



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

December 19, 2014

Resolution 14-05

Proposed No. 14-05.2

Sponsors

1 A RESOLUTION calling on the Washington state
2 Legislature to help improve the health of King County and
3 Washington state residents by maintaining current levels of
4 funding for foundational public health services and by
5 providing new, additional funding for public health,
6 dedicated revenue from a new tax on electronic vaping
7 devices, and encouraging other boards of health to adopt
8 similar resolutions in support of public health funding.

9 WHEREAS, every Washingtonian has the right to expect a strong network of
10 local public health jurisdictions and a basic level of public health services, and

11 WHEREAS, prevention and public health contributions such as safe drinking
12 water and immunizations have led to the greatest historical increases in life expectancy,
13 and

14 WHEREAS, public health plays a critical public safety role protecting all
15 Washingtonians, and

16 WHEREAS, an effective public health infrastructure is essential to decreasing the
17 burden of chronic disease and ensuring our children are healthy and ready to learn, and

18 WHEREAS, those most essential services that protect everyone - immunizations,
19 water and food safety, communicable disease prevention and services to vulnerable
20 children and families - must remain strong, and

21 WHEREAS, there is a continued need to protect people from communicable
22 diseases, whether Ebola, Enterovirus or E. coli, and other public health threats, and

23 WHEREAS, this funding is an immediate, urgent need and is essential to keeping
24 the public health system operational, and

25 WHEREAS, funding and delivering foundational public health services and
26 additional important services is a shared responsibility between the state and local
27 governments, and

28 WHEREAS, many local governments have stepped up to ensure this critical
29 component of the broader public safety system in Washington state and King County
30 remain functional, and

31 WHEREAS, substantial efforts are underway to ensure that the public health
32 successes of the 20th century are carried forward by a nimble, sustainable, responsive,
33 cost-effective and accountable 21st century public health system, and

34 WHEREAS, new electronic vaping devices are an emerging health hazard for
35 children and youth, and

36 WHEREAS, calls to the Washington Poison Center regarding to child nicotine
37 poisonings related to electronic vaping devices has increased six hundred percent in the
38 last few years, and

39 WHEREAS, ingesting even a mouthful of liquid nicotine intended for electronic
40 vaping devices is highly toxic for children, and can cause vomiting, nausea, seizures and
41 in extreme cases death, and

42 WHEREAS, liquid nicotine flavors for electronic vaping devices appeal strongly
43 to youth, and

44 WHEREAS, youth and young adults are more susceptible to nicotine addiction
45 than adults and nicotine has lasting adverse effects on adolescent brain development, and

46 WHEREAS, electronic vaping devices are currently unlicensed and unregulated,
47 and

48 WHEREAS, vapor products are currently much cheaper than traditional cigarettes
49 are not taxed, and

50 WHEREAS, young people are twice as price sensitive as adults to increases in
51 tobacco prices making taxation an effective strategy to curb use by youth and young
52 adults;

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

55 A. The King County Board of Health calls upon the Washington state Legislature
56 to maintain at least the current level of state funding for the public health system in the
57 2015-2017 biennial budget;

58 B. The King County Board of Health calls upon the Washington state Legislature
59 to provide new, additional funding to stabilize the state's communicable disease
60 prevention and response system;

61 C. The King County Board of Health calls upon the Washington state Legislature
62 to tax electronic vaping devices and dedicate a portion of the revenue to the state's public
63 health system; and

64 D. The King County Board of Health strongly encourages other local boards of
65 health in Washington to adopt similar resolutions.

66

Resolution 14-05 was introduced on and passed by the Board of Health on 12/18/2014,
by the following vote:

Yes: 7 - Ms. Clark, Dr. Nicola, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and
Dr. Delecki

No: 0

Excused: 6 - Ms. Lambert, Mr. Licata, Mr. Baker, Dr. Danielson, Ms.
Wales and Ms. Sawant

BOARD OF HEALTH
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Joe McDermott, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Board

Attachments: None