

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

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***SESSION PRIORITIES – 2010***

**Budget Safety Net: Do No Harm**

Governor Gregoire introduced her revenue package. It would impose a variety of taxes totaling \$605 million in new revenue. When combined with other Governor requested legislation regarding a recent State Supreme Court case, the Governor has proposed enough revenue to cover her restoration budget without including any federal funds.

Both the House and Senate plan to release their proposed operating budgets this week. Public hearings on their proposals are tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**ESSB 6130** which suspends the 2/3 vote requirement for raising revenue, passed the House by a 51-47 vote. The House amended the bill so it returns to the Senate for a concurrence vote.

**SSB 6817** passed out of the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 5 and was referred to Ways & Means. The House version, **HB 3177** passed out of the House Capital Budget Committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>. SB 6817 and HB 3177 would require the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle supports this legislation.

**2SHB 2782**, the Security Lifeline Act, passed the House 55-41 and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. HB 2782 would: facilitate easier access to existing public benefits and services; change the name of GA-U to Disability Lifeline, expedite DSHS's review of whether Disability Lifeline participants are eligible for federal SSI benefits and if so, assist them with the SSI application. Chief Metz from SPD drew the connection between the safety net and public safety, and testified that this was a "crime prevention bill."

**Education**

**2SHB 2731** passed the House 67-28 and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. HB 2731 will implement a program of early learning for educationally at-risk children within the overall program of basic education under Article IX of the state Constitution. The bill specifies preschool for educationally at risk 3 and 4 year olds. Seattle supports this legislation.

**E2SSB 6696** passed out of the Senate 41-5 and had a public hearing in the House Education Committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>. SB 6696 is the Senate's education reform bill that would require action plans for persistently low-achieving schools and their districts to target funds and assistance to turn around the identified low-achieving schools, as well as other reforms.

**SSB 6759** passed out of the Senate 47-0 and had a public hearing in the House Committee on Early Learning and Children's Services on February 18<sup>th</sup>. SB 6759 asserts that a voluntary program of early learning should be included in basic education. The Legislature intends to begin the program by creating a working group to identify and recommend a plan for implementation. Bea Kelleigh testified in support of this legislation on behalf of the City.

### **Public Safety**

**SSB 5838**, the vulnerable roadway user bill, failed to pass out of the Senate before cutoff. It was added to the Senate Order of Consideration several hours before the 5 pm cutoff, but did not come up for vote. Time simply ran out.

### **Revenue/Fiscal**

**SSB 6424**, the Senate version of the local fiscal flexibility bill, passed out of the Senate by a 39-9 vote. A floor amendment removed the REET flexibility language. The core provision of the bill—removing the non-supplant requirements for the additional .3 public safety sales tax—remains intact. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Finance Committee on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

**ESHB 3179**, the House version of the local fiscal flexibility bill, passed out of House by a 51-47 vote. This bill also removes the non-supplant requirements, but it also contains additional provisions that would allow cities to impose a .1 public safety sales tax if the county fails to impose the full .3 by Dec 31<sup>st</sup>. In addition, HB 3179 clarifies the recent brokered natural gas court case to allow the City to continue collecting the tax. The REET provisions were removed by a floor amendment.

**HB 3176** had a hearing in the House Finance Committee on Saturday February 13<sup>th</sup>. HB 3176 increases state revenues by closing certain tax loopholes, ending certain tax preferences, and extending the B&O tax to out of state businesses that operate in Washington.

### **Transportation**

**E2SHB 1591** passed the House by a 56-38 vote and is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee on February 23rd. HB 1591 provides greater flexibility for Transportation Benefit Districts, primarily by allowing the sales tax to be collected up to 30 years thereby allowing it to be bonded against.

**SHB 1775** would allow the City to regulate limousines. It passed out of the House by a 62-32 vote. The bill contains fee provisions, so is exempt from cutoffs.

**SHB 2855** failed to pass out of the House before cutoff. HB 2855 would have temporarily authorized transit agencies to raise revenue by imposing a \$20 annual vehicle license fee by a vote of the governing body without first forming a Transportation Benefit District (TBD).

**SSB 6570**, which would allow certain private transportation providers to use designated transit only lanes, passed the Senate 46-1 and is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. The bill, although improved from the original version, is still problematic. SDOT will be providing testimony detailing the City's concerns with the bill in its current form.

**SSB 6366** failed to pass out of the Senate before cutoff. The City opposed this bill because it would give WSDOT total control over local permitting and appeals related to major transportation projects.

### **Water Stewardship**

**HB 3181** and **SB 6851** would provide state funding for stormwater clean up, primarily through a competitive grant program. The revenue would come from an increase in the Hazardous Substance Tax and would raise approximately \$250M a year. Initially, these funds would also be used to help address the General Fund deficit. After a lengthy hearing on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the House Capital Budget Committee passed HB 3181 on the 18<sup>th</sup> by a vote of 8-7. Shortly before the hearing on the 17<sup>th</sup>, the Governor announced her proposed revenue package, which includes support for this proposal. The Senate Ways and Means Committee is scheduled to hear SB 6851 the afternoon of the 22<sup>nd</sup>. Seattle supports this legislation.

## ***ONGOING PRIORITIES – 2010***

### **Race & Social Justice**

**E2SHB 2793** clarifies and expands the rights and obligations of state registered domestic partners and other couples related to parentage. It passed the House 59-39 and had a public hearing in the Senate Committee on Government Operations and Elections on February 18<sup>th</sup>. Seattle supports this legislation.

### **Economic Development**

**2ESHB 2912** passed the House 53-45. HB 2912 directs stadium related taxes to dedicated accounts once the debt obligations for stadiums are paid. As it passed the House, it requires the dedicated accounts to fund the arts, affordable housing, tourism promotion, youth athletic facilities, regional centers, performing arts centers, and health and human services provided by nonprofit agencies.

### **Energy**

**ESSB 6656** would implement a pilot program for energy conservation services. The amended version passed the Senate 44-2 and had public hearing in the House Technology Energy and Communications Committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The original bill would have authorized municipalities to establish conservation utilities to finance residential energy efficiencies. The amendments limit the authorization to a pilot project

for municipalities in Puget Sound Energy's territory until 2015. It limits the superior lien position behind existing loans. Additionally, the cost recovery language was removed. Seattle is currently working to restore some of the provisions that were removed.

**ESHB 2925** affects Seattle City Light's impact fee agreement with Pend Oreille County regarding City Light's hydroelectric generation facility. The House removed the provisions we opposed and added language we sought regarding arbitration and passed the bill out by a 93-5 vote.

**SSB 6672**, which would have modified I-937, the Energy Independence Act, failed to pass out of the Senate before cutoff.

### **Hazardous and Solid Waste**

**SSB 5279** failed to pass out of the Senate before cutoff. SSB 5279 would have provided for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. Seattle supported this legislation.

**ESSB 5543** would establish a product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights and ban the sale of bulk mercury. It passed the Senate 37-9, had a public hearing in the House Environmental Health Committee on February 17<sup>th</sup>, then was amended and passed out of the committee on the same day. Seattle supports this legislation.

### **Planning & Development**

**SSB 6459** passed out of the Senate 41-7 and had a public hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on February 18<sup>th</sup>. SSB 6459 establishes limitations on local government's authority to conduct mandatory rental inspection programs and provides local governments the authority to conduct civil administrative search warrant authority. Karen White from Department of Planning and Development testified as to the City's concerns with the bill in its current form.

### **Public Health**

**HB 2388** was heard in the House Finance Committee on January 22. HB 2388 would provide funding for public health activities by imposing sales and use taxes on sales of candy to be deposited in a new public health improvement account. A minimum of \$100,000 would be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction and the remaining funds in the account will be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction on a per capita basis. Seattle supports this legislation.

### **Sustainable Farming and Healthy Food**

**SSB 6343** would establish the Washington Food Policy Forum. It passed the Senate 45-3 and had a public hearing in the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee on February 19<sup>th</sup>. SB 6343 would establish a Washington Food Policy Forum to advance the following six food system goals: support local food; increase healthy food in schools; reduce hunger; develop health & nutrition programs; and protect resources needed for sustained local food production. Seattle supports this legislation.