

As Amended by House Committee

Session of 2013

HOUSE BILL No. 2185

By Committee on Local Government

1-31

1 AN ACT concerning governmental organization; relating to consolidation;
2 ~~amending K.S.A. 12-3901, 12-3902, 12-3903, 12-3904, 12-3909 and~~
3 ~~19-205 and repealing the existing sections of political and taxing~~
4 **subdivisions.**
5

6 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

7 ~~New~~Section 1. As used in sections 1 through 6, and amendments
8 thereto:

9 (a) "Board" means the board of county commissioners.

10 (b) "City" means any city.

11 (c) "Commission" means a consolidation study commission selected
12 pursuant to section 2, and amendments thereto.

13 (d) "County" means any county. **Where a city is located in more**
14 **than one county, the term means the county which contains the largest**
15 **population of the city.**

16 (e) "Political and taxing subdivision" means those subdivisions listed
17 in K.S.A. 12-3902, and amendments thereto, which are located entirely
18 within a county.

19 ~~New~~Sec. 2. (a) The board of county commissioners of a county and
20 the governing body of any city or cities located within such county may
21 adopt a joint resolution providing for the establishment of a consolidation
22 study commission to prepare a plan for the consolidation of the county and
23 such city or cities located in such county, or the consolidation of offices,
24 functions, services and operations. If the governing body of a city within
25 the county does not adopt such joint resolution, such city shall not be
26 included within nor subject to the provisions of any consolidation plan in
27 regard to the status of such city as a separate entity from the county.

28 (b) As an alternative to subsection (a), the board of county
29 commissioners of a county and the governing body of any city or cities
30 located therein shall adopt a joint resolution providing for the
31 establishment of a consolidation study commission to prepare a plan as
32 provided in subsection (a) whenever the county election officer is
33 presented with a petition signed by not less than 10% of the qualified
34 electors of the county requesting a consolidation study commission be
35 appointed. The governing body of any city shall be required to adopt the
36 joint resolution whenever the petition presented to the county clerk

1 contains signatures of not less than 10% of the qualified electors of the
2 city. The petition shall contain the method to be used for the appointment
3 and the number of members of the consolidation study commission.

4 (c) Any resolution adopted pursuant to subsections (a) or (b) shall
5 provide for the establishment of a consolidation study commission and
6 shall provide for the method of appointment and the number of members
7 of the commission. At least $\frac{1}{3}$ of the membership of a consolidation study
8 commission shall be residents of the unincorporated area of the county.

9 ~~New~~ Sec. 3. (a) Within 30 days following appointment of members of
10 the consolidation study commission, the chairperson of the board of
11 county commissioners, acting as the temporary chairperson of the
12 commission, shall call and hold an organizational meeting of the
13 commission. The commission shall elect a chairperson, vice-chairperson
14 and other officers deemed necessary. The commission may adopt rules
15 governing the conduct of its meetings.

16 (b) The commission shall be subject to the Kansas open meetings act
17 and the Kansas open records act.

18 (c) Members of the commission may be reimbursed for the actual and
19 necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties.

20 (d) The commission may appoint an executive director of the
21 commission. The executive director may receive compensation established
22 by the commission. The executive director may employ other staff and
23 may contract with consultants, as the executive director deems necessary
24 to carry out the functions of the commission. Staff employed by the
25 executive director may receive compensation established by the executive
26 director and approved by the commission.

27 (e) The commission shall prepare and adopt a budget for the
28 operation and functions of the commission and commission activities. The
29 commission shall submit such budget for approval to the board. If
30 approved by the board, the board shall appropriate moneys as may be
31 deemed necessary for such budget.

32 ~~New~~ Sec. 4. (a) The commission shall prepare and adopt a plan
33 addressing the consolidation of the city or cities and the county and other
34 political or taxing subdivisions or consolidation of certain city, county and
35 other political and taxing subdivision offices, functions, services and
36 operations. The commission shall conduct such studies and investigations
37 as it deems appropriate to complete its work. Such studies and
38 investigations shall include, but not be limited to:

39 (1) Studies of the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative
40 operations of the city or cities and the county and other political and taxing
41 subdivisions.

42 (2) Studies of the costs and benefits of consolidating the city or cities
43 and the county and other political and taxing subdivisions or consolidating

1 certain city or cities and county and other political and taxing subdivision
2 offices, functions, services and operations.

3 (b) The commission shall hold public hearings for the purpose of
4 receiving information and materials which will aid in the drafting of the
5 plan.

