

2015 - 2016 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

Tab	Action	Option	Version
146	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Do pass C.B. 118245 removing the sunset on 25 unfunded positions

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Budget Committee

Staff Analyst: Patricia Lee

Council Bill or Resolution: 118245

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. 118245 which removes the sunset date from 25 unfunded positions and transfers the reporting responsibilities from the Seattle Department of Human Resources (SDHR) to the City Budget Office (CBO).

In 2013 Council approved, in ordinance 124035, 25 unfunded positions with a sunset date of December 31, 2014. Like the City’s supported employment program and some city apprenticeship programs, this pool of positions are in SDHR’s budget. The purpose of the 25 unfunded positions is to allow departments to retain city employees for work that could be performed at a lower cost but that would be contracted out to private entities because the department did not have enough position authority. Departments submit a request to SDHR for use of one of these positions and SDHR determines the appropriate job classification and whether the City will save money by retaining the work before approving the request. Departments have been advised that if this is an ongoing body of work they are required to request a permanent position through CBO and the Mayor and Council.

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SDHR was requested to provide the Council with an annual report on the use of these positions, and the savings to the City. The positions were sunsetted so the City could determine if the City was saving money.

Several city departments have used these unfunded positions and, with the exception of two SPU engineering positions, have saved the City money. The total savings citywide since 2013 is approximately \$1.3 million. Departments have requested the removal of the sunset date so they may continue using these unfunded positions.

This ordinance would also change the responsibility for tracking and reporting on these positions from SDHR to CBO. CBO is in a better position to consider the use of these positions in light of a city department's annual budget and staffing requests.