

Act No. 21  
Public Acts of 2008  
Approved by the Governor  
March 6, 2008  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
March 7, 2008  
EFFECTIVE DATE: March 7, 2008

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
94TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2008**

**Introduced by Reps. Nofs, Caswell, Moore, Moolenaar, Caul, Walker, Booher, Hansen, Opsommer, Nitz, Palsrok, Accavitti, Brown, Clemente, Angerer, Mayes, Meadows, Farrah, Hopgood, Melton, Hammon, Bauer and Lemmons**

# **ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 5384**

AN ACT to amend 1976 PA 448, entitled "An act to prescribe the powers and duties of municipalities and governmental units to acquire, finance, maintain, and operate generating, transmission, and distribution facilities of electric power and energy, fuel and energy sources and reserves and all necessary related properties, equipment and facilities; to permit the exercise of those powers in joint venture or joint agency agreements; to provide for the issuance of bonds and notes; to prescribe the powers and duties of the municipal finance commission or its successor agency and of certain other state officers and agencies with respect to municipal electric utility financing; to create certain funds and prescribe their operation; to provide for tax exemptions and other exemptions; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies," by amending sections 3, 5, 6, 9, 11, 21, 24, 31, 34, 36, 37, 43, and 44 (MCL 460.803, 460.805, 460.806, 460.809, 460.811, 460.821, 460.824, 460.831, 460.834, 460.836, 460.837, 460.843, and 460.844), section 5 as amended by 2002 PA 513 and section 44 as amended by 2002 PA 532, and by adding section 33a.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Sec. 3. (1) "Electric utility facility" means a facility which a municipality is authorized to acquire as part of a municipal electric utility system under this act or other law.

(2) "Governing body" means the council, commission, or board of trustees of a municipality, or when the charter of a municipality provides that a separate board has general management over the municipal electric utility system, "governing body" means that separate board, subject to review by the legislative body of the municipality as its charter may provide.

(3) "Governmental unit" means a municipality or a joint agency.

(4) "Joint agency" means a public body corporate and politic consisting of a combination of 2 or more municipalities, authorities, or other public bodies organized under article 3.

Sec. 5. (1) "Project" means a system or facility, inside or outside the state, or service related to a system or facility inside or outside the state, for the generation, transmission, or transformation of electricity, in whole or in part, or for sale to or use by a municipal electric utility system or joint agency by any means. Project also means stock, membership units, contractual interests, or any other interest in a system or facility, inside or outside of the state, for the generation, transmission, or transformation of electricity or in a multistate regional transmission system organization approved by the federal government and operating in this state or a transmission-owning entity which is a member of a multistate regional transmission system organization approved by the federal government and operating in this state.

(2) "Project cost" includes, but is not limited to, the cost of acquisition, construction, improvement, or extension of a project, the cost of studies, plans, specifications, surveys, and estimates of related costs and revenues, the cost of land, land rights, rights of way, easements, water rights, fees, permits, approvals, licenses, certificates, franchises, and the preparation of any required applications, engineering and inspection expenses, financing costs, working capital, fuel costs, interest on bonds, establishment of reserves, and all other costs of the municipality or joint agency that are incidental, necessary, or convenient to the acquisition, construction, improvement, or extension of a project.

Sec. 6. (1) "Person" means an individual, corporation, association, partnership, governmental entity, or any other legal entity.

(2) "Power utility" means any person engaged or that may engage, inside or outside the state, in generating, transmitting, or distributing or furnishing electricity.

(3) "Power utility bond" means electric utility bonds, notes, or other evidences of indebtedness of a municipality, including refunding bonds issued to underwrite projects authorized by this act.

(4) "Revenues" means all fees, charges, moneys, profits, payment of principal of, or interest on, municipal or power utility bonds, or other gifts, grants, contributions and appropriations.

