



**CITY OF SEATTLE
2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

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Number 2

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

Week Overview

The second week of the 2016 legislative session began with Martin Luther King Jr. Day, one of the busiest days for the legislature and legislative staff as many stakeholder groups and individuals take advantage of the Federal Holiday to come to Olympia as citizen lobbyists and voice their input on the many issues being debated.

The Senate held floor action on [E2SSB 6194](#) on Wednesday, which would re-enact and amend the charter schools initiative (I-1240) and addresses concerns by the Supreme Court over the funding structure in the initiative. The bill passed with a 27-20-2 vote with Republicans and two Democratic Senators supporting the bill, and the majority of Democrats opposing it. The bill now has been referred to the House Education committee.

Thursday was Washington Film Incentive Day, which brought filmmakers from around the state to the Capitol. As is becoming a tradition, the stakeholders created some of the more imaginative lobbying techniques, including numerous “zombie” sitings on campus, highlighting the successful series “Z Nation” which is filmed entirely in the Spokane area. More on the Film Incentive bill below.

Finally, on Thursday, the King County Superior Court struck down Tim Eyman's Initiative 1366, which narrowly passed during last November's election, as unconstitutional. I-1366 would have cut sales tax by 1% starting in April unless the Legislature put forward a public vote to amend the State's constitution to require a 2/3 majority on any vote to raise taxes. The sales tax cut could have had potentially severe consequences, costing an estimated \$8 billion through the middle of 2021. Eyman, who happened to be testifying in front of the Senate Government Operations & Security Committee at the time of the ruling, vowed to continue his fight and has already lined up multiple versions of potential initiatives that would require a supermajority to increase taxes.

Priority Areas

Safety Net and Housing

Affordable Housing Work Session

On Tuesday, January 19th, the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs committee held a work session on state affordable housing policy. The Department of Commerce discussed the Housing Trust Fund investments in affordable housing, the Housing Finance Commission presented on their programs and the communities they serve, the Low Income Housing Alliance discussed their housing and homelessness priorities, and the City of Seattle Office of Housing presented on the HALA process and recommendations.

Preservation Tax Exemption

Last week, [SB 6239](#), (Sen. Fain-R) which provides a property tax exemption for the preservation of affordable housing, was heard in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing committee. Also, companion [HB 2544](#) (Rep. Frame-D) was heard in the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs committee, and is scheduled for executive session on Tuesday, January 26th.

Unreinforced Masonry

Rep. Eric Pettigrew (D) introduced two bills on unreinforced masonry ([HB 2688/](#)[HB 2689](#)). [HB 2688](#) allows cities to levy a regular property tax, in excess of current statutory limits, for up to 10 years to fund the rehabilitation of historic buildings. [HB 2689](#) creates a state historic building rehabilitation program in the Department of Commerce to provide loans for the safety and preservation of historic buildings. Both are scheduled for a hearing in the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs on Monday, January 25th. Barb Graff, director of the Seattle Office of Emergency Management will testify to the need for legislative action on this challenging issue.

Tenant Protections

Rep. Farrell (D) and Sen. Miloscia (R) reintroduced [HB 2015/](#)[SB 5377](#), which allows cities to require landlords to provide up to 90 days' notice for large rent increases and modifies when relocation assistance is provided to low-income individuals who are forced to move due to demolition, change of use, or other substantial changes to the property. The bills have not been scheduled for a hearing.

Sen. Miloscia (R) and Rep. Ormsby (D) reintroduced [SB 5378/](#)[HB 1565](#). The bill prohibits a person from discriminating against a tenant based on their source of income. [SB 5378](#) was heard in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing committee on January 21st.

Mental Health & Homelessness

On Wednesday, January 20th, the House Early Learning and Human Services committee held a work session on children's mental health issues. Physicians and community providers discussed the challenges, evidenced-based practices, and services currently provided in communities across the state.

[HB 2396](#) by Rep. McBride (D) provides access to primary care for the homeless. The legislation has raised some concerns by providers regarding who would be allowed to give consent for care of homeless youth. As a result, there is another bill being worked on to address this.

[HB 2439](#) by Rep. Kagi (D) establishes the children's mental health work group to review the barriers that exist in identifying and treating mental health issues in children with a particular focus on birth to age 5, and report to the Legislature by Dec. 1st, 2016. The bill was heard in the House Early Learning and Human Services committee on January 20th.

