



January 29, 2014 - South Sound Chamber of Commerce Legislative Coalition Detail Bill Report compiled by our lobbyist Carolyn Logue of CA Logue Public Affairs.

The South Sound Chamber of Commerce Legislative Coalition (SSCCLC) was formed to advocate for business and business-related policies impacting the South Sound region before the Legislature, Statewide elected officials such as the Governor, and other departments, agencies, boards and commissions. Member Chambers include: Auburn Area (Auburn, Algona and Pacific), Covington, Federal Way, Fife/Milton/Edgewood, Kent, Puyallup-Sumner, Renton and Southwest King County (Tukwila, Burien & Des Moines) Chambers of Commerce. Collectively, we represent approximately 3,262 businesses employing more than 185,977 workers in the South King County and North Pierce County region.

The primary goals of our Coalition are increasing jobs, competitiveness, and regional productivity. The South King and Pierce County region is an economic powerhouse for the state with significant manufacturing, retail, service and warehousing industries. In addition, it sits between the state's two largest seaports and highways in the region serve as major corridors for both north-south and east-west travel. Improving the ability move goods through increased freight mobility, move people by reducing traffic congestion, create jobs through reasonable regulations, and ensuring an educated workforce is not only important for the South Sound region is also important to the state's overall economy.

Upcoming Events

Ways & Means (Senate) - SHR 4, - 1/27 @ 3:30pm

- SB 6102 - Public Hearing - Transferring certain state sales and use taxes collected on state highway projects to the connecting Washington account.

Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/28 @ 8:00am

- SB 6045 - Public Hearing - Promoting economic development through enhancing transparency and predictability of state agency permitting and review processes.
- SB 6045 - Exec Session - Promoting economic development through enhancing transparency and predictability of state agency permitting and review processes.

Commerce & Labor (Senate) - SHR 4, - 1/29 @ 1:30pm

- SB 6307 - Public Hearing - Preempting local employment laws and contracts.

Labor & Workforce Development (House) - HHR D, JLOB - 1/30 @ 8:00am

- HB 2545 - Public Hearing - Prohibiting employers from asking about or using nonconviction information in initial applications for employment.

Trade & Economic Development (Senate) - SHR 3, - 1/30 @ 8:00am

- SB 6355 - Public Hearing - Concerning projects of statewide significance for economic development and transportation.

Government Operations & Elections (House) - HHR E, JLOB - 1/31 @ 8:00am

- HB 2293 - Public Hearing - Adding responsibilities to the duties of the joint administrative rules review committee.
- HB 2192 - Public Hearing - Promoting economic development through enhancing transparency and predictability of state agency permitting and review processes.

BUSINESS AND CAPITAL

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
<u>SHB 1313</u> (SB 5594) Establishing minimum standards for sick and safe leave from employment. Establishes a Seattle-style paid sick leave mandate statewide. Provides minimum requirements for sick and safe leave from employment.	H 2nd Reading	Jinkins	High	Oppose
<u>ESHB 1401</u> (SSB 5399) Growth mgmt act/penalties Addressing the timing of penalties under the growth management act. Revises growth management act penalty provisions.	H Local Govt	Fitzgibbon	High	Support
<u>2SHB 1440</u> (SB 5526) Protecting employees Changes Independent Contractor statutes to eliminate current 7 part test and replace with a 3 part test that makes independent contractor status less clear. Puts employers at risk by changing legal presumption in the use of contractors to that of employment is presumed and establishes criminal penalties for using independent contractors illegally. Finds that improving compliance with wage-related laws will help address the problems of the underground economy, level the playing field for honest employers and contractors, and protect workers.	H Labor/Work Dev	McCoy	High	Oppose

Establishes the employee fair classification act. Creates the employee fair classification act account.