Sec. 9. The governing body of a municipal electric utility system may purchase, acquire, construct, improve, enlarge, extend, or repair facilities for the transmission of energy, and may contract for the purchase, sale, exchange, interchange, wheeling, pooling, or transmission of electrical energy with another power utility for a consideration and for a period and upon other terms and conditions as may be determined by the parties to the agreement.

Sec. 11. A municipality engaging in a joint venture, joint agency agreement, or other joint endeavor described in section 10 and authorized by article 2 or article 3 shall own a percentage of any common facility equal to the percentage of the money furnished or the value of the property supplied by the municipality for the acquisition and construction of the common facility, except in the case of a facility at least 2/3 of which is owned or to be owned by a state, a political subdivision of this or another state or a Canadian province, an agency of this or another state or of a political subdivision of this state or another state, a federal agency, or a Canadian federal or provincial agency or agency of a political subdivision of a Canadian province, or any corporation or other entity controlled directly or indirectly by 1 or more of the entities listed above, in which case ownership shall be as provided in the contract between the municipality or joint agency and the entity owning or to own at least 2/3 of the facility. Each municipality in a joint endeavor shall defray its own interest and other payments required to be made in connection with a financing undertaken by it to pay its own percentage of the money furnished or the value of the property supplied by it for the planning, acquisition, and construction of a common facility, or an addition or betterment to the common facility. The agreement shall provide a uniform method of determining and allocating operation and maintenance expenses of the joint facility or agency.

Sec. 21. (1) A governmental unit may join in a joint venture agreement to plan, finance, develop, construct, reconstruct, acquire, improve, enlarge, better, own, operate, or maintain an undivided interest in a project situated within or without the state with 1 or more municipalities, joint agencies, or power utilities; and make plans and enter into contracts in connection with that project, not inconsistent with this act, as are necessary or appropriate.

(2) Before entering a joint venture agreement, the governing body of a municipality shall determine the needs of the municipality for power and energy based on engineering studies and reports. In determining the future power requirements of a municipality, the following shall be considered:

(a) The economies and efficiencies to be achieved in constructing on a large scale facilities for the generation and transmission of electric power and energy.

(b) The municipality's need for reserve and peaking capacity, and to meet obligations under pooling and reserve sharing agreements reasonably related to its needs for power and energy to which it is or may become a party.

(c) The estimated useful life of the project.

(d) The estimated time necessary for the planning, development, acquisition, or construction of the project, and the length of time required in advance to obtain, acquire, or construct additional power supply.

(e) The reliability and availability of existing or alternative power supply sources, and the cost of those existing or alternative power supply sources.

Sec. 24. (1) Capacity or output derived by a governmental unit from its ownership share of a project not then required by the governmental unit for its own use and for the use of its customers may be sold or exchanged by the governmental unit for a consideration and for a period and upon other terms and conditions as may be determined by the parties to the sale.

(2) Municipalities proposing to jointly plan, finance, develop, own and operate a project, may either jointly or separately apply to the appropriate agencies of the state, the federal government, another state, or another proper agency, for the necessary licenses, permits, certificates, or approvals; may construct, maintain, and operate the project in accordance with the licenses, permits, certificates, or approvals; and may obtain, hold, and use the licenses, permits, certificates, or approvals in the same manner as the operating unit of any other power utility.

(3) Municipalities participating in a joint project or projects may enter into contracts for the purchase, sale, exchange, interchange, wheeling, pooling, or transmission of electric power and energy produced by the project or projects with a power utility.

(4) Personnel appointed by a municipality to work on a joint project shall have the same authority, rights, privileges, and immunities that the officers, agents, and employees of the appointing municipality enjoy within the jurisdictional boundaries of the municipality, whether within or without that territory, when the personnel are acting within the scope of their authority or within the course of their employment.

(5) Municipalities party to a joint project authorized by this article shall, following the end of each fiscal year, prepare an annual report of the activities of the project, including a complete operating and financial statement covering the operations of the project for that year. The municipalities shall conduct an audit of the books of records and accounts of the project to be made not less than annually by a certified public accountant, and the cost of the audit may be treated as part of the cost of construction of the project, or as part of the expense of administering the project covered by the audit.

Sec. 31. A joint agency is formed when the governing bodies of 2 or more municipalities by resolution determine that it is in the best interest of the municipalities in accomplishing the purposes of this act to create a joint agency for the purpose of undertaking the planning, financing, development, acquisition, construction, reconstruction, improvement, enlargement, betterment, operation, or maintenance of a project or projects to supply electric power and energy for their present or future needs as an alternative or supplemental method of obtaining the benefits and assuming the responsibilities of ownership in a project. In determining whether the creation of a joint agency for this purpose is in the best interest of a municipality, the governing body of each municipality shall consider, but shall not be limited to, the following:

(a) Whether a separate entity may be able to finance the cost of projects in a more economic and efficient manner.

(b) Whether financial market acceptance may be enhanced if 1 entity is responsible for issuing and selling all of the bonds required for a project or projects in a timely and orderly manner and with a uniform credit rating, instead of multiple entities marketing their separate issues of bonds.

(c) Whether savings and other advantages may be obtained by providing a separate entity responsible for the acquisition, construction, ownership, and operation of a project or projects.

(d) Whether the existence of a separate entity will foster the continuation of joint planning and undertaking of projects, and the resulting economies and efficiencies to be realized from the joint planning and undertaking will serve the interests of the residents of the municipality. The determination made by the governing body of a municipality hereunder shall be conclusive.

Sec. 33a. (1) Records, books, documents, and papers of a joint agency or a municipal electric utility system, including those maintained electronically, may be exempted from public disclosure by the board of commissioners of the joint agency or the governing body of the municipal electric utility system if any of the following apply:

(a) They contain specific pricing or other confidential or proprietary information.

(b) They pertain to the development, construction, financing, or leasing of a project.

(c) They contain information which was received from a power utility or other person and which is subject to a confidentiality agreement.

(2) Upon a showing of good cause, disclosure subject to appropriate confidentiality provisions may be ordered by a court.

Sec. 34. (1) A joint agency formed for the purposes provided in this article is a public body politic and corporate and the powers conferred by this act are considered to be the performance of an essential public function.

(2) Any combination of 2 or more municipalities described in section 31 may incorporate a joint agency by the adoption of articles of incorporation by resolution of the governing body of each municipality. The fact of adoption shall be endorsed on the articles of incorporation by the chief executive officer and clerk of the municipality, in form substantially as follows:

The foregoing articles of incorporation  
were adopted by the \_\_\_\_\_,  
of the \_\_\_\_\_, of \_\_\_\_\_ county,  
Michigan, at a meeting duly held on the \_\_\_\_ day  
of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of said

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ of said

(3) The articles of incorporation shall be published at least once in a newspaper or newspapers designated in the articles and generally circulating within the area of each municipality. One printed copy of the articles of incorporation, certified as a true copy by the person or persons designated in the articles, with the date and place of the publication, shall be filed with the county clerk or clerks of the county or counties in which the incorporating municipalities are located and the secretary of state. The incorporation of the joint agency shall become effective at the time provided in the articles of incorporation. The validity of the joint agency incorporation shall be conclusive unless questioned in a court of competent jurisdiction within 60 days after the filing of certified copies with the county clerk or clerks and the secretary of state.

(4) The articles of incorporation shall state the name of the joint agency, the names of the various incorporating municipalities, the purpose or purposes for which it is created, the powers, duties, and limitations of the joint agency and its officers, the method of selecting its governing body, officers, and employees, the person or persons who are charged with the responsibility for causing the articles of incorporation to be published and filed or who are charged with the responsibility in connection with the incorporation of the joint agency, the place of publication, and all other matters which the incorporating municipalities consider advisable, all of which shall be subject to article 3 of this act and of the constitution and laws of the state.

(5) The board of commissioners of a joint agency may, by resolution, authorize the establishment of 1 or more classes of associate membership in the joint agency. A municipality admitted as an associate member shall have participatory and other rights and obligations as provided in the resolution establishing the associate membership class or classes.

