



CITY OF SEATTLE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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The City of Seattle is committed to being a safe, vibrant, interconnected, and affordable city.

Week Overview

With the February 20th cutoff deadline for introducing and moving bills out of their house of origin looming, the Legislature moved into high gear this week, with a packed schedule of hearings and executive sessions. Hearings on rail transportation of hazardous materials, the Washington voting rights act, abortion notification, and an omnibus marijuana bill garnered heightened attention.

Priority Areas

Budget and Infrastructure

The Senate held a hearing on Thursday on the Supplemental Operating Budget ([HB 1105](#)) recently passed from the House. An executive session is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 9th and the bill is expected to move quickly to the Governor's desk.

[HB 1957](#), introduced by Rep. Brady Walkinshaw (D) will increase the job order contracting limit for the City from \$4 million to \$6 million, bringing Seattle in line with King County.

[SB 5896](#), a bi-partisan bill seeking to restore liquor sales revenue distributions to cities and counties that have been swept to the General Fund in recent budgets, has been introduced by Sen. Karen Fraser (D) and a companion bill, [HB 1517](#), was introduced by Rep. Chris Reykdal (D).

[HB 1576](#) and [SB 5864](#) by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D) and Sen. Sharon Nelson (D), respectively, which modify provisions relating to sales and use taxes for cities to offset municipal service costs to newly annexed areas, were introduced with HB 1576 receiving a hearing in the House Finance Committee on February 5th. The Senate version has not been scheduled for a public hearing.

[HB 1690](#) by Rep. Walkinshaw, which provides a tax deferral for the expansion of the WA State convention center, was heard in the House Technology and Economic Development Committee on February 4th. The Senate version, Sen. Joe Fain's (R) [SB 5571](#), is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Monday February 9th.

[HB 1911](#) by Rep. Fitzgibbon, which authorizes municipalities to receive partial reimbursement for the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities as development moves in, is scheduled for a public hearing in the House Local Government Committee on Thursday, February 12th. The Senate version, [SB 5795](#) by Sen. Pam Roach (R), was referred to the Senate Government Operations and Security Committee.

Education

[HB 1783](#) and [SB 5675](#) which create a grant program for expanding dual language instruction programs from Cradle to College were introduced this week. This legislation funds grant programs and teacher pipeline programs to address the needs of bilingual students throughout the educational system. HB 1783, sponsored by Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (D), will be heard on Feb. 12th in the Education Committee.

With bipartisan support from Reps. Ruth Kagi (D) and Maureen Walsh (R), the Early Start Act, [SHB 1491](#) moved out of the House committee on Early Learning and was sent to Appropriations.

[HB 1107 and SB 5463](#) by Rep. Larry Springer (D) and Sen. Andy Hill (R), respectively, concern access to and creation of cultural and heritage programs and facilities. HB 1107 had been set for executive action this week in the House Community Development and Housing Committee but has been re-scheduled. The Senate version was heard in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on February 2nd.

Rep. Dean Takko's (D) bill [HB 1387](#), which supports apprenticeship training for building officials, is scheduled for an executive session in the House Labor Committee on Monday February 9th.

[HB 1511](#) by Rep. Ortiz-Self which requires Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools, is scheduled for an execution session in the House Community Development and Housing Committee on Monday February 9th. A companion Senate version, [SB 5433](#) sponsored by Sen. Steve Litzow (R), passed the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education Committee on February 5th and was referred to Rules.

[SHB 1295](#) by Rep. Zack Hudgins (D), which concerns breakfast after the bell programs, passed the House Education Committee with bi-partisan support on February 5th.

Rep. Roger Goodman (D) introduced his "tuition lock" bill, allowing students to pay the same college tuition for four years. The goal of [HB 1988](#) is to keep costs down and encourage students to graduate in four years.

Other legislation addressing college tuition includes [HB 1238](#), which puts limits on tuition increases as it relates to state median household income. This bill is sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet (D).

Safety Net, Housing and Health Care

There are companion bills seeking to protect prospective tenants from being charged for multiple comprehensive screening reports when seeking housing. [HB 1257](#) by Rep. Walkinshaw has been scheduled for executive session in the House Judiciary Committee on Thursday February 12th. Sen. David Frockt's (D) companion bill, [SB 5123](#), remains in the Senate Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee.

