



**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**2013 STATE LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**

**February 25, 2013**

**Number 6**

**Week Overview**

The week began with Councilmembers Bagshaw, Burgess, Conlin, Godden, and Licata in Olympia for a day packed with meetings. All told, Councilmembers had meetings with 25 legislators, including the leadership in both chambers and key committee chairs and members. The rest of the week was packed with activity as policy committees worked hard to move bills out prior to Friday's cutoff. Representative Clibborn introduced a statewide transportation package, which looked for a time like it might get a hearing this coming week, but the hearing has not yet been scheduled. A local options transportation bill was also introduced this week that would help save bus service in King County and give local governments revenue options to address other local transportation needs.

**Areas of Primary Focus**

**Protecting the most vulnerable families and individuals**

Budget: With the policy committee cutoff on Friday, the legislature's committee meetings were largely focused on policy bills this week.

Affordable Housing: [HB 1563](#) would allow surplus property to more easily be used for the development of affordable housing. HB 1563 was voted out of the Community Development, Housing, and Tribal Affairs Committee and is scheduled for a hearing in the Capital Budget committee on February 26th. The companion bill, [SB 5598](#), passed out of its policy committee and has been referred to Ways and Means. Seattle supports this legislation.

[SB 5741](#) allows King County to bond against lodging taxes, that they are authorized to begin receiving in 2021, for affordable workforce housing or tourism promotion. SB 5741 was heard in the Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee, but because it was not voted out of the committee, this bill is officially dead for this session. Seattle supports this legislation.

**Education**

Both the House and Senate continue to look at options for meeting the requirements of the McCleary decision, as well as increasing the effectiveness and accountability of Washington's schools and preparing students for the future.

[HB 1680](#) adopts policies and programs to implement recommendations of the educational opportunity gap oversight and accountability committee to help close the education opportunity gap in early learning, third grade reading, and attendance. The bill would require additional data collection, look at alternative discipline measures beyond traditional suspensions, and increase the cultural competency of teachers. HB 1680 was voted out of the House Education Committee on February 22<sup>nd</sup> and referred to the Appropriations Committee.

On higher education, both the House and the Senate have continued to look at funding and sustainability for the GET (Guaranteed Education Tuition) program and the College Bound program, which is currently structured through the state purchase of GET credits. The House passed [HB 1043](#) to limit differential tuition, and the bill has been referred to the Senate Higher Education Committee. By ending the practice of charging different tuitions based on the student's major, this bill would help make the GET program sustainable for the near future.

Additionally, [HB 1505](#) and [SB 5642](#) would assist local school districts with construction capacity by requiring the Superintendent of Public Instruction to set the minimum funding assistance percentage at 30 percent of project costs for the School Construction Assistance Program, instead of the current 20 percent. HB 1505 was heard in the House Capital Budget Committee on February 11<sup>th</sup>. Seattle supports this legislation.

## **Transportation, Economic Development and Infrastructure**

Transportation Revenue: Representative Clibborn introduced a statewide transportation package, [HB 1954](#), on Wednesday. The package would raise approximately \$10 billion over the next ten years. We are continuing to analyze and evaluate the bill. Some of the key provisions include:

- A ten cent gas tax phased in over five years (6.5% distributed to cities and 6.5% distributed to counties);
- A Statewide MVET of .7% which would be used to help fund transit, ferries, and local governments' needs;
- A hazardous substance tax to fund stormwater projects;
- A \$25 fee on sales of bicycles with a purchase price of more than \$500 which would be used to fund the complete streets grant program; and
- A set of local options, including a .7% MVET in King County, and councilmanic authority for TBD's to impose a vehicle fee of up to \$40.

Local Transportation Options: A number of other local options bills were also introduced, including [HB 1959](#) which was introduced on Friday by Representative Farrell and is scheduled for a hearing on Monday. This bill provides for a 1.5% MVET in King County. Sixty percent (60%) of the funds would be used for transit, and the other 40% would be distributed to cities on a population basis to be used for local roads. It also includes councilmanic authority for TBD's to impose a vehicle fee up to \$40. Seattle supports this bill.

Capital Budget: The House had a hearing on Governor Gregoire's proposed capital budget on January 28<sup>th</sup> ([HB 1089](#)). AWC testified on behalf of cities about the need to continue to fully fund MTCA. Governor Gregoire's proposed budget swept a significant portion of MTCA, which would result in fewer toxic cleanup projects being funded. A diverse coalition is working together to make sure MTCA is fully funded and used for its intended purpose. The Senate bill is [SB 5035](#).