6 (c) For the purposes of performing its studies and investigations, the
7 commission or its executive director may administer oaths and
8 affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence,
9 require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda,
10 agreements or other documents or records which the commission or
11 executive director deems relevant or material to its studies and
12 investigation.

13 (d) The commission shall prepare and adopt a preliminary plan
14 addressing the consolidation of the city or cities and the county and other
15 political and taxing subdivisions or the consolidation of certain city and
16 county and other political and taxing subdivision offices, functions,
17 services and operations it deems advisable.

18 The preliminary plan, if it recommends the consolidation of the county
19 with one or more cities, shall address the issue of the abolishment of other
20 political and taxing subdivisions located entirely within the county and the
21 transfer of the functions of the above political subdivisions to the
22 reorganized city-county.

23 Copies of the preliminary plan shall be filed with the county election
24 officer, city clerk of each city to be reorganized and each public library
25 within the county and shall be available to members of the public for
26 inspection upon request. The commission shall hold at least two public
27 hearings to obtain citizen views concerning the preliminary plan. At least
28 seven days shall elapse between the holding of the hearings. Notice of the
29 hearings shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general
30 circulation within the county. Following the public hearings on the
31 preliminary plan, the commission may adopt, or modify and adopt, the
32 preliminary plan as the final plan.

33 (e) The final plan shall include the full text and an explanation of the
34 proposed plan, and comments deemed desirable by the commission, a
35 written opinion by an attorney admitted to practice law in the state of
36 Kansas and retained by the executive director for such purpose that the
37 proposed plan is not in conflict with the constitution or the laws of the
38 state, and any minority reports.

39 Copies of the final plan shall be filed with the county election officer,
40 city clerk of each city to be reorganized and each public library within the
41 county and shall be available to members of the public for inspection upon
42 request. The commission shall continue in existence at least 90 days
43 following the submission of the final plan for approval at an election as

1 provided by subsection (f).

2 (f) The final plan shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the
3 county at the next countywide election held at least 45 days following the
4 adoption of the final plan by the commission. Such election shall be called
5 and held by the county election officer in the manner provided by the
6 general bond law. A summary of the final plan shall be prepared by the
7 commission and shall be published at least once each week for two
8 consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county.

9 If the final plan calls for the consolidation of the county with one or
10 more cities and the consolidation of other political and taxing subdivisions
11 and the final plan calls for a countywide election, the ballot shall contain
12 two questions worded substantially as follows:

13 (1) Shall the county of _____ be consolidated with the city or
14 cities of _____?

15 (2) If the consolidation is approved, shall the following political and
16 taxing subdivisions located entirely within the county be abolished and the
17 functions of these subdivisions transferred to the consolidated city-county:
18 _____?

19 If a majority of the qualified electors voting on the plan who reside
20 within the corporate limits of the city and a majority of the qualified
21 electors voting on the plan who reside outside of the corporate limits of the
22 city vote in favor thereof, the consolidation plan shall be implemented in
23 the manner provided by the plan. If a majority of the electors who reside
24 within the corporate limits of the city or a majority of the qualified electors
25 who reside outside of the corporate limits of the city vote against such
26 plan, the proposed consolidation plan shall not be implemented.

27 If the commission submits a final plan which does not recommend the
28 consolidation of the city or cities and the county and other political and
29 taxing subdivisions or the consolidation of certain city, county and other
30 political and taxing subdivision offices, functions, services and operations,
31 the provisions of this subsection shall not apply.

32 ~~New~~ Sec. 5. (a) Any plan submitted by the commission shall provide
33 for the exercise of powers of local legislation and administration not
34 inconsistent with the constitution or other laws of this state.

35 (b) If the commission submits a plan providing for the consolidation
36 of certain city and county offices, functions, services and operations, the
37 plan shall:

38 (1) Include a description of the form, structure, functions, powers and
39 officers and the duties of such officers recommended in the plan;

40 (2) provide for the method of amendment or abandonment of the
41 plan;

42 (3) authorize the election or appointment of officers;

43 (4) authorize the elimination of offices;

1 (5) specify the effective date of the consolidation;

2 (6) in the case of multi-city consolidation with a county, the plan shall
3 include provisions addressing the situation if the plan is approved by the
4 electors of one city, but not all cities to be consolidated under the plan; and

5 (7) include other provisions determined necessary by the commission.

