

Act No. 303
Public Acts of 2003
Approved by the Governor
January 8, 2004
Filed with the Secretary of State
January 8, 2004
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
92ND LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2003**

Introduced by Reps. Steil, Hummel, Farhat, Brandenburg, Garfield, Drolet, Hoogendyk, Amos, Casperson, Emmons, Wenke, Tabor, Palsrok, Sheen, Stahl, Vander Veen, Acciavatti, LaJoy, Walker, Pastor, Stakoe, Meyer, Voorhees, Taub, Ward, Ruth Johnson, Rocca, Kooiman, Robertson, Moolenaar and Richardville

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4825

AN ACT to amend 1909 PA 279, entitled "An act to provide for the incorporation of cities and for revising and amending their charters; to provide for certain powers and duties; to provide for the levy and collection of taxes by cities, borrowing of money, and issuance of bonds or other evidences of indebtedness; to validate actions taken, bonds issued, and obligations heretofore incurred; to prescribe penalties and provide remedies; and to repeal acts and parts of acts on specific dates," by amending sections 3, 8, 11, 21, 25, and 26 (MCL 117.3, 117.8, 117.11, 117.21, 117.25, and 117.26), section 3 as amended by 2002 PA 201 and section 25 as amended by 1982 PA 200.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 3. Each city charter shall provide for all of the following:

(a) The election of a mayor, who shall be the chief executive officer of the city, and of a body vested with legislative power, and for the election or appointment of a clerk, a treasurer, an assessor or board of assessors, a board of review, and other officers considered necessary. The city charter may provide for the selection of the mayor by the legislative body. Elections may be by a partisan, nonpartisan, or preferential ballot, or by any other legal method of voting. Notwithstanding another law or charter provision to the contrary, a city having a 1970 official population of more than 150,000, whose charter provides for terms of office of less than 4 years, and in which the term of office for the mayor and the governing body are of the same length, may provide by ordinance for a term of office of up to 4 years for mayor and other elected city officials. The ordinance shall provide that the ordinance shall take effect 60 days after it is enacted unless within the 60 days a petition is submitted to the city clerk signed by not less than 10% of the registered electors of the city requesting that the question of approval of the ordinance be submitted to the electors at the next regular election or a special election called for the purpose of approving or disapproving the ordinance.

(b) The nomination of elective officers by partisan or nonpartisan primary, by petition, or by convention.

(c) The time, manner, and means of holding elections and the registration of electors, subject to section 26 and other applicable requirements of law.

(d) The qualifications, duties, and compensation of the city's officers. If the city has an appointed chief administrative officer, the legislative body of the city may enter into an employment contract with the chief administrative officer extending beyond the terms of the members of the legislative body unless the employment contract is prohibited by the city charter. An employment contract with a chief administrative officer shall be in writing and shall specify the compensation to be paid to the chief administrative officer, any procedure for changing the compensation, any fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment. The contract shall state if the chief administrative officer serves at the pleasure of the legislative body, and the contract may provide for severance pay or other benefits in the event the chief administrative officer's employment is terminated at the pleasure of the legislative body.

(e) The establishment of 1 or more wards, and if the members of the city's legislative body are chosen by wards, for equal representation for each ward in the legislative body.

(f) That the subjects of taxation for municipal purposes are the same as for state, county, and school purposes under the general law.

(g) The annual laying and collecting taxes in a sum, except as otherwise provided by law, not to exceed 2% of the taxable value of the real and personal property in the city. Unless the charter provides for a different tax rate limitation, the governing body of a city may levy and collect taxes for municipal purposes in a sum not to exceed 1% of the taxable value of the real and personal property in the city. As used in this subdivision, "taxable value" is that value determined under section 27a of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.27a.

(h) An annual appropriation of money for municipal purposes.

(i) The levy, collection, and return of state, county, and school taxes in conformance with the general laws of this state, except that the preparation of the assessment roll, the meeting of the board of review, and the confirmation of the assessment roll may be at the times provided in the city charter.

(j) The public peace and health and for the safety of persons and property. In providing for the public peace, health, and safety, a city may expend funds or enter into contracts with a private organization, the federal or state government, a county, village, or township, or another city for services considered necessary by the legislative body. Public peace, health, and safety services may include the operation of child guidance and community mental health clinics, the prevention, counseling, and treatment of developmental disabilities, the prevention of drug abuse, and the counseling and treatment of drug abusers.

