

# 2021 Seattle City Council Budget Action

Council Budget Action: Agenda

Tab	Action	Option	Version
LAW	001	A	001

**Budget Action Title:** Recommend passage of legislation to redefine the terms "duress" and "de minimis" in the Seattle Municipal Code

Ongoing: Yes Has Budget Proviso: No

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Attachment: No

Primary Sponsor: Lisa Herbold

Council Members: Tammy Morales, Kshama Sawant

Staff Analyst: Asha Venkataraman

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	LH	TM	KS	AP	DJ	DS	AL	TM	LG
	Yes	0									
	No	0									
	Abstain	0									
	Absent	0									

### Summary of Dollar Effect

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2021 Increase (Decrease)	2022 Increase (Decrease)
<b>General Fund</b>		
<b>General Fund Revenues</b>	\$0	
<b>General Fund Expenditures</b>	\$0	
<b>Net Balance Effect</b>	<b>\$0</b>	
<b>Total Budget Balance Effect</b>	<b>\$0</b>	

### Budget Action Description:

This Council Budget Action recommends passage of legislation to amend the definition of "duress" to include crimes committed due to poverty or during a behavioral health incident. It would also amend the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) to make these crimes "de minimis" to allow a court to dismiss charges brought.

This legislation could decrease the number of defendants potentially sentenced to jail and consequently, the City's usage of the King County jail. The term of the interlocal agreement governing the City's usage of the jail runs through 2030, but if this legislation can significantly decrease the City's bed use, it could inform long-term renegotiation of the jail contract.

### Budget Action Transactions

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#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BSL	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
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