

CITY OF SEATTLE
2009 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN

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Number 5

SESSION PRIORITIES – 2009

Housing Resources

HB 1464 passed out of the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 13 and is now in the Rules Committee. HB 1464 makes modification to the incentive zoning for affordable housing statute. The Senate version, **SB 5544**, is scheduled for executive action in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing and Insurance Committee on February 17. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1696 passed out of the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 12 with an amendment. **HB 1696** provides an incentive to employers to provide housing assistance to employees. The amendment lowers the affordability threshold for qualifying recipients from 120% of the Area Median Income (AMI) to 80% of AMI. The Senate version, **SB 5585**, is scheduled to be heard in the Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 18. **Seattle supports these bills.**

HB 1974 was heard in the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 16. SB 5856 will likely be scheduled the week of February 23. HB 1874 and SB 5856 create a financing tool for affordable housing. **Seattle supports these bills.**

Regional Transportation

SB 5768 regarding the Alaskan Way Viaduct replacement was heard on February 10. The testimony was mostly positive regarding the tunnel option with some speaking to the need for transit in moving people and goods efficiently.

HB 2211, relating to authorization, administration, collection, and enforcement of tolls on the state route number 520 corridor, was introduced and referred to the House Transportation Committee.

HB 1947 allowing a new local options street utility based on the levels of use of residents and businesses will be heard in the House Transportation Committee on February 17. Seattle supports this legislation.

STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2009

Civil Rights

HB 1517 / SB 5534 would restore the right to vote to persons convicted of a felony in a Washington State Court when he or she ceases to be in the custody of the Department of Corrections. It restores the right to vote to persons convicted of a felony in a federal court or any state court other than a Washington state court as long as he or she is no longer incarcerated. **Seattle has signed in in support of this legislation.** It is scheduled for a vote out of the House Committee on State Government & Tribal Affairs later this week.

Climate Protection & Environment

HB 1819 and **SB 5735**, by request of Governor Gregoire, would take steps to implement a regional cap-and-trade program in line with the Western Climate Initiative. A substitute was released on February 13, and we are reviewing its substance. **Seattle testified in support of the original legislation.**

Elections and General Government

The Liquor Control Board has advanced **HB 1434** and **SB 5367**, which would create a new nightclub license and that would eliminate the statewide cap on liquor licenses. Seattle weighed in to maintain the current definition of “public institution” in statute, and succeeded in amending the bill in the House committee before it moved forward.

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

HB 1710 will be heard in the House Finance Committee on February 17. This bill is the legislative fix to the North Highline annexation area that was originally agreed to in December 2008.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

SHB 1165 is scheduled for a hearing in the House General Government Appropriations Committee on February 17. SHB 1165 provides for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a producer-provided and funded product stewardship program **Seattle supports this bill.**

Infrastructure/Finance

HB 2178 and **SB 5875** would allow the necessary work on a future convention center expansion planning and acquisition of airspace at the convention center transit station located between Boren Avenue, Olive Way, 9th Avenue, and Pine Street. HB 2178 will be heard on February 16 in the Community & Economic Development & Trade Committee and SB 5875 will be heard on February 17 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee.

HB 1048 would repeal RCW 35.87 which requires sale of municipal property in commercial zones to first be put out to bid for use as free parking. This bill passed the House unanimously on lucky Friday, February 13. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Parks

HB 2124 and **SB 5967** relate to gender equity in parks facilities. The bills would prohibit jurisdictions from discriminating against any person on the basis of sex in the operation,

conduct, or administration of community athletics programs for youth or adults. The proposal would also prohibit cities from authorizing or granting permits or other permission to third parties for community athletics programs if the third party's program discriminates against any person on the basis of sex. Seattle has concerns about this legislation and is working with the prime sponsor and proponents toward modification.

Planning & Development

HB 1490, with a proposed substitute amendment, is scheduled for executive action in the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 18. The Senate version, **SB 5687**, is scheduled for a hearing on the proposed substitute amendment in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on February 19. HB 1490 and SB 5687 would reduce greenhouse gas emissions through land use and transportation requirements. **Seattle is monitoring these bills.**

SB 5495 was heard in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing & Insurance Committee on February 11. **Seattle testified in opposition to this bill.** The House version, HB 1296, passed out of the House Local Government & Housing Committee on February 5 and is in the Rules Committee. **Seattle opposes these bills.**

The City, in partnership with other stakeholders, finalized new legislation that would give the region the authority to re-regulate limousines. The bills are **HB 1775** and **SB 5686** and have both been heard in the respective Transportation Committees, and we expect will be moved out of committee this week.

Telecommunications and Cable

SB 5628, heard in the Senate Economic Development Committee on February 4, would weaken or even eliminate local regulatory authority over anyone providing video, voice and data services over Internet Protocol, including protections against discrimination and privacy infringement. **Seattle testified in opposition to this bill.** Its companion bill in the House, **HB 1585**, is scheduled for a public hearing on Thursday.

HB 1700 would require the Department of Information Services to complete a map of public high-speed internet infrastructure by 2016. **Seattle does not support this bill** and is working with other interested parties to address the various concerns around cost and security.