

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

January 21, 2008

Number 1

***SESSION PRIORITIES – 2008***

**Affordable Housing**

**HB 2625** will be heard in the House Housing Committee on January 24. **HB 2625**, would provide tax relief to promote employer-assisted housing. This bill would allow employers to receive a State B & O tax credit if they made a contribution to the employer-assistance housing program. This program will assist with such things as home purchase or rental assistance. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

**HB 2849** concerning affordable housing was also introduced and will be heard in the House Housing Committee on January 22. This bill establishes a program similar to “LIFT.” Cities would designate a high growth area and if a city makes a commitment of funds to affordable housing they can apply for a match from the state. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

**Climate Protection & Environment**

Governor request legislation regarding greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions and providing for green collar jobs was introduced. **SB 6516** and **HB 2815** will be heard in both the House and Senate on January 23. These bills establish GHG goals, require reporting and create a clean energy job growth initiative. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**SB 6580** and **HB 2927** which address the impacts of climate change through the growth management act were introduced. They are likely to be heard this week. These bills add a climate change goal to the Growth Management Act. It would require local governments to consider how the policies regarding land use in their comprehensive plan reduce (or contribute) to GHG emissions. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**Infrastructure/Finance**

**HB 2495** removes the statute (RCW 35.87) requiring a 15 day advertising process and first right of refusal for sale to develop free parking facilities before any sale of municipal property in a retail zoned area. The bill was heard in the House Local Government Committee and passed to Rules. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

**HB 2965** would direct the Department of Revenue to develop a plan for state administration and collection of local B&O taxes. **Seattle opposes this legislation.**

Another bill relating to the municipal B&O tax, apportionment and nexus is being circulated for comment and to gauge interest. This bill would amend the work done over the past two

years in preparation for the 2008 apportionment requirement that went into affect on January 1, 2008.

**HB 3126** is an attempt to clarify that a business that delivers a product into a city and nothing more would not have to purchase a business license. Any other activity would provide nexus and therefore a license would be required.

**HB 2961** authorizing the establishment of utility local improvement districts (ULIDs) for underground facilities that transmit or distribute electricity or communications was introduced. Electricity and communications is currently not part of the ULIDs. **Seattle supports this measure.**

### **Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness**

The City of Seattle supports the proposed increase in TANF and GAU, which has not happened in more than 15 years.

## ***STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2008***

### **Domestic Violence Protections**

**HB 2520**, creating a DV Pilot co-housing a DV Advocate with CPS workers, had a public hearing on January 18 in the House Early Learning & Children's Services Committee. It is expected to pass to Appropriations and/or to House floor for a vote. The companion bill will be heard in Senate on January 24. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

### **Education**

**SB 6314** and **SB 2500**, which provide for arts education funding, were heard in both the Senate and House Education Committees. Beginning with the 2012-13 school year, the school arts programs account committee shall establish an annual grant process to ensure arts programs in schools are sustainable. **Seattle supports these bills.**

### **Elections and General Government**

**SB 5278**, allowing public funding of city campaigns, was heard on January 17. Thank-you to the Council for sending a letter in support and to Wayne Barnett for testifying in support. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

### **Energy**

**HB 2533**, concerning pole attachments, had a hearing last week in the House Technology, Energy & Communications Committee. This bill would set the rate setting authority for a pole attachment on municipal electricity, rural cooperatives and public utility districts under the Utilities & Transportation Commission. **Seattle opposes this measure.**

### **Homeland Security and Emergency Management**

**HB 2787** regarding statewide radio communications interoperability will be heard on January 22. This measure would establish an interoperability officer who would directly report to the Governor. They would be charged with establishing interoperability standards

and seek funds for implementation and equipment purchases. Thanks to Bill Schrier for coming to testify on behalf of this bill. **Seattle supports this measure.**

### **Housing**

**SHB 2014** regarding condominium conversions passed the House by a vote of 94-3. This bill provides needed protections to renters in apartments being converted to condos, including increased relocation assistance and the ability to break their leases early. **SB 6411**, also increasing tenant protections, will be heard on January 22. **Seattle supports these bills.**

### **The Senate passed an appropriation of \$6 million for the Washington Families Fund.**

This is an important program that provides services for families that are transitioning back into stable housing. **Seattle supports this funding.**

### **Human Services**

City of Seattle will meet Health Care and Appropriation members to advocate for increased funding for the Senior Citizen's Service Act, increased vendor rate increases, and for increases in Caregiver support. These budget issues are consistent with the Long Term Planning task force recommendations and the Agency Area on Aging priorities.

### **Libraries**

The House Capital Budget will receive an update on **SHB 2366** which will be transferring the operations of the Washington Talking Book & Braille Library from Seattle Public Libraries to the Secretary of State. Negotiations regarding the building and the transfer have been going well.

### **Public Safety**

**SB 6608** and **HB 2712** concerns criminal street gangs. These bills are the result of a task force put together regarding gangs. One of the components is the Governor's Juvenile Justice Advisory Committee will oversee pilot programs to address gangs and violence. The Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs will be appropriated \$10 million to establish a grant program to local law enforcement agencies to support special enforcement emphasis targeting gang crime. The bill also provides funding for graffiti abatement. Seattle was represented on the Task Force by Terry Hayes in the Human Services Department and Lt. Ron Wilson of the Seattle Police Department.

### **Telecommunications and Cable**

**SB 5120**, **HB 2521** and **HB 2559**, which all relate to broadband and high-speed internet access, were introduced. The goal is to increase the availability of this technology.

### **Transportation**

The Senate and House Transportation Committees had work sessions and beginning discussions on the issue tolling and new policy bills related to tolling. For the most part Seattle is supportive of **SB 5931** and **HB 1773**, with a couple of concerns relating to caps on funding for transit out of the toll revenue and ensuring that the focus is on moving people and goods, not vehicles.