

CITY OF SEATTLE
2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

March 2, 2009

Number 7

The first legislative cut-off for policy committees was February 25. Fiscal and transportation committee cut-off is March 2. Any bill that hasn't moved to Rules committee by this time is considered "dead" although bills deemed "necessary to implement the budget" or NTIB are in play. Only one-third of the bills introduced this session will still be alive following the March 2 cut-off. The fiscal cut off will be followed quickly by the major mid-session cut-off March 12th when bills need to be adopted by one house to merit further consideration.

SESSION PRIORITIES – 2009

Housing Resources

HB 1464 passed out of the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 13 and is now in the Rules Committee. HB 1464 makes modification to the incentive zoning for affordable housing statute. The Senate version, **SSB 5544**, passed out of the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 18 with a technical amendment and is now in the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SHB 1696 was referred to the Finance Committee on February 17 with an amendment reducing the qualifying affordability threshold from 120% of Area Median Income (AMI) to 80% AMI. This bill is not yet scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee and will likely not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff. This bill provides an incentive to employers to provide housing assistance to employees. The Senate version, **SB 5585**, was referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee on February 25. This bill is not yet scheduled for a hearing in Ways and Means and likely will not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1973 was referred to the House Finance Committee on February 23. This bill is not yet scheduled for a hearing in the Finance Committee and will likely not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff. **SB 5856** was heard in the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 25. This bill has not yet been referred to the Ways and Means Committee and will likely not make the March 2 fiscal cutoff. HB 1973 and SB 5856 create a financing tool for affordable housing. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Regional Transportation

SSB 5768 authorizing the replacement of the State Route 99/Alaskan Way Viaduct with a bored tunnel is now eligible for a vote on the Senate floor.

SHB 1978 and **SB 5458** were both heard and passed out of the Transportation Committees. These bills appropriate the transportation funds from federal economic stimulus plan. Funding for Mercer Street and Spokane Street is not included.

HB 1947 allowing a local option street utility fee is not going to pass out of the House Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Education

HB 2261 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Committee on Education Appropriations on March 2. HB 2261 states that the Legislature intends to monitor the progress of developing formulas, processes, and systems and to begin a schedule of implementation in the 2011-12 school year. The Senate version, **SB 6048**, passed out of the Early Learning & K-12 Education Committee on February 24 and is now in Rules. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2009

Civil Rights

On February 25, the Senate Judiciary Committee moved **SB 5952** on to the Senate Rules Committee. It would expand the definition of “sexual identity” as it relates to protection under the malicious harassment statute. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Climate Protection & Environment

HB 1819 and **SB 5735**, by request of Governor Gregoire, would take steps to implement a regional cap-and-trade program in line with the Western Climate Initiative. **Seattle testified in support of the original legislation.** The House bill passed out of the House Committee on General Government Appropriations on February 26, and the Senate bill was heard in Senate Ways & Means on February 27.

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

SSB 5321 continuing the current sales tax credit for annexation over 10,000 by cities under 400,000 passed out of the Ways & Means Committee and was sent to the Rules Committee. It provides approximately \$600,000 for Seattle in the event of an annexation in the North Highline area.

HB 1710 which would provide up to \$5 million for an annexation in the North Highline area is scheduled for a vote in the Finance Committee on March 2.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

2SHB 1469 passed out of the House Committee on General Government Appropriations on February 25. 2SHB 1469 would establish the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights. **Seattle testified in support of this bill.**

2SHB 1165 passed out of the House Committee on General Government Appropriations on February 26. 2SHB 1165 provides for the safe collection and disposal

of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Infrastructure/Finance

HB 2249 is a bill that only affects King County (KC) and the cities in King County that have proposed annexation areas. This bill would extend the existing sales tax credit for annexations over 10,000 to January 1, 2012. The bill penalizes cities that do not annex an urban growth area of 4,000 people or more by 2012 by shifting 0.075% of existing sales tax authority to KC. It allows KC to impose a utility tax in the unincorporated areas. It would allow KC and cities to impose a sales tax increase of up to 0.3% for the years of 2010 – 2012. Finally, it requires a performance audit of KC, specifically looking at overhead costs, service and streamlining improvements and local and regional services provide inside and outside of cities. This bill is scheduled for a vote in the House Finance Committee on March 2. Amendments to the bill would remove the fiscal penalty for not annexing an area and the sales tax options but would make the city ineligible for state grants like TIB and PWTF and require KC to provide \$10 million annually to assist with annexations.

HB 1422 allowing the taxation of brokered natural gas to be maintained at a status quo level is scheduled to be voted on in the House Finance Committee on March 2. Seattle supports this legislation.

Parks

SB 5967 passed out of the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on February 23. In its revised form, the bill expressly prohibits any city, town, county, or district from discriminating against any person on the basis of sex in the operation, conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults. It also requires jurisdictions that operate a community athletics program or issue permission to a third party for the operation of such program on its facilities to adopt a non-discrimination policy by January 2010. **Seattle currently supports this legislation.**

Planning & Development

SHB 1490 passed out of the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 26 with a placeholder amendment for Section 8 of this legislation. **The City of Seattle signed in supporting this legislation.** The Senate version, **SSB 5687**, was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 26. **The City of Seattle signed in supporting this legislation with concerns.** SHB 1490 and SSB 5687 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements. **Seattle continues to work with proponents and stakeholders on this legislation.**

HB 1775 would give the region the authority to re-regulate limousines. We continue to negotiate with relevant stakeholders and agencies. This bill moved out of the House Transportation Committee to Rules on February 27. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SSB 5495 passed out of the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 25 with an amendment placing a moratorium on third-party

rental housing inspection programs and prohibiting local governments from assessing a fee for inspections. SSB 5495 is now in Rules. The House version, HB 1296, is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle opposes these bills.**