

CITY OF SEATTLE
2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2010

Budget Safety Net: Do No Harm

The State faces a \$2.6 billion revenue deficit. In December, Gov. Gregoire proposed an all cuts budget. Last week, Gov. Gregoire proposed a second, or Book 2, budget that includes \$778 million more in spending than the all cuts budget, but does not identify a revenue source. The second budget is significantly better than the all cuts budget, but it would still leave large holes in the human services safety net. Assistant Chief Nick Metz and Deputy Chief Paul McDonough from SPD testified before the House Ways & Means Committee on January 14 from a public safety perspective in support of continued funding for GA-U (the Disability Lifeline), other mental health services funding, and funding for early learning.

Education

HB 2731 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Early Learning & Children Services Committee on January 19. HB 2731 will implement a program of early learning for educationally at-risk children within the overall program of basic education under Article IX of the state Constitution. The Bill specifies preschool for educationally at risk 3 and 4 year olds. Seattle supports this bill and intends to testify at the January 19 hearing.

Public Safety

The Legislature is beginning to formulate a response to the recent officer shootings including a work session in the House Committee on Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness on January 18. OIR and SPD are working closely together to track potential legislation.

Revenue

The Legislature is moving toward new revenue to help address the budget deficit, but the big questions are, “How much, what are the sources, and what will it fund?” The prospect of an additional round of federal funds to states has pushed the conversation about new revenue off to the side for now, but it will probably reemerge once that is resolved.

Transportation

Last week, the House Transportation Committee held a public hearing on legislation that would provide greater flexibility for TBD funds (**HB 1591**). This week, the Senate Transportation Committee is holding a work session to get an update on statewide tolling; holding a public hearings on legislation affecting tolls and use of toll revenue on

SR 520 (**SB 6392** and **SB 6499**); and legislation aimed at mitigating impacts of SR 520 on the arboretum (**SB 6321**). They are also holding a public hearing on SB 6366, which would take away local permitting for transportation projects exceeding \$1 billion. SDOT is currently analyzing this legislation. In the House, the Transportation Committee is holding a work session to hear a report on the progress of the 520 working group.

Water Stewardship

HB 1614 was referred from House Rules to the House Capital Budget Committee on January 11. HB 1614 would establish a \$1.50 fee on a barrel of unrefined oil to raise revenue for stormwater and water quality programs and projects. Seattle supports this legislation.

ONGOING PRIORITIES – 2010

Race & Social Justice

House Judiciary held a public hearing on **HB 2421** which establishes procedures for a nonparent to have visitation rights in certain circumstances. On January 18, the House Judiciary Committee held a public hearing on **HB 2793**, which expands the rights and obligations of state registered domestic partners and other couples related to parentage.

Economic Development

SSB 6116 was re-introduced and referred to the Senate Rules Committee on January 11. SSB 6116 would take the 2 percent car rental tax, the 0.5 percent restaurant tax, the 2 percent state shared hotel-motel tax, and 75 percent of the 1 percent car rental tax and re-prioritize their use as the Safeco and Qwest bonds are paid off. The King County Council could use the existing taxes for arts and heritage programs, tourism promotion, youth sports activities, regional centers, publicly owned stadiums, community development, and low-income housing. Seattle supports this legislation.

Energy

HB 2853 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 21. HB 2853 would authorize municipalities to establish conservation utilities to finance residential energy efficiencies. Seattle supports this legislation and intends to testify at the January 21 hearing.

HB 2561 was placed on second reading in the House Capital Budget Committee on January 18. HB 2561 would authorize the issuance of \$861 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvements that lead to energy-related cost savings in public schools, state colleges and universities, and other public facilities. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2536 was heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 11. HB 2536 would require electric utilities to provide standard offer

contracts of no less than 20 years for the purchase of electricity produced from certain renewable energy systems. Seattle is monitoring this legislation.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

2SHB 1165 was placed on 2nd reading in House Rules on January 15. 2SHB 1165 would provide for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 1469 was referred to the House Environmental Health Committee on January 11. HB 1469 would establish a product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights. Seattle supports this legislation.

Housing & Homelessness

HB 2906 was introduced and referred to the Local Government & Housing Committee on January 21. HB 2906 would require the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2623 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee on January 20. HB 2623 would provide a one-year forbearance on foreclosure for a borrower who is receiving unemployment benefits. Seattle supports this legislation and intends to testify at the January 20 hearing.

Infrastructure/Finance

The House Finance Committee is holding a public hearing on three local fiscal flexibility bills. Two of the bills (**HB 2650** and **HB 2749**) allow the 2d quarter local REET to be used for parks operations and maintenance. **HB 2650** increases the type of eligible capital facilities for the 2d quarter REET to match the first quarter uses, and allows the first quarter REET to be used for maintenance of capital facilities. **HB 2749** contains a “fix” for the Brokered Natural Gas (BNG) issue: a court case changed the definition of “first use” of BNG. Seattle continues to collect the tax, pending a decision by the State Supreme Court.

Planning & Development

SB 6459 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance & Housing Committee on January 19. SB 6459 establishes limitations on local government’s authority to conduct mandatory rental inspection programs and provides local governments the authority to conduct civil administrative search warrant authority. Seattle is monitoring this legislation.

Public Health

HB 2388 is scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee on January 22. HB 2388 would provide funding of public health activities by imposing sales and use taxes on sales of candy to be deposited in a new public health improvement account. A

minimum of \$100,000 would be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction and the remaining funds in the account will be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction on a per capita basis.