



# SEATTLE CITY COUNCIL

## Legislative Summary

CB 118984

Record No.: CB 118984

Type: Ordinance (Ord)

Status: Passed

Version: 1

Ord. no: Ord 125370

In Control: City Clerk

File Created: 05/09/2017

Final Action: 08/02/2017

**Title:** AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Office for Civil Rights; amending Section 3.14.920 of the Seattle Municipal Code to increase the membership of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, the Seattle Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Commission, and the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities and change the appointment authority for these and the Seattle Women's Commission.

**Notes:**

**Filed with City Clerk:** 8/2/2017

**Mayor's Signature:** 7/26/2017

**Sponsors:** Herbold

**Vetoed by Mayor:**

**Veto Overridden:**

**Veto Sustained:**

**Attachments:** Mayor's Letter on Returning Bill Unsigned

**Drafter:** patrick.wigren@seattle.gov

**Filing Requirements/Dept Action:**

### History of Legislative File

**Legal Notice Published:**  Yes  No

Ver- sion:	Acting Body:	Date:	Action:	Sent To:	Due Date:	Return Date:	Result:
1	City Clerk	05/09/2017	sent for review	Council President's Office			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Council President's Office						
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Council President's Office	05/15/2017	sent for review	Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee			
	<b>Action Text:</b> The Council Bill (CB) was sent for review. to the Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee						
	<b>Notes:</b>						
1	Full Council	05/22/2017	referred	Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee			

- 1 Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee      05/23/2017 discussed
- Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was discussed.
- Notes:**
- 1 Civil Rights, Utilities, Economic Development, and Arts Committee      06/13/2017 pass      Pass
- Action Text:** The Committee recommends that Full Council pass the Council Bill (CB).
- Notes:** Councilmember Herbold made a motion to pass CB 118984, with a Full Council vote on Monday, July 10. The committee voted 3-0 in favor.
- In Favor: 3 Chair Herbold, Vice Chair Sawant, Member O'Brien
- Opposed: 0
- 1 Full Council      07/10/2017 held      Pass
- Action Text:** The Motion carried, and Council Bill (CB) 118984 was held until July 24, 2017 by the following vote:
- Notes:**
- In Favor: 9 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember González , Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Juarez, Councilmember O'Brien, Councilmember Sawant
- Opposed: 0
- 1 Full Council      07/24/2017 passed      Pass
- Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was passed by the following vote, and the President signed the Bill:
- Notes:**
- In Favor: 7 Councilmember Bagshaw, Councilmember Burgess, Councilmember González , Council President Harrell, Councilmember Herbold, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Sawant
- Opposed: 0
- 1 City Clerk      07/25/2017 submitted for Mayor's signature      Mayor
- 1 Mayor      08/02/2017 returned unsigned
- Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was returned unsigned.
- Notes:**
- 1 Mayor      08/02/2017 returned      City Clerk
- Action Text:** The Council Bill (CB) was returned. to the City Clerk
- Notes:**
- 1 City Clerk      08/02/2017 attested by City Clerk
- Action Text:** The Ordinance (Ord) was attested by City Clerk.
- Notes:**
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1 Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by  
2 the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it  
3 shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

4 Passed by the City Council the 24<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2017,  
5 and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this 24<sup>th</sup> day of  
6 July, 2017.

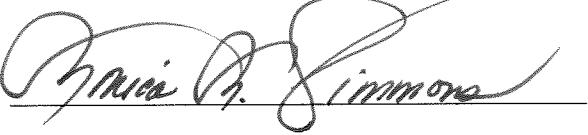
7 

8 President \_\_\_\_\_ of the City Council

9 Approved by me this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2017.  
10 **Returned Unsigned  
by Mayor**

11 Edward B. Murray, Mayor

12 Filed by me this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of AUGUST, 2017.

13 

14 Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

15 (Seal)



**City of Seattle**  
Mayor Edward B. Murray

August 2, 2017

Monica Martinez Simmons  
Seattle City Clerk  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Seattle, WA 98124

Dear Ms. Martinez Simmons,

I am returning Council Bill 118984 without my signature, understanding that it will become law.

