

**CITY OF SEATTLE
2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

April 2, 2007

Number 12

Monday, April 2 is the cut-off for bills in the fiscal and transportation committees. The last day to consider bills in the opposite house is April 13 at 5:00 PM. Both Chambers will primarily be on the floor until Sine Die.

SESSION PRIORITIES

Education

E2SSB 5828 is the early learning bill, which creates an Early Learning Advisory Council. The Senate version does not include home visiting and quality rating. The Senate budget includes \$1 million for home visiting, compared to \$8 million in the House, and does not include funds for quality rating. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Annexation Incentives

SHB 1139 provides a small incentive for Seattle to annex the North Highline area, assuming the voters approve a future measure. This bill would provide a sales tax credit of up to approximately \$3 million per year, with 20% going to the City of Burien. This bill has not been scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Civil Rights

SHB 1472 addresses disproportionality in the Children's Welfare System. It is funded at \$90,000 in the House budget, but not included in Senate budget. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Discovery Park/Capital Budget

The Senate budget includes \$700,000 in addition to the \$1 million re-appropriation and \$500,000 in the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Program (WWRP) for the Discovery Park - Capehart Housing property acquisition.

Environment

ESSB 6001, mitigating the impacts of climate change, was voted out of the Technology, Energy & Communications Committee in the House. The bill now moves to the Rules Committee. The House made a number of amendments to the bill which undermines the original goals set out in the Senate bill. In addition, there is no language regarding the recent State Supreme Court decision. **Seattle supports the Senate bill and has concerns regarding the amendments added in the House.**

E2SHB 1303, encouraging the use of cleaner fuels, was heard in the Senate Water, Energy & Telecommunications. This bill does a number of things to reduce reliance on fossil fuels including expediting the purchase of cleaner school buses. In an interesting twist, the Senate Committee added the original language of ESSB 6001 to this bill because they were unhappy with the actions taken in the House committee. We have not seen a copy of the bill but supported 1303 and the Senate language for 6001, I do not know if they have included the language related to the State Supreme Court decision. It was referred to Ways & Means and must be voted out by April 2. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

Infrastructure/Finance

E2SHB 1825 is scheduled for executive session on April 2 in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. This bill has been amended to provide a dedicated account for funding public health. The Senate budget provided \$20 million in new funding for the biennium. This is the same amount proposed in the House budget. The Governor proposed an increase of \$10 million for the biennium. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness

E2SHB 1359 funds local planning for homelessness was voted out of Consumer Protection and Housing Committee in the Senate and was referred to Ways & Means. The bill incorporates an \$8 document recording fee. The House budget includes \$2.5 million and the Senate budget includes \$100,000. **Seattle supports this bill.**

2SHB 1201 expands Medicaid coverage for youth in foster care from ages 18-21. Both the Senate and House budgets fund this proposal. **Seattle supports this bill.**

2SHB 1922 creates an independent youth housing program providing housing stipends to youth between ages 18-23 who were a state “dependent” one month prior to their 18th birthday, and who do not earn more than 50% of the area median income. The bill is funded at \$1 million in the House budget, but is not funded in the Senate budget. **Seattle supports this bill.**

GAU Mental Health Pilot provides coordinated mental health coverage for GAU recipients in King and Pierce Counties at targeted pilot sites. There is \$3.4 million in the House budget for funding, but it is not funded in the Senate budget. **Seattle supports this budget item.**

Transportation

SHB 1858 would amend the Transportation Benefit District statute to provide councilmanic authority over the first \$20 of the vehicle license fee. This bill passed the Senate Transportation Committee and was referred to the Senate Rules Committee. **Seattle supports this bill.**

SB 6099 suggests the use of a mediator to reach a consensus on the SR 520 project. The bill was amended and passed out of the House Transportation Committee. It now calls for work to be done on a six lane facility with the ability to add two additional high capacity transit lanes.

POLICY ISSUES

Domestic Violence Protection

SHB 1642, concerning criminal violations of no-contact orders, protection orders, and restraining orders, passed out of the Senate Judiciary Committee and now moves to the Senate Rules Committee. This bill clarifies that contact is not restricted to physical contact only. **Seattle supports this legislation.**

2SSB 5470 increases funding for qualified legal aid programs and legal representation for indigent persons victimized by domestic violence. Four million dollars is included in the Senate budget. It is not included in the House budget. The bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee and was heard in the Appropriations Committee on March 31. **Seattle supports this bill.**

Energy

ESSB 5312, addressing the issue of stolen metal property, was voted out of the House Public Safety & Emergency Preparedness Committee and moves to the Rules Committee. This bill addresses the recent increase in stolen metal that has been harming many electric utilities. **Seattle supports this measure.**

SSB 5881, modifying water power license fees, was voted out of the House Agriculture & Natural Resources Committee and referred to the Appropriations Committee. **Seattle supports this measure.**

Growth Management, Land Use and Annexation

ESSB 5558, regulating house-banked social card games, passed the House Commerce & Labor Committee with amendments and is in the Rules Committee.

Housing

The Housing Trust Fund provides funding for affordable housing for low income persons, farm workers, and domestic violence survivors. One hundred forty million dollars is included in the House budget, but the Senate budget is significantly lower. **Seattle supports the House level of funding.**

Human Services

The Agency Area on Aging's (AAA) top funding priority is for a vendor rate increase of 3.2% and 2.0% over two years for community providers. Neither is included in the Senate or House budget, but deliberations continue. **Seattle supports this budget item.**