



City of SeaTac Government Relations Report 2014 Legislative Session Recap

Dear SeaTac City Council & City Staff:

It was a pleasure representing the City of SeaTac in Olympia this past legislative session. On behalf of the City, our advocacy focused on advancing a transportation revenue package that funds State Route 509, securing funding for Fire Station 45, advancing a budget proviso on public records act reform, and defending against legislation that bonded lodging tax revenues. We also assisted the Association of Washington Cities in advocating for issues on the AWC legislative agenda. The attached report outlines our efforts, and the various issues that emerged throughout the legislative session.

Unfortunately, like most cities, this session was disappointing for the City of SeaTac. The smallest percentage of bills introduced passed this legislative session (10.3%). Additionally, legislators could not come to an agreement on a transportation revenue package, or a Supplemental Capital Budget – meaning very few communities received funding for local priorities. Both State Route 509 and Fire Station 45 were left unfunded. Many issues were left to be resolved during the 2015 legislative session.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the 33rd legislative delegation – all three members of the delegation were responsive and strong advocates for the City. We look forward to continuing to work with the City of SeaTac on advancing the City's legislative agenda throughout the interim and into the 2015 legislative session.

Thank you!

Briahna Taylor
Alex Soldano

Overview of the 2014 Legislative Session

The 2014 legislative session was a session to not want anything. When the session began in January, legislators expressed a strong goal to complete session on time, within the short 60-day session. Goal accomplished. Little else was accomplished.

As the second year of the legislative biennium, the Legislature's primary task was to adopt Supplemental Operating, Transportation, and Capital Budgets (these are budgets that amend the budgets adopted in June 2013). The Supplemental Operating Budget increased funding in basic education, and otherwise made few changes. The Supplemental Transportation Budget was a maintenance-only budget that did not fund any new projects and made only minor policy adjustments. Finally, for the first time since 1996, the Legislature chose not to adopt a Supplemental Capital Budget. Collectively these budgets, or lack thereof, made minimal changes. [Click here to view the final budgets.](#)

Beyond the primary task of budget writing, the Legislature passed very few policy bills. Only 10.3% of those bills introduced this session passed the Legislature – this is the smallest passage rate since before 1975. There were a number of bills that passed House, but not the Senate and vice versa. Many of these bills were “message bills,” introduced and advanced to outline each party's political platform going into the November 2014 elections.

Role of McCleary and Education Funding

As you likely know, the 2012 *McCleary* Supreme Court decision dictated that the Legislature must increase funding to basic education. The 2013 Legislature put an additional \$1 billion in K-12 education. Immediately prior to the 2014 session, [the Washington Supreme Court indicated that the Legislature must develop a plan by April 30th](#) on how to provide \$3.35 billion to the K-12 Education in the 2015-17, and \$4.48 billion in 2017-19. This looming task influenced a number of the budget decisions, and will impact how the Legislature approaches the 2015-17 Operating Budget next session.

What about a transportation revenue package?

When negotiations on a Transportation Revenue Package ended unsuccessfully on December 18, 2013, the Governor, Senate, and the House each committed to continuing negotiations in the 2014 legislative session. At the beginning of the legislative session, the Majority Coalition Caucus indicated that a revised transportation revenue package proposal would be released “soon” to re-start the negotiations. A proposal was released half-way through the legislative session. A short series of negotiation meetings ensued amongst key transportation Senators (notably, House members did not participate in the negotiations). No agreement was reached in these negotiations. The Majority Coalition Caucus proceeded forward with introducing bills containing the proposal, and requested a public hearing on the bills. This hearing was not granted. At the end of the day, there was not a willingness amongst the House, Senate, Republicans, or Democrats to vote on a gas tax increase. [Click here to view an interview between Sen. Tracey Eide \(D- Federal Way\) and Sen. Curtis King \(R-Yakima\), the Co-Chairs of the Senate Transportation Committee.](#)

SeaTac's Legislative Priorities

Completion of State Route 509

Throughout the legislative session, we continued our efforts to build a coalition advocating for the completion of State Route 509. The Coalition met via conference call to keep coalition members updated on the most recent discussions on a transportation revenue package. As mentioned in the Session Overview (above), the transportation revenue package was not brought up for a vote, or even a public hearing, this session. However, in all of the new transportation revenue package proposals that were released this session, State Route 509 was included in the proposed project lists. When the Legislature does choose to adopt a transportation revenue package, the project is positioned to be funded.

