

SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

Legislative Summary

CB 119717

Record No.: CB 119717

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

Ord. no: Ord 126011

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 11/06/2019

Final Action: 12/13/2019

Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to City employment; amending Seattle Municipal Code Sections 4.26.005, 4.26.010, 4.26.020, 4.26.040, 4.26.070, 4.27.010, 4.27.020, 4.27.050, 4.29.010, 4.29.030, 4.29.050, and 4.29.070 to harmonize with the Washington State Paid Family and Medical Leave program and provide additional related enhancements to City employees for paid and unpaid leave benefits; and ratifying

and confirming certain prior acts.

<u>Date</u>

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

12/13/2019

Mayor's Signature:

12/13/2019

Sponsors: Bagshaw

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Uploaded By: sarah.butler@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	11/21/2019	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) wa	s Mayor's leg trar	smitted to Council. to the City	Clerk		
1	City Clerk			Council President's Office			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) wa	s sent for review.	to the Council President's Office	ce		
1	Council President Office	t's 11/25/2019	sent for review	City Council			
	Action Text:	The Council Bill (CB) wa	s sent for review.	to the City Council			
1	City Council	12/02/2019	referred	City Council			
1	City Council	12/09/2019	passed				Pass

Action Text: The Motion carried, the Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed

the Bill:

Notes: Motion was made and duly seconded to pass Council Bill 119717.

In Favor: 8 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember González , Council

President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Juarez,

Councilmember O'Brien, Member Pedersen, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

City Clerk 12/13/2019 submitted for

Mayor

Mayor's signature

Mayor 12/13/2019 Signed

Mayor 12/13/2019 returned

City Clerk

1 City Clerk 12/13/2019 attested by City Clerk

Action Text: The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.

1 CITY OF SEATTLE ORDINANCE 126011 2 COUNCIL BILL 19717 3 4 5 AN ORDINANCE relating to City employment; amending Seattle Municipal Code Sections 6 4.26.005, 4.26.010, 4.26.020, 4.26.040, 4.26.070, 4.27.010, 4.27.020, 4.27.050, 4.29.010, 7 4.29.030, 4.29.050, and 4.29.070 to harmonize with the Washington State Paid Family 8 and Medical Leave program and provide additional related enhancements to City 9 employees for paid and unpaid leave benefits; and ratifying and confirming certain prior 10 acts. 11 12 WHEREAS, in 2015 and early 2017, the City of Seattle established a paid parental leave and a 13 paid family care leave program for City employees providing up to 12 weeks and four 14 weeks of paid leave for qualifying City employees, respectively; and 15 WHEREAS, in 2017, the Washington State Legislature passed Senate Bill 5975 establishing a 16 paid family medical leave insurance program, which provides wage supplementation to 17 eligible individuals who work in Washington State who qualify for the program; and 18 WHEREAS, the City has provided an unpaid family and medical leave benefit since 1993 which 19 requires revisions so that City employees may fully use the program offered by the State; 20 and 21 WHEREAS, the City and its labor unions engaged in impacts bargaining over the 22 implementation of the State paid family leave program; many unions agreed to revise 23 elements of the City's paid parental leave and paid family care leave program as an outcome of those negotiations; and 24 25 WHEREAS, the Seattle Municipal Code as written contains gendered language, requiring 26 revisions to be gender neutral; NOW, THEREFORE, 27 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

1	Section 1. Section 4.26.005 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance
2	123299, is amended as follows:
3	4.26.005 Definitions((;))
4	Unless another meaning is clearly indicated from the context, as used in this ((ehapter)) Chapter
5	<u>4.26</u> :
6	((A.)) "Active duty" means duty under a call or order to active duty under a provision of
7	law referred to in 10 U.S.C. ((section)) Section 101(a)(13).
8	"Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child
9	of a person standing in loco parentis, who is:
10	1. Under 18 years of age; or
11	2. 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or
12	physical disability.
13	((B.)) "City" means The City of Seattle.
14	((C.)) "Contingency operation" has the same meaning given ((such term)) in 10 U.S.C.
15	((section)) Section 101(a)(13).
16	((D.)) "Covered servicemember" shall have the same meaning as in the federal Family
17	and Medical Leave Act, and its implementing regulations.
18	((E.)) "Days" means calendar days.
19	((F.)) "Domestic partner" means an individual designated by a City officer or employee
20	in an affidavit filed pursuant to ((Seattle Municipal Code)) Section 4.30.020 and qualified under
21	Section 4.30.010.
22	$((G_{-}))$ "Eligible employee" means an individual who has completed six $((G_{-}))$ months of
23	City employment.

