



## CITY OF SEATTLE 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

January 18, 2016

Number 1

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

### **Week Overview**

The 2016 Legislative Session began on Monday, January 11th. This marked the start of the second “short” leg of the 2015-16 biennium. The first leg in 2015 proved to be the longest in state history, concluding on July 9th after a regular “long” session and three additional Special Sessions. By the end, the Legislature had passed a 2-year Operating Budget of \$38.2 billion, a Transportation Package totaling \$16.3 billion over 16 years to fund transportation projects and programs, and a Capital Budget of \$3.6 billion. Economic forecast changes announced in November show \$113 million in revenue increases for this biennium, which the Legislature will address in a 2016 Supplemental budget.

Because 2016 is a short session, giving the Legislature only 60 days to work on a number of important issues, many observers suggest that several of the big ticket items will see modest, if any, movement. Of these, most important is the McCleary mandate from the Supreme Court on funding basic education. It is anticipated that the Legislature will end session with a roadmap on McCleary but without appropriating funding. In addition, legislators will be tasked with developing the Supplemental Budget while grappling with charter schools, a potential carbon tax initiative, the mental health crisis, and homelessness and affordable housing needs.

On Tuesday, Governor Jay Inslee gave his annual State of the State address to a joint session of the Legislature. Titled *A State of Confidence*, Governor Inslee highlighted the economic growth in the State and credited Democrats and Republicans alike for some of the work they did last session, including passing the Transportation Package, adding \$2.3 billion in early learning, K-12 and Higher Ed investments, and closing \$1.1 billion in tax loopholes. The governor then highlighted a number of areas where he felt there was still work to be done, including addressing the statewide teacher shortage by increasing teacher pay, funding last year’s wildfires, increasing support for those who have mental illness, enhancing background checks on firearms sales, combatting carbon pollution, and raising the state-wide minimum wage.

Mayor Murray was in attendance for the Governor’s speech for the third year, and spent the afternoon in meetings with leaders in both chambers and parties to discuss the City’s legislative agenda, particularly focusing on the affordable housing crisis.

## **Priority Areas**

### **Supplemental Budgets**

Legislators held work sessions and public hearings were held this week on Gov. Inslee's 2016 supplemental budget proposal, released last month. Noting that the State's costs have increased over \$700 million against new revenues forecasted at \$245 million, the governor's 2016 supplemental budget seeks to cover spending increases in order to continue delivery of services at current levels, cover caseload and enrollment increases, and pay for emergencies and other costs not anticipated when the budget was approved in June. In addition, the budget addresses a handful of high-priority needs, as highlighted in the State of the State. The Governor proposes to address some of this funding by closing four tax loopholes: repealing the tax exemptions on extracted fuels and bottled water, changing the non-resident sales tax to a refund rather than an exemption, and limiting the real estate excise tax exemptions for banks.

### **Safety Net and Housing**

#### **Affordable Housing Work Sessions**

Last Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>, the House Finance committee held a work session on local options for financing affordable housing. Tedd Kelleher, Senior Managing Director of the Housing Assistance Unit at the Washington State Department of Commerce, and Faith Pettis, HALA co-chair, provided an overview of the housing affordability problem across Washington State and the Seattle HALA process. Several business members of the Seattle HALA process participated in the work session spoke about the employer perspective on affordable housing. The City of Kirkland Mayor and the deputy city attorney for the City of Everett also presented and addressed the affordable housing problem, the options cities have used to address the issue, and the local options needed by local governments.

#### **Preservation Tax Exemption**

Rep. Frame (D) and Sen. Fain (R) introduced [HB 2544/SB 6239](#), which provides a property tax exemption for the preservation of affordable housing. This legislation is one of the recommendations from the Seattle HALA report. [SB 6239](#) had a hearing in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing committee on Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>. [HB 2544](#) is scheduled for a hearing in House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.

#### **Education**

Sen. Rivers (R) introduced [SB 6195](#) (companion bill [HB 2366](#)), which provides a plan to comply with the McCleary ruling by establishing an education funding task force to continue to review data and make recommendations to the legislature on fully funding K-12. A hearing on [SB 6195](#) was held on January 18<sup>th</sup> in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee and [HB 2366](#) is scheduled for a hearing on January 20<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm in the House Appropriations committee.

