

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

Department:	Dept. Contact/Phone:	CBO Contact/Phone:
Seattle City Light	Brian Hawksford / 615-1294	Saroja Reddy / 615-1232

* 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 the City Light Department; amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal Code to align eligibility and assistance guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other City rate assistance programs.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This ordinance amends SMC 21.49.042 to make rate assistance more accessible to qualified customers by aligning eligibility and assistance guidelines for the Utility’s Emergency Low-Income Assistance (ELIA) program with other city utility rate assistance programs. This legislation helps our low-income customers avoid disconnections by further reducing barriers to their participation in the ELIA program by increasing the emergency credit to be as much as 100% of the outstanding bill, up to the current maximum credit in effect. It also allows the maximum credit to be adjusted annually to match residential energy rate increases. It further allows assistance to be provided twice per calendar year to eligible households if the household includes minor children. It allows a customer to be eligible for the credit upon notification of a ten day disconnect notice unless payment arrangements are in place with the Department.

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
			(\$70,000)	(\$150,636)
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

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	City Light	Retail Rates	(\$70,000)	(\$150,636)
TOTAL			(\$70,000)	(\$150,636)

Is this change one-time or ongoing?

Ongoing.

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:

Passage of this ordinance will lead to a decrease in City Light's revenues as more customers sign up for residential rate assistance. The amounts for the fourth quarter of 2019 and for 2020 are rough estimates for 350 customers in 2019 and 718 customers in 2020, with an additional included estimate for customers eligible for two instances of ELIA assistance (per calendar year) if the household includes minor children.

3.c. Positions

This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?

Any reduction in City Light retail revenue will also reduce payments to the General Fund via the City Utility Tax. The reduction in City Light revenue described above translates to a negligible impact on the General Fund tax revenue.

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 helps our low-income customers avoid disconnections by further reducing barriers to their participation in the ELIA program by increasing the emergency credit to be as much as 100% of the outstanding bill, up to the current maximum credit in effect. It also allows the maximum credit to be adjusted annually to match residential energy rate increases. It further allows assistance to be provided twice per calendar year to eligible households if the household includes minor children. It allows a customer to be eligible for the credit upon notification of a ten day disconnect notice unless payment arrangements are in place with the Department.

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:

None