

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

(As Amended in Committee, 05/12/2021)

[Administrative Code - Free Muni Pilot Program Fund]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to create a special fund for a Free Muni pilot program ending September 30, 2021, and setting conditions for use of the Fund.

Existing Law

The City currently does not have a law that would provide for paying the costs of offering free Muni service.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create a special fund to reimburse the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (“SFMTA”) for any fare revenues the SFMTA lost if it agreed to provide free Muni service on a trial basis from July 1 through September 30, 2021. The fund could also be used to reimburse the SFMTA’s paratransit program for any additional costs it incurred as a result of the provision of free Muni service and the requirements of the Americans With Disabilities Act.

Money in the fund would come from City appropriations or possible donations made to support the Free Muni pilot program.

The SFMTA would administer the fund. In order to withdraw money from the fund, the SFMTA would have to meet two basic conditions during the pilot program:

- Provide free Muni service and suspend fare enforcement, although passengers could continue to pay fares on a voluntary basis; and
- Publicize the Free Muni pilot program and post signs on Muni vehicles and facilities telling passengers that fare payment is voluntary during the pilot program.

The SFMTA would also have to file monthly reports with the Board of Supervisors explaining the progress and impacts of the pilot program.

The ordinance creating the fund would automatically expire after the SFMTA filed the last required report, on or about October 15, 2021.

Background Information

Under the Charter, the Board of Supervisors may not direct the SFMTA to provide free Muni service, but the Board and the Mayor may appropriate General Fund money to the

SFMTA to reimburse the agency for lost revenues if the SFMTA chooses to provide free service.

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