



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

CB 118479

Record No.: CB 118479

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

124836

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 06/05/2015

Final Action: 08/21/2015

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

### Date

#### Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Sawant

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

#### Attachments:

Drafter: Kelly.Enright@seattle.gov

#### Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

#### History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

☐ Yes

☐ No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	08/03/2015	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk					
	Notes:						
1	City Clerk	08/03/2015	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office					
	Notes:						
1	Council President's Office	08/05/2015	sent for review	Energy Committee			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Energy Committee					
	Notes:						
1	Full Council	08/10/2015	referred	Energy Committee			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Energy Committee					
	Notes:						

- 1 Energy Committee 08/12/2015 pass Pass  
Action Text: The Committee recommends that Full Council pass the Council Bill (CB).  
Notes:  
In Favor: 3 Chair Sawant, Vice Chair Okamoto, Member O'Brien  
Opposed: 0
- 1 Full Council 08/17/2015 passed Pass  
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote and the President signed the Bill:  
Notes:  
In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant  
Opposed: 0
- 1 City Clerk 08/18/2015 submitted for Mayor  
Mayor's signature  
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor  
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 08/21/2015 Signed  
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was Signed.  
Notes:
- 1 Mayor 08/21/2015 returned City Clerk  
Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk  
Notes:
- 1 City Clerk 08/21/2015 attested by City Clerk  
Action Text: The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.  
Notes:
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**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 124836  
**COUNCIL BILL** 118479

AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

WHEREAS, in December 1985, the Emergency Low-Income Assistance program (ELIA) was established by Ordinance 112637 to provide emergency, low-income assistance to certain customers of the City Light Department; and

WHEREAS, the basic terms of the ELIA have not been adjusted or amended since their creation in 1985, and there is a need to expand the ELIA's income eligibility guidelines by increasing the income threshold to 70 percent of Washington state median income; and

WHEREAS, there is also a need to establish consistent income eligibility guidelines among the various City energy assistance programs; and

WHEREAS, the current ELIA income eligibility guidelines align with those of the federal energy assistance programs, which only allows coverage up to 125 percent of the federally-defined poverty threshold; and

WHEREAS, the proposed change of ELIA's income eligibility guidelines to 70 percent of state median income, which will allow coverage up to approximately 250 percent of the federally-defined poverty threshold, will remove the requirement for customers to first participate in the federal programs; NOW, THEREFORE,

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

Section 1. Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 119747, is amended as follows:

**21.49.042 Emergency low-income assistance program((;))**

A. An emergency credit of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of a customer's delinquent bills up to a maximum credit of ~~((Two Hundred Dollars-))\$200((;))~~ may be granted by the Department to income eligible residential accounts, metered for a single household, which qualify under the following criteria:

1. ~~((Meet the income eligibility guidelines for assistance under the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program))~~Total household income does not exceed 70 percent of State Median Income; and

2. Have completed an Emergency Low-Income Assistance program application where income eligibility is verified; and

3. Have received a ~~((twenty-four-))24((;))~~ hour notice from the Department notifying them that payment or payment arrangements must be made to prevent disconnection; and

~~((3. Have applied for and received grants from both the Federal Energy Assistance Program and the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program during their current program year or funds available through these program must have been exhausted for the current program year; and))~~

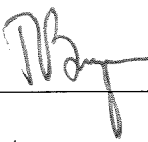
4. Have entered into an agreement with the Department to pay a minimum of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of the delinquent amount and balance. The emergency credit from this program may be applied to the required payment of the minimum of ~~((fifty-))50((;))~~ percent of the delinquent amount.

B. A customer is eligible for the emergency credit only one ~~((1))~~ time in each ~~((twelve-))12((;))~~ month period.

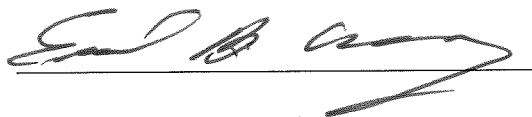
- 1           ~~((C. — This program shall terminate thirty (30) days following the termination of either~~  
2 ~~the Federal Energy Assistance Program or the Federal Crisis Intervention Program.))~~

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

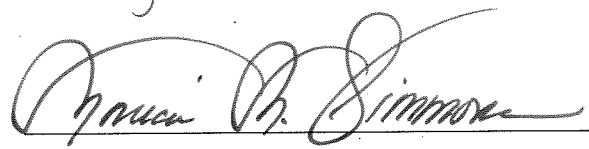
Passed by the City Council the 17<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2015, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 17<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

Approved by me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of August, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Edward B. Murray, Mayor

Filed by me this 21<sup>st</sup> day of AUGUST, 2015.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

(Seal)