



CITY OF SEATTLE

2016 State Legislative Agenda Final Report – Sine Die

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I. Introduction

This report assesses our progress toward goals outlined in the City’s 2016 State Legislative Agenda. As with the agenda, this report tracks four overarching priorities: a safe, vibrant, interconnected, and affordable city.

If you have questions about any of the issues discussed in this report or on other topics addressed during the legislative session, please contact the Office of Intergovernmental Relations.

A Special Thanks to the City of Seattle State Legislative Delegation, City Officials, and Staff

OIR thanks the Seattle legislative delegation for representing the interests of Seattle residents and for the long hours they spent in Olympia.

OIR also thanks the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, and all the city staff who contributed countless hours to our efforts in Olympia. In a 78 day session, department staff produced a total of **1,204** reviews for **1,166** bills, and testified at **40** public hearings. Meanwhile, Mayor Murray and Councilmembers held **over 30** meetings with elected officials in Olympia.

II. Session Review

2016 Regular Legislative Session: January 11, 2016 through March 10, 2016

The Legislature convened on January 11th, 2016 to start the second leg of the 2015-17 biennium. Having completed their work on the 2015 operating budget after 3 grueling special sessions, and with election year pressures under way, expectations ran high that legislators, in the words of one Senate leader, would “pay the bills and go home”. The second year of a budget cycle is known as a “short session”, one which lasts only 60 days and is devoted primarily to filling any budget gaps resulting from changes in revenue or caseloads. Because of this, most observers expected little movement on big ticket items, especially the looming court deadline to fully fund K-12 education.

Economic forecast changes announced in November showed the state had received \$113 million in additional revenue from when they had passed the operating budget in July 2015. However, as in 2015, there was a fundamental philosophical split between the two chambers on how to spend these additional funds, with Senate Republicans insisting on only addressing budget gaps and providing relief to communities affected by the summer’s wildfires, and House Democrats looking to increase spending in critical areas such as the homelessness crisis, affordable housing, and mental health. The two sides remained locked in their positions, and the promise of ending

on time diminished as negotiations stalled in the final weeks. One bright spot at the end was the agreement on a supplemental transportation budget, although having passed a major transportation package in 2015, this was truly a matter of paying bills and patching gaps, and thus, was much needed. Finally, with negotiators no longer meeting in the last week of session, Governor Inslee threatened to veto 37 bills which had passed and were awaiting his signature, as a prod to jumpstart negotiations. This did not have its intended affect and on March 10th, the legislature adjourned without passing a budget. The Governor vetoed 27 of the bills on his desk and immediately called a special session to commence the following day.

2016 Special Legislative Session: March 11, 2016 through March 29, 2016

Although the Governor set the clock ticking on the 30 day special session as soon as the gavels came down Sine Die on the regular session, most legislators went back to district to wait for budget negotiations to conclude. After two weeks of relative silence, budget negotiators announced they had reached a deal on March 28th. Legislators returned to the Capital and in 48 hours had wrapped up—passing both a supplemental operating budget and a capital budget, and overturning the Governor’s 27 vetoes, with his blessing. Then, with little fanfare and an empty legislative building, the Legislature concluded its 4th special session in two years.

Overview of Operating, Transportation, and Capital budgets

Operating: The 2016 supplemental operating budget ([2ESHB 2376](#)) includes \$191 million in increased spending for the existing 2015-2017 biennium budget which totaled \$38.2 billion. The supplemental operating budget addresses several high profile issues, including the teacher shortage, homelessness, mental health care, wildfires, and charter schools. The negotiated 2016 supplemental operating budget also includes \$260 million in net general fund savings and uses \$29.4 million in fund transfers. The supplemental operating budget leaves a \$577.5 million projected net general fund savings balance for the 2015-2017 biennium.

Highlights:

- \$1,028,000 to increase the number of contracted HOPE beds.
- \$420,000 for services to provide shelter beds for young adults aged eighteen through twenty-four.
- \$714,000 for the implementation of 2SHB 2449 (truancy reduction) for ten crisis residential center beds.
- \$787,000 for the consolidated homeless grant for youth specific programs and services.
- \$2,000,000 for the implementation of a grant program that assists homeless students and their families with stable housing as defined in 3SHB 1682 (homeless students).
- \$460,000 for implementation of 2SHB 2530 (victims of sex crimes).
- \$76,000 for implementation of SHB 2711 (sexual assault nurses).
- \$197,000 for implementation of 2SHB 2791 (WA statewide reentry council).

