

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE*

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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:

A RESOLUTION prioritizing people over the profits of pharmaceutical companies; supporting the production of COVID-19 vaccine around the world; urging President Biden to end U.S. opposition to the Waiver from Certain Provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Summary and background of the Legislation:

This resolution prioritizes people over the profits of pharmaceutical companies and supports the production of COVID-19 vaccine around the world. It urges President Biden to end the U.S. opposition to the Waiver from Certain Provisions of the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19 at the World Trade Organization (WTO).

COVID-19 is a global pandemic, spreading internationally. The rapid and widespread global dissemination of vaccinations is at the center of the strategy by public health professionals to stop the spread of the virus.

However, vaccinations have not been equitably distributed around the world. CNBC quoted World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus regarding vaccine doses that “over 87% have gone to high-income or upper- and middle-income countries, while low-income countries have received just 0.2%,” and that “[o]n average, 1 in 4 people in high-income countries have received a coronavirus vaccine, compared with just 1 in more than 500 in low-income countries, according to Tedros.”

Countries around the world have appealed to the WTO, which enforces Intellectual Property (IP) rights internationally, to issue a waiver to allow COVID-19 vaccines to be produced around the world, but WTO representatives from richer countries including the U.S., U.K., and E.U. opposed issuing the waiver.

On February 26, 2021, a letter to President Biden signed by over 400 community organizations and labor unions (Attachment A to this resolution) stated that “we urge your administration to lift the U.S. blockage of the ‘Waiver from Certain Provisions of the TRIPS Agreement for the Prevention, Containment and Treatment of COVID-19.’” The letter further entreats President Biden, “with so many of the world’s nations supporting this emergency waiver already, you can also help restore America’s moral and public health leadership in the world by siding with the majority to prioritize saving lives over protecting

pharmaceutical corporation monopolies and profits. This new position would be widely noted, given U.S. officials' shameful attack on the waiver at a January WTO meeting.”

This resolution urges President Biden to end the U.S. opposition to the effort to win an IP waiver from the WTO for COVID-19 vaccines, adds the Seattle City Council as a signatory of the community letter to President Biden (Attachment A of this resolution), and requests the Office of Intergovernmental Relations, communicate the content of this resolution to the Executive Office of the President and to Seattle's Congressional Delegation in Washington, D.C.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project? Yes No

If yes, please fill out the table below and attach a new (if creating a project) or marked-up (if amending) CIP Page to the Council Bill. Please include the pending plan as part of the attached CIP Page. If no, please delete the table.

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? Yes No

If there are no changes to appropriations, revenues, or positions, please delete the table below.

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?

If so, describe the nature of the impacts. This could include increased operating and maintenance costs, for example.

No

Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?

Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs or consequences.

No

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

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

If so, please list the affected department(s) and the nature of the impact (financial, operational, etc.).

No

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?

If yes, what public hearing(s) have been held to date, and/or what public hearing(s) are planned/required in the future?

No

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

For example, legislation related to sale of surplus property, condemnation, or certain capital projects with private partners may require publication of notice. If you aren't sure, please check with your lawyer. If publication of notice is required, describe any steps taken to comply with that requirement.

No

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

If yes, and if a map or other visual representation of the property is not already included as an exhibit or attachment to the legislation itself, then you must include a map and/or other visual representation of the property and its location as an attachment to the fiscal note. Place a note on the map attached to the fiscal note that indicates the map is intended for illustrative or informational purposes only and is not intended to modify anything in the legislation.

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?

If yes, please explain how this legislation may impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Using the racial equity toolkit is one way to help determine the legislation's impact on certain communities. If any aspect of the legislation involves communication or outreach to the public, please describe the plan for communicating with non-English speakers.

Vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities in the Global South are currently being denied adequate access to vaccines and vaccine technologies by the Intellectual Property Rights enforced by the WTO. This resolution urges that vaccine nationalism to end. Additionally, vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities in Seattle are disproportionately impacted by COVID-19 and are put at greater risk by vaccine nationalism, which slows the eradication of COVID-19 by preventing the widest possible distribution of vaccines and vaccine technologies internationally.

f. Climate Change Implications

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

Please provide a qualitative response, considering net impacts. Are there potential carbon emissions impacts of not implementing the proposed legislation. Discuss any potential intersections of carbon emissions impacts and race and social justice impacts, if not previously described in Section 4e.

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.

Describe the potential climate resiliency impacts of implementing or not implementing the proposed legislation. Discuss any potential intersections of climate resiliency and race and social justice impacts, if not previously described in Section 4e.

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)?

This answer should highlight measurable outputs and outcomes.

N/A

List attachments/exhibits below: