

South Sound Chamber of Commerce Leg Coalition Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report – 2/18/18

We are now entering the 7th week of the Legislative session and Friday the 26th is the deadline for bills to be out of the opposite House committee for them to be considered “alive” for the remainder of session. Again, any bill that could be potentially be considered “necessary to implement the budget” is not considered dead at any time until sine die. So any bill still in a fiscal committee is still “alive” – sort of.

This past week we had the cut off for bills to be out of the House of Origin. Many bills did not make it through that process and you can see that our list has become much shorter.

On Thursday the Senate Ways and Means Committee held a hearing on SSB 6203 – the carbon tax bill. This bill implements a \$12/metric ton of carbon tax emissions with many exemptions for “Energy Intensive, Trade Exposed” industries. Some utilities testified “pro” on the bill because they believe it is better to move this through the Legislature rather than chance an initiative. Others business entities testified as “other” to reflect some of the positive changes that have been made, particularly the reduction in the amount of the tax. Many others remain “opposed” because there is no way for their industry to avoid the tax or the costs that will increase as a result of the tax. SSCCLC was signed in opposed because of the pressure this tax will put on fuel costs thus negatively impacting the gas tax money currently funding the Connecting Washington projects.

On Friday, the House Finance Committee held a hearing on the Capital Gains Tax proposal. Business after business got up and testified against this tax because of the negative impacts on selling businesses for retirement purposes (small business argument) and also because the tax would be considered an “income tax” and most likely would not pass Constitutional muster.

REVENUE IS UP AND BUDGETS WILL BE RELEASED DURING THE UPCOMING WEEK:

According to Chief Economist and Executive Director Steve Lerch, the General Fund-State (GF-S) revenue forecast has been increased by \$647 million for the 2017-19 budget cycle and by \$671 million for the 2019-21 budget cycle. The latest report reflects changes since the last revenue forecast on Nov. 20. The budget is expected to have \$3.8 billion in reserves at end of current biennia, before any supplemental budget is adopted (\$1.9 billion rainy day fund & \$1.9 billion unrestricted).

So now we are going to see the budgets released. The Senate Democrats are expected to release their budget tomorrow. House Democrats will release their budget on Tuesday, February 20th. Hearings in the Senate will start tomorrow afternoon and Hearings in the House will start Tuesday afternoon. We expect the budgets will include money for the last part of the McCleary fix which is about \$917 million. We also expect to see movement on SB 6614 and other bills like it that reduce the property tax levy utilized last year because of the additional revenue that has come in. However, there will still be pressure from some Democrats to enact some revenue enhancement to replace the property tax revenue loss if 6614 passes in order to ensure carry forward dollars. Republicans in both the House and Senate are not inclined to vote for any tax increase and we are not sure the votes are there in either of the Democratic caucuses for new or additional taxes either. The budget discussions should prove interesting.

Every still says we are getting out in 60 days – March 8th – We'll see.

Please take a look at the upcoming hearings this week and let me know if there are any you want to be signed in on.

Also, please take a look at the bill list and let me know which of these bills is a priority for you.

Thanks,
Carolyn

Upcoming Events

Health & Long Term Care (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/19 @ 10:00am

- 2ESHB 1388 - Public Hearing - Changing the designation of the state behavioral health authority from the department of social and health services to the health care authority and transferring the related powers, functions, and duties to the health care authority and the department of health.

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- SHB 2685 - Exec Session - Promoting preapprenticeship opportunities for high school students.

Human Services & Corrections (Senate) - SHR 2, JACB - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- E2SHB 1570 - Public Hearing - Concerning access to homeless housing and assistance.
- HB 2892 - Exec Session - Establishing the mental health field response teams program.

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/19 @ 1:30pm

- 2SHB 1298 - Public Hearing - Prohibiting employers from asking about arrests or convictions before an applicant is determined otherwise qualified for a position.

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/19 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2967 - Exec Session - Assisting Washington families by improving the fairness of the state's tax system by enacting a capital gains tax and providing property tax relief.
- HB 2992 - Exec Session - Modifying the business and occupation tax structure for rural manufacturers and timber and wood product manufacturers, extractors, and wholesalers.

Higher Education & Workforce Development (Senate) - SHR 2, JACB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- 3SHB 1169 - Exec Session - Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/20 @ 8:00am

- ESSB 6486 - Public Hearing - Expanding registered apprenticeship programs.

Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:00am

- E4SSB 5251 - Public Hearing - Concerning tourism marketing.
- E4SSB 5251 - Exec Session - Concerning tourism marketing.

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/20 @ 10:00am

- HB 2892 - Public Hearing - Establishing the mental health field response teams program.
- EHB 2777 - Public Hearing - Improving and updating administrative provisions related to the board of tax appeals.

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/20 @ 10:00am

- SB 6207 - Public Hearing - Clarifying the authority of port districts to offer programs relating to air quality improvement equipment and fuel programs that provide emission reductions for engines, vehicles, and vessels.

