

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

**March 26, 2007**

**Number 11**

The House budgets are all scheduled for floor action on March 26. The Senate Capital, Operating and Transportation budgets will be made public on March 27 with hearings and committee votes to follow. They will then work with the House and Governor to put together the final proposals for the 2007-2009 biennium.

## **SESSION PRIORITIES**

### **Education**

**E2SSB 5828** creates an Early Learning Advisory Council, requires an early learning plan, and a rating system to improve the quality of child care. The Senate version separates out home visiting, which is a key element of the House version. The bill passed out of the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on March 23. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Civil Rights**

**SSB 5336**, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee. The bill now goes to the Rules Committee to be made eligible to be voted on the House Floor. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**SHB 1472**, addressing disproportionality in the Child Welfare System, received a public hearing in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on March 16. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Discovery Park/Capital Budget**

The House Capital Budget includes the \$1 million re-appropriation for the Discovery Park CapeHart Housing acquisition. There is an additional \$500,000 for the project in the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP).

Also, included in the WWRP funding is \$200,000 for Ercolini Park development, \$300,000 for Longfellow Creek Greenspace expansion and \$500,000 for South Lake Union Park development. Magnuson Park Rugby Field, Magnuson Park Trail extension, Magnuson Park Wetlands restoration and Lake WA Boulevard Trail development are all alternates for funding in the WWRP.

### **Environment**

**SHB 1929**, authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts, passed out of the Senate Committee on Water, Energy & Telecommunications

Committee and the Rules Committee. Amendments were added that will allow cities and counties to engage in mitigation programs for water, sewer and solid waste. The bill is eligible for a floor vote. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**ESSB 6001**, mitigating the impacts of climate change, will be heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on March 27. This bill takes a number of actions regarding mitigating and reducing greenhouse gases. **Seattle supports this measure.**

**E2SHB 1303**, encouraging the use of cleaner energy, was heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee on March 21. This bill promotes a number of activities such as a vehicle electrification study and the retrofit of school buses. **Seattle supports this measure.**

### **Infrastructure/Finance**

**E2SHB 1825** was heard and passed out of the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee, and referred to the Ways & Means Committee. This bill has been amended to provide a dedicated account for funding public health. The real issue is the amount of funding that will be provided to the account. This will be an ongoing budget discussion item. The Governor proposed an increase of \$10 million for the biennium and the House has proposed an increase of \$20 million. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**HB 1430**, allowing jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, passed out of the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**SSB 5089**, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, was signed into law by the Governor on March 22. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness**

**E2SHB 1359**, which creates local planning for affordable housing, received a public hearing in the Senate Commerce and Housing Committee on March 21. The bill incorporates an \$8 document recording fee to support services at the county level. Two million dollars is included in the House budget for Senate consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**2SHB 1922** creates an independent youth housing program providing housing stipends to youth between ages 18-23, and those who were a “dependent” of the State one month prior to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and who don’t earn more than 50% of the area median income. The bill was heard in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on March 22. The House budget includes \$1 million in their budget for Senate consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

## **Transportation**

**SSB 5089**, relating to the Regional Transportation Commission, will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on March 27. The bill is going to be amended but the language is not yet available.

**SHB 1588**, which provides additional drivers education and is titled the “Matthew "Tatsuo" Nakata act”, was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 22. Thank you to Councilmember David Della for testifying **in support** of this legislation.

**SHB 1858** would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. This bill was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 21. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**SB 6099** suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. The bill will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on March 26.

## **POLICY ISSUES**

### **Domestic Violence Protections**

**SHB 1642**, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, was heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 21. This bill clarifies that a violation of an order does not have to be only physical contact. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

### **Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation**

**ESSB 5558**, regulating house-banked social card games, was heard in the House Commerce & Labor Committee on March 23.

### **Health Care**

**2SHB 1088** improves the delivery of mental health services to children. It received a public hearing in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on March 20. The House budget includes \$10 million for Senate consideration. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Housing**

**HB 1187**, creating a new chapter regarding affordable housing, is scheduled to be voted out of the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee on March 27. This bill organized the chapter in statute regarding affordable housing. This bill will be amended to include the condominium conversion language the committee voted on in SSB 5031. The bill is expected to be voted out of committee before the cut off. **Seattle supports the language in SSB 5031.**

### **Human Services**

The Agency Area on Aging's (AAA) top priority is a vendor rate increase of 3.2% and 2.0% over two years. These organizations provide services to maintain elderly residents at home. Amendments to the House budget have been submitted to increase vendor rates by 1.9% and 1.9%. **Seattle supports the vendor rate increase.**

### **Public Safety**

**SSB 5718**, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, was heard and voted out of the House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee on March 21. The committee made amendments clarifying some of the processes and technical changes. The bill now moves to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**