



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 17, 2015

Ordinance 18002

Proposed No. 2015-0125.1

Sponsors Phillips

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to council rules and order of
2 business; amending Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as
3 amended, and K.C.C. 1:24.145, and declaring an
4 emergency.

5 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

6 **SECTION 1. Findings:**

7 A. Section 220.40 of the King County Charter requires the council to adopt by
8 ordinance rules of procedure governing the conduct of its meetings.

9 B. Consistent with the county charter, the council adopted by ordinance rules of
10 procedure, which are codified in K.C.C. chapter 1.24, and passed motions related to the
11 organization and administration of the council.

12 C. The rules ordinance and the organizational motion have been amended from
13 time to time to reflect desired changes in the council's rules of procedure and
14 organization.

15 D. Because the council is reorganizing the council and its committees by motion
16 effective today, including membership in the employment and administration committee,
17 this ordinance must be enacted as an emergency ordinance in order to be effective
18 immediately to ensure that the regular meeting times of the council's committees are
19 enacted and effective contemporaneously with the reorganization of the council.

20 SECTION 2. Ordinance 11683, Section 15, as amended, and K.C.C. 1.24.145 are
21 each hereby amended to read as follows:

22 A. The requirements for a quorum of a standing committee are prescribed in Rule
23 6A, K.C.C. 1.24.055.A. The requirements for a quorum of a regional committee are
24 prescribed in Rule 7, K.C.C. 1.24.065. (~~Two~~) Three members constitute a quorum of
25 the employment and administration committee.

26 B.1. Five members constitute a quorum of the county council, except as provided
27 in subsection B.2. of this section. If there is a lack of a quorum, the chair shall request
28 the clerk of the council to call members so as to constitute a quorum. Unless otherwise
29 required by the King County Charter, a vote of the majority of those present is necessary
30 for the conduct of council business.

31 2. In the event that an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010, reduces the
32 number of councilmembers, then those councilmembers available and present for duty
33 have full authority to act in all matters as the county council. Quorum requirements for
34 the council shall be suspended for the period of the emergency, and where the affirmative
35 vote of a specified proportion of the council is required for approval of an ordinance or
36 other action, the same proportion of those councilmembers available shall be sufficient.
37 As soon as practicable thereafter, the available councilmembers shall act in accordance
38 with the charter and state law to fill existing vacancies on the council.

39 3. Members participating by telephone or other electronic means as allowed
40 under subsection B.4. of this section are present for quorum purposes. The clerk of the
41 council, in consultation with the chair, shall establish authentication and operating
42 procedures, which must comply with all state and county laws regarding open public

43 meetings. It shall be noted in the minutes when members participate by telephone or
44 other electronic means.

45 4. Members may participate and vote in council meetings by telephone or other
46 electronic means under the following circumstances:

- 47 a. in the event of an emergency, as defined in K.C.C. 12.52.010;
48 b. special meetings convened during the council's summer or winter recess; or
49 c. if a member declares orally or in writing to the chair of the council before or
50 during a meeting that he or she is unable to attend in person because of urgent
51 circumstances as defined in this subsection. A declaration of urgent circumstances may
52 not be made more than three times within a calendar year. For the purpose of this
53 subsection B.4.c., "urgent circumstances" means when a councilmember experiences one
54 or more of the following:

55 (1) inclement weather that poses an immediate life, health or safety risk to
56 the member if the member were to travel to the meeting, such as a flood alert in the
57 member's district or snow in the member's district or in an area through which the
58 member must travel to get to the meeting; and

59 (2) the member or an immediate family member, including spouse or
60 domestic partner, child, child of spouse or domestic partner, parent, parent of spouse or
61 domestic partner, grandparent or grandparent of spouse or domestic partner, has a
62 medically related emergency or urgent need for assistance that makes the member unable
63 to attend the meeting.

64 C. There may not be voting by proxy on a question before the council. A member
65 who is in the council chambers or present via telephone or other electronic means when

66 the question is put shall vote unless excused by the council for special reasons. A motion
67 to excuse a member must be made before the call for "ayes" and "nos" is commenced.

68 D. A vote before the council must be recorded as to the "ayes" and "nos." Upon
69 the final passage of legislation before the council, the vote must be taken by oral roll call.
70 On any other matter, the vote must be taken by oral roll call if requested by at least one
71 member. When once begun, the roll call may not be interrupted. The order of names on
72 the roll call must be alphabetical by last name except for the chair, who votes last when
73 the "ayes" and "nos" are called

74 SECTION 3. The county council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency
75 exists and that this ordinance is necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace,

76 health or safety or for the support of county government and its existing public
77 institutions.
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Ordinance 18002 was introduced on 3/16/2015 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/16/2015, by the following vote:

Yes: 9 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague,
Ms. Lambert, Mr. Dunn, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Dembowski and Mr.
Upthegrove
No: 0
Excused: 0

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments: None