

## **SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE\***

<b>Department:</b>	<b>Dept. Contact/Phone:</b>	<b>CBO Contact/Phone:</b>
LEG	Venkataraman/4-5382	

*\* 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 fair housing; regulating rental housing bidding platforms; repealing a one-year prohibition on use of rental housing bidding platforms; repealing Section 7.24.090 of the Seattle Municipal Code; and amending Section 7.24.020 of the Seattle Municipal Code.

**Summary and background of the Legislation:** In response to concerns about the potential impact on Seattle's rental housing market, the City Council adopted prohibitions on landlords' and tenants' use of rental housing bidding platforms like Rentberry, one from April 2018-2019 and one from July 2019 – July 2020. The prohibitions on use were intended to give Council time to assess impacts and determine whether and how these platforms should be regulated. The Office of Housing issued a report in July 2019 finding that the effects of the platforms could not be analyzed without data collection and that there were several potential compliance issues with federal, state, and local laws if the platforms operated in Seattle. This legislation lifts the prohibition on use of rental housing bidding platforms several months early and asks the Office of Housing and the Office for Civil Rights to track how the platforms are being used and if they are in compliance with Seattle's housing practices.

### **2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

**Does this legislation create, fund, or amend a CIP Project?**      \_\_\_ Yes X No

### **3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

**Does this legislation amend the Adopted Budget?**      \_\_\_ Yes X 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?**

If so, describe the nature of the impacts. This could include increased operating and maintenance costs, for example.

No.

**Is there financial cost or other impacts of *not* implementing the legislation?**

Estimate the costs to the City of not implementing the legislation, including estimated costs to maintain or expand an existing facility or the cost avoidance due to replacement of an existing facility, potential conflicts with regulatory requirements, or other potential costs or consequences.

No.

#### 4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

**a. Does this legislation affect any departments besides the originating department?**

If so, please list the affected department(s) and the nature of the impact (financial, operational, etc.).

The Office of Housing and the Office for Civil Rights are requested to conduct data collection and testing, respectively. They are also asked to work with Council on adopting recommendations from the Office of Housing's report.

**b. Is a public hearing required for this legislation?**

If yes, what public hearing(s) have been held to date, and/or what public hearing(s) are planned/required in the future?

No.

**c. Does this legislation require landlords or sellers of real property to provide information regarding the property to a buyer or tenant?**

If yes, please describe the measures taken to comply with RCW 64.06.080.

No.

**d. Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?**

For example, legislation related to sale of surplus property, condemnation, or certain capital projects with private partners may require publication of notice. If you aren't sure, please check with your lawyer. If publication of notice is required, describe any steps taken to comply with that requirement.

No.

**e. Does this legislation affect a piece of property?**

If yes, and if a map or other visual representation of the property is not already included as an exhibit or attachment to the legislation itself, then you must include a map and/or other visual representation of the property and its location as an attachment to the fiscal note. Place a note on the map attached to the fiscal note that indicates the map is intended for illustrative or informational purposes only and is not intended to modify anything in the legislation.

No.

**f. 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?**

If yes, please explain how this legislation may impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities. Using the racial equity toolkit is one way to help determine the legislation's impact on certain communities. If any aspect of the legislation involves communication or outreach to the public, please describe the plan for communicating with non-English speakers.

Studies have shown that rental housing bidding platforms can drive up rental housing prices. High rents affect low income communities, and those that are historically disadvantaged. The data collection and testing will shed light on whether these platforms are having an impact on equitable access to housing.

**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 answer should highlight measurable outputs and outcomes.

No.

**List attachments/exhibits below:**