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SENATE BILL No. 270

Proposed Changes to January 21, 2026 printing by AM027011

DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Committee amendment for SB 270. Amends the government modernization act to require a political subdivision to respond to a resolution that names the political subdivision as a participant in a proposed reorganization. Requires the department of local government finance (department) to assign a township two points if the township did not provide township assistance in both 2023 and 2024 (instead of 2023 or 2024). Requires the department to assign one point: (1) if: (A) a township did not have a candidate on the election ballot for the office of township trustee in either the 2018 or 2022 general election; or (B) a vacancy on July 1, 2026, in the position of township trustee has been vacant for at least 30 calendar days; or (2) if: (A) a township did not have a candidate on the election ballot for at least one office of the township board in either the 2018 or 2022 general election; or (B) on July 1, 2026, there is at least one vacancy on the township board that have been vacant for at least 30 calendar days. Provides that the department of local government finance (department) may not assign a township a point for not having township trustee or township board candidates on the 2018 or 2022 general election ballot, if the vacancy was timely filled before the first meeting of the township in January. Specifies that township assistance information from the township's annual report must be provided to the department by the state board of accounts. Removes a provision requiring points to be assigned to a township for each year in 2023 or 2024 that a township did not file a budget with the department. Adds a provision requiring points to be assigned for each of the following that apply: (1) If the township's annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2023 were continued for the 2024 budget year. (2) If the township's annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2024 were continued for the 2025 budget year. Provides that a designated township that has commenced a consolidation or merger with another unit prior to July 1, 2027, is excluded from the required merger process. Provides that a township may appeal the assignment of a point if the assignment was incorrect or because compliance was not possible due to a disaster that significantly disrupted operations and reporting requirements and the township was assigned a point by the department. Requires the department to post each petition and written determination issued by the department on the department's website. Provides that a merger is effective January 1, 2029 (instead of January 1, 2028), and extends other deadlines in the merger process. Requires the merger resolution and estimated budget and proposed tax rate and tax levy of a new township government for the 2029 budget year to be submitted to the department not later than February 1, 2028. Requires the department

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to certify the new township government's budget, tax rate, and levy not later than September 1, 2028. Provides that indebtedness that was incurred by each former township government prior to the merger: (1) may not be imposed on taxpayers that were not responsible for payment of the indebtedness before the merger; and (2) must be paid by the taxpayers that were responsible for payment of the indebtedness before the merger. Provides that after all township mergers are complete, a county must have at least two townships. Provides that a designated township in which (1) at least 80% of the township's boundaries coincide with a municipality's boundaries; and (2) at least 51% of the township's population resides within the corporate boundaries of a municipality must reorganize with the municipality. Requires a designated township that is required to reorganize to adopt a resolution not later than October 1, 2027, that designates the municipality (recipient municipality) that will reorganize with the designated township. Requires the appointment of a joint board consisting of representatives of the designated township and the recipient municipality to prepare a plan of reorganization. Requires the county fiscal body to approve the budget, tax rate, and tax levy imposed by the municipality within the boundaries of the rural township services district. Provides that a recipient municipality has all of the powers of the government modernization act in reorganizing the township. Requires townships to annually provide certain information relating to fire protection to the department as part of a pre-budget survey administered by the department. Requires the department to share the information with the department of homeland security. Requires the department of homeland security to make certain information available on the department of homeland security's website in a machine readable format. Makes conforming amendments. Makes technical corrections.

A BILL FOR AN ACT to amend the Indiana Code concerning local government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

1 SECTION 1. [IC 36-1.5-4-13, AS AMENDED BY P.L.202-2013,
2 SECTION 6, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
3 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 13. (a) The legislative body of a political
4 subdivision that receives a certified resolution under section 10 or 12
5 of this chapter ~~may~~ shall do any of the following:
6 (1) Adopt a resolution declining to participate in a proposed
7 reorganization. The resolution must detail why the political
8 subdivision does not wish to participate in the
9 reorganization.
10 (2) Adopt a substantially identical resolution proposing to
11 participate in a proposed reorganization with the political
12 subdivisions named in a resolution certified to the political
13 subdivision.
14 (3) Adopt a resolution proposing to participate in a proposed
15 reorganization with political subdivisions that differ in part or in

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1 whole from the political subdivisions named in a resolution
2 certified to the political subdivision.
3 (b) The clerk of the political subdivision adopting a resolution
4 proposing a reorganization under this section shall certify the
5 resolution to the clerk of each political subdivision named in the
6 resolution.
7 SECTION 2. IC 36-1.5-4.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
8 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
9 UPON PASSAGE]:
10 **Chapter 4.1. Reorganization of Certain Designated Townships**
11 **Sec. 1. (a) This chapter does not apply to a township:**
12 **(1) located in a county having a consolidated city; or**
13 **(2) that, not later than June 30, 2027, has begun to**
14 **consolidate with another:**
15 **(A) township under IC 36-6-1.5; or**
16 **(B) unit under IC 36-1.5-4.**
17 **(b) This chapter applies only to a designated township that**
18 **satisfies all of the following criteria:**
19 **(1) At least eighty percent (80%) of the township's**
20 **boundaries coincide with a municipality's boundaries.**
21 **(2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the township's**
22 **population resides within the corporate boundaries of a**
23 **municipality described in subdivision (1).**
24 **Sec. 2. To the extent that other provisions in this article**
25 **conflict with this chapter, this chapter controls.**
26 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "department" means the**
27 **department of local government finance.**
28 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "designated township" has the**
29 **meaning set forth in IC 36-6-1.7-3.**
30 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "plan" or "plan of**
31 **reorganization" means a plan of reorganization approved by the**
32 **legislative body of a recipient municipality under this chapter.**
33 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "recipient municipality" means**
34 **a municipality that is named by a designated township in a**
35 **resolution under section 14 of this chapter.**
36 **Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "reorganization" means the**
37 **dissolution of a designated township and the transfer of township**
38 **property, functions, powers, and services to a municipality that is**
39 **the recipient municipality.**
40 **Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "township office" refers to any**
41 **of the following:**
42 **(1) The office of township trustee elected as provided in**

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IC 36-6-4-2.

(2) The office of township assessor elected as provided in IC 36-6-5-1 (if the office exists).

(3) The office of a member of the township board elected as provided in IC 36-6-6-2.

Sec. 9. As used in this chapter, "township services" means the following:

(1) Township assistance under IC 12-20 and IC 12-30-4.

(2) Provision of insulin to the poor under IC 12-20-16.

(3) Fire protection services under IC 36-8.

(4) Fence viewing under IC 32-26.

(5) Provision and maintenance of cemeteries under IC 23-14.

(6) Provision and maintenance of township parks and community centers under IC 36-10.

(7) Destruction of detrimental plants, noxious weeds, and rank vegetation under IC 15-16-8.

(8) Any other services required by statute to be provided by a township.

Sec. 10. As used in this chapter, "township services district" means a service district that is located within the boundaries of the reorganized designated township in which the recipient municipality imposes a township services district levy.

Sec. 11. As used in this chapter, "township services district levy" means the budget, tax rate, and tax levy imposed by the recipient municipality within the boundaries of a township services district.

