

# Proposed Local Law Number 7 Of 2025

## County Of Ulster

### **A Local Law Amending Section C-42(A) Of The Ulster County Charter And Section A5-3(A) Of The Administrative Code For The County Of Ulster To Reflect Recent Changes In State Public Health Law Regarding The Composition Requirements For Local Boards Of Health**

**BE IT ENACTED**, by the County Legislature of the County of Ulster, New York, as follows:

#### **SECTION 1. LEGISLATIVE INTENT.**

Senate Bill S8561/Assembly Bill A8232A was signed into law by the Governor of New York on November 22, 2024. This bill expands the eligibility for appointment to county boards of health and health services advisory boards to include nurse practitioners and physician assistants, in addition to physicians. It also allows residents of a contiguous county who have a background in a health-related field and perform substantial work in the county associated with their health-related background to be eligible for appointment to these boards. The bill aims to broaden the pool of qualified individuals who can serve on these important public health boards.

Section 1. Subdivision 2 of section 343 of the New York State Public Health Law were amended to read as follows:

(2) The members of the board of health of a county or part-county health district shall be residents of the health district **OR A RESIDENT OF A CONTIGUOUS COUNTY WHO HAS A BACKGROUND IN A HEALTH-RELATED FIELD AND PERFORMS OTHER SUBSTANTIAL WORK WITHIN THE HEALTH DISTRICT ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR HEALTH-RELATED BACKGROUND.**

The Ulster County Legislature believes it is important to reflect in our Local Law these changes to allow the flexibility of our Board of Health membership while remaining within the parameters of State law.

#### **SECTION 2. Section C-42 Board of Health (A) of the Charter for the County of Ulster is hereby amended to read as follows:**

##### **A. Appointment.**

There shall be a Board of Health consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a term of five years, subject to confirmation by the Legislature. ~~except that of the members first appointed to the Board of Health following adoption of this Charter, two members shall hold office for the term of one year, two members for the term of two years,~~

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~~one member for the term of three years, one member for the term of four years, and one member for the term of five years from and after their appointment.~~ **Of the seven members appointed to the Board of Health, one member shall be a member of the Legislature appointed by the Ulster County Legislature.** ~~Two~~ **At least one** members shall be a physicians licensed to practice in the state of New York. **Two** members shall be a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or any combination thereof, licensed to practice in the state of New York. ~~One member shall be a licensed health care professional who is not a physician.~~ One member, **who shall represent the City of Kingston**, shall be selected from among three nominees submitted to the County Executive by the Mayor of the City of Kingston. **Members of the Board of Health shall be residents of the County of Ulster or a resident of a contiguous county who has a background in a health-related field and performs other substantial work within the health district associated with their health-related background.**

If a vacancy shall occur other than by expiration of a term, it shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as specified in this subsection. The members of the County Health Board shall select the Chairman of that Board for a term of one year. No member of the Board of Health shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of the Board of Health shall receive no compensation for services rendered but shall be entitled to their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within appropriations made for such purposes.

**SECTION 3. Section A5-3 Board of Health (A) of the Administrative Code for the County of Ulster is hereby amended to read as follows:**

**A. Appointment.**

There shall be a Board of Health consisting of seven members who shall be appointed by the County Executive for a term of five years, subject to confirmation by the Legislature. ~~except that of the members first appointed to the Board of Health following adoption of this Charter, two members shall hold office for the term of one year, two members for the term of two years, one member for the term of three years, one member for the term of four years, and one member for the term of five years from and after their appointment.~~ **Of the seven members appointed to the Board of Health, one member shall be a member of the Legislature appointed by**

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the Ulster County Legislature. ~~Two~~ **At least one** members shall be a physicians licensed to practice in the state of New York. **Two members shall be a physician, nurse practitioner, physician assistant, or any combination thereof, licensed to practice in the state of New York.** ~~One member shall be a licensed health care professional who is not a physician.~~ One member, **who shall represent the City of Kingston**, shall be selected from among three nominees submitted to the County Executive by the Mayor of the City of Kingston. **Members of the Board of Health shall be residents of the County of Ulster or a resident of a contiguous county who has a background in a health-related field and performs other substantial work within the health district associated with their health-related background.**

If a vacancy shall occur other than by expiration of a term, it shall be filled by appointment for the unexpired term in the same manner as specified in this subsection. The members of the County Health Board shall select the Chair~~man~~ of that Board for a term of one year. No member of the Board of Health shall serve for more than two consecutive terms. Members of the Board of Health shall receive no compensation for services rendered but shall be entitled to their reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties, within appropriations made for such purposes. ~~Members of the Board of Health shall be residents of the County of Ulster.~~

**SECTION 4. SEVERABILITY.**

In the event that any portion of this local law is found to be invalid, such finding will not have any effect on either the remaining portions or applications of this local law or any provisions of the Ulster County Charter and Ulster County Administrative Code, which shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

This Local Law shall become effective upon its filing with the Secretary of State.