



CITY OF SEATTLE 2016 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

February 22, 2016

Number 6

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

Week Overview

With just three weeks until the session is scheduled to adjourn on March 10th, the pace in Olympia has quickened. The deadline for bills to move out of their chamber of origin was February 17th at 5 pm. This meant a very late night for legislators on February 16th – they worked past midnight to get bills heard and voted out of their chamber prior to the next day's 5:00 p.m. cutoff.

On Tuesday, February 16th Republican Olympia business owner Andrew Barkis was sworn into office to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of former Representative Graham Hunt earlier this month.

Also on Wednesday, February 17th, the Washington State economic and revenue forecast was released. Overall, the forecast is down \$78 million for the 2015-2017 biennium and \$436 million for the 2017-2019 budget. After adjustments for caseloads, the overall shortfall legislators are faced with this year is \$16 million.

This news was not what legislators were hoping to receive this session and the larger shortfall puts even greater pressure on the budget that includes funding needs for wildfires, mental health services, and the looming court deadline to fully fund K-12 basic education by 2018. The forecast noted positive impacts on Washington State's economy that included lower unemployment rates, rising wages, a stronger housing market, and falling gasoline/oil prices. Negative impacts include a slowing global economy, slower US GDP growth, the negative impact of stronger dollar on exports, and weaker manufacturing activity. House and Senate budget leaders differed in their assessments of how the downturn might impact the budget.

On Thursday February 18th, responding in part to the McCleary decision deadline referenced above, the legislature officially passed the first bill of legislative session. [E2SSB 6195](#) (Sen. Rivers-R) was passed by the Senate on Wednesday on a 25-23 bipartisan vote and the House followed suit on Thursday on a 66-31 vote. It is now expected to be signed by the Governor. The bill establishes the Education Funding Task Force to look into ways to address the underfunding of public schools in the state and directs the Legislature to take action by the end of 2017 to end school district dependency on local levies for the implementation of basic education.

Governor Inslee (D) revealed his plans on February 18th to sign an executive order to create a task force to look into the creation of a new cabinet agency to oversee services provided to vulnerable children and families. Inslee listed four reasons why Washington State needs such an agency as 1) increased accountability, 2) more visibility for children's issues, 3) reducing barriers to providing services for this population, and 4) advancing children's interests in the state. The commission will report their findings to the Governor in November.

Finally, on Friday, February 19th, Sen. Roach (R) introduced [SJR 8216](#), proposing an amendment to the State constitution to require a two-thirds super majority vote of the Legislature to raise taxes. This followed the previous day's introduction by Sen. Braun (R) of [SJR 8215](#) to require voter approval for any action or combination of actions by the Legislature that raises taxes. It is unlikely that either bill will become law, as they require a two-thirds supermajority vote in each chamber.

Priority Areas

Safety Net and Housing

Preservation Tax Exemption

[SB 6239](#), (Sen. Fain-R), which provides a property tax exemption for the preservation of affordable housing, passed the Senate 36-13 on Tuesday, February 16th. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Community Development, Housing, and Tribal Affairs committee on February 22nd. The City supports this legislation.

Tenant Protections

Sen. Mullet (D)'s [SB 6413](#), passed the Senate 46-2 on Monday, February 15th and is scheduled for a hearing in the House Judiciary committee on February 24th. The companion bill, [HB 2811](#), by Rep. Walkinshaw (D), did not pass the House by cut-off. The legislation would modify the residential landlord-tenant act to require a landlord to notify a prospective tenant if they will accept a comprehensive reusable tenant screening report prior to charging that prospective tenant for a background check or screening report. The City supports this legislation.

[HB 1565](#) by Rep. Ormsby (D) prohibits a person from discriminating against a tenant based on his or her source of income. On Tuesday, February 16th, the House passed HB 1565 50-47. The bill has not been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate. The City supports this legislation.

