



SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

CB 118479

Record No.: CB 118479

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

124836

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 06/05/2015

Final Action: 08/21/2015

Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: Kelly.Enright@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	08/03/2015	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk					
	Notes:						
1	City Clerk	08/03/2015	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office					
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	08/05/2015	sent for review	Energy Committee			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Energy Committee					
	Notes:						
1	Full Council	08/10/2015	referred	Energy Committee			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Energy Committee					
	Notes:						

- 1 Energy Committee 08/12/2015 pass Pass
Action Text: The Committee recommends that Full Council pass the Council Bill (CB).
Notes:
In Favor: 3 Chair Sawant, Vice Chair Okamoto, Member O'Brien
Opposed: 0
- 1 Full Council 08/17/2015 passed Pass
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote and the President signed the Bill:
Notes:
In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant
Opposed: 0
- 1 City Clerk 08/18/2015 submitted for Mayor
Mayor's signature
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 08/21/2015 Signed
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was Signed.
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 08/21/2015 returned City Clerk
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk
Notes:
- 1 City Clerk 08/21/2015 attested by City Clerk
Action Text: The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.
Notes:
-

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE 124836
COUNCIL BILL 118479

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

WHEREAS, in December 1985, the Emergency Low-Income Assistance program (ELIA) was established by Ordinance 112637 to provide emergency, low-income assistance to certain customers of the City Light Department; and

WHEREAS, the basic terms of the ELIA have not been adjusted or amended since their creation in 1985, and there is a need to expand the ELIA's income eligibility guidelines by increasing the income threshold to 70 percent of Washington state median income; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need to establish consistent income eligibility guidelines among the various City energy assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the current ELIA income eligibility guidelines align with those of the federal energy assistance programs, which only allows coverage up to 125 percent of the federally-defined poverty threshold; and

WHEREAS, the proposed change of ELIA's income eligibility guidelines to 70 percent of state median income, which will allow coverage up to approximately 250 percent of the federally-defined poverty threshold, will remove the requirement for customers to first participate in the federal programs; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 119747, is amended as follows:

21.49.042 Emergency low-income assistance program((;))

A. An emergency credit of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of a customer's delinquent bills up to a maximum credit of ~~((Two Hundred Dollars-))\$200((;))~~ may be granted by the Department to income eligible residential accounts, metered for a single household, which qualify under the following criteria:

1. ~~((Meet the income eligibility guidelines for assistance under the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program))~~Total household income does not exceed 70 percent of State Median Income; and

2. Have completed an Emergency Low-Income Assistance program application where income eligibility is verified; and

3. Have received a ~~((twenty-four-))24((;))~~ hour notice from the Department notifying them that payment or payment arrangements must be made to prevent disconnection; and

~~((3. Have applied for and received grants from both the Federal Energy Assistance Program and the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program during their current program year or funds available through these program must have been exhausted for the current program year; and))~~

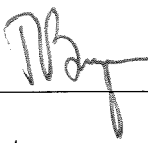
4. Have entered into an agreement with the Department to pay a minimum of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of the delinquent amount and balance. The emergency credit from this program may be applied to the required payment of the minimum of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of the delinquent amount.

B. A customer is eligible for the emergency credit only one ~~((1))~~ time in each ~~((twelve-))12((;))~~ month period.

- 1 ~~((C. — This program shall terminate thirty (30) days following the termination of either~~
2 ~~the Federal Energy Assistance Program or the Federal Crisis Intervention Program.))~~

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

Passed by the City Council the 17th day of AUGUST, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 17th day of AUGUST, 2015.



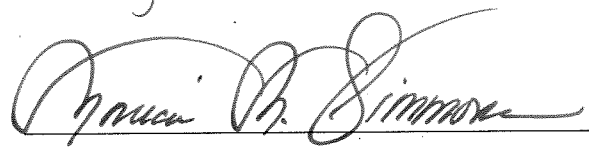
President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this 21st day of August, 2015.



Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this 21st day of AUGUST, 2015.



Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
Seattle City Light	Kelly Enright / 4-3111	Greg Shiring / 6-4085

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This ordinance amends SMC 21.49.042 to make rate assistance more accessible to qualified customers by aligning income guidelines for the utility's ELIA program with all other city utility energy assistance programs. It also removes the requirement that customers must have received grants from the Federal Energy Assistance Program and the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program during the current program year, prior to receiving assistance through the ELIA program.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

☐ This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

☒ This legislation has direct financial implications.

Budget program(s) affected:				
Estimated \$ Appropriation change:	General Fund \$		Other \$	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Estimated \$ Revenue change:	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
			-30,000	-30,000
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2015	2016	2015	2016
Other departments affected:	None			

3.a. Appropriations

☐ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

Fund Name and number	Dept	Budget Control Level Name/##	2015 Appropriation Change	2016 Estimated Appropriation Change
TOTAL				

*See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

Appropriations Notes:

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

X This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2015 Revenue	2016 Estimated Revenue
Light Fund (41000)	City Light	Retail rates	-30,000	- 30,000
TOTAL			-30,000	- 30,000

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

Passing this ordinance will lead to a decrease in City Light's revenues as more customers sign up for residential rate assistance. The \$30,000 is a rough estimate of the impact of enrolling 205 more customers (a 25% increase) in rate assistance at an average annual benefit of \$147 per customer. The actual impact will depend on the number of new customers enrolled and these customers' individual usage. Overall, the impact is expected to be a small percentage of the overall retail revenue and will be monitored by City Light staff.