(k) Adopting, continuing, amending, and repealing the city ordinances and for the publication of each ordinance before it becomes operative. Whether or not provided in its charter, instead of publishing a true copy of an ordinance before it becomes operative, the city may publish a summary of the ordinance. If the city publishes a summary of the ordinance, the city shall include in the publication the designation of a location in the city where a true copy of the ordinance can be inspected or obtained. A charter provision to the contrary notwithstanding, a city may adopt an ordinance punishable by imprisonment for not more than 93 days or a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both, if the violation substantially corresponds to a violation of state law that is a misdemeanor for which the maximum period of imprisonment is 93 days. Whether or not provided in its charter, a city may adopt a provision of a state statute for which the maximum period of imprisonment is 93 days, the Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 to 257.923, or a law, code, or rule that has been promulgated and adopted by an authorized agency of this state pertaining to fire, fire hazards, fire prevention, or fire waste, and a fire prevention code, plumbing code, heating code, electrical code, building code, refrigeration machinery code, piping code, boiler code, boiler operation code, elevator machinery code, or a code pertaining to flammable liquids and gases or hazardous chemicals, that has been promulgated by this state, by a department, board, or other agency of this state, or by an organization or association that is organized and conducted for the purpose of developing the code, by reference to the law, code, or rule in an adopting ordinance and without publishing the law, code, or rule in full. The law, code, or rule shall be clearly identified in the ordinance and its purpose shall be published with the adopting ordinance. Printed copies of the law, code, or rule shall be kept in the office of the city clerk, available for inspection by, and distribution to, the public at all times. The publication shall contain a notice stating that a complete copy of the law, code, or rule is made available to the public at the office of the city clerk in compliance with state law requiring that records of public bodies be made available to the general public. A city shall not enforce a provision adopted by reference for which the maximum period of imprisonment is greater than 93 days.

(l) That the business of the legislative body shall be conducted at a public meeting held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. All records of the municipality shall be made available to the general public in compliance with the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

(m) Keeping in the English language a written or printed journal of each session of the legislative body.

(n) A system of accounts that conforms to a uniform system of accounts as required by law.

Sec. 8. (1) Subject to subsections (2) and (3), a petition filed under section 6 shall be addressed to the county board of commissioners of the county in which the territory to be affected by the proposed incorporation, consolidation, or change of boundaries is located, and shall be filed with the clerk of the county board of commissioners not less than 30 days before the convening of the board in regular session, or in any special session called for the purpose of considering the petition. The county board of commissioners shall by resolution determine whether the petition complies with the requirements of this act and whether the statements contained in the petition are correct. If a majority of the board determines that the petition does not comply with the requirements of this act or that the statements contained in the petition are not correct, the board shall not conduct further proceedings on the petition. Subject to subsection (4), if the board determines that the petition complies with the requirements of this act and that the statements contained in the petition are correct, the board shall, by resolution, provide that the question of making the proposed incorporation, consolidation, or change of boundaries be submitted to the qualified electors of the district to be affected at the next general election or at a special election before the next general election. The question shall not be submitted at an election to be held less than 60 days after the adoption of the resolution.

(2) If it is proposed to incorporate an incorporated village as a city without change of boundaries, both of the following apply:

(a) The initiatory petition provided for under section 6 shall be addressed to the village council or other legislative body of the village and shall be filed with the village clerk at least 30 days before final action is taken on the petition.

(b) The powers and duties of the county board of commissioners and county clerk under subsection (1) are assigned to the village council and village clerk, respectively.

(3) A petition covering the same territory, or part of the same territory, shall not be considered by the county board of commissioners more often than once in every 2 years, unless the petition is signed by not less than 35% of taxpayers whose names appear on the latest assessment rolls under the requirements of the general property tax act, 1893 PA 206, MCL 211.1 to 211.157, as being assessed for real property taxes within the area proposed to be annexed. The assessing officers who are charged with the duty of assessing real property within the area proposed to be annexed shall report as of the date on which the petition is filed the total number of names on the rolls, within that area, to the clerk of the county board of commissioners not more than 14 days after the filing date.

(4) A vote is not required if the city owns the land sought to be annexed.

