

**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**2010 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

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***SESSION PRIORITIES – 2010***

**Budget Safety Net: Do No Harm**

Asst. Chief Nick Metz testified in support of **HB 2782**, the Disability Lifeline Act, which would: facilitate easier access to existing public benefits and services; change the name of GA-U to Disability Lifeline; expedite DSHS's review of whether Disability Lifeline participants are eligible for federal SSI benefits and if so, assist them with the SSI application. Chief Metz drew the connection between the safety net and public safety, and testified that this was a "crime prevention bill."

**Education**

**HB 2731** was heard in the House Early Learning & Children Services Committee on January 19, was passed out of the Committee later that week and is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate 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 testified in support of this bill on January 19.

**SB 6696** is scheduled in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on January 25. 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 6757** is scheduled in the Senate Early Learning & K-12 Committee on January 27. SB 6757 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 2887** is Governor requested legislation. It would create the finding that a person is guilty and mentally ill, which require them to remain under the supervision of the Dept. of Corrections after the defendant's mental health issues are resolved. The Bill is scheduled for hearing in the House Judiciary Committee.

**HB 2780** would restrict use of traffic safety cameras and decrease maximum fines for violation. The bill is up for a hearing in the House Transportation Committee.

**SB 6396**, the assault weapons ban, is up for a public hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

### **Revenue**

The timing and amount of federal help is now less clear than it was last week. Without federal help, the Legislature would need to approve \$778 million in new revenue just to fund Governor Gregoire's Book 2 budget proposal. The Legislature is considering a range of revenue proposals: closing tax loopholes (numerous proposals), responding to recent court decisions (**SB 6711** and **HB 2971**), and extending the sales tax to candy and gum (**HB 2388**), which had a public hearing last week.

The House Finance Committee held a public hearing on the package of fiscal flexibility bills (**HB 2650**, **HB 2749**, and **HB 2773**). Councilmember Bagshaw delivered compelling testimony in general support for the fiscal flexibility legislation, and underscored the three elements that would be most beneficial to Seattle. All three bills are in play. We are working to set up hearings in the Senate.

### **Transportation**

**HB 1591**, which provides greater flexibility for TBDs, passed out of the House Transportation Committee 15-13.

**SB 6366**, which would in certain circumstances limit the local role in permitting transportation projects, had a public hearing in the Senate.

**HB 2929** would allow toll revenues collected on SR 520 to be used for construction on the Eastside portion of the project. The Bill is up for hearing in the House Transportation Committee. The Senate version, **SB 6392** had a hearing in the Senate last week.

**HB 1775**, concerning the regulation of limousine carriers, is up for a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee. Negotiations between the City and stakeholders are ongoing.

**HB 2855** would provide additional funding options for transit and is up for a public hearing in the House Transportation Committee.

### **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**

**HB 2793** clarifies and expands the rights and obligations of state registered domestic partners and other couples related to parentage. The bill had a public hearing in the House Judiciary Committee in week one, and then passed out of the Committee last week.

### **Economic Development**

**HB 2912** is scheduled for a hearing in the House Finance Committee on January 28. The Senate version, SB 6661 is scheduled for a hearing 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.

### **Energy**

**HB 2853** was heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 21. The Senate version, SB 6656, is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Environment, Water & Energy Committee on January 26. HB 2853/SB6656 would authorize municipalities to establish conservation utilities to finance residential energy efficiencies. Seattle testified in support of this legislation in the House on January 21 and will testify in the Senate on January 26.

**SB 6480** is scheduled for a hearing in the Government Operations and Elections Committee on January 25. SB 6480 affects Seattle City Light's impact fee agreement with Pendoreille County regarding City Light's part hydro-electric generation facility.

**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 heard in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 11. HB 2471 raises the threshold of qualifying net metering systems for utilities to interconnect from 100kw to 2mgw. Seattle is currently evaluating this legislation.

**HB 3034** is scheduled for a hearing in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee on January 25. The Senate version, SB 6672, is scheduled for a hearing 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 is currently evaluating this legislation.

### **Hazardous and Solid Waste**

**2SHB 1165** was placed on 2<sup>nd</sup> reading in House Rules on January 15. 2SHB 1165 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 1469** was referred to the House Environmental Health Committee on January 11. HB 1469 would establish a product stewardship recycling act for mercury-containing lights. Seattle supports this legislation.

### **Housing & Homelessness**

**HB 2906** is scheduled for a hearing 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 and intends to testify on January 27.

**HB 2623** was heard in the House Judiciary Committee on January 20. 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 on January 20.

**HB 2905** is scheduled for a hearing in the Local Government & Housing Committee on January 27. HB 2905 would require state agencies to do the planning necessary to determine what would be required to stop discharging people into homelessness. Seattle supports this legislation and intends to testify on January 27.

### **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.