

2014 BUDGET LEGISLATION FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	CBO Analyst/Phone:
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Legislation Title:

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Building and Construction Codes, Subtitle VI Fire Code; amending Seattle Municipal Code Section 22.602.090 to revise Seattle Fire Department confidence test documentation filing fees.

Summary of the Legislation:

This legislation would eliminate the \$10 fee associated with filing documentation for confidence tests conducted on fire and life safety systems as of January 1, 2014. This would reflect an administrative change in the program, whereby confidence test documentation will no longer be submitted to the Seattle Fire Department.

Background:

Functional tests of fire and life safety systems, such as sprinklers and fire alarms, are required by the fire code. The tests are known as “confidence tests,” and for the past several years, the Seattle Fire Department required that test results be submitted to the Seattle Fire Marshal’s Office. In 2011, a \$10 report filing fee was added to partially cover program costs. Roughly 15,000 to 17,000 reports have been received annually – the vast majority of which document a normal test result.

In keeping with Washington State fire code and practices throughout the country, beginning in 2014, confidence test reports will no longer be collected by the Seattle Fire Department. Customers will still be required to test their systems regularly and use a hotline to notify the Seattle Fire Department of significant system impairments. During annual inspections, Seattle Fire Department engine companies will continue to verify that confidence tests have been performed. As a result, discontinuing the practice of collecting reports will not impact current fire prevention efforts and will remove a bureaucratic burden from City customers. The revenue loss associated with eliminating the fee is offset by other adjustments included in the 2014 Proposed Budget.

 X **This legislation has financial implications.**

Summary of Changes to Revenue Generated Specifically from this Legislation:

Revenue Source	2014 Proposed	2015 Proposed
Confidence Testing	(\$125,000)	(\$150,000)
Total Fees and Charges Resulting From Passage of This Ordinance	(\$125,000)	(\$150,000)

Revenue Change Notes:

Confidence test filing fees were introduced in late 2011 and have not been modified since. This proposed legislation would eliminate the \$10 per report filing fee. Revenue estimates assume that reports conducted in the last two months of 2013 will be invoiced and payable in 2014. It is not possible to compare Seattle confidence test document filing fees to those charged elsewhere in the region, as most neighboring cities do not require confidence test reports to be filed with their fire departments.

Anticipated Total Revenue from Entire Program, Including Changes Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Revenue Source	Total 2014 Revenue	Total 2015 Revenue
General Fund, No. 00100, Fire Department	Confidence Testing	\$25,000	\$0
TOTAL		\$25,000	\$0

Total Revenue Notes:

The revenue loss associated with eliminating the confidence test filing fee is offset by other adjustments included in the 2014 Proposed Budget.

Other Implications:

- a) **Does the legislation have indirect financial implications, or long-term implications?**
No.
- b) **What is the financial cost of not implementing this legislation?**
There is no direct cost to the City of Seattle in not implementing the legislation. However, the legislation intends to re-align fee levels based on current service costs. This realignment is an important component of managing a fee-based program.
- c) **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
No.
- d) **What are the possible alternatives to the legislation that could achieve the same or similar objectives?**
None.
- e) **Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- f) **Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**
No special notice – fees will be published with Adopted Budget.
- g) **Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- h) **Other Issues:**

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SFD 2014 Fee ORD
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None.

Please list attachments to the fiscal note below:

None.