

SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Dept. Contact:	CBO Contact:
Seattle Municipal Court	Gary Ireland	Linda Taylor-Manning

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to removing the City residency requirement for judges pro tempore in Seattle; amending Section 3.33.140 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation: This legislation removes a residency requirement from the position of judges pro tem. The Washington state legislature adopted a change to RCW 35.20.200 that eliminates a city residency requirement for municipal courts authorized under RCW 35.20.010. Seattle is the only Washington city that utilizes a municipal court authorized under RCW 35.20.010. Other municipal and district courts are already authorized under RCW to recruit pro tem judges without a residency requirement.

The Seattle Municipal Court has had difficulty recruiting qualified pro tem judges in part because of the residency requirement. The intent of this legislation is to boost the number of pro tem judges, leading to reduced case load and time for resolution. Without an adequate pool of pro tem judges, Seattle Municipal Court must cancel or consolidate calendars, causing delays and impacting the efficient delivery of justice.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

3.d. Other Impacts

Does the legislation have other financial impacts to The City of Seattle, including direct or indirect, one-time or ongoing costs, that are not included in Sections 3.a through 3.c? If so, please describe these financial impacts.

No.

If the legislation has costs, but they can be absorbed within existing operations, please describe how those costs can be absorbed. The description should clearly describe if the absorbed costs are achievable because the department had excess resources within their existing budget or if by absorbing these costs the department is deprioritizing other work that would have used these resources.

N/A

Please describe any financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation.
Without this legislation, the Seattle Municipal Court might continue struggling to find qualified judges pro tem.

Please describe how this legislation may affect any City departments other than the originating department.
N/A

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

- a. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**
No.
- b. Is publication of notice with The Daily Journal of Commerce and/or The Seattle Times required for this legislation?**
No.
- c. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**
No.
- d. Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative.**
 - i. How does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities? How did you arrive at this conclusion? In your response please consider impacts within City government (employees, internal programs) as well as in the broader community.**
N/A
 - ii. Please attach any Racial Equity Toolkits or other racial equity analyses in the development and/or assessment of the legislation.**
 - iii. What is the Language Access Plan for any communications to the public?**
N/A
- e. Climate Change Implications**
 - i. Emissions: How is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way? Please attach any studies or other materials that were used to inform this response.**
N/A
 - ii. 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.**
N/A

- f. 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)? What mechanisms will be used to measure progress towards meeting those goals?**

N/A

- g. Does this legislation create a non-utility CIP project that involves a shared financial commitment with a non-City partner agency or organization?**

No.

5. ATTACHMENTS

Summary Attachments: None.