Rep. Hans Zeiger's (R) bill [HB 1501](#), which concerns public-private financing of prevention-based social service programs, a financing mechanism sometimes known as Social Impact Bonds, is scheduled for an executive session in the House Early Learning and Human Services Committee on Wednesday February 13th. The bill seeks to provide funding for social service programs and housing for youths coming out of the juvenile justice system.

[HB 1565](#), which prohibits discrimination in housing based on a person's source of income, was heard in the House Judiciary Committee on Feb. 4th. Brenda Anibarro from the Seattle Office of Civil Rights provided testimony at the hearing. Rep. Timm Ormsby's (D) bill has a companion in the Senate, Sen. Jeanne Kohl-Welles' (D) [SB 5278](#), which is in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing Committee.

Rep. June Robinson's (D) bill [HB 1720](#), which addresses healthy housing by prioritizing health and safety projects under the Low Income Weatherization program, is scheduled for an executive session in the House Community Development and Housing Committee on Tuesday February 10th.

Youth Homelessness

A number of bills which are elements of the overall Youth Homelessness Act had hearings this week:

[HB 1728 and SB 5486](#) by Rep. Ormsby and Sen. Frockt, respectively, would create the parents for parents program to provide education, outreach and peer-to-peer support groups for parents in the dependency court system. HB 1728 is scheduled for an executive session in the House Early Learning and Human Services Committee on Thursday February 12th, and SB 5468 passed the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing Committee on February 5th and was referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

[HB 1735 and SB 5740](#) by Rep. Tina Orwall (D) and Sen. Fain, respectively, would add a final category, extenuating medical conditions, to the eligibility criteria for extended foster care services. The House bill is scheduled for an executive session in the House Early Learning and Human Services Committee on Friday February 13th, while the Senate version is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing Committee on Monday February 9th.

Health Care

Sen. Bruce Dammeier's (R) [SB 5477](#) regulating vape product packaging, labeling and definitions moved from Commerce and Labor to Health Care.

Environment

[HB 1449](#) by Rep. Jessyn Farrell (D), which addresses oil transportation safety, was heard in the House Environment Committee on February 3rd. In one of the more anticipated hearings of the week, over one hundred people came to testify about the legislation, with a majority in support. Concerns from railroad companies centered on national safety concerns rising from proposals to publish routes, timetables and cargo information.

After last week's overflow hearing in the House Environment Committee, Rep. Fitzgibbon has scheduled [HB 1314](#), which implements the Governor's proposed carbon pollution market program to reduce

greenhouse gas emissions, for an executive session in the House Environment Committee on Tuesday February 10th.

Rep. Strom Peterson's (D) bill [HB 1571](#), which concerns paint stewardship programs to manage paint disposal, was heard in the House Environment Committee on February 5th.

[HB 1289 and SB 5804](#) by Rep. Vincent Buys (R) and Sen. Marko Lias (D), respectively, modify the procedure for adoption and amendment of the Washington state energy code. A possible result of these modifications would be the creation of obstacles to strengthening the energy code. HB 1289 was heard in the House Technology and Economic Development Committee on February 3rd. The Senate version is scheduled for a public hearing on Monday February 9th.

Transportation

[HB 1593](#), sponsored by Rep. Joan McBride (D), would provide cities with local options to create dedicated revenue streams to finance transportation infrastructure projects, including allowing councilmanic authority to raise the VLF from \$20 to \$50. Rep. McBride is working with stakeholders in refining the legislation.

Senator Cyrus Habib's (D) bill [SB 5550](#), which regulates transportation network companies, was heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on February 2nd. Denise Movius from the Financial Administrative Services testified with concerns on the bill. The City continues to work with the prime sponsor on refining the legislation.

Public Safety

[HB 1389 and SB 5181](#) by Rep. Goodman and Sen. Kirk Pearson (R), respectively, clarify that state fire service mobilization be allowed in all incidents to which fire departments, fire districts, and regional fire protection authorities typically respond, as long as the mobilization meets the requirements identified in the state fire service mobilization plan. The House bill was heard in the House Appropriations Committee on February 4th. The Senate version has yet to be scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Finance Ways and Means Committee.

