



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

April 20, 2018

Resolution 18-07

Proposed No. 18-07.2

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION supporting collaborative efforts
2 to improve the health and well-being of King
3 County residents and the environment by reducing
4 exposure and use of hazardous chemicals and
5 replacing those used in homes and businesses with
6 safer alternatives.

7 WHEREAS, it is vital to protect and enhance public health by reducing the use of
8 toxic chemicals and increasing the use of safer alternatives, and it is essential for this to
9 be grounded in the principles of equity and social justice, and

10 WHEREAS, the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act
11 was passed by the United States Congress in 2016, which amends and updates the Toxic
12 Substances Control Act ("TSCA"), and

13 WHEREAS, under the updated TSCA, the Environmental Protection Agency
14 ("the EPA") must assess the 85,000 chemicals allowed for use in the United States
15 against a risk-based health standard and unreasonable risks identified in the risk
16 evaluation must be eliminated, and

17 WHEREAS, international and national health agencies and programs, such as the
18 International Agency for Research on Cancer, the Occupational Safety and Health

19 Administration, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Consumer Product
20 Safety Commission and the EPA recognize that many of these chemicals used in
21 commerce and available to the public can have severe health impacts on adults, children,
22 and the environment, and

23 WHEREAS, the state of Washington has been a leader in reducing exposure to
24 harmful chemicals by phasing out chemicals such as lead, phthalates, highly fluorinated
25 substances, also known as PFAS, and some toxic flame retardants from certain products
26 and King County has supported these efforts, and

27 WHEREAS, in an effort to comply with environmental regulations, there are
28 several examples of hazardous chemicals being replaced with "regrettable substitutes,"
29 and having severe effects on workers, children and others, including vulnerable
30 populations and

31 WHEREAS, a "regrettable substitute" is a chemical that has unknown, if not more
32 severe, health and environmental impacts than the chemical it replaced, and

33 WHEREAS, it is vital for the health and well-being of King County residents and
34 the environment that any priority chemical be replaced by a "safer alternative," which is a
35 replacement that has fewer health and environmental impacts and is functional and cost
36 effective, and

37 WHEREAS, the field of "green chemistry," which is the design of chemical
38 products and processes that reduce or eliminate the generation of hazardous substances, is
39 a burgeoning discipline, and

40 WHEREAS, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program's mission is to
41 protect and enhance public health and environmental quality in King County by reducing
42 the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous materials, and

43 WHEREAS, the Local Hazardous Waste Management Program is establishing a
44 Safer Alternative Strategy to assess hazardous chemicals, including those being evaluated
45 by the EPA for restrictions such as perchloroethylene, which is a human carcinogen used
46 extensively in dry cleaning facilities in King County, and ensure that such chemicals are
47 replaced by safer alternatives and not regrettable substitutes, and

48 WHEREAS, the Safer Alternative Strategy will be grounded in King County's
49 principles of equity and social justice, including considerations of cost, availability,
50 performance and other socioeconomic factors that can be barriers to underserved
51 communities adopting safer alternatives;

52 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
53 County:

54 A. The Board of Health commends the Local Hazardous Waste Management
55 Program on its leadership in responding locally to the national changes in chemical
56 regulation brought by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.

57 B. The Board of Health encourages the Local Hazardous Waste Management
58 Program to consider, leverage and build upon its Safer Alternative Strategy as it develops
59 future strategies to encourage safer alternatives and green chemistry initiatives in King
60 County.

61 C. The Board of Health encourages the Local Hazardous Waste Management
62 Program to collaborate and partner with state and regional stakeholders in its efforts to
63 further reduce the threat posed by the production, use, storage and disposal of hazardous
64 materials.

Resolution 18-07 was introduced on and passed as amended by the Board of Health on 4/19/2018, by the following vote:

Yes: 10 - Dr. Danielson, Ms. Bagshaw, Mr. Dembowski, Ms. Honda,
Dr. Daniell, Ms. Kohl-Welles, Ms. Birney and Ms. Mosqueda

No: 0

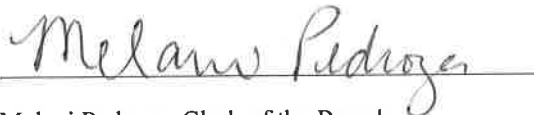
Excused: 3 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. McDermott and Ms. Juarez

KING COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Rod Dembowski, Chair

ATTEST:



Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None