Sec. 12. (a) On January 1, 2029, each designated township that meets the criteria described in section 1(b) of this chapter is dissolved. All of the following occur:

(1) The term of office of an individual who holds a township office ends on December 31, 2028. An election for a township office shall not be held in 2029 or thereafter.

(2) The:

(A) powers and duties of the office of township trustee are transferred to the executive of the recipient municipality;

(B) legislative powers and duties of the office of township board members are transferred to the legislative body of the recipient municipality;

(C) fiscal powers and duties of the office of township board members are transferred to the fiscal body of the recipient municipality; and

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- 1 (D) powers and duties of the township assessor (if the
 2 office exists) are transferred to the county assessor.
 3 (3) The boundaries of the dissolved township remain as the
 4 boundaries of the service area within which the recipient
 5 municipality provides township services.
 6 (4) If a designated township participates in a fire protection
 7 territory or fire protection district, the fire protection
 8 territory or fire protection district is unaffected by the
 9 reorganization and the area within the boundaries of the
 10 dissolved township remain a part of the fire protection
 11 territory or fire protection district after reorganization. The
 12 recipient municipality succeeds the designated township in
 13 the designated township's role as:
 14 (A) a participating unit that is not a provider unit in the
 15 fire protection territory; or
 16 (B) a participant in the fire protection district;
 17 for the area within the boundaries of the dissolved
 18 designated township.
 19 (5) The balance in the general fund of the designated
 20 township shall be transferred to the general fund of the
 21 recipient municipality.
 22 (6) The balance in the township assistance fund of a
 23 designated township shall be transferred to a township
 24 assistance fund established by the recipient municipality.
 25 (7) The balance of any other fund of the designated township
 26 shall be transferred to the fund of the recipient municipality
 27 that most closely corresponds to the fund of the designated
 28 township.
 29 (8) Subject to section 30 of this chapter, the property and
 30 liabilities of the designated township become the property
 31 and liabilities of the recipient municipality.
 32 (b) IC 36-1-8-5 does not apply to a balance referred to in
 33 subsection (a).
 34 Sec. 13. A designated township that is adjacent to a
 35 municipality may designate the municipality in a resolution under
 36 section 14 of this chapter. A township is not adjacent to a
 37 municipality if the township and municipality are connected by a
 38 strip of land that is less than one hundred fifty (150) feet wide.
 39 Sec. 14. (a) The legislative body of a designated township shall
 40 adopt a resolution not later than October 1, 2027, that:
 41 (1) proposes a reorganization; and
 42 (2) designates one (1) municipality that satisfies the criteria

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- 1 under section 13 of this chapter for reorganizing with the
 2 designated township.
 3 (b) The township trustee of the designated township shall
 4 certify the resolution to:
 5 (1) the county clerk; and
 6 (2) if the recipient municipality is a municipality, the clerk of
 7 the municipality.
 8 If the recipient municipality meets the criteria under section 13 of
 9 this chapter, the recipient municipality and the designated
 10 township shall appoint a joint board under section 16 of this
 11 chapter.
 12 Sec. 15. If a recipient municipality is named by two (2) or more
 13 designated townships in resolutions under section 14 of this
 14 chapter, the recipient municipality may:
 15 (1) appoint a single joint board under section 16 of this
 16 chapter; and
 17 (2) prepare and adopt a single plan of reorganization;
 18 to govern the reorganization of the townships, instead of
 19 appointing separate boards and adopting separate plans for each
 20 of the townships.
 21 Sec. 16. (a) A joint board shall consist of the following:
 22 (1) Two (2) members of the township board of each township
 23 participating in the reorganization, selected by the members
 24 of the township board.
 25 (2) Four (4) members of the legislative body of the designated
 26 municipality, selected by the members of the body.
 27 (3) The township trustee of each township participating in
 28 the reorganization.
 29 (4) The deputy township trustee or a full-time township
 30 employee of each township participating in the
 31 reorganization.
 32 The fiscal officer of the designated municipality, and other
 33 members of the bodies under subdivisions (1) and (2), shall serve
 34 as advisory, nonvoting members.
 35 (b) A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum.
 36 Official action may only be taken by affirmative vote of at least a
 37 majority of members present at the meeting.
 38 (c) The members of a joint board serve without compensation.
 39 The members are entitled to reimbursement from the reorganizing
 40 township and recipient municipality for the necessary expenses
 41 incurred in the performance of their duties.
 42 (d) A joint board is subject to IC 5-14-1.5 and IC 5-14-3.

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1 (e) The joint board shall prepare a reorganization plan not
 2 later than March 1, 2028, for transferring the powers, duties, and
 3 property of the designated township consistent with this chapter.
 4 The joint board shall send the plan to the legislative body of the
 5 recipient municipality for adoption.

6 (f) The legislative body of the recipient municipality may adopt
 7 the plan as drafted or modify the plan before adoption.

8 Sec. 17. Elimination of a township office of a designated
 9 township does not invalidate:

10 (1) any resolutions, fees, schedules, or other actions adopted
 11 or taken by the township trustee or township assessor (if the
 12 office exists) before January 1, 2029; or

13 (2) any appointments made by the township trustee or
 14 township assessor (if the office exists) before January 1,
 15 2029.

16 Sec. 18. (a) In 2028 and each year thereafter, the fiscal body of
 17 the recipient municipality shall, in the manner provided by
 18 IC 6-1.1-17, adopt a township services district levy for the ensuing
 19 year.

20 (b) If a recipient municipality fails to adopt a township
 21 services district levy, the township service district's most recently
 22 approved township services levy is continued for the ensuing
 23 budget year.

24 Sec. 19. (a) This section applies if a part of the reorganized
 25 township is located outside the boundaries of the municipality.

26 (b) The municipality shall establish:

27 (1) an urban township services district consisting of the area
 28 of the designated township that is located within the
 29 boundaries of the municipality; and

30 (2) a rural township services district consisting of the area of
 31 the designated township located outside the boundaries of the
 32 municipality.

33 (c) Subject to subsection (d), a tax levied under this section
 34 may be levied at:

35 (1) a uniform rate upon all taxable property within the
 36 designated township; or

37 (2) different rates for the township service districts included
 38 within the designated township, so long as a tax rate applies
 39 uniformly to all of a township service district's taxable
 40 property within the designated township.

41 (d) If a uniform tax rate is levied upon all taxable property
 42 within a designated township upon reorganization, different tax

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1 rates may be levied for the township service districts included
 2 within the designated township in subsequent years.

3 (e) Not later than October 1 of a year, the municipality shall
 4 submit the township services district levy for the rural township
 5 service district to the county fiscal body for its approval. Not later
 6 than October 15 of the year, the county fiscal body shall review the
 7 proposed township service district levy for the rural township
 8 service district. The county fiscal body may reduce or modify but
 9 not increase the proposed township service district levy.

10 (f) If:

11 (1) the municipality fails to adopt a township service district
 12 levy; or

13 (2) a county fiscal body does not adopt the township service
 14 district levy for a rural township district within the time
 15 specified under subsection (c);

16 the township service district's most recent township service district
 17 levy approved by the municipality or county, whichever is
 18 appropriate, is continued for the ensuing budget year.

