

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Metropolitan Council, staggering terms, members must be local elected officials; Blue Ribbon Commission established

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Overview

This bill establishes staggered, four year terms for Metropolitan Council members, effective in 2019, after the next governor is elected. It also provides that members of the council must be local elected officials, expands the nominating committee, and changes who appoints the nominating committee. Up until 1994, council members served staggered, four year terms. Finally, it establishes a Blue Ribbon Commission to study the Council's powers, duties, structure, and the needs of the region.

Section

1 **Terms.** Establishes staggered terms, with one-quarter of the Metropolitan Council up for appointment every year. Strikes the language providing for members to serve at the pleasure of the governor. Strikes language that duplicates language in subdivision 3. Provides that no member can serve more than 12 years total.

Effective for appointments made after January 1, 2019, when the next governor will take office. Provides for initial staggered terms of new members appointed then.

2 **Membership; appointment; qualifications.** Requires each member of the Metropolitan Council to be an elected city council member or mayor, or a county commissioner. Expands and changes the appointing authority for the nominating committee. It would have 13 members with six appointed by Metro Cities and seven county commissioners appointed by the respective metropolitan county boards. Adds notice requirements.

Effective for appointments made after January 1, 2019.

Section

3 Blue Ribbon Commission on the Metropolitan Council.

Subd. 1. Blue Ribbon Commission on the Metropolitan Council established. Establishes the commission to study and make recommendations on the needs of the region and the role of the Metropolitan Council.

Subd. 2. Authority; duties. Lists topics the commission must study and parties it must consult. Directs the commission to report to the legislature and the governor by March 15, 2017, and provides that the report may be in the form of legislation.

Subd. Members. Provides for 13 members: three House members, three Senate members, and seven public members, one from each metro county. The public members are appointed by the House (three), Senate (three), and the governor (one).

Subd. 4. Chairs. Directs the legislative appointing authorities to designate a House appointee and a Senate appointee as co-chairs.

Subd. 5. Meetings; staff. Requires commission meetings to be conducted under the open meeting law that applies to the executive branch and local governments. Directs the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) to provide administrative support, and for legislative staff, the Met Council, and state agencies to provide assistance on request. Permits the LCC to accept gifts to support the commission's work.

Subd. 6. Compensation; expenses. Provides for the House and Senate to compensate legislators on the commission according to their respective policies. Provides that public members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for expenses.

Subd. 7. Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the LCC for the costs of the Blue Ribbon Commission. Provides that the appropriation is available until June 30, 2018 — one year after the expiration of this law, to allow for paying any costs of closeout.

Subd. 8. Expiration. The commission expires June 30, 2017.
Effective the day following final enactment.