



STATE OF WASHINGTON
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON —

EXECUTIVE ORDER 25-02

**ASSESSING REGULATORY EFFICIENCY AND
ADDRESSING WASHINGTON'S AFFORDABLE HOUSING CRISIS**

WHEREAS, access to affordable, resilient, and habitable housing is fundamental to the security, health, well-being, and prosperity of all communities in Washington, including those in urban, suburban, and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Washington is experiencing a severe housing shortage, which increases housing costs and reduces housing affordability, is the primary cause of the homelessness crisis in Washington, hinders the state's economic prosperity, and prevents too many Washingtonians from maintaining housing stability, which is the foundation of every family's health, well-being, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, housing stock shortage and housing underproduction has resulted in insufficient affordable housing as well as increased costs for Washingtonians that affect both renters and homeowners, with many spending more than 30% of their paychecks on housing; and

WHEREAS, the rising costs of home ownership and rental units disproportionately impacts low-income households; and

WHEREAS, homelessness is a pressing issue affecting individuals and families across Washington, with over 200,000 Washingtonians currently experiencing homelessness or housing instability—a record high rate; and

WHEREAS, housing affordability is a major concern in our state, where the average worker must earn more than \$40 per hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment—meaning a worker earning our state's highest minimum wage (\$20.76 per hour in Seattle) would have to work nearly 80 hours a week to afford an apartment for their family; and

WHEREAS, addressing the housing shortage and building enough housing to meet current and future demand will improve housing affordability in Washington and decrease homelessness and the risk of homelessness in Washington; and

WHEREAS, my administration is committed to further developing, rehabilitating, and preserving housing to ensure the continued vibrancy and vitality of all communities in Washington; and

WHEREAS, improving governmental efficiency and centering the people of Washington in all aspects of their government is a priority for my administration, which recognizes that enhanced

efficiency in state regulatory systems and processes may promote housing growth and help to address the housing crisis in our state;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, by the power vested in me by the constitution and the statutes of the state of Washington, do hereby order and direct all executive and small cabinet agencies as follows:

1. Each agency shall review all its rules and regulations and prepare a written report for the Governor's Office that shall:
 - a. Identify any rules or regulations that may impact the construction of new housing (whether the rule or regulation expressly pertains to housing construction or not), and describe the impact;
 - b. Identify any such rules or regulations that are no longer necessary and can be rescinded, and explain why;
 - c. Identify any such rules or regulations that could be amended to streamline processes with the goal of speeding up housing construction, and describe each proposed amendment and its anticipated impact on housing construction; and
 - d. As to rules or regulations that may be rescinded or modified, identify any aspects of the rules or regulations that are intended to protect the environment or cultural or historic sites.
2. In conducting the review described above, each agency shall give due consideration to impacts on the environment; archaeological, cultural, and historic sites (including as directed in Executive Order 21-02); public health and safety; procurement laws; ethical requirements; and other applicable law. The agency shall describe any notable considerations in its report.
3. Additionally, the report shall identify and describe the potential for each agency's state-owned lands to support housing development or to support nearby housing developments.
4. The report shall identify and describe any additional strategies the agency could implement to facilitate housing production in Washington.
5. The report may be in the form of a chart, a spreadsheet, a narrative report, or a combination of the above, subject to the agency's judgment about the best way to present the required information.
6. The report shall be completed and provided to the Governor's Office no later than sixty (60) days from the effective date of this Executive Order.
7. All agencies shall make the review, planning, approval, and processing of permits related to housing a priority.

8. All agencies shall consider the goal of creating additional housing in any policy or programmatic decisions and, where appropriate, shall collaborate with other agencies to effectuate that goal.

This Executive Order shall be implemented consistent with applicable law. Provisions of this Order are not intended to alter any existing collective bargaining agreements. This Order is not intended to confer and does not confer any legal right or entitlement and shall not be used as a basis for legal challenges to any rule or any other action or inaction of the governmental entities and employees subject to it.

This Order shall take effect immediately.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington on this 15th day of January, AD, Two Thousand and Twenty-Five, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/

Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR:

/s/

Secretary of State