19 (g) A tax levied by the recipient municipality under this
 20 chapter after December 31, 2028, shall:

21 (1) be in an amount sufficient for the recipient municipality
 22 to provide township services within a township service
 23 district; and

24 (2) include amounts necessary to continue payment of any
 25 debt service or obligation incurred by the township before
 26 January 1, 2029, in accordance with the terms of the debt
 27 service or obligation incurred.

28 Sec. 20. For purposes of the property tax levy limits under
 29 IC 6-1.1-18.5, a tax levied by a recipient municipality under this
 30 chapter is included in the calculation of the maximum permissible
 31 property tax levy for the recipient municipality. For property taxes
 32 first due and payable in 2029, the recipient municipality's
 33 maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy under
 34 IC 6-1.1-18.5 shall be increased by:

35 (1) the township's maximum permissible ad valorem
 36 property tax levy under IC 6-1.1-18.5 for property taxes first
 37 due and payable in 2028; multiplied by

38 (2) the maximum levy growth quotient under IC 6-1.1-18.5-2
 39 for property taxes first due and payable in 2028.

40 The recipient municipality's maximum permissible ad valorem
 41 property tax levy under IC 6-1.1-18.5 for property taxes first due
 42 and payable in 2028 as adjusted under this section shall be used in

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1 the determination of the recipient municipality's maximum
 2 permissible ad valorem property tax levy under IC 6-1.1-18.5 for
 3 property taxes first due and payable in 2029 and thereafter.

4 Sec. 21. (a) The plan of reorganization governs the actions,
 5 duties, and powers of the recipient municipality and the designated
 6 township that are not specified by law.

7 (b) The plan of reorganization must be consistent with this
 8 chapter and include at least the following:

9 (1) A description of the township services provided by the
 10 recipient municipality and the service areas in which the
 11 services will be offered.

12 (2) The disposition of the personnel, the agreements, the
 13 assets, and, subject to section 29 of this chapter, the liabilities
 14 of the designated township, including the terms and
 15 conditions upon which the transfer of property and
 16 personnel will be achieved.

17 (3) Any other matter that the joint board determines to be
 18 necessary or appropriate or to include in the plan of
 19 reorganization.

20 (c) When the plan of reorganization is submitted to the
 21 recipient municipality by the joint board, the recipient
 22 municipality shall post a copy of the plan of reorganization on the
 23 website of the recipient municipality not more than seven (7) days
 24 after receiving the plan of reorganization from the joint board. If
 25 the plan of reorganization is amended, the recipient municipality
 26 shall post the amended plan on the website of the recipient
 27 municipality not later than seven (7) days after the amended plan
 28 is adopted.

29 Sec. 22. The legislative body of the recipient municipality shall
 30 certify the legislative body's final action on a plan of
 31 reorganization or revised plan of reorganization, as modified by
 32 the legislative body, in the manner prescribed by the department
 33 of local government finance, to each of the following:

34 (1) The clerk of the circuit court and, if the recipient
 35 municipality is a municipality, the clerk of the municipality.

36 (2) The county fiscal officer of each county in which the
 37 designated township is located.

38 (3) The county recorder of each county in which the
 39 designated township is located.

40 (4) The county voter registration office of each county in
 41 which the designated township is located.

42 Sec. 23. The legislative body of the recipient municipality shall

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1 file a certified copy of the plan with each of the following at the
2 same time certifications are made under section 22 of this chapter:

- 3 (1) The county recorder of each county in which a
- 4 reorganizing political subdivision is located.
- 5 (2) The department of local government finance.
- 6 (3) The clerk of the circuit court.

7 Sec. 24. Each county recorder receiving a certification under
8 sections 22 and 23 of this chapter shall record the certification and
9 the plan of reorganization in the records of the county recorder
10 without charge. The county recorder shall notify the county
11 election board of each county in which the designated township is
12 located.

13 Sec. 25. The designated township is reorganized under the
14 conditions set forth in the plan of reorganization filed with the
15 county recorder under this chapter.

16 Sec. 26. The department of local government finance is
17 expressly directed to complete the duties assigned to it under
18 IC 6-1.1-17-16 with respect to the submitted property tax levies,
19 property tax rates, and budget as follows:

20 (1) For each budget year, not later than December 31 of the
21 year preceding that budget year, unless a taxing unit in a
22 county is issuing debt after December 1 in the year preceding
23 the budget year or intends to file a shortfall appeal under
24 IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.

25 (2) For each budget year, not later than January 15 of the
26 budget year if a taxing unit in a county is issuing debt after
27 December 1 in the year preceding the budget year or intends
28 to file a shortfall appeal under IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.

29 Sec. 27. (a) This section applies to a reorganization under this
30 chapter that involves:

- 31 (1) the recipient municipality; and
 - 32 (2) at least one (1) designated township;
- 33 all of which are participating units in the same fire protection
34 territory on the date the reorganization plan is finally adopted
35 under this chapter.

36 (b) The fiscal body of the recipient municipality may:
37 (1) establish an equipment replacement fund under
38 IC 36-8-19-8.5 and impose a property tax for the fund as
39 provided in IC 36-8-19-8.5; and
40 (2) take any other action under IC 36-8-19-8.5 that may be
41 taken under that section by a participating unit in a fire
42 protection territory.

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1 (c) If a recipient municipality establishes an equipment
 2 replacement fund under IC 36-8-19-8.5 as authorized by this
 3 section, the department of local government finance may adjust the
 4 maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy that would
 5 otherwise apply to the recipient municipality in the same manner
 6 in which the department may adjust the maximum permissible ad
 7 valorem property tax levy of a civil taxing unit under
 8 IC 6-1.1-18.5-10.5 to meet the civil taxing unit's obligations to a fire
 9 protection territory established under IC 36-8-19.

10 Sec. 28. (a) A recipient municipality has the powers granted by
 11 statute to a designated township, including a power described in
 12 subsection (b).

13 (b) Except as provided in the plan of reorganization, a
 14 recipient municipality may do any of the following:

15 (1) Establish any fund that the designated township (either
 16 acting on its own or jointly with another political
 17 subdivision) was authorized to establish before January 1,
 18 2029.

19 (2) Impose any tax levy or adopt any tax that the designated
 20 township was authorized to impose or adopt before January
 21 1, 2029.

22 Sec. 29. A plan of reorganization may establish within the
 23 designated township, territories, or districts:

24 (1) in which specified services provided by the recipient
 25 municipality will be provided at different levels, quantities,
 26 or amounts; and

27 (2) in which the fees, charges, or taxes imposed by the
 28 recipient municipality will vary depending on the level,
 29 quantity, or amount of the services provided.

30 Sec. 30. The following apply:

31 (1) Indebtedness that was incurred by the recipient
 32 municipality or designated township before January 1, 2029:

33 (A) may not be imposed on taxpayers that were not
 34 responsible for payment of the indebtedness before
 35 January 1, 2029; and

36 (B) must be paid by the taxpayers that were responsible
 37 for payment of the indebtedness before January 1, 2029.

