

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

February 18, 2008

Number 5

February 19 is the cut-off for bills to move out of the house of origin. Beginning February 20 committees begin meeting again and the legislature has until the February 29 cut-off to consider bills in the policy committees.

The House budget proposal is scheduled to come out this week. The Senate will propose their budget the following week. The revenue forecast showed a decrease of \$423 million.

SESSION PRIORITIES – 2008

Affordable Housing

2SHB 2625 is an employer-assisted housing bill that would provide a 50-cent tax credit for each dollar donated by employers towards employer housing (i.e. down payment or rental assistance) or loan counseling. This bill was amended to require that 50% (25-cents) of the tax credit would come from a local B & O tax. It is in the House Rules Committee. **Seattle supports the underlying bill.**

Annexation

2ESB 1139, providing a state sales tax credit to help with the cost of annexation in the North Highline area, was approved in the House by a vote of 64-33 and was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Civil Rights

SHB 3104 expands rights and responsibilities for domestic partnerships. Many of the rights focus on property. The bill passed the House by vote of 62-32. **SSB 6716** its companion bill is in the Senate Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Climate Protection & Environment

SHB 2815, regarding greenhouse gases emissions and providing for green collar jobs, awaits a vote on the House floor. Its companion, **SSB 6516**, did not pass out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SHB 2844 creates a new grant program for local governments' urban forestry programs but does not require that cities adopt urban forestry ordinances. The bill passed the House by a vote of 73-22. Its companion, **SSB 6469**, did not pass out of the Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Crime Guns

SSB 3095, concerning provisions governing firearms possession by persons who have been involuntarily committed. This bill would require that the state statute comply with

federal laws regarding persons who have been involuntarily committed. This is a response to the Virginia Tech shooting in which the State recognizes they are not systematically reporting to the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) person who fall into this category. This bill awaits a vote on the floor. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 6763, concerning background checks is in the Senate Rules Committee. Congress passed the Federal NICS Improvement Act which requires that states report the estimated number of persons who would be prohibited from possessing firearms for a number of restrictions (i.e. felony convictions, domestic violence orders, etc.). If we comply by July, the state will be eligible for federal funding for an electronic reporting system. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Infrastructure/Finance

SHB 3291 enacting the community schools act of 2008 passed the House by vote of 64-29. This bill establishes a new program in which community groups can apply for a competitive grant to help purchase a surplus school provided it stays in community use. The companion bill, **SB 6872**, did not pass out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 2965 would direct the Department of Revenue to develop a feasibility plan for state administration and collection of local B&O taxes. This bill did not move out of the House Finance Committee. **Seattle opposes this bill.**

HB 3244 and **SB 6894** purported to clarify the definition of customer location for purposes of municipal business and occupation taxes. Neither bill moved from its original committee. **Seattle opposes these bills.**

HB 3327, which would repeal the square footage tax imposed by the City of Seattle, was referred to the Finance Committee but did not move forward. **Seattle opposes this bill.**

HB 2495 removes the statute (RCW 35.87) requiring a 15 day advertising process and first right of refusal for sale to develop free parking facilities before any sale of municipal property in an area zoned retail. The bill will be heard in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on February 21. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Ten - Year Plan to End Homelessness

SHB 2433 suspends, not terminates, GA-U financial assistance of incarcerated persons. For those eligible for Medicaid upon entering incarceration, Medicaid continues and is not terminated. This bill did not pass out of the House Appropriations Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

ESSB 6771 would repeal the Regional Transportation Investment District – RTID. Instead of repealing RTID, it states that a county cannot submit a county-only RTID proposal to the voters before November 1, 2009. This bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 27-22.

SHB 3096 sets up a three member committee to evaluate a variety of issues related to early tolling/tolling of SR 520 including diversion, tolling technology, traffic management and public outreach. Any proposed tolling must be approved by the legislature. This bill awaits a vote on the House floor.

HB 2880 excludes car-sharing activities from the rental car tax. HB 2880 passed out of the Finance Committee and is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports his measure.**

STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2008

Domestic Violence Protections

HB 2764 adds domestic violence court order violations, punishable for 0 to 12 months for two or more convictions, to the list of offenses eligible for notification by the Department of Corrections. The bill passed out of the Human Services Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SHB 2520 creates a pilot project placing a domestic violence advocate in a minimum of one department of social and health services offices. This bill did not pass out of the House Appropriations Committee.

Education

SSB 6522 and **SHB 2449** provide for collective bargaining for childcare center directors and workers. SHB 2449 passed out of the House by a vote of 70-24. SSB 6522 is awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SSB 6314 and **HB 2500** provide for arts education funding. Neither bill passed out of the fiscal committee. **Seattle supports these measures.**

Elections and General Government

SSB 5278, allowing local funds to be used to set up programs to publicly fund campaigns if approved by a vote of the people, was approved by the Senate by a vote of 29-20. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SHB 2904 was amended to require local government to develop policies to prevent preferential treatment for incumbent candidates on government TV channels. The bill excludes official meetings that are shown on television. The bill is awaiting a vote on the House floor.

Energy

SHB 2533, places rate-setting authority as they relate to pole attachments under the Utilities & Transportation Commission. Municipal electricity has been removed from the bill. This bill is awaiting a vote on the House floor. Its companion, **SB 6585**, did not pass out of the policy committee. **Seattle opposed the Senate bill.**

Health

SHB 3160 was stripped of any authority but left the intent section. The bill is awaiting a vote on the House floor. **Seattle opposes preemption in this bill.**

Human Services

2SSB 6222 and **2SHB 2668** provides funding for parts of the Area Agency on Aging agenda, including respite care, Family Caretakers support, vendor rate increases, and increases in the Senior Citizen's Service Act. Both bills have passed unanimously from the house of origin. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Parks

SSB 6547 and **SHB 3001** prohibit discrimination in community athletics programs. Both bills await a floor vote.

Public Safety

SHB 2712, concerning criminal street gangs, is a comprehensive bill that includes a number of provisions. This bill passed out of the House by a vote of 94-1. **Seattle supports these measures.**

ESSB 5363 adding speed violations on certain arterial streets to the traffic safety camera law passed the Senate by a vote of 28-21. Like the stop light cameras the local jurisdiction must pass an ordinance authorizing the use of the cameras for speeding. This legislation only applies to the City of Seattle. **Seattle supports this legislation.**