

1 AN ACT relating to local government and declaring an emergency.

2 ***Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:***

3 ➔Section 1. KRS 67C.147 is amended to read as follows:

4 (1) In order to maintain the tax structure, tax rates, or level of services in the area of the
5 consolidated local government formerly comprising the city of the first class, the
6 legislative council of a consolidated local government may provide in the manner
7 described in this chapter for taxes and services within the area comprising the
8 former city of the first class which are different from the taxes and services which
9 are applicable in the remainder of the county. These differences may include
10 differences in tax rates upon the class of property which includes the surface of the
11 land, differences in ad valorem tax rates upon personal property, and differences in
12 tax rates upon insurance premiums.

13 (2) Any difference in the ad valorem tax rate on the class of property which includes
14 the surface of the land in the portion of the county formerly comprising the city of
15 the first class and in the portion of the county other than that formerly comprising
16 the city of the first class may be imposed directly by the consolidated local
17 government council. Any change in these ad valorem tax rates shall comply with
18 KRS 68.245, 132.010, 132.017, and 132.027 and shall be used for services as
19 provided by KRS 82.085.

20 (3) If the consolidated local government council determines to provide for tax rates
21 applicable to health insurance premiums and personal property which are different
22 in the area formerly comprising the city of the first class than the rates applicable in
23 the remainder of the county, it shall do so in the following manner. The
24 consolidated local government council shall by ordinance create a tax district to be
25 known as the "urban service tax district" bounded by the former boundaries of the
26 former city of the first class. The ordinance shall designate the number of members
27 of the board of this ~~tax~~^{taxing} district and the manner in which they shall be

1 appointed. The ordinance shall provide that the board of the ~~tax~~[taxing] district
2 shall receive the income derived from the differential in tax rate applicable in the
3 area formerly comprising the city of the first class with respect to personal property,
4 health insurance premiums, or both, and shall contract with the consolidated local
5 government to pay all sums collected to the consolidated local government, in
6 return for the provision of services performed by the consolidated local government
7 within the area formerly comprising the city of the first class which services are in
8 addition to services performed by the consolidated local government in the
9 remainder of the county. The consolidated local government shall provide at least
10 an annual reporting to the urban service tax district board and the legislative body
11 of the consolidated local government containing but not limited to detailed
12 operating and capital expenditures of each service performed by the consolidated
13 local government.

14 (4) After the initial formation of an urban service ~~tax~~[taxing] district in a consolidated
15 local government, the boundaries of the district may be modified in the following
16 manner. The proposal to alter the boundaries of the urban service ~~tax~~[taxing]
17 district within a consolidated local government may be initiated by:

18 (a) A resolution enacted by the consolidated local government describing the
19 boundaries of the area to be added to or deleted from the ~~tax~~[taxing] district
20 and duly passed and signed by the mayor not less than one hundred twenty
21 (120) days before the next regularly scheduled election day within the county;

22 or

23 (b) A petition signed by a number of qualified voters living within precincts
24 within the area to be added to or deleted from the ~~tax~~[taxing] district equal to
25 ten percent (10%) of the votes cast within each precinct in the last general
26 election for President of the United States and delivered to the clerk of the
27 legislative council more than one hundred twenty (120) days next preceding

1 the next regularly scheduled election day within the county.

2 The boundaries so described in either case shall not cross precinct lines. The

3 question of whether the area bounded as described should be added to or deleted

4 from, as the case may be, the urban service tax~~[services taxing]~~ district shall then be

5 placed upon the ballot in the precincts in the area to be added or deleted at the next

6 regular election and the question stated on the ballot shall be so phrased that a

7 "Yes" vote shall be cast in favor of making the proposed change and a "No" vote

8 shall be cast to oppose the proposed change. If a majority of those voting in those

9 precincts support the change, then the change in the boundaries of the urban service

10 tax district shall be implemented.