Legislation ([SB 6183](#)) was introduced to address local school levy authority by keeping school district levy lids at 28 percent until 2020. Beginning in 2021, school district levy lids will be reduced by 1 percent per year until 2024 when the lid will be set at 24 percent for non-grandfathered school districts.

Grandfathered school districts will receive a 1 percent levy lid reduction per year for four years until 2024. Seattle Public Schools is a grandfathered district and the current levy rate is 36.97 percent.

Last week, Sen. Litzow (R) introduced [SB 6194](#) (companion bill [HB 2367](#)) to address the Washington State Supreme Court ruling on charter school funding. The bill was heard in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee on January 12<sup>th</sup> and passed the committee on January 14<sup>th</sup>. The bill had a hearing in the Senate Ways and Means committee on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

[E2SHB 1682](#) (companion bill [SB 5065](#)) establishes a competitive grant program to award grants to school districts to pilot increased identification of homeless students and link homeless children with stable housing. The bill had a hearing in the House Appropriations committee on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

[2SHB 1295](#) (companion bill [SB 5437](#)) by Rep. Zack Hudgins (D), which concerns breakfast after the bell programs, passed the House Education Committee on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Environment**

Rep. Morris (D) introduced [HB 2346](#), modifying renewable energy tax incentives (primarily solar), a major concern for Seattle City Light as the utility reached its incentive cap in 2015. Rose Feliciano of Seattle City Light testified in support, and suggested some changes for the committee to consider. In addition, Seattle Public Utilities is engaged in stakeholder meetings on an important solar panel recycling provision in the bill. HB 2346 was heard in the House Technology and Economic Development Committee on January 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **Transportation**

Having passed the Transportation Package last session, the legislature is unlikely to take on large policy initiatives in this area during the 2016 session. However, OIR will monitor Transportation Committees closely, and we will update as developments arise.

### **Public Safety and Government Operations**

Mary Perry, from the City Attorney's office, travelled to Olympia twice last week, first to participate on a work session in the House Local Government committee on the developing problem of massive public records requests that are hampering cities across the state. She noted that while the number of requestors of public records has decreased over the years, the number of requests has substantially increased, challenging the cities resources. Mary then returned to testify later in the week on the issue of police-worn body cameras. Rep. Drew Hansen (D) has re-introduced [HB 1917](#), a bill he reworked this session after participating in stakeholder meetings convened by the Seattle Police Department during the fall. The bill has been referred to the House Judiciary Committee but is not yet scheduled for a hearing.

The Senate Government Operations and Security Committee held a hearing on Sen. Roach's (R) [SB 6170](#), (companion [HB 2648](#)) which would expand investment opportunities for the Cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane, bringing them in-line with the Washington State Investment Board and the UW Endowment fund. The pension managers from all three cities, including Ken Nakatsu of Seattle, testified in support of the bill before committee.

Rep. Orwall's (D) [HB 2530](#) will require the WA Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs to create and fund a statewide sexual assault tracking system. This is one piece of legislation that came out of the sexual assault protection task force which the City and other advocates participated in over the summer.

## **Gun Responsibility Legislation**

Rep. Walkinshaw (D) and Sen. Habib (D) introduced [HB 2460](#) (companion SB 6351) to restore local authorities' power to regulate firearms in libraries, parks and on public transit.

Rep. Jinkins (D) introduced Extreme Risk Protection Orders, [HB 2461](#), with nearly two dozen co-sponsors. This bill will allow family members and law enforcement to petition the court to temporarily prevent an individual from possessing, accessing, or purchasing firearms while that individual poses a significant danger of harm.

Rep. Kagi (D) and Sen. Jayapal (D) both prime sponsored a Child Access Prevention bill, [HB 1747](#) and [SB 6310](#), which will create liability to hold adults responsible when a child accesses a firearm that was not safely stored and hurts themselves or someone else.

Rep. Senn (D) introduced two gun responsibility bills, [HB 2374](#) and [HB 2372](#). HB 2372 requires law enforcement to destroy any surplus firearms, and HB 2374 creates a statewide ammunition fee, with revenues from the fee funding local public safety.

These bills will be heard Thursday in House Judiciary at 1:30pm.