Homeless Housing

[HB 2929](#) (Rep. Parker-R) providing temporary homeless housing was referred to Senate committee on Human Services, Mental Health and Housing on February 15th, as was [2EHB 2086](#) (Rep. McBride-D) which has the intent of making it easier for religious establishments to provide housing for the homeless. HB2959 has a hearing on February 25th while 2EHB 2086 has yet to be scheduled. The City supports this legislation.

Homeless Youth

[HB 2834](#) (Rep. Senn-D), which allows unaccompanied youth ages 13 and older to give consent for the collection of personally identifying information for the Washington homeless client management information system, passed the House, 77-20, on Monday, February 15th. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health, and Housing committee on February 23rd. The City supports this legislation.

Youth Mental Health

Rep. Kagi's (D) bill [SHB 2439](#), increasing access to adequate and appropriate mental health services for children and youth, passed the House, 77-20, on Tuesday, February 16th. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Human Services, Mental Health, and Housing committee on February 22nd. The City supports this legislation.

Statewide Rape Kit Tracking System

[SHB 2530](#) (Rep. Orwall-D), sets up a statewide system to track all rape kits. On Tuesday, February 16th, the House passed HB 2530, 83-14. The bill was heard in the Senate Law and Justice committee on Thursday, February 18th. The City supports this legislation.

Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity

The House unanimously passed [HB 1553](#) (Rep. Walkinshaw-D), which provides a certificate to former offenders re-entering the workforce. Possession of such a certificate would prohibit state and local governments from disqualifying an applicant for a license, certificate, or other qualification to engage in certain professions or businesses solely based on the applicant's criminal history. This bill will be heard in Senate Law and Justice on February 23rd. The City supports this legislation.

Public Safety and Government Operations

Post-incarceration aid

Rep. Pettigrew's (D) [HB 2791](#), which authorizes the creation of a statewide council to help address and promote successful reentry of offenders after incarceration back into the public passed the House by a vote of 94-3. The bill was referred to the Senate Human Services committee on February 17th. The City supports this legislation.

Marijuana

[HB 2494](#), (Rep. Tarleton-D) which would seek to align marijuana possession penalties more closely with alcohol possession penalties passed the House 73-24 and was referred to Senate Law and Justice. The City supports this legislation.

[HB 2368](#), (Rep. Hurst-D), which would allow a 2-yr pilot program in Seattle for marijuana delivery services failed to make it out of the House prior to cut-off. The City supported this legislation.

Pensions

The Senate unanimously passed, [SB 6170](#) (Sen. Roach-R), and it was referred to House State Government committee where it will be heard on February 23rd. The House version, [HB 2648](#), (Rep. Fey-D) was heard in Senate Government Operations on Thursday February 18th. This legislation would expand investment opportunities for the Cities of Seattle, Tacoma and Spokane. The City supports this legislation.

Public Records Requests

[HB 2576](#) (Rep. McBride-D) failed to make it out of the House prior to cut off, but was deemed necessary to implement the budget, so remains in play. This legislation authorizes, among other things, a local agency to adopt a policy on the amount of time it devotes to public records requests provided certain documents are publically available and meet certain other criteria. The City supports this legislation.

Deadly Force

[HB 2908](#) (Rep. Ryu-D) relating to standards around use of deadly force and creating a task force to look at community policing standards was passed unanimously by the House on February 16th. It has been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Law and Justice committee on February 23rd.

Patronizing a Prostitute

The Senate unanimously passed [SB 5277](#), introduced by former Senator Kohl-Welles last session, which would raise the penalty for patronizing a prostitute to a gross misdemeanor. The bill has been referred to the House Public Safety Committee for a hearing on February 23rd.

Legal Financial Obligations

On February 3rd, the House unanimously passed [ESSHB 1390](#), which would reduce some of the burden placed on indigent defendants by legal financial obligations, including eliminating certain interest accruals, establishing payment plans, and establishing new standards defining “willful failure to pay”. The bill will be heard in the Senate Law and Justice committee on February 24th.

