

Subject Metropolitan Council membership modifications

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Date February 17, 2021

Overview

This bill makes changes to the terms and nominations of members of the Metropolitan Council. Members would serve four year staggered terms. The nominating committee would also be restructured so that the governor and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities would each appoint five members and the Association of Minnesota Counties would appoint three members. If the governor decided to appoint an individual who was not a finalist recommended by the nominating committee, the governor must provide a written explanation for rejecting the finalists. The bill also clarifies the requisite knowledge and time commitments required of council members.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Terms.
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Provides for staggered four year terms for members of the Metropolitan Council. Half of the currently serving council members' terms end in January 2022 and the remaining half of the members' terms end in January 2024.

Effective for appointments made on or after January 1, 2022, and members currently serving on the council will continue to serve until the member's successor is appointed and qualified.

2	Membership; appointment; qualifications.
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Provides that after notice of vacancy is submitted to the secretary of state, electronic notice must be provided to the governing bodies of the local governments in the district for which a member is appointed, as well as to any interested local government organizations in the metropolitan area. The notice must include a description of the appointments process, a detailed position description, and an invitation to participate in appointment recommendations.

Section	Description
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The governor must create a nominating committee to nominate people to the council. The governor and the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities each appoint five members to the committee and the Association of Minnesota Counties appoints three members. The committee must seek out qualified individuals to apply for a council member position and seek input from local governments and local government organizations.

The committee submits three finalists to the governor, and provides notice about the finalists in the same manner as the notice of vacancy. The governor may appoint one of the finalists to the council member position after at least two weeks and a public comment period. The governor must consult with the nominating committee if the governor intends to appoint an individual who is not a finalist. The appointment of an individual who was not a finalist requires a written explanation by the governor detailing the reason for rejecting finalists.

The bill clarifies that council members must have relevant experience in local government, transportation, housing, environment, and regional development, and must be able to make the necessary time commitments required of a council member.

Effective for appointments made on or after January 1, 2022.



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