

AN ACT concerning government.

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

Section 5. The Intergovernmental Cooperation Act is amended by changing Section 3.6 as follows:

(5 ILCS 220/3.6) (from Ch. 127, par. 743.6)

Sec. 3.6. (a) Any special district the boundaries of which are exactly coterminous with, or entirely within, the boundaries of a township ~~in a county having less than 1,000,000 inhabitants~~ may merge into and transfer all of its rights, powers, duties, liabilities and functions to the township as provided in this Section notwithstanding any other provision of the law.

(b) "Special district" means any political subdivision other than a county, municipality, township, school district or community college district.

(c) By resolution or ordinance the special district may petition the township for merger. Within 30 days after the adoption of such resolution or ordinance, the special district shall file a copy of the petition with the town clerk of the township and with the county clerk.

(d) Within 60 days of the filing of the petition with the town clerk the board of town trustees shall by ordinance either agree or refuse to agree to the merger. Failure of the board of town trustees to adopt such an ordinance within the 60 days shall constitute a refusal to agree to the merger.

(e) After an ordinance is passed by the board of town trustees agreeing to a merger, it shall be published once within 30 days after its passage in one or more newspapers published in the township or, if no newspaper is published therein, it shall be published in a newspaper published in the county in which such township is located and having general

circulation within such township. If no newspaper is published in the county having general circulation in the township, publication may be made instead by posting copies of such ordinance in 10 public places within the township. The publication or posting of the ordinance shall include a notice of (1) the specific number of voters required to sign a petition requesting that the question of the merger be submitted to the voters of the township; (2) the time within which the petition must be filed; and (3) the date of the prospective referendum. The township clerk shall provide a petition form to any individual requesting one. The ordinance shall not become effective until 30 days after its publication or the date of such posting of such copies.

Whenever a petition signed by the electors of the township equal in number to 10% or more of the registered voters in the township is filed with the board of town trustees thereof which has adopted an ordinance agreeing to merger and such petition has been filed with the board of town trustees within 30 days after the publication or the date of the posting of the copies which petition seeks the submission of such merger to an election, the board of town trustees shall certify the question to the proper election officials who shall submit the question at an election in accordance with the general election law.

The proposition shall be substantially in the following form:

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      Shall (name of special          YES
district) be merged into          -----
..... Township?                  NO
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If the boundaries of the township and special district are coterminous and a majority of the voters voting on the question shall favor merger, the special district shall merge into the township. If a majority of the voters voting on the question shall not favor merger, the special district shall not merge into the township. If the boundaries of the township and

special district are not coterminous, then a majority of the voters voting upon the question in the special district and a majority of the voters voting in that portion of the township that is not included within the special district must both favor the merger. If a majority of the voters residing in the special district or a majority of the voters voting in that portion of the townships that is not included within the special district do not favor the merger, the special district shall not merge into the township.

(f) The effective date of the merger shall be the first day of January of the year immediately following the effective date of the ordinance or the approval by the referendum as the case may be.

(g) If the board of town trustees refuses to agree to the merger or if a majority of the voters voting on the question shall not favor merger, then the special district shall not file a petition for merger with the town clerk within 3 years after such refusal to agree or referendum.

(h) Upon the effective date of the merger the township shall assume and succeed to all of the rights, powers, duties, liabilities and functions of the special district, including assuming any indebtedness of the special district, and the special district shall be dissolved and cease to exist as a separate and distinct political subdivision. In connection with such rights, powers, duties, liabilities and functions the township shall be subject to, governed by and have the benefit of the statutes, as then or thereafter amended, and laws affecting such a special district, including without limitation the right to levy taxes in such amounts as allowed to such a special district, but the right to levy taxes shall exist only within the area formerly comprising such merged special district. Upon the effective date of the merger all books, records, equipment, property and personnel held by, in the custody of or employed by the special district shall be transferred to the township. The transfer shall not affect the status or employment benefits of transferred personnel.

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HB1395 Enrolled

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(Source: P.A. 89-150, eff. 7-14-95.)