- \$15 million for K-12 (including \$5 million for staff recruitment and retention (a net increase of \$4 million for Charter Schools).
- \$41 million for mental health (including \$11 million for transitional support for Western State Hospital, \$10 million for compensation increases, \$7 million for a new Behavioral Health Innovation Fund, and \$7 million for state hospital RN staff).
- \$189.5 million in state assistance to communities affected by last year's wildfires.
- The Municipal Research & Services Center (MRSC) is fully funded.
- Funding is provided for two additional basic law enforcement training classes in FY 2016 and does not increase the direct cost to cities sending cadets to training.

Transportation: The supplemental transportation budget ([ESHB 2524](#)) increases appropriations for the 2015-2017 biennium by \$476 million.

Highlights:

- The joint transportation committee is directed to study the issues surrounding minority and women-owned business contracting related to the transportation sector. The study should identify any best practices adopted in other states that encourage participation by minority and women-owned businesses. The joint transportation committee, with direction from the executive committee, may form a legislative task force at the conclusion of the study to help to inform the legislature of any best practices identified from other states that encourage minority and women-owned businesses' participation in the transportation sector.
- \$750,000 to WSDOT for a grant program that makes awards for the following: (a) Support for nonproject agencies, churches, and other entities to help provide outreach to populations underrepresented in the current apprenticeship programs; (b) preapprenticeship training; and (c) child care, transportation, and other supports that are needed to help women and minorities enter and succeed in apprenticeship. The department must report on grants that have been awarded and the amount of funds disbursed by December 1, 2016, and annually thereafter.
- \$1 million for safety improvements and operations relating to homeless encampments along I-5 between milepost 162 and milepost 165. WSDOT is directed to coordinate timing of the safety improvements with the City of Seattle and King County to ensure that a collaborative and comprehensive approach is taken to address emergency conditions in support of the City's transitional services.
- The legislature intends to provide a total of \$10 million of the 2017-2019 and 2019-2021 fiscal biennia for the Northgate transit center pedestrian bridge.

Capital: The 2016 supplemental capital budget ([ESHB 2380](#)) includes \$95.4 million in increased spending for the 2015-2017 biennium budget. Highlights of the budget included \$8 million for the Housing Trust Fund, \$34.5 million of additional funding for the K-3 Class Size Reduction Grant program, \$5.5 million to purchase modular classrooms for five school districts for the purpose of supporting reduced class sizes in kindergarten through third grade, and \$34.8 million for K-12 School Construction Assistance grants.

Seattle-specific projects funded by the legislature include:

- \$500,000 for Mental Health Housing, First and Denny
- \$600,000 for the Shelter and Navigation Center
- \$1.5 million for PSKS homeless youth facility
- \$200,000 for the Holocaust Center for Humanity

III. A Safe City

Public Safety

Legend: ↑ = City Supported, ↓ = City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity:** HB 1553 creates a process by which a person with a criminal record can be granted a Certificate of Restoration of Opportunity. The bill also prohibits state and local governments from disqualifying an applicant for a license, certificate, or other qualification to engage in certain professions solely based upon the applicant's criminal history, provided the applicant possesses one of these Certificates.

↑ **Use of Deadly Force Task Force:** HB 2908 creates a task force looking at the use of deadly force in community policing. The task force will review laws, practices and training programs regarding the use of deadly force; current policies, practices, and tools used by or otherwise available to law enforcement as an alternative to lethal uses of force; and make proposals and recommendations on the standards for justifiable homicide and criminal liability standards in statute to ensure adequate protection for law enforcement and community members.

↑ **Statewide Rape Kit Tracking:** SHB 2530 (SB 6484) seeks to track and reduce the backlog of untested rape kits in Washington by creating the Statewide Sexual Assault Kit Tracking System. This system, which would be administered by the Washington State Patrol and funded by a private donation would allow survivors of sexual assault to track the status, and require previously untested rape kits to be tested by forensic labs when funding and time allows.

↑ **Post Incarceration Aid:** HB 2791 creates the Washington State Reentry Council which has been tasked with advising the Legislature and Governor on issues relating to reentry and reintegration of offenders as they leave corrections facilities. The Council also has the ability to apply for and receive public and private grants to manage programs which would assist individuals as they

transition back into society and assist individuals with housing, employment, and other training programs.

