

LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

[Administrative, Health Codes - Mechanical Street Sweeping Performance; Garbage Receptacles]

Ordinance amending the Administrative Code to require the Department of Public Works to perform evaluations and periodically report on mechanical street sweeping operations, including submittal of written performance reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor; amending the Health Code to revise and clarify outdated terms concerning garbage receptacle requirements and authorize a process for the imposition of administrative fines; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

Existing Law

Currently, the Municipal Code does not require the Department of Public Works ("Public Works") to perform evaluations and periodic reporting on mechanical street sweeping operations.

Currently, the Health Code's requirements concerning the storage and placement of garbage receptacles for collection and disposal includes outdated and potentially confusing language.

Amendments to Current Law

This ordinance would amend the Administrative Code to require the Public Works Director or the Director's designee to submit to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor, and publish on the Public Works' website, a written report evaluating Public Works' mechanical street sweeping operations at least once every ten years, with the first written report due no later than January 31, 2027. The reports would include findings and recommendations on how Public Works may improve the performance of mechanical street sweeping operations. Prior to submitting such reports to the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor for each reporting period, the Controller's City Services Auditor would have an opportunity to review and provide any comments on the report within 60 days of receiving the report.

In addition, this ordinance would amend the Health Code to clarify the garbage receptacle requirements and to authorize Public Works to impose administrative fines for any violation of Health Code Section 283.

Background Information

Public Works provides routine mechanical street sweeping services to clean approximately 90 percent of San Francisco streets. Mechanical street sweepers remove litter from residential neighborhoods and shopping corridors.

On October 29, 2025, the Budget and Legislative Analyst's Office published a report titled, "Performance Audit of the Management of Street Cleaning by San Francisco Public Works." This report concluded, in part, that the absence of a "comprehensive citywide evaluation [of mechanical street sweeping operations] means that outdated service patterns may persist, leading to inefficiencies related to cleanliness and cost" and that due to the lack of a comprehensive evaluation, "optimized route scheduling, frequency, and labor needs" have not been determined.

This ordinance would implement some recommendations identified in the aforementioned report.