

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Police Code - Tenderloin and South of Market Retail Hours Restriction Pilot Program]

Ordinance amending the Police Code to expand the current Tenderloin retail hours restriction pilot program, under which retail food and tobacco establishments in the restricted area are prohibited from being open to the public from 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m., or from 2:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. if subject to regulation by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, to encompass a high-crime area across the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods; and to extend the duration of the pilot program, currently set to expire in July 2026, to instead expire 18 months from the effective date of this Ordinance.

Existing Law

Current law has established a two-year pilot program, set to expire in July 2026, under which retail food and tobacco establishments in a high-crime section of the Tenderloin police district are prohibited from being open to the public between the hours of 12:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m., or for those establishments regulated by the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, between 2:00 a.m. and 5:00 a.m. Violators may be subject to administrative fines of up to \$1,000 per violation, in addition to civil penalties and attorneys' fees and costs.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would expand the current pilot program to encompass an area labeled the "Tenderloin and South of Market Public Safety Area," including the original area and some additional areas in the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods, and would extend the duration of the pilot program through 18 months from the effective date of this ordinance. The ordinance would require that the Police Department submit a progress report to the Board of Supervisors six months after the effective date of this ordinance.

Background Information

The Police Department has documented through crime data, photographs, and patrol officers' observations that large groups of people engaged in illicit drug sales and use congregate close to open food markets and tobacco establishments in the late night and early morning hours in the Tenderloin and South of Market Public Safety Area. The Police Department has documented that these late-night gatherings contribute to increased criminal activity, impede law enforcement operations, leave behind significant debris and unsanitary waste, and lead neighborhood residents to feel unsafe. Police Department data supports that the current pilot has been effective in reducing crime in the covered area, but that the problems continue, and are increasingly spread across the larger area encompassed by the Tenderloin and South of Market Public Safety Area.