This legislation increases the size of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, Seattle LGBTQ Commission, and Seattle Commission for People with DisAbilities from 16 members to 21 members per commission. This will align the size of these commissions with the 21-member Seattle Women's Commission. I support this section of the Council Bill.

However, I do not support the legislation's modification to Seattle Municipal Code 3.14.920(B), which changes *who* appoints the commission members to these four commissions. Specifically, this legislation significantly expands the number of members appointed by the commissions themselves, as opposed to the regular Mayor and Council appointment process.

Historically, appointments to nearly all of our City boards and commissions have been split on a 50-50 basis between the Mayor and Council. This makes sense, as board and commission members are appointed to serve in an advisory role to the Mayor and Council. Given that advisory boards and commissions are created to provide guidance to the Mayor and Council on policy and other issues, it is therefore important for the Mayor and Council to retain the power of determining who will actually advise them.

While this bill modifies the appointment process for only four commissions, it sets a new precedent for all of the City's 70+ boards and commissions. I caution future mayors and councils against further delegation of their appointment powers to boards and commissions, or else they may run the risk that these bodies will become unaccountable to the City officials they are charged with advising.

Sincerely,

Edward B. Murray  
Mayor of Seattle

**CITY OF SEATTLE**

**ORDINANCE** 125370

**COUNCIL BILL** 118984

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Seattle Office for Civil Rights; amending Section 3.14.920 of the Seattle Municipal Code to increase the membership of the Seattle Human Rights Commission, the Seattle Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Commission, and the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities and change the appointment authority for these and the Seattle Women’s Commission.

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle created the Seattle Women’s Commission in 1973 to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, and other City departments and offices regarding equality for women, including making recommendations regarding the development of programs for the promotion of equality, justice, and understanding within the City; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle created the Human Rights Commission in 1969 to act in an advisory capacity to the Mayor, City Council, and City departments on matters affecting human rights, including making recommendations for the promotion of equality, justice, and understanding among all citizens within the City; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle created the Seattle Commission for Lesbians and Gays in 1989, now the Seattle Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) Commission, to advise the Mayor, City Council, and other City departments and offices on issues “of importance to lesbians and gays”; and

WHEREAS, The City of Seattle created the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities in 2010 to assist the Mayor, City Council, and City departments to address the concerns of people with disabilities and recommend policies and practices on matters affecting concerns of people with disabilities; and

1 WHEREAS, the Seattle Women’s Commission, the Seattle Human Rights Commission, the  
2 Seattle LGBTQ Commission, and the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities,  
3 hereinafter the “Four OCR Commissions,” have ably served our City for years on matters  
4 within their purviews; and

5 WHEREAS, those serving on the Four OCR Commissions do so in a volunteer capacity and are  
6 thus more limited in their ability to act due to time constraints and conflicting obligations;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, the Four OCR Commissions have expressed a need for additional commissioners to  
9 more ably fulfill their functions and connect with the greater Seattle community; and

10 WHEREAS, the Four OCR Commissions have also expressed a desire to have additional  
11 appointments made by their commissions because they can often do so more quickly and  
12 with greater understanding of the present composition of the commission to promote  
13 diversity and effectiveness; and

14 WHEREAS, the capacity and capabilities of the City’s volunteer boards and commissions  
15 typically rise when additional members are appointed; and

16 WHEREAS, additional commissioners will improve and enhance the ability to complete each  
17 commission’s work through proactive research and analysis, improved community  
18 outreach, more extensive programming, more diverse recruitment, and better  
19 collaboration with City departments; and

20 WHEREAS, the increase in the number of commissioners will decrease the need for other paid  
21 staff to do this work; and

22 WHEREAS, in 1992, The City of Seattle amended its code to increase the Seattle Women’s  
23 Commission from 15 to 20 members; and

