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SENATE BILL NO. 993

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
(Proposed by the Senate Committee on Education and Health
on January 30, 2020)

(Patron Prior to Substitute—Senator Locke)

A BILL to amend and reenact §§ 32.1-17 and 32.1-30 of the Code of Virginia, relating to State Health Commissioner; local health director; qualifications.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:

1. That §§ 32.1-17 and 32.1-30 of the Code of Virginia are amended and reenacted as follows:

§ 32.1-17. Appointment of Commissioner; qualifications; term.

A. There shall be a State Health Commissioner appointed by the Governor, subject to confirmation by each house of the General Assembly. The Commissioner shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in ~~this~~ the Commonwealth ~~and shall be~~, certified by the American Board of Preventive Medicine or a recognized board in a primary care specialty as approved by the American Board of Medical Specialties, *and* experienced in public health duties, sanitary science, ~~and or~~ environmental health; *or he shall possess a Doctor of Public Health degree, a Master of Public Health degree, or a doctoral degree in the area of public health and he shall be* otherwise qualified to execute the duties incumbent upon him by law.

B. The Commissioner shall be appointed for a term coincident with that of the Governor and shall serve at the pleasure of the Governor.

§ 32.1-30. Local health departments.

Each county and city shall establish and maintain a local department of health ~~which~~ *that* shall be headed by a local health director. Each such local health director shall be a physician licensed to practice medicine in ~~this~~ the Commonwealth *or possess a Doctor of Public Health degree, a Master of Public Health degree, or a doctoral degree in the area of public health.*