↑ **Body Camera Privacy and Task Force Bill:** HB 1917 provides that, for agencies deploying body cameras prior to the effective date of the bill, video or sound recordings made by an on-duty, uniformed law enforcement officer are not subject to certain Privacy Act provisions, prohibits public records requests unless the request is made for a specific incident by an individual directly involved in that incident or has obtained a court order, and allows law enforcement agencies to record private conversations with a concealed officer if judicial authorization is granted.

↑ **Firearm Conviction Database:** SHB 2410 requires any person convicted of a felony firearm offense that was committed in conjunction with a crime involving sexual motivation, a crime against a child, or a serious violent offense to register in the felony firearm offense conviction database.

Bills Not Passed

↓ **Transgender Discrimination:** SSB 6548 & SB 6443 (HB 2935) were introduced this session in response to the State's Human Rights Commission's ruling that transgender and gender non-conforming individuals were free to use the restroom, locker room, or other gender segregated facility that matches best with their gender identity. SSB 6548 would require individuals to use the facility which matches their genitalia, while SB 6443 would have forced the Human Rights Commission to repeal their ruling, and prohibited them from making rules regarding gender-segregated facilities again.

↑ **Patronizing a Prostitute:** SB 5277 increased the crime of patronizing a prostitute from a misdemeanor to a gross misdemeanor, with penalties changing from 90-days of confinement to 364 days, and fines from \$1,000 to \$5,000.

↑ **Voting Rights Act:** ESHB 1745 (SB 5668) sought to promote equal voting opportunity for protected classes in certain local and district jurisdictions by establishing district elections, requiring new districts and elections in certain circumstances, and establishing a cause of action in order to redress lack of voting opportunity. In order to file a claim, a voter must establish proof of polarized voting and lack of equal opportunity to influence an election.

↑ **Marijuana Penalties:** HB 2494 (SB 6486) adjusted penalties relating to marijuana possession to be more in line with alcohol possession penalties and would have authorized the noncommercial transfer of marijuana and marijuana products by individuals over 21—the equivalent of sharing a bottle of wine—which is currently a Class C Felony.

↑ **Extreme Risk Protection Orders:** HB 2461 (SB 6352) created a civil extreme risk protection order that allows a law enforcement officer, child welfare agency, or family or household member of a person to petition for a court order to enjoin that person from having in their

custody or control, or from purchasing, possessing, or receiving, a firearm. Established procedures for the petition process and standards for enforcement of extreme risk protection orders, and provides criminal penalties for violation of an order. The bill also required law enforcement agencies to develop rules and procedures for the collection, storage and return of firearms and authorizes seizure warrants when a subject fails to surrender their firearm.

↑ **Sexual Assault Victims Rights:** SB 6151 changed rules on sexual assault protection orders to allow them to be permanent rather than expire after two-years. Also modified renewal procedures to require renewal on a petitioner's motion unless the respondent can prove they will not likely engage in or attempt contact when renewal expires.

↑ **Child Access Prevention:** HB 1747 (SB 5789) provided that a person is guilty of child endangerment for leaving or storing a loaded firearm in a location where a child is likely to, and does gain access to, that firearm. The bill also required firearms dealers to offer to sell or give purchasers a lock box, lock or discharge-preventing device and provide warnings on criminal liability for unsafe storage of firearms.

↑ **Regulation of Firearms in Public Places:** HB 2460 (SB 6351) authorized local authorities to regulate the possession of firearms in public parks and recreational facilities, public libraries, and public transportation and associated transit facilities.

↑ **Disposition of Forfeited Firearms:** HB 2372 changed the statute regarding firearms forfeiture by removing local authority to determine how firearms may be disposed and requiring that illegal firearms be destroyed and allowing local agencies to keep and use legal firearms. Historical firearms must be auctioned off and any other firearms must be destroyed.

IV. A Vibrant City

Economic Development and Infrastructure

Legend: ↑= City Supported, ↓ City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **Annexation:** SSB 5864 (SHB 1576) modifies the sales and use taxes to offset costs the City of Seattle may incur during the annexation of unincorporated areas.

↑ **Pension Fund Pubic Records Exemptions:** SB 6170 (HB 2648) gives the employee pension funds of the Cities of Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma better access to certain financial managers

by providing exemptions for the disclosure of financial information in the Public Records Act. This bill provides similar exemptions to the ones already existing for the University of Washington and the State Employees' pension systems, and incorporated recommendations from the Sunshine Committee.

