



# Louisville Metro Government

## Legislation Text

File #: O-090-15, Version: 2

### ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_, SERIES 2015

**AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A NEEDLE EXCHANGE PROGRAM TO BE CREATED BY LOUISVILLE METRO PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELLNESS. (AS AMENDED.)**

**SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMEMBERS BLACKWELL, BUTLER, JAMES, AUBREY WELCH, HOLLANDER, WOOLRIDGE AND YATES**

**WHEREAS**, Louisville Metro Council is greatly concerned about the drug and heroin epidemic and the risks connected with intravenous drug use in our community; and

**WHEREAS**, studies indicate that the lack of sterile needles available on the streets, and the existence of laws restricting needle availability promote needle sharing, and consequently the spread of HIV and Hepatitis C among injection drug users. The sharing of contaminated needles is the primary means of HIV and Hepatitis C transmission within the injection drug user population; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 24, 2015 the Kentucky General Assembly amended state law that included giving municipalities the authority to implement a substance abuse program that includes a needles and syringes exchange component; and

**WHEREAS**, the amendment of KRS 218A requires that Louisville Metro Council give consent for the operation and/or management of a clean needle exchange program; and

**WHEREAS**, Louisville Metro Council believes that a needle exchange program would greatly decrease the risk of spreading infectious diseases through the availability of clean hypodermic needles and syringes.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL OF THE LOUISVILLE/JEFFERSON COUNTY METRO GOVERNMENT (THE "COUNCIL") AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION I:** A new section of LMCO Chapter 92 is hereby created and reads as follows:

The Louisville Metro Council, by this Ordinance, gives consent for Louisville Metro Public Health and Wellness to operate and/or oversee a substance abuse treatment outreach program that allows participants to exchange hypodermic needles and syringes. Prior to implementing the needle exchange program, Louisville

Metro Public Health and Wellness will file the administrative regulations with the Metro Council Clerk's Office and appear before the Public Safety Committee to testify.

**SECTION II:** This Ordinance shall take effect after its passage and approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
H. Stephen Ott Metro Council Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
David W. Tandy President of the Council

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Greg Fischer Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_ Date

**APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:**

Michael J. O'Connell  
Jefferson County Attorney

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Needle Exchange Ordinance Draft 2 ROCsjm 13 April 15  
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