



CITY OF SEATTLE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

February 2, 2015

Number 3

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

Week Overview

A somewhat quiet week was highlighted by hearings on the Governor's proposal on a carbon pollution market program, increasing the statewide minimum wage, establishing minimum safe and sick leave standards, and allowing for use of lodging taxes for workforce housing. Mayor Murray and Councilmember Mike O'Brien joined other regional leaders to testify in support of ST3 authorization before the House Transportation Committee, and Mayor Murray also attended the Committee to End Homelessness meeting in Olympia with Councilmember Sally Clark.

Priority Areas

Budget

Legislators in the House report good bipartisan movement regarding the supplemental budget process. HB 1105 will address emergencies and high-need items from 2014, such as the Eastern Washington wildfires and the need for additional mental health beds. The legislation deals with \$96.8 million in appropriations to cover necessary costs and passed the House on Thursday (83-15). It is scheduled for a public hearing in Senate Ways & Means next week.

Education

Early Start, the bipartisan-sponsored legislation ([HB 1491](#) \ [SB 5452](#)) aimed at improving quality in early care and the education system had public hearings in both chambers this week. Early Start prioritizes quality early learning and includes an incentive program for providers to participate in a quality rating and improvement system.

Representative Gerry Pollet's (D) bill [HB 1240](#), which concerns restraint or isolation of students, including students with disabilities, in public schools was heard in the House Education Committee on January 26th.

Representative Zack Hudgins (D) and Senator Steve Litzow's (R) bills, [HB 1295](#) \ [SB 5437](#), concerning breakfast after the bell programs were heard on January 27th. HB 1295 is scheduled for an executive

session in the House Education Committee on Thursday February 5th at 8:00 am. The legislation requires Title I schools provide breakfast for children during school hours (instead of prior to the start of school).

Safety Net and Housing

[HB 1278](#) by Representative Brady Walkinshaw (D), which concerns court review of detention decisions under the involuntary treatment act, passed on 3rd reading on the House Floor. The Senate version, [SB 5769](#) sponsored Senator Steve O'Ban (R), has yet to be scheduled for executive session in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health and Housing Committee.

As mentioned, bill [HB 1223](#), which allows the use of lodging taxes for financing workforce housing, was heard on January 26th and has been scheduled for executive session in the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal Affairs Committee on Monday February 2nd.

Two bills, [HB 1416](#)\[SB 5193](#), which exempt documents recording a water-sewer district lien from the surcharge for local homeless housing and assistance saw action this week. 1416 was heard in the House Community Development, Housing and Tribal affairs Committee on January 29th and the Senate version passed the Senate Human Services, Mental Health & Housing Committee and was referred to Ways and Means. The City signed in opposed to these bills.

[HB 1255](#)\[SB 5254](#) by Representative Gael Tarleton (D) and Senator John McCoy (D), which address the minority and women owned business account were heard in the House Technology and Economic Development Committee on January 28th. The Senate version has yet to be scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee. This legislation would direct fees collected for non-compliance with OMWBE provisions and contracts to the OMWBE account.

[SB 5289](#) and [HB 1493](#) would require notification of a parent or guardian and a 48 hour waiting period following the notification before a minor obtains an abortion. The Senate Law and Justice Committee is hearing SB 5289, on Monday, February 2.

[HB 1733](#), the Patient Safety Act, requires the Department of Health (DOH) to adopt patient assignment limits and recommend quality indicators. Democratic Rep. Eileen Cody's bill requires hospitals to comply with an audit to address complaints and submit a staffing plan to the DOH annually.

The House heard Democratic Rep. Jessyn Farrell's bill [HB 1355](#), which will raise the state minimum wage to \$12-per-hour phased-in over four years. [SB 5285](#) is the companion bill sponsored by Sen. Pramila Jayapal (D), and has been referred to Commerce & Labor in the Senate. The legislation would raise the current minimum wage starting in 2016 and allows for local jurisdictions to set higher minimums.

The House also heard the Paid Sick Days bill, [HB 1356](#) (companion [SB 5306](#)), requiring that employers provide sick leave for employees.