## **Public Safety**

Gun responsibility: Representative Jamie Pedersen introduced with bipartisan support [HB 1588](#), which would require universal background checks for all firearm transfers. Deputy Chief Nick Metz testified in support of the bill. The bill passed out of the Judiciary Committee and is now in Rules. Seattle supports this legislation. Senator Adam Kline has sponsored a similar bill, [SB 5711](#), in the Senate. Additionally, Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles introduced [SB 5710](#), which would charge a person who stores or leaves a loaded firearm in a location where a child is likely to gain access with reckless endangerment if the child gains possession of the weapon. This bill, along with a number of other gun safety bills, failed to make it out of the Senate Law and Justice Committee before Friday's cutoff.

Mentally ill offenders unable to stand trial: [HB 1114](#) would, in part, ensure that a state hospital evaluates defendants charged with serious nonfelony crimes who have been found to be not competent to stand trial. Currently, in King County, piecemeal solutions are being used each time these evaluations are needed, and there have been people who have been released without being evaluated. HB 1114 was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee and was heard in the Appropriations Committee on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The companion bill, [SB 5176](#), was voted out of its Senate policy committee on February 20<sup>th</sup> and referred to the Senate Rules Committee.

Speed Limits: Representative Cindy Ryu's legislation ([HB 1045](#)) to allow cities to lower the speed limits on certain streets to 20 MPH passed the House on a vote of 86 to 10 (with 2 excused), and it was assigned to the Senate Transportation Committee. The Senate companion bill, [SB 5066](#), passed out of committee unanimously and is now in the Senate Rules Committee. Seattle supports this legislation, which would allow us to more easily and less expensively make this change to increase safety on some of our neighborhood streets.

Obtaining electronic images from traffic safety cameras: [HB 1047](#) would allow images from traffic safety cameras to be used for prosecuting crimes if a warrant is obtained. The bill passed the House 78-18. Deputy Police Chief Nick Metz joined King County Prosecuting Attorney Dan Satterberg to give public testimony in support of this bill when it was heard in the House Public Safety committee.

Human Trafficking: Bills have been introduced in both the House and Senate to help address the crime of human trafficking and to help victims. In the Senate, Jeanne Kohl-Welles has introduced bills to revise the definition of abuse to include trafficking ([SB 5223](#), which died when it was not voted on in the policy committee), to establish a committee to work on this issue ([SB 5308](#), which is in the Rules Committee), and to establish an enhanced penalty for the use of internet advertisements in sex-trafficking ([SB 5488](#), which is in the Rules Committee). Assistant Chief Dick Reed spoke on behalf of SB 5488. In the House, [HB 1292](#) would allow victims to vacate prostitution convictions, and this bill is in the Rules Committee. In addition, [HB 1291](#), to direct current offender fees towards services for victims, was voted out of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

## **City Fiscal Health**

Revenue: [HB 1368](#) would restore the growth in liquor revenues to cities and counties. As part of the final budget agreement last session, the legislature passed a bill that effectively capped the local share of liquor profits at 2011 levels. The bill passed out of the House Local Government Committee and had a hearing in the Appropriations Committee on February 19<sup>th</sup>. The Senate companion bill, [SB 5703](#), has been referred to Ways & Means. Seattle supports this legislation.

Local Revenue Authority: The Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee held public hearings on [SB 5688](#) and [SB 5656](#) that would have the state take over significant portions of the local B&O tax administration. Proponents testified that this was just the first step towards the state taking over full administration of the local B&O tax, which would result in significant local revenue losses and cuts to city services. Council President Clark testified in opposition, along with officials from numerous other cities. Both bills passed out of Committee and were referred to Senate Ways and Means where SB 5656 is scheduled to be heard this week. Seattle opposes the legislation.

City Pension Fund: [HB 1899](#) would allow first class cities to negotiate with the State Investment Board to have the Board invest the assets of the first class cities' retirement systems. The bill was sponsored by Representative Carlyle and had a public hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on February 21<sup>st</sup>. The City testified with initial reactions to this extraordinarily complex topic. While the City has not taken a position on this specific bill, it would like to continue the conversation about this proposal with the state, our employee partners, and other interested stakeholders.

## **Other Issues of Significant Interest**

Automated Traffic Safety Cameras: SPD testified in support of [SB 5678](#) at a public hearing in the Senate Transportation Committee. This legislation would clarify that local jurisdictions may use automated traffic safety cameras at intersections that include more than two arterials. Senator Frockt sponsored the bill, and Seattle supports the legislation.

