

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

February 12, 2007

Number 5

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

HB 1663 defines key components of the Early Learning component of Washington Learns, including creation of an Early Learning Advisory Council, implementation of a five-star quality rating system, and public-private partnerships. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Civil Rights

SHB 1351/SSB 5336, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, was voted out the Judiciary Committee and the Government Operations & Elections Committee. The substitute versions provide for standing for partners in wrongful death suits, and the listing of partners on death certificates. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Crime Guns

SB 5197, which regulates the sale of firearms at gun shows and events, had a hearing in the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee. Thanks to Chief Kerlikowske for testifying. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Environment

HB 1929, authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts, will have a hearing on February 13 in the Technology, Energy & Communications Committee. A substitute bill will be heard in committee. **Seattle supports the substitute bill.**

Infrastructure/Finance

SB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, will be heard in the House Finance Committee on February 14. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1277 and **SB 5115** are the Governor's request legislation amending the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) statute approved last year. The changes include increasing the competitive portion of LIFT to \$5 million, repealing the one-project-per-county restriction, and eliminating the assessed value per square foot requirement. Both bills are scheduled for Executive Session on February 12. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SB 5630, allowing local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, was heard in the Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee. The

companion bill, **HB 1430**, was referred to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1825 and **SB 5729**, which would direct \$50 million to core public health funding and implement accountability measures, were both heard on February 7 in the Health Care Committees. HB 1825 was amended and passed out of the House committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SB 5986 is the Sonics stadium bill and will be heard in the Ways & Means Committee on February 13. The revenue would be raised by extending current taxes being used by other stadiums in King County.

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

HB 1921 expands current homeless programs that serve families, to serve youth and other individuals. The bill was heard in the Housing Committee on February 7. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1922 creates an independent housing program for youth who are legally dependent at age 18, including those in foster care. Youth must fall below 50% of the state median income. Approximately 400 youth age out of foster care annually. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

HB 1858 and **SB 5767** would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. HB 1858 was heard in the Transportation Committee on February 5. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SB 5690 provides for the dissolution of a city transportation authority. This bill was heard on February 7 in the Judiciary Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

HB 1642 and **SB 5697**, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders had hearings in both Judiciary Committees. Thanks to Seattle Police Department's Detective Jennifer Samson for testifying in **support** of this measure.

Elections and General Government

HB 1551, allowing the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office, was heard on February 7 in the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee. Thanks for Wayne Barnett from Ethics & Elections for testifying in **support** of this bill.

Energy

SHB 1037, regarding electrical transmission and giving more authority to the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) in siting transmission projects, passed the House by a vote of 88 - 3. This bill now requires EFSEC to take local jurisdictions planning for such corridors into their deliberations.

Growth Management, Land Use & Annexation

HB 1477 and **SB 5558** would allow local government more zoning flexibility over gambling establishments and limit the number of establishments statewide. It would also require a city with a gambling prohibition that annexes an area with an existing facility to vote to impose the prohibition on the new area. The prohibition would be effective eighteen months after the vote. **HB 1477** will be heard in the Commerce & Labor Committee on February 16. **SB 5558** was heard in the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee on February 6.

Health Care

HB 1825 and **SB 5729** create a dedicated fund source for public health, helping to fill the void created by the repeal of the motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) resulting from I-695. The funds, which would be deposited into a dedicated account, are derived from a 23-cent tobacco tax. The bill was heard in both chambers this week. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Libraries

HB 2058 and **SB 5911**, relating to administering the Washington talking book and Braille library, were introduced. These bills would change the current agreement of how the library is operated, shifting the operations from the Seattle Public Library to the State Library under the Secretary of State's Office. We have been in discussions with the Secretary of State's Office but **oppose the bills** as they are currently written.

Public Safety

SB 5718, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, had a hearing in the Human Services & Corrections Committee. Thanks to Council President Licata and Seattle Police Department Detective Harvey Sloan for testifying in **support** of this bill.

HB 1811, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, was heard in the Local Government Committee. Thanks to Diane Hansen from Seattle Fire Department for testifying in **support** of this measure.

Telecommunications

HB 1983, promoting competition for video services was introduced and referred to the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee but has not been scheduled. This is one version of the much-anticipated statewide franchise measure. **Seattle will oppose this measure.**