<u>SHB 1604</u> <u>(SSB 5697)</u>	Local sales & use tx changes Reducing the frequency of local sales and use tax changes. Allows changes to local sales and use taxes only on the first of January, April, or July.	H Finance	Angel	High	Support
<u>EHB 1891</u>	Employee protections/WISHA Increasing protections for employees under the Washington industrial safety and health act of 1973. Revises the industrial safety and health act to increase protections for employees. Originally contained significant increases in criminal and civil penalties for employers and made it easier for L&I to levy those penalties. These provisions were removed but several provisions/expansions of the act still remain that are opposed by business.	H Labor/Work Dev	Reykdal	High	Oppose
<u>HB 2046</u>	Budget stabilization account Transferring funds from the budget stabilization account to the general fund. Requires the state treasurer to transfer 408 million dollars for fiscal year 2014 and 167 million dollars for fiscal year 2015 from the budget stabilization account to the state general fund.	H Approps	Hunter	High	Concerns
<u>HB 2192</u> <u>(SB 6045)</u>	State agency permitting Promoting development through enhancing transparency and predictability of state agency permitting and review process. Requires certain agencies to track and record the time it takes to make permitting decisions with regard to business permit applications.	H Govt Operation	Smith	High	Support
<u>HB 2201</u>	State tax preferences Improving fiscal accountability and transparency standards with respect to state tax preferences. Establishes consistent standards for the collection of data to improve analysis of tax preferences and their benefits and public policy objective outcomes for taxpayers and relevant industries. Makes the information subject to public disclosure wherever possible to enable and improve lawmakers' and the public's understanding of the benefits and costs of tax preferences and ensures that the release of the information does not cause economic harm to taxpayers claiming the preferences.	H Finance	Carlyle	High	Concerns
<u>HB 2293</u>	Jnt admin rule rev committee Requires state agencies to report to the Joint Administrative Rules Review Committee (JARRC) if certain conditions are triggered upon rule making. The committee must review a rule if one of three conditions are met: upon receipt of a petition for review signed by at least fifteen members of the legislature, if the rule has an economic impact of \$10 million or more, or upon receipt of a petition for review signed by five or more local governments representing collectively 50,000 or more Washington residents. Expands the duties of the joint administrative rules review committee with regard to reviewing a rule and reviewing certain agency actions.	H Govt Operations	Pike	High	Support

<u>SHB 2333</u>	Employee antiretaliation act Employment anti-retaliation act		Ryu	High	Oppose
	Employee status Ensure fairness to employers and employees	H Exec Action	Riccelli	High	Oppose
<u>HB 2334</u>	Establishes the employee fair classification act. Improves compliance with wage-related laws to help address the problems of the underground economy, level the playing field for honest employers and contractors, and protect workers.				
	Nonconviction info/employmnt Prohibiting employers from asking about or using nonconviction information in initial applications for employment	H Labor/Work Dev	Moscoso	High	Oppose
<u>HB 2545</u>	Establishes the Washington jobs assistance act. Prohibits an employer from including a question on an application for employment, inquiring orally or in writing, or receiving information through a criminal history background check or otherwise, about nonconviction information, before having determined the applicant is otherwise qualified for the position.				
	Local employment laws State preemption of local employment laws and contracts.	H Labor/Work Dev	Schmick	High	Support
<u>HB 2591</u> (SB 6307)	Prohibits a city, town, county, or port district from requiring, enforcing, or otherwise regulating by means of charter, ordinance, regulation, rule, resolution, or contract including purchase agreement any of the following for private employers: Payment of wages, hours of work, employee retention, or leave from employment.				
	Training wages/new employees Allowing employers to pay training wages to new employees.	H Labor/Work Dev	Pike	High	Support
<u>HB 2614</u>	Requires the director of the department of labor and industries to establish procedures for the issuance of special training certificates to employers authorizing the employers to pay training wages to new employees. Requires an employer who discharges an employee working under the special training certificate, before the employee's completion of six hundred eighty hours, to notify the director and provide an explanation for the discharge.				
	Minimum hourly wage increase Increasing the minimum hourly wage to twelve dollars over three years.	H Labor/Work Dev	Farrell	High	Oppose
<u>HB 2672</u>	Increases the minimum hourly wage to: (1) Ten dollars beginning January 1, 2015; (2) Eleven dollars beginning January 1, 2016; and (3) Twelve dollars beginning January 1, 2017.				
	Workers' comp benefits Simplifying and adding certainty to the calculation of workers' compensation benefits.	S Rules 2	Holmquist Newbry	High	Support
<u>SSB 5124</u> (HB 1464)	Simplifies the calculation of workers' compensation benefits.				

<u>SB 5126</u> (HB 1465)	Industrial insurance/recovery	S Rules 2	Holmquist Newbry	High	Support
Concerning recovery for purposes of legal actions under the industrial insurance statutes.					
Specifies that the act is an explicit restatement of the legislature's original intent to grant the department of labor and industries or a self-insured employer the authority to reimburse itself from a third-party recovery for the amount paid on behalf of the worker or beneficiary for all economic and noneconomic damages except loss of consortium.					
<u>ESSB 5127</u> (HB 1097)	Struct. settlements/workers	S 3rd Reading	Holmquist Newbry	High	Support
Amending provisions governing structured settlements by removing age barriers and clarifying legislative intent.					
Lowers age barriers and clarifies legislative intent with regard to structured settlements.					
<u>SB 5159</u>	Family & med leave insur act	S Rules 2	Braun	High	Support
Repealing the family and medical leave insurance act.					
Repeals the family and medical leave insurance act.					
<u>SB 5275</u> (HB 1150)	Training wage	S Rules 2	Holmquist Newbry	High	Support
Allowing employers to pay a training wage for a specified period of time.					
Requires the director of the department of labor and industries to establish procedures for the issuance of special training certificates to employers to pay wages to new employees during a training period.					
<u>SSB 5727</u>	Prev wages/distressed county	S Rules 2	Braun	High	Support
Addressing prevailing wages in distressed counties.					
Exempts certain public works projects located in distressed counties from prevailing wage requirements.					
<u>SB 5728</u>	Local paid sick & safe leave	S Rules 2	Braun	High	Support
Declaring state preemption of local paid sick and paid safe leave regulation.					
Prohibits enactment of local laws and ordinances that require or regulate paid sick leave or paid safe leave in excess of standards adopted by the state.					
<u>SB 6045</u> (HB 2192)	State agency permitting	S Trade & Econom	Brown	High	Support
Enhancing transparency and predictability of state agency permitting and review processes					
Requires certain agencies to track and record the time it takes to make permitting decisions with regard to business permit applications.					
<u>SB 6223</u>	Workers comp/injury, disease	S Commerce and La	Holmquist Newbry	High	Support
Injury and occupational disease for purposes of workers' comp.					

Protects employers from incurring costs for musculoskeletal disorders caused primarily by nonwork-related activities.

Local employment laws	S Commerce and L	Braun	High	Support
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State preemption of local employment laws and contracts.

[SB 6307](#)
(HB 2591)

Prohibits a city, town, county, or port district from requiring, enforcing, or otherwise regulating by means of charter, ordinance, regulation, rule, resolution, or contract including purchase agreement any of the following for private employers: Payment of wages, hours of work, employee retention, or leave from employment.

EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
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High skills high wages plan	S Rules 2	Bailey	High	Support
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High skill high wages resolution

[SCR 8409](#)

Approves the workforce training and education coordinating board's high skills, high wages plan.

TRANSPORTATION

<u>Bill Details</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Priority</u>	<u>Position</u>
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Trans system goals: health	H Trans	Jenkins	High	Oppose
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Including health in the state transportation system policy goals.

[SHB 1233](#)

Expands the existing goals, objectives, and responsibilities related to the operation of an efficient statewide transportation system by including improving the health of the state's citizens and reducing health care costs by considering health implications when planning, designing, building, and maintaining the state's transportation system.

High occup toll lanes/SR 167	H Trans	Clibborn	High	Support
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Addressing the high occupancy toll lanes on state route 167.

[SHB 1745](#)

Addresses a project on state route 167 high occupancy vehicle lanes within King and Pierce counties. Exempts authorized emergency vehicles from toll charges. Removes the contingent expiration of the authority to impose high occupancy vehicle tolls for the state route 167 high occupancy toll pilot project.

[ESHB 1864](#)
(ESSB
5024)

Trans budget 2011-13/2013-15	H Trans	Clibborn	High	Support
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Making transportation appropriations for the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennia.

Makes transportation appropriations for the 2011-2013 and 2013-2015 fiscal biennia.

[ESHB 1978](#)

Trans. project permitting	H Trans	Zeiger	High	Support
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Addressing the permitting of certain transportation projects.

Creates an expedited environmental review and approval process for transportation projects that require preparation of an environmental impact statement and requires the department of transportation to use the process. Requires certain state and local agencies to provide technical assistance to the department of transportation on accomplishing the project review and coordination activities. Requires the department of transportation to: (1) Streamline the permitting process by developing and maintaining positive relationships with regulatory agencies and Indian tribes; and (2) Continue its efforts to improve training and compliance. Requires the department of ecology to: (1) Update certain rules for integrating use of national environmental policy act documents in decisions under the state environmental policy act; (2) Update rule-based categorical exemptions for transportation maintenance activities; and (3) Convene a work group to identify procedures to more effectively achieve certain objectives with regard to harmonizing local land use reviews with maintenance and improvement of state transportation facilities.

HB 2123 (SB 6100)	Transportation/mobility Modifying the transportation system policy goal of mobility. Includes congestion relief and improved freight mobility in the transportation system policy goal of mobility.	H Trans	Zeiger	High	Support
HB 2563	Local transit revenue Creating new tax authority for local transit revenue. Authorizes the legislative body of a city transit system, a county transportation authority, a metropolitan municipal corporation transit system, a public transportation benefit area, an unincorporated transportation benefit area, a regional transit authority, or a special purpose district formed to operate a public transportation system to impose: (1) A local motor vehicle excise tax on the value of a motor vehicle; (2) A tax for the privilege of selling or exchanging capital assets; and (3) An excise tax on a certain percentage of the total payroll of an employer with a specific number of employees.	H Trans	Fitzgibbon	High	Oppose
SB 6051	DOT projects Department of Transportaion projects. Creates an expedited environmental review and approval process for transportation projects that require preparation of an environmental impact statement under the national environmental policy act and requires the department of transportation to use the process. Requires certain state and local agencies to provide technical assistance to the department of transportation on accomplishing the project review and coordination activities. Requires the department of transportation to: (1) Streamline the permitting process; (2) Continue its efforts to improve training and compliance; (3) Convene two expert review panels to provide independent financial and technical review for the development of a finance plan and project implementation plan for the state route number 520 bridge replacement and HOV project and the Alaskan Way viaduct replacement project; (4) Use available technologies to minimize permit delays for, inform and interact with interested parties regarding, and optimize the effectiveness of proposed compensatory mitigation projects; and (5) Consult with the department of fish and wildlife, appropriate local government, and interested tribes to identify the existing fish passage barriers that, upon removal, will result in the greatest habitat benefit. Requires the department of ecology to: (1) Update certain rules for integrating use of national environmental policy act documents in decisions under the state environmental policy act; (2) Update certain rule-based categorical exemptions for transportation maintenance activities; and (3) Convene a work group to identify procedures to more effectively achieve certain objectives with regard to harmonizing local land use reviews with maintenance and improvement	S Transportation	O'Ban	High	Support

of state transportation facilities.

<u>SB 6099</u>	DOT activities/funding Funding for activities at the DOT by the environmental legacy stewardship account	S Transportation	King	High	Support
	Allows money in the environmental legacy stewardship account to be spent on storm water permit compliance activities at the department of transportation. Requires the state treasurer to annually transfer: (1) During the 2015-2017 fiscal biennium, five million dollars from the environmental legacy stewardship account to the motor vehicle fund to be used solely for storm water permit compliance activities at the department of transportation; and (2) Beginning July 1, 2017, thirty million dollars from the environmental legacy stewardship account to the motor vehicle fund to be used solely for storm water permit compliance activities at the department of transportation.				
<u>SB 6102</u>	Connecting Washington acct Transferring certain state sales and use taxes of highway projects	S Ways & Means	King	High	Support
	Requires state sales and use taxes paid with funds appropriated to the department of transportation for state highway projects to be transferred from the general fund to the connecting Washington account.				
<u>SB 6156</u>	Transp. corridor projects Permits for state transportation corridor projects.	S Transportation	King	High	Support
	Authorizes the appeal of a permit, for certain transportation corridor projects, to a local hearing officer or other local appeal process if the department of transportation consents, but if the department does not consent, permits must be appealed directly to superior court. Clarifies existing law such that, when exercising its authority, the department of transportation is not required to obtain certain permits for staging areas related to the construction of state highways. Prohibits the appeal of certain building permits, issued by a city, town, county, or code city, by any party other than the permittee or the department of transportation. Requires a permit to be issued to the greatest extent practicable, by a city, town, county, or code city, to the department of transportation for a transportation corridor project within ninety days of the department completing the permit application. Exempts normal maintenance, repairs, safety upgrades, and signage improvements within the right-of-way of state highway facilities from all local permits and reviews conducted to implement the shoreline management act. Exempts from the state environmental policy act, department of transportation projects that are categorically excluded under the national environmental policy act.				
<u>SB 6355</u>	Projects/econ devel & trans Projects of statewide significance for economic development and transportation.	S Trade & Economi	Hobbs	High	Support
	Provides a mechanism for local governments and state and federal agencies to perform a coordinated and comprehensive review of projects of statewide significance for economic development and transportation.				