↓ **B&O Tax Reform Task Force:** [EHB 2959](#) was introduced to simplify the state and local Business & Occupation Tax codes. The bill directs a task force to evaluate options to simplify the administration of local business taxes and licensing and to prepare a report that reviews these options.

Bills Not Passed

↑ **Motion Picture Incentive:** [HB 2542](#) extended and incrementally increased the amount of the Washington motion picture competitiveness program and extended the end date of the program. Currently, the tax preference is scheduled to expire in 2017 and Washington caps the tax preferences at \$3.5 Million. The bill extended the expiration date of the program until 2023, and gradually increased the amount that can be claimed through the program to \$10 million.

↑ **Legal Financial Obligations:** [E2SHB 1390 \(SB 5713\)](#) eliminated interest on the non-restitution portions of legal financial obligations (LFOs), including assurances that courts do not impose costs on defendants who are unable to pay the penalties, and establishing payment plans and other supports for the repayment of LFO's. Currently, Washington State has some of the highest monetary penalties and interest rates on these penalties and many offenders are not able to pay these fees.

↑ **Public Records Requests:** [HB 2576](#) allowed local agencies to adopt procedures limiting the amount of time spent on public records requests and to adopt procedures that prioritize records requests. The bill established the Public Records Commission, a five-member commission, to administer the provisions of the Public Records Act (PRA), and granted the Commission jurisdiction over disputes arising under the PRA between local agencies and persons making public records requests.

↓ **Collection Agency Processing Fees:** [SB 5222 \(HB 1054\)](#) allowed debt collection agencies to charge consumers a \$0.50 cent fee plus 3% of the payment amount fee for processing a credit card payment.

↓ **Back Billing:** [HB 2261](#) limited a consumer-owned utility from back billing customers for charges missed due to the utility's error for no longer than six months from the date the billing error occurred.

↓ **Pre-empting Minimum Wage:** [SB 6578](#) preempted cities, towns and port authorities from raising minimum wages or requiring any additional work standards (i.e., paid sick leave, etc.). The bill stated that minimum wage laws can only be set by the county, state, or federal government.

↓ **\$12 Minimum Wage:** SB 6087 created steps to a \$12 minimum wage for those over 18, directed L&I to establish a different minimum wage for those under 18, and prospectively preempted local authorities from enacting any laws impacting minimum wage or working conditions.

↑ **Marijuana Delivery:** HB 2368 created a temporary pilot program, overseen by the Liquor and Cannabis Board, to allow up to five businesses to offer home delivery of marijuana to City of Seattle citizens over 21 years of age.

↑ **Disadvantaged Businesses:** SB 6180 created the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advisory Committee within the Transportation Commission to advise on issues and concerns from the disadvantaged business enterprise community and to increase the level of accountability and transparency regarding disadvantaged business activities.

↑ **Repeal of I-200:** HB 2822 repealed Initiative 200, which prohibits discrimination or preferential treatments in public education, employment, or contracting based on specified factors.

Environment

Legend: ↑ = City Supported, ↓ = City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **Solid Waste:** ESSB 6605 requires the Department of Ecology and the Washington State Department of Agriculture to approve solid waste management plans to ensure that the risk of spreading diseases to nearby agriculture facilities is limited.

↑ **Hydro License Fee:** SHB 1130 extends fees currently paid by water power development facilities that are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) until 2023 to help pay for important projects including salmon and fish passage, habitat improvement and other projects. The bill also establishes certain requirements for the Department of Ecology and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, including requiring annual work plans and meetings to assess the use of these funds and the projects they are funding.

Bills Not Passed

↑ **Solar Incentives:** HB 2346 extended the expiration date and per-utility limit for the Public Utility Tax credit, expired certain solar sales and use tax exemptions at the end of June 2016

instead of 2018 or 2020, and replaced the Cost Recovery Program with a new production initiative with different rate structures and eligibility requirements.

↑ **Paint Stewardship Program:** ESHB 1571(SB 5926) required producers of paint to participate in a stewardship program approved by the Department of Ecology to manage the end-of-life disposition of leftover paint and would have prohibited retailers from selling paint from producers that did not participate in the stewardship program.

