

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST
(Amended in Committee - 4/28/16)

[Administrative Code - Establishing Municipal Fines and Fees Task Force]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to establish the Municipal Fines and Fees Task Force to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and City departments regarding policies that reduce fines and fees for low-income City residents; and setting forth the membership and duties of the Task Force.

Existing Law

The City currently has no advisory body that makes recommendations to the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, or City departments regarding policies to reduce fines and fees for low-income City residents.

Amendments to Current Law

The proposed ordinance would create a Municipal Fines and Fees Task Force to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and other City departments on potential policies that could mitigate the financial impacts on low-income San Franciscans of municipal fines and fees, court-ordered debt, suspended driver's licenses, and payment of municipal fines or fees..

The Task Force would terminate two years after the effective date of the ordinance unless the Board re-authorizes it in a subsequent ordinance. Six months after its inaugural meeting, the Task Force would submit to the Board of Supervisors a report evaluating and recommending policy options to (1) reduce municipal fines and fees for low-income people, (2) reduce the rate at which low-income people are cited for municipal violations, (3) offer debt relief for low-income people facing significant debt arising from municipal fines, fees, and court-ordered debt, and (3) implement the Statewide Traffic Tickets/Infraction Amnesty Program.

The Task Force would have eleven members, including employees of the Treasurer-Tax Collector, Office of Economic and Workforce Development, Human Services Agency, Public Defender's Office, District Attorney's Office, Municipal Transportation Agency, and the San Francisco Superior Court, and four people appointed by the Board of Supervisors with lived experience or experience providing services or assistance to low-income people regarding court-ordered debt, suspended driver's licenses, or payment of municipal fines or fees.

Background Information

On April 28, 2016, the Rules Committee amended the proposed ordinance to expand the Task Force from nine to eleven members and to provide that the Treasurer-Tax Collector will provide administrative support for the Task Force.