

**CITY OF SEATTLE
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SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

Early Learning continues to receive significant attention from budget and policy committees. The City of Seattle will continue to push for higher child care subsidies, funds to improve quality of child care, and funds for parent/family support. Efforts continue to have Seattle designated as a pilot site for child care quality.

HB 1365 increases funding for home visiting services for newborn children and parents. This bill will be heard in the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on January 25. **The City of Seattle supports this measure.**

HB 1088 improves delivery of mental health services for children. Two million dollars is in the Governor's budget and the request is for \$30 million. **The City of Seattle supports this bill.**

Annexation Incentives

HB 1139, which would provide an opportunity to access a state sales tax credit if an annexation of a population of over 10,000 occurs before 2010, will be heard in the Finance Committee on January 26. The companion, **SB 5330**, is in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Civil Rights

HB 1351/SB 5336, which protects individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, were introduced. **SB 5336** is scheduled before the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on January 24. **Seattle supports both these measures.**

HB 1350/SB 5335 addressing civil marriage equality were introduced. They have not been scheduled for hearings. **The City supports these bills.**

On January 25, the House Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee will be holding a work session on woman and minority business contracting. This is related to I-200 and we will be monitoring this issue to determine interest in pursuing legislation. Councilmember McIver's office is involved in the planning of the work session.

Environment

The State Supreme Court ruled in *Okeson v. Seattle* that our carbon mitigation program cannot be funded through the utility rates, but rather the general fund. We are determining what our options are and how to proceed.

HB 1374/SB 5372 creating the Puget Sound partnership were introduced. The Senate version had a hearing in the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee, and the House Select Committee on Puget Sound will hear the bill on January 23. These bills create a new governance structure around the clean-up efforts. It creates a Leadership Council, an Implementation Advisory Board (on which local governments serve), and a Science Advisory Committee. The bill directs the development of an action agenda, benchmarks, and measurements. We are currently reviewing these bills.

There were a number of bills related to alternative fuels that had a hearing in the Technology, Energy & Communications Committee in the House. They ranged from defining E85 to requesting information on the use alternative fuels. We are reviewing the bills.

Infrastructure/Finance

SB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, passed out of the Ways & Means Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. The companion bill, **HB 1072**, will be heard in the Finance Committee on January 23. Recent Department of Revenue projections show that Seattle would receive mitigation of almost \$2.4 million. **Seattle signed in supporting this legislation.**

The Governor's 2007-09 Capital Budget proposes \$70 million for the WA Wildlife and Recreation Program. Under this proposal, the following park projects would receive funding this year: Discovery Park – Capehart at \$500,000 and Ercolini Property Development at \$200,000.

SB 5115 will be heard in the Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee on January 24. This is the Governor's request legislation amending the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) statute approved last year. The changes include increasing the competitive portion of LIFT to \$5 million, repealing the one project per county restriction, and eliminating the assessed value per square foot requirement. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1430 allowing local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits was introduced and referred to the House Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee.

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

HB 1115, a comprehensive bill to end homelessness, was rescheduled for a later date. The bill adds a \$10 filing fee, created previously by HB 2163, for added services to end homelessness.

SB 5305 extends Medicaid coverage to youth in foster care through age 21. This is scheduled to be heard in the Senate Health & Long-Term Care Committee on January 22. This is not in the Governor's budget. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

SB 5207 funds freight rail and highway improvements through a processing fee on cargo containers of \$50 for each twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU). This bill will be heard on January 24 in the Senate Transportation Committee.

SB 5022, authorizing county taxes for the construction, design, repair, or improvement of viaducts and bridges, will be heard in the Transportation Committee on January 24.

HB 1396/SB 5282 allows a single vote on the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID)/Sound Transit (ST) ballot measure. Both bills were referred to the House and Senate Transportation Committees.

POLICY ISSUES

Elections and General Government

SB 5278, which would allow public financing of local campaigns, was referred to the Government Operations & Elections Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Energy

HB 1208/SB 5416 encourages carbon dioxide mitigation. This bill appears to provide a tax credit for businesses or nonprofits that offset their carbon dioxide emissions. We are currently reviewing this measure.

Growth Management, Land Use & Annexation

The Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee held a work session on eminent domain and the Growth Management Act. There will be bills introduced that will try to address the issues related to the ability to repurchase land that was purchased but is not needed for the project. There is also discussion of what issues will be addressed related to the recent I-933 initiative. There is general agreement that the Growth Management Act (GMA) needs to be reviewed but not about which issues specifically. The Association of Washington Cities mentioned issues related to balancing protection of environmental resources and the needs for housing and economic development.

Health Care

SB 5093 increases health care to 32,000 more children. This is currently in the Governor's budget. This bill will be heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on January 22. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Homeland Security and Emergency Management

The House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee held a work session on the December 14th storm response. Chris Heimgartner from Seattle City Light participated. The House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee also held a hearing on disaster planning. Barb Graff from Emergency Management, Nick Pealy from Seattle Public Utilities, and Chris Heimgartner from Seattle City Light were on a panel. Both committees generally wanted to know how we planned and what the state might be able to do to assist.

Housing

SB 5031, protecting tenants of conversion condominiums, will have a hearing on January 25. This bill provides renters more time to find alternative housing, to secure financing to purchase their unit, and gives local authority to increase the relocation assistance. **Seattle supports this measure.**