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# ENGROSSED SENATE BILL No. 270

Proposed Changes to February 17, 2026 printing by AM027013

## DIGEST OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Township assessor. Allows the county council in a specified county to adopt a resolution to transfer the duties of a township assessor to the county assessor if: (1) the office of township assessor has been vacant for at least 90 days; and (2) a caucus was held but failed to fill the vacancy. Establishes requirements for the transfer of duties.

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
- 16 whole from the political subdivisions named in a resolution
- 17 certified to the political subdivision.
- 18 (b) The clerk of the political subdivision adopting a resolution

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1 proposing a reorganization under this section shall certify the  
2 resolution to the clerk of each political subdivision named in the  
3 resolution.

4 SECTION 2. IC 36-1.5-4.1 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
5 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
6 UPON PASSAGE]:

7 **Chapter 4.1. Reorganization of Certain Designated Townships**

8 **Sec. 1. (a) This chapter does not apply to a township:**

- 9 (1) located in a county having a consolidated city; or
- 10 (2) that, not later than June 30, 2027, has begun to  
11 consolidate with another:

12 (A) township under IC 36-6-1.5; or

13 (B) unit under IC 36-1.5-4.

14 (b) This chapter applies only to a designated township that  
15 satisfies all of the following criteria:

16 (1) At least eighty percent (80%) of the township's  
17 boundaries coincide with a municipality's boundaries.

18 (2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the township's  
19 population resides within the corporate boundaries of a  
20 municipality described in subdivision (1).

21 **Sec. 2. To the extent that other provisions in this article  
22 conflict with this chapter, this chapter controls.**

23 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "department" means the  
24 department of local government finance.**

25 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "designated township" has the  
26 meaning set forth in IC 36-6-1.7-3.**

27 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "plan" or "plan of  
28 reorganization" means a plan of reorganization approved by the  
29 legislative body of a recipient municipality under this chapter.**

30 **Sec. 6. As used in this chapter, "recipient municipality" means  
31 a municipality that is named by a designated township in a  
32 resolution under section 14 of this chapter.**

33 **Sec. 7. As used in this chapter, "reorganization" means the  
34 dissolution of a designated township and the transfer of township  
35 property, functions, powers, and services to a municipality that is  
36 the recipient municipality.**

37 **Sec. 8. As used in this chapter, "township office" refers to any  
38 of the following:**

39 (1) The office of township trustee elected as provided in  
40 IC 36-6-4-2.

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

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

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

- 5 (1) Township assistance under IC 12-20 and IC 12-30-4.
- 6 (2) Provision of insulin to the poor under IC 12-20-16.
- 7 (3) Fire protection services under IC 36-8.
- 8 (4) Fence viewing under IC 32-26.
- 9 (5) Provision and maintenance of cemeteries under IC 23-14.
- 10 (6) Provision and maintenance of township parks and  
11 community centers under IC 36-10.
- 12 (7) Destruction of detrimental plants, noxious weeds, and  
13 rank vegetation under IC 15-16-8.
- 14 (8) Any other services required by statute to be provided by  
15 a township.

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

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

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

- 27 (1) The term of office of an individual who holds a township  
28 office ends on December 31, 2028. An election for a township  
29 office shall not be held in 2029 or thereafter.
- 30 (2) The:
  - 31 (A) powers and duties of the office of township trustee  
32 are transferred to the executive of the recipient  
33 municipality;
  - 34 (B) legislative powers and duties of the office of  
35 township board members are transferred to the  
36 legislative body of the recipient municipality;
  - 37 (C) fiscal powers and duties of the office of township  
38 board members are transferred to the fiscal body of the  
39 recipient municipality; and
  - 40 (D) powers and duties of the township assessor (if the  
41 office exists) are transferred to the county assessor.
- 42 (3) The boundaries of the dissolved township remain as the

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boundaries of the service area within which the recipient municipality provides township services.

(4) If a designated township participates in a fire protection territory or fire protection district, the fire protection territory or fire protection district is unaffected by the reorganization and the area within the boundaries of the dissolved township remain a part of the fire protection territory or fire protection district after reorganization. The recipient municipality succeeds the designated township in the designated township's role as:

- (A) a participating unit that is not a provider unit in the fire protection territory; or
- (B) a participant in the fire protection district;

for the area within the boundaries of the dissolved designated township.

(5) The balance in the general fund of the designated township shall be transferred to the general fund of the recipient municipality.

(6) The balance in the township assistance fund of a designated township shall be transferred to a township assistance fund established by the recipient municipality.

(7) The balance of any other fund of the designated township shall be transferred to the fund of the recipient municipality that most closely corresponds to the fund of the designated township.

(8) Subject to section 30 of this chapter, the property and liabilities of the designated township become the property and liabilities of the recipient municipality.

(b) IC 36-1-8-5 does not apply to a balance referred to in subsection (a).

Sec. 13. A designated township that is adjacent to a municipality may designate the municipality in a resolution under section 14 of this chapter. A township is not adjacent to a municipality if the township and municipality are connected by a strip of land that is less than one hundred fifty (150) feet wide.

Sec. 14. (a) The legislative body of a designated township shall adopt a resolution not later than October 1, 2027, that:

- (1) proposes a reorganization; and
- (2) designates one (1) municipality that satisfies the criteria under section 13 of this chapter for reorganizing with the designated township.

(b) The township trustee of the designated township shall

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certify the resolution to:

- (1) the county clerk; and
- (2) if the recipient municipality is a municipality, the clerk of the municipality.

If the recipient municipality meets the criteria under section 13 of this chapter, the recipient municipality and the designated township shall appoint a joint board under section 16 of this chapter.

Sec. 15. If a recipient municipality is named by two (2) or more designated townships in resolutions under section 14 of this chapter, the recipient municipality may:

- (1) appoint a single joint board under section 16 of this chapter; and
- (2) prepare and adopt a single plan of reorganization; to govern the reorganization of the townships, instead of appointing separate boards and adopting separate plans for each of the townships.

Sec. 16. (a) A joint board shall consist of the following:

- (1) Two (2) members of the township board of each township participating in the reorganization, selected by the members of the township board.
- (2) Four (4) members of the legislative body of the designated municipality, selected by the members of the body.
- (3) The township trustee of each township participating in the reorganization.
- (4) The deputy township trustee or a full-time township employee of each township participating in the reorganization.

The fiscal officer of the designated municipality, and other members of the bodies under subdivisions (1) and (2), shall serve as advisory, nonvoting members.

(b) A majority of the voting members constitutes a quorum. Official action may only be taken by affirmative vote of at least a majority of members present at the meeting.

(c) The members of a joint board serve without compensation. The members are entitled to reimbursement from the reorganizing township and recipient municipality for the necessary expenses incurred in the performance of their duties.

(d) A joint board is subject to IC 5-14-1.5 and IC 5-14-3.

(e) The joint board shall prepare a reorganization plan not later than March 1, 2028, for transferring the powers, duties, and property of the designated township consistent with this chapter.

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1 The joint board shall send the plan to the legislative body of the  
2 recipient municipality for adoption.

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

5 Sec. 17. Elimination of a township office of a designated  
6 township does not invalidate:

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

10 (2) any appointments made by the township trustee or  
11 township assessor (if the office exists) before January 1,  
12 2029.

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

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

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

23 (b) The municipality shall establish:

24 (1) an urban township services district consisting of the area  
25 of the designated township that is located within the  
26 boundaries of the municipality; and

27 (2) a rural township services district consisting of the area of  
28 the designated township located outside the boundaries of the  
29 municipality.

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

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

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

38 (d) If a uniform tax rate is levied upon all taxable property  
39 within a designated township upon reorganization, different tax  
40 rates may be levied for the township service districts included  
41 within the designated township in subsequent years.

42 (e) Not later than October 1 of a year, the municipality shall

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

7 (f) If:

8 (1) the municipality fails to adopt a township service district  
 9 levy; or

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

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

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

18 (1) be in an amount sufficient for the recipient municipality  
 19 to provide township services within a township service  
 20 district; and

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

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

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

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

37 The recipient municipality's maximum permissible ad valorem  
 38 property tax levy under IC 6-1.1-18.5 for property taxes first due  
 39 and payable in 2028 as adjusted under this section shall be used in  
 40 the determination of the recipient municipality's maximum  
 41 permissible ad valorem property tax levy under IC 6-1.1-18.5 for  
 42 property taxes first due and payable in 2029 and thereafter.

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

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

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

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

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

**(c) When the plan of reorganization is submitted to the recipient municipality by the joint board, the recipient municipality shall post a copy of the plan of reorganization on the website of the recipient municipality not more than seven (7) days after receiving the plan of reorganization from the joint board. If the plan of reorganization is amended, the recipient municipality shall post the amended plan on the website of the recipient municipality not later than seven (7) days after the amended plan is adopted.**

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

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

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

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

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

**Sec. 23. The legislative body of the recipient municipality shall file a certified copy of the plan with each of the following at the same time certifications are made under section 22 of this chapter:**

**(1) The county recorder of each county in which a**

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- reorganizing political subdivision is located.
- (2) The department of local government finance.
- (3) The clerk of the circuit court.

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

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

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

- (1) For each budget year, not later than December 31 of the year preceding that budget year, unless a taxing unit in a county is issuing debt after December 1 in the year preceding the budget year or intends to file a shortfall appeal under IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.
- (2) For each budget year, not later than January 15 of the budget year if a taxing unit in a county is issuing debt after December 1 in the year preceding the budget year or intends to file a shortfall appeal under IC 6-1.1-18.5-16.

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

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

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

**(c)** If a recipient municipality establishes an equipment replacement fund under IC 36-8-19-8.5 as authorized by this section, the department of local government finance may adjust the

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1 maximum permissible ad valorem property tax levy that would  
2 otherwise apply to the recipient municipality in the same manner  
3 in which the department may adjust the maximum permissible ad  
4 valorem property tax levy of a civil taxing unit under  
5 IC 6-1.1-18.5-10.5 to meet the civil taxing unit's obligations to a fire  
6 protection territory established under IC 36-8-19.

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

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

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

16 (2) Impose any tax levy or adopt any tax that the designated  
17 township was authorized to impose or adopt before January  
18 1, 2029.

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

21 (1) in which specified services provided by the recipient  
22 municipality will be provided at different levels, quantities,  
23 or amounts; and

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

27 Sec. 30. The following apply:

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

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

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

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

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

39 (B) must be paid by the taxpayers that were responsible  
40 for payment of the pension obligations before January  
41 1, 2029.

42 Sec. 31. The following apply to a reorganization under this

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

**(b) A political subdivision may not take any of the following**

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1 actions partially or wholly within a designated township after June  
2 30, 2027, unless the recipient municipality agrees by adopting a  
3 resolution:

- 4 (1) Initiate an annexation of territory.
- 5 (2) Establish a fire protection territory or fire protection  
6 district.
- 7 (3) Extend water, sewer, or any other infrastructure to the  
8 political subdivision.
- 9 (4) Expand zoning jurisdiction under IC 36-7-4-205.

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

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

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

- 20 (1) Using facilities or equipment, including mail and  
21 messaging systems, owned by the recipient municipality or  
22 designated township to promote a position on the  
23 reorganization, unless equal access to the facilities or  
24 equipment is given to persons with a position opposite to that  
25 of the recipient municipality or designated township.
- 26 (2) Making an expenditure of money from a fund controlled  
27 by the recipient municipality or designated township to  
28 promote a position on the reorganization.
- 29 (3) Using an employee to promote a position on the  
30 reorganization during the employee's normal working hours  
31 or paid overtime, or otherwise compelling an employee to  
32 promote a position on the public question at any time.  
33 However, if a person described in subsection (c) is  
34 advocating for or against a position on the reorganization or  
35 discussing the reorganization as authorized under subsection  
36 (c), an employee of the recipient municipality or designated  
37 township may assist the person in presenting information on  
38 the reorganization if requested to do so by the person  
39 described in subsection (c).

40 However, this section does not prohibit an official or employee of  
41 the recipient municipality or designated township from carrying  
42 out duties with respect to a reorganization that are part of the

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1 normal and regular conduct of the official's or employee's office or  
2 agency, including the furnishing of factual information regarding  
3 the reorganization in response to inquiries from any person.

4 (b) This subsection does not apply to:

- 5 (1) a personal expenditure to promote a position on a
- 6 reorganization by an employee of the recipient municipality
- 7 or designated township whose employment is governed by a
- 8 collective bargaining contract or an employment contract; or
- 9 (2) an expenditure to promote a position on a reorganization
- 10 by a person or an organization that has a contract or an
- 11 arrangement (whether formal or informal) with the recipient
- 12 municipality or designated township solely for the use of the
- 13 political subdivision's facilities.