6 (c) If the plan provides for the consolidation of the city or cities and
7 county, in addition to the requirements of subsection (b) the plan shall:

8 (1) Fix the boundaries of the governing body's election districts,
9 provide a method for changing the boundaries from time-to-time, provide
10 any at-large positions on the governing body, fix the number, term and
11 initial compensation of the governing body of the consolidated city-county
12 and the method of election;

13 (2) determine whether elections of the governing body of the
14 reorganized city-county shall be partisan or nonpartisan elections and the
15 time at which such elections shall be held;

16 (3) determine the distribution of legislative and administrative duties
17 of the consolidated city-county officials, provide for consolidation or
18 expansion of services as necessary, authorize the appointment of a
19 consolidated city-county administrator or a city-county manager, if
20 deemed advisable, and prescribe the general structure of the consolidated
21 city-county government;

22 (4) provide for the official name of the consolidated city-county;

23 (5) provide for the transfer or other disposition of property and other
24 rights, claims and assets of the county, the city or cities, and other political
25 and taxing subdivisions; and

26 (6) provide for the transfer of the functions of any political or taxing
27 subdivisions approved by voters for consolidation.

28 ~~New~~ Sec. 6. (a) If the voters approve a plan which provides for the
29 consolidation of the city or cities and the county, such consolidated city-
30 county shall be subject to the provisions of this section.

31 (b) The consolidated city-county shall be subject to the cash-basis and
32 budget laws of the state of Kansas.

33 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d), and in any other statute
34 which specifically exempts bonds from the statutory limitations on bonded
35 indebtedness, the limitation on bonded indebtedness of a consolidated city-
36 county under this act shall be determined by the commission in the plan,
37 but shall not exceed 30% of the assessed value of all tangible taxable
38 property within the county on the preceding August 25.

39 (d) The following shall not be included in computing the total bonded
40 indebtedness of the consolidated city-county for the purposes of
41 determining the limitations on bonded indebtedness:

42 (1) Bonds issued for the purpose of refunding outstanding debt,
43 including outstanding bonds and matured coupons thereof, or judgments

1 thereon;

2 (2) bonds issued pursuant to the provisions of article 46 of chapter 19
3 of the Kansas Statutes Annotated, and amendments thereto;

4 (3) bonds issued for the purpose of financing the construction or
5 remodeling of a courthouse, jail or law enforcement center facility, which
6 bonds are payable from the proceeds of a retailer's sales tax;

7 (4) bonds issued for the purpose of acquiring, enlarging, extending or
8 improving any storm or sanitary sewer system;

9 (5) bonds issued for the purpose of acquiring, enlarging, extending or
10 improving any municipal utility; and

11 (6) bonds issued to pay the cost of improvements to intersections of
12 streets and alleys or that portion of any street immediately in front of city
13 or school district property.

14 (e) Any bonded indebtedness and interest thereon incurred by the city
15 or cities or county prior to consolidation or refunded thereafter shall
16 remain an obligation of the property subject to taxation for the payment
17 thereof prior to such consolidation.

18 (f) Upon the effective date of the consolidation of the city or cities
19 and county, any retailers' sales tax levied by the city or cities or county in
20 accordance with K.S.A. 12-187 et seq., and amendments thereto, prior to
21 such date shall remain in full force and effect, except that part of the rate
22 attributable to the city or cities to be consolidated shall not apply to retail
23 sales in the cities which are not consolidated with the county.

24 (g) Upon the effective date of the consolidation of the city or cities
25 and county, the territory of the consolidated city-county shall include:

26 (1) All of the territory of the county for purposes of exercising the
27 powers, duties and functions of a county; and

28 (2) all of the territory of the county, except the territory of the cities
29 which are not consolidated with the county and the unincorporated area of
30 the county, for purposes of exercising the powers, duties and functions of a
31 city.

32 (h) For the purposes of section 1 of article 5 of the constitution of the
33 state of Kansas, the "voting area" for the governing body of the
34 consolidated city-county shall include all the territory within the county.

35 (i) Unless otherwise provided by law, the consolidated city-county
36 shall be eligible for the distribution of any funds from the state and federal
37 government as if no consolidation had occurred. Except as provided in this
38 subsection, the population and assessed valuation of the territory of the
39 consolidated city-county shall be considered its population and assessed
40 valuation for purposes of the distribution of moneys from the state or
41 federal government.

42 (j) The consolidated city-county shall be a county. The governing
43 body of the consolidated city-county shall be considered county

1 commissioners for the purposes of section 2 of article 4 of the constitution
2 of the state of Kansas and shall have all the powers, functions and duties of
3 a county and may exercise home rule powers in the manner and subject to
4 the limitations provided by K.S.A. 19-101a, and amendments thereto, and
5 other laws of this state.

6 The governing body of the consolidated city-county shall be
7 responsible for any duties or functions imposed by the constitution of the
8 state of Kansas and other laws of this state upon any county office
9 abolished by the consolidation plan. Such duties may be delegated by the
10 governing body or as provided in the consolidation plan.

