

Amendment A Version 1 to CB 120511 – Caste as a Protected Class

Sponsor: Councilmembers Herbold and Sawant

Adding findings

Effect: This amendment would add legislative findings to support the legislation.

Add a new section 22 as follows and renumber subsequent sections:

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Section 22. The City Council makes the following findings:

A. Caste-based discrimination is an international problem affecting more than 250 million people across the world;

B. Although caste is often associated with Hinduism and India, it transcends religious and geographic boundaries, with caste-based discrimination showing up in Christian, Muslim, Sikh, and other religious communities, all over South Asia, and in Southeast Asian and African communities, including Japan, the Middle East, Nigeria, Somalia, and Senegal;

C. The concept of caste and associated discrimination traveled with individuals and communities through these regions and into diasporic communities around the world, including the United States;

D. Washington State and Seattle are home to individuals and communities of immigrants, refugees, and diasporic communities from all around the world;

E. The City of Seattle is committed to recognizing the dignity of all its residents, including the right of all Seattle residents to live in a City that does not subject them to prejudicial treatment or discrimination;

Asha Venkataraman
City Council
February 21, 2023
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F. Awareness of the experiences of caste-oppressed communities with discrimination has been growing in recent years;

G. Testimony submitted to the Council about these experiences are located in Clerk File 322573 and demonstrate the City's interest in protecting its residents with marginalized identities as caste-oppressed from discrimination;

H. Existing anti-discrimination protections do not fully encompass caste discrimination.

Section ~~2223~~. 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.