

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5970

As of January 15, 2024

Title: An act relating to modifying the number of county commissioner members on local boards of health for nonhome rule charter counties with five county commissioners.

Brief Description: Modifying local board of health county commissioner membership.

Sponsors: Senator Hunt.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Local Government, Land Use & Tribal Affairs: 1/16/24.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows non-charter counties with five commissioners to adopt an ordinance to reduce the number of county commissioners that are members of the local board of health to include at least one county commissioner.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, LAND USE & TRIBAL AFFAIRS

Staff: Karen Epps (786-7424)

Background: Local Health Department or District. Counties' legislative authorities are charged with establishing either a county health department or a health district to assure the public's health. Local health departments and health districts can take various forms and include a single county health department or district, a combined city and county health department, or several counties can join a health district.

Each local public health jurisdiction is governed by a local board of health (board), the membership of which depends on whether the county is a home rule county or part of a local health district. In home rule counties, the membership of the board is governed by the

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county charter. Elected officials from cities and towns in the county may be appointed to the board. The board may also include individuals who are not elected officials, but such individuals may not constitute a majority of the board. In non-home rule counties not part of a local health district, the county's board of commissioners constitutes the board.

The county may expand the membership of the board to include elected officials from cities or towns. The board may also include individuals who are not elected officials, but such individuals may not constitute a majority of the board.

Each local health jurisdiction must appoint a local health officer who must be an experienced physician or osteopathic physician who has a Master of Public Health degree or equivalent.

County Governance. The state constitution allows counties to adopt their own form of government by county charter. Non-charter county commissions are comprised of a three-member board elected on a partisan basis to four-year staggered terms. Any non-charter county with a population of 400,000 or more must have a board of commissioners with five members. Any county with a population greater than 300,000 and less than 400,000 may voluntarily increase the number of commissioners from three to five with voter approval.

Summary of Bill: For counties without a home rule charter where the board of county commissioners is comprised of five commissioners, the board of county commissioners may adopt an ordinance reducing the number of county commissioners that are members of the local board of health, provided the board of health includes at least one county commissioner.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.