Business & Occupation Tax Task Force

[EHB 2959](#), (Rep. Lytton-D), establishing a task force led by the Department of Revenue to evaluate and recommend legislation and options to continue simplifying the administration of local business taxes and licensing, passed the House 93-4 on February 16th. The City opposes this legislation.

Education

Student Homelessness

[HB 1682](#) (Rep. Fey-D), seeks to improve educational outcomes for homeless students through increased in-school guidance supports, housing stability, and identification services. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee on February 22nd.

Free and Reduced Meals in School

[2SHB 1295](#) by Rep. Zack Hudgins (D), which concerns breakfast after the bell programs, is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee on February 23rd.

With a vote of 54-43 the House passed [SHB 2964](#), (Rep. Gregerson-D), which provides for eliminating lunch copays for students who qualify for reduced-price lunches. It is scheduled for a public hearing in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on February 22nd.

Early Learning

[SHB 2716](#) (Rep. Senn-D), aimed at providing vulnerable children with 12 months of early learning, was heard in the Senate Early Learning and K-12 Education committee on Thursday, February 18th.

Charter Schools

[E2SB 6194](#), (Sen. Litzow-R) providing legislation that would allow the state to legally provide funding for charter schools, had a public hearing in the House Education Committee on February 19th. The legislative fix is a response to a recent Supreme Court ruling that funding charter schools with public money is unconstitutional.

Transportation

Disadvantaged Businesses

[SB 6180](#) (Sen. King-R), creates the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advisory Committee within the Transportation Commission to advise the Commission on issues and concerns from the DBE community and to increase the level of accountability and transparency regarding DBE activities. The bill is scheduled for a hearing in the House Transportation committee on February 23rd.

Orphan Roads

Sen. Fain (R)'s bill, [SB 6314](#) which would allow King County to transfer ownership of a county road to a city or town if the road is within a city or town or abuts the boundary of a city or town on both sides, passed unanimously in the Senate on February 17th. The companion, Rep. Moscoso (D)'s [HB 2590](#), did not move out of the House.

Environment

Solar Incentives

[SHB 2346](#) (Rep. Morris-D) regarding the solar production incentive passed the House on February 20th by a 77-20 vote. A strong product stewardship program and a change to the per-utility cap were positive elements passed in the bill, but there are continuing concerns with the too-low rate for community solar at 18-cents. The City supports this legislation and is working to address the concerns.

Solid Waste

[SSB 6605](#) (Sen. Warnick-R) regarding composting and recycling solid waste moving from quarantined to non-quarantined areas of the state, passed 47-1 in the Senate on February 17th. The City worked with the prime sponsor to remove language detrimental to the City and now supports this legislation.

Growth Management Act

[SB 6426](#) by Sen. Conway (D) to allow schools to be located outside urban growth boundaries defined by the GMA passed the Senate 35-13 and was referred to the House Local Government committee. The city is concerned that this bill seek to undermine the GMA's intention to contain urban growth and opposes the legislation.

Hydro License Fee

[2ESHB 1130](#) which extends the fee FERC license holders pay the Department of Ecology (and Fish & Wildlife) to process clean water permits passed out of House with a 71-27 vote. This bill was the result of extensive stakeholder meetings, including Seattle City Light, over the past year. The City supports this legislation.

Looking Ahead

The 2016 supplemental budgets (operating, capital, and transportation) will be released next week. The House will release its supplemental proposal ([PSHB 2376](#)) first, at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, February 22nd, followed later in the week by the Senate. House Leadership has stated they will prioritize closing the opportunity gap, securing equal pay, and reducing homelessness in their budget.

Next week also marks Policy Committee Cutoff for the Opposite Chamber on February 26th. This is the last day to pass bills from the opposite chamber out of committee, with the exception of fiscal committees. It is important to keep in mind that any bill deemed NTIB (necessary to implement the budget) can be exempt from these cut off deadlines.