11 **(5) No later than July 1, 2025, the consolidated local government shall, by agreement**

12 **or other contract, reimburse a fire district operating under KRS Chapter 75 for**

13 **expenses related to each emergency medical response made by the fire district**

14 **operating under KRS Chapter 75 into the area of the urban service tax district,**

15 **when that fire district is authorized by agreement to provide emergency services**

16 **responses within that area. A fire district so responding shall receive from the**

17 **consolidated local government three hundred dollars (\$300) for responding and**

18 **transporting a patient, and one hundred fifty dollars (\$150) for responding when**

19 **no patient is transported. This payment shall be in addition to any insurance**

20 **moneys the fire district may be eligible to receive resulting from the response.**

21 **(6) (a) From July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2030, no more than ten percent (10%) of the**

22 **funding derived from the differential tax rate set out in subsection (3) of this**

23 **section of the services contracted or provided by and capital expenditures**

24 **related to the urban service tax district to be performed by the consolidated**

25 **local government within the urban service tax district which are in addition**

26 **to the services performed by the consolidated local government in the**

27 **remainder of the county shall come from taxes levied by the consolidated**

1 local government from areas outside of the urban service tax district.

2 **(b) On and after July 1, 2030, only taxes derived from the differential tax rate**
3 **set out in subsection (3) of this section levied by the consolidated local**
4 **government in areas outside of the urban service tax district shall fund**
5 **services contracted or provided by and capital expenditures related to the**
6 **urban service tax district to be performed by the consolidated local**
7 **government within the urban service tax district which are in addition to the**
8 **services performed by the consolidated local government from in the**
9 **remainder of the county.**

10 ➔Section 2. KRS 67C.111 is amended to read as follows:

11 (1) All cities other than those of the first class located within the territory of the
12 consolidated local government, upon the successful passage of the question to
13 consolidate a city of the first class and its county, shall remain incorporated unless
14 dissolved in accordance with KRS 81.094 and shall continue to exercise all powers
15 and perform the functions permitted by the Constitution and general laws of the
16 Commonwealth of Kentucky applicable to the cities of the class to which they have
17 been assigned.

18 (2) (a) After July 15, 2024, with the approval of the consolidated local government's
19 legislative council, qualified voters within the consolidated local government
20 may establish new cities within the consolidated local government pursuant to
21 KRS 81.050 and 81.060. The proposed city must have a population of six
22 thousand (6,000) or greater. This territory shall not be within any urban
23 services boundary of the consolidated local government nor shall it include
24 any territory currently incorporated within any existing city. The approval of
25 the desire to establish a new city shall be in the form of a resolution by the
26 consolidated local government's legislative council. If the legislative council
27 does not act upon the request within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the desire

1 to incorporate a new city, that shall serve as notice of approval by the
2 legislative council of the incorporation of the new city.

3 (b) If the petition to form a city is signed by *a number of registered and*
4 *qualified voters residing in the area proposed to be incorporated which is*
5 *equal to at least sixty percent (60%) of the total number of votes cast in the*
6 *area in the last preceding presidential election*~~[sixty-six percent (66%) or~~
7 ~~more of the qualified voters in the area proposed to be incorporated]~~, the
8 consolidated local government's legislative council shall approve the proposed
9 incorporation.

10 (c) If the petition to form a city is signed by *a number of registered and*
11 *qualified voters residing in the area proposed to be incorporated which is*
12 *less than sixty percent (60%) of the total number of votes cast in the area in*
13 *the last preceding presidential election*~~[less than sixty-six percent (66%) of~~
14 ~~the qualified voters in the area proposed to be incorporated]~~, the consolidated
15 local government's legislative council may approve the proposed
16 incorporation.

17 *(d) An action of the consolidated local government's legislative council*
18 *approving an incorporation passed by the consolidated local government*
19 *legislative council shall not be subject to veto by the mayor of the*
20 *consolidated local government.*

21 (3) *(a)* Any proposed annexation by a city in that county shall first receive the
22 approval of the legislative council of the consolidated local government prior
23 to the city proceeding under the provisions of KRS Chapter 81A. The city
24 shall request the approval of the consolidated legislative council by ordinance.
25 After July 15, 2024, if:

26 *1.* The ordinance is accompanied by a petition in favor of the proposed
27 annexation signed by *a number of registered and qualified voters*

1 residing in the area proposed to be annexed which is equal to at least
 2 sixty percent (60%) of the total number of votes cast in the area in the
 3 last preceding presidential election~~[sixty-six percent (66%) or more of~~
 4 ~~the qualified voters of the area proposed to be annexed,];~~ or

5 2. The ordinance is accompanied by written consent of the owners of
 6 record of the area to be annexed when that area is vacant or is
 7 otherwise unimproved land and where no persons reside. A city shall
 8 not annex vacant or otherwise unimproved land where no persons
 9 reside as set out by this subparagraph more than once every four (4)
 10 calendar years~~[the consolidated government legislative council shall~~
 11 ~~approve the proposed annexation].~~