Transportation (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/20 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2469 - Public Hearing - Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.*.

Transportation (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/20 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6106 - Public Hearing - Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium. (Hearing is on the Proposed Substitute.)

Energy, Environment & Technology (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- E3SHB 1144 - Public Hearing - Amending state greenhouse gas emission limits for consistency with the most recent assessment of climate change science.

Local Government (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/21 @ 8:00am

- SB 6207 - Exec Session - Clarifying the authority of port districts to offer programs relating to air quality improvement equipment and fuel programs that provide emission reductions for engines, vehicles, and vessels.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- ESSB 6486 - Exec Session - Expanding registered apprenticeship programs.

Labor & Commerce (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/21 @ 1:30pm

- 2SHB 1298 - Exec Session - Prohibiting employers from asking about arrests or convictions before an applicant is determined otherwise qualified for a position.

Transportation (House) - HHR B, JLOB - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- HB 2469 - Exec Session - Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.
- SSB 6195 - Public Hearing - Facilitating transportation projects of statewide significance.

Transportation (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/21 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6106 - Exec Session - Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.

Law & Justice (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/22 @ 10:00am

- HB 2892 - Exec Session - Establishing the mental health field response teams program.
- EHB 2777 - Exec Session - Improving and updating administrative provisions related to the board of tax appeals.

Community Development, Housing & Tribal Affairs (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- E4SSB 5251 - Exec Session - Concerning tourism marketing.

Early Learning & K-12 Education (Senate) - SHR 1, JACB - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- E2SHB 1600 - Public Hearing - Increasing the career and college readiness of public school students.
- SHB 2686 - Public Hearing - Concerning high school and beyond plans.

Technology & Economic Development (House) - HHR C, JLOB - 2/22 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6177 - Exec Session - Allowing excess local infrastructure financing revenues to be carried forward.

Finance (House) - HHR A, JLOB - 2/22 @ 3:30pm

- ESSB 5513 - Public Hearing - Increasing tax exemption transparency and accountability.
- ESSB 5513 - Exec Session - Increasing tax exemption transparency and accountability.

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, JACB - 2/22 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6481 - Public Hearing - Creating a sales tax deferral for construction and expenditure costs of manufacturing facilities.

Higher Education (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 2/23 @ 8:00am

- ESSB 6486 - Exec Session - Expanding registered apprenticeship programs.

CAREER & TECH ED

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
E2SHB 1600	Career and college readiness	Increasing the career and college readiness of public school students.	S EL/K-12	Santos	Support	High
SHB 2685	High sch. preapprenticeships	Promoting preapprenticeship opportunities for high school students.	S EL/K-12	Ortiz-Self	Support	High
SSB 6133 (HB 2494)	CTE course equivalency opts	Expanding statewide career and technical education course equivalency options.	H EDDP	Zeiger	Support	High
ESSB 6486	Registered apprenticeships	Expanding registered apprenticeship programs.	H Hi Ed	Ranker	Support	High

CLIMATE CHANGE/CARBON TAX

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
E3SHB 1144	Greenhouse gas emissions	Increases greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements to match state law with federal	S Energy, Environ	Fitzgibbon	Oppose	High
SSB 6203	Carbon pollution	Reducing carbon pollution by investing in rural economic development and a clean energy economy.	S Ways & Means	Carlyle	Oppose	High
SB 6207	Port districts/air quality	Clarifying the authority of port districts to offer programs relating to air quality improvement equipment and fuel programs that provide emission reductions for engines, vehicles, and vessels.	H Local Govt	Palumbo	Support	Medium

GENERAL BUSINESS PRIORITIES

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
2SHB 1298	Job applicants/arrests, etc.	Prohibiting employers from asking about arrests or convictions before an applicant is determined otherwise qualified for a position.	S Labor & Commerc	Ortiz-Self	Neutral	Medium
2SHB 1506	Workplaces/gender pay equity	Addressing workplace practices to achieve gender pay equity.	S 2nd Reading	Senn	Concerns	Medium
SHB 2186	Taxes	Concerning investing in Washington	H Finance	Lytton	Concerns	High

		families by improving the fairness of the state's excise tax system by narrowing or eliminating tax preferences, imposing a business and occupation tax surcharge while eliminating tax liability for small businesses, enacting an excise tax on capital gains, modifying the real estate excise tax, making administrative changes, and implementing marketplace fairness in Washington.				
EHB 2777	Board of tax appeals admin.	Improving and updating administrative provisions related to the board of tax appeals.	S Law & Justice	Jinkins	Support	High
HB 2967	Capital gains tax/prop. tax	Assisting Washington families by improving the fairness of the state's tax system by enacting a capital gains tax and providing property tax relief.	H Finance	Lytton	Oppose	High
E2SSB 5935	Broadband & telecomm service	Enhancing consumer access, affordability, and quality of broadband and advanced telecommunications services.	H Tech & Econ De	Sheldon	Support	Medium
SB 6609	Revenue	Concerning revenue.	S Ways & Means	Ranker	Oppose	High

