in  
29 subsection (5)(b) through (d) of this section and meets the following  
30 criteria may comply with the requirements of this section at any time  
31 within the twenty-four months following the deadline established in  
32 subsection (5) of this section: The county has a population of less  
33 than fifty thousand and has had its population increase by no more  
34 than seventeen percent in the ten years preceding the deadline  
35 established in subsection (5) of this section as of that date.

36 (c) A city that is subject to a deadline established in  
37 subsection (5)(b) through (d) of this section and meets the following  
38 criteria may comply with the requirements of this section at any time  
39 within the twenty-four months following the deadline established in  
40 subsection (5) of this section: The city has a population of no more

1 than five thousand and has had its population increase by the greater  
2 of either no more than one hundred persons or no more than seventeen  
3 percent in the ten years preceding the deadline established in  
4 subsection (5) of this section as of that date.

5 (d) State agencies are encouraged to provide technical assistance  
6 to the counties and cities in the review of critical area ordinances,  
7 comprehensive plans, and development regulations.

8 (7) (a) The requirements imposed on counties and cities under this  
9 section shall be considered "requirements of this chapter" under the  
10 terms of RCW 36.70A.040(1). Only those counties and cities that meet  
11 the following criteria may receive grants, loans, pledges, or  
12 financial guarantees under chapter 43.155 or 70A.135 RCW:

13 (i) Complying with the deadlines in this section; or

14 (ii) Demonstrating substantial progress towards compliance with  
15 the schedules in this section for development regulations that  
16 protect critical areas.

17 (b) A county or city that is fewer than (~~twelve~~) 12 months out  
18 of compliance with the schedules in this section for development  
19 regulations that protect critical areas is making substantial  
20 progress towards compliance. Only those counties and cities in  
21 compliance with the schedules in this section may receive preference  
22 for grants or loans subject to the provisions of RCW 43.17.250.

23 (8) (a) Except as otherwise provided in (c) of this subsection, if  
24 a participating watershed is achieving benchmarks and goals for the  
25 protection of critical areas functions and values, the county is not  
26 required to update development regulations to protect critical areas  
27 as they specifically apply to agricultural activities in that  
28 watershed.

29 (b) A county that has made the election under RCW 36.70A.710(1)  
30 may only adopt or amend development regulations to protect critical  
31 areas as they specifically apply to agricultural activities in a  
32 participating watershed if:

33 (i) A work plan has been approved for that watershed in  
34 accordance with RCW 36.70A.725;

35 (ii) The local watershed group for that watershed has requested  
36 the county to adopt or amend development regulations as part of a  
37 work plan developed under RCW 36.70A.720;

38 (iii) The adoption or amendment of the development regulations is  
39 necessary to enable the county to respond to an order of the growth  
40 management hearings board or court;

1 (iv) The adoption or amendment of development regulations is  
2 necessary to address a threat to human health or safety; or

3 (v) Three or more years have elapsed since the receipt of  
4 funding.

5 (c) Beginning ~~((ten))~~ 10 years from the date of receipt of  
6 funding, a county that has made the election under RCW 36.70A.710(1)  
7 must review and, if necessary, revise development regulations to  
8 protect critical areas as they specifically apply to agricultural  
9 activities in a participating watershed in accordance with the review  
10 and revision requirements and timeline in subsection (5) of this  
11 section. This subsection (8)(c) does not apply to a participating  
12 watershed that has determined under RCW 36.70A.720(2)(c)(ii) that the  
13 watershed's goals and benchmarks for protection have been met.

14 (9)(a) Counties subject to planning deadlines established in  
15 subsection (5) of this section that are required or that choose to  
16 plan under RCW 36.70A.040 and that meet either criteria of (a)(i) or  
17 (ii) of this subsection, and cities with a population of more than  
18 6,000 as of April 1, 2021, within those counties, must provide to the  
19 department an implementation progress report detailing the progress  
20 they have achieved in implementing their comprehensive plan five  
21 years after the review and revision of their comprehensive plan. Once  
22 a county meets the criteria in (a)(i) or (ii) of this subsection, the  
23 implementation progress report requirements remain in effect  
24 thereafter for that county and the cities therein with populations  
25 greater than 6,000 as of April 1, 2021, even if the county later no  
26 longer meets either or both criteria. A county is subject to the  
27 implementation progress report requirement if it meets either of the  
28 following criteria on or after April 1, 2021:

29 (i) The county has a population density of at least 100 people  
30 per square mile and a population of at least 200,000; or

31 (ii) The county has a population density of at least 75 people  
32 per square mile and an annual growth rate of at least 1.75 percent as  
33 determined by the office of financial management.