12 (b) The consolidated legislative council's decision shall be made by ordinance
 13 and within sixty (60) days of the receipt of the request by the affected city. If
 14 an ordinance has not been enacted by the consolidated legislative council
 15 within sixty (60) days, the request for a city to proceed with an annexation
 16 proposal shall be deemed to be approved by the consolidated legislative
 17 council. An ordinance approving annexation passed by the consolidated local
 18 government legislative council shall not be subject to veto by the mayor of the
 19 consolidated local government.

20 (c) 1. A city in a county containing a consolidated local government shall
 21 not annex commercial real estate primarily for the purpose of
 22 obtaining occupational license tax revenue, unless each owner of
 23 record of property within the area to be annexed gives prior consent in
 24 writing to the annexation.

25 2. a. As used in this paragraph, "commercial real estate" means any
 26 parcel of real estate that is:

27 i. Lawfully used primarily for sales, retail, wholesale, office,

1 research, institutional, warehouse, manufacturing, or
 2 industrial purposes;

3 ii. Lawfully used primarily for multifamily residential
 4 purposes involving five (5) or more dwelling units; or

5 iii. Zoned as a business or commercial use by a planning unit
 6 under the provisions of KRS Chapter 100.

7 b. "Commercial real estate" does not include single-family
 8 residential units such as condominiums, townhouses,
 9 manufactured homes, or homes or lots in a subdivision when
 10 sold, or residential units otherwise conveyed on a unit-by-unit
 11 basis, even if those units are part of a larger building or parcel of
 12 real estate containing more than four (4) residential units.

13 (4) The adoption of a consolidated local government in a county containing a city of
 14 the first class shall not prevent the merger or dissolution of any existing cities as
 15 provided by law or the merger of any remaining cities with the newly consolidated
 16 local government.

17 ➔SECTION 3. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 67C IS CREATED TO
 18 READ AS FOLLOWS:

19 (1) Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, in appointing members to boards,
 20 committees, commissions, task forces, ad hoc committees, and other
 21 administrative bodies created by or whose membership is appointed by the
 22 executive authority, legislative authority, or a combination of both of the
 23 consolidated local government, either under their home rule authority or in
 24 response to a requirement or option under the authority of the Kentucky Revised
 25 Statutes, the appointing authority shall make a conscientious effort to select, from
 26 among the most qualified persons, those persons whose appointment would
 27 ensure that the membership of the board, committee, commission, task force, ad

1 hoc committee, or other administrative body accurately reflects the geographic
2 population of the area represented by the local board, committee, commission,
3 task force, or ad hoc committee, or other administrative body as determined
4 pursuant to the most recent federal decennial census, unless the law regulating
5 such appointment requires otherwise.

6 (2) If there are multiple appointing authorities for the board, committee, commission,
7 task force, ad hoc committee, or administrative body, they shall consult with each
8 other to assure compliance with this section.

9 (3) This section shall apply to appointments and reappointments made after the
10 effective date of this Act. It shall not prohibit a member of a board, committee,
11 commission, task force, ad hoc committee, or other administrative body from
12 completing a term serving as a member when this section takes effect. A person
13 appointed to a board, committee, commission, task force, ad hoc committee, or
14 other administrative body prior to the effective date of this Act, shall not be
15 removed from the appointment solely for the purpose of meeting the requirements
16 of this section.

17 ➔Section 4. KRS 67C.103 is amended to read as follows:

18 (1) The legislative authority of a consolidated local government, except as otherwise
19 specified in KRS 67C.101 to 67C.137, shall be vested in a consolidated local
20 government council. The members of the council shall be nominated and elected by
21 district. There shall be only one (1) council member elected from each council
22 district.

23 (2) There shall be twenty-six (26) council districts. The initial boundaries, population,
24 and numerical designation of the council districts shall be as specified by KRS
25 67C.135. The population of the council districts shall be as nearly equal as is
26 reasonably possible. Any changes made to alter the boundaries of council districts
27 shall be based on the population of the county as determined by the most recent

1 United States Census or official census estimates as provided by the United States
2 Bureau of the Census.

3 (3) Following the official publication of each decennial census by the United States
4 Bureau of the Census for the area embraced by a consolidated local government, the
5 council shall adopt an ordinance, if necessary, to redistrict the council districts. A
6 redistricting ordinance shall provide for the distribution of population among the
7 council districts as nearly equal as is reasonably possible. Every council district
8 shall be compact and contiguous and shall respect existing neighborhood,
9 community, and city boundaries whenever possible.

