

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Environment Code – Tenant Bicycle Parking in Existing Commercial Buildings]

Ordinance amending Section 400 and adding Section 402 to the San Francisco Environment Code to 1) require the owners of existing commercial buildings to either provide secure bicycle parking in their buildings or allow their tenants to bring their bicycles into the building; 2) provide that the ordinance's operative date is January 1, 2012 or 30 days from the effective date of the ordinance, whichever is later; and 3) making environmental findings.

Existing Law

Sections 400 through 424 of the Environment Code establish the Healthy Air and Clean Transportation Program. The purpose is to assist the City in achieving its air pollution and greenhouse gas reduction goals by promoting the use of zero or low-emission vehicles and by encouraging trip reduction, carpooling, and public transit.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance amends the Healthy Air and Clean Transportation Program to include provisions that will increase bicycle commuting. The legislation will require that commencing on January 1, 2012 or 30 days after the effective date of the legislation, whichever is later, the owners of existing commercial buildings that are not already subject to the Planning Code's bicycle parking requirements must either provide secure bicycle parking in their buildings or allow their tenants to bring their bicycles into the building. If the owner or other person controlling the building wants to prescribe details and limitations on bicycle access to the building, he or she must complete a Bicycle Access Plan and submit it to the Department of Environment.

Background Information

This legislation was modeled after a New York City law. The intent is to increase bicycle commuting by providing cyclists with the opportunity to securely park their bicycles in or close to their workplaces.