Midway through the legislative session, the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus released a new transportation revenue package proposal. As you will remember, in the House proposal from 2013, The Puget Sound Gateway project was allocated \$1.9 billion, including SR 167, SR 509, and improvements to I-5. In the new proposal from the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus, the total project allocation was lowered to \$1.659 billion. However, in both of these proposals, the funding amount for our SR 509 portion of the project remained the same. The difference in the funding amount is because the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus does not include HOT lanes between State Route 509 and State Route 167. When this proposal was released, we provided the coalition with detailed comparison information between the two approaches. See the Session Overview (above) for the reactions to this proposal and additional details.

In the last two weeks of the legislative session, a second transportation revenue package proposal, described as an "alternative proposal," was released by Sen. Steve Hobbs (D- Lake Stevens). Sen. Hobbs released this proposal in an effort to find a middle ground between the Senate Democrats and the Senate Majority Coalition Caucus. This proposal includes the same amount and allocation proposed by the MCC. There was little discussion/reaction to this proposal.

While the Legislature chose not to act on a transportation revenue package this session, it will continue to be discussed throughout the interim. We will need to continue to advocate for State Route 509, and develop an interim plan to continue to engage the legislative delegation.

Funding to Replace Fire Station 45

The City requested \$1 million from the Supplemental Capital Budget to fully fund replacement of Fire Station #45. The City has already self-funded \$3 million of the total \$4 million cost, and were asking for this final amount to allow the full scope of the project to be realized rather than the City having to downsize the new facility.

At the beginning of session, Deputy Mayor Tony Anderson as well as City staff met with all three members of our legislative delegation; Sen. Karen Keiser, Rep. Tina Orwall (D- Des Moines), and Rep. Mia Gregerson (D- SeaTac) to discuss the funding of this project in the Capital Budget. All three members of our delegation were interested in this project and indicated that this would be among their top priorities for the Capital Budget.

Representatives Orwall and Gregerson both submitted formal requests for this project to House Capital Budget Chair Rep. Hans Dunshee (D- Snohomish). Sen. Keiser was strongly supportive, but as the ranking minority member for Capital Budget in the Senate Ways & Means Committee it did not make sense for her to submit a formal request (which would be addressed to herself).

In these meetings, our legislative delegation recommended that we collect additional letters of support for the project. City staff was successful at securing letters of support from the Port of Seattle, Sound Transit, and the Kent Fire Department RFA.

The Senate and House's proposed Supplemental Capital Budget was released- the Senate did not use any of the State's bonding capacity (it only funded a small handful of projects with cash revenues that had increased over the past year). The House proposal utilized \$90 million in bonding capacity and funded a modest list of capital projects, but did not include Fire Station 45 either.

As mentioned in the Session Overview (above), the House and Senate were unable to reach an agreement on the Supplemental Capital Budget, and the Legislature inevitably chose not to adopt a budget. Because the Supplemental Budget is simply amending last year's budget, the only consequence to their decision to not adopt a Supplemental Capital Budget is that no new funding is allocated to projects.

