



CITY OF SEATTLE 2011 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Weekly Overview

Last week was the first week of the special session. In the special session announcement, lawmakers and the Governor agreed to keep the special session focused on the budget and the bills required to implement the budget, but the list of bills necessary to implement the budget could be quite expansive, and most things that died during the regular session could be resurrected during the special session.

The Senate spent much of the week in Olympia re-passing priority bills to send them back over to the House. The Senate has said that in addition to taking action on the operating and capital budgets during the special session, it also wants several policy bills to pass, including a constitutional amendment to change the state's debt ceiling, worker's compensation reforms, and teacher layoff reforms. Most members of the House were not in Olympia last week, but will be in Olympia during the week ahead.

Last week the Governor took action on several of our priority bills, which we discuss below. This is an abbreviated version of the bulletin; during the special session we will be providing less frequent and shorter bulletins since there is less to update on than during the regular session, but we will continue to provide updates as new information becomes available.

Updates on Priorities

Budget: The operating and capital budgets remain the primary focus of the special session, but right now all of the action on these issues is behind closed doors. As negotiations between the two chambers move forward, we will pay particular attention to protecting state-local shared revenues from being swept (most importantly, the liquor profits). We will also focus on the funding levels for Disability Lifeline, community health clinics, Working Connections child care, other key safety net programs, and education funding. In the capital budget we will continue to focus on the Housing Trust Fund and MTCA funding.

Medical Cannabis: On Friday, April 29th, the Governor vetoed large portions of [E2SSB 5073](#), legislation to clarify laws surrounding the medical use of cannabis (the Governor's veto statement is available [here](#)). Seattle supports this legislation and the Mayor, City Attorney, and four Councilmembers sent a letter on Friday urging the Governor not to veto the bill. While we

are disappointed with the Governor's veto, we will be working closely with Senator Kohl-Welles and other legislative leaders to see if we can pass a new bill during the special session to fix some of the issues left unresolved in light of the Governor's actions.

Houseboats: [SHB 1783](#), which would place some limits on regulation of houseboats, was signed by the Governor on Friday, April 29th. The final legislation represents a negotiated agreement with houseboat advocates, state agencies, and the City of Seattle.

Mutual Aid: [SHB 1585](#) would allow local governments to provide aid when another city or county in Washington has experienced an emergency and requests assistance. This bill passed both chambers and was delivered to the Governor on April 11th. On April 15th, the Governor signed the bill into law (Chapter 79, 2011 Laws). [ESHB 1406](#), establishing the intrastate building safety mutual aid system, was signed by the Governor on Friday, April 29th. The Governor vetoed Section 10 of the bill, which would have created an intrastate building safety mutual aid oversight committee. The Governor did not believe the creation of an oversight committee was necessary to carry out the purposes of the bill (the full veto statement is available [here](#)).

Looking Ahead

The special session will continue next week. We expect action in both chambers on policy bills necessary to implement the budget, including hearings on legislation that would generate revenue by eliminating certain tax breaks, but most activity on the budgets is likely to happen behind closed doors as the Senate and House budget leaders continue to negotiate.