

CITY OF SEATTLE
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Session Priorities

Transportation

SHB 2871 was amended in the Senate Transportation Committee and the Senate approved it by a vote of 36-10. The latest version of the bill would not prohibit a regional vote in 2006 but requires that a vote must include Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID). It includes most of the legislative changes requested by the RTID. It would allow transit funding as mitigation during project construction. It also includes the expansion of the Transportation Benefit District. It does not allow the transfer of the Monorail taxes for transit use or any use. It also allows a single county to enact an RTID like proposal after December 1, 2007. Finally, it sets up a Governor appointed seven member Regional Transportation Governance Commission to develop options for a new governance system. This proposal must be submitted to the 2007 legislature. This bill now goes into a conference committee to work out differences between the two versions.

SB 6566 would revise the commute trip reduction program to focus on urban areas with congested state highways. The bill was approved unanimously in the House and must go back to the Senate for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Housing

ESHB 2984 authorizes cities, towns, and counties to implement affordable housing incentive programs. This bill gives local jurisdictions the option of encouraging or requiring a number of tools to increase the availability of affordable housing. The bill passed the Senate unanimously and now goes back to the House for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

E2SHB 2418 increasing the availability of affordable housing passed the Senate by a vote of 48-1. This provides for up to \$25 million of the state portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET) for the Housing Trust Fund, including the Homeless Families Services Fund. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Education

SSB 6618 is the compromise bill relating to the WA Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test. This bill requires a study to explore options for students to demonstrate that they have met learning standards. It also requires a review and statistical analysis of those that do not meet the WASL standards to try to identify similar characteristics and possible barriers to meeting the standards. This bill passed the House by a vote of 71-27.

SHB 2964 which would create a department of early learning department awaits a vote on the Ways & Means Committee. Funding for this effort was proposed in the House and Senate budget proposals. This is an early initiative of Governor Gregoire's Washington Learns task

force. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 47-2 and now goes back to the House for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Session Objectives

Environmental Health

SSB 6428 provides no-cost options for individuals and small governments and small business to recycle their computers and televisions. This bill passed the House by a vote of 69-29. It will now have to go back to the Senate for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

2ESHB 1488 prohibiting the sale of products that contain polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) did not pass out of the Senate. PBDEs are flame retardants. This would ban the use of PBDEs in products unless there is no alternative. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Human Services – TANF

2SSB 6628 and **SHB 2970** preserve the WorkFirst child safety net program. The purpose of these bills is to ensure that children whose parents are out of compliance with WorkFirst requirements continue to receive benefits. SHB 2970 did not pass out of the House Appropriations Committee. 2SSB 6628 did not pass out of the Senate. However, it is called out in the Senate budget and therefore is “necessary to implement the budget.” **Seattle supports these measures.**

Streamline Sales Tax

SSB 6594, conforming Washington's tax structure to the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, did not pass out of the House before the cut-off. The bill includes full mitigation to cities that are adversely affected by the shift in the distribution of sales tax from a point of purchase system to point of delivery. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Weights and Measures Fees

SSB 6365 would increase the annual registration fees for weights and measuring devices by and phase in the increase over the next two years. The bill was passed by the House unanimously and must go back to the Senate for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Policy Issues

Air Quality and Climate Protection

SSB 6508, which develops minimum renewable fuel content requirements and fuel quality standards in an alternative fuels market, passed the Senate 68-30. This bill requires that 2% of the total volume of diesel sold in the state be biodiesel and 2% of the total gasoline sold in the state be ethanol. The requirements start December 1, 2008, or earlier if conditions are met. The bill also establishes an Advisory Committee to assist with implementing or suspending the requirements. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Domestic Violence

SHB 2394 Including financial literacy in work activity provisions passed the Senate unanimously. The WorkFirst program requires participants to develop an individual responsibility plan (IRP). The purpose of the IRP is to map out a strategy for self-sufficiency.

