

HOW TO READ A BILL

A. CITY OF SEATTLE

B. ORDINANCE _____

C. COUNCIL BILL _____

D. AN ORDINANCE designating the color Emerald Green as the City of Seattle's official color; amending **E.** Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.18.010.

F. WHEREAS, in sample Ordinance 012345, the color Neon Green was originally designated as the official color of the City of Seattle;

WHEREAS, residents of the City of Seattle identify Seattle with the color Emerald Green; NOW, THEREFORE,

G. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF SEATTLE AS FOLLOWS:

H. Section 1. **L.** Section 1.18.010 of the Seattle Municipal Code, last amended by Sample Ordinance 012345, is amended as follows:

1.18.010 City Color - Color Designated.
The color **J.** Emerald **K.** ~~Neon Green~~ is designated to represent the City of Seattle.

Section 2. **L.** This sample ordinance shall take effect and be in force 30 days after its approval by the Mayor, but if not approved and returned by the Mayor within ten days after presentation, it shall take effect as provided by Seattle Municipal Code Section 1.04.020.

M. Passed by the City Council the ____ day of _____, 2012, and signed by me in open session in authentication of its passage this ____ day of _____, 2012.

President _____ of the City Council

N. Approved by me this ____ day of _____, 2012.

O. _____
Michael McGinn, Mayor

P. Filed by me this ____ day of _____, 2012.

Q. _____
Monica Martinez Simmons, City Clerk

R. (Seal)

A. Legislative Act: Every legislative act of said City shall be by Ordinance (City Charter IV, Sec. 7).
B. Ordinance Number: Upon passage and approval of a Council Bill, an Ordinance number is assigned.
C. Council Bill Number: A proposed Ordinance is identified as a Council Bill (Bill).
D. Bill Title: Every Ordinance shall be clearly entitled and shall contain one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title (City Charter IV, Sec. 7).
E. Bill Title: This sample Bill is proposing an amendment to the Seattle Municipal Code (SMC). The SMC is a system of organizing laws into a "code" that compiles all general and permanent laws, grouped by topic.
F. Recitals: After the title and before the ordaining clause, an Ordinance may include an explanation of its intent in the form of recitals, or "whereas" clauses.
G. Ordaining Clause: The enacting clause of every ordinance (City Charter IV, Sec. 7).
H. Bill Sections: Following the ordaining clause, a Bill is divided into consecutively numbered sections that indicate the action(s) being taken.
I. Introductory Phrases to Code Changes, aka "jingles": A jingle introduces or describes the changes to the SMC.
J. New Language: Underlined text describes the proposed new language to existing law.
K. Deleted Language: Lined-out phrases are proposed deletions to existing law.
L. Effective Date Clause: The effective date clause indicates when the new law will take effect.
M. City Council President's Signature: Every Bill, after passage by the City Council, shall be signed by the President of the City Council in open session, in authentication of its passage (City Charter IV, Sec. 11).
N. Approval Date: This date determines the effective date of the Bill, if approved by the Mayor (SMC 1.04.020).
O. Mayor's Signature: The Mayor may sign the bill, return it unsigned but without disapproval, or may veto the Bill (City Charter IV, Sec. 12).
P. Filed Date: This date indicates the date the Bill was returned to the City Clerk by the Mayor, which may help determine the effective date (SMC 1.04.020).
Q. City Clerk's Signature: The City Clerk signs all approved Bills, and assigns an Ordinance number.
R. City Seal: Ordinances are embossed with the City Seal.