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

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

- 22 (1) personally advocate for or against a position on a
- 23 reorganization; or
- 24 (2) discuss the reorganization with any individual, group, or
- 25 organization or personally advocate for or against a position
- 26 on a reorganization before any individual, group, or
- 27 organization;

28 so long as it is not done by using public funds. Advocacy or  
29 discussion allowed under this subsection is not considered a use of  
30 public funds.

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

- 32 (1) to constitute an annexation of a designated township by
- 33 a municipality under the provisions of this chapter; or
- 34 (2) as changing the corporate boundaries of a municipality
- 35 that is the recipient municipality of the dissolved designated
- 36 township.

37 SECTION 3. IC 36-6-1.5-5, AS AMENDED BY P.L.255-2013,  
38 SECTION 12, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
39 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 5. (a) The township trustees, with the  
40 approval of a majority of the members of the township legislative body  
41 of each township that wants to merge township governments under this  
42 chapter, must comply with this section.

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

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

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

- 17 (1) the department of local government finance;
- 18 (2) the circuit court clerk; and
- 19 (3) the office of the secretary of state.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 40 (1) the former township governments are abolished as separate  
41 entities;
- 42 (2) each township subject to the merger retains its geographical

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

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1 (b) The resolutions approving the township government merger  
2 under this chapter must specify the amount (if any) of the decrease that  
3 the department of local government finance shall make to the  
4 maximum permissible property tax levies, maximum permissible  
5 property tax rates, and budgets under IC 6-1.1-17 and IC 6-1.1-18.5 of  
6 the new township to:

- 7 (1) eliminate double taxation for services or goods provided by  
8 the new township; or
- 9 (2) eliminate any excess by which the amount of property taxes  
10 imposed by the new township exceeds the amount necessary to  
11 pay for services or goods provided under this article.

12 (c) The fiscal body of the new township shall determine and certify  
13 to the department of local government finance the amount of the  
14 adjustment (if any) under subsection (b). The amount of the adjustment  
15 (if any) to be made under subsection (b) must comply with the  
16 resolutions approving the township government merger.

17 **(d) The department may prescribe forms for submission to the**  
18 **department to expedite processing of mergers under IC 36-6-1.7.**

19 SECTION 7. IC 36-6-1.6 IS REPEALED [EFFECTIVE UPON  
20 PASSAGE]. (Dissolution of Township Government Merger).

21 SECTION 8. IC 36-6-1.7 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
22 AS A NEW CHAPTER TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
23 UPON PASSAGE]:

24 **Chapter 1.7. Merger of Certain Township Governments**

25 **Sec. 1. This chapter does not apply to a county having a**  
26 **consolidated city.**

27 **Sec. 2. As used in this chapter, "department" means the**  
28 **department of local government finance.**

29 **Sec. 3. As used in this chapter, "designated township" means**  
30 **a township government that has at least four (4) points assigned by**  
31 **the department under section 9 of this chapter.**

32 **Sec. 4. As used in this chapter, "new township government"**  
33 **means the township government that results from the merger of at**  
34 **least two (2) township governments under this chapter using the**  
35 **procedure set forth in IC 36-6-1.5.**

36 **Sec. 5. As used in this chapter, "recipient township" means a**  
37 **township government that has not more than three (3) points**  
38 **assigned by the department under section 9 of this chapter.**

39 **Sec. 6. (a) As used in this chapter, "state agency" means an**  
40 **authority, board, branch, commission, committee, department,**  
41 **division, or other instrumentality of the executive, including the**  
42 **administrative department of state government.**

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- (b) The term does not include the following:**
  - (1) The legislative department of state government.**
  - (2) The judicial department of state government.**
  - (3) A state educational institution.**
  - (4) A body corporate and politic created by statute.**

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

- (b) Any state agency having:**
  - (1) data; or**
  - (2) information relevant to developing the data;**

