



## CITY OF SEATTLE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Number 8

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

### **Week Overview**

Of the more than 2,300 bills that have been introduced this session, nearly 1,100 of these are still alive, meaning legislators have been working long hours this past week to move as many bills as possible prior to the March 11<sup>th</sup> cutoff. With the exception of a handful of committee hearings, legislators have been in caucus and on the floor debating and voting on bills, as stakeholders struggle to ensure that their priority legislation is brought forward. With some exceptions, if a bill is not moved out of its chamber of origin by the 11<sup>th</sup>, it is considered “dead” for this session.

### **Priority Areas**

#### **Budget and Infrastructure**

Expectations remain that the House will release its budget the week of March 23<sup>rd</sup> and will likely include a number of revenue options.

[ESSB 5944](#), called the SMART Act, which seeks to measure the outputs of state spending, passed the Senate 40-9 on Thursday. Ways & Means Chair Senator Hill (R) sponsored this bill and has stated it is one of his top priorities this session.

Important legislation for the City, [SB 5795](#) by Sen Pam Roach (R), passed the Senate on Wednesday on a bi-partisan vote of 38-10. This legislation will allow the City to recoup some of the costs of investment in water and sewer infrastructure from “latecomer” developers who will benefit from that infrastructure. The companion bill in the House, [HB 1911](#) by Rep Joe Fitzgibbon (D), moved out of Rules on Friday.

[HB 1576](#), also sponsored by Rep. Fitzgibbon, which would credit certain sales and use taxes to help cities offset some costs of annexation, passed the House 67-31.

#### **Education**

The Dual Language bill, [SHB 1783](#), sponsored by Rep. Ortiz-Self (D), passed the House on Wednesday,

March 4<sup>th</sup>, on a vote of 64 to 34. The bill was amended in committee to remove the early learning portion in order to lower the fiscal note.

The House vehicle for the Early Start Act, [2SHB 1491](#), sponsored by Rep. Ruth Kagi (D), was moved from Rules on Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>. Some changes were made to the bill when it came out of the Appropriations committee, including:

- Removing the requirement that the DEL implement an electronic time and attendance records system by July 1<sup>st</sup> 2016;
- Removing the mandate for ECEAP providers to offer a full day option; and
- Pushing out the start date for 12 month subsidy authorizations to January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

The Senate version, [2SSB 5452](#), by Sen. Steve Litzow (R) remains in Rules in that chamber.

Also on Wednesday, the House passed Rep. Zach Hudgins' "Breakfast After the Bell" legislation ([SHB1295](#)) with a bipartisan vote of 65-33. The substitute bill requires the state to provide one-time \$6,000 start-up allocation grants to each high-needs school implementing the program.

## **Safety Net, Housing and Health Care**

On Tuesday, the House passed [HB 1355](#) by Rep Jessyn Farrell (D) 51-46, which would raise the state minimum wage to \$12 over a four-year period. Several amendments were proposed, including one which would have established a teenage training wage, and another which would have prevented cities from adopting a higher minimum wage than the proposed \$12 standard, were ruled beyond the scope and object of the bill. Testimony from opponents of the bill tended to focus on the impacts to teenagers, while supporters spoke to the needs of families struggling to make ends meet on the current wage.

Senate Democrats attempted a maneuver called the 9<sup>th</sup> Order on Thursday, which would have allowed them to bring the Voting Rights Act ([SB 5668](#)) to the floor for consideration, but were unsuccessful. However, shortly thereafter the companion bill ([ESHB 1745](#)) in the House passed 52-46.

Wednesday, the Governor's request legislation, the Homeless Youth Act ([SSHB1436](#)), passed the House with a bipartisan vote of 62-36. The legislation creates an Office of Homeless Youth Programs that is directed to serve homeless youth using the following four priorities:

- stable housing;
- education and employment;
- permanent connections; and
- social and emotional well-being.

Also Wednesday, Joel's Law, [SSB 5269](#) by Sen. Steve O'Ban (R), passed the Senate 46-3. The legislation's intent is to help families assist their mentally ill loved ones with getting mental health support, allowing families to petition for involuntary treatment.

Passing unanimously on Tuesday, [ESSB 5477](#), by Sen. Bruce Dammeier, regulating the packaging, labeling and advertising of vapor products moved out of the Senate. It requires child-resistant packaging for substances intended for vapor products and prohibits the use of vapor products in schools.

## Environment

On Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, the House passed Rep. Jessyn Farrell's (D) "oil safety" bill, [HB 1449](#), on a bipartisan vote of 60-38. An alternative Senate bill, SB 5057, by Sen. Doug Ericksen, has not yet been voted on.