Consumer Finance

[HB 2505](#) by Rep. G. Hunt (R) requires a financial institution issuing a payroll card to provide access to automated teller machines that do not charge a fee for withdrawals from a payroll deposit account. The bill is scheduled for a hearing on Tuesday, January 26th.

The Senate moved [SB 5222](#) to the Rules committee on January 19th. This bill would allow debt collection agencies to charge consumers a \$0.50 cent fee plus 3% of the payment amount fee for use of a credit card. Opponents of SB 5222 say the legislation would exacerbate consumers overall financial situation by allowing them to use a credit card and would add more fees to vulnerable populations with legal financial obligations. OIR will monitor whether the bill is brought to the House floor for debate.

Education

McCleary

Last week, [SB 6195](#) by Sen. Rivers (R), 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, was heard in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education on January 18th. Rep. Lytton (D) has sponsored the companion bill [HB 2366](#), which was heard on January 20th in the House Appropriations committee and is scheduled for executive session on January 21st.

School Levies

The Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee heard [SB 6183](#) on January 18th. The bill addresses local school levy authority by keeping school district levy lids at 28 percent until 2020. Beginning in 2021, school district levy lids would be reduced by 1 percent per year until 2024 when the lid would be set at 24 percent for non-grandfathered school districts. Grandfathered school districts would receive a 1 percent levy lid reduction per year for four years until 2024. Seattle Public Schools is a grandfathered district and their current levy rate is 36.97 percent.

Rep. Lytton (D) introduced [HB 2698](#), which delays changes to the school district formula for calculating school districts' maximum maintenance and operation levy authority for one year. The bill was heard in the House Finance committee on January 20th.

Student Homelessness

Rep. Fey (D) has reintroduced [E2SHB 1682](#) (companion bill [SB 5065](#), sponsored by Sen. Frockt-D), which 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 was heard in the House Appropriations committee on January 18th and is scheduled for executive session on January 25th.

Sen. Frockt (D) also introduced [SB 6298](#), which provides a competitive grant system for high-need school districts to ensure homeless students continue attending the same schools, maintain housing stability, and improve academic achievement. The bill was heard in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education on January 21st.

[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 14th and the House Appropriations committee on January 21st.

Environment

Sen. Hobbs (D) introduced [SB 6306](#) which would institute a tax on carbon emissions in the State. The tax would be levied and imposed on the carbon content of fossil fuels extracted, manufactured, or introduced into this state, with some exceptions, at a rate equal to \$8 per metric ton of CO₂. The revenues generated would be applied to storm water infrastructure, fish barrier removal projects, programs that advance renewable energy and energy conservation, and multi-modal and public transportation projects. The bill was heard in the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications committee on January 21st.

Also on January 21st, the same committee voted on Sen. Ericksen's (R) [SB 6173](#), which would prohibit the Department of Ecology from adopting new clean air rules with limits on greenhouse gas emissions without prior legislative direction. The bill passed on party lines, 5-3.

Transportation

Sen. Fain (R) and Rep. Moscoso (D), respectively, introduced [SB 6314/](#)[HB 2590](#), which allow King County to transfer ownership of a county road to a city or town if the road is within a city or town or abuts the boundary of a city or town on both sides. [HB 2590](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the House Local Government committee on January 27th and executive session on January 28th. [SB 6314](#) is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Transportation committee on January 25th.

Public Safety and Government Operations

Economic Development

Rep. Riccelli (D) is the sponsor of [HB 2542](#) which would extend and incrementally increase the amount of the Washington motion picture competitive program and extend the end date of the program. Currently this tax preference is scheduled to expire in 2017. Currently, Washington caps the tax preferences at 3.5 Million, while Oregon and British Columbia have much higher caps. This bill would extend the expiration date of the program until 2023, and gradually increase the amount that can be claimed through the program to \$10 million. This incentive is a key component in many television and films being produced in Seattle and across the state.

Marijuana

Tuesday saw hearings on four marijuana related bills in the House Commerce & Gaming committee, including [HB 2368](#) and [HB 2494](#) (Rep. Tarleton-D and Rep Hurst-D, respectively). HB 2368 would seek to align marijuana possession penalties more closely with alcohol possession penalties and HB 2494 establishes a temporary pilot program to allow delivery of marijuana solely in Seattle, which, among other benefits, would greatly help individuals with mobility issues access medication they may need.

Pensions

The Senate Government Operations and Security Committee passed Sen. Roach's (R) [SB 6170](#), (companion [HB 2648](#), Rep. Fey-D) 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 vote was unanimous.

