

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Legislative	Brian Goodnight / 4-5597	n/a

** 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 emergency assistance for low-income City Light Department and Seattle Public Utilities Department customers; amending Sections 21.49.042 and 21.76.065 of the Seattle Municipal Code to expand and align eligibility and assistance guidelines for emergency assistance programs.

Summary and background of the Legislation: Seattle City Light’s Emergency Low-Income Assistance (ELIA) program was created in 1985. Seattle Public Utilities’ Emergency Assistance Program (EAP) was created in 2006. The programs provide for a once-per-year emergency credit of 50% of an eligible customer’s delinquent bills up to a maximum credit amount. For the EAP, if a minor child lives in the household, the customer may receive emergency assistance twice per calendar year. ELIA does not have a similar provision for households with minor children. Additionally, the maximum credit amount for the EAP adjusts annually to reflect the average growth in residential bills, but ELIA does not contain a similar adjustment. Both of the programs provide assistance for customers whose total household income does not exceed 70% of the Washington State median income.

This bill would align the eligibility and assistance guidelines for the EAP and ELIA assistance programs. The bill would increase the income eligibility to 80% of the state median income, and would allow application of emergency assistance toward 100% of a customer’s delinquent bills. It would also add a twice-per-year provision to the ELIA program for households with minor children, and would increase ELIA’s maximum credit amount on an annual basis to reflect the average growth in electric bills for residential customers. Lastly, it would allow a customer to be eligible for the credit upon notification of a ten-day disconnect notice.

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

Appropriation change (\$):	General Fund \$		Other \$	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Estimated revenue change (\$):	Revenue to General Fund		Revenue to Other Funds	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
				(\$344,934)
Positions affected:	No. of Positions		Total FTE Change	
	2019	2020	2019	2020

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?

No.

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

No.

3.a. Appropriations

 This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.

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	2019 Revenue	2020 Estimated Revenue
Light 41000	SCL	Retail Rates		(\$150,636)
Water 43000 DWW 44010 Solid Waste 45010	SPU	Retail Rates		(\$194,298)
TOTAL				(\$344,934)

Is this change one-time or ongoing?

Ongoing.

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

Passage of this ordinance will lead to a decrease in SCL’s and SPU’s revenues as more customers sign up for emergency assistance. For SCL, the amounts for 2020 are rough estimates for 718 customers, with an additional included estimate for customers eligible for

two instances of ELIA assistance (per calendar year) if the household includes minor children. For SPU, the amounts for 2020 are estimates for 992 customers.

3.c. Positions

_____ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. **Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**
Yes, Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities.
- 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? What is the Language Access plan for any communications to the public?**
This legislation would help low-income customers of Seattle City Light and Seattle Public Utilities by expanding eligibility criteria and allowing emergency assistance to apply to 100% of delinquent bills. It would also adjust the ELIA maximum credit amount on an annual basis to reflect growth in residential electric bills, and would allow for assistance twice-per-year for those households with minor children.
- 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)?**
N/A

List attachments/exhibits below:

N/A