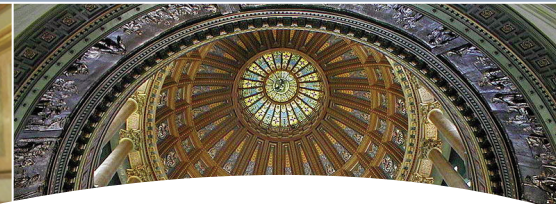


# Policy Report

Illinois Association of County Board Members • Township Officials of Illinois • Consolidation Seminar



THIS REPORT INCLUDES LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES INTRODUCED IN THE 104TH ILLINOIS GENERAL ASSEMBLY THAT IMPACT TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

*Please talk to your lawmakers about these bills and ask that they give consideration to vote in accordance with the positions taken or stated by your local government or state association respectively.*

**SB 1659 (Morrison)**  
**ELECTION CODE – TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION**  
**Status: Senate Executive Committee**

Provides that, in counties under township organization, an election authority may combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct if the townships are contiguous and 2 or more specified conditions are satisfied. **NOTE:** *The election authority shall consider voter convenience and election integrity when determining whether to combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct.*

**SB 2217 (Glowiak Hilton)**  
**TOWNSHIP CODE – LOW POPULATION DISSOLUTION**  
**Status: Senate Executive Committee**

Provides that all townships with a population less than 5000 are dissolved and must either consolidate with an adjacent township or the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township.

**SB 2504 (Glowiak Hilton)**  
**TOWNSHIP CODE – CONSOLIDATION AND MERGER**  
**Status: Senate Executive Committee**

Amends the Property Tax Code. Provides that, in counties with a population of less than 50,000, the offices of township assessor and multi-township assessor are abolished upon the expiration of the term of a township assessor or multi-township assessor. Provides that the county assessor in a county with a population of less than 50,000 shall assume all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities of township assessors or multi-township assessors within the county.

**Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code.**

*Renames the Article and makes it applicable to all counties under township organization.*

Provides that, upon petition of at least 5% of the voters in the township election immediately preceding the petition, the township board and corporate authorities of the municipality shall certify the question to the election authority and the authority shall cause to be submitted to the voters of the township and municipality at the next election a referendum to discontinue the township and to transfer all the rights, powers, duties, assets, property, liabilities, obligations, and responsibilities of the township to the municipality. Provides that, upon petition of at least 5% of the voters in the township election immediately preceding the petition in each adjacent township subject to proposed consolidation, each township board shall certify and cause to be submitted to the voters of the township, at the next election or consolidated election, a proposition to consolidate the existing townships.

*Amends the Counties Code and the Motor Fuel Tax Law making conforming changes.*





**HB 2515 (Sosnowski)**

**TOWNSHIP CODE – LOW POPULATION TOWNSHIP DISTRICT DISSOLUTION**

**Status: House Rules Committee**

Provides that all townships with a population less than 500 are dissolved 2 years after the effective date of the amendatory Act. Provides for the transfer of real and personal property, and any other assets, together with all personnel, contractual obligations, and liabilities of the dissolving township to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township. Provides that, on and after the date of dissolution, all rights and duties of the dissolved township may be exercised by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township solely on behalf of the residents of the geographic area within the boundaries of the dissolved township.

**Provides that the county board of the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township may levy a property tax within the boundaries of the dissolved township for the duties taken on by the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township.**

Provides that all road districts wholly within the boundaries of a dissolving township are dissolved on the date of dissolution of the dissolving township and the powers and responsibilities of the road district are transferred to the county containing the geographic boundaries of the dissolving township, and provides that municipalities within the dissolving township may elect to assume the duties and responsibilities of the road district or road districts.

Provides that elected and appointed township officers and road commissioners shall cease to hold office on the date of dissolution of the township and road districts, no longer be compensated, and do not have legal recourse relating to the ceasing of their elected or appointed positions upon the ceasing of their offices. Amends the Motor Fuel Tax Law and Counties Code making conforming changes.

**HB 2716 (West)**

**ELECTION CODE – TOWNSHIP ORGANIZATION**

**Status: House Ethics and Elections Committee**

Provides that, in counties under township organization, an election authority may combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct if the townships are contiguous and 2 or more specified conditions are satisfied. Provides that the election authority shall consider voter convenience and election integrity when determining whether to combine a township with another township to constitute one election precinct.

**HB 3581 (Ugaste)**

**TOWNSHIP CODE – TOWNSHIP DISSOLUTION**

**Status: House Ethics and Elections Committee**

Amends the Dissolution of Townships in McHenry County Article of the Township Code. Renames the Article and makes it applicable to all counties under township organization.

Amends the Counties Code and the Motor Fuel Tax Law making conforming changes. Amends the Illinois Highway Code. Changes provisions requiring road districts in townships in Lake County and McHenry County to be abolished if the roads of the road district are less than 15 miles in length to require all townships to abolish such road districts. Repeals provisions making abolition permissive for townships with road districts that have roads of less than 15 miles in length.

**HISTORY**

Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed a law in 2019 giving voters in McHenry County an option to more easily dissolve township governments. The law includes a provision that property taxes used to cover services handled by the township would drop by at least 10 percent. As the law states, the county cannot levy taxes exceeding 90% of the taxes levied by the original township, thereby initiating a property tax reduction. However, it is unclear whether the 10% mandated reduction originally imposed in McHenry County resulted in substantial savings for subsequent years based on current property tax levies. Additionally, within current law, all money linked to a consolidated township must be used to benefit the geographic area of that eliminated level of government. The 2019 law also required both McHenry and Lake counties to dissolve any township road district that maintains 15 miles of road or less, with no action required of voters or other government bodies.

*NOTE: No townships in McHenry County have been successfully dissolved by voters since the law was passed in 2019, but the constitutionality of the law has been the subject of lawsuits filed by township road districts. Also, various issues with the law over the course of past years were identified by County Board members – mainly the law is vague and does not clarify how the county should proceed in absorbing a township when it is dissolved.*

**HB 2826 (Chung)**

**PROPERTY TAX CODE – ASSESSORS**

**Status: House Counties and Townships Committee**

Provides that, on and after the publication of population data from the 2030 federal decennial census, provisions concerning multi-township assessors apply to qualified townships with less than 3,000 inhabitants (currently 1,000 inhabitants).

*NOTE: Initiative of the Illinois County Assessment Officers Association.*