

Building the movement to ensure that everyone in Washington has the opportunity to live in a safe, healthy, affordable home.



House Bill 2437, Representative June Robinson \$500 million to create 14,000 new, affordable homes in Washington

On any given night, over 21,000 people struggle to survive without a home, and at last count, more than 39,000 students didn't have a stable place to sleep at night. **Washington needs affordable homes now**, but our communities don't have adequate resources to build homes for people living on fixed- and low-incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, and people struggling with chronic homelessness.

HB 2437 creates a significant capital resource to build new, affordable homes in communities across the state.

How it works: This bill allows counties or cities to redirect a portion of the state sales tax to local affordable housing needs. If fully implemented, the bill would create over \$500 million in bonding capacity to invest in new, affordable homes across the state.

By a vote of the local county or city council, this bill would authorize a jurisdiction to use up to .03 percent of the sales tax generated in their community for local affordable housing needs. **It is not an increase in sales tax for consumers and does not change the overall retail sales or use tax rate.** Instead, the amount of sales tax retained by the state is reduced.

The money must be used as follows, targeted to households earning less than 60 percent of area median income:

- Acquiring, rehabilitating, or constructing affordable homes, including new units of affordable housing within an existing structure or facilities providing supportive housing services
- Operations and maintenance costs of new units of affordable or supportive housing
- Rental assistance to tenants

All counties, minus King, have until 2020 to implement the tax before any city within that county gains the authority. King County has until 2021. All counties and cities have until July 1, 2023 to authorize the program and it expires 20 years after the date it was first imposed.