

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

April 9, 2007

Number 13

The last day to consider bills in the opposite house is April 13 at 5:00 PM. Sine Die is scheduled for Sunday, April 22.

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

E2SSB 5828 creates an Early Learning Advisory Council and funds a quality rating system to improve the quality of child care. The House budget includes \$9.3 million, and the Senate budget includes \$2.5 million. **Seattle supports the House budget level.**

Civil Rights

SHB 1472 addresses racial disproportionality in the Children's Welfare System. The bill passed out of the Senate by a vote of 47-0. Amendments were added in the Senate, so it now returns to the House for concurrence. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Environment

SHB 1929, authorizing utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts, passed the Senate by a vote of 33-13. This bill addresses the recent State Supreme Court decision on City Light's offset program. Amendments were added in the Senate, so it now returns to the House for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Infrastructure/Finance

E2SHB 1825 did not move out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee but is considered "necessary to implement the budget". This bill has been amended to provide a dedicated account for funding public health. The Senate budget provided \$20 million in new funding for the biennium. This is the same amount proposed in the House budget. The Governor proposed an increase of \$10 million for the biennium. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1430, clarifying that local government can directly participate in the federal New Market Tax Credit program, is on the floor calendar. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

E2SHB 1359 funds local planning for homelessness and provides funding for services through a document recording fee. The bill is in the Senate Rules Committee. Several amendments are being considered, including the level of the recording document fee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

The most recent draft version of **SB 5803**, relating to regional governance in the four-county area, would involve the Joint Transportation Committee convening a regional transportation governance task force. The taskforce would include legislators, the Governor and County Executives to devise recommendations regarding the implementation of a phased-in restructuring of transportation governance in the central Puget Sound region. The recommendations are due by December 15, 2007.

SHB 1858 would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. This bill is on the Senate floor calendar. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 6099 suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. It now calls for work to be done on a six-lane facility with the ability to add high capacity transit. The bill is on the House floor calendar.

SHB 1588 is named the *Matthew Tatsuo Nakata Act*. The bill would establish pilot programs for driver education and mobility education in King, Kitsap, and Spokane counties. This bill is in the Senate Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

SHB 1520, concerning polygraph examinations of sexual assault victims, passed the Senate unanimously. This bill prohibits sexual assault victims from being required to take a polygraph exam. Amendments were added in the Senate, so it now returns to the House for concurrence. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Energy

ESSB 5312, addressing the issue of stolen metal property, passed the House unanimously. Amendments were added in the House, so it now returns to the Senate for concurrence. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Hazardous & Solid Waste

ESHB 1024, phasing out the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), passed the Senate 41 - 8. This bill phases out this toxic flame retardant only if other flame retardants become available. Washington State is the first state to take this action. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Health Care

2SHB 1088 expands mental health services for children. This bill sits in Senate Rules awaiting a vote by the full Senate. The House budget includes \$10 million, but is not funded in the Senate budget. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Housing

The Housing Trust Fund provides funding for affordable housing for low income persons, farm workers, and domestic violence survivors. One hundred forty million dollars is included in the House capitol budget, and the Senate includes \$100 million. **Seattle supports the House level of funding.**

Human Services

The Area Agency on Aging's (AAA) top funding priority is for a vendor rate increase of 3.2% and 2.0% over two years for community providers. Funding is included in the Senate budget, but not in the House budget. **Seattle supports funding at the Senate level.**

Public Safety

SSB 5718, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, passed the House unanimously. This bill increases the penalties and fines imposed. **Seattle supports this bill.**

E3SHB 1001, combating auto theft, passed the Senate unanimously. Concerns were expressed by members during the floor debate about the \$10-per-traffic infraction fee which funds the intervention and prevention programs. Members were told the bill would go into conference; therefore some changes will be made to the version as it passes the Senate.