## **Looking Ahead**

Monday was MLK, Jr. Day, a holiday which traditionally sees massive rallies and hundreds of activists on campus as stakeholder groups seek to advance their legislative priorities.

The House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs committee will be holding a work session on state affordable housing policy on Monday. The Seattle Office of Housing will be presenting on the Seattle HALA process, the 65 recommendations, the grand bargain and the options we are pursuing at the state.

The House Commerce and Gaming Committee will hold a hearing on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm on a number of marijuana-related bills, including two from the City, [HB 2494](#), sponsored by Rep. Tarleton (D), concerning lowering certain marijuana penalties from felonies to misdemeanors, and [HB 2368](#), sponsored by Rep. Hurst (D), establishing a 2-yr pilot program allowing legal delivery systems by licensed retailers in the City. Representatives from the Mayor's policy office and the City Attorney's office will testify in support.

The House State Government committee holds a public hearing on [ESHB 1745](#), which would enact the State Voting Rights Act, on Tuesday, January 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 am.

This will potentially be a short, quick session where movement on major issues could be difficult to accomplish. We look forward to the Mayor and Councilmembers' engagement throughout the session, and we are coordinating with Council President Harrell's office to schedule Council lobby days in the next month.

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
<a href="#">SHB 1257</a> (SB 5123)	Tenant screening reports	Concerning tenant screening.	HJudiciary - Referred to Judiciary.	Walkinshaw
<a href="#">SHB 1295</a> (SB 5437)	Breakfast after the bell	Concerning breakfast after the bell programs.	HApprops - Referred to Appropriations.	Hudgins
<a href="#">HB 1355</a> (SB 5285)	Minimum hourly wage increase	Increasing the minimum hourly wage to twelve dollars over four years.	HLabor & Workplace - Referred to Labor & Workplace Standards.	Farrell
<a href="#">HB 1356</a> (SB 5306)	Sick & safe employment leave	Establishing minimum standards for sick and safe leave from employment.	HLabor & Workplace - Referred to Labor & Workplace Standards.	Jinkins
<a href="#">2SHB 1436</a> (2SSB 5404)	Homeless youth	Concerning homeless youth prevention and protection.	HEarly Lrn/H Svc - Referred to Early Learning & Human Services.	Kagi
<a href="#">E2SHB 1472</a> (SB 5406)	Chemical action plans	Concerning using chemical action plans to require safer chemicals in Washington.	HEnvironment - Referred to Environment.	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">HB 1481</a> (E2SSB 5564)	Juvenile records and fines	Concerning the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases.	HEarly Lrn/H Svc - Referred to Early Learning & Human Services.	Kagi
<a href="#">HB 1487</a> (SB 5423)	Clean car stds and program	Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program.	HEnvironment - Referred to Environment.	Fey
<a href="#">HB 1579</a>	Underinsured motor vehicle	Addressing motor vehicle underinsured coverage.	HBus & Fin Svcs - Referred to Business & Financial Services.	Sawyer
<a href="#">ESHB 1646</a> (SB 5630)	Equal pay and opportunities	Enacting the equal pay opportunity act by amending and enhancing enforcement of the equal pay act and protecting worker communications about wages and employment opportunities.	HLabor & Workplace - Referred to Labor & Workplace Standards.  Exec Session in Labor & Workplace Standards (House) on 1/19 @ 1:30pm	Senn
<a href="#">ESHB 1713</a>	Mental hlth, chem dependency	Integrating the treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency.	HJudiciary - Referred to Judiciary.	Cody
<a href="#">EHB 1729</a> (SSB 5631)	Domestic violence victims	Concerning the administration of a statewide network of community-based domestic violence victim services by the department of social and health services.	HPublic Safety - Referred to Public Safety.	Pettigrew
<a href="#">ESHB 1745</a> (SB 5668)	Voting rights	Enacting the Washington voting rights act.	HState Government - Referred to State Government.  Public Hearing in State Government (House) on 1/19 @ 10:00am Exec Session in State Government (House) on 1/20 @ 8:00am Exec Session in State Government (House) on 1/21 @ 1:30pm	Moscoso

