



King County

**Metropolitan King County Council
Committee of the Whole**

STAFF REPORT

Agenda Item:	6	Name:	Carolyn Busch
Proposed No.:	2015-B0140	Date:	July 15, 2015

SUBJECT

Briefing 2015-B0140 is an update on the 2015 King County State Legislative Agenda.

INVITED

1. Michael Shaw, Government Relations Consultant
2. David Foster, Government Relations Consultant

2015 State Legislative Agenda Status Report	
Item	Status
Revenue Reform: Providing Local Governments with Adequate Tools to Provide Services	
Revise the annual limit on property tax to include inflation and population growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bill passed
Monitor the mental illness and drug dependency (MIDD) sales tax levy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to existing MIDD authority
Diversify counties' revenue sources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill died that would have provided local option utility tax • Bill passed providing Flood District permanent protection from levy suppression
Provide greater local control over sources like the criminal justice sales tax.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No changes to the Criminal Justice sales tax authority
Modify state law that allows county general fund money based on increased population density to be transferred without consent of counties.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bill passed
Meaningful Resources for the Safety Net: Meeting our Needs in Mental Health and Beyond	
Expand long-term local and state capacity in mental health and substance abuse. This will require a significant commitment to	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operating Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased funds for Involuntary Treatment Act implementation, assisted

2015 State Legislative Agenda Status Report

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<p>both capital and operating assistance, as well as additional inpatient beds both locally and at state hospitals.</p>	<p>outpatient mental health treatment as a means for earlier intervention for those not accepting voluntarily treatment, full funding of Joel's Law (up to +\$22M to KC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Increased operating funds for evaluation and treatment facilities and assertive community treatment (up to +\$6M to KC) · Cuts to flexible non-Medicaid mental health funding (up to -\$13M from KC) · Elimination of Program for Adaptive Living Skills, which served KC's most dangerous and high-risk mental health clients (-\$3.5M from KC) • Capital Budget: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · New +\$36M statewide for new involuntary inpatient psychiatric bed capacity and crisis facilities, including +\$10M for KC • Adopted legislation allows county jails to be used for evaluation and restoration treatment • Adopted "Joel's Law" to allow family members to appeal a decision by a mental health professional to not involuntarily commit a person • Bill died that would have integrated treatment for mental health and chemical dependency
<p>Adjust the Mental Illness & Drug Dependency (MIDD) levy to better meet the needs of people suffering from mental illness and addiction, including extending the MIDD supplantation language at 30% by postponing the planned 2015 stairstep down to 20% as originally outlined by state law.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No bill passed extending supplantation language. However, new County authority was adopted for a voter-approved 0.1% sales tax to fund affordable housing, and mental and behavioral health facilities and services (part of Cultural Access bill)
<p>Amend 2014 legislation for Communities of Health and full integration: support a functional all-payer claims database, and extend the timeline for early adopters of full integration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted legislation makes all-payer claims database more workable and increases transparency of health care costs, while still ensuring privacy

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Grant counties dedicated revenue sources for public health to ensure adequate and sustainable funding.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No new authority for public health funding
Employ funding and tools to meet residents' increasing needs for a wide range of services, including 2-1-1, a phone number for people to call for health and human service information and referrals and other assistance to meet their needs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget includes \$1 million for continued support of 2-1-1
Keep the Region Moving: Delivering on Transportation for Today and Tomorrow	
Support state-level efforts to invest in state projects and in local needs, including unincorporated areas where counties are the only local government available to residents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted 16-year transportation package includes 11.9¢ gas tax increase (+7¢ on 8/1/15, +4.9¢ on 7/1/16) and vehicle fees increases • Funded projects in King County include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · I-405 Corridor - \$1.3B · SR-518 Corridor - \$13.5M · Federal Way Triangle - \$85M · SR-520 - \$1.7B · I-90/Hwy 18 interchange - \$150M • +\$38M KC transit grants • +\$10M KC bike/pedestrian grants • +\$20M KC direct funding
Explore ways to pursue increased transit options, including Sound Transit Phase 3.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted bill grants Sound Transit \$15B in new voter approved revenue authority
Endorse local revenue options for municipal governments to invest in community infrastructure and services, including unincorporated county roads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council authority for the Transportation Benefit District was raised from \$20 to \$40 (after the \$20 authority has been in place for two years), and up to \$50 once the \$40 authority has been in place for two years • No additional funding tools for rural and unincorporated roads
Honor the state's commitment to reconnect the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC) at I-405 (Wilburton).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • +\$5M grant for ERC Wilburton reconnection, plus eligibility for ongoing grants (\$10M in total state appropriations now available to the project)
Seizing Opportunity: Investing in our Community Assets	
Support the Cultural Access Fund and other local tools for arts and culture.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted bill provides authority for voter approved 0.1% sales tax to create a Cultural Access Fund

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Request flexibility in administration and investment of hotel/motel revenues, including—with fiscal prudence—bonding for housing and tourism capital projects while respecting city priorities and protecting revenue streams for ongoing operating programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted bill provides authority to bond against future lodging tax revenues to build affordable housing near transit stations
Winning on Water: Taking State Action on Water Quality	
Seek approaches to water quality standards that balance improvement in human health with economic development considering the region has many industries, such as agriculture, which depend on water and water-related uses for their livelihood and financial success.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major water bills passed this year. There was an effort to move forward on a \$3 billion water bonding bill that would have had three major components: water quality, storm water and flooding
Develop a robust set of state and local funding tools for water infrastructure and to ensure the long-term health of Puget Sound.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No major water bills passed this year. There was an effort to move forward on a \$3 billion water bonding bill that would have had three major components: water quality, storm water and flooding
We strongly support preservation of salmon recovery funding and state resources for habitat protection and restoration projects and programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Capital Budget included funding for Puget Sound Acquisition and Restoration – \$37 million, Puget Sound Estuary and Salmon Restoration – \$8 million, Salmon Recovery Funding Board (SRF Board) grants – \$66.5 million (includes \$50 million in federal funds)
Unintended Consequences: Keeping State Laws in Alignment with Reality	
Confront any legislative efforts to penalize King County for its settlement with public defenders in accordance with the Dolan v. King County decision in 2011.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no action on legislation related to the Dolan case
Clarify and integrate the medical cannabis and recreational marijuana statutes to better support effective law enforcement, land use laws, and public health objectives, e.g., deterring youth access.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopted bill reconciles regulations around medical and recreational marijuana • Adopted bill provides greater flexibility for local governments to site or ban marijuana facilities
Align statute with legislative intent of police accountability through body cameras.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no action on legislation related to police body cameras