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

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

- (1) Two (2) points if a township government did not provide township assistance in calendar years 2023 and 2024 as provided in the annual reports submitted under IC 12-20-28-3 to the state board of accounts. The state board of accounts shall provide this information to the department.**
- (2) One (1) point if a township government does not actively manage fire protection or emergency medical services within the township on January 1, 2025. A township does not actively manage fire protection or emergency medical services if:**
  - (A) the township government does not allocate funds for fire protection or emergency medical services;**
  - (B) the township government is not a provider unit in a fire protection territory; or**
  - (C) at least seventy-five percent (75%) of the non-capital and non-debt service expenses expended from:**
    - (i) the township government's firefighting and emergency services fund or the firefighting fund and emergency services fund under IC 36-8-13-4; or**
    - (ii) the fire protection territory fund under IC 36-8-19-8, if the township government is a provider unit in a fire protection territory;**
- were payments to other governmental units, a volunteer fire department, or an independent fire company.**
- (3) One (1) point for each year that a township government did not file an annual finance report with the state board of**

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- accounts in 2023 or 2024.
- (4) One (1) point for each year a township government did not file all required monthly upload reports as required by directive of the state board of accounts in 2024 or 2025.
- (5) One (1) point if the township's annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2023 were continued for the 2024 budget year under IC 6-1.1-17-3(d) or IC 6-1.1-17-5(f), as applicable.
- (6) One (1) point if the township's annual appropriations and annual tax levy for 2024 were continued for the 2025 budget year under IC 6-1.1-17-3(d) or IC 6-1.1-17-5(f), as applicable.
- (7) One (1) point if the sum of township assistance applications received by the township government in 2023 and 2024 is less than twenty-four (24) township assistance applications as provided in the annual reports submitted under IC 12-20-28-3 to the state board of accounts. The state board of accounts shall provide this information to the department.
- (8) One (1) point for a township government that has a certified budget of less than one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for calendar year 2025.
- (9) A maximum of one (1) point 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 thirty (30) calendar days.
- However, a point may not be assigned to a township under clause (A) if the township did not have a candidate on the ballot in the 2018 or 2022 general election for the office of township trustee and the office was timely filled under IC 3-13-10 or IC 3-13-11 (whichever is applicable) before the date of the first meeting of the township board that is required under IC 36-6-6-7 in the year following the general election.
- (10) A maximum of one (1) point if:
  - (A) a township did not have a candidate on the election ballot for all offices of the township board in either the 2018 or 2022 general election; or
  - (B) on July 1, 2026, there is at least one (1) vacancy on the township board that has been vacant for at least thirty (30) calendar days.

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

**Sec. 9. (a) The department shall:**

(1) assign points under section 8(1) through 8(10) of this chapter for each township government; and

(2) determine the sum of points for each township government. A township assigned at least four (4) points is considered a designated township.

(b) The department shall prepare a list of townships organized:

(1) by county; and

(2) in descending order of the townships in the county having the most points to the townships in the county having the least points.

(c) The list prepared under subsection (b) shall specify which designated township satisfies all of the following criteria:

(1) At least eighty percent (80%) of the township's boundaries coincide with a municipality's boundaries.

(2) At least fifty-one percent (51%) of the township's population resides within the corporate boundaries of a municipality described in subdivision (1).

(d) Not later than December 31, 2026, the department shall:

(1) submit the list to the legislative council in an electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and

(2) post the list on the department's website.

**Sec. 10. (a) Not later than March 31, 2027, a township that has been assigned four (4) or more points may file a petition with the department to reconsider and amend the township's point total on the grounds that the point total is incorrect or because compliance with a requirement set forth in section 8(1) through 8(10) of this chapter was not possible due to a disaster (as defined in IC 10-14-3-1) that significantly disrupted operations and reporting requirements of the township and the township was assigned a point by the department under section 8 of this chapter. The petition must be accompanied by evidence supporting the grounds for the petition.**

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1 (b) Not later than June 30, 2027, the department shall issue a  
 2 written determination on all petitions received by the department.  
 3 The department's determination on a petition is final and  
 4 conclusive and may not be appealed.

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

7 (b) Not later than July 1, 2027, the department shall:

8 (1) submit the final list to the legislative council in an  
 9 electronic format under IC 5-14-6; and

10 (2) post the final list on the department's website.

11 Sec. 12. (a) If none of the township point totals are corrected  
 12 by the department, the list that was posted under section 9(d) of  
 13 this chapter is the final list and may not be appealed.

14 (b) The department shall post on the department's website  
 15 each:

16 (1) petition filed under section 10(a) of this chapter; and

17 (2) written determination issued by the department under  
 18 section 10(b) of this chapter.

19 Sec. 13. A designated township:

20 (1) that satisfies the criteria specified in section 9(c) of this  
 21 chapter shall reorganize in accordance with IC 36-1.5-4.1;  
 22 and

23 (2) that does not satisfy the criteria specified in section 9(c)  
 24 of this chapter shall, except as otherwise provided, merge  
 25 with another township in accordance with section 14 of this  
 26 chapter.

27 Sec. 14. Using the process set forth in IC 36-6-1.5, each  
 28 designated township, excluding any township that has commenced  
 29 a merger or consolidation under IC 36-1.5-4 or IC 36-6-1.5 with  
 30 another unit before July 1, 2027, must merge with at least one (1)  
 31 other township government in the county. After all township  
 32 mergers in accordance with this section are complete, a county  
 33 must have at least two (2) townships. The following requirements  
 34 apply to each merger:

35 (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2), at least one (1)  
 36 township government that merges with a designated  
 37 township must be a recipient township.

38 (2) If all townships in a county are designated townships, the  
 39 county executive shall select two (2) of the designated  
 40 townships participating in the merger to form a new  
 41 township government to perform the functions of a recipient  
 42 township.

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1 (3) The merger must satisfy the contiguity requirements set  
2 forth in IC 36-6-1.5-4.

3 Sec. 15. Not later than August 1, 2027, the county executive  
4 body shall conduct a public meeting of all township trustees within  
5 the county to discuss the merger.

6 Sec. 16. (a) The county executive shall determine which  
7 township governments will merge. The county executive's decision  
8 shall:

9 (1) take into account the wishes of the designated townships  
10 and recipient townships; and

11 (2) comply with the requirements of section 14 of this  
12 chapter.

13 (b) Not later than October 1, 2027, the county executive shall  
14 adopt a resolution that names the township governments that will  
15 merge.

16 (c) The new township government shall certify the final action  
17 in the manner prescribed by the department to each of the  
18 following:

19 (1) The county legislative body.

20 (2) The county executive body.

21 (3) The clerk of the circuit court.

22 (4) The county fiscal officer.

23 (5) The county recorder.

24 (6) The county voter registration office.

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

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

28 (1) The resolutions adopted by the participating townships  
29 and submitted by the township trustees under  
30 IC 36-6-1.5-5(d).

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

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

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

40 Sec. 19. All township government mergers under this chapter  
41 must be effective not later than January 1, 2029.

42 Sec. 20. The new township government shall pay all costs

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associated with the merger.

**Sec. 21. After the effective date of a merger under this chapter and not later than December 31, 2030, the new township government shall consist of the following:**

**(1) The township trustee of the recipient township shall serve as the executive of the new township government. If the merger consists of more than one (1) recipient township:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**shall serve as the legislative body of the new township government.**

**Sec. 22. Notwithstanding IC 36-6-1.5-8, a township merger under this chapter does not affect the office of township assessor. After a merger, the township assessor remains the elected township assessor for the territory within the geographical boundaries of the township assessor's former township. Only voters residing within the boundaries of the township assessor's former township may elect the office of the township assessor.**

**Sec. 23. A township trustee and township board of the new township government shall be elected in the general election in 2030 in accordance with IC 36-6-6-2.1 and IC 36-6-6-3. A township assessor, if any, shall be elected only for the area within the geographical boundaries of the township assessor's former township under IC 36-6-5-1.**

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1           **Sec. 24. (a) Each county executive body shall prepare a report**  
 2 **containing the following information:**

3           **(1) The number of townships in the county as of January 1,**  
 4 **2027.**

5           **(2) The number of townships in the county after mergers are**  
 6 **carried out under this chapter.**

7           **(3) A map of the townships in the county as of January 1,**  
 8 **2027.**

9           **(4) A map of the townships after mergers are carried out**  
 10 **under this chapter.**

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

12           **(6) An explanation of how the mergers will impact fire**  
 13 **protection operations and services within the county.**

14           **(7) An explanation of how the mergers will impact**  
 15 **emergency medical service operations and coverage within**  
 16 **the county.**

17           **(8) An explanation of any cost savings that will be realized as**  
 18 **a result of the mergers.**

19           **(b) Not later than January 1, 2028, the county executive body**  
 20 **shall submit the report to:**

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

23           **(2) the department.**

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

29           **(b) Beginning in 2026, and each year thereafter, each township**  
 30 **trustee shall submit, using the computer gateway established by the**  
 31 **office of technology, the following information in a pre-budget**  
 32 **survey prescribed by the department, in consultation with the**  
 33 **department of homeland security:**

34           **(1) Whether the township operates a fire department,**  
 35 **including a volunteer fire department, and, if so, the name of**  
 36 **the fire department operated by the township.**

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

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

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- 1           **(4) Whether the township has an agreement with another**
- 2           **unit to provide fire protection in a manner other than**
- 3           **described in subdivisions (1) through (3), and the name of**
- 4           **each unit that participates in the agreement.**
- 5           **(5) Whether fire protection is provided by a municipality,**
- 6           **and, if so, the name of the municipality.**
- 7           **(6) Contact information for each fire department or provider**
- 8           **unit described in subdivisions (1) through (5).**
- 9           **(7) The types of emergency services provided by each fire**
- 10          **department or provider unit described in subdivisions (1)**
- 11          **through (5).**
- 12          **(8) Any information prescribed by the department, in**
- 13          **consultation with the department of homeland security**
- 14          **necessary for the department of homeland security to comply**
- 15          **with subsection (d).**
- 16          **(c) The department shall compile the information provided to**
- 17          **the department under subsection (b) and provide the information**
- 18          **to the department of homeland security.**
- 19          **(d) The department of homeland security shall use the**
- 20          **information provided by the department under subsection (c) to**
- 21          **ascertain the following information:**
- 22               **(1) The entity that provides fire protection for each**
- 23               **township.**
- 24               **(2) Where each fire department and provider unit is located.**
- 25               **(3) The service area for each fire department or fire**
- 26               **territory.**
- 27               **(4) Whether the fire service provided within the township is**
- 28               **provided by a professional or volunteer fire department.**
- 29               **(5) The types of emergency services provided in each**
- 30               **township.**
- 31               **(6) Contact information for each fire department and**
- 32               **provider unit that provides fire and emergency services in**
- 33               **the township, including the following information:**
- 34                   **(A) The contact name and address.**
- 35                   **(B) The telephone number.**
- 36                   **(C) The electronic mail address.**
- 37               **(7) Any other information the department of homeland**
- 38               **security deems necessary.**
- 39          **(e) The information described in subsection (d) shall be made**
- 40          **available on the department of homeland security's website and**
- 41          **made available in a machine readable format.**
- 42          **SECTION 10. IC 36-6-5-1, AS AMENDED BY P.L.167-2015,**

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1 SECTION 14, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE  
2 UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 1. (a) Subject to subsection (g), before 2009,  
3 a township assessor shall be elected under IC 3-10-2-13 by the voters  
4 of each township:

5 (1) having:

6 (A) a population of more than eight thousand (8,000); or

7 (B) an elected township assessor or the authority to elect a  
8 township assessor before January 1, 1979; and

9 (2) in which the number of parcels of real property on January 1,  
10 2008, is at least fifteen thousand (15,000).

11 (b) Subject to subsection (g), before 2009, a township assessor  
12 shall be elected under IC 3-10-2-14 (repealed effective July 1, 2008) in  
13 each township:

14 (1) having a population of more than five thousand (5,000) but  
15 not more than eight thousand (8,000), if:

16 (A) the legislative body of the township, by resolution,  
17 declares that the office of township assessor is necessary;  
18 and

19 (B) the resolution is filed with the county election board not  
20 later than the first date that a declaration of candidacy may  
21 be filed under IC 3-8-2; 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 (c) Subject to subsection (g), a township government that is  
25 created by merger under IC 36-6-1.5 shall elect only one (1) township  
26 assessor under this section. **However, if a township government is**  
27 **created by merger under IC 36-6-1.7, the merger does not affect**  
28 **the office of township assessor. The voters of each township having**  
29 **a township assessor before the merger is effective shall continue to**  
30 **elect one (1) township assessor after the merger is effective. The**  
31 **elected township assessor shall perform all assessing duties within**  
32 **the geographical boundaries of the township assessor's former**  
33 **township.**

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

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

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

42 (e) The township assessor must reside within the township as

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1 provided in Article 6, Section 6 of the Constitution of the State of  
 2 Indiana. The assessor forfeits office if the assessor ceases to be a  
 3 resident of the township.