Environment

[HB 1314](#)/[SB 5283](#) by Representative Joe Fitzgibbon (D) and Senator Kevin Ranker (D), are the Governor's request legislation implementing a carbon pollution market program to reduce greenhouse gas

emissions. HB 1314 was heard on January 29th in the House Environment Committee. SB 5283 has yet to be scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Energy Committee.

[HB 1378](#), which protects waterways from pollution from synthetic plastic micro beads, was heard January 29th and is scheduled for an executive session in the House Environment Committee on Monday February 2nd at 1:30pm.

[SB 5057](#) by Senator Doug Ericksen (R), which concerns the safe transport of hazardous materials, otherwise referred to as the Oil Trains bill, passed the Senate Energy, Environment and Telecommunications Committee and referred to Ways and Means. A House version sponsored by Rep. Farrell, [HB 1449](#), will be heard on, Feb 3rd at 1:30 PM in the Environment Committee. Representatives from the Seattle Fire Department plan to testify in support. A companion bill, [SB 5087](#), by Senator Christine Rolfes, has not yet been scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunication Committee.

The House and Senate heard a number of bills proposing amendments to I-937, including [SB 5089](#) and [SB 5090](#), which revise the definition of eligible renewable resources in I-937 to include electricity from modular reactors, [SB 5091](#) including nuclear energy in the definition of eligible renewable resource and [SB 5094](#), which would allow incremental electricity from federal hydro improvements to qualify under I-937.

Transportation

Senate Republicans are continuing their push for transportation reforms from last year. Legislation to implement new streamlining of the state's permitting process was introduced. The intent of the legislation is to reduce expenses for transportation projects, by keeping them on time. There is some bipartisan support of this effort, so it may see some movement.

[HB 1007/SB 5336](#) which limit the use of automated traffic safety cameras to detect speed violations not in school zones, passed both the House and Senate Transportation Committees, and have been referred to their respective Rules Committees.

[HB 1180](#), which will provide State authorization to Sound Transit for the "Sound Transit 3" phase of light rail extension, was heard in the House Transportation committee on January 28th at 3:30 pm. As noted, Mayor Murray and Councilmember O'Brien testified in support.

[SB 5343](#), Democratic Sen Bob Hasegawa's bill concerning parking impact mitigation from regional transit authority facility construction, received a hearing on Feb. 27th. While the City signed in opposed to the legislation, constructive conversations with the sponsor and Sound Transit continue towards a non-legislative resolution.

Public Safety

Representative Rueven Carlyle (D) and Senator Mark Miloscia (R) introduced bipartisan bills ([HB 1739](#) \ [SB 5639](#)) eliminating the death penalty. A letter signed by Mayor Murray, the entire City Council, and City Attorney Pete Holmes was sent to the legislature in support.

Rep. Kagi introduced [HB 1747](#), the Child Access Prevention bill creating liability for child endangerment if a child accesses a firearm that was not safely stored and harms themselves or another person.

[HB 1276](#) which modifies impaired driving provisions received executive action in the House Public Safety Committee on January 30th.

Sen. David Frockt (D) and Rep. Laurie Jinkins (D) introduced the Extreme Risk Protection Order bill, [HB 1857](#) and [SB 5727](#), which will allow family members and law enforcement to petition a court to temporarily suspend someone's access to firearms based on documented evidence that they pose a threat to themselves or others.

[SB 5396](#) which exempts information of guardians or family members of children enrolled in child care, early learning, parks and recreation, after-school, and youth development programs, was heard in the Senate Government Operations Committee on January 29th.

Looking Ahead

The Legislature appears to be making up for lost time next week, with a packed schedule of hearings and executive actions. Hearings on a bill regulating Transportation Network Companies, the Governor's oil transportation safety regulations, and multiple bills dealing with marijuana regulation are all on the slate. In addition, the Governor's toxic control bill will be heard on February 2nd; a bill creating county-wide cultural access zones is also that day. Also this week, bills regarding Certificates of Restoration of Opportunity, public records requests, annexation, the Washington State convention center, and the WA Voting Rights Act will be of interest to the City.