HIGHER EDUCATION

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
3SHB 1169	Student loan assistance	Enacting the student opportunity, assistance, and relief act.	S Higher Ed & Wo	Orwall	Support	Medium
SB 6593	Higher education T.O.	Relating to higher education.	S Ways & Means	Ranker	Neutral	Medium

HOUSING/HOMELESSNESS

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
E2SHB 1570	Homeless housing & assist.	Concerning access to homeless housing and assistance.	S Human Svcs/Corr	Macri	Concerns	High
SB 6532	Afford. housing tax credits	Creating a Washington affordable housing tax credit program.	S Ways & Means	Mullet	Support	High

K-12 EDUCATION

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
E2SHB 1600	Career and college readiness	Increasing the career and college readiness of public school students.	S EL/K-12	Santos	Support	High
SHB 2686	High school and beyond plans	Concerning high school and beyond plans.	S EL/K-12	Ortiz-Self	Support	High
SB 6614	Common school	Concerning funding for the support of		Mullet	Neutral	High

Bill Status & Upcoming Events Report

February 18, 2018

Page 6 of 8

	funding	common schools.				
--	---------	-----------------	--	--	--	--

MENTAL HEALTH

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
2ESHB 1388 (SSB 5259)	Behavioral health authority	Changing the designation of the state behavioral health authority from the department of social and health services to the health care authority and transferring the related powers, functions, and duties to the health care authority and the department of health.	S Health & Long T	Cody	Support	Medium
HB 2892	Mental health field response	Establishing the mental health field response teams program.	S Human Svcs/Corr	Lovick	Support	Medium

OTHER CHAMBER BILLS

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 2989	Business license account	Funding the business license account created in RCW 19.02.210 through a charge imposed by the secretary of state on annual report filings by certain legal entities.	H Approps	Lytton	Oppose	High
E4SSB 5251 (SHB 1123)	Tourism marketing	Concerning tourism marketing.	H Comm Dev, Hous	Takko	Support	High
SB 6177 (HB 2858)	Excess local infra. revenues	Allowing excess local infrastructure financing revenues to be carried forward.	H Tech & Econ De	King		Medium
E2SSB 6386 (HB 2765)	Ag. fair funding/sales taxes	Ensuring the funding of fairs.	H Approps	Warnick	Support	Medium

PROPERTY REGULATION

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
SB 6480	Local government infra.	Concerning local government infrastructure.	S Ways & Means	Mullet	Support	Medium

TRADE, AEROSPACE & MFG

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 2393	B&O manufacturing tax rate	Lowering the ceiling of the business and occupation manufacturing tax rate to 0.2904 percent.	H Finance	Vick	Support	High
HB 2947 (SB 6596)	Rural manufacturers B&O tax	Providing business and occupation tax relief to rural manufacturers.	H Finance	Chapman	Oppose	High
HB 2992	Rural manuf.,	Modifying the business and	H	Chapman	Concerns	High

	etc./B&O tax	occupation tax structure for rural manufacturers and timber and wood product manufacturers, extractors, and wholesalers.	Finance			
ESSB 5513 (HB 1500)	Tax exemptions	Increasing tax exemption transparency and accountability.	H Finance	Frockett	Concerns	High
SB 6481	Sales tax deferral/manufact.	Creating a sales tax deferral for construction and expenditure costs of manufacturing facilities.	S Ways & Means	Brown	Support	Medium
SB 6542	B&O manufacturing tax rate	Lowering the ceiling of the business and occupation manufacturing tax rate to 0.2904 percent.	S Ways & Means	Baumgartner	Support	High
SB 6596 (HB 2947)	Rural manufacturers B&O tax	Providing business and occupation tax relief to rural manufacturers.	S Ways & Means	Takko	Concerns	Medium

TRANSPACIFIC FIBER OPTIC CABLES

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 2673 (SB 6307)	Nonrural data centers/tax	Providing a tax preference for nonrural data centers.	H Finance	Springer	Support	High

TRANSPORTATION

Bill #	Abbrev. Title	Short Description	Status	Sponsor	Position	Priority
HB 1606	TBD fees & charges/hearings	Requiring transportation benefit districts to hold public hearings prior to imposing fees or charges by a vote of the governing board.	S Local Governmen	Pike	Neutral	Medium
HB 2469 (SB 6106)	Transportation budget supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.	H Trans	Clibborn	Support	High
SB 6106 (HB 2469)	Transportation budget supp.	Making supplemental transportation appropriations for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium.	S Transportation	Hobbs	Support	High
SSB 6195	Significant transp. projects	Facilitating transportation projects of statewide significance.	H Trans	Cleveland	Support	Medium
SB 6593	Higher education T.O.	Relating to higher education.	S Ways & Means	Ranker	Neutral	Medium

Uncategorized Bills

No bills.