

COUNTY BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS (EXCERPT)
Act 156 of 1851

46.11 Powers of county board of commissioners.

Sec. 11. A county board of commissioners, at a lawfully held meeting, may do 1 or more of the following:

(a) Purchase or lease for a term not to exceed 20 years, real estate necessary for the site of a courthouse, jail, clerk's office, or other county building in that county.

(b) Determine the site of, remove, or designate a new site for a county building. The exercise of the authority granted by this subdivision is subject to any requirement of law that the building be located at the county seat.

(c) Authorize the sale or lease of real estate belonging to the county, and prescribe the manner in which a conveyance of the real estate is to be executed.

(d) Erect the necessary buildings for jails, clerks' offices, and other county buildings, and prescribe the time and manner of erecting them.

(e) Borrow or raise by tax upon the county those funds authorized by law. The exercise of the authority granted by this subdivision is subject to any voting requirement provided by the law authorizing the borrowing or tax if different from the voting requirement under section 3.

(f) Provide for the repayment of a loan made by the board, by tax upon the county. The loan must be repaid within 15 years after the date of the loan, except that a loan to erect a county building for a public function must be repaid within 30 years after the date of the loan.

(g) Prescribe and fix the salaries and compensation of employees of the county if not fixed by law and, except in a county having a board of county auditors, adjust claims against the county. The sum allowed in the adjustment of a claim is subject to appeal as provided by law.

(h) Direct and provide for the raising of money necessary to defray the current expenses and charges of the county and the necessary charges incident to or arising from the execution of the board's lawful authority, subject to the limitations prescribed in this act. The county board of commissioners may borrow in a year, in anticipation of the levy or collection of taxes for the year, a sum of money, not exceeding 50% of the tax to be levied or collected for the general fund of the county, necessary to defray current expenses of the county. The money borrowed must be repaid from the tax when levied and collected.

(i) Authorize the making of a new tax roll.

(j) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners elected and serving, pass ordinances that relate to county affairs and do not contravene the general laws of this state or interfere with the local affairs of a township, city, or village within the limits of the county, and pursuant to section 10b provide suitable sanctions for the violation of those ordinances. The board may change the limits of a city, village, or school district within the county as provided by law. If there is not a general law governing the subject, or if a change cannot be made pursuant to a general law, the board may change the limits of the village upon petition of at least 10% of the resident taxpayers. An ordinance or act of incorporation provided in this subdivision takes effect when notice of the adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The clerk of the county board of commissioners shall engross each ordinance or act, and it shall be signed by the chairperson of the county board of commissioners and certified by the clerk of the county board of commissioners. If, within 50 days after the county board of commissioners adopts an ordinance or act, a petition signed by not less than 20% of the electors residing in the district to be affected by the ordinance or act is filed with the county clerk asking that the ordinance or act be submitted to electors of the district to be affected by the ordinance or act for approval or rejection, then the ordinance or act does not take effect until it is approved by a majority of the electors of the district affected voting on that issue at a regular or special election called for that purpose. The county board of commissioners shall provide the manner of submitting the ordinance or act to the electors for their approval and of determining the result of the election.

(k) Require a county officer whose salary or compensation is paid by the county to make a report under oath to the county board of commissioners on any subject connected with the duties of that office and require the officer to give a bond reasonable or necessary for the faithful performance of the duties of the office. An officer who neglects or refuses either to make a report or give a bond within a reasonable time after being required to do so may be removed from office by the board by a vote of 2/3 of the members elected or appointed, and the office declared vacant. The board may fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term for which the officer was elected or appointed. If an election occurs before the expiration of the unexpired term, and if the office is elective, the vacancy must be filled at that election. The board shall give reasonable notice of the election to fill the vacancy.

(l) Represent the county and have the care and management of the property and business of the county if other provisions are not made.

(m) Establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county as the board considers necessary and proper in all matters not especially provided for in this act or under the laws of this state. The county board of commissioners shall not audit or allow a claim, including a bill or charge, against the county unless the claim has been filed with the county clerk of the county before the fourth day of a regular meeting of the board, or before the second day of an adjourned or other meeting, the claim is contracted by the board during the session of the board or the claim is for mileage and per diem of the members of the board. The county clerk shall keep a book of all claims in the order in which the claims are presented, giving the name of each claimant and the amount and date of presentation of each claim. The book, after the time prescribed for the presentation of claims, must be delivered to the chairperson for the use of the board. At the October session, the board, by a vote of 2/3 of the members, may receive and allow accounts that have wholly accrued during the session.

(n) Subject to subdivision (o), remove an officer or agent appointed by the board if, in the board's opinion, the officer or agent is incompetent to execute properly the duties of the office or if, on charges and evidence, the board is satisfied that the officer or agent is guilty of official misconduct, or habitual or willful neglect of duty, and if the misconduct or neglect is a sufficient cause for removal. However, an officer or agent shall not be removed for that misconduct or neglect unless charges of misconduct or neglect are presented to the county board of commissioners or the chairperson of the county board of commissioners, notice of the hearing, with a copy of the charges, is delivered to the officer or agent, and a full opportunity is given the officer or agent to be heard, either in person or by counsel.

(o) If the county has an appointed county manager or other appointed chief administrative officer or a county controller, the county board of commissioners may enter into an employment contract with that officer. The term of the employment contract may extend beyond the terms of the members of the county board of commissioners. The term of the employment contract must be 3 years or less, unless the employment contract is entered into on or after August 1 of an even-numbered year, in which case the term of the employment contract must be 1 year or less. However, in a county organized under 1966 PA 293, MCL 45.501 to 45.521, with an appointed chief administrative officer, an employment contract with the appointed chief administrative officer must be for the term provided by section 11a of 1966 PA 293, MCL 45.511a. An employment contract under this subdivision must be in writing and must specify the compensation to be paid to the officer, any procedure for changing the compensation, any fringe benefits, and any other conditions of employment. If the officer serves at the pleasure of the county board of commissioners, the contract must so state and may provide for severance pay or other benefits in the event the employment of the officer is terminated at the pleasure of the county board of commissioners.

(p) Establish rules consistent with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275, for the manner of proceeding before the board.

(q) Acquire by exchange land needed for county purposes, including the purchase of land to be used in exchange for other land of approximate equal value owned by the federal government and needed for county purposes.

(r) Grant or loan money to a nonprofit corporation organized for the purpose of providing loans for private sector economic development initiatives. A grant or loan under this subdivision must not be derived from ad valorem taxes except for ad valorem taxes approved by a vote of the people for economic development. The county shall establish an application process for proposals to receive a grant or loan under this subdivision. The awarding of a grant or loan under this subdivision must be made at a public hearing of the county board of commissioners. The grant or loan contract must require a report to the county board of commissioners regarding the activities of the recipient and the degree to which the recipient has met the stated public purpose of the funding.

(s) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners elected and serving in a county with an appointed board of county road commissioners, pass a resolution that transfers the powers, duties, and functions that are otherwise provided by law for the appointed board of county road commissioners of that county to the county board of commissioners. The resolution is subject to the requirement in section 6(9) of chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, MCL 224.6. The appointed board of county road commissioners of that county is dissolved on the date specified in the resolution adopted under this subdivision, and the county board of commissioners is authorized to receive and expend funds as allowed under 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.651 to 247.675. If the powers, duties, and functions of the board of county road commissioners of a county are transferred to the county board of commissioners of that county under this subdivision and the powers and duties of the office of county drain commissioner of that county had previously been transferred to the board of county road commissioners as provided in section 21(3) of the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.21, then the county board of commissioners of that county shall reestablish, by resolution, the office of county drain commissioner as an elected office. The resolution reestablishing the office of county drain

commissioner must provide for the appointment of an acting county drain commissioner for that county who shall hold office until the next general election at which a county drain commissioner will be elected as provided in chapter X of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.191 to 168.211.