↓ **Prohibiting Limits on Greenhouse Gases:** SB 6173 prohibited the Department of Ecology from adopting any rules or policies establishing a statewide limit, cap, or standard, to control the amount of greenhouse gas emissions unless it is authorized to adopt such a rule or policy in legislation.

↓ **Carbon Reductions:** ESSB 5735 made significant changes to I-937 by allowing certain new investment in carbon reduction to count towards a utility's renewable target.

↑ **Electrification of Transportation:** HB 2966 allowed municipal owned utilities to assist their customers in financing and installing materials and equipment for the electrification of transportation, and to offer programs, services, or investments in the electrification of transportation for its customers that benefit all ratepayers.

Education

Legend: ↑= City Supported, ↓ City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **Homeless Student Education and Support:** 3SHB 1682 (SB 5065) provides additional support to children and students who are experiencing homelessness by establishing a grant program for school districts to link homeless children with stable housing and services.

↑ **Educational Opportunity Gap:** 4SHB 1541 seeks to close the educational opportunity gap by developing language proficiency and instructional practice guidelines, requiring cultural competency training for school staff, and changing disciplinary laws.

Basic Education Obligations: E2SSB 6195 (ESHB 2366) creates the Education Funding Task Force (EFTF) to work on a plan for implementing the State's basic education obligations and submit a report to the Legislature by January 9, 2017. The bill requires the Legislature to take action by the end of the 2017 session to eliminate school district dependency on local levies.

Bills Not Passed

↓ **School Siting outside urban growth areas:** SB 6426 allowed schools to be sited outside the urban growth areas as essential public facilities. Each county and city fully planning under the Growth Management Act (GMA) would have had to amend its existing process for siting essential public facilities outside the urban growth area to include schools.

↓ **Schools as essential facilities within the Growth Management Act:** HB 2377 would have modified the Growth Management Act (GMA) to specify that all education facilities, not just state education facilities, are essential public facilities for the purpose of siting schools under local comprehensive plans and development regulations.

↑ **Breakfast after the Bell:** E3SHB 1295 (SB 5437) required high-needs schools to offer breakfast after the beginning of the school day beginning in the 2017-18 school year. The bill would also provide start-up grants of \$6,000 for implementing the programs and allow the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to assist schools in implementing these “Breakfast After the Bell” programs.

↑ **Homeless Youth Education:** SB 6298 created a competitive grant process to evaluate and award 3-year grants to school districts to provide support services to homeless students.

↑ **Eliminating Lunch Co-Pays:** HB 2964 eliminated the co-pays for students who qualify for reduced price lunches under the National School Lunch Program.

↑ **Early Learning for At-Risk Children:** SHB 2716 directed the Department of Early Learning to implement rules which would allow children to be eligible for Working Connections Child Care if they have received either Child Protection Services child care or Child Welfare Services child care within the prior six months.

V. An Interconnected City

Transportation

Legend: ↑ = City Supported, ↓ = City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **2016 Supplemental Transportation Budget:** ESHB 2524 (SSB 6307) increases transportation appropriations for the 2015-2017 biennium by \$476 million.

Bills Not Passed

↑ **Distracted Driving:** [HB 2574](#) strengthened current state law on distracted driving by expanding the definitions of distracted driving to include use of apps, holding a phone while driving, or manually entering data into a device while driving. It also directed all fees and penalties collected for distracted driving into the Highway Safety Fund to be used for driver education.

↑ **Oil Transportation Safety:** [HB 2575](#) directed the Department of Ecology to hire an independent contractor to update the 2006 chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) report to the State Emergency Response Commission (SERC). The legislation directed the report to include an updated analysis of the state's hazardous materials response capabilities with emphasis on shifting transportation patterns for crude oil and other hazardous materials.

VI. An Affordable City

Safety Net & Housing

Legend: ↑ = City Supported, ↓ = City Opposed; bill # (companion bill #)

Bills Passed

↑ **Tenant Protections:** [SB 6413 \(HB 2811\)](#) requires residential landlords to notify prospective tenants as to whether or not they will accept flexible, portable tenant screening reports, rather than requiring tenants to pay for multiple background checks and screening reports to multiple landlords in a short period of time. The bill also allows courts to order unlawful detainer action to be of limited dissemination if the court finds the detainer meets one of a few requirements, and extends the time in which a landlord must return a tenant's deposit or provide a statement specifying the basis for retaining some or all of the deposit from 14 to 21 days.

