

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

March 19, 2007

Number 10

The cut-off for bills to move from their house of origin was 5:00 pm Wednesday, March 14. The Senate actually adjourned at approximately 2:30 pm and the House adjourned around 4:00 pm. The next two weeks will be spent working in the committees with the next policy cut-off scheduled for Friday, March 30. Bills that did not move should be considered "dead" for this session, unless deemed necessary to implement the budget.

The House Transportation budget will be made public on March 19, with the Operating and Capital budgets following on March 20. The Senate will likely put forward their budgets the following week.

SESSION PRIORITIES

Business & Occupation Apportionment Fix

SHB 2368, although eligible for a vote on the floor, was never considered. This bill would make technical changes to the municipal B & O model ordinance and change the apportionment allocation formula for services. Seattle is projecting an annual \$21 million loss due to the new apportionment methods and this fix would decrease the loss by approximately 25%. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Education

EHJR 4204, amending the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy, passed the House by a vote of 79-19. It was heard in the Senate Committee on Early Learning & K-12 Education on March 15. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SB 5828 and **HB 1663** define main elements of the Early Learning component of Washington Learns. The Senate bill slightly differs from the House version but is expected to be amended to reflect key House bill components including home visiting services. SB 5828 will be heard in the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on March 20. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Annexation Incentives

SHB 1139 provides a small incentive for Seattle to annex the North Highline area, assuming the voters approve a future measure. This bill would provide a sales tax credit of up to approximately \$3 million per year, with 20% going to the City of Burien. This bill passed the House by a vote of 63-32 and will move to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Civil Rights

SSB 5530, changing requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies, did pass out of committee, but unfortunately did not pass out of the Senate. **Seattle supported this measure.**

SSB 5336, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, had a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on March 16. **Seattle supports this measure.**

HB 1472 creates a committee to study racial disproportionality in the Children's Welfare system and to make recommendations to end it. The bill will be heard in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee on March 16. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Crime Guns

SSB 5197, regulating the sale of firearms at gun shows and events, did not move out of the Rules Committee. **Seattle supported this legislation.**

Infrastructure/Finance

E2SHB 1825 passed the House unanimously and will be heard in the Senate Health & Long Term Care Committee on March 22. This bill has been amended to provide a dedicated account for funding public health. The real issue is the amount of funding that will be provided to the account. This will be an ongoing budget discussion item. **Seattle supports this bill.**

HB 1430, allowing jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, passed out of the House unanimously and was heard in the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee on March 16. The companion bill, **SB 5630**, did not move out of the Rules Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

SSB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, passed the House by a vote of 76–15 on March 16. It will now go to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

HB 1359, the Affordable Housing bill, has been amended to include language from **HB 1115**, the comprehensive homelessness bill, funded by the \$10 document recording fee. Funding in the House budget is crucial to implement the bill. The bill has moved to the Senate Consumer Protection & Housing Committee and will be heard on March 22. **Seattle supports this bill.**

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 the House by a vote of 61-35. It will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 21. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 6099 and **HB 2389** suggest the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. HB 2389 states that WSDOT will focus their work on a six-lane project – replacing four existing general purpose lanes, and adding two HOV transit lanes. HB 2389 will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on March 19.

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

HB 1520, concerning polygraph examinations of sexual assault victims, will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 20. This bill prohibits sexual assault victims from being required to take a polygraph exam. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SHB 1555, addressing sexual assault protection orders, will also be heard on March 20 in the Senate Judiciary Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SHB 1642, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, will be heard in the Senate Judiciary Committee on March 20. This bill clarifies that it does not have to only be physical contact to violate a no-contact order. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Energy

E2SHB 1303, encouraging the use of cleaner energy, will be heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee on March 21. **Seattle supports this bill.**

ESSB 5312, addressing the issue of stolen metal property, passed unanimously out of the Senate. This bill, along with **ESHB 1251**, deals with the cash business dealing with scrap metal. **Seattle supports these measures**

Elections & General Government

Neither **SHB 1551** nor **SSB 5278**, allowing the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office, came up for a vote on the floor. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

ESSB 5558, regulating house-banked social card games, will be heard in the House Commerce & Labor Committee on March 23.

Housing

SSB 5031 and **SHB 2014**, addressing the regulation of conversion condominiums, did not make it out of either chamber before the cutoff. **Seattle supported these bills.**

Public Safety

2SHB 1811, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, will be heard in the Senate Labor, Commerce, Research & Development Committee on March 20. **Seattle supports this legislation.**