38 (2) Pension obligations existing as of January 1, 2029:

39 (A) may not be imposed on taxpayers that were not
 40 responsible for payment of the pension obligations
 41 before January 1, 2029; and

42 (B) must be paid by the taxpayers that were responsible

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for payment of the pension obligations before January 1, 2029.

Sec. 31. The following apply to a reorganization under this chapter:

- (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2):
 - (A) the recipient municipality is responsible after December 31, 2028, for providing township services in all areas of the designated township; and
 - (B) the recipient municipality retains the powers of the designated township after December 31, 2028, in order to provide township services as required by clause (A).
- (2) Powers and duties of the recipient municipality may be transferred as authorized in an interlocal cooperation agreement approved under IC 36-1-7 or as authorized in a cooperative agreement approved under IC 36-1.5-5.
- (3) Section 28 of this chapter applies to the debt service levy of the recipient municipality and to the department of local government finance's determination of the new maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy for the recipient municipality.
- (4) The recipient municipality may not borrow money under IC 36-6-6-14(b) or IC 36-6-6-14(c).
- (5) The new maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy for the recipient municipality's firefighting and emergency services fund under IC 36-8-13-4(a)(1) or the combined levies for the firefighting fund and emergency services fund described in IC 36-8-13-4(a)(2) is equal to:
 - (A) the result of:
 - (i) the maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy for the designated township's firefighting and emergency services fund under IC 36-8-13-4(a)(1) or the combined ad valorem property tax levies for the township firefighting fund and township emergency services fund described in IC 36-8-13-4(a)(2), as applicable, in 2028; multiplied by
 - (ii) the maximum levy growth quotient applicable for property taxes first due and payable in 2028; plus
 - (B) any amounts borrowed by the designated township under IC 36-6-6-14(b) or IC 36-6-6-14(c) in 2028.

Sec. 32. (a) Except as provided in subsections (c) through (d),

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1 a political subdivision may not take an action described in
2 subsection (b) within a designated township after June 30, 2027.

3 (b) A political subdivision may not take any of the following
4 actions partially or wholly within a designated township after June
5 30, 2027, unless the recipient municipality agrees by adopting a
6 resolution:

7 (1) Initiate an annexation of territory.

8 (2) Establish a fire protection territory or fire protection
9 district.

10 (3) Extend water, sewer, or any other infrastructure to the
11 political subdivision.

12 (4) Expand zoning jurisdiction under IC 36-7-4-205.

13 (c) This chapter does not prohibit a recipient municipality
14 from taking an action under subsection (b) for the purpose of
15 implementing the plan of reorganization.

16 (d) A political subdivision may take an action described in
17 subsection (b) after December 31, 2028.

18 Sec. 33. (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, until
19 the final plan of reorganization is approved by the legislative body
20 of the recipient municipality, the recipient municipality or
21 designated township may not promote a position on the
22 reorganization by doing any of the following:

23 (1) Using facilities or equipment, including mail and
24 messaging systems, owned by the recipient municipality or
25 designated township to promote a position on the
26 reorganization, unless equal access to the facilities or
27 equipment is given to persons with a position opposite to that
28 of the recipient municipality or designated township.

29 (2) Making an expenditure of money from a fund controlled
30 by the recipient municipality or designated township to
31 promote a position on the reorganization.

32 (3) Using an employee to promote a position on the
33 reorganization during the employee's normal working hours
34 or paid overtime, or otherwise compelling an employee to
35 promote a position on the public question at any time.
36 However, if a person described in subsection (c) is
37 advocating for or against a position on the reorganization or
38 discussing the reorganization as authorized under subsection
39 (c), an employee of the recipient municipality or designated
40 township may assist the person in presenting information on
41 the reorganization if requested to do so by the person
42 described in subsection (c).

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1 However, this section does not prohibit an official or employee of
2 the recipient municipality or designated township from carrying
3 out duties with respect to a reorganization that are part of the
4 normal and regular conduct of the official's or employee's office or
5 agency, including the furnishing of factual information regarding
6 the reorganization in response to inquiries from any person.

7 (b) This subsection does not apply to:

8 (1) a personal expenditure to promote a position on a
9 reorganization by an employee of the recipient municipality
10 or designated township whose employment is governed by a
11 collective bargaining contract or an employment contract; or

12 (2) an expenditure to promote a position on a reorganization
13 by a person or an organization that has a contract or an
14 arrangement (whether formal or informal) with the recipient
15 municipality or designated township solely for the use of the
16 political subdivision's facilities.

17 A person or an organization that has a contract or arrangement
18 (whether formal or informal) with the recipient municipality or
19 designated township to provide goods or services to the recipient
20 municipality or township may not spend any money to promote a
21 position on the reorganization. A person or an organization that
22 violates this subsection commits a Class A infraction.

23 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, an elected or appointed
24 official of a recipient municipality or designated township may:

25 (1) personally advocate for or against a position on a
26 reorganization; or

27 (2) discuss the reorganization with any individual, group, or
28 organization or personally advocate for or against a position
29 on a reorganization before any individual, group, or
30 organization;

31 so long as it is not done by using public funds. Advocacy or
32 discussion allowed under this subsection is not considered a use of
33 public funds.

34 Sec. 34. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed:

35 (1) to constitute an annexation of a designated township by
36 a municipality under the provisions of this chapter; or

37 (2) as changing the corporate boundaries of a municipality
38 that is the recipient municipality of the dissolved designated
39 township.

40 SECTION 3.] IC 36-6-1.5-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.255-2013,
41 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 5. (a) The township trustees, with the

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1 approval of a majority of the members of the township legislative body
2 of each township that wants to merge township governments under this
3 chapter, must comply with this section.

4 (b) The township trustees must present identical resolutions
5 approving the township government merger to the trustees' respective
6 township legislative bodies. A township legislative body may adopt a
7 resolution under this chapter only after the legislative body has held a
8 public hearing concerning the proposed merger. The township
9 legislative body shall hold the hearing not earlier than thirty (30) days
10 after the date the resolution is introduced. The hearing shall be
11 conducted in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5 and notice of the hearing
12 shall be published in accordance with IC 5-3-1.

13 (c) The township legislative bodies may, **and a township**
14 **legislative body merging under IC 36-6-1.7 shall**, adopt the identical
15 resolutions approving the township government merger under this
16 chapter not later than ninety (90) days after the legislative body has
17 held the public hearing under subsection (b).

18 (d) The trustees of the participating townships shall jointly file a
19 copy of the identical resolutions with:

- 20 (1) the department of local government finance;
- 21 (2) the circuit court clerk; and
- 22 (3) the office of the secretary of state.

23 (e) **This subsection does not apply to a merger under**
24 **IC 36-6-1.7.** A township legislative body may not adopt a resolution
25 ordering a merger after January 1 of a year in which:

- 26 (1) a general election is held; and
- 27 (2) a township trustee is elected.

28 (f) A merger under this chapter may reduce the term of a township
29 trustee of a former township government.