↑ **Youth Mental Health:** [E2SHB 2439 \(SB 6494\)](#) establishes a Children's Mental Health Work Group with a primary focus on the barriers facing children from birth to five years old, including appropriate assessment tools to establish eligibility for services, billing issues related to serving the parent or caregiver, workforce issues, barriers to billing and payment for behavioral health services provided within primary care settings, adoption of standards for training and endorsement of professionals, supports for child care providers to reduce expulsions of children from child care and preschool, and outreach strategies to effectively disseminate information about available mental health services. The work group must report its findings to the legislature

by December 1, 2016 and annually after that. The bill also establishes a program to help rural regions of the state provide an additional level of child mental health care support for primary care providers.

↑ **Birth Control Access:** [2SHB 2681](#) was originally written as a vehicle for allowing pharmacists to prescribe and dispense birth control, this legislation was amended in the Senate to simply require the State Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission to develop a sign or sticker to be placed in pharmacies to increase awareness of the availability of contraceptives in pharmacies.

Bills Not Passed

↑ **Preservation Tax Exemption:** [SB 6239 \(HB 2544\)](#) allowed municipalities to provide a property tax exemption for landlords who preserve at least 25% of their units for rent to people who make less than 50% of the area's median income. This property tax exemption would have been permitted for up to fifteen years.

↑ **Source of Income Discrimination Protections:** [HB 1565 \(SB 5378\)](#) amended the Residential Landlord-Tenant act to prohibit this activity and create a civil cause of action for anyone who violates this bill and discriminates against potential tenants based on the source of their income.

↑ **Homeless Housing by Religious Organizations:** [HB 2086 \(SB 5900\)](#) limited the ability for counties, cities, and towns to limit or prohibit religious organizations from hosting homeless encampments in their jurisdictions. Building on prior legislation, this bill would have prohibited the establishment of regulations limiting a religious organization's ability to host rotating, established encampments for less than 8 months in a calendar year; host those encampments for less than four consecutive months; or host safe parking spaces for individuals who live in their car or RV (with limited exceptions).

↑ **Homeless Housing by Religious Organizations:** [HB 2929](#) made it easier for religious organizations to temporarily host individuals experiencing homelessness by allowing the State Building Code and the Washington State Energy Code to be liberally construed in these situations.

↑ **Unreinforced Masonry:** [HB 2688 & HB 2689](#) were introduced to address some of the high costs associated with retrofitting and reinforcing historic buildings, which often provide affordable housing. HB 2688 allowed cities to levy a regular property tax in excess of current limits, to fund the rehabilitation of historic buildings. HB 2689 created a state fund to provide loans for the safety and preservation of historic buildings.

↑ **Homeless Youth:** [HB 2834](#) attempted to streamline the process for providing services to youth experiencing homelessness by allowing the Department of Social and Human Services to share certain information with the Department of Commerce for the purposes of providing services for homeless youth. The bill would have allowed youth ages 13 and older to consent for the

collection of identifying information by the Washington Homeless Client Management Information System.

↑ **Health Care for Homeless Youth:** HB 2396 allowed for certain school officials, such as a school nurse, counsellor or homeless student liaison, to consent to healthcare services for homeless youth when the youth is not under the supervision of a parent or guardian and the services are non-emergency, outpatient services. The bill provided an exemption from liability for the person providing consent and the employing school and school district.

↑ **Equal Pay Act:** HB 1646 (SB 5630) would have made substantive changes to provisions in the Industrial Welfare Act prohibiting discrimination in wage payment. These changes included prohibiting discrimination in compensation, rather than paying of wages, which would include discretionary and non-discretionary wages and benefits; provided for a new cause of action for employees to recover damages for less-favorable job opportunities due to gender discrimination; allowed for recovery of actual damages rather than 1% per month of total compensation owed; and made changes to allowable reasons for employer defense. The bill also made changes to rules around disclosure of wage payment differences by employers and employees.

↑ **Accommodations During Pregnancy:** HB 2307 required employers to provide reasonable accommodation in employment for pregnancy, childbirth, or pregnancy-related health conditions. The bill also prohibited an employer from denying employment opportunities to employees who are otherwise qualified for the position.

↑ **Birth Control Access:** SHB 2465 (SB 6369) required health insurance carriers with plans offering coverage of contraceptives and Medicaid to reimburse for a one-year supply of those contraceptives.