

**CITY OF SEATTLE  
2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

January 28, 2008

Number 2

***SESSION PRIORITIES – 2008***

**Affordable Housing**

**HB 2625** establishes an Employer Assisted Housing program towards which employers can contribute and funds would go to workforce housing assistance (such as a down payment or rental assistance). Employers will receive a state B&O tax credit of 50-cents for each dollar invested. This bill was heard in the House Housing Committee and if voted out of committee it will be forwarded to Finance Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**HB 2849** creates a Housing Everyone Financing Tool (HEFT). In HEFT, a local jurisdiction must designate a "high growth area" that is to see an increase business, retail and housing. A city can apply for HEFT funds to match a city investment to help create affordable housing. Because there is new growth (and new businesses) the state and city taxes would be greater than if no development occurred. This encourages cities to actively plan for affordable housing in these new growth areas. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Thank you to Adrienne Quinn with Office of Housing for testifying in support of these bills.

**Crime Guns**

**HB 3095**, concerning provisions governing firearms possession by persons who have been involuntarily committed, was heard in the House Judiciary Committee. This bill is, in part, a response to the Virginia Tech shooting. State analysis showed they were not systematically reporting to the National Instant Background Check System (NICS) when persons had been involuntarily committed. This bill gets Washington law in compliance with federal law regarding this reporting requirement. Thank you to Assistant Chief Nick Metz for testifying. **Seattle supports of this legislation.**

**Climate Protection & Environment**

**HB 2815** and **SB 6516** have to do with greenhouse gases emissions and providing for green collar jobs. This bill establishes a greenhouse gases (GHG) reporting system run by the Dept. of Ecology (DOE). It also directs DOE to design a cap and trade system. This ties into the State involvement in the regional Western Climate Initiative negotiations on this issue. It also directs the State to direct funding to promote training in "green collar" jobs. The bills were heard in the House Ecology & Parks Committee and the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications Committee. Thank you Peggy Duxbury and Councilmember Jean Godden for testifying in support. **Seattle supports these measures.**

**HB 2844**, regarding urban forestry, was heard in the House Ecology & Parks Committee. This bill directs the Dept. of Natural Resources to conduct a survey of urban forests

throughout the state. It also directs Community Trade & Economic Development to establish a model ordinance for cities to use when they develop an urban reforestation plan. Electric and gas utilities can provide a voluntary box to check so customers can contribute to a fund for urban forests. It appropriates \$500,000 as a matching grant for cities to apply to assist in their urban forestry efforts. This bill continues to go through revisions. **Seattle supports this measure.**

**SB 6580** and **HB 2797**, addressing the impacts of climate change through the Growth Management Act, were heard in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and the House Local Government Committee. The bills have gone through significant revisions but ultimately add a "climate change" goal to the Growth Management Act. The purpose is that cities and counties have to consider how land use and transportation policies impact the emission of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) when making policies in their comprehensive plans. **Seattle supports these bills.**

### **Finance/Infrastructure**

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

**HB 3244** purports to clarify the definition of customer location for purposes of municipal business and occupation taxes. This bill was just introduced and is not scheduled for a hearing at this time. **Seattle opposes this legislation.**

**HB 2437** and **SB 6182** authorize the project list from the Public Works Board. Seattle has a \$10,000,000 water project for Seattle Public Utilities. HB 2437 already passed the House unanimously. **Seattle supports these bills.**

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

**HB 2433** suspends General Assistance (GA-U) benefits of incarcerated persons. Seattle also supports the suspension, not termination, of Medicaid eligibility. This bill received a public hearing and was passed out of the House Human Services Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

**HB 2679**, to improve the education for youth in foster care, is consistent with the Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness. This bill was heard in the House Education Committee last week. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Transportation**

**SB 6771** would repeal the Regional Transportation Investment District – RTID.

**SB 6772** would set up a new Regional Transportation Authority in the King, Pierce, and Snohomish region with a twelve member board made up of seven elected and five appointed members. Project authority would include roads and transit with revenue from the existing roads and transit sources and the bill removes sub-area equity. The boundaries would be consistent with the Sound Transit boundaries, not county wide.

**HB 3096** and **SB 6754** are governor request bills that would allow tolling on the existing SR 520 Bridge and/or a new bridge. Its would set up a three member tolling implementation committee tasked to look at issues such as traffic diversion, technology, traffic management, variable tolling and set up a public outreach effort around tolling. These bills will be heard in the Transportation Committees on January 30.

**HB 2969** requires the State Treasurer to withhold 25% of the local gas tax distribution for local governments that have a bridge rating below 10 until at least 50% of the estimated cost to attain a rating of 80 or more on a new or rehabilitated bridge has been reached.

## ***STATEMENT OF POLICY – 2008***

### **Domestic Violence Protections**

**HB 2520** places a domestic violence advocate in a minimum of one Child Protective Services Office. The bill was voted out of the House Early Learning and Children’s Services Committees. The Senate companion bill received a public hearing in the Human Services Committee this week. **Seattle supports this bill.**

### **Elections and General Government**

**EHB 1551** and **SSB 5278**, allowing local funds to be used to set up programs to publicly fund campaigns if approved by a vote of the people. EHB 1551 was approved by the House by a vote of 56-38. SSB 5278 was passed out of the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee and sent to the Rules Committee.

**HB 1653** and **SB 5271** would remove the March and April special elections leaving one possible election per quarter. SB 5271 is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Government Operations & Elections Committee on January 29.

### **Human Services**

**HB 2668** and companion bill **SB 6222** received public hearings. Each bill includes components supported by the Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) including Family Caregiver support, expansion of the Aging & Disability Resource Center pilot, and improved dental care. **Seattle supports these bills.**

**HB 2789** expands adult day care services and was assigned to the House Committee on Health Care and Wellness. **Seattle supports this bill.**

City of Seattle continues to advocate for increases in vendor rates and in the Senior Citizens Service Act fund.

### **Parks**

**SB 6226**, enhancing natural resource collections at the Washington Park Arboretum, was heard in the Senate Natural Resources, Parks & Oceans Committee, and provides funding for a curator at the Arboretum. Thank you to Donald Harris of Seattle Parks and Recreation for testifying. **Seattle supports this bill.**