Public Records Act Reform

Last session, the budget included \$25,000 for an assessment on whether the parties could work through a mediation process to agree on a legislative reform to the public records act. In the late fall, the Ruckelshaus Center provided its report: [click here to read the report](#). Following the report, we focused our efforts on collecting additional information on the number, type and cost of public records requests, and on securing additional funding to complete a mediation process amongst. Working with Rep. Pat Sullivan (D- Covington), we submitted the request and language was included in the House Operating Budget funding the mediation process:

\$50,000 of the general fund--state appropriation for fiscal year 2015 is provided solely for the William D. Ruckelshaus Center to convene and facilitate a collaborative process to address issues related to public records requests of local governments. A task force shall be convened by the Ruckelshaus Center representing a balanced cross-section of parties and interests (not to exceed 20 individuals), in order to collaboratively seek solutions for issues identified in the Ruckelshaus Center's December 2013 report to the legislature on public records requests made to local governments. The Ruckelshaus Center will facilitate one meeting of the task force every two months, and one meeting per month of a framing group comprised of leaders representing the various perspectives, selected by the Ruckelshaus Center. The Ruckelshaus Center shall provide a report containing the task force's recommendations to appropriate committees of the legislature by December 15, 2014.

Unfortunately, this language was not included in the final Operating Budget. Moving forward, we will continue to work with AWC and the other public agencies to advance this issue.

Defending against Legislation Allowing Lodging Tax Revenues to be Bonded

Last legislative session, bills were introduced and heard that allowed King County to bond lodging tax revenues. Current law states that, beginning in 2021, lodging tax revenues in King County should be distributed in the following manner: tourism promotion (25%), affordable workforce housing (37.5%), and cultural arts/museums (37.5%). The bills introduced last legislative session would have allowed the revenue allocated to tourism promotion and affordable workforce housing to be bonded.

Last session, the City opposed those bills as introduced, and requested that lodging tax revenues not be bonded unless either a carve out of funding for South King County was provided, or a formal advisory committee is put in statute that will outline how the funds will be spent across the county. Last year, the bill was amended to include language that the funds needed to be distributed through an “open and transparent” process, which attempted to address the City’s concerns, but was not the formal advisory committee that we had requested. The bills died last session because of concerns raised by other legislators/interest groups.

The issue re-emerged this legislative session (bills introduced in 2013 carryover to the 2014 legislative session as part of the Legislature’s two-year biennial cycle). Before the 2014 session began, GTHGA, the City, and King County met to discuss whether an agreement could be reached that addresses SeaTac’s concerns. In that meeting, King County was not willing to agree to a carve out for South King County because then each region in the County may ask for a carve out, and that spreading the funds throughout the county may not be the best use of the funds. King County was also not willing to agree to a formal advisory committee in statute, and instead suggested an advisory committee created by county ordinance. SeaTac expressed that such an advisory committee could be changed by future County councils and did not offer the level of assurances. King County did offer to limit the amount of funding that can be bonded for tourism purposes to up to 50% of the tourism promotion funds, and that concept was included in the bills as they were brought forward for the 2014 legislative session.

House Bill 2650, sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D-Burien), was introduced as a new bill this session (did not carry over from last session). As introduced, the bill was intended to have the bonding authority only apply to the affordable housing portion of the lodging tax revenues; however, the bill contained a drafting error that had it apply to all lodging tax revenue accounts. Prior to the bill being heard, we confirmed with the prime sponsor that the bill contained a drafting error and that the sponsor’s intent was to have the bill only apply to revenues dedicated to affordable housing. The bill was heard in the House Committee on Community Development and Housing & Tribal Affairs. The city remained neutral on the re-drafted version of the legislation because it did not impact the tourism promotion funds. The House version of the bill passed out of committee with an amendment fixing the drafting error, and then died in the House Rules Committee.

Senate Bill 5741, sponsored by Sen. Joe Fain (R-Auburn), was carried over from the 2013 legislative session and allows both the affordable housing and the tourism revenues to be bonded. The City testified in opposition to this legislation in front of the Senate Trade and Economic Development Committee. Additionally, the Washington Tourism Alliance testified in favor of our request to include a formal advisory committee. The bill passed out of the committee with an amendment that added a formal advisory committee identical to the advisory committees that exist for distributing lodging tax revenues in other jurisdictions. King County opposed this advisory committee language. The bill died in the Senate Rules Committee.

