

**REVISED LEGISLATIVE DIGEST**

(11/7/2023, Amended in Board)

[Charter Amendment - Mayoral Authority to Disapprove Certain SFMTA Budget Proposals]

**Describing and setting forth a proposal to the voters at an election to be held on March 5, 2024, to amend the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco to provide that the Mayor may disapprove in writing certain San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (Agency) proposals that must be part of the Agency’s proposed budget or budget amendment; proposals subject to disapproval are increases in fares and parking meter maximum rates, and net expansion of hours or days of parking meter operation.**

Existing Law

Under current law, the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) has exclusive jurisdiction over setting transit fares subject to the fact that it can only change fares through a budget or budget amendment, which must be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors may reject but not modify the SFMTA’s budget or a budget amendment (including the fare change) with a vote of seven out of 11 members. The Mayor does not have a direct role under the Charter in setting transit fares.

The SFMTA also has exclusive jurisdiction to set parking meter maximum rates and hours and days of parking meter operation. Under the Charter, the Board of Supervisors and the Mayor do not have a role in setting parking meter rates or hours or days of operation, except to the extent that the SFMTA includes those rates in its budget or a budget amendment.

Amendments to Current Law

This legislation amends the Charter to expand the actions that the SFMTA must include in its budget or in a budget amendment to include any increase in parking meter maximum rates or expansion of days and hours of operation. The legislation further provides that the Mayor may disapprove in writing certain SFMTA proposals as part of the SFMTA’s budget or budget amendment. The proposals that are subject to the Mayor’s disapproval are: (1) any increase in SFMTA transit fares; (2) any increase in parking meter maximum rates; and (3) any net expansion of hours or days of parking meter operation (collectively “Fare and/or Meter Increase”). If the Mayor disapproves a Fare and/or Meter Increase, the Mayor must do so in writing, identify the specific Fare and/or Meter Increase(s) that the Mayor disapproves, and return the budget or budget amendment to the Agency. For the budget, the Agency then has 15 days to submit a revised budget to the Mayor. If the Mayor takes no action to disapprove any Fare and/or Meter Increase then the Mayor shall submit the proposed budget or budget amendment to the Board of Supervisors without change for its review and consideration.

Background Information

This Charter amendment was introduced on September 19, 2023. As initially introduced, the amendment would have amended the Charter to provide that the Mayor must affirmatively approve in writing certain SFMTA proposals as part of the SFMTA's budget or budget amendment. The proposals that were subject to this approval were any changes to: (1) SFMTA fares; and (2) parking meter maximum rates; and (3) hours or days of parking meter operation.

On November 7, 2023, this Charter amendment was amended at a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors to make two substantive changes: (1) change the requirement from requiring Mayoral approval of certain actions to allowing the Mayor to disapprove certain proposals in writing or to allow the proposals to move forward if the Mayor takes no action to disapprove; and (2) limit the Mayor's disapproval to increases in fare and meter rates and expansion of days and hours of operation rather than any changes to those proposals. Other clarifying changes include that the Agency can only make any parking meter fare increase or net expansion of the days and hours of parking meter operation through a budget or a budget amendment.

n:\legana\as2023\2400030\01716246.docx