



CITY OF SEATTLE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

April 27, 2015

Number 15

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

Week Overview

The Washington State Legislature adjourned Sine Die on Friday, April 24th, two days earlier than the scheduled official end of session. Lawmakers were unable to reach an agreement on an operating budget prior to adjournment. Governor Inslee has called budget writers to Olympia for negotiations on Monday, April 27th, and has called a 30-day special session for all lawmakers starting Wednesday, April 29th.

Priority Areas

Budget and Infrastructure

Budget negotiators remain divided on their plans to balance the budget while meeting the requirements of the Supreme Court's McCleary decision to fully fund basic education. House Democrats contend that current revenue is not adequate and are advocating for new revenue streams, such as a capital gains tax, an increase in the B & O tax, or a sales tax on some internet sales. Senate Republicans believe that \$3 billion in current forecasted revenues is enough to cover basic education. In addition, the Senate is asking that the House pass any legislation to raise new revenue as a precursor to starting negotiations. House D's contend this is unnecessary as the Senate would not consider the bills if sent to them.

Negotiations continue on the capital and transportation budgets as well, although neither is expected to be completed until after a deal is struck on the operating budget.

[SSB 5795](#), the Latecomers Fee bill sponsored by Sen. Pam Roach (R) and supported by the City, was signed by the Governor on Friday, April 24th. The bill allows cities to recoup some of their investment in water and sewer infrastructure from developers who benefit from that infrastructure.

Education

Hearings were held in the Senate Ways and Means committee on Friday April 17th and Monday April 20th on the various Senate proposals addressing education levies. The McCleary decision ruled that it was unconstitutional to fund basic education through local levies. As noted in last week's bulletin, the Senate R's proposal, [SB 6109](#) sponsored by Sen. Bruce Dammeier (R), would initiate a levy swap, lowering local levies and raising state ones by commensurate amounts. The swap would not commence until 2018. The local levies would be restricted to use on non-basic education programs.

The Senate D proposal is made up of 3 separate bills, [SB 6102](#), [SB 6103](#), and [SB 6104](#), by Senators Kevin Ranker, Jim Hargrove and Christine Rolfes, respectively. This plan would phase in reductions to local levies through the implementation of a capital gains tax and changes to the state salary allocations.

Neither plan would fund full implementation of I-1351 which calls for reduced K-12 class sizes. Both plans do address lowering K-3 class sizes initially.

Safety Net, Housing and Health Care

[HB 1491](#), Rep. Ruth Kagi's (D) Early Learning Act, continues to be in conference negotiations between the two chambers and is expected to be concluded during special session.

[SB 5404](#), the Homeless Youth Act, sponsored by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R), was signed by the Governor on Friday, April 24th. The legislation creates the Office of Homeless Youth to develop and implement policies aimed at reducing and preventing youth homelessness.

Environment

Week-long negotiations on [ESHB 1449](#), by Rep. Jessyn Farrell (D), culminated in a last minute agreement that saw the bill pass as one of the final acts of the legislature this session. The bill, addressing safety of hazardous material transportation, creates a state oil spill response account, establishes tax rates on oil being transported through the state, sets shipment notification requirements and exemptions, and eliminates proposed minimum train crew requirements amongst other regulations.

Transportation

Negotiations continue on Transportation budgets and packages, with the "current law" maintenance and operations budgets being considered jointly with the "new law" transportation revenue packages.

Public Safety

Marijuana

[HB 2136](#), Rep. Reuven Carlyle's (D) bill reforming regulations on the recreational marijuana market, did not make it to the Governor's desk prior to the end of session. Lawmakers were in agreement on the policy issues within the bill, but were unable to agree on funding levels for prevention and education resources called for in I-502. The bill is considered necessary to implement the budget and will continue to be negotiated in special session.

[SB 5052](#), Sen. Ann Rivers' (R) bill which was designed to fold the medical marijuana market into the recreational one, was signed by the Governor on Friday, April 24th.

