

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

March 3, 2008

Number 7

February 29 was the policy committee cut-off and March 3 is the fiscal committee cut-off. Beginning on Tuesday the next ten days prior to Sine Die are devoted to floor action.

SESSION PRIORITIES – 2008

Annexation

2ESHB 1139 providing a sales tax credit to the City of Seattle in the event of an annexation of 10,000 or more people was heard in the Ways & Means Committee last week. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Climate Protection & Environment

E2SHB 2844, regarding urban forestry, passed out of the Senate Natural Resources, Oceans & Parks Committee. It will now move to Ways & Means. This bill directs Community Trade & Economic Development to develop a model ordinance that cities can use as a framework for urban reforestation. It also directs the Department of Natural Resources to conduct an inventory of urban trees. **Seattle supports this bill.**

E2SHB 2815, providing a framework for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Washington economy, passed out of the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee and was referred to Ways & Means. This bill establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) reporting system. It also directs the Department of Transportation to use a collaborative process to develop tools and best practices to assist state and local entities in reducing the number of vehicle miles traveled. **Seattle supports this bill.**

ESSB 6580, addressing the impacts of climate change through the Growth Management Act, was passed out of the House Local Government Committee and will be heard in the Appropriations Committee on March 3. The bill no longer has the climate change as a goal in the Growth Management Act. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Finance/Infrastructure

SHB 3291, enacting the community schools act of 2008, establishes a new program that community-based groups can apply for competitive grant funds to help purchase a surplus school. The bill was heard and passed out of the Senate Early Learning & K12 Education Committee and referred to the Ways & Means Committee. The House Capital Budget, **SHB 2765**, includes \$10 million in 2009-11 for the program created with HB 3291. It also states that \$5 million will be allocated specifically to Allen, Crown Hill, Fautleroy, University Heights, Martin Luther King and Lincoln schools in 2008. This funding was not included in the Senate proposed capital budget. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Transportation

SSB 6771, temporarily eliminating the Regional Transportation Investment District – RTID, was heard in the House Transportation Committee and is scheduled for executive session on March 3.

SHB 3096 sets up a three-member committee to evaluate a variety of issues related to early tolling and tolling of SR 520 including diversion, tolling technology, traffic management and public outreach. Any actual toll must be approved by the state legislature. This bill was pulled to the floor and passed the House by a vote of 63-30. It will be heard in the Senate Transportation Committee on March 3.

STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2008

Domestic Violence Protections

SHB 2520 creates a pilot project placing a domestic violence advocate in a minimum of one Department of Social and Health Service office. This bill died but it is included in the House budget as a proviso. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Elections and General Government

SSB 5278, allowing local funds to be used to set up programs to publicly fund campaigns if approved by a vote of the people, was heard and passed out of the House State Government Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Health

ESHB 3160 now sets forth a legislative taskforce to look at the issue of nutrition labeling and restricts. The preemption language was removed and the bill passed out of the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and was referred to the Rules Committee. **Seattle opposes preemption in this bill.**

Housing

ESHB 1727, planning to ensure sufficient land and densities available to accommodate growth, passed out of Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and was heard in the Ways & Means Committee. This bill has a number of planning components, but we added a section to make technical corrections and a clarification to the incentive zoning statute that promotes affordable housing. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Human Services

E2SHB 2668 funds key recommendations from the Governor's Long Term Care Task Force. The striking amendment includes a dental care pilot, a fall prevention program, and a rule allowing delegation of administration of insulin. The level of funding will be determined in final budget deliberation. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Transportation

All three transportation budgets contain \$7,458,000 for a suicide prevention fence on the Aurora Bridge.