

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 951

Short Title: County Board of Health/Optometrists. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Allen; Stewart and Wray.

Referred to: Health.

April 1, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO APPOINT A
3 LICENSED OPTOMETRIST FROM ANOTHER COUNTY TO THE COUNTY BOARD
4 OF HEALTH UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 130A-35 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 130A-35. County board of health; appointment; terms.

8 (a) A county board of health shall be the policy-making, rule-making and adjudicatory
9 body for a county health department.

10 (b) The members of a county board of health shall be appointed by the county board of
11 commissioners. The board shall be composed of 11 members. The composition of the board
12 shall reasonably reflect the population makeup of the county and shall include: one physician
13 licensed to practice medicine in this State, one licensed dentist, one licensed optometrist, one
14 licensed veterinarian, one registered nurse, one licensed pharmacist, one county commissioner,
15 one professional engineer, and three representatives of the general public. ~~All~~ Except as
16 otherwise provided in this section, all members shall be residents of the county. If there is not a
17 licensed physician, a licensed dentist, a licensed optometrist, a licensed veterinarian, a
18 registered nurse, a licensed pharmacist, or a professional engineer available for appointment, an
19 additional representative of the general public shall be appointed. If however, one of the
20 designated professions has only one person residing in the county, the county commissioners
21 shall have the option of appointing that person or a member of the general public. In the event a
22 licensed optometrist that is a resident of the county is not available for appointment, then the
23 county commissioners shall have the option of appointing a licensed optometrist that is a
24 resident of another county or is a member of the general public.

25 (c) Except as provided in this subsection, members of a county board of health shall
26 serve three-year terms. No member may serve more than three consecutive three-year terms
27 unless the member is the only person residing in the county who represents one of the
28 professions designated in subsection (b) of this section. The county commissioner member
29 shall serve only as long as the member is a county commissioner. When a representative of the
30 general public is appointed due to the unavailability of a licensed physician, a licensed dentist,
31 a resident licensed optometrist or a nonresident licensed optometrist as authorized by
32 subsection (b) of this section, a licensed veterinarian, a registered nurse, a licensed pharmacist,
33 or a professional engineer, that member shall serve only until a licensed physician, a licensed
34 dentist, a licensed resident or nonresident optometrist, a licensed veterinarian, a registered
35 nurse, a licensed pharmacist, or a professional engineer becomes available for appointment. In
36 order to establish a uniform staggered term structure for the board, a member may be appointed
37 for less than a three-year term.



1 (d) Vacancies shall be filled for any unexpired portion of a term.

2 (e) A chairperson shall be elected annually by a county board of health. The local
3 health director shall serve as secretary to the board.

4 (f) A majority of the members shall constitute a quorum.

5 (g) A member may be removed from office by the county board of commissioners for:

6 (1) Commission of a felony or other crime involving moral turpitude;

7 (2) Violation of a State law governing conflict of interest;

8 (3) Violation of a written policy adopted by the county board of commissioners;

9 (4) Habitual failure to attend meetings;

10 (5) Conduct that tends to bring the office into disrepute; or

11 (6) Failure to maintain qualifications for appointment required under subsection
12 (b) of this section.

13 A board member may be removed only after the member has been given written notice of
14 the basis for removal and has had the opportunity to respond.

15 (h) A member may receive a per diem in an amount established by the county board of
16 commissioners. Reimbursement for subsistence and travel shall be in accordance with a policy
17 set by the county board of commissioners.

18 (i) The board shall meet at least quarterly. The chairperson or three of the members
19 may call a special meeting."

20 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to
21 appointments made on and after that date.