

CITY OF SEATTLE
2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Number 4

SESSION PRIORITIES – 2009

Housing Resources

HB 1464 was heard in the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 2. HB 1464 makes modification to the incentive zoning for affordable housing statute. The Senate version, **SB 5544**, will be heard in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing and Insurance Committee on February 10. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1696 will be heard in the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 9. **HB 1696** provides an incentive to employers to provide housing assistance to employees. The Senate version, **SB 5585**, will likely be scheduled for the week of February 16. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1974 and **SB 5856** were introduced on February 4. HB 1974 and SB 5856 create a financing tool for affordable housing. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Regional Transportation

SB 5768 identifies a deep bored tunnel as the final design for the replacement project, references state costs of \$2.8 billion and state responsibilities for the tunnel and AWW demolition, and City of Seattle responsibilities as utility relocation. It also requires a traffic and toll revenue study. This bill will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on February 10. A briefing on the project for Seattle delegation members and staff was held on February 5 and individual briefings continue.

HB 2036 would set up a "transportation infrastructure improvement zone" to capture increased tax revenue and help finance the State portion of the costs of the AWW replacement tunnel. The bill was introduced and referred to the House transportation Committee.

STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2009

Civil Rights

HB 1727 and **SB 5688** would expand the rights and responsibilities under state-registered domestic partners, and was heard in the House and Senate on Thursday, February 5, 2009. Seattle testified in support of the proposed measure.

Climate Protection & Environment

HB 1819 and **SB 5735**, by request of Governor Gregoire, would take steps to implement a regional cap-and-trade program in line with the Western Climate Initiative. **Seattle testified in support of this legislation.**

HB 1490 was heard on February 2 in the House Local Government & Housing Committee. HB 1490 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements. **Seattle is monitoring this bill.**

Elections and General Government

The Liquor Control Board has introduced **HB 1434** and **SB 5367**, which would create a new nightclub license and that would eliminate the statewide cap on liquor licenses. Seattle weighed in to maintain the current definition of “public institution” in statute.

Energy

HB 1747 was heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on February 4. HB 1747 would reduce climate pollution in the built environment through energy efficiency. **Seattle signed in supporting this bill.**

SB 5854 is scheduled for a hearing in the Environment, Water & Energy Committee on February 10. SB 5854 is similar to HB 1747 and would reduce climate pollution in the built environment through energy efficiency. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

SB 5321, extending the time period for cities to access a state sales tax credit to help offset the increased service costs in a newly annexed area, was heard in the Senate Ways & Means Committee on February 4. Although this bill would allow Seattle to use this tool, the legislation does not reflect the North Highline agreement reached with other jurisdictions. The bill would provide an estimated amount of \$600,000, if Seattle were to annex any portion of the North Highline community. **Seattle supports amending the legislation to reflect the North Highline area agreement.**

Hazardous and Solid Waste

HB 1469 was heard in the Environmental Health Committee on February 4 and is scheduled for executive session on February 11. HB 1469 would establish the product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights. **Seattle testified in support of this bill.**

SB 5279 was heard in the Health & Long-Term Care Committee on February 4. SB 5279 provides for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. **Seattle signed in supporting this bill.** The House version, SHB 1165, passed out of the House Environmental Health Committee on January with an amendment and was referred to the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Human Services

The Senate Ways & Means Committee will be holding a work session on the General Assistance-Unemployable (GAU) program on February 11. **Seattle will be testifying about the impacts of proposed cuts to the GAU program.**

Infrastructure/Finance

HB 1422, clarifying that cities may tax brokered natural gas, was heard in the House Finance Committee on February 5. **Seattle testified in support of this legislation.**

Parks

Proponents have introduced a bill relating to gender equity in parks facilities. The legislation is similar to a bill from the 2008 session, and Seattle staff are working together to arrive at a compromise and monitoring the issue. It should be assigned a bill number in the next day or so.

HB 1069 would enact new requirements for exterior and outdoor lighting fixtures. Seattle testified to strong concerns about the potential impacts on Seattle Parks and Recreation and other departments before the House Local Government Committee. On February 5, the committee passed a substitute bill out of committee that replaces the original content with a direction to the building code council to develop recommendations for reducing light pollution, followed by a report of their findings.

Planning & Development

The City of Seattle, in partnership with a host of stakeholders, finalized new legislation that would give the region the authority to re-regulate town cars and executive sedans. The bills are **HB 1775** and **SB 5686** and have both been referred to the Transportation Committees, and will be heard February 11 and 9, respectively. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence

HB 1505 was heard in the House Human Services Committee on February 4. **HB 1505** would authorize diversion for sexually exploited juveniles. **Seattle testified in support of this bill.**

Telecommunications and Cable

SB 5628, heard in the Senate Economic Development Committee on February 4, would weaken or even eliminate local regulatory authority over anyone providing video, voice and data services over Internet Protocol, including protections against discrimination and privacy infringement. **Seattle testified in opposition to this bill.**

HB 1700 would require the Department of Information Services to complete a map of public highspeed internet infrastructure by 2016. **Seattle does not support this bill** and is working with other interested parties to address the various concerns around cost and security.