Bill Status Report

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
E3SHB 1295 (SB 5437)	Breakfast after the bell	Concerning breakfast after the bell programs.	SEL/K-12 - First reading, referred to Early Learning & K-12 Education. Public Hearing in Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) on 2/23 @ 1:30pm	Hudgins
HB 1565 (SB 5378)	Housing options/govt progrms	Concerning the preservation of housing options for participants in government assistance programs.	SHumSer/MenHlth - First reading, referred to Human Services, Mental Health & Housing.	Ormsby
ESHB 1646 (SB 5630)	Equal pay and opportunities	Enacting the equal pay opportunity act by amending and enhancing enforcement of the equal pay act and protecting worker communications about wages and employment opportunities.	SCommerce and L - First reading, referred to Commerce & Labor.	Senn
3SHB 1713	Mental hlth, chem dependency	Integrating the treatment systems for mental health and chemical dependency.	SHumSer/MenHlth - First reading, referred to Human Services, Mental Health & Housing. Public Hearing in Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (Senate) on 2/22 @ 10:00am	Cody
E2SHB 1745 (SB 5668)	Voting rights	Enacting the Washington voting rights act.	SGovtOp&Sec - First reading, referred to Government Operations & Security. Public Hearing in Government Operations &	Moscoso

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
			Security (Senate) on 2/25 @ 10:00am	
E2SHB 2346	Renewable energy promotion	Promoting a sustainable, local renewable energy industry through modifying renewable energy system tax incentives and providing guidance for renewable energy system component recycling.	SEnergy, Enviro - First reading, referred to Energy, Environment & Telecommunications. Public Hearing in Energy, Environment & Telecommunications (Senate) on 2/24 @ 1:30pm	Morris
SHB 2440	Youth host home programs	Concerning host home programs for youth.	SHumSer/MenHlth - First reading, referred to Human Services, Mental Health & Housing. Public Hearing in Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (Senate) on 2/22 @ 10:00am	Kagi
2SHB 2449	Truancy reduction	Providing court-based and school-based intervention and prevention efforts to promote attendance and reduce truancy.	SHumSer/MenHlth - First reading, referred to Human Services, Mental Health & Housing. Public Hearing in Human Services, Mental Health & Housing (Senate) on 2/23 @ 10:00am	Orwall
HB 2494 (SB 6486)	Marijuana offense penalties	Concerning penalties for marijuana offenses.	SLaw & Justice - First reading, referred to Law & Justice.	Tarleton
2SHB 2530 (SB 6484)	Victims of sex crimes	Protecting victims of sex crimes.	SLaw & Justice - First reading, referred to Law & Justice.	Orwall
ESHB 2540 (SB 6412)	Annual tax surveys & reports	Modifying the penalty for taxpayers that do not submit an annual survey or report.	SWays & Means - First reading,	Nealey

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
			referred to Ways & Means.	
SHB 2575	Oil transportation safety	Continuing state efforts to increase oil transportation safety.	SEnergy, Enviro - First reading, referred to Energy, Environment & Telecommunications.	Farrell
SHB 2585 (SSB 6342)	Private activity bond alloc.	Concerning private activity bond allocation.	SFin Inst/Ins - First reading, referred to Financial Institutions & Insurance. Public Hearing in Financial Institutions & Insurance (Senate) on 2/24 @ 1:30pm	Robinson
SHB 2644	Animal forfeiture	Concerning animal forfeiture in animal cruelty cases.	SLaw & Justice - First reading, referred to Law & Justice.	Blake
HB 2648 (SB 6170)	Retirement info. disclosure	Providing for an exemption from disclosure of certain financial, commercial, and proprietary information held by a city retirement board on behalf of its employees' retirement system.	SGovtOp&Sec - First reading, referred to Government Operations & Security.	Fey
ESHB 2700	Impaired driving	Concerning impaired driving.	SLaw & Justice - First reading, referred to Law & Justice. Public Hearing in Law & Justice (Senate) on 2/23 @ 8:00am	Goodman
SHB 2936 (SB 6596)	Public investments	Concerning public investments.	SWays & Means - First reading, referred to Ways & Means.	Senn
EHB 2959	Business tax & licenses	Concerning local business tax and licensing simplification.	STrade & Econom - First reading, referred to Trade & Economic Development. Public Hearing in	Lytton