Body Cameras

The House Judiciary committee passed Rep. Hansen's (D) legislation on body cameras HB 2362, on January 20th, on an almost unanimous vote, with only one Republican voting opposed.

Gun Safety

The House Judiciary committee also held a hearing on five gun and gun safety bills on January 21st. They included Rep. Jenkins' (D) [HB 2461](#) on extreme risk protection orders, Rep. Kagi's (D) [HB 1747](#) regarding child access prevention, Rep. Walkinshaw's (D) [HB 2460](#) restoring local authority to regulate firearms in certain public places, Rep. Blake's (D) [HB 2481](#) concerning short-barreled rifles, and Rep. Senn's (D) [HB 2372](#) regarding disposition of seized and forfeited firearms. Assistant Chief Robert Merner and Sgt. Adrian Diaz travelled to Olympia and joined hundreds of survivors, families and public health experts to testify in favor of Extreme Risk Protection Orders and Child Access Prevention. Over 700 people signed in to testify at the hearing.

Looking Ahead

On Wednesday, January 27th at 1:30 pm, the Senate Commerce and Labor committee will hold a hearing on Sen. Ericksen's (R) [SB 6443](#), which would repeal the State Human Rights Commissions rule requiring access to gender-segregated facilities based on gender identity and expression, and prohibit the HRC from making any future rules on that subject.

Rep. McBride's (D) bill, [HB 2576](#), will be heard on Thursday, January 28th at 1:30 pm. The legislation allows public agencies to charge a fee in order to recover costs related to public records requests when those records are for the purpose of sale or resale. The legislation also creates a public records commission to administer the provisions of the Public Records Act.

Committee schedules are tight as cut-off for bills to move out of committee is just two weeks away. Committee chairs are scheduling executive sessions on bills at a robust pace and some floor action is beginning. This week could be critical in getting bills out of committee in time to be debated on the floor.

It is still anticipated that the Legislature will finish its work and sine die on schedule, March 10th. This goal was brought slightly more into focus with the ruling on I-1366, which eased some pressure on creating the supplemental budgets. An appeal to the Supreme Court, thought, still holds the key to getting out on time.

Bill Status Report

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
SHB 1257 (SB 5123)	Tenant screening reports	Concerning tenant screening.	H Judiciary	Walkinshaw
SHB 1295 (SB 5437)	Breakfast after the bell	Concerning breakfast after the bell programs.	H Approps	Hudgins
HB 1355 (SB 5285)	Minimum hourly wage increase	Increasing the minimum hourly wage to twelve dollars over four years.	H Labor & Workpla	Farrell
HB 1356 (SB 5306)	Sick & safe employment leave	Establishing minimum standards for sick and safe leave from employment.	H Labor & Workpla	Jinkins
2SHB 1436 (2SSB 5404)	Homeless youth	Concerning homeless youth prevention and protection.	H Erly Lrn/H Svc	Kagi
E2SHB 1472 (SB 5406)	Chemical action plans	Concerning using chemical action plans to require safer chemicals in Washington.	H Environment	Fitzgibbon
HB 1481 (E2SSB 5564)	Juvenile records and fines	Concerning the sealing of juvenile records and fines imposed in juvenile cases.	H Erly Lrn/H Svc	Kagi
HB 1487 (SB 5423)	Clean car stds and program	Reducing emissions by making changes to the clean car standards and clean car program.	H Environment	Fey
HB 1525 (SB 5008)	Beverage containers	Concerning beverage containers.	H Environment	Caldier
HB 1579	Underinsured motor vehicle	Addressing motor vehicle underinsured coverage.	H Bus & Fin Svcs	Sawyer
ESHB 1646 (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.	H Rules R	Senn
ESHB 1713	Mental hlth, chem dependency	Integrating the treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency.	H Judiciary	Cody
EHB 1729 (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.	H Public Safety	Pettigrew
E2SHB 1850	DOT, local reviews & permits	Exempting certain department of transportation actions from	H Local Govt	Hayes

