



**CITY OF SEATTLE
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Week Overview

The fifth week of the legislative session saw hearings on policy bills to protect and strengthen our communities and improve our environment. Leadership in Seattle's Police Department came to Olympia to speak on gun responsibility and addressing human trafficking. Council President Clark testified against legislation that would begin the state takeover of local B&O tax administration, and the City had the opportunity to add our support for legislation to create recycling programs for batteries and paint and for the reduction of harmful chemicals in children's clothing, among other policies. The legislature has until February 22nd to pass bills out of their house of origin policy committees, and until March 1st to consider bills with a fiscal impact in the budget-related committees.

Areas of Primary Focus

Protecting the most vulnerable families and individuals

Budget: The legislature has continued to hold work sessions on specific programs that will be considered during their budget-writing processes, including a focus on how to best treat and assist people suffering from mental illnesses.

Affordable Housing: [HB 1563](#) would allow surplus property to more easily be used for the development of affordable housing. A committee vote will take place in the House Community Development, Housing, & Tribal Affairs Committee on February 20th. The companion bill is [SB 5598](#), and it was heard in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing, and Insurance Committee on February 14th. 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 will be heard on February 19th in the Senate Trade & Economic Development Committee. 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. This week, the House Education Committee looked at bills on dropout prevention and encouraging school attendance, and both the House and Senate looked at bills on suicide prevention.

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. On February 15th, the House passed [HB 1043](#) to limit differential tuition. 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 11th. Seattle supports this legislation.

Transportation, Economic Development and Infrastructure

Transportation: Momentum continues to build for a transportation package. Rep. Clibborn plans to propose a statewide transportation package soon, perhaps later this week. A bipartisan group of 44 mayors from across the state sent a letter to Governor Inslee and legislative leaders in support of a state transportation package as well as local transportation options.

At the AWC conference, Gov. Inslee told officials that he also supports a transportation package this year in the legislature and that the inclusion of investments for city streets and the support of city leaders will be key to its passage.

Governor Inslee said, "There is no one lane, or one solution to transportation. It's got to be everything. Multi-modality and multi-jurisdictional. We've got to get everyone from single-occupancy vehicles to demand management; to light rail, to bicycles, to transit, to trip reduction in general; because this is the only way we're going to skin this cat." The Governor went on to add that cities were key to the effort and that he welcomes suggestions from cities on how to better integrate cities, counties and the state on transportation policy.

Capital Budget: The House had a hearing on Governor Gregoire's proposed capital budget on January 28th ([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: Rep. Jamie Pedersen introduced with bipartisan support [HB 1588](#), which would require universal background checks for all firearm transfers. The legislation was heard on February 13th, and Deputy Chief Nick Metz spoke in support of the bill. It is scheduled for committee vote in the House Judiciary Committee on February 19th. 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.

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, there are people who are being released without being evaluated. HB 1114 was voted out of the House Judiciary Committee and has now been scheduled for a public hearing in House Appropriations on February 19th. The companion bill, [SB 5176](#), had a public hearing on January 29th in the Senate Human Services and Corrections Committee, and OIR staff provided testimony in support of Section 4 of the bill.

Speed Limits: Representative Cindy Ryu's legislation ([HB 1045](#)) to allow cities to lower the speed limits on certain streets to 20 MPH was placed on 2nd Reading by the Rules Committee, which means it may come up for a floor vote soon. This bill has bi-partisan sponsorship, as does its Senate companion bill, [SB 5066](#). SB 5066 passed out of committee unanimously on February 5th 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 was placed on 2nd Reading by the Rules Committee on February 13th. 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](#)), 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 had a committee hearing on February 13th). Assistant Chief Dick Reed spoke on behalf of SB 5488. In the House, both [HB 1292](#), to allow victims to vacate prostitution convictions, and [HB 1291](#), to direct current offender fees towards services for victims were passed out of the Public Safety Committee this week.

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 it is now scheduled for a vote in the Appropriations Committee on February 19th. 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. Seattle opposes the legislation.

Other Issues of Significant Interest

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 Environmental Committee and will be heard in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government on February 20th. 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 scheduled for a vote in the House Environmental Committee on February 19th, and SB 5457 had a committee hearing on February 13th. 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. SB 5424, which has bipartisan sponsorship, was heard on February 13th in the Senate Energy, Environment, and Telecommunications Committee. Senator Chase and Senator Kline have sponsored [SB 5252](#), which prohibits food service businesses from selling or providing food in expanded polystyrene food service products and in or with disposable plastic foodservice ware.

Reducing Toxins: Senator Sharon Nelson has sponsored [SB 5181](#) to revise the flame retardant provisions for residential upholstered furniture and children's products. On February 13th, SB 5181 was heard in the Senate Energy, Environment, & Telecommunications Committee. The House companion, [HB 1294](#), was voted out of the House Environmental Committee on February 14th. 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 Rules Committee. [HB 1037](#) would allow jurisdictions to charge a fee for records requested for commercial purposes; this bill is scheduled for a vote on February 19th in the House Government Operations & Elections Committee.

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 now awaiting consideration 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 on February 13th. SB 5594 is scheduled for a committee hearing on February 20th in the Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor. The Senate Committee is also scheduled to hear both [SB 5726](#), which would place limits on Seattle's current law, and [SB 5728](#), which would preempt local sick leave legislation entirely. 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. It also cleans up the current law by removing references to the vetoed provisions of SB 5073. The bill was heard on February 4th in the Senate Health Care 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 February 14th in the Senate Financial Institutions, Housing, & Insurance Committee. 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 was heard in the House Capitol Budget Committee on February 11th. Its companion bill, [SB 5349](#), was passed out of the Senate Governmental Operations Committee on February 12th.

Looking Ahead:

City Councilmembers are in Olympia on Monday, February 18th, for a round of meetings with legislators from across the state. There are 25 meetings scheduled for the day.

Committees are scrambling this week to pass bills out before policy committee cutoff on February 22nd. Bills having fiscal impacts will be referred to the relevant fiscal committees, where they must be heard and passed before fiscal committee cutoff on March 1st.

Rep. Clibborn may introduce a proposed statewide transportation package this week. While some ideas have been shared with various stakeholders, the scope and content of the proposal are not yet clear.

A Senate hearing on legislation that would limit Seattle's sick leave protections for workers is scheduled for this Wednesday.