34 (b) The department shall adopt guidelines for indicators,  
35 measures, milestones, and criteria for use by counties and cities in  
36 the implementation progress report that must cover:

37 (i) The implementation of previously adopted changes to the  
38 housing element and any effect those changes have had on housing  
39 affordability and availability within the jurisdiction;

40 (ii) Permit processing timelines; and

1 (iii) Progress toward implementing any actions required to  
2 achieve reductions to meet greenhouse gas and vehicle miles traveled  
3 requirements as provided for in any element of the comprehensive plan  
4 under RCW 36.70A.070.

5 (c) If a city or county required to provide an implementation  
6 progress report under this subsection (9) has not implemented any  
7 specifically identified regulations, zoning and land use changes, or  
8 taken other legislative or administrative action necessary to  
9 implement any changes in the most recent periodic update in their  
10 comprehensive plan by the due date for the implementation progress  
11 report, the city or county must identify the need for such action in  
12 the implementation progress report. Cities and counties must adopt a  
13 work plan to implement any necessary regulations, zoning and land use  
14 changes, or take other legislative or administrative action  
15 identified in the implementation progress report and complete all  
16 work necessary for implementation within two years of submission of  
17 the implementation progress report.

18 (10) Any county or city that is required by section 4 of this act  
19 to include in its comprehensive plan a climate change and resiliency  
20 element and that is also required by subsection (5)(a) of this  
21 section to review and, if necessary, revise its comprehensive plan on  
22 or before December 31, 2024, must incorporate a climate change and  
23 resiliency element into its comprehensive plan as part of the first  
24 implementation progress report required by subsection (9) of this  
25 section.

26 NEW SECTION. Sec. 16. A new section is added to chapter 36.70A  
27 RCW to read as follows:

28 (1) Notwithstanding the requirements of RCW 36.70A.070(10), it is  
29 the intent that jurisdictions subject to RCW 36.70A.130(5)(b)  
30 implement the requirements of this act on or before June 30, 2025.  
31 Any funding provided to cover applicable local government costs  
32 related to implementation of this act shall be considered timely.

33 (2) This section expires July 31, 2025.

34 NEW SECTION. Sec. 17. A new section is added to chapter 43.20  
35 RCW to read as follows:

36 (1)(a) Beginning with water system plans initiated after June 30,  
37 2025, the department shall ensure water system plans for group A

1 community public water systems serving 1,000 or more connections  
2 include a climate resilience element at the time of approval.

3 (b) The department must update its water system planning  
4 guidebook to assist water systems in implementing the climate  
5 resilience element, including guidance on any available technical and  
6 financial resources.

7 (c) The department shall provide technical assistance to public  
8 water systems based on their system size, location, and water source,  
9 by providing references to existing state or federal risk management,  
10 climate resiliency, or emergency management and response tools that  
11 may be used to satisfy the climate resilience element.

12 (d) Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
13 specific purpose, the University of Washington climate impacts group  
14 shall assist the department in the development of tools for the  
15 technical assistance to be provided in (c) of this subsection.

16 (2) To fulfill the requirements of the climate resilience  
17 element, water systems must:

18 (a) Determine which extreme weather events pose significant  
19 challenges to their system and build scenarios to identify potential  
20 impacts;

21 (b) Assess critical assets and the actions necessary to protect  
22 the system from the consequences of extreme weather events on system  
23 operations; and

24 (c) Generate reports describing the costs and benefits of the  
25 system's risk reduction strategies and capital project needs.

26 (3) Climate readiness projects, including planning to meet the  
27 requirements of this section and actions to protect a water system  
28 from extreme weather events, including infrastructure and design  
29 projects, are eligible for financial assistance under RCW  
30 70A.125.180. The department must develop grant and loan eligibility  
31 criteria and consider applications from water systems that identify  
32 climate readiness projects.

33 **Sec. 18.** RCW 70A.125.180 and 2020 c 20 s 1359 are each amended  
34 to read as follows:

35 Subject to the availability of amounts appropriated for this  
36 specific purpose, the department shall provide financial assistance  
37 through a water system acquisition and rehabilitation program, hereby  
38 created. (~~The program shall be jointly administered with the public  
39 works board and the department of commerce.~~) The ((agencies))



1 department shall adopt guidelines for the program using as a model  
2 the procedures and criteria of the drinking water revolving loan  
3 program authorized under RCW 70A.125.160. All financing provided  
4 through the program must be in the form of grants or loans that  
5 partially cover project costs, including projects and planning  
6 required under RCW 36.70A.480. The maximum grant or loan to any  
7 eligible entity may not exceed (~~twenty-five~~) 25 percent of the  
8 funds allocated to the appropriation in any fiscal year.

--- END ---