

**12-3903. Consolidation of operations, procedures and functions by a political and taxing subdivision or by two or more subdivisions; procedure; elimination of elective office, election.** (a) Whenever the governing body of any political or taxing subdivision of this state shall by resolution determine that duplication exists in the operations, procedures or functions of any of the offices or agencies of such subdivision or that the operations, procedures or functions of any of the offices or agencies thereof can be more efficiently and effectively exercised or provided as a consolidated activity performed by a single office or agency, or whenever the governing body of any two or more political or taxing subdivisions of this state shall by the passage of identical resolutions determine that duplication exists in the operations, procedures or functions of offices or agencies of such subdivisions or that the operations, procedures or functions of any of the offices or agencies thereof can be more efficiently and effectively exercised or provided as a consolidated activity performed by a single intergovernmental office or agency or by a single office or agency of one of the participating political or taxing subdivisions, such governing body or governing bodies are hereby authorized to consolidate any or all of the operations, procedures or functions performed or carried on by such offices or agencies by the passage of a resolution or identical resolutions setting out the time, form and manner of consolidation and designating the surviving office or agency.

(b) The elimination of an elective office by consolidation under the provisions of this act shall be subject to the approval of a majority of the electors of the political or taxing subdivision served by such office, voting in the next regular general election of the county in which the office of governor is elected, and no elective office shall be eliminated prior to such election. Any such proposed consolidation which eliminates any such elective office shall provide that the elimination of such office shall become effective upon the date of normal expiration of the term of such office. Any such proposed consolidation which eliminates any such elective office shall not be voted on by the governing body of the political or taxing subdivision until a special public hearing is held within the political or taxing subdivision. Notice of such special hearing shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation in the political or taxing subdivision once each week for two consecutive weeks prior to the hearing. The first publication shall not be less than 21 days prior to such hearing. Any elected officer whose office would be eliminated in such consolidation and any other interested party shall be given an opportunity to appear and offer testimony at any of such hearings.

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

**History:** L. 1974, ch. 426, § 3; L. 1988, ch. 80, § 1; L. 1991, ch. 61, § 1; April 25.