

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:

AN ORDINANCE relating to historic preservation review procedures; amending and making permanent certain temporary procedures; amending Sections 23.66.030, 25.12.320, 25.12.720, 25.16.100, 25.20.090, 25.21.110, 25.22.110, 25.24.070, and 25.30.090 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

Summary and Background of the Legislation:

In March 2020, Mayor Durkan issued a Proclamation of Civil Emergency for the City of Seattle due to the confirmed spread of COVID-19 in King County. In April 2020, the Seattle City Council passed Ordinance 126072, which temporarily allowed smaller-scale land use applications related to historic properties to be handled administratively by Department of Neighborhoods (DON) staff and approved by the City's Historic Preservation Officer. Such applications were previously reviewed by the City's historic preservation boards. The temporary provisions included in Ordinance 126072 were later extended by Ordinance 126188 and part of a larger City effort to expedite permits, respond to economic challenges, and address urgent housing needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Absent further legislative action by ordinance, the temporary provisions will expire 60 days after Mayor Harrell lifts the City's COVID-19 emergency order.

Examples of minor alterations temporarily eligible for administrative review include the installation of signage and awnings, storefront renovations, and building mechanical systems upgrades. New construction, demolition, and major redevelopment proposals are not eligible for administrative review.

In late 2021, DON hired Broadview Planning to collect community feedback on the Historic Preservation Program's temporary administrative review procedures. Broadview Planning's data and analysis generally indicated strong support for allowing many of the temporary administrative review provisions to become permanent. However, the collected responses also revealed support for taking a more refined approach to the application of administrative review within the City's historic districts, which vary in scale and are each subject to a unique regulatory framework.

The proposed legislation would more permanently codify many of the temporary administrative review provisions in place for the Historic Preservation Program, while also amending some of the provisions that apply within individual historic districts to better reflect their unique architectural, cultural, and community features.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

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

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget? Yes No

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?
No.

Are there financial costs or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?
No.

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?
No.

b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
Yes, a City Council public hearing is required with 30 days advance notice of said hearing provided to the public.

c. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?
Notice of the required public hearing shall be published in *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and the City's *Land Use Information Bulletin*.

d. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
The Department of Neighborhoods' Historic Preservation Program oversees the preservation of eight historic districts and more than 450 individual landmarks. Landmark sites and structures are located in neighborhoods across Seattle. A map of the City's historic districts is attached to this fiscal note.

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?
In addition to enabling members of the City's all-volunteer historic preservation boards to focus their limited time and resources on larger-scale applications and projects, the utilization of administrative review also simplifies the review process for permit applicants, many of whom are small business owners. The share of small businesses located in Seattle's older, historic neighborhoods that are BIPOC- or woman-owned also generally exceeds the citywide percentage.

f. Climate Change Implications

- 1. Emissions:** Is this legislation likely to increase or decrease carbon emissions in a material way?
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.
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 legislation would not advance a new initiative or major programmatic expansion. Rather, it would more permanently codify many of the temporary administrative review processes that have been in place for the Historic Preservation Program since April 2020. The temporary provisions have been found to simplify the permitting process for many historic property owners, including small business owners, residential owner/occupants, and nonprofit organizations.

Summary Attachments:

Summary Attachment 1 – Map of the City of Seattle’s Historic Districts