

[Building, Administrative, Public Works Codes - Disability Access Improvements for Places of Public Accommodation]

**Ordinance amending the Building, Administrative, and Public Works Codes to remove the local requirement for existing buildings with a place of public accommodation to have all primary entries and paths of travel into the building accessible to persons with disabilities or to receive a City determination of equivalent facilitation, technical infeasibility, or unreasonable hardship; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.**

NOTE: **Unchanged Code text and uncodified text** are in plain Arial font.  
**Additions to Codes** are in *single-underline italics Times New Roman font*.  
**Deletions to Codes** are in *strikethrough italics Times New Roman font*.  
**Board amendment additions** are in double-underlined Arial font.  
**Board amendment deletions** are in ~~strikethrough Arial font~~.  
**Asterisks (\* \* \* \*)** indicate the omission of unchanged Code subsections or parts of tables.

Be it ordained by the People of the City and County of San Francisco:

Section 1. Findings.

(a) Pursuant to Charter Section 4.121 and Building Code Section 104A.2.11.1.1, the Building Inspection Commission considered this ordinance at a duly noticed public hearing held on November 20, 2024.

(b) Chapter 11D of the Building Code currently requires the owner of an existing building with a place of public accommodation to have the building inspected for compliance with accessible entry and path of travel requirements. If the building is not in compliance, the owner must either bring the building into compliance or obtain a finding from the City of equivalent facilitation, technical infeasibility, or unreasonable hardship. All mandated work

1 must be completed within the time periods specified in the Building Code for building permits  
2 unless an extension of time is granted.

3 (c) Property owners are responsible for compliance with Code requirements, but  
4 leases may shift some or all of the burden of compliance onto tenants. Many of the buildings  
5 subject to the Chapter 11D requirements have multiple leased spaces, many of which are  
6 operated by small businesses without substantial financial resources.

7 (d) The requirements of Chapter 11D were designed to bring a broader set of property  
8 and business owners into compliance with the accessibility standards of the California  
9 Building Code and, to the greatest extent feasible, the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.  
10 As a result, as of October 2024, over 16,500 businesses in San Francisco are compliant with  
11 program accessibility requirements (including waived and exempted businesses) and another  
12 1,190 businesses have applied for a permit to bring the properties into compliance with  
13 Chapter 11D. With a compliance rate of 75% of businesses, the City intends to pivot its focus  
14 and limited resources to facilitate compliance with State and Federal accessibility standards  
15 by providing financial support and robust education and outreach.

16 (e) No local findings are required for this ordinance under California Health and Safety  
17 Code Section 17958.7 because the amendments to the Building Code contained in this  
18 ordinance do not regulate materials or manner of construction or repair, and instead relate in  
19 their entirety to administrative procedures for implementing the code, which are expressly  
20 excluded from the definition of a "building standard" by California Health and Safety Code  
21 Section 18909(c).

22 (f) The Planning Department has determined that the actions contemplated in this  
23 ordinance comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (California Public Resources  
24 Code Sections 21000 *et seq.*). Said determination is on file with the Clerk of the Board of  
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Supervisors in File No. 240982 and is incorporated herein by reference. The Board affirms this determination.

Section 2. Chapters 1A and 11D of the Building Code are hereby amended by (1) revising Sections 105A.3 (Section 105A.3.3 specifically), 1101D, and 1102D; (2) deleting existing Section 1103D and adding new Section 1103D; (3) deleting existing Sections 1104D, 1105D, 1106D, 1107D, 1108D, 1109D, 1110D, and 1111D; and (4) renumbering existing Sections 1112D, 1113D, and 1114D as new Sections 1104D, 1105D, and 1106D respectively, and revising said Sections, to read as follows:

**105A.3 Access Appeals Commission.**

**105A.3.1 Establishment; composition; purpose.** Pursuant to the provisions of Section 19957.5 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, there is hereby established an Appeals Board to be known as the Access Appeals Commission composed of five members to hear written appeals brought by any person regarding action taken by the Department in the enforcement of the requirements of Part 5.5 (commencing with Section 19955), Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California, including the exceptions contained in Section 19957 thereof, as well as action taken by the Department in the enforcement of the disabled access and adaptability provisions of this code.

\* \* \* \*

**105A.3.3 Powers and duties; finality.** The Access Appeals Commission shall conduct hearings on written appeals made under Section 105A.3.4 hereof. In hearing such appeals, the Access Appeals Commission may approve or disapprove the Department's interpretations of Part 5.5, Division 13 of the Health and Safety Code of the State of California and of the disability access and adaptability requirements of this code and actions taken by the

1 Department to enforce said requirements and abate violations. The Commission shall also  
2 make determinations on equivalent facilitation, technical infeasibility, unreasonable hardship,  
3 and extensions of time. ~~, and such other matters as Chapter 11D—Mandatory Accessibility~~  
4 ~~Improvements for Buildings with a Place of Public Accommodation may require or authorize.~~ All such  
5 approvals or disapprovals shall be final and conclusive as to the Department, in the absence  
6 of fraud or prejudicial abuse of discretion. See Section 110A, Table 1A-K – Penalties,  
7 Hearings, Code Enforcement Assessments – for applicable fee.

8 \* \* \* \*

## 9 Chapter 11D

### 10 MANDATORY ACCESSIBILITY IMPROVEMENTS FOR BUILDINGS WITH A PLACE 11 OF PUBLIC ACCOMMODATION

#### 12 SECTION 1101D – SCOPE

13 Any building or portion of a building with a Place of Public Accommodation subject to  
14 the requirements of Chapter 11B of this Code is within the scope of this Chapter.

15 **Exception:** A building that was constructed under a building or site permit application  
16 filed on or after January 1, 2002.

17 A building constructed under the Building Code in effect on or after January 1, 2002 is  
18 presumed to be accessible to persons with disabilities and will be exempt from this Chapter  
19 ~~11D upon receipt by the Department of a written notice of exemption from the Owner or the Owner's~~  
20 ~~authorized agent that provides a construction permit application number dated on or after January 1,~~  
21 ~~2002 and contact information for the Owner and/or Owner's authorized agent.~~

22 **1101D.1. Compliance with Federal or State Laws.** Nothing in this Chapter 11D is  
23 intended to relieve the Owner or the operator of a Place of Public Accommodation of their  
24 obligation to comply with the requirements of any Federal or State law, including but not  
25

1 limited to the Americans with Disabilities Act, or to modify or extend the time for compliance  
2 with any such law.

3 **1101D.2. Contractual Obligations.** Nothing in this Chapter 11D is intended to  
4 interfere with any contractual obligations between the Owner of a building within the scope of  
5 this Chapter and any lessee of space within the building.

## 6 7 **SECTION 1102D – DEFINITIONS**

8 For the purposes of this Chapter 11D, the following definitions shall apply:

9 ~~“Accessible Entrance Route.” An identifiable path of travel by means of which a Primary Entry~~  
10 ~~may be approached, entered and exited, and which connects the Primary Entry with an exterior~~  
11 ~~approach (including any adjacent sidewalks, streets and parking areas).~~

12 “Building Official.” The Director of the Department or the Director’s designee.

13 ~~“California Construction-Related Accessibility Standards Compliance Act.” Sections 55.51~~  
14 ~~through 55.53 of the California Civil Code as amended from time to time.~~

15 ~~“California Historical Building Code.” Part 8 of Title 24, California Code of Regulations.~~

16 “CASp Inspector.” A person who has been certified by the State of California as a  
17 certified access specialist authorized to inspect a Place of Public Accommodation for  
18 compliance with construction-related accessibility standards.

19 ~~“Checklist for Alterations to Commercial Store front for Accessibility.” A Checklist developed~~  
20 ~~by or with the input of City departments or agencies with review authority over the subject buildings.~~

21 “Department.” The Department of Building Inspection.

22 ~~“Design Professional.” A “Registered Design Professional” as defined in Chapter 2 of the~~  
23 ~~Building Code.~~

24 “Disability Access Compliance Unit” or “Compliance Unit.” The Unit within the  
25 Department established under Section 110412D of this Chapter.

1 ~~“Equivalent Facilitation.” As defined in Chapter 2 of the Building Code.~~

2 ~~“Historic Resource.” A building designated pursuant to Articles 10 and 11 of the Planning~~  
3 ~~Code, listed on or determined eligible for listing on the California Register of Historic Resources or the~~  
4 ~~National Register of Historic Places, or that is a ‘qualified historical building’ as defined in the~~  
5 ~~California Historical Building Code.~~

6 ~~“Inspector.” A CASp Inspector or a Design Professional approved by the Building Official as~~  
7 ~~qualified to evaluate compliance with disability access requirements.~~

8 “Owner.” The owner of a building within the scope of this Chapter 11D.

9 “Place of Public Accommodation.” As defined in Chapter 2 of the Building Code and 42  
10 USC Section 12181(7) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended from time  
11 to time.

12 ~~“Primary Entry.” As defined in Chapter 2 of this Code, the principal entrance through which~~  
13 ~~most people enter the building, as designated by the Building Official. If there are multiple commercial~~  
14 ~~tenants or spaces, a building may have multiple Primary Entries.~~

15 ~~“Technically Infeasible.” As defined in Chapter 2 of the Building Code.~~

16 ~~“Technical Infeasibility.” A Code requirement is Technically Infeasible.~~

17 ~~“Unreasonable Hardship.” As defined in Chapter 2 of the Building Code. If the Building~~  
18 ~~Official, or the Access Appeals Commission in any unreasonable hardship determination made under~~  
19 ~~Section 1105D, determines that any of the factors that the Building Code requires to be considered in~~  
20 ~~evaluating an Unreasonable Hardship request are not applicable because the required scope of work is~~  
21 ~~limited to the disability access improvements mandated by this Chapter 11D, the Building Official or~~  
22 ~~Access Appeals Commission may supplement the criteria by considering any applicable factor for~~  
23 ~~determining what is an Undue Hardship or is Readily Achievable in Title III of the Americans with~~  
24 ~~Disabilities Act (42 USC Sections 12181–12189) and its implementing regulations.~~

25 **~~SECTION 1103D—COMPLIANCE CATEGORIES~~**

1       ~~The Department shall assign each building within the scope of this Chapter 11D to one of the~~  
2 ~~following four categories. If a building does not clearly fall within one of these categories, the Building~~  
3 ~~Official shall assign it to the category he or she determines is the most appropriate. The Building~~  
4 ~~Official's decision is appealable to the Building Inspection Commission pursuant to Section 77.3(b) of~~  
5 ~~the Administrative Code.~~

6       **Category One:** ~~The Primary Entry or Entries and the Accessible Entrance Route(s) comply with~~  
7 ~~Code requirements. A building qualifies under Category One if any of the following descriptions~~  
8 ~~applies:~~

9       ~~(a) A building or portion thereof was constructed or altered under a permit application filed~~  
10 ~~prior to July 1, 1992 and all Primary Entries and Accessible Entrance Routes are in compliance with~~  
11 ~~the requirements of the 1998 California Building Code.~~

12       ~~(b) A building or portion thereof was constructed or altered under a permit application filed~~  
13 ~~on or after July 1, 1992, and prior to January 1, 2002, all Primary Entries and Accessible Entrance~~  
14 ~~Routes are in compliance with the requirements of the 1998 California Building Code or a later~~  
15 ~~Building Code in effect at the time of any permit application for a tenant improvement or other~~  
16 ~~alteration, and the Department gave final approval of the accessible entry work under the construction~~  
17 ~~permit or any alteration permits.~~

18       ~~(c) A building is eligible to use the California Historical Building Code, a permit application~~  
19 ~~was filed on or after January 1, 1995, all Primary Entries and Accessible Entrance Routes are in~~  
20 ~~compliance with the California Historical Building Code in effect at the time of the permit application,~~  
21 ~~and the Department gave final approval of the accessible entry work under the construction permit or~~  
22 ~~any alteration permits.~~

23       ~~(d) A building is within the scope of Chapter 4D of the Existing Building Code, which~~  
24 ~~mandates earthquake retrofit of certain existing Wood-Frame Buildings, and the Owner elected~~  
25

1 ~~pursuant to Section 1107D to comply with the requirements of this Chapter prior to the compliance~~  
2 ~~deadlines in Table 1107D.~~

