

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

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Number 3

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

HB 1365 provides home visitation services for families and funding for home visitors to mothers with newborns. The bill was heard in the Early Learning & Children's Services Committee on January 25. Chief Kerlikowske testified in support of the bill and was well received. **Seattle supports the bill.**

HB 1194, providing temporary provisions to allow students who did not meet standards on the mathematics WASL to graduate, will be heard in the House Education Committee on January 30.

HB 1288, revising the essential academic learning requirements and statewide academic assessment system, will also be heard in the House Education Committee on January 30. We have concerns about this bill weakening certain requirements and potentially not aligning with WASL requirements.

HB 1352, postponing the requirement of proficiency on the WASL for high school graduation, will be heard in the Education Committee on February 1.

HB 1641/SB 5501, implementing Washington Learns recommendations will have a hearing in both the House and Senate this week. This bill addresses providing for early learning, all-day kindergarten, and math and science curriculums, to name a few items. The Early Learning Initiative has been broken out into several bills in the House. The Senate will conduct a joint Early Learning & K-12/Higher Education committee public hearing on **SB 5501** on January 29.

Annexation Incentives

HB 1139, which would provide an opportunity to access a state sales tax credit if an annexation of a population of over 10,000 occurs before 2010, was heard in the Finance Committee on January 26. Dwight Dively and Kenny Pittman testified in favor of the bill. CM Conlin sent a letter in support of the legislation. Testimony included eleven residents of Burien or N. Highline all speaking in favor of the bill. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Civil Rights

SB 5336, protecting individuals in domestic partnerships by granting certain rights and benefits was heard in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on January 25. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

A work session was held in the Community, Trade, and Economic Development Committee on January 25 to address OMWBE contracting issues. Councilmember McIver testified addressing the disparities in contracts awarded to minority owned businesses. His testimony was well received.

HB 1472, addressing racial disproportionality in the child welfare system will be heard in the Committee on Early Learning & Children's Services on January 30.

HB 1473, changing requirements for the restoration of the right to vote for people convicted of felonies, will have a hearing in the State Government & Tribal Affairs Committee on January 31. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Environment

There is a great deal of interest in addressing the State Supreme Court *Okenson v. Seattle* decision. We are currently working with committee staff on drafting a piece of legislation.

HB 1374, creating the Puget Sound partnership, had a hearing in the House Select Committee on Puget Sound. The Governor's Office testified that the duties and responsibilities of the Puget Sound Action Team would be folded into the Leadership Council. The Leadership Council would be the new body overseeing the clean-up efforts. The Governor's representative also mentioned that Shared Strategies would be folded in. We are reviewing this bill.

Infrastructure/Finance

SB 5089, which would implement the Streamlined Sales Tax provisions, passed out of the Ways & Means Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. The companion bill, **HB 1072**, was heard and passed out of the Finance Committee. Department of Revenue projections show that Seattle would receive mitigation of almost \$2.4 million. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

SB 5115 was heard in the Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee on January 24. This is the Governor's request legislation amending the Local Infrastructure Financing Tool (LIFT) statute approved last year. The changes include increasing the competitive portion of LIFT to \$5 million, repealing the one project per county restriction, and eliminating the assessed value per square foot requirement. **HB 1277** is the companion bill. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

HB 1430 allowing local jurisdictions greater access to New Market Tax Credits will be heard in the House Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee on January 29. The companion bill, **SB 5630**, was referred to the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Management Committee. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

HB 1201 which extends Medicaid coverage for foster care youth until age 21, which the City of Seattle supports, is scheduled for executive action in the Health Care & Wellness Committee on January 29.

HB 1359 develops a planning process to address affordable housing, addressing density, subsidies, and funding. **HB 1115** funds homeless programs through recording fee increase of \$10. Both these bills will be heard on February 1, Housing Advocacy Day. Counties have expressed concerns about these bills. The City is reviewing these bills.

Transportation

The Senate Transportation Committee held a January 25 work session on the most recent tunnel proposals. The City of Seattle participated in this work session. The House Transportation Committee has a briefing on the AWW project and SR 520 project on January 29.

HB 1396 and **SB 5282** allow a single vote on the Regional Transportation Investment District (RTID)/Sound Transit (ST) ballot measure. Both bills will be heard in the transportation committees this week.

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protections

HB 1642 concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders was introduced. This bill clarifies that it does not have to only be physical contact to violate a no-contact order. We hope to have a hearing shortly. **Seattle supports this measure.**

HB 1703, creating a domestic violence pilot program to co-locate a domestic violence advocate in the Department of Social and Health Services offices, was introduced and referred to the Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Elections and General Government

SB 5278, allowing the use of public funds to finance campaigns for local office, is scheduled for a hearing on February 1 in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Energy

HB 1037, regarding electrical transmission, gives the Energy Facilities Site Evaluation Council (EFSEC) more authority in siting transmission projects. The concern from developers is there is no "one stop" place for permitting the transmission line. Cities have been concerned about being preempted in their local land use. A two-prong proposal has been put forward: 1) the siting or upgrade of transmission facilities that are solely in one local government

jurisdiction; and 2) the siting or upgrade of transmission projects in multiple jurisdictions. The scope of the project will determine how it moves forward. The Association of Washington Cities has been instrumental in developing these compromises.

HB 1251/SB 5312 addressing the issue of stolen metal property were introduced. This bill relates to the increased theft of metal (such as guard rails, copper wire, signs). It would place new responsibilities on the purchasers of scrap metal by requiring they take identification, and by delaying cash payments to the seller. Those receiving metal raised concerns about how long the property would have to be held. Amendments will be introduced. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Growth Management, Land Use & Annexation

HB 1636, creating a regional transfer of development rights (TDR) program, sets up a study group. The group will have two years to make recommendations on establishing a regional TDR program. The Senate version (which does not have a number) will be holding a work session on January 29. The purpose is to determine how growth will occur over the next 100 years. One question is whether cities will have adequate representation in the work group.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

SHB 1024 and **SSB 5034**, phasing out the use of polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs), both passed out of their respective committees and are now in the Rules Committee. They must pass out of Rules before they can be voted on the floor. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Housing

SB 5031, protecting tenants of conversion condominiums, had a hearing on January 25. Thank you to Councilmember Rasmussen who testified in support of the bill. There was general support for extending the time tenants have to relocate and increasing the amount of the relocation assistance. Concerns were raised about when work, construction and repairs could begin, and whether the builders would have to wait until every tenant left or if there was some compromise. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Human Services

HB 1088 would improve the delivery of children's mental health services. Seattle testified **in support** of the bill on January 23.