

Chapter 68

Sec. 123.

METROPOLITAN GOVERNANCE TASK FORCE.

Subdivision 1.

Established.

A Metropolitan Governance Task Force is established to study and make recommendations to the legislature on reform and governance of the Metropolitan Council.

Subd. 2.

Membership.

(a) The task force consists of the following members:

(1) four members of the senate, with two appointed by the senate majority leader and two appointed by the senate minority leader;

(2) four members of the house of representatives, with two appointed by the speaker of the house and two appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives;

(3) one person representing cities in the metropolitan area, appointed by the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities;

(4) one county commissioner representing counties in the metropolitan area, appointed by the Association of Minnesota Counties;

(5) one person representing townships in the metropolitan area, appointed by the Minnesota Association of Townships;

(6) one person representing an employee collective bargaining unit of the Metropolitan Council, appointed by the Minnesota AFL-CIO;

(7) one person appointed by the governor;

(8) one person representing transit, appointed by Move Minnesota;

(9) one person representing institutions of higher education, appointed by the Office of Higher Education; and

(10) two members of the public, appointed by the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

(b) The appointing authorities under paragraph (a) must make the appointments by July 15, 2023.

Subd. 3.

Chair; other officers.

The task force must elect from among its legislative members a chair and vice-chair and any other officers that the task force determines would be necessary or convenient.

Subd. 4.

Duties.

The task force must study and evaluate options to reform and reconstitute governance of the Metropolitan Council. The study must include an analysis of the costs and benefits of:

- (1) direct election of members to the Metropolitan Council;
 - (2) a combination of directly elected and appointed members to the Metropolitan Council;
 - (3) a council of governments which would replace the current Metropolitan Council;
 - (4) reapportioning responsibilities of the Metropolitan Council to state agencies and local units of government;
 - (5) adoption of a home rule charter for governance of the Metropolitan Council;
- and
- (6) any other regional governance approaches that are viable alternatives to the current structure of the Metropolitan Council.

Subd. 5.

State; metropolitan agencies must cooperate; subcommittees.

The Metropolitan Council and state and metropolitan agencies must cooperate with the task force and provide information requested in a timely fashion. The task force may establish subcommittees and invite other stakeholders to participate in the task force's study and development of recommendations.

Subd. 6.

Compensation.

Member compensation and reimbursement for expenses are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3.

Subd. 7.

Grants.

The task force may accept grant funds from any federal, state, local, or nongovernmental source to support its work and offset any costs, provided accepting the money does not create a conflict of interest for the task force or its members. The Legislative Coordinating Commission may administer any grant money given to the task force.

Subd. 8.

Administrative support; staff.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission must provide meeting space, administrative support, and staff support for the task force. The task force may hold meetings in any publicly accessible location in the Capitol Complex that is equipped with technology that can facilitate remote testimony.

Subd. 9.

Open meeting law.

Meetings of the task force are subject to Minnesota Statutes, chapter 13D.

Subd. 10.

Report.

The task force shall report its findings and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with responsibility for or jurisdiction over the Metropolitan Council and metropolitan agencies. The report is due by February 1, 2024.

Subd. 11.

Expiration.

The task force expires on June 30, 2024.

EFFECTIVE DATE; EXPIRATION; APPLICATION.

This section is effective the day following final enactment. Subdivision 5 applies in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.