

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

April 16, 2007

Number 14

The 2007 Legislative Session is set to Sine Die on April 22, but may end earlier. All three budgets – Operating, Capital and Transportation – will be made public early in the week. Floor action primarily consists of bills up for concurrence/dispute and budget related items.

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

EHJR 4204, amending the Constitution to provide for a simple majority of voters voting to authorize a school levy, passed the Senate by a vote of 33-16. This bill will be put before the voters of Washington asking if they support having simple majorities for school levies. This only needs a simple majority to pass. **Seattle supports this measure.**

E2SSB 5828 is the Early Learning Bill creating an Advisory Committee and Quality Rating program. The bill passed the House and must go back to the Senate for concurrence. There is significant difference in the House and Senate budgets regarding funding. **Seattle supports this bill and the House level of funding.**

Civil Rights

SSB 5336, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits, passed the House by a vote of 63-35. This creates a domestic partner registry which provides a number of rights and responsibilities including the ability to make health care decisions for your partner. The bill now heads to the Governor to be signed into law. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SHB 1472 creates an Advisory Committee to address racial disproportionality in the Children's Welfare System. The House agreed to the Senate changes so it will be sent to the Governor to be signed into law. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Environment

SHB 1929 authorizes utilities to engage in environmental mitigation efforts. This bill addresses the recent State Supreme Court decision on City Light's offset program. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 33-13 and the House concurred with the Senate amendments. The bill now heads to the Governor to be signed into law. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESSB 6001, mitigating the impacts of climate change, passed the House by a vote of 84-14 and must return to the Senate for concurrence. This bill has gone through a number of revisions. We supported the original version and will review the bill in its final form. This was heavily negotiated with input from environmentalists, consumers and utilities. **Seattle supports this measure.**

E2SHB 1303, encouraging the use of cleaner energy, passed the Senate by a vote of 44-4. This bill does a number of things to encourage the use of alternative fuels, including state purchasing of hybrids, switching out of dirty school buses, and a study group to explore vehicle electrification. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Infrastructure/Finance

The language from **E2SHB 1825** was amended onto **E2SSB 5930**, which is a comprehensive health care bill based on the blue ribbon commission recommendations. This bill provides a dedicated account for funding public health, distribution, and accountability. A distribution formula was still being discussed and will be included in the budget. The Senate budget provided \$20 million in new funding for the biennium. This is the same amount proposed in the House budget. The Governor proposed an increase of \$10 million for the biennium. **Seattle supports this funding.**

HB 1430, allowing jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits, passed out of the Senate unanimously and now goes to the Governor to sign into law. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

E2SHB 1359 is the Affordable Housing bill to enhance local planning for affordable housing. The bill passed out of the Senate and must return to the House for concurrence. The funding mechanism has been reduced to a \$2 document recording fee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

The latest public draft of the regional governance bill would set up an interim commission, appointed by the Governor, to “enable and assist with the transition to and creation of a regional transportation commission” which means they will bring recommendations back to the legislature in 2008.

ESHB 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 Senate by a vote of 32-17 and now goes to the Governor to sign into law. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 6099 suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. It now calls for work to be done on a six lane facility with the ability to

add high capacity transit. The bill passed the House by a vote of 74-23 and must return to the Senate for concurrence.

HB 1396 provides for a single ballot for the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and Sound Transit. The bill passed the Senate by a vote of 43-5. The House did not concur and asked the Senate to recede from their amendments.

SHB 1588, which provides additional drivers education and is titled the "Matthew "Tatsuo" Nakata Act", did not pass the Senate before the April 13 cut-off. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

SHB 1642, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, unanimously passed the Senate. This bill clarifies that violations of these orders is not limited to physical contact only. This bill now goes to the Governor to be signed into law. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Energy

SSB 5881, modifying water power license fees, passed the House by a vote of 65-33. This bill increases the fees associated with the staffing costs to the state when a hydro license is renewed. This fee was established in 1929 and this is the first time it has been raised. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

ESSB 5558, regulating house-banked social card games, did not pass the House before the April 13 cut-off date.

Housing

E2SHB 1910, modifying property tax exemption provisions relating to new and rehabilitated multiple-unit dwellings in urban centers to provide affordable housing requirements passed the Senate by a vote of 41-2 and was concurred by the House. The original program was to promote the Growth Management goals of increased density. This bill modifies existing law to provide for a longer exemption (up to 12 years) if the building has a minimum of 20% affordable units. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Public Safety

2SHB 1811, regarding automatic sprinkler systems in nightclubs, passed the Senate unanimously and returns to the House for concurrence. The bill provides an extension of two years for club owners to install automatic sprinklers. Unfortunately, the Senate Ways & Means Committee took out the provision to allow for a B&O tax break if the sprinklers are installed by the club owner and not the building owner. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Water Stewardship

ESSB 6117 regarding reclaimed water passed the House by a vote of 65-32 and must return to the Senate for concurrence. This bill was changed on the House floor and we will review the bill as passed. The purpose was to promote the use of reclaimed water.