This would require participants to include a financial literacy component to their plans. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESHB 2848 which protects confidentiality of domestic violence victims passed the Senate unanimously. This bill provides that confidential information cannot be shared unless permission is given by the victim, unless there is a clear risk of danger. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Economic Development

SB 6558 would form a WA motion picture competitiveness program to provide incentives for this industry to film in the state. The program will be funded by private contributions in exchange for state tax credits. This bill is did not pass out of the House but may be “necessary to implement the budget.” **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Elections and General Government

SSB 6221 which would provide cities and counties the option of implementing a program, after a public vote, allowing publicly financed campaigns for local offices did not pass off of the House floor before the cut-off.

Energy

3ESHB 2939 the energy freedom program passed the Senate unanimously. This bill sets up a 13-member board which will allocate \$25 million for loans to be used for such projects and research and development of new and renewable and bio-fuel sources. This could allow for the local production of bio-fuels and renewables. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESHB 1020 regarding electrical transmission passed the Senate unanimously. This bill puts the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council in charge of the siting of transmission corridors if a number of criteria are met, including being the corridor being designated by the Federal Energy Department as a corridor of national significance.

ESHB 1010 which requires utilities to develop integrated resource plans (IRP) was heard last week. This bill passed the Senate unanimously and has to go back to the House for concurrence. We supported the changes that were made in the Senate.

ESHB 2352 which modifies net provisions passed the Senate by a vote of 46-1. This bill requires utilities accept up to .5 of their load for net metering (up from .25), it also provides for connections of up to 100kw (up from 25kw). The purpose is to make it easier for renewable connections by individuals customers.

Growth Management, Land Use & Annexation

SHB 2815 which clarifies “best available science” under the Growth Management Act did not pass out of the Senate Ways & Means Committee before the cut-off.

At this time the Governor has only two GMA bills still alive. One is related to timelines for slow growing or small cities/counties and the other relates to uses of agricultural lands. The eminent domain bills also did not pass off the floor before the cut-off.

Human Services

SHB 2002 will allow up to 50 foster care youth to continue receiving benefits if they stay in school up to age twenty-one. There is money in the budget to accommodate the added youth

continuing in foster care. The bill passed the Senate unanimously. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SHB 2376 which prohibits the department of social and health services from imposing medical premiums on children in households with income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level passed the Senate by a vote of 34-11. This bill simply codifies current departmental practices. This bill now goes to the Governor for signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

E2SHB 2353 which provides for collective bargaining for child care workers passed the Senate by a vote of 40-8. This bill simply allows for the State to bargain with the child care workers. Next year the legislature would have to approve (with an up or down vote) the agreement. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Key Arena

HB 3233 and **SB 6849** would provide the King County Council authority to impose (or continue) a number of taxes that would be used for arts and heritage organizations in King County and to improve or build a facility for the Sonics and improve the existing Mariners facility. The taxes include a two percent lodging tax, sales tax credit of 0.017, two percent car rental tax and a restaurant sales tax of 0.5 percent. All of these taxes are currently in place and set to expire once bonds for Safeco Field and Qwest Field are paid off. These bills did not pass off of either floor before the cut-off.

Public Safety

ESSB 6106 requiring disclosure of specified health care information for law enforcement purposes passed out of House Care Committee and was referred to Rules. This bill is a result of some problems homicide detectives have encountered. The bill passed the House unanimously and will go back to the Senate for concurrence. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 3205 clarifies the authority to apprehend conditionally released persons. Persons who fall into this category are the violent sex offenders who will receive 24-hour supervision while residing at the new facility located at 1st & Spokane. This legislation would give law enforcement the authority to detain a person who is violating their conditions of release by either taking them to the county jail or back to the secure facility. This passed the Senate unanimously and will be sent to the Governor. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Revenue

SSB 5333 did not pass off the house floor before the cut-off. This bill would allow all taxing districts to ask voters to approve a lid lift for up to six years and removes the non-supplanting language from the existing statute. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 2033 passed the Senate unanimously. This bill will exempt printers and publishers from the apportionment provisions that go into effect in 2008. Instead the gross income will be allocated to the principal place in the state from which the business is directed or managed.

Water Stewardship

SHB 2884 concerning the use of reclaimed water did not pass out the Senate before the cut-off. The purpose of the bill is to update the rules which were last updated in 1997. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

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