3 ~~(e) A building or portion thereof was altered, or is proposed to be altered, under a permit~~  
4 ~~application filed on or after the effective date of this Chapter 11D and the Owner elected pursuant to~~  
5 ~~Section 1107D to comply with the requirements of this Chapter prior to the compliance deadlines in~~  
6 ~~Table 1107D.~~

7 ~~**Category Two:** There are no steps to the Primary Entry or Entries and one or more elements of~~  
8 ~~the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) do not comply with Code~~  
9 ~~requirements. A building qualifies under Category Two if any of the following descriptions applies:~~

10 ~~(a) A building or portion thereof was constructed or altered under a permit application filed~~  
11 ~~prior to July 1, 1992, the building has a Primary Entry or Entries with no steps, and one or more~~  
12 ~~elements of the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) are not in compliance~~  
13 ~~with the requirements of the 1998 California Building Code.~~

14 ~~(b) A building or portion thereof was constructed or altered on or after July 1, 1992 and prior~~  
15 ~~to January 1, 2002, the building has a Primary Entry or Entries with no steps, and one or more~~  
16 ~~elements of the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) are not in compliance~~  
17 ~~with the requirements of the 1998 California Building Code or a later Building Code in effect at the~~  
18 ~~time of any permit application for a tenant improvement or other alteration, or the Department did not~~  
19 ~~give final approval of the accessible entry work under the construction permit or any alteration permit.~~

20 ~~(c) A building is eligible to use the California Historical Building Code, a permit application~~  
21 ~~was filed on or after January 1, 1995, the Primary Entry or Entries has no steps, and one or more~~  
22 ~~elements of the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) are not in compliance~~  
23 ~~with the California Historical Building Code in effect at the time of permit application, or the~~  
24 ~~Department did not give final approval of the accessible entry work under a construction permit or any~~  
25 ~~alteration permit.~~



1       ~~**Category Three:** There is one step to the Primary Entry or Entries and one or more elements of~~  
2 ~~the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) do not comply with Code~~  
3 ~~requirements. A building qualifies under Category Three if the building or portion thereof was~~  
4 ~~constructed or altered under a permit application filed prior to July 1, 1992, the Department gave final~~  
5 ~~approval of the work under the permit, the building has a Primary Entry or Entries with one step and~~  
6 ~~one or more elements of the Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) are not in~~  
7 ~~compliance with the requirements of the 1998 California Building Code.~~

8       ~~**Category Four:** The building has a Primary Entry or Entries with more than one step and one~~  
9 ~~or more elements of the Primary Entry or Entries and/or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) do not~~  
10 ~~comply with minimum Code requirements. A building qualifies under Category Four if the building or~~  
11 ~~portion thereof was constructed or altered under a permit application filed prior to July 1, 1992, the~~  
12 ~~building has a Primary Entry or Entries with more than one step, and one or more elements of the~~  
13 ~~Primary Entry or Entries or the Accessible Entrance Route(s) are not in compliance with the~~  
14 ~~requirements of the 1998 California Building Code, or the Department did not give final approval of~~  
15 ~~the accessible entry work under the construction permit.~~

16       **SECTION 1103D – DEPARTMENT COORDINATION**

17       The Department shall coordinate with the Planning Department, the Department of Public  
18 Works, Mayor's Office on Disability, and other appropriate City departments and offices to do the  
19 following:

20       (a) Provide information to project applicants who own or operate a Place of Public  
21 Accommodation regarding the obligations of property owners, managers, and business tenants  
22 regarding compliance with disability access requirements under the California Building Code and the  
23 Americans with Disabilities Act, upon submittal of a project application; and  
24  
25

1           **(b) Develop and distribute outreach tools, such as brochures and technical information sheets,**  
2 **to assist project applicants who own or operate a Place of Public Accommodation in understanding**  
3 **said requirements.**

4  
5           **~~SECTION 1104D—INSPECTION AND SUBMISSION OF PRIMARY ENTRY~~**  
6 **~~COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST~~**

7           **~~1104D.1. Category One Buildings.~~** *The Owner of a building classified in Section 1103D as*  
8 *Category One shall obtain an inspection of the elements on the Department's Category One Primary*  
9 *Entry Compliance Checklist by an Inspector. On or before the time for compliance specified in Section*  
10 *1107D, the Owner shall submit to the Department's Disability Access Compliance Unit a copy of the*  
11 *Checklist completed and signed by the person who performed the inspection and including his or her*  
12 *business contact information and a professional stamp, CASp number, or California State License*  
13 *Bureau contractor's license number, whichever is applicable.*

14           *If any elements on the Checklist are found by the Inspector or licensed general contractor to be*  
15 *not in compliance with the standards for accessible entries set forth in the applicable California*  
16 *Building Code or California Historical Building Code, or the Department did not give final approval of*  
17 *the accessible entry work, the noncomplying elements shall be clearly specified in detail, the building*  
18 *shall be reassigned by the Building Official to the appropriate Category, and the Owner shall comply*  
19 *with all requirements of that Category. The Building Official's decision is appealable to the Building*  
20 *Inspection Commission pursuant to Section 77.3(b) of the Administrative Code.*

21           **~~Exception:~~** *For Category One subcategories (d) and (e), the Building Official may waive the*  
22 *requirement for an inspection and submittal of the Checklist if the Building Official determines that an*  
23 *inspection or documents submitted under other permit applications are the equivalent of the inspection*  
24 *and Checklist submittal requirements of this Chapter 11D.*

1        ~~**1104D.2. Category Two Buildings.** The Owner of a building classified in Section 1103D as~~  
2 ~~Category Two shall obtain an inspection of the elements on the Department's Category Two Primary~~  
3 ~~Entry Compliance Checklist by an Inspector. On or before the time for compliance specified in Section~~  
4 ~~1107D, the Owner shall submit to the Department's Disability Access Compliance Unit a copy of the~~  
5 ~~Checklist completed and signed by the person who performed the inspection and including his or her~~  
6 ~~business contact information and a professional stamp or CASp number.~~

7        ~~Each element on the Checklist found by the Inspector to be not in compliance with the~~  
8 ~~applicable standards for accessible entries set forth in the applicable Building Code or California~~  
9 ~~Historical Building Code, including a failure to obtain final Department approval of the accessible~~  
10 ~~entry work, shall be specified in detail and one of the following four options selected by the Owner as~~  
11 ~~the method by which the Owner will address the Code deficiency within the time specified for~~  
12 ~~compliance in Section 1107D:~~

13        ~~(a) **Option 1.** The Owner shall submit to the Disability Access Compliance Unit:~~

14                ~~(1) Plans showing how the non-complying element or elements will be brought into full~~  
15 ~~compliance with the applicable standards for accessible entries set forth in either the California~~  
16 ~~Building Code or the California Historical Building Code, and~~

17                ~~(2) If the Owner elects to use the California Historical Building Code, documentation~~  
18 ~~showing that the building is qualified to use the California Historical Building Code.~~

19                ~~The Owner must subsequently apply for and obtain a building permit to do the required~~  
20 ~~work within the time specified for compliance in Section 1107D.~~

21        ~~(b) **Option 2.** The Owner shall submit to the Disability Access Compliance Unit:~~

22                ~~(1) Plans, drawings, or other documentation required by the Compliance Unit~~  
23 ~~demonstrating that bringing the non-complying element or elements into full compliance with the~~  
24 ~~applicable Code standards for accessible entries is Technically Infeasible, and~~  
25

1                   ~~(2) Plans, drawings, a written explanation, or other documentation required by the~~  
2 ~~Compliance Unit showing what Equivalent Facilitation will be provided.~~

3                   ~~The Owner must subsequently apply for and obtain a building permit to do the work~~  
4 ~~required within the time specified for compliance in Section 1107D.~~

5                   ~~(e) **Option 3.** The Owner shall submit to the Disability Access Compliance Unit a Request for~~  
6 ~~Approval of an Unreasonable Hardship form together with plans, drawings, a written explanation, or~~  
7 ~~other documentation required by the Compliance Unit showing what Equivalent Facilitation will be~~  
8 ~~provided. The Compliance Unit will review the request and either approve or deny it, and then forward~~  
9 ~~the request and equivalency submittal information to the Access Appeals Commission for a hearing~~  
10 ~~pursuant to Section 1110D and Section 105A.3.3 of this Code.~~

11                   ~~The Owner must subsequently apply for and obtain a building permit to do the work required~~  
12 ~~within the time specified for compliance in Section 1107D.~~

13                   ~~(d) **Option 4.** The Owner shall submit to the Disability Access Compliance Unit a statement of~~  
14 ~~intent to request a hearing by the Access Appeals Commission to review the matter pursuant to Section~~  
15 ~~1110D and Section 105A.3.3 of this Code.~~

16                   ~~The request for a hearing by the Access Appeals Commission shall be submitted pursuant to the~~  
17 ~~procedures of Section 105A.3 of this Code and in sufficient time to obtain a decision prior to the other~~  
18 ~~compliance timelines in Table 1107D.~~

19                   ~~**1104D.3. Category Three Buildings.** The Owner of a building classified in Section 1103D as~~  
20 ~~Category Three shall obtain an inspection of the elements on the Department's Category Three~~  
21 ~~Primary Entry Compliance Checklist by an Inspector (as defined in Section 1102D). On or before the~~  
22 ~~time for compliance specified in Section 1107D, the Owner shall submit to the Department's Disability~~  
23 ~~Access Compliance Unit a copy of the Checklist completed and signed by the person who performed the~~  
24 ~~inspection and including his or her business contact information and a professional stamp or CASp~~  
25 ~~number.~~

1        ~~Each element on the Checklist found by the Inspector to be not in compliance with the~~  
2 ~~applicable standards for accessible entries set forth in the applicable California Building Code or~~  
3 ~~California Historical Building Code shall be specified in detail and one of the options set forth in~~  
4 ~~Section 1104D.2 (a) through (d) selected by the Owner as the method by which the Owner will address~~  
5 ~~the Code deficiency within the time specified for compliance in Section 1107D.~~

6        ~~**1104D.4. Category Four Buildings.** The Owner of a building classified in Section 1103D as~~  
7 ~~Category Four shall obtain an inspection of the elements on the Department's Category Four Primary~~  
8 ~~Entry Compliance Checklist by an Inspector. On or before the time for compliance specified in Section~~  
9 ~~1107D, the Owner shall submit to the Department's Disability Access Compliance Unit a copy of the~~  
10 ~~Checklist completed and signed by the person who performed the inspection and including his or her~~  
11 ~~business contact information and a professional stamp or CASp number.~~

12        ~~Each element on the Checklist found by the Inspector to be not in compliance with the~~  
13 ~~applicable standards for accessible entries set forth in the applicable California Building Code or~~  
14 ~~California Historical Building Code shall be specified in detail and one of the options set forth in~~  
15 ~~Section 1104D.2(a) through (d) selected by the Owner as the method by which the Owner will address~~  
16 ~~the Code deficiency within the time specified for compliance in Section 1107D.~~

17  
18        ~~**SECTION 1105D—EQUIVALENT FACILITATION; TECHNICAL INFEASIBILITY, OR**~~  
19 ~~**UNREASONABLE HARDSHIP**~~

20        ~~**1105D.1. Equivalent Facilitation.** The Department shall develop an Approved Barrier Removal~~  
21 ~~Standard in consultation with the Access Appeals Commission, the Planning Department, and the~~  
22 ~~Department of Public Works. The Disability Access Compliance Unit shall maintain the Approved~~  
23 ~~Barrier Removal Standard and review any proposal for Equivalent Facilitation under this Chapter 11D~~  
24 ~~for compliance with that Standard. Any proposal for Equivalent Facilitation that does not comply with~~  
25 ~~the Approved Barrier Removal Standard must be approved by the Access Appeals Commission.~~

1           ~~**1105D.2. Technically Infeasible.** A request for a finding that compliance is Technically~~  
2 ~~Infeasible can be based upon either a structural or a non-structural condition.~~

3           ~~**(a) Structural Technical Infeasibility.** A structural Technical Infeasibility is an existing~~  
4 ~~condition of the building where full compliance would require the removal or alteration of a load-~~  
5 ~~bearing structural element that is an essential part of the structural frame.~~

6           ~~**(b) Non-structural Technical Infeasibility.** A non-structural Technical Infeasibility may~~  
7 ~~include conditions where full compliance would require encroaching into the required egress width,~~  
8 ~~interfering with pedestrian use of the sidewalk or a permanent easement, and similar conditions that do~~  
9 ~~not impact the structural elements or frame. The Disability Access Compliance Unit shall compile a list~~  
10 ~~of non-structural conditions that the Department would accept as supporting a request for a finding of~~  
11 ~~Technical Infeasibility and provide other written guidance, and may require that a request based on a~~  
12 ~~non-structural condition be ratified by the Access Appeals Commission pursuant to Section 105A.3.3 of~~  
13 ~~this Code.~~

14           ~~**1105D.2.1. Acceptance of previously granted determinations of Technical Infeasibility.** Under~~  
15 ~~the California Building Code, all findings of Technical Infeasibility must be documented by the~~  
16 ~~Department and can only be made on a case-by-case basis. The Department will accept and record a~~  
17 ~~previously approved finding of Technical Infeasibility for a building within the scope of this Chapter~~  
18 ~~11D if: (1) the finding of Technical Infeasibility was approved by the Department and can be~~  
19 ~~documented, (2) the finding of Technical Infeasibility is applicable to the elements covered by this~~  
20 ~~Chapter 11D, and (3) an Inspector has submitted written documentation acceptable to the Department~~  
21 ~~that all conditions and requirements of the Technical Infeasibility are unchanged and remain~~  
22 ~~applicable.~~

23           ~~**1105D.3. Unreasonable Hardship.** The Compliance Unit, in consultation with the Access~~  
24 ~~Appeals Commission, shall develop and publish guidelines specifying the conditions under which an~~  
25 ~~Unreasonable Hardship would be approved by the Department. All Unreasonable Hardships must be~~

1 ~~ratified by the Access Appeals Commission pursuant to Section 11B-202.4, Exception 8, and Section~~  
2 ~~1.9.1.5 of the California Building Code.~~

3  
4 **~~SECTION 1106D—BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED; INSPECTION AND~~**  
5 **~~COMPLETION OF WORK; VALUATION APPLIED TO FUTURE PROJECTS; NOTICE TO~~**  
6 **~~TENANT(S)~~**

7 **~~1106D.1. Building Permit Required.~~** ~~A building permit is required to make any and all~~  
8 ~~modifications to a building either mandated or authorized by this Chapter 11D. All work required by~~  
9 ~~this Chapter 11D shall be considered by the Department to be barrier removal and no additional path~~  
10 ~~of travel upgrade shall be required. Only those elements that are actually altered will be required to~~  
11 ~~comply with the current requirements of this Code.~~

12 ~~If a permit is required to remediate the entryway or the sidewalk, the Owner shall provide~~  
13 ~~written notice to the business tenant or tenants of the building a minimum of 30 days prior to filing the~~  
14 ~~permit application with the Department.~~

15 **~~1106D.1.1. Historic Resources.~~**

16 ~~(a) For a building considered to be a Historic Resource, the plans submitted with the building~~  
17 ~~permit application shall be prepared in conjunction with a Design Professional and in compliance with~~  
18 ~~the California Historical Building Code, requirements of the San Francisco Planning Department, and~~  
19 ~~guidelines developed and published by the Compliance Unit.~~

20 ~~(b) As required by Articles 10 and 11 of the Planning Code, a permit application for a Historic~~  
21 ~~Resource designated pursuant to Article 10 or 11 of the Planning Code must be approved by the~~  
22 ~~Historic Preservation Commission unless delegated for review and approval without a hearing to~~  
23 ~~Planning Department staff.~~

24 **~~1106D.2. Alteration Work That May Be Included in the Permit Application.~~** ~~The only work~~  
25 ~~that may be included in the permit required by Section 1106D.1 is: (a) the work to a Primary Entry or~~

1 ~~Accessible Entrance Route mandated by Section 1104D or (b) any voluntary disability access~~  
2 ~~improvements authorized by Section 1109D.~~

3 ~~**1106D.3. Inspection of Work.** All work completed by permit under Option 1 of Section 1104D~~  
4 ~~.2 for Category Two, Category Three, and Category Four buildings shall be inspected by the~~  
5 ~~Department's field inspector that is assigned to that district. If the work complies with requirements of~~  
6 ~~this Chapter 11D, the inspector shall issue to the Owner a Certificate of Final Completion stipulating~~  
7 ~~that the work complies with the requirements and shall provide a copy of the Certificate of Final~~  
8 ~~Completion to the Disability Access Compliance Unit. Upon request, the Owner may obtain a final~~  
9 ~~inspection and approval by a Department inspector who is certified as a CASp Inspector; the~~  
10 ~~inspection fee set forth in Table IA-D of Section 110A of this Code shall apply.~~

11 ~~All work completed by permit under Options 3 and 4 of Section 1104D .2 for Category Two,~~  
12 ~~Category Three, and Category Four buildings shall be inspected by a Department CASp Inspector. If~~  
13 ~~the work complies with requirements of this Chapter 11D, the inspector shall issue to the Owner a~~  
14 ~~Certificate of Final Completion stipulating that the work complies with the requirements of this~~  
15 ~~Chapter and shall list his or her CASp number where applicable on both the Certificate of Final~~  
16 ~~Completion and the completed job card.~~

17 ~~**1106D.4. Completion of Work; Certificate of Final Completion.** Notwithstanding any other~~  
18 ~~provision of this Code, all work mandated by this Chapter 11D must be completed within the time~~  
19 ~~periods specified in Section 106A.4.4 of this Code for Permit Expiration unless an extension of time is~~  
20 ~~granted pursuant to Section 1108D. Any Certificate issued by the Department upon final completion of~~  
21 ~~the work required by this Chapter 11D shall state that compliance is with Chapter 11D of this Code~~  
22 ~~and not with the requirements of either the Americans with Disability Act or the California Building~~  
23 ~~Code.~~

24 ~~**1106D.5. Valuation Applied to Future Projects.** As authorized by the Building Code, the~~  
25 ~~valuation of both the mandatory and the voluntary disability access improvements performed under this~~



~~Chapter 11D may be used to comply with path-of travel upgrade requirements in Building Code Section 11B-202.4 Exception #8 of this Code for any future project within the same building or portion of a building for a period of time not to exceed four years from the completion date of the work; provided, however, that only the valuation of the work described in 1106D-2(a) or (b) shall be allowed for this purpose. In order to use the valuation of voluntary disability improvements for this purpose, the Owner must follow the recommended order of priority for making accessibility improvements set forth in Section 11B-202.4 of this Code.~~

**~~SECTION 1107D—COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE; OPTION TO COMPLY WITH  
CURRENT CODE REQUIREMENTS~~**

~~The times for compliance with the requirements of this Chapter 11D are set forth in the following Table 1107D. The Owner of a building within the scope of this Chapter must submit all required forms, documents, and permit applications to the Department prior to the deadlines set forth in Table 1107D but may comply with the requirements of this Chapter 11D, or elect to comply with the requirements and procedures of the Building Code then in effect, at any time prior to the deadlines set forth in Table 1107D.~~

<del>TABLE 1107D COMPLIANCE SCHEDULE</del>				
<del>Category</del>	<del>Category Description</del>	<del>Submit compliance Checklist and specify compliance Option</del>	<del>File application for required building permit(s)</del>	<del>Obtain required building permit(s) 1</del>

Category One Buildings	In compliance	June 30, 2022	N/A	N/A
Category Two Buildings	No steps but barriers	June 30, 2022	December 31, 2022	September 29, 2023
Category Three Buildings	One step with barriers	June 30, 2022	December 31, 2022	September 29, 2023
Category Four Buildings	1+ step with other barriers	June 30, 2022	December 31, 2022	September 29, 2023

*1. Pursuant to Section 1106D.4, all mandated work must be completed within the time periods specified in Section 106A.4.4 of this Code for Permit Expiration unless an extension of time of time is granted pursuant to Section 1108D*

#### ***SECTION 1108D — EXTENSIONS OF TIME***

*(a) For good cause shown, the Building Official may grant one extension of time for up to six months from the compliance timelines in Table 1107D. For good cause shown, one or more additional extensions of time may be granted by the Access Appeals Commission pursuant to Section 1110D; provided, however, that in no event shall the Commission extend the time to complete the mandatory work required by this Chapter 11D beyond June 30, 2026. The Commission's decision shall be final.*

*(b) A written request for an extension of time shall be submitted to the Department or to the Access Appeals Commission prior to the time for compliance.*

*(c) For purposes of this Chapter 11D, good cause may include but is not limited to:*

*(1) The pendency of a request for a finding of Equivalent Facilitation or Technical Infeasibility;*

1                   ~~(2) The desirability of coordinating the mandatory work required by this Chapter 11D~~  
2 ~~with voluntary disability access improvements;~~

3                   ~~(3) Financial hardship;~~

4                   ~~(4) A legal hardship such as an existing lease; or~~

5                   ~~(5) A undue procedural delay by the Department or another reviewing City agency.~~

6  
7                   **~~SECTION 1109D—VOLUNTARY DISABILITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS~~**

8                   ~~—In addition to the mandatory requirements of this Chapter 11D, the Owner may elect to make~~  
9 ~~additional corrections to the building or a portion thereof to comply with other State or Federal~~  
10 ~~disability access requirements.~~

11  
12                   **~~SECTION 1110D—APPEAL PROCEDURE~~**

13                   ~~—Any procedure provided under this Code to appeal accessibility issues is available in order to~~  
14 ~~achieve compliance with this Chapter 11D. In addition, appeals to the Access Appeals Commission~~  
15 ~~may be made in accordance with the provisions of this Chapter 11D and 105A.3 of this Code.~~

16  
17                   **~~SECTION 1111D—ENFORCEMENT~~**

18                   ~~—Whenever the Owner of a building within the scope of this Chapter 11D fails to undertake or~~  
19 ~~complete any action required by this Chapter within the time for compliance set forth in Table 1107D,~~  
20 ~~the Owner shall be considered to be in violation of this Code and the Building Official is authorized to~~  
21 ~~abate the violation in accordance with Section 102A of this Code.~~

22  
23                   **SECTION 110412D – DISABILITY ACCESS COMPLIANCE UNIT**

24                   The Building Official shall establish within the Department a Disability Access  
25 Compliance Unit to enforce this Chapter 11D and to perform such other duties as the Building

1 Official shall require. The Unit shall have at least one CASp Inspector from the Department  
2 and such other departmental employees as the Building Official deems appropriate. The  
3 *Compliance* Unit shall consult and coordinate with other City agencies with review authority  
4 over the permits necessary to comply with the requirements of this Chapter, including but not  
5 limited to the Planning Department and Department of Public Works, and any other City  
6 agencies that the Building Official determines are necessary or desirable to achieve the  
7 purposes of this Chapter.

8 ~~The Compliance Unit shall track and maintain records; coordinate review of checklists;~~  
9 ~~documents, and permits; provide information to the owners of buildings subject to this Chapter, tenants~~  
10 ~~of said buildings, and members of the public; provide guidance, training and assistance to the~~  
11 ~~Department's plan review staff and field inspectors; develop the informational material described in~~  
12 ~~Section 1113D; and provide such progress reports on the effectiveness of this Chapter as the~~  
13 ~~Compliance Unit deems appropriate or as the Building Official or the Access Appeals Commission may~~  
14 ~~require.~~

15  
16 **SECTION 110513D – ~~COORDINATION WITH OTHER CITY AGENCIES; REPORTS~~**  
17 **TO THE MAYOR'S OFFICE ON DISABILITY AND THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

18 ~~1113D.1. Coordination with Other Agencies. The Department shall coordinate with the~~  
19 ~~Planning Department, the Department of Public Works, and other City departments with review~~  
20 ~~authority over the accessibility improvements mandated or authorized by this Chapter 11D, as well as~~  
21 ~~with the Office of Small Business, the Mayor's Office on Disability, and other appropriate City~~  
22 ~~agencies, to develop and implement (1) outreach tools, (2) pre-screening procedures, (3) methods to~~  
23 ~~streamline the process, (4) proposed Code revisions, and (5) administrative bulletins, brochures,~~  
24 ~~checklists, and guidelines or other documents to implement the purpose and objectives of this Chapter.~~  
25 ~~The Checklist for Alterations to Commercial Storefront for Accessibility in existence on the effective~~

1 ~~date of this Chapter 11D, as amended from time to time, and other guidance documents shall be used to~~  
2 ~~review and approve the disability access improvements mandated or authorized by this Chapter 11D.~~

3 ~~1113D.2. After consultation and coordination with other appropriate City departments and~~  
4 ~~agencies, on or before January 31, 2024, the Department shall submit a report in writing to the Board~~  
5 ~~of Supervisors concerning the effectiveness of this Chapter 11D and including recommendations, if any,~~  
6 ~~for amendments to this Chapter. A progress report shall be submitted to the Board of Supervisors once~~  
7 ~~a year thereafter until completion of this Chapter's disability access improvement program. Within six~~  
8 ~~months of the effective date of Board of Supervisors Ordinance No. 22-25 the Department shall report~~  
9 ~~to the Mayor's Office on Disability, or any successor department or office, regarding its progress in~~  
10 ~~directing resources to strengthen disability access reviews and inspections of small businesses serving~~  
11 ~~the public. Within twelve months of the effective date of said ordinance, the Department shall report to~~  
12 ~~the Board of Supervisors regarding its efforts to strengthen disability access reviews and inspections of~~  
13 ~~small businesses serving the public, including any successes related to these efforts. Within twelve~~  
14 ~~months of the effective date of said ordinance, the Office of Small Business and the Mayor's Office on~~  
15 ~~Disability, or any successor department or office, shall report to the Board of Supervisors regarding~~  
16 ~~their efforts to further advance accessibility for all persons with disabilities in partnership with local~~  
17 ~~businesses.~~

#### 19 **SECTION 110614D – NOTICE**

20 The Department shall post on its website the requirements of this Chapter 11D. The  
21 Department shall also prepare any administrative bulletins, brochures, or other materials that  
22 the Building Official determines are necessary or desirable to notify property owners and  
23 tenants about the requirements of this Chapter ~~and shall coordinate with the Office of Small~~  
24 ~~Business and, in the Building Official's discretion, other City departments concerning appropriate~~  
25 ~~methods for providing notice about the requirements.~~

Section 3. Chapter 38 of the Administrative Code is hereby amended by revising Sections 38.1 and 38.3, to read as follows:

## **CHAPTER 38:**

### **COMMERCIAL LANDLORDS; ACCESS IMPROVEMENT OBLIGATIONS AND NOTICE TO SMALL BUSINESS TENANTS REGARDING DISABILITY ACCESS**

#### **SEC. 38.1. FINDINGS.**

Given the significant number of small businesses in the City and County of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors finds:

(1) The City has a strong public interest in ensuring that small businesses operating public accommodations comply with applicable disability access laws, and in ensuring clear communications between Commercial Landlords and their Small Business Tenants regarding their respective responsibilities for disability access improvements.

(2) The City has a strong public interest in ensuring clear communication between Commercial Landlords and Small Business Tenants regarding the extent to which the Commercial Landlord has or has not implemented required disability access improvements prior to the start or renewal of a lease.

(3) The City has a strong public interest in protecting Small Business Tenants from unforeseen expenses and liabilities arising out of required disability access improvements.

(4) This Chapter 38 is intended to ensure that: (i) ~~public restrooms and ground floor entrances to and exits from real property leased to Small Business Tenants comply with applicable disability access requirements and that~~ Commercial Landlords disclose any noncompliance with such requirements applicable construction-related accessibility standards, including but not limited to standards for public restrooms, service counters, accessible seating, and ground floor entrances and

1 exits, before a Small Business Tenant enters into or renews a lease for the property; (ii)  
2 Commercial Landlords and Small Business Tenants receive priority permit processing for  
3 work consisting primarily of disability access improvements; and (iii) every new and amended  
4 commercial lease between a Commercial Landlord and a Small Business Tenant for premises  
5 that will be used as a Place of Public Accommodation clearly and expressly addresses the  
6 respective obligations of the parties regarding disability access improvements. This Chapter is  
7 further intended to help encourage and facilitate disability access improvements by  
8 Commercial Landlords and Small Business Tenants.

9 **SEC. 38.3. DISABILITY ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS; NOTICE OF DISABILITY**  
10 **ACCESS OBLIGATIONS.**

11 (a) Before entering into or amending a Lease, a Commercial Landlord shall either:

12 (1) Ensure that existing public restrooms, service counters, seating, ground floor  
13 entrances, and ground floor exits are accessible by removing all architectural barriers to  
14 disability access, to the extent that such improvements are required by and "readily  
15 achievable, i.e., easily accomplishable and able to be carried out without much difficulty or  
16 expense" within the meaning of any applicable provisions of Title 28, Sections 36.304 and  
17 36.305, of the Code of Federal Regulations; or,

18 (2) Provide written notice to any prospective Small Business Tenant that the  
19 property may not currently meet all applicable construction-related accessibility standards,  
20 including standards for public restrooms, service counters, seating, and ground floor entrances  
21 and exits.

22 ~~(3) Provide written notice to any prospective Small Business Tenant of the mandatory~~  
23 ~~requirements of Chapter 11D of the Building Code that are applicable to all places of public~~  
24 ~~accommodation.~~

25 \* \* \* \*

1  
2 Section 4. The Public Works Code is hereby amended by revising Section 723.2, to  
3 read as follows:  
4

5 **SEC. 723.2. MINOR ENCROACHMENTS.**

6 (a) **Minor Encroachments.** The Director of ~~of~~<sup>1</sup> the Department of Public Works  
7 (“Department”) may grant permission, revocable at the Director’s will~~will~~<sup>1</sup> in accordance with  
8 subsection (f), to an owner of property abutting any court, alley, or street to install and  
9 maintain minor encroachments such as fences, retaining walls, steps or stairways, sidewalk  
10 (pipe) barriers to control illegal vehicular parking or driving in sidewalk and public right-of-way  
11 areas, and other minor structures in the sidewalk fronting such property where such  
12 encroachments are desirable or convenient in conjunction with the owner’s use and  
13 enjoyment of the property, or required for the safety, convenience, and comfort of the public  
14 using the sidewalk. Pipelines or other portions of an alternate water source system  
15 constructed within the public right-of-way for the purposes set forth in Article 12C of the Health  
16 Code and in accordance with Health Code Section 12C.6 are minor encroachments subject to  
17 the requirements of this Section 723.2. Tier 1 Projects and Tier 2 Projects, as defined in  
18 Section 723.1(a), are minor encroachments subject to the requirements of Section 723.2.