30 SECTION ~~4~~[4]. IC 36-6-1.5-6, AS AMENDED BY
31 P.L.255-2013, SECTION 13, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
32 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 6. (a) **This**
33 **subsection does not apply to a merger under IC 36-6-1.7.** The
34 merger becomes effective on January 1 of the year following the
35 adoption of the resolution approving the merger of the townships.

36 (b) An officer elected to represent the merged township
37 government shall be considered to be a resident of the territory
38 comprising the new township government. ~~unless the township merger~~
39 ~~is dissolved under IC 36-6-1.6.~~

40 [SECTION 5. IC 36-6-1.5-8, AS ADDED BY P.L.240-2005,
41 SECTION 3, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
42 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 8. (a) On the date a merger takes effect:

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- 1 (1) the former township governments are abolished as separate
- 2 entities;
- 3 (2) each township subject to the merger retains its geographical
- 4 boundaries and its name;
- 5 (3) the territory of the new township government includes all the
- 6 territory that comprised the territories of the former township
- 7 governments before the merger;
- 8 (4) the agencies of the former township governments are
- 9 abolished;
- 10 (5) the functions of the abolished agencies are assigned to
- 11 agencies of the new township government;
- 12 (6) the:
 - 13 (A) property;
 - 14 (B) records;
 - 15 (C) personnel;
 - 16 (D) rights; and
 - 17 (E) liabilities;
- 18 related to the functions of the abolished agencies are assigned to
- 19 agencies of the new township government; and
- 20 (7) Subject to subsection (b), any bonds and other indebtedness
- 21 of, or assumed by, the former township governments are
- 22 transferred to the new township government.
- 23 **(b) This subsection applies to a merger under IC 36-6-1.6.**
- 24 **Indebtedness that was incurred by each former township**
- 25 **government prior to the merger under IC 36-6-1.6:**
 - 26 **(1) may not be imposed on taxpayers that were not**
 - 27 **responsible for payment of the indebtedness before the**
 - 28 **merger; and**
 - 29 **(2) must be paid by the taxpayers that were responsible for**
 - 30 **payment of the indebtedness before the merger.**
- 31] SECTION ↔ [6]. IC 36-6-1.5-12, AS AMENDED BY
- 32 P.L.255-2013, SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
- 33 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 12. (a) Subject to
- 34 subsection (b), the officers of the new township government shall:
 - 35 (1) obtain from the department of local government finance
 - 36 approval under IC 6-1.1-18.5-7 of:
 - 37 (A) a budget;
 - 38 (B) an ad valorem property tax levy; and
 - 39 (C) a property tax rate;
 - 40 (2) fix the annual budget under IC 6-1.1-17;
 - 41 (3) impose a property tax levy; and
 - 42 (4) take any action necessary to ensure the collection of fees and

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1 other revenue;
 2 for the new township government for the budget year following the
 3 year the officers take office.
 4 (b) The resolutions approving the township government merger
 5 under this chapter must specify the amount (if any) of the decrease that
 6 the department of local government finance shall make to the
 7 maximum permissible property tax levies, maximum permissible
 8 property tax rates, and budgets under IC 6-1.1-17 and IC 6-1.1-18.5 of
 9 the new township to:
 10 (1) eliminate double taxation for services or goods provided by
 11 the new township; or
 12 (2) eliminate any excess by which the amount of property taxes
 13 imposed by the new township exceeds the amount necessary to
 14 pay for services or goods provided under this article.
 15 (c) The fiscal body of the new township shall determine and certify
 16 to the department of local government finance the amount of the
 17 adjustment (if any) under subsection (b). The amount of the adjustment
 18 (if any) to be made under subsection (b) must comply with the
 19 resolutions approving the township government merger.
 20 **(d) The department may prescribe forms for submission to the**
 21 **department to expedite processing of mergers under IC 36-6-1.7.**
 22 SECTION ~~4~~[7]. IC 36-6-1.6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE
 23 UPON PASSAGE]. (Dissolution of Township Government Merger).
 24 SECTION ~~5~~[8]. IC 36-6-1.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA
 25 CODE AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS
 26 [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]:
 27 **Chapter 1.7. Merger of Certain Township Governments**
 28 **Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to a county having a**
 29 **consolidated city.**
 30 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "department" means the**
 31 **department of local government finance.**
 32 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "designated township" means**
 33 **a township government that has at least four (4) points assigned by**
 34 **the department under section ~~8~~[9] of this chapter.**
 35 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "new township government"**
 36 **means the township government that results from the merger of at**
 37 **least two (2) township governments under this chapter using the**
 38 **procedure set forth in IC 36-6-1.5.**
 39 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "recipient township" means a**
 40 **township government that has not more than three (3) points**
 41 **assigned by the department under section ~~8~~[9] of this chapter.**
 42 **Sec. 6. (a) As used in this chapter, "state agency" means an**

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1 authority, board, branch, commission, committee, department,
2 division, or other instrumentality of the executive, including the
3 administrative department of state government.

4 (b) The term does not include [the following]:

- 5 (1) The legislative department of state government.
- 6 (2) The judicial department of state government.
- 7 (3) A state educational institution.
- 8 (4) A body corporate and politic created by statute.

9 Sec. 7. (a) The department shall compile the information in
10 section 8 of this chapter for each township government.

11 (b) Any state agency having:

- 12 (1) data; or
- 13 (2) information relevant to developing the data;

14 required to prepare the list under section 9 of this chapter, as
15 determined by the department, shall provide the information to the
16 department in a timely manner.

17 Sec. 8. The department shall use the compiled data to assign
18 points to each township government as follows:

19 [(1) Two (2) points if a township government did not
20 provide township assistance in calendar <year 2023 or 2024.
21 >[years 2023 and 2024 as provided in the annual reports submitted
22 under IC 12-20-28-3 to the state board of accounts. The state board
23 of accounts shall provide this information to the department.

24] (2) One (1) point if a township government does not actively
25 manage fire protection or emergency medical services within
26 the township on January 1, 2025. A township does not
27 actively manage fire protection or emergency medical
28 services if:

- 29 (A) the township government does not allocate
30 ~~operating~~ funds for fire protection or emergency
31 medical services;
- 32 (B) the township government is not a provider unit in a
33 fire protection territory; or
- 34 (C) at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the non-capital
35 and non-debt service expenses expended from ~~the~~:
36 (i) the township government's firefighting and
37 emergency services fund or the firefighting fund
38 and emergency services fund under IC 36-8-13-4;
39 or
40 (ii) the fire protection territory fund under
41 IC 36-8-19-8, if the township government is a
42 provider unit in a fire protection territory;

