

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
LEG	Venkataraman/4-5382	

** Note that the Summary and Fiscal Note describes the version of the bill or resolution as introduced; final legislation including amendments may not be fully described.*

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to rental properties; restricting a landlord's ability to limit the number of persons residing in a rental unit; prohibiting the use of conditions that are applied to persons residing in a rental unit who are not tenants; and amending Sections 7.24.020 and 7.24.030 of, and adding new Sections 7.24.031 and 7.24.032 to, the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and background of the Legislation: During 2018, the Housing Justice Project of the King County Bar Association (HJP) and the Seattle Women's Commission (SWC) researched court documents associated with eviction proceedings (known as unlawful detainers) in King County in 2017. The goal was to conduct "a deep analysis of eviction causes, processes, and outcomes" in Seattle. At the September 21, 2018 CRUEDA meeting, HJP and SWC presented the results of their research, contained in the report "Losing Home: The Human Cost of Eviction in Seattle". The report made many findings regarding the characteristics of tenants being evicted, locations from where landlords were evicting tenants, the reasons for eviction, the factors leading to tenants facing eviction, the outcomes of eviction cases, and how eviction impacts tenants. One of the issues identified is the tenant's need to live with a roommate to afford rent, but tenants are often restricted from doing so under their lease agreements, because of a landlord's discretion to reject a roommate, and due to additional fees and screening criteria for roommates. The intent of this bill is to mitigate those obstacles and increase housing stability.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? ___ Yes ___X___ No

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? ___ Yes ___X___ No

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above, including direct or indirect, short-term or long-term costs?

If so, describe the nature of the impacts. This could include increased operating and maintenance costs, for example.

No

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs or consequences.

No

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

If so, please list the affected department(s) and the nature of the impact (financial, operational, etc.).

It will need to be enforced by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspections.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

If yes, what public hearing(s) have been held to date, and/or what public hearing(s) are planned/required in the future?

No.

c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?

If yes, please describe the measures taken to comply with RCW 64.06.080.

No.

d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

For example, legislation related to sale of surplus property, condemnation, or certain capital projects with private partners may require publication of notice. If you aren't sure, please check with your lawyer. If publication of notice is required, describe any steps taken to comply with that requirement.

No

e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

If yes, and if a map or other visual representation of the property is not already included as an exhibit or attachment to the legislation itself, then you must include a map and/or other visual representation of the property and its location as an attachment to the fiscal note. Place a note on the map attached to the fiscal note that indicates the map is intended for illustrative or informational purposes only and is not intended to modify anything in the legislation.

No

f. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?

If yes, please explain how this legislation may impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Using the racial equity toolkit is one way to help determine the legislation's impact on certain communities. If any aspect of the legislation involves communication or outreach to the public, please describe the plan for communicating with non-English speakers.

Evictions disproportionately impact historically underrepresented and marginalized communities. Reducing the causes of eviction, which include not being able to afford a unit because of restrictions around roommates can keep more people housed, including vulnerable communities.

g. If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the specific long-term and measurable goal(s) of the program? How will this legislation help achieve the program's desired goal(s).

This answer should highlight measurable outputs and outcomes.

NA

List attachments/exhibits below: