



Community Development Department

Emily Arteché, Director

38624 SE River St. | P.O. Box 987

Snoqualmie, Washington 98065

(425) 888-5337 | earteche@snoqualmiewa.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Planning Commission
From: Andrew Levins, Land Use Planning Consultant
Date: February 5, 2024
Subject: Transitional and Supportive Housing Code Updates

Changes to state law require cities to not prohibit permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, and indoor emergency shelters in certain zones.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the Washington State Legislature passed and the Governor signed HB 1220, amending RCW 35A.21.430 and RCW 35.21.683 requiring cities to plan for and accommodate housing affordable to all segments of the population as part of their Comprehensive Plans. HB 1220 also requires that:

- cities must not prohibit transitional housing or permanent supportive housing in any zones in which residential dwelling units or hotels are allowed, and
- cities must not prohibit indoor emergency shelters and indoor emergency housing in any zone in which hotels are allowed no later than September 30, 2021.

ANALYSIS:

The Snoqualmie Municipal Code (“SMC”) currently identifies “shelters for temporary placement” and “special needs housing” as uses that provide housing to persons on a temporary basis for a duration not to exceed four weeks. Compliance with HB 1220 requires the City of Snoqualmie to increase the types of supportive housing the SMC must address to include temporary shelters, emergency housing, transitional supportive housing, and permanent supportive housing. These additional required types of housing are defined in HB 1220 and will expand the opportunities to provide assistance to those within the City experiencing housing insecurity, consistent with State requirements.

The Commission has also addressed other components of HB 1220 during the rewrite to the Comprehensive Plan, Housing Element to “plan for and accommodate” housing affordable to all income levels. This Comprehensive Plan rewrite is part of a separate effort.

For further detailed information, see the Washington State Department of Commerce’s webpage: Updating GMA Housing Elements, here:

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/serving-communities/growth-management/growth-management-topics/planning-for-housing/updating-gma-housing-elements/>

Next Steps

Discussion only; staff will bring back draft changes to the SMC and an agenda bill at a future meeting, tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2024.