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- 1 were payments to other governmental units, a volunteer
- 2 fire department, or an independent fire company.
- 3 (3) One (1) point for each year that a township government
- 4 did not file an annual finance report with the state board of
- 5 accounts in 2023 or 2024.
- 6 (4) One (1) point for each year a township government did
- 7 not file all required monthly upload reports as required by
- 8 directive of the state board of accounts in 2024 ~~<and>~~ [or]
- 9 2025.
- 10 [] ~~[(5) One (1) point <for each year that a township~~
- 11 ~~government did not file an annual budget with the~~
- 12 ~~department of local government finance in 2023 or 2024.~~
- 13 ~~— (6)~~ [if the township's annual appropriations and annual tax
- 14 levy for 2023 were continued for the 2024 budget year under
- 15 IC 6-1.1-17-3(d) or IC 6-1.1-17-5(f), as applicable.
- 16 (6) One (1) point if the township's annual appropriations and
- 17 annual tax levy for 2024 were continued for the 2025 budget
- 18 year under IC 6-1.1-17-3(d) or IC 6-1.1-17-5(f), as applicable.
- 19 (7) One (1) point if the sum of township assistance
- 20 applications received by the township government in 2023
- 21 and 2024 is less than twenty-four (24) township assistance
- 22 applications<
- 23 ~~— (7)~~ [as provided in the annual reports submitted under
- 24 IC 12-20-28-3 to the state board of accounts. The state board
- 25 of accounts shall provide this information to the department.
- 26 (8) One (1) point for a township government that has a <n
- 27 ~~adopted>~~ [certified] budget of less than one hundred
- 28 thousand dollars (\$100,000) for calendar year 2025.
- 29 [] ~~(9)~~ ~~<Θ>~~ [A maximum of o]ne (1) point if:
- 30 (A) a township did not have a candidate on the election
- 31 ballot for<
- 32 ~~— (A) the office of township trustee<, or~~
- 33 ~~— (B) all township board member offices;~~
- 34 ~~— in>~~ [in either] the 2018 or 2022 general election; or
- 35 (B) a vacancy on July 1, 2026, in the position of township
- 36 trustee ~~<or township board>~~ has been vacant for at least
- 37 thirty (30) calendar days.
- 38 [However, a point may not be assigned to a township under
- 39 clause (A) if the township did not have a candidate on the
- 40 ballot in the 2018 or 2022 general election for the office of
- 41 township trustee and the office was timely filled under
- 42 IC 3-13-10 or IC 3-13-11 (whichever is applicable) before the

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1 date of the first meeting of the township board that is
2 required under IC 36-6-6-7 in the year following the general
3 election.

4 (10) A maximum of one (1) point if:
5 (A) a township did not have a candidate on the election
6 ballot for all offices of the township board in either the
7 2018 or 2022 general election; or
8 (B) on July 1, 2026, there is at least one (1) vacancy on
9 the township board that has been vacant for at least
10 thirty (30) calendar days.

11 However, a point may not be assigned to a township under
12 clause (A) if the township did not have a candidate on the
13 ballot in the 2018 or 2022 general election for at least one (1)
14 township board member office and the office was timely
15 filled under IC 3-13-10 or IC 3-13-11 (whichever is
16 applicable) before the date of the first meeting that is
17 required under IC 36-6-6-7 in the year following the general
18 election.

19 | **Sec. 9. (a) The department shall:**
20 (1) assign points under section 8(1) through 8(~~8~~[10]) of this
21 chapter for each township government; and
22 (2) determine the sum of points for each township
23 government. [A township assigned at least four (4) points is
24 considered a designated township.]

25 (b) The department shall prepare a list of townships
26 organized:
27 (1) by county; and
28 (2) in descending order of the townships in the county having
29 the most points to the townships in the county having the
30 least points.

31 | (c) The list prepared under subsection (b) shall specify which
32 designated township satisfies all of the following criteria:
33 (1) At least eighty percent (80%) of the township's
34 boundaries coincide with a municipality's boundaries.
35 (2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the township's
36 population resides within the corporate boundaries of a
37 municipality described in subdivision (1).

38 | (~~c~~[d]) Not later than December 31, 2026, the department
39 shall:
40 (1) submit the list to the legislative council in an electronic
41 format under IC 5-14-6; and
42 (2) post the list on the department's website.

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1 Sec. 10. (a) Not later than ~~<January>~~ [March 3]~~<0>~~ [1], 2027,
 2 a township [that has been assigned four (4) or more points] may
 3 file a petition with the department to reconsider and amend the
 4 township's point total on the grounds that the point total is
 5 incorrect [or because compliance with a requirement set forth in
 6 section 8(1) through 8(10) of this chapter was not possible due to a
 7 disaster (as defined in IC 10-14-3-1) that significantly disrupted
 8 operations and reporting requirements of the township and the
 9 township was assigned a point by the department under section 8
 10 of this chapter]. The petition must be accompanied by evidence
 11 supporting the grounds for the petition.

12 (b) Not later than ~~<February 28>~~ [June 30], 2027, the
 13 department shall issue a written determination on all petitions
 14 received by the department. The department's determination on a
 15 petition is final and conclusive and may not be appealed.

16 Sec. 11. (a) This section applies if any township point totals are
 17 corrected by the department under section 10 of this chapter.

18 (b) Not later than ~~<March>~~ [July] 1, 2027, the department
 19 shall:

- 20 (1) submit the final list to the legislative council in an
- 21 electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and
- 22 (2) post the final list on the department's website.

23 Sec. 12. [(a)] If none of the township point totals are corrected
 24 by the department, the list that was posted under section 9(~~<c>~~) [d]
 25 of this chapter is the final list and may not be appealed.

26 ~~<Sec. 13>~~ [(b)] The department shall post on the department's
 27 website each:

- 28 (1) petition filed under section 10(a) of this chapter; and
- 29 (2) written determination issued by the department under
- 30 section 10(b) of this chapter.

31 Sec. 13. A designated township:

- 32 (1) that satisfies the criteria specified in section 9(c) of this
- 33 chapter shall reorganize in accordance with IC 36-1.5-4.1;
- 34 and
- 35 (2) that does not satisfy the criteria specified in section 9(c)
- 36 of this chapter shall, except as otherwise provided, merge
- 37 with another township in accordance with section 14 of this
- 38 chapter.

39 Sec. 14]. Using the process set forth in IC 36-6-1.5, each
 40 designated township [excluding any township that has commenced
 41 a merger or consolidation under IC 36-1.5-4 or IC 36-6-1.5 with
 42 another unit before July 1, 2027,] must merge with at least one (1)

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1 other township government in the county. After all township
 2 mergers [in accordance with this section] are complete, a county
 3 must have at least ~~<one>~~ [two] (~~<1>~~ [2]) township[s]. The following
 4 requirements apply to each merger:

5 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), at least one (1)
 6 township government that merges with a designated
 7 township ~~<government>~~ must be a recipient township.

8 (2) If all townships in a county are designated townships, the
 9 county executive shall select ~~<one>~~ [two (2)] of the ~~<(1)>~~
 10 designated townships participating in the merger to form a
 11 new township government to perform the functions of a
 12 recipient township.

13 (3) The merger must satisfy the contiguity requirements set
 14 forth in IC 36-6-1.5-4.[]

15 [] Sec. 1 ~~<4>~~ [5]. Not later than ~~<April>~~ [August] 1, 2027, the
 16 county executive body shall conduct a public meeting of all
 17 township trustees within the county to discuss the merger.

18 Sec. 1 ~~<5>~~ [6]. (a) The county executive shall determine which
 19 township governments will merge. The county executive's decision
 20 shall:

21 (1) take into account the wishes of the designated townships
 22 and recipient townships; and

23 (2) comply with the requirements of section 1 ~~<3>~~ [4] of this
 24 chapter.

