

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

March 9, 2009

Number 8

The first legislative cut-off for policy committees was February 25 followed by the fiscal and transportation committee cut-off on March 2. The House of Origin cut-off is 5:00 p.m. on March 12, where bills need to have been passed by their originating chamber in order to continue over to the opposite body. The exception is when a bill is deemed “necessary to implement the budget” or NTIB. Following this Thursday’s House of Origin cut-off is the next quarterly revenue forecast on March 19, which will play a significant role in shaping the Legislature’s 2009-2011 budget proposal.

***SESSION PRIORITIES – 2009***

**Public Safety**

**HB 1498** would make changes to state law regarding when a person's right to possess firearms is revoked after a certain time of involuntary commitment for mental health treatment, making state law consistent with federal law. The House passed the bill by a vote of 97-0 on March 5. It has now been assigned to the Senate Human Services & Corrections Committee, where it will await a Senate hearing. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

**Housing Resources**

**SHB 1464** passed out of the House of Representatives with a technical amendment on March 4 on a 63-32 vote and was referred to the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee. SHB 1464 makes modification to the incentive zoning for affordable housing statute. The Senate version, **SSB 5544** is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**SHB 1696**, in the House Finance Committee, did not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff and is considered ‘dead’ for the session. The Senate version, **SB 5585**, in the Senate Ways & Means Committee, also did not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff and is considered ‘dead’ for the session. These bills would have provided an incentive to employers to provide housing assistance to employees. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**HB 1973**, in the House Finance Committee, did not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff and is considered ‘dead’ for the session. The Senate version, **SB 5856**, did not make it past the February 25 policy cutoff and is considered ‘dead’ for the session. HB 1973 and SB 5856 create a financing tool for affordable housing. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**Regional Transportation**

**SSB 5768** authorizing the replacement of the State Route 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct with a bored tunnel passed the Senate by a vote of 43-9. It has been referred to the House Transportation Committee.

**ESHB 1978** appropriate the transportation funds from federal economic stimulus plan. Funding for Mercer Street and Spokane Street was not included. This bill was signed by the Governor on March 5.

### **Health Care**

**SHB 1985** requires local health districts to comply with minimum health standards as a condition for receiving state funding. This legislation is in the House Rules Committee.

**SB 6074** would have allowed health districts within all or part of a county and provide a property tax of up to thirty cents per one thousand dollars of assessed value to be used solely for public health. This bill did not make it out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

### **Education**

**SHB 2261** was heard in the House Committee on Education Appropriations on March 2 and the House Ways & Means Committee on March 6, and is now scheduled for another hearing in the House Ways & Means Committee on March 9. SHB 2261 states that the Legislature intends to monitor the progress of developing formulas, processes, and systems and to begin a schedule of implementation in the 2011-12 school year.

**Seattle signed in supporting this legislation.** The Senate version, **SB 6048**, passed out of the Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on February 24 and is now in Rules. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

## ***STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2009***

### **Climate Protection & Environment**

**HB 1819** and **SB 5735**, by request of Governor Gregoire, would take steps to implement a regional cap-and-trade program in line with the Western Climate Initiative. **Seattle testified in support of the original legislation**, though both bills have been modified significantly since then. Both bills were passed to their respective Rules committees on Monday, March 2, where they now await floor action.

### **Energy**

**2SHB 1747** passed out of the House Committee on Ways & Means on March 2 and was placed on the Second Reading Calendar in the Rules Committee on March 6. The Senate version, **2SSB 5854**, passed the Senate Ways & Means Committee on March 2 and was made eligible to be placed on Second Reading in the Rules Committee on March 5. This legislation will implement the Climate Action Team's energy efficiency recommendations by: promoting low-energy-use building codes; requiring disclosure of buildings' energy use scores; financing energy-saving upgrades to existing buildings; and reducing low-income households' utility bills. The original versions of the bills allowed cities and counties to create a "conservation utility"; this authority is removed from the current versions of these bills. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

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

**SSB 5321** would continue the current sales tax credit for annexation over 10,000 by cities under 400,000. It provides approximately \$600,000 for Seattle in the event of an annexation in the North Highline area. However, it was amended in the Senate Ways & Means Committee to allow smaller cities an extra 0.1% sales tax credit if an annexation "commences" before 2010. The bill passed out of the Ways & Means Committee and was sent to the Rules Committee.

**HB 1710** which would provide up to \$5 million for an annexation in the North Highline area passed out of the Finance Committee and is now in the Rules Committee.

### **Hazardous and Solid Waste**

**2SHB 1469** was placed on Second Reading in the Rules Committee on March 6. 2SHB 1469 would establish the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**2SHB 1165** passed out of the House Committee on General Government Appropriations on February 26 and was passed to the Rules Committee on March. 2SHB 1165 provides for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Infrastructure/Finance**

**HB 2249** is a bill that only affects King County (KC) and the cities in King County that have proposed annexation areas. This bill would extend the existing sales tax credit for annexations over 10,000 to January 1, 2012. It allows KC to impose a utility tax in the unincorporated areas. Finally, it requires a performance audit of KC, specifically looking at overhead costs, service and streamlining improvements and local and regional services provide inside and outside of cities. The bill was amended and now it would make cities ineligible for state grants like TIB and PWTF if they didn't annex their PAAs. The bill also requires KC to provide \$10 million annually to assist with annexations. This bill is now eligible to be voted on in the House.

**HB 1422** allowing the taxation of brokered natural gas to be maintained at a status quo level was voted out of the House Finance Committee and is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

### **Parks**

**SB 5967** was placed on Second Reading the Senate on March 5. In its revised form, the bill expressly prohibits any city, town, county, or district from discriminating against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults. It also requires jurisdictions that operate a community athletics program or issue permission to a third party for the operation of such program on its facilities to adopt a non-discrimination policy by January 2010. **Seattle currently supports this legislation.**

### **Planning & Development**

**SHB 1490** passed out of the House Committee on General Government Appropriations on February 26 and was pulled to the Second Reading Calendar in the Rules Committee on March 5 . **The City of Seattle signed in supporting this legislation.** The Senate version, **SSB 5687**, passed out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 26 and is now in Rules. **The City of Seattle signed in supporting this legislation with concerns.** SHB 1490 and SSB 5687 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements. **Seattle continues to work with proponents and stakeholders on this legislation.**

**SSB 5495** passed out of the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 25 with an amendment placing a moratorium on third-party rental housing inspection programs and prohibiting local governments from assessing a fee for inspections. SSB 5495 was made eligible to be placed on the Second Reading Calendar in the Rules Committee on March 3. The House version, HB 1296, is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle opposes these bills.**