

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Metropolitan Council, providing for staggered terms

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Overview

When the Metropolitan Council was established in 1967, the law provided for 15 members appointed from districts for six-year staggered terms. From 1974 to 1994, the Council had 17 members, with 16 appointed from districts to serve staggered, four-year terms. Following a couple of years of intensive studies of the council's powers, duties, and governance, one of the changes enacted in 1994 was to make all members serve at the pleasure of the governor. This bill reinstates the staggered, four-year terms of Council members. As under current law, members remain subject to Senate confirmation, and all terms end with redistricting of council districts in the year ending in "3" – following each decennial census.

Section

- 1 Terms.** Establishes four-year staggered terms for Metropolitan Council members. Strikes language that is duplicated in another subdivision of the same section of statute (not in the bill) and the provision for members to serve at the pleasure of the governor. Effective the day following final enactment.
- 2 Immediate transition to staggered terms.** Provides that the terms of the eight members from even-numbered districts ends the first Monday in January 2015 and the terms of the eight members from odd-numbered districts ends the first Monday in January 2017. The governor elected at the 2014 election would then have the opportunity to appoint eight members right away in 2015 and eight will carry over until 2017. See table below.

Spring 2014	Current members serve until successor appointed and qualified – by the first Monday in March of 2015	
Term ends:	Even numbered districts	Odd numbered districts
Jan 2015 – transition provision	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for two year term	8 members of odd numbered districts appointed for four year term
Jan 2017 – transition provision	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for four year term	
Jan 2019 -		8 members of odd numbered districts appointed for four year term
Jan 2021	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for two year term	
2023	Redistricting	
2023	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for four year term	8 members of odd numbered districts for two year term
2025		8 members of odd numbered districts appointed for four year term
2027	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for four year term	
2029		8 members of odd numbered districts appointed for four year term
2031	8 members of even numbered districts appointed for two year term	
2033	Redistricting	