10 (4) The consolidated local government council members shall serve for a term of four
11 (4) years beginning on the first Monday in January following their election, except
12 that the initial election of council members shall be in a manner as to provide for
13 staggered terms for council members. At the initial election of the members of a
14 consolidated local government council, those representing even-numbered districts
15 shall be elected for a two (2) year term. Those representing odd-numbered districts
16 shall be elected for a four (4) year term. Thereafter, all council members shall be
17 elected for four (4) year terms.

18 (5) The members of a consolidated local government council shall be nominated and
19 elected from the district in which they reside in nonpartisan~~partisan~~ elections.
20 After the initial terms of office of the first elected council members, council
21 members shall be elected in the same election years as other local government
22 officials as regulated by the regular election laws of the Commonwealth and as
23 provided in subsection (4) of this section.

24 (6) No person shall be eligible to serve as a member of a consolidated local government
25 council unless he or she is at least eighteen (18) years old, a qualified voter, and a
26 resident within the territory of the consolidated local government and the district
27 that he or she seeks to represent for at least one (1) year immediately prior to the

1 person's election. A council member shall continue to reside within the district from
2 which he or she was elected throughout the term of office.

3 (7) The presiding officer of a consolidated local government council shall be a
4 president who shall be chosen annually by a majority vote of the entire council from
5 among its members at the first meeting of the council in January. The council
6 president has the right to introduce any resolution or recommend any ordinance and
7 shall be entitled to vote on all matters.

8 (8) The consolidated local government council shall upon notice meet within seven (7)
9 days after its members have taken office, and shall thereafter hold at least one (1)
10 regular meeting per month. No newspaper notice shall be required for regular or
11 special meetings of the consolidated local government council. However, notice of
12 all meetings of the council and all meetings of committees of the council shall be
13 held pursuant to KRS 61.805 to 61.850.

14 (9) A majority of the members of the consolidated local government council shall
15 constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day. The
16 consolidated local government council may enforce the attendance of members by
17 rules or ordinances with appropriate fines. The mayor or two-thirds (2/3) of the
18 entire membership of the council may call a special meeting at any time. Meetings
19 shall be held in such places in the county as are provided by ordinance, and the
20 place of meetings shall not be changed except by an ordinance for which two-thirds
21 (2/3) of the members of the consolidated local government council have voted.

22 (10) The council shall determine its own rules and order of business, and keep and
23 provide a public record of its proceedings. The council shall provide for the
24 publication of all ordinances in a composite code of ordinances.

25 (11) Council ordinances that prescribe penalties for their violation shall be enforced
26 through the entire area of the consolidated local government unless:

27 (a) Otherwise provided by statute; or

1 (b) The legislative body of any city within the consolidated local government area
2 has adopted an ordinance pertaining to the same subject matter that is the
3 same as or more stringent than the standards set forth in the consolidated local
4 government's ordinance.

5 (12) (a) In the case of a vacancy on the consolidated local government council by
6 reason of death, resignation, or removal, a nonpartisan~~[an]~~ election shall be
7 held to fill the unexpired term, unless paragraph (c) of this subsection applies.
8 The county clerk shall be responsible for administering the election. The
9 election shall proceed as follows:

- 10 1. The presiding officer of the council shall declare the position vacant and
11 issue a writ of election within twenty-four (24) hours of the occurrence
12 of the vacancy;
- 13 2. The writ shall be signed by the presiding officer, shall designate the day
14 for holding the election, and shall be delivered to the sheriff;
- 15 3. Candidates for the unexpired term shall file petitions of nomination with
16 the county clerk not later than ten (10) days following the declaration of
17 vacancy. The election shall be held sixty (60) days after the declaration
18 of vacancy on the next Tuesday which is not a federal holiday under 5
19 U.S.C. sec. 6103(a), unless paragraph (b) of this subsection applies. The
20 petition for nomination shall contain the signatures of two (2) registered
21 voters of the council district and shall meet the requirements of KRS
22 118.315(2); and
- 23 4. ~~If the candidate is a registered member of a political party, as defined~~
24 ~~by KRS 118.551, the candidate shall be designated as such on the~~
25 ~~election ballot. If the candidate is not a registered member of a political~~
26 ~~party, as defined by KRS 118.551, the candidate shall be designated as~~
27 ~~"independent" on the election ballot, or may choose to be designated as~~

1 ~~a member of another political organization on the ballot, if such political~~
2 ~~organization is indicated on the candidate's petition for nomination; and~~
3 5. ~~—~~ The successful candidate elected to fill an unexpired term in the office
4 of consolidated local government council member shall take office
5 immediately upon certification of the election results and administration
6 of the oath of office.