(6) A municipality described in section 31 which did not join in the original incorporation of a joint agency may become a member or an associate member of the joint agency by the adoption of a resolution by the governing body of the municipality and by a resolution unanimously adopted by all members of the board of commissioners of the joint agency. The resolution of the board of commissioners may provide that a municipality shall become a member or an associate member at a future date or upon the occurrence of a future event and may provide further that the decision of the board of commissioners may not be revoked without the consent of the governing body of the municipality being added as a member or associate member. Upon the addition of a new member or associate member, the articles of incorporation shall be conformed by the board of commissioners to show the addition of the new member or associate member and, if the municipality is being added as an associate member, the rights and obligations of the municipality as an associate member. Other amendments may be made to the articles of incorporation if adopted by the governing body of each municipality of which the joint agency is composed. An amendment shall be endorsed, published and certified and printed copies filed in the same manner as the original articles of incorporation, except an amendment showing only the addition of a new member or associate member and the rights and obligations of a new associate member need not be published.

Sec. 36. After the creation of a joint agency, another municipality may become a member of the joint agency upon application to the joint agency after the adoption of a resolution of the governing body of the municipality as prescribed in section 31 of this article authorizing the municipality to participate, and with the unanimous consent of the members of the joint agency as provided in section 34(6). A municipality may withdraw from a joint agency, except that all contractual rights acquired and obligations incurred while a member municipality remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 37. A joint agency shall have the rights and powers necessary and convenient to effectuate this article, including, but not limited to, 1 or more of the following:

(a) To adopt bylaws for the regulation of the affairs and conduct of its business, and to prescribe rules, regulations, and policies in connection with the performance of its functions and duties.

- (b) To adopt and alter an official seal.
- (c) To maintain 1 or more offices.
- (d) To sue and be sued.
- (e) To receive, administer, and comply with the conditions and requirements respecting a gift, grant, or donation of property or money.
- (f) To acquire by purchase, lease, gift, or otherwise or to obtain options for the acquisition of real or personal property, or any interest in real property.
- (g) To sell, lease, exchange, transfer, or otherwise dispose of, or to grant options for the disposal of any real or personal property or an interest in such property.
- (h) To pledge or assign money, rents, charges, or other revenues or the proceeds derived by the joint agency from the sales of real or personal property, insurance, or condemnation awards.
- (i) To issue bonds of the joint agency for the purpose of providing funds for any of its corporate purposes.
- (j) To study, plan, finance, construct, reconstruct, acquire, participate in by contract or otherwise, improve, enlarge, extend, better, own, operate, or maintain, 1 or more projects, and to pay all or a part of the costs of the projects from the proceeds of bonds of the joint agency or from other funds made available to the joint agency.
- (k) To authorize the construction, operation, or maintenance of a project or projects by a person, firm, or corporation, including a political subdivision or agency of another state.
- (l) To acquire by lease, purchase, or otherwise an existing project or a project under construction.
- (m) To sell or otherwise dispose of a project or projects.
- (n) To fix, charge, and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges for electric power or energy or other services, facilities, or commodities sold, furnished, or supplied through a project.
- (o) To generate, produce, transmit, deliver, exchange, purchase or sell for resale electric power or energy.
- (p) To negotiate and to enter into contracts for the generation, production, purchase, sale, exchange, interchange, wheeling, pooling, transmission, delivery, or use of electric power and energy with a power utility.
- (q) To make and execute contracts and other instruments necessary or convenient in the exercise of the powers and functions of the joint agency under this article.
- (r) To apply to and obtain from the appropriate state or federal agency the necessary permits, licenses, certificates, or approvals to construct, maintain, and operate projects.
- (s) To employ engineers, architects, attorneys, real estate counselors, appraisers, financial advisors, and other persons as may be required by the joint agency.
- (t) To do all acts and things necessary, convenient, or desirable to carry out the purposes, and to execute the powers granted to the joint agency under this act.