25 (b) Not later than ~~<May>~~ [October] 1, 2027, the county
 26 executive shall adopt a resolution that names the township
 27 governments that will merge.

28 (c) The new township government shall certify the final action
 29 in the manner prescribed by the department to each of the
 30 following:

31 (1) The county legislative body.

32 (2) The county executive body.

33 (3) The clerk of the circuit court.

34 (4) The county fiscal officer.

35 (5) The county recorder.

36 (6) The county voter registration office.

37 (7) The secretary of state's office.

38 Sec. [17. (a) Not later than February 28, 2028, the following
 39 must be submitted to the department:

40 (1) The resolutions adopted by the participating townships
 41 and submitted by the township trustees under
 42 IC 36-6-1.5-5(d).

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1 (2) The estimated budget and proposed tax rate and tax levy
2 of the new township government for the 2029 budget year,
3 submitted by the township trustee of the recipient township.

4 (b) The information under subsection (a) shall be submitted on
5 any forms prescribed by the department for a merger under
6 IC 36-6-1.5-12.

7 Sec. 18. The department shall certify a new township
8 government's budget, tax rate, and levy as set forth in
9 IC 6-1.1-17-16.

10 Sec.] 1<6>[9]. All township government mergers under this
11 chapter must be effective not later than January 1, 202<8>[9].

12 Sec. <47>[20]. The new township government shall pay all
13 costs associated with the merger.

14 Sec. <18>[21]. After the effective date of a merger under this
15 chapter and not later than December 31, 2030, the new township
16 government shall consist of the following:

17 (1) The township trustee of the recipient township
18 ~~<government>~~ shall serve as the executive of the new
19 township government. If the merger consists of more than
20 one (1) recipient township:

21 (A) the township trustee of the recipient township with
22 the least number of points; or

23 (B) the township trustee of the recipient township
24 designated by the county executive body, if all recipient
25 townships participating in the merger have the same
26 number of points;

27 shall serve as the executive of the new township government.

28 (2) The township legislative body of the recipient township
29 and one (1) board member of each of the other townships
30 participating in the merger (selected by majority vote of the
31 members of the designated township's legislative body) shall
32 serve as the legislative body of the new township
33 government. If the merger consists of more than one (1)
34 recipient township:

35 (A) the township board of the recipient township with
36 the least number of points; or

37 (B) the township board of the recipient township
38 designated by the county executive body, if all recipient
39 townships participating in the merger have the same
40 number of points;

41 shall serve as the legislative body of the new township
42 government.

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1 Sec. ~~<19>~~[22]. Notwithstanding IC 36-6-1.5-8, a township
2 merger under this chapter does not affect the office of township
3 assessor. After a merger, the township assessor remains the elected
4 township assessor for the territory within the geographical
5 boundaries of the township assessor's former township. Only
6 voters residing within the boundaries of the township assessor's
7 former township may elect the office of the township assessor.

8 Sec. 2~~<0>~~[3]. A township trustee and township board of the
9 new township government shall be elected in the general election
10 in 2030 in accordance with IC 36-6-6-2.1 and IC 36-6-6-3. A
11 township assessor, if any, shall be elected only for the area within
12 the geographical boundaries of the township assessor's former
13 township under IC 36-6-5-1.

14 Sec. 2~~<1>~~[4]. (a) Each county executive body shall prepare a
15 report containing the following information:

16 (1) The number of townships in the county as of January 1,
17 202~~<6>~~[7].

18 (2) The number of townships in the county after mergers are
19 carried out under this chapter.

20 (3) A map of the townships in the county as of January 1,
21 202~~<6>~~[7].

22 (4) A map of the townships after mergers are carried out
23 under this chapter.

24 (5) An explanation of which townships are to merge.

25 (6) An explanation of how the mergers will impact fire
26 protection operations and services within the county.

27 (7) An explanation of how the mergers will impact
28 emergency medical service operations and coverage with in
29 the county.

30 (8) An explanation of any cost savings that will be realized as
31 a result of the mergers.

32 (b) Not later than ~~<July>~~[January] 1, 2028, the county
33 executive body shall submit the report to:

34 (1) the executive director of the legislative services agency in
35 an electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and

36 (2) the department.

37 [SECTION 9. IC 36-6-4-21 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE
38 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
39 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 21. (a) As used in this section,
40 "department" refers to the department of local government
41 finance.

42 (b) Beginning in 2026, and each year thereafter, each township

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1 trustee shall submit, using the computer gateway established by the
2 office of technology, the following information in a pre-budget
3 survey prescribed by the department, in consultation with the
4 department of homeland security:

5 (1) Whether the township operates a fire department,
6 including a volunteer fire department, and, if so, the name of
7 the fire department operated by the township.

8 (2) Whether the township participates in a fire territory
9 under IC 36-8-19, and, if so, the name of the unit that is the
10 provider unit.

11 (3) Whether the township participates in a fire protection
12 district under IC 36-8-11, and, if so, the name of the fire
13 department.

14 (4) Whether the township has an agreement with another
15 unit to provide fire protection in a manner other than
16 described in subdivisions (1) through (3), and the name of
17 each unit that participates in the agreement.

18 (5) Whether fire protection is provided by a municipality,
19 and, if so, the name of the municipality.

20 (6) Contact information for each fire department or provider
21 unit described in subdivisions (1) through (5).

22 (7) The types of emergency services provided by each fire
23 department or provider unit described in subdivisions (1)
24 through (5).

25 (8) Any information prescribed by the department, in
26 consultation with the department of homeland security
27 necessary for the department of homeland security to comply
28 with subsection (d).

29 (c) The department shall compile the information provided to
30 the department under subsection (b) and provide the information
31 to the department of homeland security.

32 (d) The department of homeland security shall use the
33 information provided by the department under subsection (c) to
34 ascertain the following information:

35 (1) The entity that provides fire protection for each
36 township.

37 (2) Where each fire department and provider unit is located.

38 (3) The service area for each fire department or fire
39 territory.

40 (4) Whether the fire service provided within the township is
41 provided by a professional or volunteer fire department.