Association of Washington City Priorities

The Association of Washington Cities established four top legislative priorities for the 2014 legislative session. [Click here to view their priorities.](#) Below outlines how we assisted AWC and the outcome on these issues (see above for efforts on transportation funding).

Restore Liquor Revenue Sharing

Liquor Tax Distributions

The 2013 Legislature reduced liquor tax distributions to cities by 50% in the Operating Budget. The Supplemental Operating Budget makes amendments to the previously adopted budget. We received feedback over the interim that restoring the 50% reduction would not be possible until the next biennium (starting in 2015). No changes were made to liquor tax distributions.

Liquor License/Fee Distributions

In 2012, the Legislature abandoned an over 70-year-old history of 50/50 revenue sharing, and capped liquor license/fee distributions at 2011 levels. Over the interim, we worked on this proposal with a group of lobbyists representing cities and counties across Washington as well as [Rep. Steve Tharinger](#) (D- Dungeness) to refine the proposal that we worked on during the 2013 session. [House Bill 2314](#), introduced by Rep. Tharinger and [Senate Bill 6361](#) by [Sen. Jan Angel](#) (R- Port Orchard) were proposals to incrementally restore the 50/50 sharing relationship over multiple biennia. The bills did not impact the 2013-15 Operating Budget. Unfortunately, these bills were not even scheduled for public hearings.

Fund New City Responsibilities From Marijuana Legalization

With the legalization of marijuana, cities and counties will have increased regulatory and law enforcement responsibilities. Given this, we have been working to establishing a revenue sharing arrangement where a portion of marijuana tax receipts would be allocated to local governments. A number of legislators introduced bills that sought to establish this revenue-sharing relationship, however two bills emerged as the main “vehicles” for carrying forward the policy discussion on marijuana. [House Bill 2149](#), sponsored by [Rep. Eileen Cody](#) (D-Seattle), and [Senate Bill 5887](#), sponsored by [Sen. Ann Rivers](#) (R-Vancouver), aligned statutes for medical and recreational marijuana and was amended multiple times to add/remove provisions that would give various percentages of the marijuana revenue to local jurisdictions. Both bills inevitably did not pass. These bills are likely to come forward next session. As the bills worked their way through the legislative process, a number of policy issues were raised that are worth more discussion over the legislative interim:

- How to handle cities that have imposed moratoria/bans? Multiple times over the legislative session bills or amendments were brought forward that preempted local authority to regulate marijuana. As an alternative to preemption, an issue was raised that marijuana revenues could be used as an incentive for jurisdictions to not ban – i.e. if a jurisdiction bans marijuana, it also does not receive a portion of the marijuana tax revenue collected by the state.
- How to distribute marijuana revenues? When language was included that would distribute marijuana revenues, there was some question on how to distribute the funds: per capita basis? Based on number of licenses/jurisdiction? This is an item that needs continued discussion.

Restoring the Public Works Assistance Account

One of the City's top legislative priorities was restoring funding to the Public Works Assistance Account (PWAA). This account was designed to help local jurisdictions maintain and expand their infrastructure by providing low-interest loans, and used the payments on these loans to fund other projects in Washington State via a revolving account structure. The City was positioned to receive multiple low-interest loans in 2013 for various public works projects had the fund account been allocated funding. But, over the past several sessions, the PWAA has been used to shore up operating budget shortfalls, and in 2013 the Legislature directed that payments into the account be redirected into the operating budget – limiting the ability for governments to utilize the account.

In the months leading up to the legislative session, we worked as part of a coalition that includes labor, cities, counties, realtors, water and sewer districts, and others to craft a legislative proposal. The result was House Bill 2244, sponsored by Rep. Derek Stanford (D- Bothell) and its companion, Senate Bill 6546, sponsored by Sen. Ann Rivers (R- La Center), which undo the redirection of real estate excise tax and utility taxes revenues to the state operating budget and direct it back to the Capital Budget for the Public Works Assistance Account. The House version of this bill was amended in committee, and was passed out of the House 87-11, while the Senate version was never given a hearing in the Senate Ways & Means Committee. Once the House version of the bill was sent to the Senate Ways & Means Committee, the bill was never given a hearing. Overall – the Senate expressed strong concerns about the impact that the bill would have on the 4-year budget outlook for the state's Operating Budget. After initially being scheduled for a hearing, House Bill 2244 was taken off of the hearing calendar, and was never granted a hearing in Senate Ways & Means.

