SUMMARY and FISCAL NOTE

Department:	Contact Person/Phone:	Executive Contact/Phone:
Seattle City Light	Kelly Enright / 4-3111	Greg Shiring / 6-4085

1. BILL SUMMARY

Legislation Title: AN ORDINANCE relating to the City Light Department; and amending Section 21.49.042 of the Seattle Municipal code to align income eligibility guidelines for the utility-funded Emergency Low-Income Assistance program with other city rate assistance programs and allow year-round program operation.

Summary and background of the Legislation: This ordinance amends SMC 21.49.042 to make rate assistance more accessible to qualified customers by aligning income guidelines for the utility's ELIA program with all other city utility energy assistance programs. It also removes the requirement that customers must have received grants from the Federal Energy Assistance Program and the Federal Energy Crisis Intervention Program during the current program year, prior to receiving assistance through the ELIA program.

2. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

____ **This legislation creates, funds, or amends a CIP Project.**

3. SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

__X__ **This legislation has direct financial implications.**

Budget program(s) affected:				
Estimated $ Appropriation change:	**General Fund $**		**Other $**	
	2015	**2016**	**2015**	**2016**
Estimated $ Revenue change:	**Revenue to General Fund**		**Revenue to Other Funds**	
	2015	**2016**	**2015**	**2016**
			-30,000	**-30,000**
Positions affected:	**No. of Positions**		**Total FTE Change**	
	2015	**2016**	**2015**	**2016**
Other departments affected:	None			

3.a. Appropriations

____ **This legislation adds, changes, or deletes appropriations.**

Fund Name and number	Dept	Budget Control Level Name/#*	2015 Appropriation Change	2016 Estimated Appropriation Change
TOTAL				

See budget book to obtain the appropriate Budget Control Level for your department.

Appropriations Notes:

3.b. Revenues/Reimbursements

_X___ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes revenues or reimbursements.

Anticipated Revenue/Reimbursement Resulting from this Legislation:

Fund Name and Number	Dept	Revenue Source	2015 Revenue	2016 Estimated Revenue
Light Fund (41000)	City Light	Retail rates	-30,000	- 30,000
TOTAL			**-30,000**	**- 30,000**

Revenue/Reimbursement Notes:
Passing this ordinance will lead to a decrease in City Light's revenues as more customers sign up for residential rate assistance. The $30,000 is a rough estimate of the impact of enrolling 205 more customers (a 25% increase) in rate assistance at an average annual benefit of $147 per customer. The actual impact will depend on the number of new customers enrolled and these customers' individual usage. Overall, the impact is expected to be a small percentage of the overall retail revenue and will be monitored by City Light staff.

3.c. Positions

____ This legislation adds, changes, or deletes positions.

Total Regular Positions Created, Modified, or Abrogated through this Legislation, Including FTE Impact:

Position # for Existing Positions	Position Title & Department*	Fund Name & #	Program & BCL	PT/FT	2015 Positions	2015 FTE	Does it sunset? (If yes, explain below in Position Notes)
TOTAL							

* *List each position separately*

Position Notes:

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

a) Does the legislation have indirect or long-term financial impacts to the City of Seattle that are not reflected in the above?
Any reduction in City Light retail revenue will reduce payments to the General Fund via the 6% City Utility Tax. The reduction in City Light revenue described above translates to a very negligible impact on General Fund tax revenue.

b) Is there financial cost or other impacts of not implementing the legislation?
If City Light did not make rate assistance programs more accessible, revenues from residential customers will not decrease as projected.

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

d) Is a public hearing required for this legislation?
No.

e) Is publication of notice with *The Daily Journal of Commerce* and/or *The Seattle Times* required for this legislation?
No.

f) Does this legislation affect a piece of property?
No.

g) Please describe any perceived implication for the principles of the Race and Social Justice Initiative. Does this legislation impact vulnerable or historically disadvantaged communities?
This legislation will remove barriers to customer participation in the ELIA program. The income eligibility level is raised and federal program participation would no longer be required. More struggling customers will be able to participate. Additionally, the ELIA program is intended to help prevent the disconnection of electric service. Changing the income guidelines and increasing program participation should result in a reduction in the number of customers whose electricity is disconnected for non-payment.

h) If this legislation includes a new initiative or a major programmatic expansion: What are the long-term and measurable goals of the program? Please describe how this legislation would help achieve the program's desired goals.
This legislation resulted from a recommendation of the IDT for the Mayor's Report related to increasing enrollment in the Utility Discount Program (UDP). While this legislation does not directly impact the enrollment in the UDP it does align income guidelines for all city energy assistance programs, reducing confusion, removing barriers

and allowing more customers to participate in the ELIA program.

i) Other Issues:
N/A.

List attachments below:
N/A.