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City of Seattle Legislative Information Service

Information updated as of July 7, 2009 11:55 AM

Council Bill Number: 116500

Ordinance Number: 122960

AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City for ratification or rejection by referendum Ordinance 122752 relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system; requesting that the Director of King County Elections call a special election to coincide with the primary election to be held on August 18, 2009, for the purpose of submitting this referendum measure to the qualified electors; authorizing and directing the City Clerk to take those actions necessary to submit this referendum measure to the qualified electors on August 18, 2009; requesting the Seattle City Attorney to prepare an explanatory statement for this referendum measure; requesting the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to place information concerning this referendum measure in the August 2009 voters' pamphlet; and repealing Ordinance 122941.

Date introduced/referred: April 13, 2009

Date passed: April 20, 2009

Status: Passed

Vote: 9-0

Date of Mayor's signature: April 28, 2009

[\(about the signature date\)](#)

Note: **Green Fee** Referendum, Shopping Bag Fee

Committee: Full Council

Sponsor: CONLIN

Index Terms: INITIATIVES-AND-REFERENDA,
ENVIRONMENTAL-PROTECTION, ELECTIONS, SOLID-WASTE,
WASTE-DISPOSAL, SOLID-WASTE-DISPOSAL, RECYCLING,
ENVIRONMENTAL-PROTECTION

Text

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AN ORDINANCE providing for the submission to the qualified electors of the City for ratification or rejection by referendum Ordinance 122752 relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system; requesting that the Director of King County Elections call a special election to coincide with the primary election to be held on August 18, 2009, for the purpose of submitting this referendum measure to the qualified electors; authorizing and directing the City Clerk to take those actions necessary to submit this referendum measure to the qualified electors on August 18, 2009; requesting the Seattle City Attorney to prepare an explanatory statement for this referendum measure; requesting the Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission to place information concerning this referendum measure in the August 2009 voters' pamphlet; and repealing Ordinance 122941.

WHEREAS, on August 25, 2008, a citizen referendum was filed with the City that suspended implementation of Ordinance 122752 pending approval of the ordinance by the voters of the City of Seattle; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Subsection 1.K of the City Charter states that after the City Clerk transmits the verified referendum petition to the City Council, the Council shall provide for submittal of the referred ordinance or section to a vote of the qualified electors for ratification or rejection; NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The Director of King County Elections, as ex officio supervisor of elections, is requested to call a special election to be held in conjunction with the state-wide primary election on August 18, 2009, and to submit to the qualified electors of the City the referendum measure set forth in Section 2.

Section 2. The City Clerk is authorized and directed, not later than 84 days prior to August 18, 2009, to certify the referendum measure for the ratification or rejection of Ordinance 122752 entitled:

"AN ORDINANCE relating to the City of Seattle's solid waste system, establishing an advanced recovery fee (a green fee) for disposable shopping bags, providing a deduction for the green fee from the City's business license tax, creating two new positions, and amending Seattle Municipal Code Chapters 21.36, 21.40, and 5.45."

passed by the City Council on July 28, 2008 and approved by the Mayor

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on July 30, 2008, as authorized by Seattle Charter Article IV, Subsections 1.H and 1.K, with a ballot title as follows or as modified by the City Attorney pursuant to RCW 29A.36.071:

CITY OF SEATTLE

Referendum No. 1

The Seattle City Council passed Ordinance Number 122752 concerning imposing a 20-cent fee on disposable shopping bags. A sufficient number of voters signed a petition to refer the ordinance to a public vote.

This ordinance would require grocery, drug and convenience stores to collect the fee for every disposable shopping bag provided to customers. Stores with annual gross sales of under \$1,000,000 could keep all of the fees they collected, to cover their costs. Other stores could keep 25% of the fees they collected, and would send the remainder to the City to support garbage reduction and recycling programs. The stores would get a business-tax deduction for the fees they collected.

Should this ordinance be:

Approved
Rejected

Section 3. The Seattle City Attorney is requested to prepare an explanatory statement for this referendum measure.

Section 4. The Executive Director of the Seattle Ethics and Elections Commission is requested to take those actions necessary to place information concerning this referendum measure in the August 2009 voters' pamphlet.

Section 5. Ordinance 122941 is repealed.

Section 6. This ordinance shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its approval by the Mayor; or if returned to the Council by the Mayor unsigned, then immediately upon its return; or if not approved and returned by the Mayor within 10 days after presentation, then on the 11th day after its presentation to the Mayor; or if vetoed by the Mayor, then immediately after its passage over his veto.

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Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2009, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 2009.

President _____ of the City Council

Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2009.

City Clerk

April 8, 2009

Version 8

[Fiscal Note](#)