In addition to restoring funds to the Public Works Assistance Account, a bill was introduced that reforms the low-interest loan program. The bill inevitably did not pass. House Bill 1484, sponsored by Rep. Derek Stanford (D- Bothell) as well, was initially concerning because it included language that would silo funding for project design and permitting, and included an increase in the interest rates on PWAA loans. While in the House, this bill was amended several times to remove the elements concerning to local governments, and both cities and counties became supportive of the new proposal that would streamline and make adjustments to the Public Works Board processes in selecting projects to receive low-interest loans. The bill was never scheduled for a vote in the Senate and inevitably died. This issue will likely be brought forward in the interim and next session.

What will happen this interim with the Public Works Assistance Account? While the Legislature has redirected utility and REET tax receipts out of the Public Works Assistance Account, loan repayments continue to go into the account. These loan repayments will allow a relatively small amount to be allocated to a new round of low-interest loans. The Public Works Board will complete an application and selection process over the interim and select recipients for those low-interest loans. Prior to the next legislative session, the Public Works Board will submit a list of the selected projects to receive low-interest loans to the Governor's Office and the Legislature for approval

Local Government Labor Preemption

This session, there were several bills in Olympia that were introduced to preempt local government's ability to govern labor issues. The City of SeaTac did not take a position on these bills, but we did monitor their progress:

House Bill 2591, introduced by Rep. Joe Schmick (R- Colfax) and Senate Bill 6307 sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R- Centralia) would preempt local government from regulating any issue related to payment of wages, hours of work, employee retention, or employee leave. This would include governance by ordinance, charter, regulation, rule, resolution *or* purchase order. This would also directly remove language in the Minimum Wage Act and Employee and Family Leave Act authorizing local governments to act independently in excess of the State. While HB 2591 was not given a hearing in the Democratically-controlled House, SB 6307 was heard and passed out of Committee in the Senate. Neither bill was passed out of its' house of origin.

In 2013, House Bill 1780 was sponsored by Rep. Matt Manweller (R- Ellensburg) and Senate Bill 5728 was sponsored by Sen. John Braun (R- Centralia) to declare state preemption of local paid sick and safe leave. Because 2014 was the second year of the biennium, both of these bills were automatically carried over to this session. Cities were successfully able to prevent either bill from advancing in the process this year.

Additional Legislative Items

While the legislative agenda contains the City's top priorities, each session a number of bills are introduced that impact the City – some positively, some negatively. [Click here to view a final bill tracking list of all legislation impacting the City.](#) Below is a more detailed description of many of the bills that we tracked on behalf of the City.

Bills that Passed:

House Bill 2105, sponsored by Rep. Brad Hawkins (R- East Wenatchee) requires public agencies and local governments to post notice of regular meetings online 24 hours in advance. This bill was amended during session to only apply to governmental entities with 10 or more full time employees. Once amended, this bill passed both the House and Senate, and was sent to the Governor to be signed into law.

House Bill 2121, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet (D- Seattle) and Senate Bill 5964 sponsored by Sen. Joe Fain (R- Auburn) would require mandatory public records training for all public officials and public records officers in Washington State, regardless of the level of government. Both bills passed their house of origin with strong support, and ESB 5964- considered the “vehicle” for this policy- passed the Legislature and was sent to the Governor to be signed into law.

House Bill 2218, sponsored by Rep. Kathy Haigh (D- Shelton) and Senate Bill 6031 sponsored by Sen. Tim Sheldon (D- Potlach) changes provisions related to lake and beach management districts. Specifically, these bills would allow the formation of lake and beach management districts for the purpose of purchasing real estate adjacent-to or upland-from the marine property. It would also allow the homeowners within a lake or beach management district to vote on the acquisition of property. The Senate version of the legislation passed the Legislature and was signed into law.