Mental Health

Two bills dealing with involuntary treatment are headed to the Governor. Rep. Laurie Jinkins' (D) [E2SB 1450](#) was passed by the House, when it concurred with Senate amendments. The legislation states that a person needing outpatient treatment may be committed by a court for involuntary mental health treatment. Also the Senate concurred with House amendments and passed Joel's Law, [E2SSB 5269](#) sponsored by Sen. O'Ban. The legislation creates a process to allow a family member, guardian, or conservator to involuntarily commit a person who needs mental treatment.

Other

[HB 1980](#), which codifies Sunshine Committee recommendations including exempting information in enhanced 911 communication and notification systems from public disclosure, was delivered to the Governor on Friday, April 24th. The bill, by Representative Larry Springer (D), was a priority for the City's Office of Emergency Management.

Looking Ahead

Legislators return for a 30-day special session on April 29th.

Passed Bills

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
SHB 1068 (SB 5225)	Sexual assault exam kits	Concerning sexual assault examination kits.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Orwall
SHB 1069 (SB 5253)	DNA work product, preserving	Concerning preservation of DNA work product.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Orwall
SHB 1223	Lodging tx/workforce housing	Allowing the use of lodging taxes for financing workforce housing.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Springer
SHB 1240 (SB 5908)	Student restraint, isolation	Concerning restraint or isolation of students, including students with disabilities, in public schools.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Pollet
HB 1389 (SB 5181)	State fire service/disasters	Addressing the scope of state fire service mobilization and ensuring compliance with existing state and federal disaster response policies.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Goodman
ESHB 1449 (SB 5087)	Oil transportation safety	Concerning oil transportation safety.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Farrell
HB 1554	Children/guardians, family	Exempting information of guardians or family members of children enrolled in child care, early learning, parks and recreation, after-school, and youth development programs.	C 47 L 15 - Chapter 47, 2015 Laws.	Stambaugh
HB 1720	Healthy housing	Concerning healthy housing.	C 50 L 15 - Chapter 50, 2015 Laws.	Robinson
ESHB 1980 (SB 6020)	Sunshine committee rec's	Implementing recommendations of the sunshine committee.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Springer
ESSB 5048 (ESHB 1417)	Water-sewer districts	Subjecting a resolution or ordinance adopted by the legislative body of a city or town to assume a water-sewer district to a referendum.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Chase
2SSB 5052	Cannabis patient protection	Establishing the cannabis patient protection act.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Rivers
E2SSB 5057	Hazardous material transport	Concerning the safe transport of hazardous materials.	SRules 3 - On Concurrence Calendar. Referred to Senate Rules 3.	Ericksen
SB 5088 (HB 1182)	Geological hazard assessment	Concerning a geological hazards assessment.	C 12 L 15 - Effective date 7/26/2015.	Pearson
SB 5121	Marijuana research license	Establishing a marijuana research license.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Kohl-Welles
E2SSB 5269 (EHB 1258)	Detention decision review	Concerning court review of detention decisions under the involuntary treatment act.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	O'Ban

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
2SSB 5404 (2SHB 1436)	Homeless youth	Concerning homeless youth prevention and protection.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	O'Ban
SSB 5433 (SHB 1511)	Tribal history, culture, etc	Requiring Washington's tribal history, culture, and government to be taught in the common schools.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Litzow
2SSB 5486 (HB 1728)	Parents for parents program	Creating the parents for parents program.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Frocket
ESSB 5550	Commercial trans. providers	Regulating providers of commercial transportation services.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Habib
SSB 5740 (2SHB 1735)	Extended foster care	Concerning extended foster care services.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Fain
SSB 5795 (HB 1911)	Water or sewer facilities	Authorizing municipalities to create assessment reimbursement areas for the construction or improvement of water or sewer facilities.	Del to Gov - Delivered to Governor.	Roach
SSB 5889 (E2SHB 2060)	Competency eval. timeliness	Concerning timeliness of competency evaluation and restoration services.	C 5 L 15 - Effective date 7/26/2015.	O'Ban