
Local Government Committee

HB 1783

Brief Description: Concerning health district banking.

Sponsors: Representatives Seaquist, Hansen, Buys, Springer, Angel and Ryu.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Authorizes a health district to act as custodian of funds, to keep records of receipts and disbursements, and to draw, honor, and pay all warrants and checks with the approval of the board of health of the district.
- Prohibits a county from charging a health district for services the health district is authorized, but chooses not, to perform pursuant to the provisions of the bill.

Hearing Date: 2/19/13

Staff: Michaela Murdock (786-7289).

Background:

Local boards of health (board of health) supervise matters pertaining to the preservation of the life and health of people in their jurisdictions. Their duties include:

- enforcing State public health statutes and rules;
- enacting local rules and regulations necessary to preserve, promote, and improve the public health;
- providing for the control and prevention of any dangerous, contagious, or infectious diseases, and the prevention, control, and abatement of nuisances detrimental to public health; and
- establishing fee schedules for licenses or permits.

A board of health may be administered by a county or by a health district (district) created for that purpose.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

For counties, either the board of county commissioners constitutes the board of health, or the county legislative authority must establish a board of health and may provide for its membership. The jurisdiction of a board of health of a county is coextensive with the boundaries of the county.

Alternatively, districts comprised of one or more counties may be established. For districts comprised of one county, the county legislative authority may appoint both elected officials and persons other than elected officials to serve on the board of health of the district. For multi-county districts, the board of health of the district may consist of not less than five or seven members (depending on the number of counties in the district), and must include representatives from each board of county commissioners. After two years within a district, a county may withdraw at any time. A district assumes all of the powers and duties of the board of health of any county in the district. Its jurisdiction is coextensive with the boundaries of all counties in the district.

Health District Funds.

By statute, all expenses incurred by a district in carrying out statutory provisions must be paid by the county, and such expenses constitute a claim against the county general fund. Moreover, the expense of providing public health services must be borne by each county in a district, and each county must contribute sums toward the expense of maintaining and operating the district.

Districts must establish a "district health fund" (fund) into which all sums received by the district from any source are placed. All sums expended by the district must be paid out of the fund. For multi-county districts, the county treasurer of the county with the largest population is custodian of the fund. The county auditor of the county must keep the record of receipts and disbursements, and must draw and the county treasurer must honor and pay all warrants, which must be approved prior to issuance and payment by the board of health of the district.

Summary of Bill:

Health districts are authorized to act as custodian of funds instead of the county treasurer. A health district may keep the record of receipts and disbursements, and may draw and may honor and pay all warrants or checks, which must be approved before issuance and payment as directed by the board of health of the district.

Prior to exercising the authority granted in this section, a health district must receive consent to do so from:

- the county legislative authority;
- the county treasurer;
- the county auditor; and
- the board of health of the district.

A county may not charge a health district that does not choose to act as custodian of funds, or otherwise perform services authorized in this section, for those services provided by the county.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.