House Bill 2246, sponsored by Rep. Sam Hunt (D- Olympia) and Senate Bill 6177, sponsored by Sen. Steve Litzow (R- Mercer Island) would provide a funding mechanism for product stewardship programs to dispose of mercury-containing lights; a stewardship program that was designed in 2010. There were a

number of concerns from the retail industry and producers in the 2010 legislation that were changed in HB 2246 and SB 6177:

- A \$15,000 per-producer mechanism for financing the product stewardship program was changed to an environmental handling charge applied to retail sales of mercury-containing lights. While this charge is not set, it must cover the stewardship program's operational and administrative costs and must be added to the retail price of the bulb.
- After implementation deadline obstacles raised concerns, the implementation of this program was changed from January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2015.
- A "sunset review" of the program after 10 years was developed. This means that in 2025, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee must review the product stewardship program and advise the Legislature whether or not the program should continue. Without a renewal, the program will end in 2026.

HB 2246 was amended in committee to reflect the changes listed above. Once amended, the bill passed the Legislature without any additional amendments being approved! Because HB 2246 was in a position to be the vehicle for this policy, SB 6177 did not advance past the Senate process.

Bills that Failed to Pass:

House Bill 2677, sponsored by Rep. Larry Springer (D- Kirkland), requires local jurisdictions that collect impact fees to adopt a permanent system for collection of impact fees from applicants for residential building permits. The bill requires the jurisdiction to defer collection of impact fees for at least 30 building permits per jurisdiction per year. The City has opposed previous versions of this legislation, and supported the Governor vetoing a similar bill that passed the Legislature last session. This session, we worked to oppose and amend the bill; however, it was ultimately never scheduled for a vote on the House Floor and died during the cutoff for bills to pass the house of origin.

Senate Bill 6008, sponsored by Sen. Maralyn Chase (D- Shoreline) and House Bill 2413, sponsored by Rep. Dean Takko (D- Longview) prohibits a city or town from assuming all or part of a water-sewer district within their jurisdiction unless voters of the entire special district approve a ballot measure authorizing the assumption. While the House version was never given a hearing in committee, the Senate version was amended in committee to only apply to King County and was then passed by the Senate. The bill was then heard in the House policy committee, but was never voted on and inevitably died in the House Committee.

House Bill 2349, sponsored by Rep. Larry Springer (D- Kirkland), is the latest iteration of tax increment financing or community revitalization financing. Rep. Springer also introduced House Joint Resolution 4214 (a constitutional amendment) that would provide for "pure" tax increment financing. These bills would have allowed local jurisdictions to create special apportionment districts, and allowed for special tax rates to be levied within those districts to fund local improvements. Both of the bills were given hearings in committee, but neither were scheduled for a vote and failed to advance this session.

In response to a controversy in Spokane County, Rep. Timm Ormsby (D- Spokane) sponsored House Bill 2245, which would not allow vesting of new territory within urban growth areas until both 60 days after the decision is made and all petitions for review are settled. The bill was amended in committee to only allow a court to order a stay of the UGA territory vesting if a petition was filed within court. Cities and counties both expressed concerns with this legislation, as it would limit their ability to conduct land-

use decision making and would add another obstacle to the process of changing UGA boundaries. While the bill passed out of committee, it died shortly thereafter in the House Rules Committee.

House Bill 2618, sponsored by Rep. Mia Gregerson (D- SeaTac) would give the authority for cities to conduct public works projects that meet certain requirements in-house rather than having to contract for services. This tool would be good for code cities, as it would allow more flexibility for small projects to be done in-house, rather than having to get independent contractors. This bill passed out of the House, but died in the Senate when it failed to come up for a vote.

