



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

March 24, 2003

Ordinance 14591

Proposed No. 2003-0142.1

Sponsors Edmonds

1 AN ORDINANCE relating to smallpox vaccinations
2 provided to county employees, employee absence resulting
3 therefrom, and applicability of workers compensation and
4 time loss benefits; adding a new section to KCC 3.12, and
5 declaring an emergency.

6
7

8 BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY

9 SECTION 1. Findings:

10 A. Section 4 of the Homeland Security Act requires local health departments to
11 prepare for potential bioterrorism by providing smallpox vaccinations to a small number
12 of “first responders” and to develop plans for rapid assessment and mobile case and
13 contact investigation teams. One issue of significant concern to county employees who
14 participate in this program is coverage for time loss they may experience as a result of
15 side effects from the smallpox vaccine. Reactions range from mild discomfort causing a
16 few days absence from work to serious, even life-threatening.

17 B. Although illness and pay during time loss due to reaction to the smallpox
18 vaccination would be covered under the worker's compensation program, time loss
19 payments do not begin until the fourth day of absence. If the absence is longer than
20 fourteen days, the first three days of absence will be paid under the worker's
21 compensation program. Furthermore, for some employees the worker's compensation
22 time loss payments may be less than their regular net pay.

23 C. To prevent county employees from losing pay because they agree to
24 participate in a program that is vital to the national security, this ordinance provides for a
25 supplement to worker's compensation time loss for the portion of wages not covered by
26 the worker's compensation program.

27 SECTION 2. There is hereby added to K.C.C. chapter 3.12 a new section to read
28 as follows:

29 Smallpox vaccinations. Any employee who is immunized for smallpox and who
30 subsequently misses work for medical reasons related to the smallpox immunization shall
31 be granted paid leave without having such charged to vacation or sick leave for the period
32 the employee is unable to work due to medical complications from the immunization.

33 Paid leave shall be granted if:

34 A. The employee is a member of one or more categories of individuals covered
35 by a declaration by the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services specifying
36 the administration of smallpox countermeasures.

37 B. The employee has been authorized by the county to receive the immunization
38 in order to participate in the county's response under Section 304 of the Homeland
39 Security Act.

40 C. Any part of the leave that is covered by worker's compensation time loss shall
41 be paid from that fund. If the amount of worker's compensation time loss payments is
42 less than the employee's regular net pay, the county will supplement the time loss
43 payment up to the level needed to equal the employee's regular net pay.

44 SECTION 3. For the reasons set forth in section 1 of this ordinance, the county
45 council finds as a fact and declares that an emergency exists and that this ordinance is
46 necessary for the immediate preservation of public peace, health or safety or for the

47 support of county government and its existing public institutions.

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Ordinance 14591 was introduced on 3/24/2003 and passed by the Metropolitan King County Council on 3/24/2003, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Edmonds, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Phillips, Mr. McKenna, Mr. Constantine, Mr. Pullen, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons and Ms. Patterson

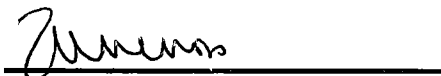
No: 0

Excused: 1 - Mr. Pelz

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Cynthia Sullivan, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 4 day of April, 2003.


Ron Sims, County Executive

Attachments None

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CLERK
KING COUNTY COUNCIL