

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

March 5, 2007

Number 8

SESSION PRIORITIES

The policy cut-off was February 28 and fiscal cut-off is 5:00 PM on March 5. Bills must be passed to the Rules Committee in both chambers to be considered on the floor. The cut-off for legislation to move from the house of origin is 5:00 PM on March 14. There are always exceptions and bills deemed necessary to implement the budget may come back later in the process.

Municipal B&O Tax

HB 2368 was introduced and may receive a hearing in the Finance Committee on March 5. This bill would make technical changes to the municipal B&O model ordinance and change the apportionment allocation for services. Seattle is projecting a \$21 million loss due to the new apportionment methods and this fix would decrease the loss by approximately 25%. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Education

SJR 8207, amending the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy, failed to pass out of the Senate because it did not receive a two-third vote (30 to 17, 2 excused). This bill could be revived if a member from the "prevailing side" (meaning one of the 17) asks for reconsideration. The other option is for **HJR 4204** be sent over from the House. **Seattle supports these measures.**

SHB 1663 defines key components of the Early Learning component of Washington Learns. The substitute bill folds home visiting into the Department of Early Learning (DEL). The bill was heard in the Appropriations Committee on March 1.

Annexation Incentives

HB 1139 provides an incentive for Seattle to annex the North Highline area, assuming the voters approve a future measure. This bill may be amended and voted on in the Finance Committee on March 5. If approved, this bill would provide up to approximately \$5.6 million per year with 20% going to the City of Burien. The companion, **SB 5330**, never received a hearing in the Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Civil Rights

HB 2132 directs the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC) to conduct a comprehensive study of the Office of Minority and Women's Business Enterprise. The bill was voted out of the Community & Economic Development & Trade committee and is in the Appropriations Committee for consideration.

Crime Guns

SSB 5197, regulating the sale of firearms at gun shows and events, was passed out of the Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee. The bill now moves to the Rules Committee. This is the first time this bill has moved out of committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Environment

SSB 6046, allowing utilities to mitigate the environmental impacts of their operations, passed out of the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. This bill addresses the recent State Supreme Court decision *Okeson v. Seattle*. **SHB 1929** passed the House by a vote of 97 - 0! **Seattle supports these bills.**

SSB 6001, mitigating the impacts of climate change, passed out of the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Infrastructure/Finance

SSB 5729, which would direct \$50 million to core public health funding and implement accountability measures, was heard in the Ways & Means Committee on February 28. **SHB 1825** was heard and passed out of the Appropriations Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 2309 would give taxing districts, other than the state, the ability to increase property taxes to 101%, or 100% plus the implicit price deflator inflation. This bill was heard in the Finance Committee on February 26. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 2334 would allow cities to increase property taxes to 100% plus the implicit price deflator (IPD) for infrastructure system improvements before any other purposes. The state would use property tax revenues in excess of 101% for school construction in high-growth school districts. If used, impact fees could no longer be imposed. This bill was heard in the Finance Committee on February 26. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Transportation

SHB 1858 would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. This bill passed out of the Transportation Committee. The companion bill, **SB 5767**, will not pass out of the Senate Transportation Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 5803 was amended and would create an 11-member Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) consisting of eight elected and three County Executive appointed officials. The RTC would be responsible for creating a regional investment mobility plan, which must include highway and public transportation projects as well as sufficient revenues to finance the project. This plan would be put to the local voters for approval. The Commission would also become the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO). The timing of this legislation would allow for the joint Sound Transit/RTID vote in November 2007. This bill was passed out of the Transportation Commission and is still being described as a work in progress.

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

SHB 1642, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders passed out of the House by a vote of 97-0. The bill clarifies it does not have to only be physical contact to violate a no-contact order. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SHB 1555, addressing sexual assault protection orders, passed out of the House by a vote of 97-0. This bill provides that a sexual assault protection order is a remedy for victims who do not qualify for a domestic violence protection order. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Energy

SHB 1251, addressing the issue of stolen metal property, passed out of the Insurance and Financial Services & Consumer Protection Committee and went to the Rules Committee. This bill addresses the recent increased theft of metal (such as copper wire, signs and guard rails). **Seattle supports this measure.**

SSB 5881, modifying water power license fees, passed out of the Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. Disappointingly, they took out an incentive for low-impact hydro. This is a fee paid to help cover the state costs associated with the federal relicensing process. This fee was established in 1929 and has not been raised since.

Housing

SHB 2014, addressing the regulation of conversion condominiums, was passed out of the Housing Committee to the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Libraries

HB 2058, administering the Washington talking book and Braille library, was heard in the Capital Budget Committee. This bill transfers the ownership of the building from the City to the State Library. Thanks to Dwight Dively for coming to testify in **opposition** of this bill. The bill has until March 5 to get out of committee and currently is not scheduled for executive session.

Public Safety

SSB 5718, imposing penalties for engaging in the commercial sexual abuse of minors, passed out of the Human Services & Corrections Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SHB 1811 and **SSB 5832**, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, both passed out of their respective committees. SHB 1811 was heard and passed out of the Finance Committee. SSB 5832 is in the Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Telecommunications and Cable

SB 6003, promoting competition for cable television service by providing statewide authorization for private entities to provide cable service or video service in competition with incumbent cable television operators, did not pass out of committee. **HB 1983**, a similar bill, never received a hearing. Therefore, these bills are dead for this session. **Seattle opposed this legislation.**

Water Stewardship

SSB 6117, regarding reclaimed water, was passed out of the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. This bill does a number of things, including that reclaimed water would be a fundamental use of water. We are monitoring this bill and we have not taken a position on it.