

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fire Protection District Act is amended by
5 changing Section 16 as follows:

6 (70 ILCS 705/16) (from Ch. 127 1/2, par. 37)

7 Sec. 16. In order to facilitate circumstances in which fire
8 protection may be materially improved by adjustment of
9 jurisdictional boundaries of adjoining fire protection
10 districts without impairing the overall provision of fire
11 protection services in the adjoining districts, territory
12 ~~Territory~~ included within the limits of any fire protection
13 district may be disconnected from the district and added to
14 another district to which the territory is contiguous, in the
15 manner hereinafter set forth; (1) if the territory would
16 receive equal or greater benefits from the district to which it
17 seeks to be transferred; (2) if the transfer will not cause the
18 territory remaining in the district from which the transfer is
19 to be made, to be noncontiguous; (3) if the transfer will not
20 cause a serious injury to the district from which the transfer
21 is to be made; and, (4) if the trustees of the district to
22 which the transfer is sought to be made do not file a written
23 refusal to accept the territory within the time hereinafter

1 provided.

2 Territory disconnected pursuant to this Section shall
3 remain liable for its proportionate share of the bonded
4 indebtedness outstanding as of the date of disconnection, if
5 any, of the district from which it was disconnected and shall
6 assume a proportionate share of the bonded indebtedness, if
7 any, of the district to which it is transferred.

8 One per cent or more of the legal voters residing within
9 the limits of the territory proposed to be transferred may file
10 a petition, in the court of the county where the district to
11 which it seeks to be transferred is organized, setting forth:
12 the description of the territory sought to be transferred; that
13 the territory would receive equal or greater benefits by the
14 transfer; that the transfer will not cause a serious injury to
15 the district or districts from which the transfer is proposed
16 to be made; and the amount of any outstanding bonded
17 indebtedness against the district or districts in which the
18 territory is then situated which has been incurred pursuant to
19 this Act; and praying that the question whether the transfer
20 shall be made, and whether the voters of such territory shall
21 remain liable for a proportionate share of the bonded
22 indebtedness outstanding as of the date of disconnection, if
23 any, of the district from which it was disconnected and also
24 assume a proportionate share of the bonded indebtedness, if
25 any, of the district to which the transfer is to be made, be
26 submitted to the voters of the entire district from which the

1 transfer is sought to be made ~~territory sought to be~~
2 ~~transferred.~~

3 Upon the filing of the petition, the court shall set a day
4 for hearing, not less than 2 weeks nor more than 4 weeks from
5 the filing thereof, and the court, or the circuit clerk or
6 sheriff upon order of the court, (i) shall give 2 weeks notice
7 of such hearing in one or more daily or weekly newspapers of
8 general circulation in the county or in each county wherein the
9 district or districts from which the territory sought to be
10 transferred is organized and by posting at least 10 copies of
11 the notice in conspicuous places in the district or in each of
12 the districts from which the territory is sought to be
13 transferred, (ii) shall cause a copy of the notice to be
14 personally served upon each trustee of the district from which
15 the transfer is sought to be made, and (iii) in addition shall
16 cause a copy of the notice to be personally served upon each of
17 the trustees of the district to which the transfer is sought to
18 be made at least one week before the date set for the hearing,
19 and in the notice, or in any accompanying notice to be served
20 upon the Trustees at the same time, a recital shall be made
21 stating that the Trustees may at any time prior to the date of
22 the hearing, or within such additional time as may be granted
23 by the court upon request in writing filed on or before such
24 date, file a written refusal to accept the territory as a part
25 of their district, provided, that such notification need not be
26 given to the trustees if they file in the proceeding their

1 written appearances or written consent to a transfer of the
2 territory to their district. Both the fire protection district
3 from which the territory seeks to be transferred and the fire
4 protection district to which the territory seeks to be
5 transferred are necessary parties in any action to disconnect
6 under this Section.

7 At any time prior to the date set for the hearing, or
8 within such additional time as may be granted by the court, the
9 trustees of the district to which the transfer is sought to be
10 made may file a written refusal to accept the territory as a
11 part of their district and in case of such refusal the court
12 shall enter an order dismissing the petition for the transfer.
13 The trustees may withdraw their refusal at any time prior to
14 the entry of an order dismissing the petition. In case the
15 trustees fail to file a written refusal within the time
16 hereinbefore authorized, they shall be deemed to have consented
17 to a transfer of the territory to their district, and consent
18 once given may not be withdrawn without leave of court for good
19 cause shown. In case of such consent, the court shall proceed
20 with the matter as herein provided but if the court finds that
21 any of the conditions herein required for the making of a
22 transfer do not exist it shall enter an order dismissing the
23 petition. In taking any action upon the petition the findings
24 of the court shall be filed of record in the case.

25 All property owners in the district from which the transfer
26 is sought and all persons interested therein, may file

1 objections, and at the hearing may appear and contest the
2 transfer and the matters averred in the petition, and both
3 objectors and petitioners may offer any competent evidence in
4 regard thereto. In addition, all persons residing in or
5 interested in any of the property situated in the territory
6 sought to be transferred shall have an opportunity to be heard
7 touching the location and boundary of the territory to be voted
8 upon for such transfer, and may make suggestions regarding the
9 same. For purposes of this Section, serious injury shall be
10 found to exist in the district from which the transfer is
11 sought when a material impairment of the ability to provide
12 continuing fire protection and related emergency services to
13 the territory remaining in the district after the transfer may
14 occur. The court may consider the following, but not limited
15 to, in its determination as to whether a serious injury may
16 occur: the financial resources, facilities, and equipment
17 which will remain in the district; and the financial
18 obligations, including remaining non-bonded debt of the
19 district, from which the transfer is sought. A loss of annual
20 real estate tax revenues by the district from which the
21 transfer is sought of 25 percent or more by reason of the
22 disconnection and transfer shall constitute serious injury and
23 require dismissal of the petition. However, the court is not
24 precluded from finding serious injury to exist with a lesser
25 tax revenue loss if it is shown by the preponderance of other
26 evidence presented to the court that serious injury would

1 result if the transfer were to occur.

2 If the court shall, upon hearing the petition, find that
3 the territory described in the petition would receive equal or
4 greater benefits by being so transferred and meet the
5 conditions hereinbefore set forth, it shall certify to the
6 proper election officials the question of whether the territory
7 shall be transferred, and its order, and such officials shall
8 submit that question at an election in the entire district from
9 which the transfer is sought to be made ~~in such territory~~ in
10 accordance with the general election law. The proposition shall
11 be in substantially the following form:

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13 For making the transfer from the
14 Fire Protection District to the
15 Fire Protection District, remaining
16 liable for a proportionate share of the
17 bonded indebtedness outstanding as of the
18 date of disconnection, if any, of the district
19 from which disconnection is proposed and also
20 assuming a proportionate share of the bonded
21 indebtedness, if any, of the district
22 to which transfer is proposed.

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24 Against making the transfer from the
25 Fire Protection District to the
26 Fire Protection District, remaining

1 liable for a proportionate share of the
2 bonded indebtedness outstanding as of the
3 date of disconnection, if any, of the district
4 from which disconnection is proposed and also
5 assuming a proportionate share of the bonded
6 indebtedness, if any, of the district
7 to which transfer is proposed.

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9 If a majority of the votes cast upon the question of making
10 the transfer shall be in favor of the transfer, the territory
11 shall thenceforth cease to be a part of the fire protection
12 district or districts to which it has been attached and shall
13 become an integral part of the fire protection district to
14 which the transfer shall have been sought and shall be subject
15 to all the enjoyments and responsibilities of the latter
16 district. In each case in which a transfer is effected pursuant
17 to the provisions hereof, the circuit clerk in whose court the
18 transfer proceedings have been conducted, shall certify copies
19 of all orders entered in effecting such transfer and file or
20 send them to the proper county clerk or clerks for filing and
21 to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

22 (Source: P.A. 94-806, eff. 1-1-07.)

23 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
24 becoming law.