

CITY OF SEATTLE
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SESSION PRIORITIES – 2010

Budget Safety Net: Do No Harm

Budget writers await action in Congress on the federal jobs bill and health care reform which could provide significant financial assistance to Washington State. It's not clear when action might take place. Budget writers also await the next revenue forecast, due out on February 12. Oregon's public vote to raise revenue has had a positive impact on conversations in Olympia about raising revenue here in Washington.

Education

HB 2731 was heard in the House Ways & Means Committee on January 25. HB 2731 will implement a program of early learning for educationally at-risk children within the overall program of basic education under Article IX of the state Constitution. The Bill specifies preschool for educationally at risk 3 and 4 year olds. Seattle supports this legislation.

SB 6696 was heard in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on January 25 and is scheduled for executive session on February 1. SB 6696 is the Senate's education reform bill that would require action plans for persistently low-achieving schools and their districts to target funds and assistance to turn around the identified low-achieving schools, as well as other reforms. Seattle is currently evaluating this legislation.

SB 6759 was heard in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on January 27. SB 6759 asserts that a voluntary program of early learning should be included in basic education and the Legislature intends to begin the program by creating a working group to identify and recommend a plan for implementation. Seattle supports this legislation.

Public Safety

HB 2780 was heard in the House Transportation Committee. HB 2780 would heavily restrict the use of automated safety cameras and limit fines generated by automated safety cameras to \$25. In Seattle, automated safety cameras have resulted in reduced red light running, fewer persons injured at controlled intersections, and reduced vehicle speeds in school zones. Councilmember Licata testified in opposition to this bill on behalf of the City.

SB 5838, the vulnerable roadway user bill, had a public hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee. The City Attorney's office testified in support of the bill and has been working with the advocate groups on amendments that would improve implementation.

HB 1679 had a public hearing and already passed out of the House Ways and Means Committee. HB 1679, also known as the Jason McKissack Act, reimburses members of LEOFF Plan 2 who are totally disabled in the line of duty for medical payments made for employer-provided benefits. Deputy Chief Paul McDonagh from the Seattle Police Department testified in support of the bill on behalf of the City.

Revenue/Fiscal

SB 6164 and **SB 6424** are the Senate versions of the local fiscal flexibility bills. They are both up for public hearings in the Senate Ways and Means Committee this week. In the House, we are optimistic that one of the fiscal flexibility bills (**HB 2650, 2749, 2773**) will pass out of the House Finance Committee before cutoff on February 9th.

Transportation

HB 1775, the bill that would allow the City to regulate limousines, had a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee. Denise Movius, Director of Revenue of Consumer Affairs testified in support of the legislation.

HB 2855 had a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee. HB 2855 temporarily authorizes transit agencies to raise revenue by imposing a \$20 annual vehicle license fee by a vote of the governing body without first forming a Transportation Benefit District (TBD). While this could provide much needed revenue for transit, it could also limit Seattle's ability to raise revenue through a TBD.

SB 6570 had a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee. This bill would allow certain transportation providers to use designated transit only lanes on public highways. The City is concerned that this legislation is too broad and could impede bus rapid transit, and clog transit lanes with private vehicles.

Water Stewardship

HB 1614 was referred from House Rules to the House Capital Budget Committee on January 11. HB 1614 would establish a \$1.50 fee on a barrel of unrefined oil to raise revenue for stormwater and water quality programs and projects. Seattle supports this legislation.

ONGOING PRIORITIES – 2010

Race & Social Justice

SHB 1666 was heard in the Community & Economic Development Committee on January 28 and is scheduled for executive session on February 1. SHB 1666 would authorize counties above a specified population threshold to create cultural access authorities with the authority to impose a voter-approved sales and use tax of up to 0.1 percent to fund cultural access projects.

Economic Development

HB 2912 was heard in the House Finance Committee on January 28. The Senate version, **SB 6661** was heard in the Senate Economic Development, Trade & Innovation Committee on January 28. HB 2912/SB 6661 allows Seattle to retain restaurant tax revenue collected within the city limits for Seattle Center. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2983 was heard in the Community, Economic Development & Trade Committee on January 28 and is scheduled for executive session on February 1. HB 2983 creates a funding mechanism and a grant program to promote global health innovation. Seattle testified in support of this legislation.