Sec. 43. (1) A municipality which is a member of a joint agency may contract to buy power and energy and transmission or other related rights from the joint agency, and separately, or through the joint agency, from any other power utility, required for the municipality's present or future requirements, including the capacity and output of 1 or more specified projects. The contract may provide that the member municipality or the joint agency, or both, shall be obligated to make the payments required by the contract whether or not a project is completed, operable, or operating, and notwithstanding the suspension, interruption, interference, reduction, or curtailment of the output of a project or the power and energy contracted for, and that the payments under the contract shall not be subject to a reduction whether by offset or otherwise, and shall not be conditioned upon the performance or nonperformance of the joint agency or power utility or another member of the joint agency, or any other participant in a project within or outside the state, under the contract or other instrument. A contract with respect to the sale or purchase of capacity or output of a project entered into between a joint agency and its member municipalities, or between a joint agency or 1 or more of its members and another power utility, may also provide that if 1 or more of the members of the joint agency or other participants in a project of a power utility default in the payment of its or their obligations with respect to the purchase of the capacity or output, then the remaining member municipalities and other participants which are purchasing capacity and output under the contract are, subject to such conditions and limitations, if any, as the contract may provide, required to accept and pay for and shall be entitled proportionately to and may use or otherwise dispose of the capacity or output which was to be purchased by the defaulting municipality or other participant.

(2) Payments by a municipality under a contract for the purchase of capacity and output from a joint agency or other power utility shall be made solely from the revenues derived from the ownership and operation of the electric system of the municipality, and an obligation under the contract shall not constitute a legal or equitable pledge, charge, lien, or encumbrance upon property of the municipality or upon the municipality's income, receipts, or revenues, except the revenues of its electric system. Subject to any debt or debt-related contracts or indentures of a municipality or joint agency, payments described in this subsection shall be made as part of the operating and maintenance costs of the

municipality's or agency's system. A municipality is obligated to fix, charge, and collect rents, rates, fees, and charges for electric power and energy and other services, facilities, and commodities, sold, furnished, or supplied through its electric systems sufficient to provide revenues adequate to meet its obligations under the contract, and to pay other amounts payable from or constituting a charge and lien upon those revenues, including amounts sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on general obligation bonds issued by the municipality for purposes related to its electric system.

(3) A municipality which is a member of a joint agency may furnish the joint agency with money derived solely from the ownership and operation of its electric system or facilities and provide the joint agency with personnel, equipment, and property, both real and personal. A member municipality may also provide services to a joint agency.

(4) A member municipality of a joint agency may contract for, advance, or contribute funds derived solely from ownership of its electric system or facilities to a joint agency as may be agreed upon by the joint agency and member municipality, and the joint agency shall repay the advance or contribution from the proceeds of bonds, from operating revenues, or from other funds of the joint agency, together with interest thereon as may be agreed upon by the member municipality and the joint agency.

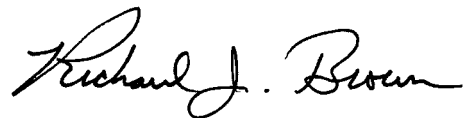
Sec. 44. (1) A joint agency may sell or exchange the excess capacity or output of a project not required by any of its members for consideration upon terms and conditions as determined by the parties.

(2) A joint agency may do 1 or more of the following:

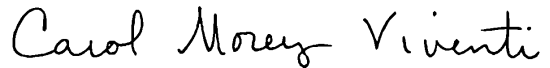
(a) Transfer all or part of its interest in or functional control of transmission facilities to a multistate regional transmission system organization approved by the federal government and operating in this state or to 1 or more of its transmission-owning members.

(b) Purchase, acquire, sell, or otherwise transfer stock, membership units, or any other interest in a multistate regional transmission system organization approved by the federal government and operating in this state or in 1 or more of its transmission-owning members.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.



\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the House of Representatives



\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor