

CITY OF SEATTLE
ORDINANCE 126391
COUNCIL BILL 120123

AN ORDINANCE relating to taxation; delaying the effective date of the heating oil tax on heating oil service providers under Chapter 5.47 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and delaying the date of the Office of Sustainability and Environment’s first annual heating oil tax program status report.

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2019, the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance 125934 to add a new Chapter 5.47 to the Seattle Municipal Code to impose a tax on heating oil service providers; and

WHEREAS, under Section 16 of Ordinance 125934, the provisions of the ordinance imposing the heating oil tax take effect on September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that many heating oil service providers will pass on the cost of the heating oil tax to their customers; and

WHEREAS, on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization announced that the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) is officially a global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on February 29, 2020, the Washington Governor issued Proclamation 20-05, proclaiming a state of emergency for all counties throughout the state of Washington in response to new cases of COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, Mayor Durkan issued a Proclamation of Civil Emergency declaring a civil emergency within the City of Seattle based on the confirmed spread of COVID-19 in King County and the resulting deaths and illness; and

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 crisis and the state of emergency continue and are causing severe harm to the economy; and

1 WHEREAS, on August 17, 2020, the Council passed Ordinance 126144 to delay the effective
2 date of the heating oil tax from September 1, 2020, to September 1, 2021; and

3 WHEREAS, imposing the heating oil tax on September 1, 2021, during the continued COVID-
4 19 crisis may cause undue hardship to certain households that purchase heating oil; and

5 WHEREAS, the Seattle City Council intends therefore to further delay the effective date of the
6 heating oil tax by six months to April 1, 2022; NOW, THEREFORE,

7 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

8 Section 1. Section 15 of Ordinance 125934, last amended by Ordinance 126144, is
9 amended as follows:

10 Section 15. The Council requests that the Office of Sustainability and
11 Environment (OSE):

12 A. Provide a status update on outreach efforts to date regarding the new heating
13 oil tax by July 1, 2020. The update should include the number of households contacted;
14 any changes in the number of low-income households with oil heat enrolled in the City's
15 Utility Discount Program following outreach efforts; a summary of feedback from
16 residents, labor unions, and heating oil service providers, received during outreach
17 efforts, including a description of challenges encountered during the outreach process;
18 and proposed strategies for overcoming these challenges, if applicable; and

19 B. Report annually on Heating Oil Tax program status, including the number of
20 homes the City has helped convert from oil heat to electricity and outcomes of workforce
21 development support, and collaborate with the Office of Economic Development, Seattle
22 Department of Construction and Inspections, and the Office of Housing to determine a
23 methodology to assess the following potential impacts of the Heating Oil Tax:

1 1. Job losses, gains, and retention in the Seattle area’s home heating,
2 ventilation, and air conditioning industry, with a focus on workers represented by labor
3 unions and family-wage jobs, and what additional investments are necessary to support
4 workers in the event of net job losses; and

5 2. Rates of conversion from oil heating systems to electric systems in
6 homes occupied by renters enrolled in the Utility Discount Program, including
7 identifying who is paying the costs of conversion and whether additional measures are
8 necessary to alleviate the costs if renters are overly burdened.

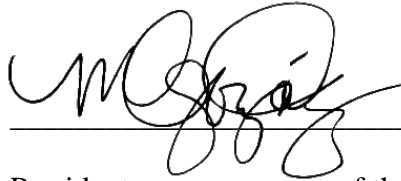
9 3. Analysis of the viability to extend the heating oil tax reimbursement to
10 households whose income is between 70 percent state median income and 80 percent area
11 median income. OSE is requested to report to Council by ~~((July))~~ April 1, ~~((2022))~~ 2023,
12 and every year thereafter up to 2028.

13 Section 2. Section 16 of Ordinance 125934, last amended by Ordinance 126144, is
14 amended as follows:

15 Section 16. Sections 1 through 13 of this ordinance shall take effect on
16 ~~((September))~~ April 1, ~~((2021))~~ 2022, and no tax under Chapter 5.47 of the Seattle
17 Municipal Code shall be imposed prior to ~~((September))~~ April 1, ~~((2021))~~ 2022.

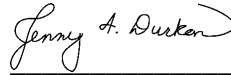
1 Section 3. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 19th day of July, 2021,
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 19th day of
6 July, 2021.

7 

8 President _____ of the City Council

9 Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this 27th day of July, 2021.

10 

11 Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 27th day of July, 2021.

13 

14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)