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
		local review or permit processes under the shoreline management act.		
HB 1911 (SSB 5795)	Water or sewer facilities	Authorizing municipalities to create assessment reimbursement areas for the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities.	H Local Govt	Fitzgibbon
HB 1917	Recordings/law enf., etc.	Concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.	H Judiciary	Hansen
HB 2133	Childcare provider addresses	Exempting the addresses of certain child care providers from the public records act.	H State Governmen	Hunt
HB 2211	Vapor products taxation	Concerning vapor products, e-cigarette, and nicotine products tax and regulatory reform to support youth substance prevention.	H Finance	Pollet
HB 2310	Fire prevention/2016	Concerning fire prevention in 2016.	H Ag & Nat Res	Van De Wege
HB 2362	Recordings/law enf., etc.	Concerning video and/or sound recordings made by law enforcement or corrections officers.	H JUDIDP	Hansen
HB 2368	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.	H Commerce & Gam	Hurst
HB 2374	Statewide ammunition fee	Concerning a statewide ammunition fee to fund local public safety.	H Judiciary	Senn
HB 2377	Schools/GMA	Establishing schools as essential public facilities within the growth management act.	H Local Govt	Taylor
HB 2460 (SB 6351)	Firearms/public places	Providing local authorities with the authority to regulate firearms in certain public places.	H Judiciary	Walkinshaw
HB 2468 (SB 6334)	GMA/rail dependent uses	Concerning rail dependent uses for purposes of the growth management act and related development regulations.	H Local Govt	Pike

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 2494 (SB 6486)	Marijuana offense penalties	Concerning penalties for marijuana offenses.	H Commerce & Gam	Tarleton
HB 2509 (SB 6227)	Wildlife and recreation prg.	Implementing the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Washington wildlife and recreation program.	H Cap Budget	Tharinger
HB 2530 (SB 6484)	Victims of sex crimes	Protecting victims of sex crimes.	H Public Safety	Orwall
HB 2547	Synthetic turf materials	Ensuring that recreational facilities with synthetic turf materials are not a hazard to public health.	H Environment	Pollet
HB 2569	Police & fire in HOV lanes	Authorizing the use of high occupancy vehicle lanes by law enforcement and fire department vehicles.	H Trans	Sells
HB 2574	Distracted driving incidents	Enhancing public safety by reducing distracted driving incidents caused by the use of personal wireless communications devices.	H Trans	Farrell
HB 2575	Oil transportation safety	Continuing state efforts to increase oil transportation safety.	H Environment	Farrell
HB 2648 (SB 6170)	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.	H State Governme	Fey
HB 2672	Utility relocation costs	Relating to utility relocation costs.	H Tech & Econ De	Zeiger
HB 2822	Underservd grps/I-200 repeal	Restoring the fair treatment of underserved groups in public employment, education, and contracting.	H Cap Budget	Santos
SB 5277	Patronizing a prostitute	Making the crime of patronizing a prostitute a gross misdemeanor.	S Law & Justice	Kohl-Welles
SB 5378 (HB 1565)	Housing options/govt progrms	Concerning the preservation of housing options for participants in government assistance programs.	S HumSer/MenHlt h/	Kohl-Welles
SB 5604	Countywide planning policies	Addressing the review and evaluation of countywide	S GovtOp&Sec	Liias

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
		planning policies under the growth management act.		
SB 6163	District charter schools	Authorizing district charter schools.	S EL/K-12	Billig
SB 6170 (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.	S Rules 2	Roach
SB 6192	Educational opportunity gap	Implementing strategies to close the educational opportunity gap, based on the recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee.	S EL/K-12	McCoy
SB 6227 (HB 2509)	Wildlife and recreation prg.	Implementing the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Washington wildlife and recreation program.	S Natural Resour	Honeyford
SB 6265 (HB 2611)	Ag. vehicle weight limits	Concerning vehicle weight limits for the movement of agricultural commodities.	S Transportation	King
SB 6280 (HB 2828)	Potentially unstable slopes	Concerning forest practices board rules to decrease risks to public safety from potentially unstable slopes.	S Natural Resour	Rolfes
SB 6310	Firearm responsible storage	Promoting the safety of children and communities through responsible storage of firearms.	S Law & Justice	Jayapal
SB 6334 (HB 2468)	GMA/rail dependent uses	Concerning rail dependent uses for purposes of the growth management act and related development regulations.	S GovtOp&Sec	Benton
SB 6375	Marijuana clubs	Modifying marijuana club provisions.	S Commerce and La	Rivers
SB 6418	Oil transportation safety	Concerning oil transportation safety.	S Energy, Enviro	Ranker
SB 6509	Viaduct project contingency	Concerning contingency planning for the state route number 99 Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project.	S Transportation	Baumgartner