

Weekly Advocacy Update February 18th, 2026

HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

LD 2164 – An Act to Assist Communities with Converting Vacant School Buildings into Housing

Summary: The bill proposes to create a program at the newly developed State Redevelopment Land Bank for converting vacant school buildings into housing development. The bill would have a fiscal cost of \$5 million. The funds would be used to reduce the barriers for conversion rather than directly fund conversions.

Implications: The bill would accelerate the transition of municipal schools into housing projects and potentially increase supply of housing units.

LD 2173 An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Housing Developments and Accessory Dwelling Units

Summary: The bill would makes a number of technical modifications to LD 1829 that passed into last year and placed restrictions on municipalities limiting some housing projects through minimum lot sizes, height expansions for affordable housing projects, and prohibiting sprinkler requirements in ADUs. The bill makes some technical changes including the extension of municipal adoption

Implications: The bill would clarify some municipal housing restrictions and allow a grace period for municipalities to adopt the new definition of subdivision and allow more time for the compliance of the additional height for affordable housing development

LD 916: An Act to Promote Investment in Housing

Summary: The bill attempts to address “middle-income” housing defined as households with income at or below 120 percent of the area median income by supporting loans or grants to build new or renovated existing property.

Implications: The bill is pretty vague and to address this segment would require a massive amount of resources. It would be more constructive to look at regulatory changes that allow housing units to be constructed, serving this market segment at a lower cost.

Upcoming Work Sessions

Thur 2/19 11:30 AM @ Cross, Room 206