

CITY OF SEATTLE

ORDINANCE _____

COUNCIL BILL _____

..title

AN ORDINANCE relating to land use and urban forestry; amending requirements for registered tree service providers; amending Sections 25.11.020 and 25.11.095 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

..body

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Section 25.11.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance 126554, is amended as follows:

"Commercial tree work" means any of the following actions conducted within the City of Seattle in exchange for financial compensation: major pruning (~~as defined in Section 25.02.046~~); removal of trees larger than 6 inches DBH; and the assessment of the health or hazard risk of trees larger than 6 inches DBH. ((Normal)) "Commercial tree work" does not mean normal and routine pruning operations that do not meet the definition of major pruning ((are not commercial tree work)); maintenance and removal of hedges; or maintenance of fruit trees that are cultivated for fruit production.

* * *

"Hedge" means a line of closely-spaced trees and/or shrubs intentionally planted and/or maintained along a property boundary or landscape border for privacy, screening, safety, or similar function, which typically requires ongoing pruning or shearing to maintain its intended function and/or reasonable use of nearby developed areas.

"Inner root zone" means an area encircling the base of a tree equal to one-half (1/2) the diameter of the drip line.

“Pruning, major” means removal of branches 4 inches in diameter or greater; removal of roots 2 inches in diameter or greater; or removal of branches constituting more than 25 percent of a tree's foliage-bearing area.

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Section 2. Section 25.11.095 of the Seattle Municipal Code, added by Ordinance 126554, is amended as follows:

* * *

C. Tree service provider activities

1. ((A registered tree service provider shall comply with the following public notice requirements prior to conducting commercial tree work that involves major pruning or removal of trees larger than 6 inches DBH:

a. Provide the registered tree service provider's hiring entity with a notice that the hiring entity must post in a safe location at or adjacent to the commercial tree work site in a manner clearly visible from the public right of way at least three business days in advance of the commercial tree work.

~~b. The notice shall:~~

1) Include a brief description of the commercial tree work the registered tree service provider will be conducting that exceeds normal and routine pruning operations and maintenance or that involves removal of any trees 6 inches or greater diameter at breast height and identifies whether said tree meets the City's definition of exceptional;

~~2) Provide a copy of the tree service provider's registration; and~~

~~3) Indicate whether a permit is required for the commercial tree~~

~~work. If a permit is required, provide a copy of the permit.))~~ Commercial vehicles, as defined by

1 Section 11.14.115, used by the registered tree service provider shall clearly display the business
2 name of the tree service provider, business phone number, and City-issued tree service provider
3 registration number.

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Section 3. 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 _____ day of _____, 2022,
and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this _____ day of _____, 2022.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved / returned unsigned / vetoed this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Bruce A. Harrell, Mayor

Filed by me this _____ day of _____, 2022.

Elizabeth M. Adkisson, Interim City Clerk

(Seal)

This draft Council Bill reflects the sponsor's policy intent. Changes may be made prior to the bill's introduction.