

**SSB 5990 - S AMD 709**  
By Senator Muzzall

**NOT CONSIDERED 03/12/2026**

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the  
2 following:

3 **"Sec. 1.** RCW 70.05.050 and 1996 c 178 s 19 are each amended to  
4 read as follows:

5 ((The)) (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the  
6 local health officer shall be an experienced physician licensed to  
7 practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in  
8 this state and who is qualified or provisionally qualified in  
9 accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through  
10 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer.

11 (b) The local health officer may be a person licensed to practice  
12 as an advanced registered nurse practitioner under chapter 18.79 RCW  
13 and who is qualified or provisionally qualified in accordance with  
14 the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold  
15 the office of local health officer if:

16 (i) The county where the person will hold the office of local  
17 health officer has a population of less than 100,000; and

18 (ii) The local health department where the person will hold the  
19 office of local health officer has an interlocal agreement adopted  
20 pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW with a local health department or a  
21 local health district with a local health officer qualified under (a)  
22 of this subsection for formal consultation services. The department  
23 may, by rule, establish standards for interlocal agreements providing  
24 formal consultation services.

25 (2) No term of office shall be established for the local health  
26 officer but the local health officer shall not be removed until after  
27 notice is given, and an opportunity for a hearing before the board or  
28 official responsible for his or her appointment under this section as  
29 to the reason for his or her removal.

30 (3) The local health officer shall act as executive secretary to,  
31 and administrative officer for the local board of health and shall  
32 also be empowered to employ such technical and other personnel as

1 approved by the local board of health except where the local board of  
2 health has appointed an administrative officer under RCW 70.05.040.  
3 The local health officer shall be paid such salary and allowed such  
4 expenses as shall be determined by the local board of health.

5 (4) In home rule counties that are part of a health district  
6 under this chapter and chapter 70.46 RCW the local health officer and  
7 administrative officer shall be appointed by the local board of  
8 health.

9 **Sec. 2.** RCW 70.05.050 and 1996 c 178 s 19 are each amended to  
10 read as follows:

11 ~~((The))~~ (1)(a) Except as provided in (b) of this subsection, the  
12 local health officer shall be an experienced physician licensed to  
13 practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery in  
14 this state and who is qualified or provisionally qualified in  
15 accordance with the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through  
16 70.05.055 to hold the office of local health officer.

17 (b) The local health officer may be a person licensed to practice  
18 as an advanced practice registered nurse under chapter 18.79 RCW and  
19 who is qualified or provisionally qualified in accordance with the  
20 standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055 to hold the  
21 office of local health officer if:

22 (i) The county where the person will hold the office of local  
23 health officer has a population of less than 100,000; and

24 (ii) The local health department where the person will hold the  
25 office of local health officer has an interlocal agreement adopted  
26 pursuant to chapter 39.34 RCW with a local health department or a  
27 local health district with a local health officer qualified under (a)  
28 of this subsection for formal consultation services. The department  
29 may, by rule, establish standards for interlocal agreements providing  
30 formal consultation services.

31 (2) No term of office shall be established for the local health  
32 officer but the local health officer shall not be removed until after  
33 notice is given, and an opportunity for a hearing before the board or  
34 official responsible for his or her appointment under this section as  
35 to the reason for his or her removal.

36 (3) The local health officer shall act as executive secretary to,  
37 and administrative officer for the local board of health and shall  
38 also be empowered to employ such technical and other personnel as  
39 approved by the local board of health except where the local board of

1 health has appointed an administrative officer under RCW 70.05.040.  
2 The local health officer shall be paid such salary and allowed such  
3 expenses as shall be determined by the local board of health.

4 (4) In home rule counties that are part of a health district  
5 under this chapter and chapter 70.46 RCW the local health officer and  
6 administrative officer shall be appointed by the local board of  
7 health.

8 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** Section 1 of this act expires June 30,  
9 2027.

10 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Section 2 this act takes effect June 30,  
11 2027."

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12 On page 1, line 2 of the title, after "counties;" strike the  
13 remainder of the title and insert "amending RCW 70.05.050 and  
14 70.05.050; providing an effective date; and providing an expiration  
15 date."

EFFECT: Allows a local board of health to appoint an advanced practice registered nurse to hold the office of local health officer if the county has a population of less than 100,000 and the local health department has an interlocal agreement for consultative services with another local health department or local health district with a local health officer who is an experienced physician licensed to practice medicine and surgery or osteopathic medicine and surgery. The advanced practice registered nurse appointed to hold the office of local health officer must be qualified or provisionally qualified under the standards prescribed in RCW 70.05.051 through 70.05.055. Allows the Department of Health to adopt rules establishing standards for interlocal agreements providing formal consultation services.

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