1 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle recognizes the value in having strong advisory commissions on  
2 issues affecting the human, political, and socioeconomic rights of its citizens; and

3 WHEREAS, The City of Seattle recognizes the value in increased independence of the Four  
4 OCR Commissions from the Mayor and City Council to ensure effectiveness and  
5 objectivity; NOW, THEREFORE,

6 **BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:**

7 Section 1. Section 3.14.920 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Ordinance  
8 125231, is amended as follows:

9 **3.14.920 Commission—Established—Membership**

10 There is established a Seattle Women’s Commission, to be composed of ((20)) 21 members  
11 appointed from among those persons who are conscious of the discrimination against and  
12 oppression of women in this society, and who are working to eliminate these injustices; a Seattle  
13 Human Rights Commission, to be composed of ((15)) 21 members who shall be representative  
14 residents and shall include representatives of minority communities, other protected classes, and  
15 persons with demonstrated concern and background in human rights; a Seattle LGBTQ (Lesbian,  
16 Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer) Commission, to be composed of ((15)) 21 members  
17 appointed from among those persons who are conscious of the discrimination against and  
18 oppression of lesbians, gays, and sexual minorities in this society, and who are working to  
19 eliminate these injustices; and a Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities, to be composed  
20 of ((15)) 21 members appointed from among those persons who are conscious of the  
21 discrimination against and oppression and neglect of people with disabilities, and who are  
22 working to eliminate these injustices. Upon the expiration of existing terms, new appointments to

1 each position on each commission shall be made under this Section 3.14.920 by the authority  
2 originally appointing persons to that position, as follows:

3 A. Seattle Women's Commission: ~~((Nine-9))~~ Eight members shall be appointed by  
4 the Mayor, ~~((nine-9))~~ eight members shall be appointed by the City Council, and four ~~((the~~  
5 ~~nineteenth and twentieth))~~ members shall be appointed by the Commission as constituted;  
6 provided that, such appointments shall be made so as to reflect the diversity of the community.

7 B. Seattle Human Rights Commission, Seattle LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,  
8 Transgender, Queer) Commission, and Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities: For  
9 each of these commissions, ~~((seven))~~ eight members shall be appointed by the Mayor, ~~((seven))~~  
10 eight members shall be appointed by the City Council, and ~~((the fifteenth member))~~ four  
11 members shall be appointed by the Commission as constituted; provided, that such appointments  
12 shall be made so as to reflect the diversity of the community.

13 C. Pursuant to the Get Engaged program, Chapter 3.51, one designated young adult  
14 position shall be added to each of these four commissions: the Seattle Women's Commission, the  
15 Seattle Human Rights Commission, the Seattle LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender,  
16 Queer) Commission, and the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities. Pursuant to  
17 Section 3.51.030, the designated young adult shall be nominated by the Mayor and shall be  
18 subject to confirmation by the City Council by majority vote. The terms of service related to a  
19 young adult member's role on each of these commissions shall be as set forth in Chapter 3.51.

20 D. All appointments other than City Council appointments shall be subject to  
21 confirmation by a majority vote of the City Council. Each member appointed pursuant to the  
22 authority of this ~~((section))~~ Section 3.14.920 shall serve for a term of two years, but no member  
23 of the Seattle Human Rights Commission shall serve more than two consecutive two year terms.



1 No member of the Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Commission, Seattle Women's Commission,  
2 or the Seattle Commission for People with Disabilities shall serve more than three consecutive  
3 two year terms. The Seattle LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) Commission does not  
4 have term limits. If a member is appointed to serve an unexpired term of a previous commission  
5 member, that term shall qualify as one of two consecutive terms only if the length of the  
6 unexpired term actually served is one year or more. Any vacancy shall be filled for the unexpired  
7 term in the same manner as an original appointment. A member whose term is ending may  
8 continue on an interim basis as a member with voting rights until such time as a successor for  
9 that position has been appointed by the City Council or confirmed by the City Council.

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