

**§ 130A-40. Appointment of local health director.**

(a) A local board of health, after consulting with the appropriate county board or boards of commissioners, shall appoint a local health director. All persons who are appointed to the position of local health director on or after January 1, 1992, must possess minimum education and experience requirements for that position, as follows:

- (1) A medical doctorate; or
- (2) A masters degree in Public Health Administration, and at least one year of employment experience in health programs or health services; or
- (3) A masters degree in a public health discipline other than public health administration, and at least three years of employment experience in health programs or health services; or
- (4) A masters degree in public administration, and at least two years of experience in health programs or health services; or
- (5) A masters degree in a field related to public health, and at least three years of experience in health programs or health services; or
- (6) A bachelors degree in a field related to public health and at least seven years of experience in health programs or health services, which must include at least three years of supervisory experience.

(b) Before appointing a person to the position of local health director under subsection (a)(5) or (a)(6) of this section, the local board of health shall forward the application and other pertinent materials of such candidate to the State Health Director. If the State Health Director determines that the candidate's degree is in a field not related to public health, the State Health Director shall so notify the local board of health in writing within 15 days of the State Health Director's receipt of the application and materials, and such candidate shall be deemed not to meet the education requirements of subsection (a)(5) or (a)(6) of this section. If the State Health Director fails to act upon the application within 15 days of receipt of the application and materials from the local board of health, the application shall be deemed approved with respect to the education requirements of subsection (a)(5) or (a)(6) of this section, and the local board of health may proceed with appointment process.

(c) The State Health Director shall review requests of educational institutions to determine whether a particular degree offered by the requesting institution is related to public health for the purposes of subsection (a)(5) or (a)(6) of this section. The State Health Director shall act upon such requests within 90 days of receipt of the request and pertinent materials from the institution, and shall notify the institution of its determination in writing within the 90-day review period. If the State Health Director determines that an institution's particular degree is not related to public health, the State Health Director shall include the reasons therefor in his or her written determination to the institution.

(d) When a local board of health fails to appoint a local health director within 60 days of the creation of a vacancy, the State Health Director may appoint a local health director to serve until the local board of health appoints a local health director in accordance with this section. (1957, c. 1357, s. 1; 1973, c. 152; c. 476, s. 128; 1983, c. 891, s. 2; 1983 (Reg. Sess., 1984), c. 1034, s. 75; 1991, c. 612, s. 1; 2024-34, s. 3(a).)