

Snohomish County Council

Committee: COW
ECAF: 2023-0183
Ordinance: 23-015

Analyst: Nicole Gorle
Date: March 2, 2023

Consideration:

The Executive requests Council consider approving Ordinance 23-015, updating various sections of Snohomish County Code on the Health Department.

Background:

The Health District was integrated into the County on January 1, 2023. In preparation for this integration, Council adopted ordinance 22-061, creating the Health Department in Snohomish County Code. Due to the expedited timeline of the original ordinance tied to the integration and transition date, some clean up language and changes are requested.

Current Proposal:

Ordinance 23-015 would make changes to the board of health composition, terms, rephrases their duties so they are easier to read than the RCW language initially included, and repeals the Public Health Advisory Board. Specifically, this ordinance would:

- Make changes to the composition of the board of health by:
 - Adding four alternates, one for each City Representative, one to cover all Nonelected Representatives, and one for the Tribal Representative.
 - Of the Nonelected, two represent public health/facilities/providers. This ordinance would add a requirement that one of these individuals have experience or knowledge of environmental health.
 - Requires that the chair of the board be one of the two Councilmembers.
 - Amends the Vice Chair position so there are two Vice Chairs instead of one (one from the nonelected seats and one from the city seats). They will rotate who serves in the Chairs absences annually.
- Makes changes to the terms for the board of health by:
 - Amends term lengths (see table).

| Seat | Current | Proposed |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Councilmembers (2) | 1 year terms | One serves a 1 year term One serves a 2 year term |
| City Representatives (2) | 1 year terms | One serves a 2 year term One serves a 3 year term |
| Nonelected (5) | Two serve 1 year terms Three serve 2 year terms | Two serve a 1 year term One serves a 2 year term Two serve a 3 year term (the Tribal seat is one of these two) |

- Removes term limits
- Adds language that the board may recommend reappointment of board members
- Makes changes to their meetings by:

- Changing when the meetings take place from a specific day and time stipulated in code, to requiring there be one meeting a month at a day and time agreed upon by the board.
- Removes the language that allows members to participate in person or remote and replaces it with a requirement for the board to adopt their own rules and procedures.
- Allows the Chair to create committees as necessary to conduct business.
- Relating to compensation, it removes language that expenses reimbursed must be directly related to the members service and changes the approver of reimbursement requests from the Executive to the Department Director.
- Rewords the duties of the board of health so they are easier to follow than the language in the original ordinance, which was pulled from RCW. The section cites that the board has the duties as authorized in RCW 70.05.060 and then provides the easier to follow language.
- Repeals the Public Health Advisory Board

2023 Budget: No

Future Budget Impact: No

Handling: Urgent

Approved-as-to-form: Yes

Risk Management: n/a

Executive Recommendation: Approve

Attachment: None

Amendments: None

Request: For Council to consider taking action on October 26, 2022.