Governor Inslee's Justice Reinvestment Act, [HB 1885](#), will be heard in the House Public Safety committee on February 11th. The bill seeks to change sentencing and treatment policies for property crimes, provides additional support for victims and reduces property crime statewide.

Rep. Takko's bill [HB 1684](#), which addresses charges for the provision of public records, was heard in the House State Government Committee on February 3rd.

[HB 1553](#) by Rep. Walkinshaw, which encourages certificates of restoration of opportunity, received executive action in the House Public Safety Committee on February 6th.

Rep. Melanie Stambaugh's (R) bill [HB 1554](#), which exempts from public inspection and copying under the public records act the personal information of certain family members and guardians of children enrolled in early learning or child care services, parks and recreation programs, youth development programs, and after-school programs, was heard in the House State Government Committee on February 3rd.

[HB 1745 and SB 5668](#) by Rep. Luis Moscoso (D) and Sen. Habib, respectively, enact the Washington voting rights act. HB 1745 is scheduled for an executive session in the House State Government Committee on Thursday February 12th. The Senate version is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Government Operations and Security Committee on Tuesday February 10th.

Gun Responsibility

Rep. Laurie Jenkins (D) and Sen. Froctt introduced companion Extreme Risk Protection Order bills, [HB 1857](#) and [SB 5727](#). These bills would allow family members and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend someone's access to firearms based on documented evidence that they pose a threat to themselves or others. The House bill has a hearing this week on Wednesday, February 11th.

Sen. Kohl-Welles introduced [SB 5789](#) (companion to [HB 1747](#)) the Child Access Prevention bill creating liability for child endangerment if a child accesses a firearm that was not safety stored and harms themselves or another person.

Body Cameras

The legislature will hear two approaches to body cameras in House Judiciary next week. Rep. Hansen's bill, [HB 1917](#), allows individuals who interact with officers to access video captured by body cameras in certain circumstances. Rep. Cindy Ryu's (D) [HB 1910](#) will be heard the same day -- this bill requires that cameras remain on continuously and only allows footage to be used in misconduct investigations into police. A companion bill [SB 5732](#) is sponsored in the Sen. Pramila Jayapal (D).

Marijuana

Movement continues on the marijuana regulation front, with several Senate bills receiving hearings and/or moving out of committee; while in the House, in an effort to reduce the number of hearings on the schedule, 18 bills relating to marijuana regulation were consolidated into one omnibus bill, [HB 1461](#). The hearing on the bill stretched over two days and ranged in topic from revenue sharing and reducing siting provisions to overturning 1-502 entirely.

Individual bills receiving attention included:

[SSB 5052](#) by Sen. Ann Rivers (R), which establishes the cannabis patient protection act, is scheduled for an executive session in the Senate Ways and Means Committee on Monday February 9th.

[SB 5417](#) by Sen. Rivers, which concerns local government marijuana policies, is scheduled for an executive session in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee on Monday February 9th.

Sen. Kohl-Welles' bill [SB 5572](#), which concerns the sale, distribution, and delivery of marijuana, was heard in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee on February 2nd. [Seattle representatives testified in support of the reduction in siting restrictions.](#)

The Senate unanimously passed legislation to allow industrial hemp to be grown in Washington State. [SB 5012](#) authorizes the growth of industrial hemp as an agricultural activity in the state and is sponsored by Sen. Brian Hatfield (D).

Looking Ahead

As time tightens to complete initial work on bills and move them out, the next two weeks promise to be busy and eventful. In addition to bills already listed, highlights of the coming week include:

A hearing February 10th on The Reproductive Health Act, [HB 1647](#), in House Health Care. The bill is aimed at improving contraceptive access, studying health disparities, requiring reproductive parity in insurance coverage and reducing barriers to birth control access by requiring state regulated insurance companies cover at least one year's supply of birth control at a time.

On Monday February 9th, the Senate Law and Justice committee will hear several bills creating exemptions to I-594 background check requirements for private sales and transfers of guns.

[HB 1821](#) which will allow taxi drivers to opt-out of workers' compensation insurance. The bill will be heard on February 10th as well.

OIR also looks forward to hosting CM's Burgess, Clark and Licata for legislative meetings this week.