11 (k) The consolidated city-county shall be a city of the class as
12 determined by the commission in the plan. The governing body of the
13 consolidated city-county shall have all the powers, functions and duties of
14 a city of such class and may exercise home rule powers in the manner and
15 subject to the limitations provided by article 12 of section 5 of the
16 constitution of the state of Kansas and other laws of this state.

17 (l) The governing body of the consolidated city-county may create
18 special service districts within the city-county and may levy taxes for
19 services provided in such districts.

20 ~~Sec. 7. K.S.A. 12-3901 is hereby amended to read as follows: 12-~~
21 ~~3901. This act is an alternative to all other laws which authorize the~~
22 ~~consolidation of political and taxing subdivisions of this state or the~~
23 ~~consolidation of the operations, procedures and functions of offices and~~
24 ~~agencies of such subdivisions. It is the purpose of this act to authorize and~~
25 ~~permit political and taxing subdivisions of this state to more efficiently and~~
26 ~~effectively serve the needs of their constituents by consolidating or~~
27 ~~cooperating in the consolidation of such subdivisions or the consolidation~~
28 ~~of the operations, procedures and functions of offices and agencies of such~~
29 ~~subdivisions which may be more efficiently and effectively exercised or~~
30 ~~provided by a single office or agency.~~

31 ~~Sec. 8. K.S.A. 12-3902 is hereby amended to read as follows: 12-~~
32 ~~3902. For the purposes of this act all references to "political and taxing~~
33 ~~subdivisions of this state" shall mean and include counties, townships,~~
34 ~~cities, school districts, library districts, park districts, road districts,~~
35 ~~drainage or levee districts, sewer districts, water districts, fire districts and~~
36 ~~taxing subdivisions created and established under the laws of the state of~~
37 ~~Kansas:~~

38 ~~The terms "like subdivisions" or "like political and taxing subdivisions"~~
39 ~~shall mean subdivisions of the same type and function.~~

40 ~~Sec. 9. K.S.A. 12-3903 is hereby amended to read as follows: 12-~~
41 ~~3903. (a) Whenever the governing body of any political or taxing~~
42 ~~subdivision of this state shall by resolution determine that duplication~~
43 ~~exists in the operations, procedures or functions of any of the offices or~~

1 agencies of such subdivision or that the operations, procedures or
2 functions of any of the offices or agencies thereof can be more efficiently
3 and effectively exercised or provided as a consolidated activity performed
4 by a single office or agency, or whenever the governing body of any two
5 or more political or taxing subdivisions of this state shall by the passage of
6 identical resolutions determine that duplication exists in the operations,
7 procedures or functions of offices or agencies of such subdivisions or that
8 the operations, procedures or functions of any of the offices or agencies
9 thereof can be more efficiently and effectively exercised or provided as a
10 consolidated activity performed by a single intergovernmental office or
11 agency or by a single office or agency of one of the participating political
12 or taxing subdivisions *desires to consolidate with like subdivisions or to*
13 *consolidate the operations, procedures and functions of the offices and*
14 *agencies of political and taxing subdivisions,* such governing body or
15 governing bodies are hereby authorized to consolidate *with like*
16 *subdivisions or consolidate* any or all of the operations, procedures or
17 functions performed or carried on by such offices or agencies *of political*
18 *and taxing subdivisions* by the passage of a resolution or identical
19 resolutions setting out the time, form and manner of consolidation and
20 designating the surviving *political or taxing subdivisions or the office or*
21 *agency.*

22 (b) *The consolidation of like subdivisions or the elimination of an*
23 *elective office by consolidation under the provisions of this act shall be*
24 *subject to the approval of a majority of not be effective unless the question*
25 *of such consolidation or elimination of office has been submitted to and*
26 *approved by the electors of the political or taxing subdivision served by*
27 *such office, voting in subdivisions proposed to be consolidated or served*
28 *by the office proposed to be eliminated. Such question shall be submitted*
29 *at the next regular general election of the county in which the office of*
30 *governor is elected, and no elective office shall be eliminated prior to such*
31 *election. held in November of an even-numbered year.*

32 *If the office is to be eliminated and the duties transferred to a*
33 *nonelective office, the question of elimination of the elective office shall be*
34 *submitted to the voters as a separate ballot question. Any such proposed*
35 *consolidation which eliminates any such an elective office shall provide*
36 *that the elimination of such office shall become effective upon the date of*
37 *normal expiration of the term of such office.*

