

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
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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

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to licensing cannabis businesses in Seattle; establishing social equity applicant criteria and setting related fees for qualifying cannabis businesses; expanding the purposes for which a cannabis license may be issued in the future; updating references in the code to “cannabis”; and amending Chapter 6.500 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and background of the Legislation: The federal War on Drugs disproportionately impacted Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Cannabis businesses operating in the City of Seattle must be licensed by both Seattle and the State of Washington; and Seattle cannabis businesses are owned primarily by White men.

The legislation would update the City’s codes with respect to licensing cannabis businesses in several ways.

1. The legislation would create a new “social equity applicant” definition for those applying for a Seattle cannabis license. The Seattle license annual fee for those who meet the social equity applicant definition would be zero.
2. The legislation would expand the purposes for which a Seattle cannabis license may be issued in the future, anticipating future actions by the State to expand the types of State-licensed cannabis businesses.
3. The legislation updates references in the code from “marijuana” to “cannabis.”

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

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. If this legislation is implemented, annual fees could decrease by a nominal amount depending on the number of social equity applicants for Seattle cannabis licenses.

Are there financial costs 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. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?

No.

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

e. 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?

Future actions by the State to create additional social equity licenses for existing cannabis business types provide additional opportunities for BIPOC-owned cannabis businesses; and future actions by the State to create additional types of cannabis businesses also create additional opportunities for BIPOC-owned cannabis businesses. Creating and implementing a no-cost Seattle cannabis license for social equity applicants is intended to encourage cannabis businesses owned by Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) to locate in Seattle.

f. Climate Change Implications

1. Emissions: Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?

No.

2. 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.

No.

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

Summary Attachments: