

Title and Summary for Initiative Measure

Initiative Measure to Amend the City of Berkeley's Municipal Code Chapter 12.90 to Amend Berkeley's Nuclear Free Act of 1986

The proposed measure would amend Chapter 12.90 of the Berkeley Municipal Code to modify Berkeley's Nuclear Free Act of 1986, renaming it to "Nuclear Weapons Free Berkeley Act." The purpose of the modifications would be to:

- Advocate for the elimination of nuclear weapons worldwide by August 6, 2045 (the 100-year anniversary of dropping a nuclear weapon on the Japanese city of Hiroshima);
- Advocate for a freeze on the modernization of nuclear weapons;
- Advocate for the elimination in the stockpile of non-deployed nuclear weapons, and for a plan to phase out all nuclear weapons by 2045;
- Oppose nuclear weapons by banning work for nuclear weapons within the City of Berkeley;
- Advocating that federal government funding of nuclear weapons be repurposed toward combating climate change and towards helping develop and expand carbon-free energy resources; and
- Preventing the spread of nuclear weapons by promoting non-proliferation efforts.

The measure would prohibit any person, corporation, university, laboratory, institution or other entity to knowingly work for nuclear weapons within the City of Berkeley, however, unclassified research, study, evaluation, or teaching would not be prohibited. Use of radioactive material for peaceful purposes, including but not limited to research and application of nuclear medicine would be exempt from the prohibition.

As part of the measure, the prohibition on nuclear reactors would be deleted from the Ordinance. The measure would also clarify that any food intended for human consumption that has been irradiated in a food irradiation facility and is intended for sale within Berkeley shall be labeled in accordance with FDA regulations.

With certain exceptions, the measure would prohibit the City of Berkeley from contracting with any entity that is knowingly engaging in work for nuclear weapons as a substantial part of its economic activity, unless the Berkeley City Council makes a specific determination. In addition, the measure would call for the City of Berkeley to refrain from knowingly making investments directly in entities whose primary purpose is work for nuclear weapons.

The measure would delete the "Sanction and citizen empowerment" section of the existing ordinance and would make modifications to the reporting and transportation sections. It would also clarify that the term "Nuclear weapon" is an explosive device, the intended explosion of which results from the energy released by reactions involving atomic nuclei, either fission or fusion or both.