

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\*

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\* 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

- a. Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Electrical Code; amending Section 22.300.016 of the Seattle Municipal Code; adopting the 2017 National Electrical Code with Seattle amendments; adopting by incorporation specific portions of the 2017 Washington Administrative Code Chapter 296-46B (Washington State Electrical Rule); and repealing Sections 2 through 34 of Ordinance 124593.

**b. Summary and background of the Legislation:**

This legislation adopts and amends portions of the *2017 National Electrical Code* (NEC) and the *Washington Administrative Code 296-42B* to create the *2017 Seattle Electrical Code*. The *Seattle Electrical Code* regulates the design and installation of electrical systems, equipment, and wiring. The *Code* is adopted and amended every three years. An electrical code committee comprised of design engineers, union and non-union contractors, and *National Electrical Code* panel members reviewed this code and recommended its approval to the Construction Codes Advisory Board (CCAB). CCAB reviewed the work of the committee and recommends this legislation for approval.

The ordinance text mainly consists of amendments carried forward from the 2014 SEC. There are new Seattle amendments and the inclusion of WAC rules to ensure Seattle enforces a code that is equal, higher, or better than that required by the State of Washington.

#### **Highlights of Changes in 2017 Seattle Electrical Code**

- **Creates a Branch Circuit Exception for Installations in Small Common Areas.** A new exception for unit lot subdivisions with small common areas needing lighting or some other small electrical installation provided. Currently, if someone wants to install a circuit to light an area that is common to several homeowners they would be required to install an extra house panel and form a homeowner's association. This exception allows a developer to install a minimal amount of lighting for the residents' convenience, at little cost, and without triggering the need to organize a homeowner's association. (see **210.25 B**)
- **Clarified Future Electric Vehicle Demand Load Requirements.** This section has been rewritten to clarify that demand load calculations given in Table 220.57 for EV charging stations are not to be used to determine the amount of power needed for an **actual** installation of EV charging stations. The demand table is used to determine

the minimum capacity to be set aside by permit applicants for **future** EV system installations. A new informational note directs readers to the appropriate code sections for determining actual demand loads for installation of electrical vehicle charging stations. (see **220.57**)

- **Expanded the Requirements for Future Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations.** This section has been rewritten and expands requirements for reserving capacity for the installation of future Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations. The current language requires space be set aside 1) for the location of future panelboards, 2) within electrical service equipment, and 3) in electrical service rooms that would serve a future electric vehicle charging system. The new ordinance goes further by requiring that the space for these items and the location of future conduit be identified on the construction documents and physically marked with placards and other methods throughout the building. The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that this space isn't utilized for other purposes. The changes to this section also clarify that space is to be reserved for future EV charging stations when an electrical permit includes the installation of a new or replacement electrical service (See **625.27**)
- **Limited Equipment in Elevator Machine and Control Rooms.** Generally, space in elevator machine/control rooms for electrical equipment is limited. This restriction conserves space and limits heat gain in the room while providing the needed working clearance for maintenance and service workers to safely access the space. A new exception allows installation of a small transformer in the elevator machine/control room. This size of transformer is limited and its heat output should keep the temperature in the room within the equipment's operating tolerances. (See **620.27**)
- **Updated Administrative Chapter.** The administrative chapter of the *Seattle Electrical Code* has been edited to align with language found in other Seattle construction codes. This makes it easier for enforcement personnel to provide uniform enforcement between codes (see **Article 80**).

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- a. Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ X No

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- a. Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? \_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_ X No
- b. 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? Yes. There will be training costs for electrical plan review and inspection staff. Electrical inspectors will need to attend a single four-hour training session which will result in a cost of \$11,292.92 (total loaded position costs for training) to the City for employee time. In addition, at least 50 copies of the code for staff will need to be printed

at a cost of \$5,500. The total cost of adoption would be \$16,792.92 in 2017. This cost is covered by salary savings from a vacant position in the program.

- c. Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**  
No.

#### **4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

- a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**  
No.

- b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**  
No.

- c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**  
No.

- d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**  
No.

- e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**  
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?**

No impact on vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities is anticipated.

- 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)?**  
DNA

- h. Other Issues:**

**List attachments/exhibits below:**