



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

CB 118547

Record No.: CB 118547

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

124910

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 09/21/2015

Final Action: 12/01/2015

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE related to ending the square footage business tax for periods after December 31, 2015; and amending Section 5.46.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Date

Notes:

Filed with City Clerk:

Mayor's Signature:

Sponsors: Licata

Vetoed by Mayor:

Veto Overridden:

Veto Sustained:

Attachments:

Drafter: adam.schaefer@seattle.gov

Filing Requirements/Dept Action:

### History of Legislative File

Legal Notice Published:

Yes

No

Version:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	Mayor	09/28/2015	Mayor's leg transmitted to Council	City Clerk			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Council Bill (CB) was Mayor's leg transmitted to Council. to the City Clerk				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	City Clerk	10/20/2015	sent for review	Budget Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Budget Committee				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Full Council	10/26/2015	referred	Budget Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Council Bill (CB) was referred. to the Budget Committee				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Budget Committee	11/16/2015	pass				Pass
	<b>Action Text:</b>		The Committee recommends that Full Council pass the Council Bill (CB).				
	<b>Notes:</b>						
			In Favor: 7	Chair Licata, Member Bagshaw, Member Burgess, Member Godden, Member O'Brien, Member Rasmussen, Member Sawant			
			Opposed: 0				

Absent(NV): 1 Okamoto

1 Full Council 11/23/2015 passed Pass

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

Notes:

In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Council President Burgess, Councilmember Godden, Councilmember Harrell, Councilmember Licata, Councilmember O'Brien, Okamoto, Councilmember Rasmussen, Councilmember Sawant

Opposed: 0

1 City Clerk 11/30/2015 submitted for Mayor  
Mayor's signature

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was submitted for Mayor's signature. to the Mayor

Notes:

1 Mayor 12/01/2015 Signed

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was Signed.

Notes:

1 Mayor 12/01/2015 returned City Clerk

Action Text: The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk

Notes:

1 City Clerk 12/01/2015 attested by City  
Clerk

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

Notes:

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**CITY OF SEATTLE**  
**ORDINANCE** 124910  
**COUNCIL BILL** 118547

AN ORDINANCE related to ending the square footage business tax for periods after December 31, 2015; and amending Section 5.46.030 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

WHEREAS, the State of Washington grants cities the power to license businesses for the purpose of raising revenue; and

WHEREAS, the City of Seattle has, since 1932, imposed a business license tax (also known as a business and occupation tax, B&O tax, or gross receipts tax) based on the gross receipts of persons engaging in business in Seattle; and

WHEREAS, in 2003 the Legislature passed HB 2030, now codified as chapter 35.102 RCW, which changed how cities impose B&O taxes; and

WHEREAS, in response to projections at that time that the mandated changes to the imposition of B&O taxes could result in substantial decreases in tax revenue paid to the City, the City imposed the square footage business tax to complement the business license tax and to protect against adverse tax revenue impacts; and

WHEREAS, enough time has passed for the City to assess and adapt to the changes in the B&O tax imposed by HB 2030; and

WHEREAS, economic conditions have changed since 2008, and the City desires to simplify its tax code and end the square footage business tax for periods after December 31, 2015 in order to support economic activity and encourage job growth in Seattle; NOW,

THEREFORE,

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

1 Section 1. Subsection 5.46.030.A of the Seattle Municipal Code, which section was last  
2 amended by Ordinance 123704, is amended as follows:

3 **5.46.030 Tax Imposed—Measure of the Tax((A))**

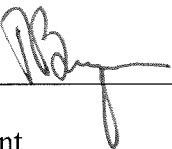
4 A. For all periods from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2015, a ((A)) square  
5 footage business tax for the act or privilege of engaging in business activities within the city is  
6 hereby levied upon and shall be collected from every person that leases, owns, occupies, or  
7 otherwise maintains an office or place of business within the city.

8 The tax shall be measured by the number of square feet of business floor space and other  
9 floor space for each office or place of business leased, owned, occupied or otherwise maintained  
10 within the city during the reporting period.

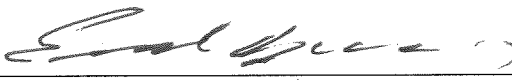
11 No person shall owe square footage business tax for engaging in business activities  
12 within the city after December 31, 2015 and this Chapter 5.46 shall be limited to determining and  
13 collecting the square footage business tax due for persons engaging in business activities within  
14 the city prior to December 31, 2015.

1 Section 2. 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.

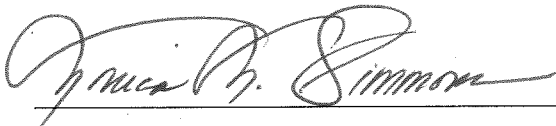
4 Passed by the City Council the \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015, and  
5 signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this  
6 \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2015.

7  
8   
9 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

10  
11 Approved by me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2015.

12  
13   
14 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

15  
16 Filed by me this 1<sup>st</sup> day of December, 2015.

17  
18   
19 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

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21  
22 (Seal)  
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