(t) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners elected and serving in a county with an elected board of county road commissioners, pass a resolution to submit to the qualified and registered electors of the county at the next regular election to be held in the county the question of transferring the powers, duties, and functions of the elected board of county road commissioners of that county to the county board of commissioners. The resolution is subject to the requirement in section 6(9) of chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, MCL 224.6. If a majority of the qualified and registered electors of the county voting on the question vote in favor of transferring the powers, duties, and functions of the elected board of county road commissioners of that county to the county board of commissioners, the elected board of county road commissioners of that county is dissolved and the county board of commissioners is authorized to receive and expend funds as allowed under 1951 PA 51, MCL 247.651 to 247.675. If the powers, duties, and functions of the board of county road commissioners of a county are transferred to the county board of commissioners of that county under this subdivision and the powers and duties of the office of county drain commissioner of that county had previously been transferred to the board of county road commissioners as provided in section 21(3) of the drain code of 1956, 1956 PA 40, MCL 280.21, then the county board of commissioners of that county shall reestablish, by resolution, the office of county drain commissioner as an elected office. The resolution reestablishing the office of county drain commissioner must provide for the appointment of an acting county drain commissioner for that county who shall hold office until the next general election at which a county drain commissioner will be elected as provided in chapter X of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.191 to 168.211.

(u) If, after a board of county road commissioners is dissolved as provided in subdivision (s) or (t), the county board of commissioners for a county determines that a board of county road commissioners would provide a cost savings to the county residents and would better meet the needs of the county residents, the county board of commissioners for that county may do either of the following:

(i) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners, adopt a county road system with a board of county road commissioners as provided in chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, MCL 224.1 to 224.32.

(ii) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners, submit the question of adopting a county road system with a board of county road commissioners to a vote of the electors of the county as provided in chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, MCL 224.1 to 224.32.

(v) Loan money to a township within the county for the purpose of funding a road construction project or providing matching funds for a joint project between the county and the township. A loan granted under this subdivision must not exceed a term of 10 years.

History: 1851, Act 156, Imd. Eff. Apr. 8, 1851;—CL 1857, 345;—Am. 1859, Act 244, Eff. May 18, 1859;—Am. 1867, Act 81, Eff. June 27, 1867;—CL 1871, 477;—Am. 1877, Act 165, Eff. Aug. 21, 1877;—How. 483;—CL 1897, 2484;—Am. 1905, Act 98, Eff. Sept. 16, 1905;—Am. 1909, Act 322, Eff. Sept. 1, 1909;—Am. 1913, Act 397, Eff. Aug. 14, 1913;—CL 1915, 2274;—Am. 1925, Act 69, Eff. Aug. 27, 1925;—CL 1929, 1130;—CL 1948, 46.11;—Am. 1955, Act 108, Imd. Eff. June 3, 1955;—Am. 1956, Act 132, Imd. Eff. Apr. 13, 1956;—Am. 1958, Act 59, Eff. Sept. 13, 1958;—Am. 1959, Act 193, Imd. Eff. July 22, 1959;—Am. 1964, Act 182, Eff. Aug. 28, 1964;—Am. 1975, Act 206, Imd. Eff. Aug. 21, 1975;—Am. 1978, Act 51, Eff. Mar. 30, 1979;—Am. 1978, Act 278, Imd. Eff. July 6, 1978;—Am. 1978, Act 629, Imd. Eff. Jan. 8, 1979;—Am. 1980, Act 334, Eff. Dec. 30, 1980;—Am. 1985, Act 171, Eff. Mar. 31, 1986;—Am. 1988, Act 227, Imd. Eff. July 8, 1988;—Am. 1994, Act 18, Eff. May 1, 1994;—Am. 1996, Act 22, Imd. Eff. Feb. 16, 1996;—Am. 1996, Act 396, Imd. Eff. Oct. 8, 1996;—Am. 1998, Act 97, Imd. Eff. May 15, 1998;—Am. 2003, Act 94, Imd. Eff. July 24, 2003;—Am. 2012, Act 15, Imd. Eff. Feb. 21, 2012;—Am. 2015, Act 236, Imd. Eff. Dec. 22, 2015;—Am. 2016, Act 77, Imd. Eff. Apr. 12, 2016;—Am. 2020, Act 1, Imd. Eff. Jan. 27, 2020.

Compiler's note: Act 259 of 1937 purported to amend this section, but the effective date of that act depended on the approval of Act 258 of 1937, which was defeated by referendum.