



MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2017
TO: Mayor Stokes and Councilmembers
FROM: Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
RE: Regional Issues Committee Items February 27, 2017

LEGISLATIVE STATUS REPORTS

State Legislative Session Update: Staff has prepared a written update on recent legislative activities in Olympia. February 24 was the last day for bills to be passed out of their respective fiscal and transportation committees in the house of origin. This means that House bills must pass out of the House committees and Senate bills must pass out of the Senate committees. The action now switches to the floor of each chamber with a March 8 deadline for bills to be passed in their house of origin. Once that deadline passes, action moves to the opposite chamber.

Many bills that did not reach the floor of each chamber prior to the March 24 cutoff are considered “dead” for this session. Some bills are designated “necessary to implement the budget” and are exempt from the cutoffs. There are a few bills that are still very much alive that would pose a threat to the City’s interests through preemption of local authority. Staff will provide information on these bills for Council at tonight’s meeting.

Additionally, there is still no significant movement toward a compromise on a plan to fund K-12 education in response to the State Supreme Court’s *McCleary* decision. There are three proposals under discussion, all with varying degrees of impact on local schools and local property tax rates. This issue is not likely to be resolved any time soon and may result in the 2017 regular session of the legislature going into special session(s).

Federal Legislative Update: Staff has provided a written update on recent activities in Congress and the Administration.

STAFF REPORTS / INFORMATION ITEMS

Monthly Council Summary Background Briefings: Included are updated Council summary background briefings on the King County Regional Committees (RPC, RTC, and RWQC), Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC).

A new feature of the Council summary of regional committee activities is an **update on future ballot measures** in King County. Staff will provide updates to the list on a quarterly basis or more often if appropriate. The list appears at the end of the Monthly Council Summary Background Briefing section of the Regional Issues packet.