

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

February 5, 2007

Number 4

SESSION PRIORITIES

Budget discussions have begun. The House expects to have their budget finalized at the end of February, shortly after the Revenue forecast.

Education

HB 1663 is the comprehensive early learning component of Washington Learns. Specific issue areas, such as quality rating and child care subsidy, are addressed through specific bills in the House. HB 1663 will receive a public hearing on February 6. The Senate companion bill **SB 5828** will be heard on February 7.

HB 1641/SB 5501, implementing Washington Learns recommendations, were heard in joint hearings with both the House and Senate. There was a great deal of praise for the effort, and small changes were suggested by interested stakeholders. One change recommended was implementing full-day kindergarten quicker than the proposed ten-year phase-in. A concern was raised about compensation bonuses and wanting clarity on the funding of basic education.

Civil Rights

HB 1473, changing the requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies, was heard in the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1351, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, had a hearing in the Judiciary Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Crime Guns

SB 5197, which regulates the sale of firearms at gun shows and events, will be heard in the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee on February 8. Chief Kerlikowske is scheduled to testify. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Environment

HB 1929, authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts, was introduced. This bill was drafted specifically to address the recent State Supreme Court *Okeson v Seattle* decision. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Infrastructure/Finance

SSB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, passed out of the Senate by a vote of 45-3. Department of Revenue projections show that Seattle would receive mitigation of almost \$2.4 million. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1277 will be heard in the Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee on February 5. This is the Governor's request legislation amending the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) statute approved last year. The changes include increasing the competitive portion of LIFT to \$5 million, repealing the one-project-per county restriction, and eliminating the assessed value per square foot requirement. The companion bill **SB 5115** has already been heard in the Senate. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1430, allowing local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, was heard and passed out of the Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee. The companion bill, **SB 5630**, will be heard in the Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee on February 7. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1825 and **SB 5729**, which would direct \$50 million per year to fund core public health functions and implement accountability measures, will both be heard on February 7 in the Health Care Committees. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

Homelessness Advocacy Day was held on February 1 to bring focus and attention to the issue. **HB 1359** creates an affordable housing program for all. It is supported by the Low Income Housing Alliance, Committee to End Homelessness, and United Way of King County. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1115, relating to comprehensive local planning to end homelessness received a public hearing on February 1. The bill calls for an additional real estate recording (closing) fee of \$10 and a local option fee of \$10, to be split between county and state governments. Counties have expressed concerns due to the revenue source. It is supported by the Low Income Housing Alliance, Committee to End Homelessness, and United Way of King County. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1921 provides assistance to homeless individuals and families. It expands current policy to provide services to individuals and youth, including rental assistance and case management. It also increases current funding levels from \$5 million to \$15 million. This bill is based on a successful model to prevent homelessness. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the Housing Committee on February 7. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1201, extending Medicaid to youth who are in foster care at the age of 18 through age 21, was voted out of the Health Care & Wellness committee this week. **SB 5305**, which extends Medicaid to any youth who is legally dependent at age 18 to 21, will be heard in the Ways & Means Committee on February 5.

Transportation

HB 1858 and **SB 5767** would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the authorized vehicle license fee. Anything above \$20 must be voter approved. **HB 1858** will be heard in the Transportation Committee on February 5. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1396 and **SB 5282** allow a single vote on the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID)/Sound Transit (ST) ballot measure. Both bills were heard in the transportation committees on February 1.

SB 5690 provides for the dissolution of a city transportation authority. This bill will be heard on February 7 in the Judiciary Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

HB 1520, concerning polygraph examinations of sexual assault victims, was heard in the Judiciary Committee. This bill would prohibit this practice. **Seattle signed in supporting this bill.**

HB 1555, addressing sexual assault protection orders, was also heard in the Judiciary Committee. This measure provides that a sexual assault protection order is a remedy for victims who do not qualify for a domestic violence protection order. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1642/SB 5697, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, will both be heard in the House and Senate Judiciary Committees. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Elections and General Government

SB 5278, allowing the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office, was heard on February 1 in the Government Operations & Elections Committee. **HB 1551** will be heard on February 7 in the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Growth Management, Land Use & Annexation

SB 5558 and **HB 1477** would allow local government more zoning flexibility over gambling establishments and limit the number of establishments statewide. It would also require a city, with a gambling prohibition that annexes an area with an existing facility, to vote to impose the prohibition on the newly annexed area.

The prohibition would be effective eighteen months after the council vote. **SB 5558** will be heard in the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee on February 6.

Housing

HB 1910, modifying property tax exemption provisions relating to new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers to provide affordable housing requirements, will be heard in the Housing Committee on February 5. This bill changes existing statute to encourage the development of affordable housing. Seattle Office of Housing worked closely with the sponsor and stakeholders on this bill so it would not inhibit our current programs. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Human Services

HB 1472 analyzing and remedying racial disproportionality and racial disparity in the child welfare, creates a commission to address disproportionality in the children's welfare system. A hearing was held on February 2 in the Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Public Safety

SB 5718, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, was introduced and referred to the Human Services & Corrections Committee. This bill adds one year to the sentencing and also places any restitution funds into prevention and intervention programs.

SB 5060 changing the seriousness level for attempting to elude a pursuing police vehicle was heard in the Judiciary Committee. **Seattle supports his bill.**

SHB 1001, combating auto theft, was voted out of the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee. The bill now moves to Rules. Amendments were made changing the funding source from a 50-cent surcharge on auto insurance policies to a \$10 surcharge on traffic infractions. The money would be split between the newly created Auto Theft Prevention Authority (for prevention programs) and counties for diversion programs for youth having been involved in auto theft-related offenses. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SHB 1030, enhancing the penalty for eluding a police vehicle, was also passed out of the Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

HB 1811, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, will be heard in the Local Government Committee on February 9. This extends the deadline for installation to December 2009. It also provides that if the lessee pays for the installation, the lessee receives the tax benefit. **Seattle supports this measure.**