



CITY OF KIRKLAND
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MEMORANDUM

To: Kurt Triplett, City Manager
From: Lorrie McKay, Intergovernmental Relations Manager
Date: March 22, 2012
Subject: 2012 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE No. 5

RECOMMENDATION:

Council should receive its fifth update on the 2012 legislative session – Special Session.

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION:

The State Legislature is in its first special session of 2012 which commenced on Monday, March 12. The special session was convened because legislators did not finish the 2012 Supplemental Operating Budget.

As of the writing of this memo, the House and Senate are at an impasse on the budget. As a consequence of the impasse, the Governor has put bill signings on hold in order to try to focus legislative attention on the budget work completed.

The Governor, House Democratic and Republican leaders, and Senate Democratic and Republican leaders (5 corners) are said to be meeting every day to work on an operating budget compromise.

The whole Senate was expected to be back in Olympia on Wednesday, March 23. No action has been scheduled. Officially, the House is not scheduled to be back in Olympia, but that could change quickly.

2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES:

One of Kirkland's priority bills that passed the legislature, EHB 1398 - creating an exemption from impact fees for low-income housing, is one bill that has been held from signature. Should the Governor not sign this bill by Friday, March 23, the process allows it to become law without her signature.

The other City priority bill that passed the legislature, ESSB 6470 - authorizing benefit charges for the enhancement of fire protection services, was signed into law on March 16.

Staff will provide a full status update at the meeting of the City Council on April 3.