3.c. Positions

 This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through this Legislation, Including FTE Impact:

Position # for Existing Positions	Position Title & Department*	Fund Name & #	Program & BCL	PT/FT	2015 Positions	2015 FTE	Does it sunset? (If yes, explain below in Position Notes)
TOTAL							

* List each position separately

Position Notes:

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?

Any reduction in City Light retail revenue will reduce payments to the General Fund via the 6% City Utility Tax. The reduction in City Light revenue described above translates to a very negligible impact on General Fund tax revenue.

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

If City Light did not make rate assistance programs more accessible, revenues from residential customers will not decrease as projected.

c) Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

No.

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

No.

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

No.

f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?

This legislation will remove barriers to customer participation in the ELIA program. The income eligibility level is raised and federal program participation would no longer be required. More struggling customers will be able to participate. Additionally, the ELIA program is intended to help prevent the disconnection of electric service. Changing the income guidelines and increasing program participation should result in a reduction in the number of customers whose electricity is disconnected for non-payment.

h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.

This legislation resulted from a recommendation of the IDT for the Mayor's Report related to increasing enrollment in the Utility Discount Program (UDP). While this legislation does not directly impact the enrollment in the UDP it does align income guidelines for all city energy assistance programs, reducing confusion, removing barriers

Kelly Enright
SCL Amendment to Emergency Low Income Assistance Program SUM
Version 1

and allowing more customers to participate in the ELIA program.

- i) Other Issues:**
N/A.

List attachments below:
N/A.

STATE OF WASHINGTON -- KING COUNTY

--SS.

328003

No. 124835,836,837,838,839

CITY OF SEATTLE, CLERKS OFFICE

Affidavit of Publication

The undersigned, on oath states that he is an authorized representative of The Daily Journal of Commerce, a daily newspaper, which newspaper is a legal newspaper of general circulation and it is now and has been for more than six months prior to the date of publication hereinafter referred to, published in the English language continuously as a daily newspaper in Seattle, King County, Washington, and it is now and during all of said time was printed in an office maintained at the aforesaid place of publication of this newspaper. The Daily Journal of Commerce was on the 12th day of June, 1941, approved as a legal newspaper by the Superior Court of King County.

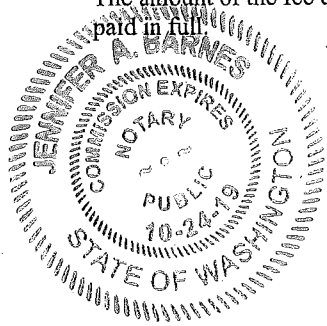
The notice in the exact form annexed, was published in regular issues of The Daily Journal of Commerce, which was regularly distributed to its subscribers during the below stated period. The annexed notice, a

CT: TITLE ONLY ORDINANCES

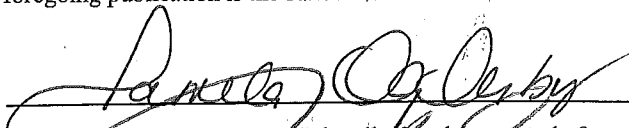
was published on

08/31/15

The amount of the fee charged for the foregoing publication is the sum of \$93.00 which amount has been paid in full.



Affidavit of Publication


Subscribed and sworn to before me on
08/31/2015

Notary public for the State of Washington,
residing in Seattle

State of Washington, King County

City of Seattle Title Only Ordinances

The full text of the following legislation, passed by the City Council on August 17, 2015 and published below by title only, will be mailed upon request, or can be accessed at <http://clerk.seattle.gov>. For information on upcoming meetings of the Seattle City Council, please visit <http://www.seattle.gov/council/calendar>. Contact: Office of the City Clerk at (206) 684-8344.

Ordinance 124835

AN ORDINANCE appropriating money to pay certain audited claims and ordering the payment thereof.

Ordinance 124836

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

Ordinance 124837

AN ORDINANCE authorizing, in 2015, acceptance of funding from non-City sources; authorizing the heads of the Executive Department, Department of Planning and Development, Department of Parks and Recreation, Human Services Department, Seattle Police Department, and the Seattle Public Utilities to accept specified grants and private funding and to execute, deliver, and perform corresponding agreements; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

Ordinance 124838

AN ORDINANCE relating to the 2015 Budget; amending Ordinance 124648, which adopted the 2015 Budget, including the 2015-2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP); changing appropriations to various departments and budget control levels, and from various funds in the Budget; creating new appropriations; adding new projects; revising project allocations for certain projects in the 2015-2020 CIP; creating both exempt and nonexempt positions; abrogating positions, modifying positions, making cash transfers between various City funds; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts; all by a 3/4 vote of the City Council.

Ordinance 124839

AN ORDINANCE declaring the Property at 339 22nd Avenue East (PMA 156) as surplus to the City's needs; authorizing the Director of Finance and Administrative Services to sell two parcels through an open and competitive process; and designating the disposition of sales proceeds.

Date of publication in the Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce, August 31, 2015.

8/31(328003)