



**CITY OF SEATTLE
2014 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

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Number 1

Week Overview

Monday sees Legislators returning to begin the second leg of the 2013-14 biennium with a lot of work still on their plates and an election season looming around the corner. To recap the first year of this biennium: after a regular “long” session and two additional Special Sessions, the Legislature passed a 2-yr Operating Budget of \$33.6 billion, with \$50 million in unrestricted reserves, in June 2013. **Economic forecast changes since June have shown revenue increases which have left \$341 million in unrestricted reserves.** This means that for the first time in many sessions, the Legislature does not have a deficit to address.

2014 is a “short” session, giving the legislature only 60 days to work on a number of important issues, including a transportation package, a renewed mandate from the Supreme Court on funding basic education, possible passage of a Supplemental Budget, and a slew of other issues ranging from implementing I-502 regulations, to the Dream Act, Reproductive Parity, gun safety and, of course, continuing work on Medicaid Expansion and the ACA.

Tuesday will be dominated by **the Joint Session of the Legislature and Governor Inslee’s State of the State Address.** Mayor Murray will be in attendance and meet with the Governor and Legislative leadership.

Tuesday and Wednesday will see **medical marijuana advocates on campus for lobby days,** which coincide with the hearing of one of three marijuana-related bills that have been pre-filed for this session. The bill, [HB 2149](#), sponsored by Rep. Cody, codifies the recommendations of the Liquor Control Board workgroup.

The rest of the week will be taken up by **committee work sessions and hearings** as the Legislature kicks off in earnest.

Areas of Primary Focus

Protecting the most vulnerable

Budget: The House will get right to work on Monday with a hearing on the Governor’s Supplemental budget in the Appropriations Committee. The Senate Ways and Means Committee will hold a work session on Wednesday. **It is unclear whether either Chamber**

plans to develop their own supplemental budget; although it is possible that, even if a supplemental budget is considered, it will only be to make an estimated \$100 million in technical fixes to the Operating Budget passed in 2013.

Education

On the heels of last week's order by the Supreme Court to move faster on meeting the Basic Education funding mandate, the Legislature will be looking to address these concerns. **Initially, though, this first week of session is comprised mainly of work sessions.**

The Early Learning Committees are also mainly holding work sessions the first week, **although the House will hold a hearing on [HB 2165](#)** regarding early learning fatality reviews.

Transportation, Economic Development and Infrastructure

Transportation Funding: **The greatest uncertainty this Session is whether a Transportation Package can be achieved.** The House having passed a package last year, all signs seem to indicate that it is the Senate's move this session. With a committee co-chaired by a Republican and a Democrat each with veto power over any legislation, compromise will be of the essence, yet could drive away needed votes in both caucuses.

WSDOT will be presenting an update on the Viaduct Replacement and the 520 Floating bridge projects to the Senate Transportation committee on Thursday. The House holds a work session on WA Ports, Trade and the State Transportation System on Monday.

Capital Budget: The Senate has scheduled a work session on Governor Inslee's proposed capital budget on Wednesday.

Public Safety

OIR will be monitoring bills as they are introduced to committee.

City Fiscal Health

Budget: Seattle will be working with the Association of Washington Cities to restore liquor shared-revenue and the ability for local revenues to grow over time, to address the growth in population and increased need for public safety investments. **In addition, the Governor's Supplemental budget does provide some minimal funds that could benefit the City, although most of his spending proposals are maintenance level.**

Other Issues of Significant Interest

Human Services and Health: Primarily work sessions the first week, though as noted above Rep. Cody's marijuana bill will be heard on Wednesday. **City Attorney Pete Holmes will be testifying in support of this bill.** Although we expect other bills, this is the only comprehensive marijuana related bill that has been filed so far; the other two pre-filed bills relate to marijuana revenue and taxes.

Looking Ahead

With such a short session, things will be moving very quickly in the next 60 days. **We look forward to Councilmembers' engagement on these issues and we are coordinating with Council President Burgess' office to schedule lobby days for you this session.**