19 \* \* \* \*

20 (n) Unless otherwise provided in the~~is~~<sup>is</sup> Section 723.2, the Department shall collect a  
21 public right-of-way occupancy assessment fee for the use of the sidewalk or other public right-  
22 of-way space permitted under the provisions of this Section 723.2.

23 (1) In accordance with this subsection (n), the public right-of-way occupancy  
24 assessment fee for minor encroachments, whether permitted or unpermitted and as specified  
25 in subsection (n)(2), shall be an annual fee of \$3 per square foot of occupancy of the sidewalk



1 or other public right-of-way space. For purposes of calculating the assessment fee, the  
2 Department shall charge no less than \$100 per year even though the calculated square  
3 footage charge for the encroachment may result in a smaller assessment fee.

4 (2) The following categories of minor encroachments are subject to the public  
5 right-of-way occupancy assessment fee:

6 (A) Encroachments in, on, above, or below the public right-of-way that  
7 are affixed or appurtenant to any building whose owner obtained a site permit for new  
8 construction on or after August 29, 2005. This subsection (n)(2)(A) also shall apply to any  
9 commercial, industrial, or mixed-use building whose owner obtained a site permit for new  
10 construction prior to August 29, 2005; provided, however, that such building is not located in  
11 any Neighborhood Commercial District as designated in Planning Code Article 7 and that the  
12 encroachment associated with such building was installed or encroachment permit obtained  
13 prior to August 29, 2005. This subsection (n)(2)(A) shall specifically include, but not be limited  
14 to, doors that open over the public right-of-way and subsidewalk basements; provided,  
15 however, that this subsection shall exclude encroachments for shoring and tiebacks. This  
16 subsection (n)(2)(A) shall not apply to a building that has been converted from a commercial,  
17 industrial, or mixed-use building into a building containing only residential use.

18 ~~(B) Encroachments associated with a commercial, industrial, or mixed-use~~  
19 ~~building that change the vertical or horizontal plane of an existing sidewalk and modify the existing~~  
20 ~~sidewalk slope pattern in order to provide access necessary to comply with the Americans with~~  
21 ~~Disabilities Act; provided, however, that the building obtained a site permit for new construction on or~~  
22 ~~after August 29, 2005.~~

23 (~~BC~~) Any enclosure of the public right-of-way that is used exclusively for  
24 private benefit and was installed on or after August 29, 2005. This subsection (n)(2)(~~BC~~) also  
25 shall apply to any enclosure installed prior to August 29, 2005 that is associated with a

1 commercial, industrial, or mixed-use building; provided, however, that the building is not  
2 located in any Neighborhood Commercial District as designated in Planning Code Article 7.

3 (CD) Underground storage tanks.

4 \* \* \* \*

5 (13) Notwithstanding subsection (n) of this Section 723.2, no public right-of-way  
6 occupancy assessment fee shall be charged for any encroachment that is appurtenant to any building  
7 and that is constructed exclusively for compliance with any applicable accessibility standard, including  
8 but not limited to any requirement of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

9 \* \* \* \*

10  
11 Section 5. Effective Date. This ordinance shall become effective 30 days after  
12 enactment. Enactment occurs when the Mayor signs the ordinance, the Mayor returns the  
13 ordinance unsigned or does not sign the ordinance within ten days of receiving it, or the Board  
14 of Supervisors overrides the Mayor's veto of the ordinance.

15  
16 Section 6. Scope of Ordinance. In enacting this ordinance, the Board of Supervisors  
17 intends to amend only those words, phrases, paragraphs, subsections, sections, articles,  
18 numbers, punctuation marks, charts, diagrams, or any other constituent parts of the Municipal  
19 Code that are explicitly shown in this ordinance as additions, deletions, Board amendment  
20 additions, and Board amendment deletions in accordance with the "Note" that appears under  
21 the official title of the ordinance.

1 APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
2 DAVID CHIU, City Attorney

3 By: /s/ Peter Miljanich  
4 PETER MILJANICH  
Deputy City Attorney

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**City and County of San Francisco**  
**Tails**  
**Ordinance**

City Hall  
1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

**File Number:** 240982

**Date Passed:** March 04, 2025

Ordinance amending the Building, Administrative, and Public Works Codes to remove the local requirement for existing buildings with a place of public accommodation to have all primary entries and paths of travel into the building accessible to persons with disabilities or to receive a City determination of equivalent facilitation, technical infeasibility, or unreasonable hardship; and affirming the Planning Department's determination under the California Environmental Quality Act.

December 02, 2024 Land Use and Transportation Committee - CONTINUED

January 27, 2025 Land Use and Transportation Committee - CONTINUED

February 10, 2025 Land Use and Transportation Committee - RECOMMENDED

February 25, 2025 Board of Supervisors - PASSED ON FIRST READING

Ayes: 11 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Fielder, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

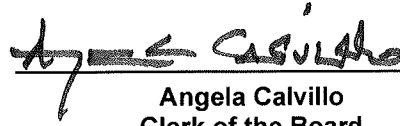
March 04, 2025 Board of Supervisors - FINALLY PASSED

Ayes: 10 - Chan, Chen, Dorsey, Engardio, Mahmood, Mandelman, Melgar, Sauter, Sherrill and Walton

Excused: 1 - Fielder

File No. 240982

I hereby certify that the foregoing  
Ordinance was FINALLY PASSED on  
3/4/2025 by the Board of Supervisors of the  
City and County of San Francisco.

  
Angela Calvillo  
Clerk of the Board



Daniel Lurie  
Mayor

3 / 7 / 25

Date Approved