(5) After the adoption of a resolution under subsection (1) submitting a question to a vote of the electors, neither the sufficiency nor legality of the petition under section 6 may be questioned in any proceeding.

Sec. 11. (1) If the territory to be affected by a proposed incorporation, consolidation, or change of boundaries is situated in more than 1 county, the petition under section 6 shall be addressed and presented to the secretary of state. The petition shall be accompanied by 1 or more affidavits by 1 or more of the signers of the petition showing all of the following:

(a) That the statements contained in the petition are true.

(b) That each signature affixed to the petition is the actual signature of a qualified elector residing in a city, village, or township to be affected by the carrying out of the purposes of the petition.

(c) That not less than 25 of the petition signers reside in each city, village, or township to be affected.

(2) The secretary of state shall examine the petition and the accompanying affidavit or affidavits. If the secretary of state finds that the petition and accompanying affidavit or affidavits comply with the requirements of this act, he or she shall so certify and shall transmit the certificate and a certified copy of the petition and the accompanying affidavit or affidavits to the clerk of each city, village, or township to be affected by the proposal, together with a notice directing that the question of making the incorporation, consolidation, or change of boundaries petitioned for shall be submitted to the electors of the district to be affected. The notice shall provide that the question shall be submitted at the next general election or at an election before the next general election. However, the question shall not be submitted at an election to be held less than 60 days after the date of transmittal of the certificate.

(3) If the secretary of state finds that the petition and the accompanying affidavit or affidavits do not comply with the requirements of this act, he or she shall certify to that fact and shall return the petition and affidavits to the person from whom they were received, along with the certificate.

(4) The city, village, and township clerks who receive from the secretary of state the copies and certificates provided for in subsection (2) shall give notice of the election to be held on the question of making the proposed incorporation, consolidation, or change of boundaries as provided for in section 10.

Sec. 21. (1) An amendment to an existing city charter, whether the charter was adopted under this act or formerly granted or passed by the legislature for the government of a city, may be proposed by the legislative body of a city on a 3/5 vote of the members-elect or by an initiatory petition. If the amendment is proposed by the legislative body of the city, the amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the city at the next regular municipal or general state election, or at a special election, held not less than 60 days after the proposal of the amendment. If the amendment is proposed by an initiatory petition, the amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the city at the next regular municipal or general state election held in the city not less than 90 days after the filing of the petition.

(2) Proposed charter amendments and other questions to be submitted to the electors shall be published in full with existing charter provisions that would be altered or abrogated by the proposed charter amendment or other question. The purpose of the proposed charter amendment or question shall be designated on the ballot in not more than 100 words, exclusive of caption, that shall consist of a true and impartial statement of the purpose of the amendment or question in language that does not create prejudice for or against the amendment or question. The text of the statement shall be submitted to the attorney general for approval as to compliance with this requirement before being printed. In addition, the proposed charter amendment in full shall be posted in a conspicuous place in each polling place. The form in which a proposed charter amendment or question shall appear on the ballot, unless provided for in the initiatory petition, shall be determined by resolution of the legislative body, and if provided for by the initiatory petition, the legislative body may add an explanatory caption.

(3) A proposed charter amendment shall be confined to 1 subject. If the subject of a charter amendment includes more than 1 related proposition, each proposition shall be separately stated to afford an opportunity for an elector to vote for or against each proposition. If a proposed charter amendment is rejected at an election, the amendment shall not be resubmitted for a period of 2 years.

(4) A city charter formerly granted by a different act of the state legislature, including the charter of a city of the fourth class, that adopts or comes under any part of this act by amendment under this section, and not by general revision, adoption, or incorporation under this act, may again be amended under this section, as to the part or parts that are amended, by re-enacting under this section that part or parts of the original act of incorporation that existed before any amendment was made under this act. The part or parts of the original act of incorporation that are re-enacted shall not be construed as operating or coming under the provisions of this act in any manner, it being the intention to permit a city described in this subsection, to adopt by amendment any part of the provisions of this act permissible or to withdraw from the provisions of this act.

(5) Propositions and questions shall be proposed, initiated, submitted and canvassed in a manner similar to that provided for charter amendments.

Sec. 25. (1) An initiatory petition authorized by this act shall be addressed to and filed with the city clerk. The petition shall state what body, organization, or person is primarily interested in and responsible for the circulation of the petition and the securing of the amendment. Each sheet of the petition shall be verified by the affidavit of the person who obtained the signatures to the petition. The petition shall be signed by at least 5% of the qualified and registered electors of the municipality. Each signer of the petition shall also write, immediately after his or her signature, the date of signing and his or her street address. A signature obtained more than 1 year before the filing of the petition with the city clerk shall not be counted. The petition is subject to the requirements of section 25a.

(2) A person who willfully affixes another's signature, or subscribes and swears to a verification that is false in any material particular, is guilty of perjury. A person who takes the oath of another to the petition not knowing him or her to be the same person he or she represents himself or herself to be or knowing that the petition or any part of it is false or fraudulent in any material particular, or who falsely represents that the proposed amendment is proposed by persons other than the true sponsors, is guilty of a felony and is liable for the same punishment as provided for perjury.

(3) Upon receipt of the petition, the city clerk shall canvass it to ascertain if it is signed by the requisite number of registered electors. For the purpose of determining the validity of the petition, the city clerk may check any doubtful signatures against the registration records of the city. Within 45 days from the date of the filing of the petition, the city clerk shall certify the sufficiency or insufficiency of the petition. If the petition contains the requisite number of signatures of registered electors, the clerk shall submit the proposed amendment to the electors of the city at the next regular municipal or general state election held in the city which shall occur not less than 90 days following the filing of the petition.

(4) If the petition contains the signatures of 20% or more of the persons residing in and registered to vote in the city as of the date when they signed it, and the petition requests submission of the proposal at a special election, the city clerk, within 90 days after the date of the filing of the petition, shall call a special election to be held on the next regular election date that is not less than 120 days after the petition was filed. Other proposals, whether initiated by a 5% petition or proposed by the legislative body within the times within this act provided, may be submitted at that election. A proposal submitted to the electors by the initiative and receiving an affirmative majority of the votes cast on the proposal shall not be held unconstitutional, invalid, or void on account of the insufficiency of the petition by which the proposal was submitted.

(5) Except as provided by subsection (6), any proposal adopted by the electors that contemplates increased expenditure of funds by the municipality shall become effective only at the beginning of that fiscal year of the municipality commencing not earlier than 60 days following the election at which the proposal was approved by the electors.

(6) If a proposal that increases the city's ad valorem property tax limitation applies, by its terms, for a specific year or period commencing before the date the proposal would otherwise take effect under subsection (5), the proposal shall be effective both from the date it is approved by the electors and retroactively for the year or period specified in the proposal. Notwithstanding a charter provision to the contrary, if a proposal is approved by the electors and given effect under this subsection after the city has levied its ad valorem property tax levy for the fiscal year and if the adopted proposal authorizes the levy of a millage rate for the fiscal year during which the proposal was approved in excess of the rate the city was authorized to levy before adoption of the proposal, the city may levy an additional tax. The additional tax shall be collected either by a supplementary billing by the city or at the same time and in the same manner the county's ad valorem property tax levy is collected.

(7) A person aggrieved by an action, or failure of action, of the city clerk may bring an action against the clerk in the circuit court for writ of mandamus or for other appropriate relief.

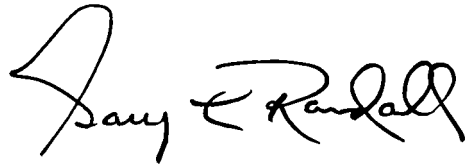
Sec. 26. (1) All elections held under this act shall be paid for by the locality where held. Except as otherwise provided by law or ordinance, the legislative body of the city shall determine the publication and notice of the election.

(2) Notwithstanding another provision of this act or a charter provision, an election under this act is subject to section 641 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.641.

Enacting section 1. This amendatory act takes effect January 1, 2005.

Enacting section 2. This amendatory act does not take effect unless all of the following bills of the 92nd Legislature are enacted into law:

- (a) Senate Bill No. 877.
- (b) House Bill No. 4820.
- (c) House Bill No. 4822.
- (d) House Bill No. 4823.
- (e) House Bill No. 4824.
- (f) House Bill No. 4826.
- (g) House Bill No. 4827.
- (h) House Bill No. 4828.



Clerk of the House of Representatives



Secretary of the Senate

Approved _____

Governor