

Subject Metropolitan Council governance modifications

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Overview

This bill makes changes to the terms of members of the Metropolitan Council and the structure of the nomination committee. Under this bill, Metropolitan Council members would serve four-year staggered terms. The nominating committee would also be restructured so that the governor, the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, and the Association of Minnesota Counties would each appoint 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.

The bill is consistent with the recommendations for Metropolitan Council governance reform recommended by the Blue Ribbon Committee on the Metropolitan Council's Structure and Services, established by Executive Order 20-88 on August 28, 2020. The committee's report was issued in December 2020.

Summary

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| 1 | <p>Terms.</p> <p>Provides for staggered four-year terms for members of the Metropolitan Council.</p> <p>Effective for appointments made on or after January 1, 2026, and applies in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington. Members currently serving on the council will continue to serve until the member's successor is appointed and qualified.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Membership; appointment; qualifications.</p> <p>Provides for notice of council member vacancy and term expiration by electronic means to the governing bodies of the local governments in the district for which a member is appointed, as well as to certain interested local government organizations in the metropolitan area. The notice must include a description of the appointments</p> |

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process, a detailed position description, and an invitation to participate in appointment recommendations.

Modifies the nominating committee for the Metropolitan Council to be comprised of three members appointed by the governor, five members appointed by the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities, and seven members appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties. The nominating committee must actively seek out qualified individuals to apply for a council member position and seek input from local governments and local government organizations.

The committee would submit three finalists to the governor, and provide notice about the finalists in the same manner as the notice of vacancy. Provides for a waiting period of at least two weeks and a public comment period prior to appointment. 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.

Requires 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.

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