

CITY OF SEATTLE
2006 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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The session ended Sine Die on the evening of Wednesday, March 8 which was the 59th day of the 2006 legislative session.

The supplemental operating budget added \$468 million to specific policies and programs. Another \$825 million was reserved for specific areas in the 2007-09 budgets and \$216 was held in undesignated reserve. A few highlights of the budget include:

- Student Remediation Assistance - \$28.5 million
- Mental Health Funding – Regional Support Networks - \$34.6 million
- Medicaid Prescription Co-pays - \$18.2 million (100,000+ low income elderly recipients)
- Basic Health Plan - \$12.5 million (6,500 new slots)
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) - \$50.5 million

Session Priorities

Transportation

SHB 2871 has been sent to the Governor for her signature. The bill prohibits a regional vote in 2006. It requires that a 2007 vote must include Sound Transit and the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID) and both must pass to enact the taxes. It includes the legislative changes requested by the RTID. It would allow transit funding as mitigation during project construction. It also includes the expansion of the Transportation Benefit Districts to the three county region after December 1, 2007. It also allows a single county to enact an RTID like proposal after December 1, 2007. It does not allow the transfer of the Monorail taxes for transit use or any use. It requires an advisory ballot or Council ordinance picking a preferred alternative on the Alaskan Way replacement project. Finally, it sets up a Governor appointed nine member Regional Transportation Governance Commission to develop options for a new governance system. These options must be submitted to the 2007 legislature.

SB 6566 would revise the commute trip reduction (CTR) program to focus on urban areas with congested state highways. The transportation budget includes an additional \$4.65 million for CTR efforts. The bill has sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Housing

ESHB 2984 authorizes cities, towns, and counties to implement affordable housing incentive programs. This bill gives local jurisdictions the option of encouraging or requiring a number of tools to increase the availability of affordable housing. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

E2SHB 2418 increasing the availability of affordable housing has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This provides \$21 million of the state portion of the Real Estate Excise Tax

(REET) for the Housing Trust Fund, including \$4 million for the Homeless Families Services Fund. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Education

The operating budget includes \$28.5 million for remediation assistance. Out of this funding \$20.2 million is to serve the class of 2008 and \$4.1 million to help the class of 2007.

The budget provided \$7.7 million to help with the cost of diesel fuel for buses and schools that have natural gas.

There was an additional \$2.4 million for the University of Washington to help with Life Sciences Research.

SSB 6618 is the compromise bill relating to the WA Assessment of Student Learning (WASL) test. This bill requires a study to explore options for students to demonstrate that they have met learning standards. It also requires a review and statistical analysis of those that do not meet the WASL standards to try to identify similar characteristics and possible barriers to meeting the standards. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature.

SHB 2964 which would create a department of early learning department awaits a vote on the Ways & Means Committee. Funding for this effort was proposed in the House and Senate budget proposals. This is an early initiative of Governor Gregoire's Washington Learns task force. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Session Objectives

Capital Budget

The Seattle Aquarium will receive the full \$2 million requested from the supplemental capital budget. Discovery Park did not receive any new funding.

Environmental Health

SSB 6428 provides no-cost options for individuals and small governments and small business to recycle their computers and televisions. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Human Services – TANF

2SSB 6628 and **SHB 2970** preserve the WorkFirst child safety net program. The purpose of these bills is to ensure that children whose parents are out of compliance with WorkFirst requirements continue to receive benefits. Neither bill passed however the budget includes \$650,000 to preserve the safety net between March and July 1, 2007. **Seattle supports these measures.**

Streamline Sales Tax

SSB 6594, conforming Washington's tax structure to the streamlined sales and use tax agreement, was not brought out of the House Rules Committee. The bill includes full mitigation to cities that are adversely affected by the shift in the distribution of sales tax from a point of purchase system to point of delivery. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Weights and Measures Fees

SSB 6365 would increase the annual registration fees for weights and measuring devices by and phase in the increase over the next two years. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Policy Issues

Air Quality and Climate Protection

SSB 6508, which develops minimum renewable fuel content requirements and fuel quality standards in an alternative fuels market, has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill requires that 2% of the total volume of diesel sold in the state be biodiesel and 2% of the total gasoline sold in the state be ethanol. The requirements start December 1, 2008, or earlier if conditions are met. The bill also establishes an Advisory Committee to assist with implementing or suspending the requirements. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Domestic Violence

SHB 2394 Including financial literacy in work activity provisions has been sent to the Governor for her signature. The WorkFirst program requires participants to develop an individual responsibility plan (IRP). The purpose of the IRP is to map out a strategy for self-sufficiency. This would require participants to include a financial literacy component to their plans. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESHB 2848 which protects confidentiality of domestic violence victims has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill provides that confidential information cannot be shared unless permission is given by the victim or there is a clear risk of danger. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Economic Development

SB 6558 would form a WA motion picture competitiveness program to provide incentives for this industry to film in the state. The program will be funded by private contributions in exchange for state tax credits. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Energy

3ESHB 2939 the energy freedom program has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill sets up a 13-member board which will allocate \$25 million for loans to be used for such projects and research and development of new and renewable and bio-fuel sources. This could allow for the local production of bio-fuels and renewables. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESHB 1020 regarding electrical transmission has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill puts the Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council in charge of the siting of transmission corridors if a number of criteria are met, including being the corridor being designated by the Federal Energy Department as a corridor of national significance.

ESHB 1010 requires utilities to develop integrated resource plans (IRP). The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

ESHB 2352 which modifies net provisions has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill requires utilities accept up to .5 of their load for net metering (up from .25), it also

provides for connections of up to 100kw (up from 25kw). The purpose is to make it easier for renewable connections by individuals customers.

Human Services

SHB 2002 will allow up to 50 foster care youth to continue receiving benefits if they stay in school up to age twenty-one. There is \$500,000 in the budget to accommodate the added youth continuing in foster care. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature.

Seattle supports this legislation.

SHB 2376 prohibits the department of social and health services from imposing medical premiums on children in households with income at or below two hundred percent of the federal poverty level. The Governor has signed this bill which becomes effective on June 7, 2006. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

E2SHB 2353 which provides for collective bargaining for child care workers has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill simply allows for the State to bargain with the child care workers. Next year the legislature would have to approve (with an up or down vote) the agreement. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Public Safety

ESSB 6106 requires disclosure of specified health care information to law enforcement. This bill is a result of some problems homicide detectives have encountered. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 3205 clarifies the authority to apprehend conditionally released persons. Persons who fall into this category are the violent sex offenders who will receive 24-hour supervision while residing at the new facility located at 1st & Spokane. This legislation would give law enforcement the authority to detain a person who is violating their conditions of release by either taking them to the county jail or back to the secure facility. The bill has been sent to the Governor for her signature. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Revenue

SSB 5333 did not pass off the house floor before the cut-off. This bill would allow all taxing districts to ask voters to approve a lid lift for up to six years and removes the non-supplanting language from the existing statute. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 2033 has been sent to the Governor for her signature. This bill will exempt printers and publishers from the apportionment provisions that go into effect in 2008. Instead the gross income will be allocated to the principal place in the state from which the business is directed or managed.

Water Stewardship

SHB 2884 concerning the use of reclaimed water has been sent to the Governor for her signature. The purpose of the bill is to update the rules which were last updated in 1997. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

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