

## SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact:</b>	<b>CBO Contact:</b>
Fire	Ken Brouillette	Ramandeep Kaur

### **1. BILL SUMMARY**

**Legislation Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to Seattle’s technical codes; adopting the Seattle Fire Code by adopting chapters of the 2021 International Fire Code by reference, amending certain chapters of the Code, and adopting new chapters for the Code; amending Sections 3.02.125 and 22.600.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code; repealing Section 1 of Ordinance 126283 and Sections 2 and 3 of Ordinance 127037; and ratifying and confirming certain prior acts.

**Summary and Background of the Legislation:** This legislation adopts the 2021 Seattle Fire Code, consisting of the 2021 International Fire Code and Seattle amendments. The 2021 International Fire Code is the technical fire code and edition specified respectively by the State Legislature and State Building Code Council as the minimum standard for use throughout our state. New editions of this code are adopted by the State every three years. By adopting such codes locally and making amendments, we can address many unique characteristics of our community. Companion codes including the building, residential, existing building, mechanical, plumbing, energy, electrical, fuel gas, boiler, and elevator code, are being submitted simultaneously by the Seattle Department of Construction and Inspection, each a separate ordinance.

Seattle is required by law to adopt the State Code but is allowed to develop and adopt further amendments for certain codes. Per WAC 51-54A-008, the 2021 State Codes went into effect March 15, 2024, regardless of when Seattle adopts (by ordinance) our updated Codes and amendments, however, we do not enforce the Seattle amendments until they are adopted by ordinance. Notable changes between the current 2018 Seattle Fire Code and the proposed legislation include several changes to the regulation of batteries and Lithium-ion that have already been included in the 2021 International Fire Code and adopted by the State of Washington. These include new requirements on the storage of Lithium-ion batteries, and a requirement that fire safety and evacuation plans be developed for buildings that contain larger batteries. Seattle Fire Department is also proposing new requirements for powered micromobility devices and their associated Lithium-Ion batteries. This will help to ensure that these devices and batteries meet Underwriter’s Laboratory safety requirements. The 2021 Seattle Fire Code also incorporates the most up-to-date regulations on Energy Storage Systems (ESS). Battery and energy storage technologies have been rapidly evolving and Seattle is aligning with the latest codes and standards across the nation. Finally, consistent with the International Fire Code as already adopted by the State of Washington, the 2021 Seattle Fire Code includes a requirement that certain un-sprinklered high-rise buildings add a sprinkler system within 12 years.

## 2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

## 3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?  Yes  No

### 3.d. Other Impacts

**Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.**

This legislation will require all departments that will build or renovate buildings in the city of Seattle to comply with the 2021 Seattle Fire Code.

**If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.**

**Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.**

Chapter 19.27 RCW requires the City to implement this legislation.

## 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**a. Please describe how this legislation may affect any departments besides the originating department.**

Departments that build or alter buildings or store, use or operate hazardous materials and processes will be required to meet the updated fire code requirements. However, state law requires all cities and counties to adopt the state fire code. The Seattle amendments are enhancements of the state fire code.

**b. Does this legislation affect a piece of property? If yes, please attach a map and explain any impacts on the property. Please attach any Environmental Impact Statements, Determinations of Non-Significance, or other reports generated for this property.**

No

**c. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**

**i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**

See below.

- ii. **Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**

See below.

- iii. **What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**

See below.

The fire code requirements are not specific to any particular community. Client Assistance Memorandums to help explain fire code requirements are developed in multiple languages and inspectors and compliance officers have access to language translation assistance in the field.

**d. Climate Change Implications**

- i. **Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**

N/A

- ii. **Resiliency: Will the action(s) proposed by this legislation increase or decrease Seattle's resiliency (or ability to adapt) to climate change in a material way? If so, explain. If it is likely to decrease resiliency in a material way, describe what will or could be done to mitigate the effects.**

N/A

- e. **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)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

**5. CHECKLIST**

- Is a public hearing required?**
- Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required?**
- If this legislation changes spending and/or revenues for a fund, have you reviewed the relevant fund policies and determined that this legislation complies?**
- Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

## 6. ATTACHMENTS

### **Summary Attachments:**

Summary Attachment A – Code Reviser’s Statement on Code Adoption