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
<a href="#">E2SHB 1850</a>	DOT, local reviews & permits	Exempting certain department of transportation actions from local review or permit processes under the shoreline management act.	HLocal Govt - Referred to Local Government.	Hayes
<a href="#">HB 1911</a> (SSB 5795)	Water or sewer facilities	Authorizing municipalities to create assessment reimbursement areas for the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities.	HLocal Govt - Referred to Local Government.	Fitzgibbon
<a href="#">HB 1917</a>	Recordings/law enf., etc.	Concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.	HJudiciary - Referred to Judiciary.	Hansen
<a href="#">HB 2127</a> (SSB 5957)	Pedestrian fatality review	Creating a pedestrian fatality and serious injury review panel.	HTrans - Referred to Transportation.	Farrell
<a href="#">HB 2133</a>	Childcare provider addresses	Exempting the addresses of certain child care providers from the public records act.	HState Government - Referred to State Government.	Hunt
<a href="#">HB 2211</a>	Vapor products taxation	Concerning vapor products, e-cigarette, and nicotine products tax and regulatory reform to support youth substance prevention.	HFinance - Referred to Finance.	Pollet
<a href="#">HB 2346</a>	Renewable energy promotion	Promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling.	HTech & Econ D - First reading, referred to Technology & Economic Development.  Exec Session in Technology & Economic Development (House) on 1/21 @ 1:30pm	Morris
<a href="#">HB 2368</a>	Marijuana delivery/pilot prg	Creating a two-year pilot program authorizing up to five qualified licensed marijuana retailers to deliver marijuana to Washington residents in a city with a population of over six hundred fifty thousand.	HCommerce & Gam - First reading, referred to Commerce & Gaming.  Public Hearing in Commerce & Gaming (House) on 1/19 @ 1:30pm	Hurst
<a href="#">HB 2374</a>	Statewide ammunition fee	Concerning a statewide ammunition fee to fund local public safety.	HJudiciary - First reading, referred to Judiciary.	Senn
<a href="#">HB 2460</a> (SB 6351)	Firearms/public places	Providing local authorities with the authority to regulate firearms in certain public places.	HJudiciary - First reading, referred to Judiciary.  Public Hearing in Judiciary (House) on 1/21 @ 1:30pm	Walkinshaw
<a href="#">HB 2569</a>	Police & fire in HOV lanes	Authorizing the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes by law enforcement and fire department vehicles.	HTrans - First reading, referred to Transportation.	Sells
<a href="#">HB 2574</a>	Distracted driving incidents	Enhancing public safety by reducing distracted driving incidents caused by the use of personal wireless communications devices.	HTrans - First reading, referred to Transportation.	Farrell

<b>Bill #</b>	<b>Abbrev. Title</b>	<b>Short Description</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Sponsor</b>
<a href="#">HB 2575</a>	Oil transportation safety	Continuing state efforts to increase oil transportation safety.	HEnvironment - First reading, referred to Environment.	Farrell
<a href="#">SB 5277</a>	Patronizing a prostitute	Making the crime of patronizing a prostitute a gross misdemeanor.	SLaw & Justice - Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. On motion, referred to Law & Justice.	Kohl-Welles
<a href="#">SB 5604</a>	Countywide planning policies	Addressing the review and evaluation of countywide planning policies under the growth management act.	SGovtOp&Sec - Rules Committee relieved of further consideration. On motion, referred to Government Operations & Security.	Liias
<a href="#">SB 6163</a>	District charter schools	Authorizing district charter schools.	SEL/K-12 - First reading, referred to Early Learning & K-12 Education.	Billig
<a href="#">SB 6170</a> (HB 2648)	Retirement info. disclosure	Providing for an exemption from disclosure of certain financial, commercial, and proprietary information held by a city retirement board on behalf of its employees' retirement system.	SGovtOp&Sec - First reading, referred to Government Operations & Security.	Roach
<a href="#">SB 6265</a> (HB 2611)	Ag. vehicle weight limits	Concerning vehicle weight limits for the movement of agricultural commodities.	STransportation - First reading, referred to Transportation.	King
<a href="#">SB 6280</a>	Potentially unstable slopes	Concerning forest practices board rules to decrease risks to public safety from potentially unstable slopes.	SNatural Resource - First reading, referred to Natural Resources & Parks.	Rolfes