Disabled Parking Placards: [HB 1946](#) would help reduce disabled parking placard abuse by improving enforcement of illegal use of placards and by establishing a work group that will develop recommendations for other ways to curtail abuse. The bill is sponsored by Representative Hunt and is scheduled for a hearing on February 27<sup>th</sup> in the House Transportation Committee. Seattle supports this legislation.

Energy Efficiency: [HB 1017](#) establishes minimum energy efficiency standards for battery charger systems, quartz halogen lamps, and minimum water conservation performance standards for faucets. The bill passed out of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Seattle supports this legislation.

Product Stewardship: [HB 1364](#) and companion bill [SB 5457](#) would help standardize, facilitate and reduce barriers to battery stewardship programs and hold all battery suppliers to the same stewardship obligations. HB 1364 is in the House General Government Appropriations Committee. SB 5457 was not voted out of the policy committee before the cutoff and is officially dead for this session. Seattle supports these bills. [HB 1579](#) and companion bill [SB 5424](#), require paint manufacturers to assume responsibility for the development and implementation of a cost-effective paint stewardship program. HB 1579 was not heard before the cutoff and is dead, but SB 5424 did pass out of its policy committee and has been referred to Ways and Means. [SB 5252](#), which would prohibit food service businesses from selling or providing food in expanded polystyrene food service products and in or with disposable plastic foodservice ware was not voted on in committee and is dead for the session.

Reducing Toxins: Senator Sharon Nelson has sponsored [SB 5181](#) to revise the flame retardant provisions for residential upholstered furniture and children's products. Unfortunately, the bill was not voted on in committee and is officially dead for the session. The House companion, [HB 1294](#), was voted out of the House Environmental Committee and is now in the Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government. Seattle supports this legislation.

Public Records: Several bills have been introduced that would mitigate the costs of egregious or commercial public records requests, including [HB 1128](#), which allows local governments to seek a civil injunction when faced with financially motivated or punitive requests. HB 1128 is now in the House Rules Committee. [HB 1037](#) would allow jurisdictions to charge a fee for records requested for commercial purposes; this bill passed out of the House Government Operations & Elections Committee and has been referred to Appropriations.

Service Animals in Housing: The House Judiciary committee held a hearing on legislation to streamline the state and federal regulations related to discrimination based on disabilities, especially related to accommodating residents with service animals. This bill, [HB 1024](#), would allow the state to collect approximately \$100,000 per year in federal funding for discrimination-based inspections. HB 1024 passed out of the House Judiciary Committee with technical amendments to more specifically indicate that it is unfair to discriminate in real estate transactions on the basis of use of a service animal. HB 1024 is scheduled for a vote on Monday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government.

Sick Leave: [HB 1313](#), and companion bill [SB 5594](#), align with Seattle's current law and provide minimum requirements for sick and safe leave related to employment. HB 1313 was passed out of the Labor & Workforce Development Committee, and it is scheduled for a hearing in the House Appropriations Committee on February 26<sup>th</sup>. SB 5594 was not voted out of the policy committee and is dead for this session. The Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor voted out of committee both [SB 5726](#), which would place limits on Seattle's current law, and [SB 5728](#), which would preempt local sick leave legislation entirely. Both bills are in the Rules Committee. Companion bills, [HB 1781](#) and [HB 1780](#) respectively, have also been introduced. Seattle opposes these bills.

Medical Marijuana: [SB 5528](#) provides arrest protection to patients who are in compliance with the law on medical cannabis use and who present their valid documentation, although there is no requirement that patients register. SB 5528 passed out of the Senate Health Care Committee this week and has been referred to the Rules Committee. Seattle supports this legislation.

Washington Investment Trust: Sponsored by Senator Hasegawa, [SB 5029](#) creates the Washington Investment Trust as an institution that uses capital reserves to fund projects in our state. SB 5029 was heard on in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing, & Insurance Committee, but the committee did not vote on it, and so the bill is dead for the session. Seattle supports this legislation.

Public Works Contracting: [HB 1466](#) reauthorizes the alternative public works contracts and makes other changes recommended by the Capital Projects Advisory Review Board (CPARB). HB 1466 will be considered for a committee vote on February 28<sup>th</sup> in the Capital Budget Committee. Its companion bill, [SB 5349](#), was passed out of the Senate Governmental Operations Committee and is now in the Rules Committee.

**Looking Ahead:**

Fiscal committees will continue their work to pass bills out before the cutoff on March 1st. Bills that are deemed necessary to implement the budget are exempt from the cutoff. Key committee hearings this week include those on the local transportation options bill on Monday and on the disabled parking placards bills on Wednesday.