

**Chapter:** 196 VETOED

**Session:** 2018 Regular Session

**Topic:** Metropolitan Council governance

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**Date:** June 4, 2018

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### Overview

This act, **vetoed** by the Governor on May 30, 2018, would have changed the size and structure of the Metropolitan Council to consist of 29 members, most of whom would serve staggered terms and would be local elected officials. The council would also have included the commissioner of transportation and appointees representing transportation interests. In general, the act would have been effective for appointments made in 2019 by the next governor.

#### Section

- 1 **Powers; duties; Metropolitan Council appointments oversight.** Conforming amendments to the section governing the Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Government.
- 2 **Group II salary limits.** Conforming amendment. Strikes the council chair from the salary limits. The chair's salary is specified in section 3 of the bill.
- 3 **Metropolitan Council.**

**Subd. 1. Creation; membership.** Increases the council membership from 17 to 28 members, including eight county commissioners and 16 city council members. Specifies membership and states that serving on the council is compatible with serving as a local elected official. The chair, appointed as provided in subdivision 3, serves as the 29<sup>th</sup> member.

**Subd. 2. Terms.** Provides for staggered, four-year terms of council members appointed from council districts by the municipal committees and members appointed by the counties. Provides that a council seat is vacant if the local elected official ceases to be a local elected official. Members appointed by the commissioner of transportation serve at the pleasure of the commissioner.

**Subd. 2b. Municipal committee in each council district.** Requires each metropolitan area city to appoint a member to the municipal committee for the council district, which then appoints a local elected official to the council.

**Subd. 3. Compensation.** Provides that in addition to any compensation as a local elected official, the council shall pay each member of the council other than the chair \$55 per diem. Provides for the council to pay the chair \$40,000 per year plus reimbursement of actual and necessary expenses as approved by the council, in addition to any compensation as a local elected official.

Strikes the provisions relating to the current appointment process.

**Subd. 3a. Redistricting.** Conforming amendment.

**Subd. 3e. District boundaries.** No change.

**Subd. 4. Chair; appointment, officers, selection; duties and compensation.** Provides for the council chair to be appointed by the governor as the 29<sup>th</sup> member and to serve at the governor's pleasure.

**Subd. 8. General counsel.** No change.

**Subd. 9. Authority to vote; quorum; votes required for action.** Provides that the chair and local elected officials may vote on all matters before the council. Provides that the commissioner of transportation and the members appointed by the commissioner may vote only on metropolitan planning organization matters. A quorum is a majority of the members permitted to vote on a matter and if a quorum is present, the council may act on a majority vote of the members present except that a vote on a levy or on a system plan or plan amendment requires 60 percent.

4 **Development guide; transportation.** Conforming amendment.

5 **Transportation planning.** Eliminates the Transportation Advisory Board (TAB).

6 **Repealer.** Repeals the 1994 law setting council member and chair compensation. Since 1994, council members have received \$20,000 per year and since July 1, 2015, the chair's compensation has been \$144,991 per year.