



KING COUNTY
Signature Report

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

March 20, 2015

Resolution 15-05

Proposed No. 15-05.1

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION calling on the Washington state
2 Legislature to pass Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1671 to
3 expand access to opioid antagonists such as naloxone for
4 opioid overdose.

5 WHEREAS, deaths from opioid overdose in Washington state have nearly
6 doubled since 2012, and

7 WHEREAS, four hundred sixty-seven King County residents died of opioid
8 overdose between 2009 and 2011, with the majority coming from prescription
9 medications, and

10 WHEREAS, opioid antagonists like naloxone have been shown to be an effective
11 tool in reversing opioid overdose, and reducing opioid-related death, and

12 WHEREAS, naloxone is a cost-effective medication that non-medical people can
13 easily administer through a nasal spray or a shot to the upper arm or leg, and

14 WHEREAS, community-based naloxone administration is proven to save lives,
15 and from 1996 to 2010, lay people across the country reversed over ten thousand
16 overdoses, and

17 WHEREAS, a 2013 survey at Public Health needle exchange locations showed
18 that one in five respondents had overdosed at some point in the last year, and

19 Public Health - Seattle & King County's downtown Seattle needle exchange program
20 recorded one hundred eighty-seven overdose reversals through use of naloxone in two
21 years, averaging over one per week, and

22 WHEREAS, King County Jail Health Services started a naloxone dispensing pilot
23 program in 2012 that has trained one hundred six people with a history of substance
24 abuse on the use of naloxone, and the pilot program has reported successful overdose
25 reversals by both those trained through the program and friends and family members
26 trained by the trainees, and

27 WHEREAS, current Washington law allows limited possession and
28 administration of naloxone by nonlicensed people, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1671
29 would clarify and expand distribution rules to allow for distribution of naloxone by non-
30 licensed individuals via standing orders, and

31 WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1671 would allow Public Health -
32 Seattle & King County to expand distribution of naloxone in field-based operations by
33 agencies and nonclinical partner organizations throughout King County, and

34 WHEREAS, the Center for Evaluating Emergency Medical Services in King
35 County supports expanding access to naloxone for emergency medical technicians and
36 paramedics, and

37 WHEREAS, the time between an overdose and the arrival of paramedics can be
38 significant enough to mean the difference between life and death, and Engrossed
39 Substitute House Bill 1671 would expand access to naloxone to first responders, such as
40 police and fire fighters, who can administer the drug and help patients resume normal
41 breathing an average of five to ten minutes earlier than arrival of paramedics, and

42 WHEREAS, Engrossed Substitute House Bill 1671 would have a positive impact
43 on equity and social justice by decreasing health disparities caused by opioid overdose,
44 particularly among American Indian and Alaskan Natives, and

45 WHEREAS, broad access to naloxone is endorsed by many groups, including the
46 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of National
47 Drug Control Policy, the American Public Health Association, the American Pharmacists
48 Association, the Department of Justice, the American Medical Association and the
49 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime;

50 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Health of King
51 County:

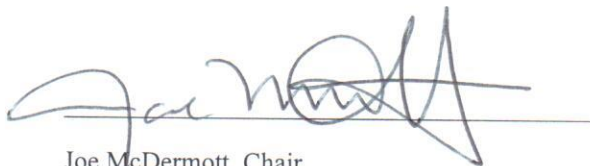
52 The Board of Health calls on the Washington state Legislature to pass Engrossed

- 53 Substitute House Bill 1671, increasing access to opioid antagonists to prevent opioid-
54 related overdose deaths.
55

Resolution 15-05 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 3/19/2015,
by the following vote:

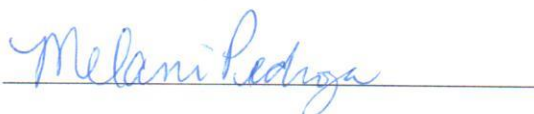
Yes: 10 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Licata, Ms. Clark, Mr. Baker, Dr.
Danielson, Ms. Wales, Mr. Dembowski and Dr. Delecki
No: 0
Excused: 2 - Mr. McDermott and Ms. Sawant

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None