



CITY OF SEATTLE 2015 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

February 17, 2015

Number 5

The City of Seattle is committed to being a safe, vibrant, interconnected, and affordable city.

Week Overview

This past week was busy with hearings for the Washington State Legislature— as legislators are working diligently to get legislation moved through the committees by February 20th. This is the deadline for bills to be passed out of policy committees in their house of origin. February 27th marks the cutoff date for bills to be passed out of fiscal committees in their house of origin. Both chambers are scheduled to be on the floor March 2nd through the 11th.

Councilmembers Tim Burgess, Sally Clark, Bruce Harrell and Nick Licata all traveled to the Capitol this week to meet with legislators and garner support for the City's agenda. CM Licata and legislative aide Lisa Herbold also testified in support of [SB 5377](#), which would require landlords give 90-days' notice on rent increases exceeding 10% of current rent. CM Harrell provided testimony in support of [SB 5608](#), the "Ban the Box" legislation that would prohibit employers from inquiring on an applicant's prior conviction record before determining basic eligibility for a job.

Priority Areas

Budget and Infrastructure

The House and Senate concurred on the Supplemental Operating Budget ([HB 1105](#)) on February 12th, and with the signatures of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, the bill now sits on the Governor's desk, awaiting his signature.

Education

Citing a 61% increase in tuition over the last four years, Senate Republicans unveiled their [College Affordability Program](#) to slow higher education tuition increases. The program begins with the 2015-2016 school year and caps tuition for resident undergraduate students. The cap is based on the average wage (currently \$52,635) in the state, and ranges from a 14% cap at UW and WSU, 10% at other public institutions, and 6% at Community Colleges.

Safety Net, Housing and Health Care

Health Care

Following weeks of a heightened national conversation on the subject of vaccinations, a bill was introduced aimed at increasing vaccinations in Washington State. [HB 2009](#) was introduced by Rep. June Robinson (D) and would eliminate personal belief waivers as a legal reason to not vaccinate. The bill is scheduled for a public hearing and two executive sessions next week.

Environment

A top priority for Governor Jay Inslee, his carbon reduction program ([SHB 1314](#)), continues to see movement in the Legislature. It passed out of the House Environment Committee on a party-line vote of 6-to-5. There were 32 amendments proposed for the bill, eight of them passed. The bill may go to House Appropriations, the Finance Committee or both – as it has fiscal impacts.

Transportation

On Thursday, the Senate rolled out its transportation revenue package, totaling \$15.14 billion over 16 years. The package calls for an 11.7-cent-per-gallon tax increase phased in over three years. This increase is projected to raise \$8 billion in new revenue for transportation projects and \$1.2 billion in new revenue for preservation. The package included funding for several major projects of impact on Seattle, including full funding for completion of the 520 bridge, and a somewhat reduced authority for ST3's proposed revenue package. Also included was funding for the Northgate Pedestrian Bridge (\$10 million), MLK Way/Rainier Ave S Improvements (\$900,000), Rapidride Expansion Burien-Delridge (\$8 million), Trolley Expansion/Electrification, Madison Route (\$8 million), and SR 167.

The package contains a number of issues that will be negotiated over the remainder of session including suggested reforms on prevailing wages, the dedication of all sales tax revenues from the General Fund to the Transportation budget after 2018, and language that would rescind funding if the governor chose to implement low carbon fuel standards through the Department of Ecology. Hearings on the package will be held February 17th and 18th.

Public Safety

Gun Responsibility

Proponents for gun responsibility were visible in Olympia on Tuesday, holding a press conference and lobbying legislators with the intent to block any I-594 amendments as well as support [HB 1857/SB 5727](#) (creating a protection order temporarily restraining gun possession in cases where an individual is found to be a substantial risk to themselves or others) and [HB 1747 /SB 5789](#) (holding guardians accountable for gun violence committed by children, when the weapon is stored improperly). Currently, only HB 1857 is scheduled for Executive Action.

Marijuana

On Friday February 13th, the Senate passed [SB 5052](#), Senator Ann Rivers' (R) "Cannabis Patient Protection Act", an omnibus regulatory reform bill (36 yeas, 11 nays, and 2 absent). The bill aligns medical marijuana stores with I-502 regulations, creates a registry for medical marijuana patients, and eliminates collective gardens.

An alternative bill, [SB 5519](#), the "Marijuana Reform Act" by Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles (D), was heard in the Senate Commerce Committee on February 13th and is scheduled for Executive Session on February 16th. Representatives from the City Attorney's office and the City provided testimony in support.

A House omnibus bill, HB 1461, failed to pass out of committee.

Looking Ahead

The coming week will be a busy one as committees scramble to move bills out by the Friday cutoff. The addition of hearings on the proposed Transportation Package heightens an already eventful week.

OIR welcomes Councilmember Rasmussen to Olympia this week for the annual AWC lobby days on Wednesday and Thursday, and the Mayor on Wednesday for the hearing on the Senate transportation package.