42 (5) The types of emergency services provided in each

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1 township.
 2 (6) Contact information for each fire department and
 3 provider unit that provides fire and emergency services in
 4 the township, including the following information:
 5 (A) The contact name and address.
 6 (B) The telephone number.
 7 (C) The electronic mail address.
 8 (7) Any other information the department of homeland
 9 security deems necessary.
 10 (e) The information described in subsection (d) shall be made
 11 available on the department of homeland security's website and
 12 made available in a machine readable format.
 13] SECTION ~~6~~[10]. IC 36-6-5-1, AS AMENDED BY
 14 P.L.167-2015, SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 15 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) Subject to
 16 subsection (g), before 2009, a township assessor shall be elected under
 17 IC 3-10-2-13 by the voters of each township:
 18 (1) having:
 19 (A) a population of more than eight thousand (8,000); or
 20 (B) an elected township assessor or the authority to elect a
 21 township assessor before January 1, 1979; and
 22 (2) in which the number of parcels of real property on January 1,
 23 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000).
 24 (b) Subject to subsection (g), before 2009, a township assessor
 25 shall be elected under IC 3-10-2-14 (repealed effective July 1, 2008) in
 26 each township:
 27 (1) having a population of more than five thousand (5,000) but
 28 not more than eight thousand (8,000), if:
 29 (A) the legislative body of the township, by resolution,
 30 declares that the office of township assessor is necessary;
 31 and
 32 (B) the resolution is filed with the county election board not
 33 later than the first date that a declaration of candidacy may
 34 be filed under IC 3-8-2; and
 35 (2) in which the number of parcels of real property on January 1,
 36 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000).
 37 (c) Subject to subsection (g), a township government that is
 38 created by merger under IC 36-6-1.5 shall elect only one (1) township
 39 assessor under this section. **However, if a township government is**
 40 **created by merger under IC 36-6-1.7, the merger does not affect**
 41 **the office of township assessor. The voters of each township having**
 42 **a township assessor before the merger is effective shall continue to**

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1 **elect one (1) township assessor after the merger is effective. The**
 2 **elected township assessor shall perform all assessing duties within**
 3 **the geographical boundaries of the township assessor's former**
 4 **township.**

5 (d) Subject to subsection (g), after 2008 a township assessor shall
 6 be elected under IC 3-10-2-13 only by the voters of each township in
 7 which:

8 (1) the number of parcels of real property on January 1, 2008, is
 9 at least fifteen thousand (15,000); and

10 (2) the transfer to the county assessor of the assessment duties
 11 prescribed by IC 6-1.1 is disapproved in the referendum under
 12 IC 36-2-15.

13 (e) The township assessor must reside within the township as
 14 provided in Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of
 15 Indiana. The assessor forfeits office if the assessor ceases to be a
 16 resident of the township.

17 (f) The term of office of a township assessor is four (4) years,
 18 beginning January 1 after election and continuing until a successor is
 19 elected and qualified. However, the term of office of a township
 20 assessor elected at a general election in which no other township
 21 officer is elected ends on December 31 after the next election in which
 22 any other township officer is elected.

23 (g) To be eligible to serve as a township assessor, an individual
 24 must meet the following qualifications before taking office:

25 (1) If the individual has never held the office of township
 26 assessor, the individual must have attained a level two
 27 assessor-appraiser certification under IC 6-1.1-35.5.

28 (2) If the individual has held the office of township assessor, the
 29 individual must have attained a level three assessor-appraiser
 30 certification under IC 6-1.1-35.5.

31 (h) After June 30, 2008, the county assessor shall perform the
 32 assessment duties prescribed by IC 6-1.1 in a township in which the
 33 number of parcels of real property on January 1, 2008, is less than
 34 fifteen thousand (15,000).

35 SECTION ~~↔~~ [11]. IC 36-6-6-2.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.240-2005,
 36 SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE
 37 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2.1. ~~(a) This section applies if township~~
 38 ~~governments merge under IC 36-6-1.5.~~

39 ~~(b)~~ (a) **This subsection does not apply to a township**
 40 **government merger under IC 36-6-1.7.** If two (2) township
 41 governments merge, the resulting merged township government shall
 42 elect a three (3) member township board. The voters of the resulting

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1 merged township government shall elect all the members of the
2 township board. One (1) member must reside within the boundaries of
3 each of the township governments that merged.

4 ~~(c)~~ **(b) This subsection does not apply to a township**
5 **government merger under IC 36-6-1.7.** If at least three (3) township
6 governments merge, the resulting merged township government shall
7 elect a township board that has the same number of members as the
8 number of township governments that merged. The voters of the
9 resulting merged township shall elect all the members of the township
10 board. One (1) township board member must reside within the
11 boundaries of each of the townships that merged.

12 **(c) This subsection only applies to a township government**
13 **merger under IC 36-6-1.7. Beginning with the 2030 general**
14 **election, all voters of the resulting merged township government**
15 **shall elect a three (3) member township board. Township board**
16 **members shall be elected ~~<at-large>~~ [at large].**

17 SECTION ~~8~~ [12]. IC 36-6-6-3, AS AMENDED BY
18 P.L.240-2005, SECTION 8, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS
19 [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 3. (a) This subsection applies
20 to townships in a county containing a consolidated city. One (1)
21 member of the legislative body must reside within each legislative body
22 district. If a member of the legislative body ceases to be a resident of
23 the district from which the member was elected, the office becomes
24 vacant.

25 (b) This subsection applies to townships not included in subsection
26 (a) or (c). A member of the legislative body must reside within the
27 township as provided in Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the
28 State of Indiana. If a member of the legislative body ceases to be a
29 resident of the township, the office becomes vacant.

30 (c) This subsection applies to a township government that:

- 31 (1) is created by a merger of township governments under
- 32 IC 36-6-1.5; and
- 33 (2) elects a township board under section ~~2.1~~ **2.1(a) or 2.1(b)** of
- 34 this chapter.

35 One (1) member of the legislative body must reside within the
36 boundaries of each of the former townships that merged. If a member
37 of the legislative body ceases to be a resident of that former township,
38 the office becomes vacant.

39 **(d) This subsection applies to a township government that:**

- 40 **(1) is created by a merger of township governments under**
- 41 **IC 36-6-1.7; and**
- 42 **(2) elects a township board under section 2.1(c) of this**

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1 chapter.
 2 All members are elected ~~<at-large>~~ [at large] by all voters within
 3 the merged township. If a member of the legislative body ceases to
 4 be a resident of the merged township, the office becomes vacant.
 5 SECTION ~~13~~ [13]. IC 36-6-6-4, AS AMENDED BY
 6 P.L.159-2021, SECTION 41, IS AMENDED TO READ AS
 7 FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as
 8 provided in subsections (b) and (c), two (2) members of the legislative
 9 body constitute a quorum.
 10 (b) ~~Before January 1, 2017, four (4) members of the legislative~~
 11 ~~body in a county containing a consolidated city constitute a quorum.~~
 12 ~~After December 31, 2016, Three (3) members of the legislative body~~
 13 ~~in a county having a consolidated city constitute a quorum.~~
 14 (c) This subsection applies to a township government that:
 15 (1) is created by a merger of township governments under
 16 IC 36-6-1.5 **(excluding a township that merges under**
 17 **IC 36-6-1.7);** and
 18 (2) elects the township legislative body under section 2.1 of this
 19 chapter.
 20 A majority of the members of the township legislative body constitute
 21 a quorum. If a township legislative body has an even number of
 22 members, the township executive shall serve by virtue of office as a
 23 member of the township legislative body for the purpose of casting the
 24 deciding vote to break a tie.
 25 (d) For townships not described in subsection (c), **including a**
 26 **township that merges under IC 36-6-1.7,** the township executive
 27 shall serve by virtue of office as a member of the township legislative
 28 body for the purpose of casting the deciding vote to break a tie.
 29 However, the township executive may not vote to break a tie on the
 30 adoption of an ordinance to increase the township executive's
 31 compensation (as defined in section 10 of this chapter).
 32 SECTION 1 ~~1~~ [4]. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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