2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

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Budget Action Title: Pass C.B. 118260, known as the "short" property tax ordinance -- early learning preschool measure passed

Has CIP Amendment: No

Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: Martha Lester

Council Bill or Resolution: C.B. 118260

Date		Total	SB	BH	SC	TR	NL	TB	JG	MO	KS
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Budget Action description:

This green sheet recommends passage of C.B. 118260, known as the “short” property tax ordinance. It reflects the recent passage of the early learning preschool measure. This C.B. is one of the two ordinances required to levy property taxes for collection in 2015.

Since the approval of Referendum 47 in November 1997 (now codified as RCW 84.55.120), state law requires that a taxing jurisdiction adopt, by a majority of its legislative body, a “separate ordinance” stating the property tax increase (if there is an increase), in terms of both dollars and percentage. Even with the passage of the new early learning preschool levy, property taxes in 2015 will decrease, not increase, and thus this ordinance is not legally required. However, the Mayor submitted the proposed legislation to reflect, on the record, the change in property taxes from 2014 to 2015 in terms of dollars and percent.

In addition to the 1% increase in the regular non-voted property tax levy, and the passage of the new levy for early learning preschool, the levy for collection in 2015 reflects the expiration of the Pike Place Market levy and the Parks levy. The levy for collection in 2015 represents an overall decrease of $14,315,712 from the

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2014 levy, which is a 3.86% decrease, not including the “refund fund levy” or additional taxes resulting from new construction and other categories identified in state law.