Bill Status Report

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 1105	Supplemental Operating Budget	Making 2015 Supplemental Appropriations	Passed by both chambers 2/13	Hunter
HB 1107	Cultural Access	Creating Cultural Access districts	Referred to H Finance 2/13	Springer
SHB 1180 & SB 5128	High-capacity trans service	ST 3	H Finance - Public Hearing 2/10 S Transportation - not scheduled	Fey Liias
HB 1257	Tenant Screening	Protects renters from multiple screening report charges	H Judiciary - Passed Committee on 2/12	Walkinshaw
SHB 1295	Breakfast After the Bell	Provides breakfast after school start for high-needs schools	Referred to H Appropriations 2/9	Hudgins
HB 1314	Carbon Reductions	Governor's Carbon Reduction Program	Referred to H Appropriations 2/13	Fitzgibbon
HB 1389 & SB 5181	Fire Mobilization	Expands incidents for mobilization response	H Appropriations - Scheduled for Exec 2/19 S Ways and Means - Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/17	Goodman Pearson
HB 1449	Oil Trains	Concerning transport of hazardous materials	H Environment - Scheduled for Exec 2/16	Farrell
SHB 1491	Early Start Act	Establishes the Early Start Act	Referred to H Appropriations 2/5	Kagi
HB 1517	Paint Stewardship	Concerning paint disposal	Referred to H Appropriations 2/13	Peterson
HB 1565	Rental Income	Prohibits discrimination based of source of income	H Judiciary - Public Hearing 2/4	Ormsby
HB 1576	Annexations	Extending provisions on taxed to offset costs of annexations	H Finance - Public Hearing 2/3	Fitzgibbon
HB 1647	Reproductive health care	Concerning health plan coverage of reproductive health care.	H HC/Wellness - Exec Action taken 2/13	Cody
HB 1690	Convention Center Expansion	Concerning tax credits for Center Expansion	H Technology - Scheduled for Exec 2/18	Walkinshaw
HB 1691	Public records act, remedies	Concerning remedies for actions under the public records act.	H State Government	Van De Wege
HB 1701 & SB 5608	Job applicants/arrests, etc.	Prohibiting employers from asking about arrests or convictions before an applicant is determined otherwise qualified	H Labor - Scheduled for Exec 2/17 S Commerce - Public Hearing 2/13	Moscoso Miloscia

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
HB 1720	Low Income Weatherization	Promoting healthy housing	H Comm Devo – Exec Session 2/10	Robinson
HB 1728	Parents for Parents Program	Support services for parents in dependency court system	Referred to H Appropriations – 2/12	Ormsby
HB 1735	Extended Foster Care	Adds 5 th Category of eligibility	Referred to H Appropriations 2/12	Orwall
HB 1757	Local transport. options	Concerning local transportation options.	H Trans – Scheduled for Exec 2/16	Fey
HB 1769	High-tech R&D tax prefs	Reinstating tax preferences for high-technology research and development.	H Technology – Public Hearing 2/11	Pettigrew
HB 1809 & SB 5697	Crew size on certain trains	Establishing minimum crew size on certain trains.	H Labor – Scheduled for Exec 2/17 S Commerce – Public Hearing 2/9	Haler Parlette
HB 1885 & SB 5755	Property crimes, impacts of	Addressing and mitigating the impacts of property crimes in Washington state.	H Public Safety – Scheduled for Exec 2/20 S Law & Justice – Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/16	Klippert Hargrove
HB 1911 & SB 5795	Latecomers Fee	Allowing municipalites to recoup investment in sewer/water development	H Local Government – Public Hearing 2/12 S Government Ops – Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/17	Fitzgibbon Roach
HB 1916	Chem dependency & mental hlth	Integrating administrative provisions for chemical dependency and mental health.	H HC/Wellness – Public Hearing 2/13	Pollet
HB 1957	Job Order Contracting	Sets minimum dollar limit for contracting in city > 400,000	H Local Government – Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/17	Walkinshaw
SB 5376 HB 1460	Eviction records reporting	Concerning the disclosure of certain eviction records in screening reports.	S Financial Institutions – Public Hearing 2/11 H Judiciary – Public Hearing 2/4	Habib Robinson
SB 5377 & HB 2051	Tenant relocation	Concerning the provision of time and assistance for tenants to relocate due to a rent increase or change of use of the residential unit.	S Financial Institutions – 2/11 Public Hearing H Judiciary – Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/17	Kohl-Welles Farrell
SB 5402	Marijuana acquisition/adults	Ensuring safe, responsible, and legal acquisition of marijuana by adults.	S Commerce – Scheduled for Public Hearing 2/16	Conway
SB 5052	Cannabis Patient Protection Act	Omnibus Marijuana regulation	Passed Senate Floor 2/13	Rivers

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
SB 5896	Liquor Revenue restorations	Restore liquor revenue sharing to local jurisdictions	S Ways and Means - not scheduled	Fraser
SB 5668 & HB 1745	Voting rights	Enacting the Washington voting rights act.	S Government Ops-Public Hearing 2/10 H State Gov't - Scheduled for Exec 2/17	Habib Moscoso
SB 5724	Safe routes to school program	Concerning funding for the safe routes to school program.	S Transportation - Public Hearing 2/10	Billig
SB 5804	State energy code, adoption	Modifying the procedure for adoption and amendment of the Washington state energy code.	S Government Ops - Public Hearing 2/9	Liias