



EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 21-04

ORDER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDING THE TERM AND HOUR LIMITATION OF SCC 3A.02.370 APPLICABLE TO TEMPORARY APPOINTMENTS FOR THOSE TEMPORARY WORKERS HIRED TO DIRECTLY FACILITATE THE COUNTY'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AS REQUIRED IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 EMERGENCY

PURPOSE:

To temporarily suspend the six-month appointment and hour limitation of Snohomish County Code 3A.02.370 to allow the temporary workers hired as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue their temporary appointments uninterrupted for a period of up to twelve (12) months.

DISCUSSION:

- I. On January 21, 2020, the Washington State Department of Health confirmed the first case of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) in the United States in Snohomish County, Washington. COVID-19, a respiratory disease that can result in serious illness or death, is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which is a new strain of coronavirus that had not been previously identified in humans and can easily spread from person to person.
- II. The Washington State Department of Health has since confirmed localized person-to-person spread of COVID-19 in Washington State, significantly increasing the risk of exposure and infection to Washington State's general public and creating an extreme public health risk that COVID-19 may spread quickly. The number of COVID-19 cases in Snohomish County grow exponentially on a daily level, and COVID-19 has already caused the deaths of Snohomish County residents.
- III. On January 31, 2020, the United States Department of Health and Human Services secretary Alex Azar declared a public health emergency for COVID-19, beginning January 27, 2020. On February 29, 2020, Washington State Governor Jay Inslee proclaimed a public health emergency for COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, the Snohomish County Health Officer proclaimed a countywide public

health emergency for COVID-19. On March 4, 2020, Executive Dave Somers issued a “Local Proclamation of Emergency Snohomish County” for COVID-19 (the “Emergency”). On March 13, 2020, the President of the United States of America declared COVID-19 a National Emergency.

- IV. Pursuant to chapter 38.52 RCW and chapter 2.36 SCC, Executive Somers has broad authority to enter into contracts and incur obligations necessary to combat disasters such as this national pandemic, to protect the health and safety of persons and property, and provide emergency assistance to the victims of such disaster. Executive Somers is authorized to exercise the powers vested under RCW 38.52.070(2) in light of the exigencies of an extreme emergency situation without regard to time-consuming procedures and formalities prescribed by law, which include, but are not limited to, provisions pertaining to the performance of public work, entering into contracts, the incurring of obligations, the employment of temporary workers and the appropriation and expenditures of public funds.
- V. It has been approximately eleven months since COVID-19 was declared a National Emergency, and Snohomish County, along with the rest of the nation, continues to feel the impact of increased positive cases, hospitalizations, and deaths. The Department of Emergency Management has been responsible for acquiring and distributing personal protective equipment, establishing isolation centers, and now, facilitating vaccination sites countywide. The County has hired several temporary workers to facilitate this work and to directly combat the COVID-19 pandemic. These workers have undergone considerable training and have gained significant expertise over these past months.
- VI. In order to continue the work of the Department of Emergency Management in combating the COVID-19 pandemic, for the duration of the national emergency, the term and hour limitations contained in Snohomish County Code 3A.02.370 shall be suspended to allow those temporary workers hired as a direct response to the COVID-19 pandemic to continue their temporary appointment uninterrupted for a period of up to twelve (12) months.

ACTION:

- I. To appropriately respond to the COVID-19 declared emergency, temporary appointments made by the Department of Emergency Management to directly assist the County in combating the COVID-19 pandemic shall be permitted to work for a period of no longer than twelve months, in order to fill a temporary, emergency, or short term need.
- II. In order to carry out this order, the Snohomish County Code 3A.02.370 limitation of a six-month appointment (1,040 hours in a 12-month period) applicable to temporary appointments shall be suspended with respect to the workers identified above, to allow those workers to serve in a temporary appointment for up to twelve (12) months.

CANCELLATION:

This Emergency Executive Order will remain in effect until cancelled, suspended, or upon the Executive's issuance of a proclamation declaring an end to the emergency, whichever shall occur first.

Dated this 21st day of May, 2021.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Somers", written over a horizontal line.

Dave Somers
Snohomish County Executive