38 Any such proposed consolidation which eliminates any such *of like*
39 *political or taxing subdivisions or any proposal which eliminates an*
40 *elective office shall not be voted on by the governing body of the political*
41 *or taxing subdivision until a special public hearing is held within the*
42 *political or taxing subdivision. subdivisions affected by the proposal.*
43 Notice of such special hearing shall be published in a newspaper of

1 ~~general circulation in the political or taxing subdivision~~ *subdivisions-*
2 ~~affected at least once each week for two consecutive weeks prior to the~~
3 ~~hearing. The first publication shall not be less than 21 days prior to such~~
4 ~~hearing. Any elected officer whose office would be eliminated in such~~
5 ~~consolidation and any other interested party shall be given an opportunity~~
6 ~~to appear and offer testimony at any of such hearings.~~

7 (e) ~~Whenever the statutorily mandated duties of any elected county~~
8 ~~official are proposed for elimination, by transfer or otherwise, the question~~
9 ~~of the elimination of any such duties shall be considered as an elimination~~
10 ~~of the elective office itself within the meaning of this section, and shall be~~
11 ~~subject to an election prior to such elimination as required by subsection~~
12 ~~(b). The provisions of this subsection shall not preclude the transfer of~~
13 ~~duties of an elected office with the consent of the affected elected official.~~

14 Sec. 10. ~~K.S.A. 12-3904 is hereby amended to read as follows: 12-~~
15 ~~3904. Whenever a petition, signed by not less than 10% of the qualified~~
16 ~~electors of any political or taxing subdivision of this state or any two or~~
17 ~~more political or taxing subdivisions of this state, shall be filed with the~~
18 ~~governing body of such subdivision or subdivisions requesting that a~~
19 ~~proposition for the consolidation of~~ *such like subdivisions or the*
20 ~~consolidation of~~ *specified operations, procedures and functions of*
21 ~~designated offices or agencies of any such subdivision or subdivisions be~~
22 ~~submitted to the electors thereof, such governing body or governing bodies~~
23 ~~shall submit such proposition at an election called and held for such~~
24 ~~purpose in the manner provided by the general bond law. The wording of~~
25 ~~such a petitioned-for proposition affecting the~~ *consolidation of two or*
26 ~~more like subdivisions or the consolidation of the operations, procedures~~
27 ~~and functions of any two or more subdivisions shall be expressed in~~
28 ~~general terms. If the proposition is approved by a majority of the electors~~
29 ~~voting thereon, the governing body or governing bodies shall develop and~~
30 ~~implement a plan for the consolidation consistent with the intent of the~~
31 ~~proposition. If such proposition eliminates an elective office by~~
32 ~~consolidation, the governing body of such subdivision or subdivisions~~
33 ~~shall provide for the hearing~~ *required by K.S.A. 12-3903, and amendments*
34 ~~thereto. The governing body shall submit, in accordance with K.S.A. 12-~~
35 ~~3903, and amendments thereto, such proposition at the next regular~~
36 ~~general election of the county in which the office of governor is elected in~~
37 ~~accordance with K.S.A. 12-3903, and amendments thereto.~~ *held in-*
38 *November of an even-numbered year.*

39 Sec. 11. ~~K.S.A. 12-3909 is hereby amended to read as follows: 12-~~
40 ~~3909. Nothing in this act shall be construed as authorizing the~~
41 ~~consolidation of any political or taxing subdivision with any other political~~
42 ~~or taxing subdivision. Nothing in this act shall be construed to authorize~~
43 ~~the closing or the change of use of any school or attendance facility.~~

1 Sec. 12. — K.S.A. 19-205 is hereby amended to read as follows: 19-205.
2 Except as provided by K.S.A. 12-344, *and* 12-345, *and* K.S.A. 2007-2012
3 Supp. 12-363 and 12-365, and amendments thereto, *and under provisions*
4 *of sections 1 through 6, and amendments thereto*, no person holding any
5 state, county, township or city office shall be eligible to the office of
6 county commissioner in any county in this state.

7 Nothing in this section shall prohibit the appointment of any county
8 commissioner to any state board, committee, council, commission or
9 similar body which is established pursuant to statutory authority, so long
10 as any county commissioner so appointed is not entitled to receive any
11 pay, compensation, subsistence, mileage or expenses for serving on such
12 body other than that which is provided by law to be paid in accordance
13 with the provisions of K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.

14 Sec. 13. — K.S.A. 12-3901, 12-3902, 12-3903, 12-3904, 12-3909 and
15 19-205 are hereby repealed.

16 Sec. 14. 7. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
17 publication in the statute book.