1	"Grandchild" means a child of the employee's child.
2	"Grandparent" means a parent of the employee's parent.
3	((H.)) "Group health plan" means health insurance coverage for medical and dental care
4	provided as an incident of employment and on existing terms and conditions as provided to
5	employees similarly situated.
6	((L)) "Health care provider" means any provider included within ((Seattle Municipal
7	Code Section)) subsection 4.24.005.((D))B.
8	((J. "Medical leave" means leave requested to recuperate, recover or treat a serious health
9	condition for the son, daughter, spouse/domestic partner, parent, or employee.
10	K.)) "Military ((Exigency)) exigency" ((shall have)) has the same meaning ((as)) given in
11	the federal Family and Medical Leave Act((5)) and its implementing regulations. Qualifying
12	military exigencies must meet the requirements of the federal Family and Medical Leave Act((5))
13	and its implementing regulations.
14	((L.)) "Next of ((Kin,)) kin," used with respect to an individual, means the nearest blood
15	relative of that individual.
16	((M. Reserved))
17	((N.)) "Parent" means the parent of an employee or the parent of an employee's
18	spouse/domestic partner, or an individual who stood in loco parentis to an employee or the
19	employee's spouse/domestic partner when the employee or the employee's spouse/domestic
20	partner was a ((son or daughter)) child.
21	"Qualifying family member" means a spouse or domestic partner, child, parent,
22	grandparent, grandchild, or sibling.

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1	((O.)) "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number
2	of hours per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.
3	((R.)) "Serious health condition" means an illness, injury, impairment, or physical or
4	mental condition that involves:
5	1. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential((;)) medical care facility; or
6	2. Continuing treatment by a health care provider.
7	((Q. "Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal
8	ward, or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is:
9	1. Under eighteen (18) years of age; or
10	2. Eighteen (18) years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a
11	mental or physical disability.))
12	"Sibling" means a sibling of the employee.
13	((R.)) "Spouse" means a ((husband or wife)) spouse of the employee.
14	Section 2. Section 4.26.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance
15	125834, is amended as follows:
16	4.26.010 Leave provisions
17	A. Except as provided by ((Seattle Municipal Code)) subsection 4.29.020.A, eligible
18	employees are entitled to up to 90 calendar days of unpaid leave in addition to any paid leave to
19	which they may otherwise be entitled during any 12 month period for one or more of the
20	following:
21	1. The birth of a ((son or daughter)) child of the employee and in order to care for
22	such ((son or daughter)) child.

4.26.020 Notice((-))

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A. In any case in which the necessity for leave under subsection ((A(1) or A(2) of Section 4.26.010)) 4.26.010.A.1 or 4.26.010.A.2 is foreseeable based on an expected birth or placement, the employee shall provide the City with at least ((thirty (30))) 30 days' notice, before the date of leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take leave, except that if the date of birth or placement requires leave to begin in less than ((thirty (30))) 30 days, the employee shall provide such notice as is practicable.

B. ((In any case in which)) If the necessity for leave under ((subsection A(3), A(4) or B of Section 4.26.010)) subsection 4.26.010.A.3, 4.26.010.A.4, or 4.26.010.B is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall:

- 1. Make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly the operations of the City, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the employee or the health care provider of the ((son, daughter, spouse/domestic partner, covered servicemember, or parent, as appropriate)) qualifying family member; and
- 2. Provide the City with not less than ((thirty (30))) 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is to begin, of the employee's intention to take the leave ((under such subsection)), except that if the date of the treatment requires leave to begin in less than ((thirty (30))) 30 days, the employee shall provide ((such)) notice as ((is)) soon as practicable.
- C. Failure to provide notice as prescribed in this ((section)) Section 4.26.020 shall be grounds to deny leave.
- Section 4. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.26.040, last amended by Ordinance 122698, is amended as follows:

4.26.040 Medical certification requirement((7))

1	Medical certification is required for ((medical)) leave under subsection ((A(3), A(4) or B of
2	Section 4.26.010)) 4.26.010.A.3, 4.26.010.A.4, or 4.26.010.B. The medical certification must be
3	issued by the health care provider of the eligible employee or of the ((son, daughter,
4	spouse/domestic partner, covered servicemember, or parent, as appropriate,)) qualifying family
5	member ((of the employee)). Certification should include:
6	A. The date on which the serious health condition commenced;
7	B. The probable duration of the condition;
8	C. The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider
9	regarding the condition;
10	D. A statement that the eligible employee is needed to care for the ((son, daughter,
11	spouse/ domestic partner, covered servicemember, or parent)) qualifying family member, or a
12	statement that the employee is unable to perform the functions of the position of the employee;
13	E. In the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule,
14	for planned medical treatment, the dates on which such treatment is expected to be given and the
15	duration of such treatment;
16	F. In the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule,
17	under ((Section 4.26.010 subsection A(4))) subsection 4.26.010.A.4, a statement of the medical
18	necessity for the intermittent leave or leave on a reduced leave schedule, and the expected
19	duration of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule; and
20	G. In the case of certification for intermittent leave, or leave on a reduced leave schedule,
21	under ((Section 4.26.010 subsection A(3) or B)) subsection 4.26.010.A.3 or 4.26.010.B, a
22	statement that the employee's intermittent leave on a reduced leave schedule is necessary for the
23	care of the ((son, daughter, parent, covered serivcemember or spouse/domestic partner who has a

serious health condition)) qualifying family member or covered servicemember who has a serious health condition, or that the employee will assist in their recovery, and the expected duration and schedule of the intermittent leave or reduced leave schedule.

The City may require, at the expense of the City, that the eligible employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the City concerning any information certified as provided above.

When the second opinion differs from the opinion in the original certification, the City may require, at the expense of the City, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third care provider designated or approved jointly by the City and the employee.

The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified above shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the City and the employee.

The City may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertifications on a reasonable basis.

Section 5. Section 4.26.070 of the Seattle Municipal Code, enacted by Ordinance 116761, is amended as follows:

$\textbf{4.26.070} \; ((\underline{Paid\; Leave})) \; \underline{Interaction\; with \; other \; leave \; benefits \; and \; family \; medical \; leave \; laws}$

A. ((Notwithstanding Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.20.360, an)) An employee need not exhaust ((his or her)) accrued ((sick leave, compensatory time and/or vacation leave)) paid leave balances prior to requesting or taking ((family or medical)) leave under this ((chapter)) Chapter 4.26.070.

B. The leave benefit provided by this Chapter 4.26 shall run concurrent with federal and state family and medical leave laws.

1	C. An employee who is not entitled to leave under this Chapter 4.26 but otherwise
2	qualifies for the State paid family and medical leave program shall be eligible for an unpaid
3	leave of absence. The employee shall be afforded the same job protections and be subject to the
4	same obligations under this leave of absence as though they were covered by this Chapter 4.26.
5	The Seattle Human Resources Director shall promulgate rules for the administration of such
6	leave.
7	Section 6. Section 4.27.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance
8	125260, is amended as follows:
9	4.27.010 Definitions
10	Unless another meaning is clearly indicated from the context, as used in this ((chapter)) Chapter
11	<u>4.27</u> :
12	"Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward, or a child
13	of a person standing in loco parentis, who is:
14	1. Under 18 years of age; or
15	2. 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or
16	physical disability.
17	"City" means ((the)) The City of Seattle.
18	"Eligible employee" means an individual who has completed six months of City
19	employment as an employee, as defined in Section 4.04.030, or as a temporary worker eligible
20	for benefits under subsection 4.20.055.C.
21	"Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours
22	per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee.

1	"Single 12-month period" shall mean a 12-month period measured forward from the date
2	of birth of a child, or placement of a child for adoption, foster care, or legal guardianship.
3	(("Son or daughter" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a stepchild, a legal ward,
4	or a child of a person standing in loco parentis, who is:
5	1. Under 18 years of age; or
6	2. 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or
7	physical disability.))
8	"Week" shall mean 40 hours, prorated for part-time employees.
9	Section 7. Section 4.27.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance
10	125260, is amended as follows:
11	4.27.020 Leave provisions
12	A. Eligible employees are entitled to ((up to a total of)) 12 weeks of paid leave in
13	addition to any paid and unpaid leave to which they may otherwise be entitled((, except as
14	provided in subsection 4.27.020.B,)) during any single 12-month period for one or more of the
15	following:
16	1. The birth of a ((son or daughter)) child of the employee ((and)) in order to care
17	for such ((son or daughter)) child.
18	2. The placement of a ((son or daughter)) child with the employee for adoption,
19	foster care, or legal guardianship.
20	((B. It is the intent of this Chapter 4.27 that all eligible employees have access to at least
21	12 weeks of paid leave for the non-medical care of a new son or daughter, without having to
22	exhaust all of their accrued vacation and sick leave balances. To meet that intent, in addition to

An employee need not exhaust ((his or her accrued sick leave, compensatory time and/or
vacation leave)) paid leave balances prior to requesting and taking the ((Paid Parental Leave))
paid parental leave provided in this ((chapter)) Chapter 4.27.
Section 9. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.29.010, last amended by Ordinance 125834
is amended as follows:
4.29.010 Definitions
Unless another meaning is clearly indicated from the context, as used in this Chapter 4.29:
"Child" means a biological, adopted, or foster child, a step child, a legal ward, or a child
of a person standing in loco parentis, who is:
1. Under 18 years of age; or
2. 18 years of age or older and incapable of self-care because of a mental or
physical disability.
"City" means The City of Seattle.
"Domestic partner" means an individual designated by a City officer or employee in an
affidavit filed pursuant to Section 4.30.020 and qualified under Section 4.30.010.
"Eligible employee" means an individual who has completed six months of City
employment as an employee, as defined in Section 4.04.030, or as a temporary worker eligible
for benefits under subsection 4.20.055.C.
"Grandchild" means a child of the employee's child.
"Grandparent" means a parent of the employee's parent.
"Health care provider" means any provider included in subsection 4.24.005.B.
"Parent" means the parent of an employee or the parent of the employee's
spouse/domestic partner, or an individual who stood in loco parentis to an employee or the

employee's spouse/domestic partner when the employee or the employee's spouse/domestic 1 2 partner was a child. "Qualifying death" means either (a) the death of a child or (b) the death of a domestic 3 partner or spouse either from childbirth or from complications related to childbirth. 4 "Qualifying family member" mean spouse or domestic partner, child, parent, 5 grandparent, grandchild, or sibling. 6 "Reduced leave schedule" means a leave schedule that reduces the usual number of hours 7 8 per workweek, or hours per workday, of an employee. "Rolling 12-month period" means a 12-month period measured backward from the day 9 10 that the employee wants to use paid family care leave. "Runs concurrently" means substitutes for or counts toward another leave entitlement. 11 "Serious health condition" means an injury, illness, impairment, or physical or mental 12 13 condition that includes: 1. Inpatient care in a hospital, hospice, or residential($(\frac{1}{2})$) medical care facility; or 14 2. Continuing treatment by a health care provider. 15 "Sibling" means sibling of the employee. 16 "Spouse" means ((husband or wife)) spouse of the employee. 17 "Week" means 40 hours, prorated for part-time employees. 18 19 Section 10. Section 4.29.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 125834, is amended as follows: 20 21 4.29.020 Leave provisions A. Eligible employees are entitled to ((up to)) four weeks of paid family care leave in a 22 rolling 12-month period, in addition to any paid leave to which they may otherwise be entitled, to 23

care for a ((spouse/domestic partner, or a child, or parent of the employee or spouse/domestic partner)) qualifying family member, if such ((spouse/domestic partner, child, or parent)) qualifying family member has a serious health condition, or for the employee in the event of a qualifying death. Paid family care leave in the event of a qualifying death must be taken within 12 months of the qualifying death. Except in the event of a qualifying death, paid family care leave under this Chapter 4.29 runs concurrently with the eligible employee's family medical leave entitlement under Chapter 4.26, such that an employee who has exhausted the employee's family medical leave entitlement is not eligible to take paid family care leave. ((Except in the event of a qualifying death, to become eligible for paid family care leave, an employee must reduce the employee's paid leave balances as proscribed by Section 4.29.050.)) Except in the event of a qualifying death, to become eligible for paid family care leave, an employee must have the serious health condition certified by the health care provider of the ((ehild, spouse/domestic partner, or parent of the employee or spouse/domestic partner)) qualifying family member. In the event of a qualifying death, an employee must have the death certified.