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
			Trade & Economic Development (Senate) on 2/24 @ 8:00am Exec Session in Trade & Economic Development (Senate) on 2/24 @ 8:00am	
EHB 2971	Real estate/local government	Addressing real estate as it concerns the local government authority in the use of real estate excise tax revenues and regulating real estate transactions.	SWays & Means - First reading, referred to Ways & Means. Public Hearing in Ways & Means (Senate) on 2/23 @ 3:30pm	McBride
2ESB 5251 (HB 1464)	Public water syst assistance	Transferring public water system financial assistance activities from the public works board and the department of commerce to the department of health.	HGen Govt & Inf - First reading, referred to General Government & Information Technology.	Honeyford
SB 5277	Patronizing a prostitute	Making the crime of patronizing a prostitute a gross misdemeanor.	HPublic Safety - First reading, referred to Public Safety.	Kohl-Welles
SB 5894	Unlawful activity/properties	Addressing unlawful activities on certain properties.	HJudiciary - First reading, referred to Judiciary.	Sheldon
SB 6170 (HB 2648)	Retirement info. disclosure	Providing for an exemption from disclosure of certain financial, commercial, and proprietary information held by a city retirement board on behalf of its employees' retirement system.	HState Governme - First reading, referred to State Government.	Roach
SSB 6227 (HB 2509)	Wildlife and recreation prg.	Implementing the recommendations of the 2015 review of the Washington wildlife and recreation program.	HCap Budget - First reading, referred to Capital Budget. Exec Session in Capital Budget (House) on 2/24 @ 3:30pm	Honeyford

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
2SSB 6239 (HB 2544)	Affordable housing options	Providing local governments with options to preserve affordable housing in their communities.	HComm Dev, Hous - First reading, referred to Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs. Public Hearing in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/22 @ 1:30pm Exec Session in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/23 @ 1:30pm Exec Session in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/25 @ 9:00am	Fain
SSB 6265 (HB 2611)	Ag. vehicle weight limits	Concerning vehicle weight limits for the movement of agricultural commodities.	HTrans - First reading, referred to Transportation. Public Hearing in Transportation (House) on 2/22 @ 3:30pm	King
ESSB 6334 (HB 2468)	GMA/rail dependent uses	Concerning rail dependent uses for purposes of the growth management act and related development regulations.	HLocal Govt - First reading, referred to Local Government.	Benton
SSB 6342 (SHB 2585)	Private activity bond alloc.	Concerning private activity bond allocation.	HComm Dev, Hous - First reading, referred to Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs.	Miloscia

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
			Public Hearing in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/22 @ 1:30pm Exec Session in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/23 @ 1:30pm Exec Session in Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) on 2/25 @ 9:00am	
ESB 6413 (HB 2811)	Landlord-tenant provisions	Modifying residential landlord-tenant act provisions relating to tenant screening, evictions, and refunds.	HJudiciary - First reading, referred to Judiciary. Public Hearing in Judiciary (House) on 2/24 @ 8:00am Exec Session in Judiciary (House) on 2/26 @ 8:00am	Mullet
2SSB 6497	Truancy reduction	Providing court-based and school-based intervention and prevention efforts to promote attendance and reduce truancy.	HJudiciary - First reading, referred to Judiciary. Public Hearing in Judiciary (House) on 2/24 @ 8:00am Exec Session in Judiciary (House) on 2/26 @ 8:00am	Hargrove
ESSB 6605	Solid waste/disease & pests	Ensuring that solid waste management requirements prevent the spread of disease, plant pathogens, and pests.	HEnvironment - First reading, referred to Environment.	Warnick
SB 6660	Hazardous substance tax rate	Concerning the hazardous substance tax rate.	SWays & Means - First reading, referred to Ways & Means.	Keiser

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor
			Public Hearing in Ways & Means (Senate) on 2/23 @ 3:30pm	