House Bill 1413, sponsored by Rep. Luis Moscoso (D- Mountlake Terrace) also known as the Washington State Voting Rights Act applies to cities with a population over 1,000, all counties, and other special purpose districts. The bill prohibits at-large and district-based elections that deny a protected class an equal opportunity to elect candidates of its choice. A violation of the state act can be brought forward by any voter who is a member of a protected class. In determining whether there is a violation, the county will analyze elections for members of the governing body, examine results of elections in which one candidate is a member of a protected class, elections involving ballot measures, or electoral choices that affect the rights and privileges of members of a protected class who are voters. It also allows the court to mandate the re-drawing of districts not in compliance.

GTHGA and several cities alongside the Association of Washington Cities expressed our concern about this bill, both in the 2013 and 2014 sessions. The bill passed the House on a party-line vote. The bill died in the Senate Rules Committee.

House Bill 1037, sponsored by Rep. Jim Moeller (D- Vancouver) would have allowed local jurisdictions to create fee schedules for commercial public records requests. This bill was introduced in 2013 and carried over to this year after it failed to pass out of the House last session. This year, HB 1037 was passed out of Committee, but failed to receive a vote on the House Floor.

House Bill 2161, sponsored by Rep. Joe Fitzgibbon (D- Burien) would allow jurisdictions to levy SEPA mitigation fees for projects outside of their jurisdictional boundary, if that project has traffic impacts within their jurisdiction. This bill received a hearing in committee, but was never voted on.

House Bill 2117, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Appleton (D- Poulsbo), prohibits cities from adopting breed-based dog regulations in code. Essentially, it would prohibit the banning of breeds like pit bulls; which are often considered dangerous and incur too much liability. This bill was heard and scheduled for a vote in committee, but was never voted on and died early in session.

House Bill 2214, sponsored by Rep. Dean Takko (D- Longview) levies a fee of \$2 per building permit, to fund a task force to review the training and apprenticeship program for code enforcement officials. The bill was passed out of its original committee, but never received a vote in the House Appropriations Committee and died.

House Bill 2311, sponsored by Rep. Gerry Pollet (D- Seattle), regards the timeline for protesting short plat and land use decisions. This bill would require that notice of proposed land use be provided to any potentially affected property owners before the statute of limitation can begin for those property owners

to challenge the land use decision. This bill was given a hearing in committee, but never scheduled for a vote.

Senate Bill 6059, sponsored by Sen. Sharon Brown (R- Kennewick) would allow jurisdictions to charge for the use of government facilities to scan public documents. In practice, this means that a governmental entity would not be allowed to charge a person who requests a document for the labor of finding that document that will be scanned, but does allow that same jurisdiction to charge a fee to use their copier to scan that document. This bill passed the Senate unanimously, but was not voted on in the House.

House Bill 2299, sponsored by Rep. Liz Pike (R- Camas) would allow local governments to opt out of prevailing wage requirements by a vote of the local governing body. This bill was heard in the House Labor & Workforce Development Committee, but was never scheduled for a vote and died.

House Bill 1579, sponsored by Rep. Roger Goodman (D-Kirkland), would establish a paint product stewardship program. The City continued to support product stewardship efforts. As has been the case in the past, the Washington Refuse and Recycling Association and the Washington Retail Association opposed this bill. While HB 1579 was passed out of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on General Government by a 5-4 vote, it was never moved from the Rules Committee to the House Floor for consideration.

What's Next?

Upcoming Election Season

In November 2014, every member serving in the House, and half of the Senate, will be up for re-election. Additionally, some legislators have announced that they plan to retire, and will not be seeking re-election (others may still announce):

Sen. Tracey Eide (D- 30th District/Federal Way),

Sen. Adam Kline (D- 37th District/Seattle),

Sen. Janea Holmquist-Newbry (*running for Congress*),

Rep. Mary Helen Roberts (D- 23rd District/Lynnwood),

Rep. Mike Hope (R- 44th District/Lake Stevens),

Rep. Charles Ross (R- 14th/Yakima)

Now that the legislative session has concluded, legislators will begin campaigning. In the meantime, the coming months are an ideal time to talk about goals for the 2015-17 legislative biennium.

