

Date Created:	August 21, 2019
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Sponsors:	Dunn
Attachments:	

1 ..Title

2 A MOTION requesting the executive to develop,
3 implement and report on a pilot program to notify
4 physicians and other medical professionals of patients'
5 deaths when opioid medication is determined to be the
6 primary or a contributing cause.

7 ..Body

8 WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
9 from 1999 to 2017, more than seven hundred thousand people have died from a drug
10 overdose, and

11 WHEREAS, according to public health – Seattle & King County and the
12 University of Washington's Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute, in 2018, two hundred
13 twenty seven deaths involved in King County involved opioids, and

14 WHEREAS, in 2016, the King County executive and the mayors of the cities of
15 Auburn, Renton and Seattle convened a heroin and prescription opiate addiction task
16 force to develop short and long term strategies to prevent opioid use disorder, prevent
17 overdose, and improve access to treatment and other supportive services for individuals
18 experiencing opioid use disorder, and

19 WHEREAS, the task force met over a six-month period and included participants
20 representing various cities, the county, the University of Washington Alcohol and Drug
21 Abuse Institute, behavioral health services providers, hospitals, human service agencies,

22 the recovery community, criminal justice partners, first responders and other
23 stakeholders, and

24 WHEREAS, the task force issued the Heroin and Prescription Opiate Addiction
25 Task Force Final Report and Recommendations on September 15, 2016, and

26 WHEREAS, raising awareness and knowledge of the possible adverse effects of
27 opioid use was recommended in the task force report to help prevent opioid use disorder,
28 and

29 WHEREAS, San Diego County's chief deputy medical examiner participated in a
30 study published in the journal Science in 2018 that found that clinicians who received
31 notification of their patients' deaths by overdose reduced their prescribing of opioid
32 medications, and

33 WHEREAS, the Los Angeles County board of supervisors approved a motion in
34 October 2018 directing the chief medical examiner-coroner and the county health officer
35 to implement a prescriber notification process;

36 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

37 A. The King County council requests that the executive assess and report to the
38 council on the feasibility of implementing a process for notifying medical prescribers
39 following an opioid overdose-related death. The assessment and report should be
40 developed in consultation with stakeholders, such as the American Medical Association.
41 The report should include the proposed notification letter and a description of how a
42 prescriber notification process could be implemented.

43 B. The King County executive is requested to transmit the report no later than
44 one year from the date of passage of this motion. The report should be filed in the form

45 of a paper original and an electronic copy with the clerk of the council, who shall retain
46 the original and provide an electronic copy to all councilmembers, the council chief of
47 staff and the lead staff to the health, housing and human services committee or its
48 successor.