4 (f) The term of office of a township assessor is four (4) years,  
 5 beginning January 1 after election and continuing until a successor is  
 6 elected and qualified. However, the term of office of a township  
 7 assessor elected at a general election in which no other township  
 8 officer is elected ends on December 31 after the next election in which  
 9 any other township officer is elected.

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

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

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

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

22 [ SECTION 11. IC 36-6-5-5 IS ADDED TO THE INDIANA CODE  
 23 AS A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE JULY  
 24 1, 2026]: Sec. 5. (a) This section applies to a county having a  
 25 population of more than two hundred thousand (200,000) and less  
 26 than two hundred fifty thousand (250,000).

27 (b) The county fiscal body may adopt a resolution to transfer  
 28 the duties of a township assessor to the county assessor if both of  
 29 the following apply:

30 (1) The office of township assessor has been vacant for at  
 31 least ninety (90) days.

32 (2) A caucus was held under IC 3-13-11 but failed to fill the  
 33 vacancy described in subdivision (1).

34 (c) The following apply in a county in which the county fiscal  
 35 body adopts a resolution under subsection (b):

36 (1) The office of township assessor for that township is  
 37 abolished.

38 (2) All the powers and duties of the township assessor are  
 39 transferred to the county assessor of the county in which the  
 40 township is located.

41 (3) All of the following are transferred to the county  
 42 assessor:

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(A) All employment positions of all employees of the township assessor.

(B) The real and personal property of the township assessor.

(C) The outstanding obligations of the township assessor.

(D) The funds of the township assessor.

(4) The county auditor shall transfer to the county assessor all revenue received by the township:

(A) through the date that the office of the township assessor becomes vacant; and

(B) for the purpose of carrying out property assessment duties.

(d) The county fiscal body shall include in the resolution adopted under subsection (b) any additional items necessary to effectuate the transfer of duties from the township assessor to the county assessor.

1 SECTION 1 ~~1~~ [2]. IC 36-6-6-2.1, AS ADDED BY P.L.240-2005, SECTION 7, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 2.1. (a) This section applies if township governments merge under IC 36-6-1.5.

~~(b)~~ (a) This subsection does not apply to a township government merger under IC 36-6-1.7. If two (2) township governments merge, the resulting merged township government shall elect a three (3) member township board. The voters of the resulting merged township government shall elect all the members of the township board. One (1) member must reside within the boundaries of each of the township governments that merged.

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

(c) This subsection only applies to a township government merger under IC 36-6-1.7. Beginning with the 2030 general election, all voters of the resulting merged township government shall elect a three (3) member township board. Township board members shall be elected at large.

SECTION 1 ~~1~~ [3]. IC 36-6-6-3, AS AMENDED BY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**All members are elected at large by all voters within the merged township. If a member of the legislative body ceases to be a resident of the merged township, the office becomes vacant.**

SECTION 1 ~~3~~ **[4]**. IC 36-6-6-4, AS AMENDED BY P.L.159-2021, SECTION 41, IS AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS [EFFECTIVE UPON PASSAGE]: Sec. 4. (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c), two (2) members of the legislative body constitute a quorum.

~~(b) Before January 1, 2017, four (4) members of the legislative body in a county containing a consolidated city constitute a quorum. After December 31, 2016, Three (3) members of the legislative body in a county having a consolidated city constitute a quorum.~~

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

- (1) is created by a merger of township governments under IC 36-6-1.5 **(excluding a township that merges under IC 36-6-1.7); and**

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1 (2) elects the township legislative body under section 2.1 of this  
2 chapter.

3 A majority of the members of the township legislative body constitute  
4 a quorum. If a township legislative body has an even number of  
5 members, the township executive shall serve by virtue of office as a  
6 member of the township legislative body for the purpose of casting the  
7 deciding vote to break a tie.

8 (d) For townships not described in subsection (c), **including a**  
9 **township that merges under IC 36-6-1.7**, the township executive  
10 shall serve by virtue of office as a member of the township legislative  
11 body for the purpose of casting the deciding vote to break a tie.  
12 However, the township executive may not vote to break a tie on the  
13 adoption of an ordinance to increase the township executive's  
14 compensation (as defined in section 10 of this chapter).

15 SECTION 1 ~~↔~~ [5]. **An emergency is declared for this act.**

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