B. Paid family care leave provided by the City to an employee under subsection 4.29.020.A but not used within a rolling 12-month period shall be forfeited and may not be retained for later use by the employee.

Section 11. Section 4.29.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 125834, is amended as follows:

4.29.030 Notice

A. In any case in which the necessity for paid family care leave is foreseeable based on planned medical treatment, the employee shall:

1	1. Make a reasonable effort to schedule the treatment so as not to disrupt unduly
2	the operations of the City, subject to the approval of the health care provider of the ((ehild,
3	spouse/domestic partner, or parent)) qualifying family member((, as appropriate)); and
4	2. Provide the City with not less than 30 days' notice, before the date the leave is
5	to begin, of the employee's intention to take paid family care leave, except that if the date of
6	the treatment requires leave to begin in less than 30 days, the employee shall provide such
7	notice as is practicable.
8	B. Failure to provide notice as proscribed in this Section 4.29.030 shall be grounds to
9	deny the leave.
10	Section 12. Section 4.29.050 of the Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.29.050, enacted by
11	Ordinance 125260, is amended as follows:
12	4.29.050 Exhaustion of other paid leave
13	((An employee must reduce his or her accrued sick leave balances to a maximum of two weeks
14	and his or her vacation leave balances to a maximum of one week in order to become eligible for
15	the paid family care leave provided in this Chapter 4.29.)) An employee need not exhaust paid
16	leave balances prior to requesting and taking the paid family care leave provided in this Chapter
17	4.29.
18	Section 13. Seattle Municipal Code Section 4.29.070, last amended by Ordinance
19	125834, is amended as follows:
20	4.29.070 Medical certification requirement
21	Except in the event of a qualifying death, medical certification is required for paid family care
22	leave. The medical certification must be issued by the health care provider of the ((eligible child,

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- spouse/domestic partner, or parent,)) qualifying family member of the employee. Certification should include:
 - A. The date on which the serious health condition commenced;
 - B. The probable duration of the condition;
- C. The appropriate medical facts within the knowledge of the health care provider regarding the condition; and
- D. A statement that the eligible employee is needed to care for the ((ehild, spouse/domestic partner, or parent)) qualifying family member.

Except in the event of a qualifying death, the City may require, at the expense of the City, that the eligible employee obtain the opinion of a second health care provider designated or approved by the City concerning any information certified as provided in this Section 4.29.070. When the second opinion differs from the opinion in the original certification, the City may require, at the expense of the City, that the employee obtain the opinion of a third care provider designated or approved jointly by the City and the employee. The opinion of the third health care provider concerning the information certified as provided in this Section 4.29.070 shall be considered to be final and shall be binding on the City and the employee. The City may require that the eligible employee obtain subsequent recertification on a reasonable basis.

Section 14. The revisions to paid parental leave benefits under Seattle Municipal Code Chapter 4.27 as identified in this ordinance shall apply to births or placements that occur on or after October 2, 2019. The revisions to all other leave benefits identified in this ordinance shall apply to the employees who meet the eligibility criteria set forth in this ordinance on or after January 1, 2020.

 Section 15. This ordinance shall apply to all eligible employees not represented by a union. Subject to collective bargaining, this ordinance shall also apply to those eligible employees who are represented by a union that has agreed with the provisions as expressed in this ordinance. This ordinance applies to Seattle Public Library (SPL) employees, subject to the approval of the SPL Board of Trustees and the conditions and administration of SPL's personnel system.

Section 16. Any act consistent with the authority of this ordinance taken prior to its effective date is ratified and confirmed.

1	Section 17. 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 4th day of December, 2019,			
5	and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 4th day of			
6	December, 2019.			
7	Bru d Harrelf			
8	President of the City Council			
9	Approved by me this 13th day of December, 2019.			
10	Jenny H Duk			
11	Jenny A. Durkan, Mayor			
12	Filed by me this 13th day of December, 2019.			
13	gruce B. Simmons			
14	Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk			
15	(Seal)			