Governor Inslee's carbon pollution reduction legislation, [SHB 1314](#), by Rep. Fitzgibbon, is scheduled for a hearing in House Appropriations for March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## Transportation

As noted last week, voting on the proposed Senate Transportation package came to a halt last Friday when Democrats asked for a ruling on whether taxes and fees in one of the bills which make up the package, SB 5987, were "new" taxes. If so, they would therefore be subject to a rule initiated by the Senate on the first day of session requiring a 2/3 vote to pass. Returning from the weekend, the Senate reconvened to hear Lt. Governor Brad Owen's ruling on the issue. In his ruling, Owen determined that SB 5987 did indeed create new taxes, and as a result of the newly established rule, would require a two-thirds majority in the Senate. However, the Lt. Governor then went further, also determining that the two-thirds rule was unconstitutional and therefore unenforceable. As a result, the Senate moved ahead with voting on, and subsequently passed [ESSB 5987](#) and [ESSB 5988](#) — the revenue sources for the Senate transportation package.

ESSB 5987, which would increase the gas tax by 11.7-cents per gallon over three years, passed 27-22, with 7 Democrats joining 19 Republicans and Democrat Majority Coalition Caucus member Sen. Tim Sheldon. Most Democrats voting against the legislation voiced concerns regarding funding education first and what they have termed the "poison pill" of tying the provisions in the legislation to a requirement of no carbon reduction requirements. Republicans voting against the legislation stated they were against tax increases.

The bond bill ESSB 5988 passed 41-8.

Owen's ruling is very significant because it means that other revenue measures, like Governor Inslee's carbon pollution reduction legislation, [SHB 1314](#), can now pass the Senate with a simple majority.

## Public Safety

### Marijuana

[SB 5052](#), an omnibus medical marijuana bill sponsored by Sen. Ann Rivers (R), was heard in the House Healthcare and Wellness Committee on Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. Testimony from medical marijuana stakeholders focused on a proposed registry and what they considered "over regulation" of a functioning system. Supporters of the bill countered that every other medication was regulated in some way and that the dual system was undermining the nascent recreational market. It is expected the bill will be voted out of committee next week.

Meanwhile, Rep. Rueven Carlyle's (D) [HB 2136](#), a reform bill focusing on the recreational market was heard Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, in the House Finance Committee. The main scope of the bill covers

restructuring the tax system from the 3-point current system to a single end-point structure; revenue sharing with local jurisdictions; zoning requirements for stores; transportation of marijuana; and marijuana awareness programs. Testimony was primarily supportive, with retailers and producers speaking to the difficulties of operating under the current tax structure and in competition with the medical and illegal markets. Representatives of the Mayor and City Attorney testified in support of the bill.

HB 2136 was then voted out of committee on Friday, March 5<sup>th</sup>. A number of amendments were introduced, most focusing on increasing the revenue shared with local jurisdictions, but no amendments passed. The bill now moves on to Rules.

### **Looking Ahead**

More floor debate and long hours are in store as legislators return Monday with only 3 days left to finish their work. With the first half of the session officially in the books, and the number of “live” bills winnowed down considerably, focus will begin to shift in earnest to the budgets; and committees will reconvene to take up the bills which made it across the rotunda. We look forward to welcoming several Councilmembers to Olympia on Thursday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, for the second Council Lobby Day of the session.

## Passed the Week of March 2<sup>nd</sup>

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Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Sponsor	Status
<a href="#">E2SHB 1174</a> (SB 5684)	Flame retardants	Concerning flame retardants.	Van De Wege	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">SHB 1223</a>	Lodging tx/workforce housing	Allowing the use of lodging taxes for financing workforce housing.	Springer	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">SHB 1238</a>	Affordable tuition planning	Concerning affordable tuition planning.	Pollet	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">SHB 1257</a> (SB 5123)	Tenant screening reports	Concerning tenant screening.	Walkinshaw	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">E2SHB 1276</a>	Impaired driving	Concerning impaired driving.	Klippert	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESHB 1417</a> (SSB 5048)	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.	Takko	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESHB 1449</a> (SB 5087)	Oil transportation safety	Concerning oil transportation safety.	Farrell	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESHB 1571</a> (SB 5926)	Paint stewardship	Concerning paint stewardship.	Peterson	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">2SHB 1735</a> (SSB 5740)	Extended foster care	Concerning extended foster care services.	Orwall	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESHB 1745</a> (SB 5668)	Voting rights	Enacting the Washington voting rights act.	Moscoso	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">EHB 2086</a> (SB 5900)	The homeless/religious orgs	Prohibiting certain limitations on the hosting of the homeless by religious organizations.	McBride	H Passed 3rd
<a href="#">SB 5094</a> (HB 1352)	Hydroelectric generation	Allowing incremental electricity produced as a result of efficiency improvements to hydroelectric generation projects whose energy output is marketed by the Bonneville power administration to qualify as an eligible renewable resource under the energy independence act.	Brown	S Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESSB 5343</a> (HB 1751)	Transit construction/parking	Concerning parking impact mitigation from regional transit authority facility construction.	Hasegawa	S Passed 3rd
<a href="#">2SSB 5755</a> (2SHB 1885)	Property crimes, impacts of	Addressing and mitigating the impacts of property crimes in Washington state.	Hargrove	S Passed 3rd
<a href="#">ESSB 5804</a> (HB 1289)	State energy code, adoption	Modifying the procedure for adoption and amendment of the Washington state energy code.	Liias	S Passed 3rd