

Summary and Fiscal Note

1. Legislation Summary

Department: Mayor's Office

Title: A resolution requesting the Code Reviser to reformat tables within the Seattle Municipal Code to comply with federal accessibility guidelines.

Background: The U.S. Department of Justice updated its regulations for Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), as published on the Federal Register on April 24, 2024, to include requirements for accessibility of web content and mobile applications to adhere to the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). On April 20, 2026, the compliance date was extended to April 26, 2027, for cities with a population of 50,000 or more. These regulations apply to municipal government organizations, such as The City of Seattle, and apply to public-facing documents that are posted on the World Wide Web.

The City of Seattle has already worked to bring a large quantity of web pages and documents into compliance with the new requirements. Every City department has been engaged in making public-facing documents accessible for more people, and the Seattle Information Technology Department has convened and is leading an Interdepartmental Team dedicated to making sure that the City is compliant with the updated regulations.

As part of this ongoing work, the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) must be updated to accessible standards and best practices, including the dozens of informational tables

that need reformatting. SMC 1.03.030 establishes that “[t]he code reviser may edit and revise laws for presentation without changing their meaning...” and this resolution requests that the Code Reviser exercise that authority to revise tables to meet the digital accessibility guidelines.

2. Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?

☐ Yes

☒ No

3. Summary of Financial Implications

Does this legislation have financial impacts to the City?

☐ Yes

☒ No

3d. Other Financial Impacts

a. Does this legislation create any other financial impacts for The City of Seattle, such as direct or indirect costs, one-time or ongoing, that aren’t mentioned above? If yes, please explain these impacts.

No.

b. If the legislation has costs that can be covered within the current budget, explain how. Does the department have extra resources in its budget to handle these costs? Or does the department need to shift resources away from other work to handle these costs?

Making revisions to the Seattle Municipal Code is within the Code Reviser’s existing body of work. This legislation clarifies that the Code Reviser is requested to make tables compliant with federal digital accessibility guidelines.

c. What financial costs or other impacts might happen if this legislation is not implemented?

None.

d. How might this legislation affect other City departments besides the one that proposed it?

The Code Reviser works out of the City Attorney's Office.

4. Other Impacts

a. Does this legislation require a public hearing?

☐ Yes

☒ No

b. Does this legislation require a notice to be published in The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times?

☐ Yes

☒ No

c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?

No.

d. Race and Social Justice Initiative impacts:

1. How does this legislation affect vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you come to this conclusion? Please consider both impacts within City government (like employees and internal programs) and in the broader community.

Federal digital accessibility regulations are designed to make government documents and information more accessible to more people, including people with vision impairments and other barriers to access.

2. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses used to develop or assess this legislation.

N/A

3. What is the Language Access Plan for communicating with the public about this legislation?

N/A

e. Climate change impacts:

1. Emissions: Will this legislation significantly increase or decrease carbon emissions? Attach any studies or materials that inform your answer.

No.

2. Resiliency: Will this legislation make Seattle more or less able to adapt to climate change? If it reduces resiliency, explain what can be done to lessen the impact.

No.

f. If this legislation creates a new program or expands an existing one, what are the long-term, measurable goals? How will this legislation help achieve those goals? What methods will be used to track progress?

N/A

g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP that involves shared funding with a non-City partner or organization?

No.