Energy

SB 6656 was heard in the Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee on January 26 and is scheduled for executive session on February 1. SB 6656 and its House companion, **HB 2853**, would authorize municipalities to establish conservation utilities to finance residential energy efficiencies. Seattle testified in support of this legislation in the House on January 26.

SB 6480 was heard in the Government Operations and Elections Committee on January 25 and its companion, **HB 2925**, was heard in the Local Government & Housing Committee on January 28. HB 2925/SB 6480 effect Seattle City Light's impact fee agreement with Pend Oreille County regarding City Light's hydroelectric generation facility. Seattle testified in opposition to this legislation.

HB 2561 passed the House on January 20 and was referred to the Senate Ways & Means Committee. HB 2561 would authorize the issuance of \$861 million in general obligation bonds for capital improvements that lead to energy-related cost savings in public schools, state colleges and universities, and other public facilities. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2471 was amended in executive session in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 28. HB 2471 raises the threshold of qualifying net metering systems for utilities to interconnect from 100kw to 2mgw. Seattle is currently evaluating the amendments to this legislation.

HB 3034 was heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 25 and the Senate version, **SB 6672**, was heard in the Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee on January 26. HB 3034/SB 6672 would make modifications to I-937, the Energy Independence Act. Seattle testified with concerns on this legislation.

Hazardous and Solid Waste

SSB 5279 was amended and passed out of the Health & Long Term Care Committee on January 29 and was referred to Ways & Means. SSB 5279 would provide for the safe collection and disposal of unwanted drugs from residential sources through a

producer-provided and funded product stewardship program. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2914 was heard in the House Environmental Health Committee on January 20 and is scheduled for executive session on February 2. HB 2914 would establish a product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights and ban the sale of bulk mercury. Seattle testified in support of this legislation.

Housing & Homelessness

HB 2906 was heard in the Local Government & Housing Committee on January 27. HB 2906 would require the county auditor to administer a surcharge of sixty-two dollars for each document recorded and authorizes the state finance committee to issue general obligation bonds to provide funds for the housing trust fund. Seattle supports this legislation.

HB 2623 was heard in the Judiciary Committee on January 20 and is scheduled for executive session on February 1. HB 2623 would provide a one-year forbearance on foreclosure for a borrower who is receiving unemployment benefits. Seattle testified in support of this legislation.

HB 2905 was heard in the Local Government & Housing Committee on January 27. HB 2905 is a planning bill to address the issue of requiring a discharge plan (including housing) prior to releasing people from institutions, whether they are in residential treatment, mental health hospitals, or criminal justice facilities. Seattle supports this legislation.

Law & Criminal Justice

HJR 4220 passed out of the House Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Committee and now awaits a vote on the House floor. This proposed constitutional amendment would give judges discretion to deny bail to a person charged with a crime if only the pretrial detention of the person will reasonably assure public safety.

Planning & Development

SB 6459 was heard in the Senate Financial Institutions, Insurance & Housing Committee on January 19. SB 6459 establishes limitations on local government's authority to conduct mandatory rental inspection programs and provides local governments the authority to conduct civil administrative search warrant authority. Seattle opposes this legislation.

Public Health

HB 2388 was heard in the House Finance Committee on January 22. HB 2388 would provide funding of public health activities by imposing sales and use taxes on sales of candy to be deposited in a new public health improvement account. A minimum of \$100,000 would be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction and the remaining funds in the account will be distributed to each qualifying local health jurisdiction on a per capita basis. Seattle supports this legislation.

Sustainable Farming and Healthy Food

SB 6343 was heard in the Agriculture & Rural Economic Development Committee on January 21. SB 6343 would establish a Washington State Food Policy Council to advance the following six food system goals: support local food; increase healthy food in schools; reduce hunger; develop health & nutrition programs; and protect resources needed for sustained local food production. Seattle sent a letter of support for this legislation to the committee and prime sponsor.