7 (b) If the unexpired term will not end on the first Monday in January following
8 the next regular election, and if less than three (3) months intervene before
9 that regular election, the unexpired term shall be filled on the date set for the
10 regular election. Candidates for full terms shall be grouped together, and
11 candidates for unexpired terms shall be grouped together, under appropriate
12 headings, so that the voter may easily distinguish the candidates for full terms
13 from the candidates for unexpired terms.

14 (c) If the unexpired term will end on the first Monday in January following the
15 next regular election, and if less than three (3) months intervene before that
16 regular election, the presiding officer of the council shall appoint a qualified
17 person to fill the vacancy and serve the remainder of the term.

18 ~~(d) [Votes cast pursuant to KRS 117.125(3) shall not be counted for, or assigned~~
19 ~~to, any candidate in an election to fill a vacancy on the council, even if that~~
20 ~~candidate is the only designee of a political party or organization nominated in~~
21 ~~an election to fill a vacancy on the council.~~

22 ~~(e)~~ The order of the names on the ballot for the candidates shall be determined by
23 lot at a public drawing to be held in the office of the county clerk at 4 p.m.,
24 standard time, ten (10) days following the declaration of vacancy.

25 (13) All legislative powers of a consolidated local government are vested in the
26 consolidated local government council. The term "legislative power" is to be
27 construed broadly and shall include the power to:

- 1 (a) Enact ordinances, orders, and resolutions, and override a veto of the mayor by
2 a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the membership of the legislative council;
- 3 (b) Review the budgets of and appropriate money to the consolidated local
4 government;
- 5 (c) Adopt a budget ordinance;
- 6 (d) Levy taxes, subject to the limitations of the Constitution and the laws of the
7 Commonwealth of Kentucky;
- 8 (e) Establish standing and temporary committees; and
- 9 (f) Make independent audits and investigations concerning the affairs of the
10 consolidated local government and any board or commission that:
- 11 1. Is composed of members who are appointed by the mayor and approved
12 by the legislative council; or
- 13 2. Has a budget that is equal to or greater than one million dollars
14 (\$1,000,000.00), except that this subparagraph shall not apply to any fee
15 officer elected within the consolidated local government.
- 16 (14) (a) The consolidated local government council shall establish a Government
17 Oversight and Audit Committee. This committee shall be:
- 18 1. Composed of members from each of the two (2) largest political
19 caucuses in the legislative council;
- 20 2. Appointed by the chairs of their respective caucuses; and
- 21 3. Composed on the basis of the proportion of each of the two (2) caucuses'
22 total membership as compared to the total membership of the legislative
23 council. Any fractional proportions shall be rounded in the favor of the
24 smallest caucus' membership on the committee.
- 25 (b) The committee shall have the power to:
- 26 1. Compel testimony and the submission of work papers or documents;
- 27 2. Issue subpoenas to compel any officer, appointee, or former officer or

1 appointee to a board or commission described in subsection (13)(f) of
2 this section or any department or division of the consolidated local
3 government to appear before the committee and to compel the
4 submission to the committee of any work papers or documents pertinent
5 to an independent audit or investigation. Any subpoenas issued or
6 testimony compelled shall be subject to any relevant statutes concerning
7 privacy. Testimony subject to KRS 61.810 shall only be taken in
8 executive session. The right to privacy or the requirement that testimony
9 be taken in executive session may be waived by the person or entity
10 being subpoenaed or compelled to testify;

11 3. Petition the appropriate Circuit Court to compel obedience by
12 proceedings for contempt as in the case of disobedience of a subpoena
13 issued from the Circuit Court or a refusal to testify therein, if any officer
14 or appointee fails or refuses to testify or furnish the work papers or
15 documents subpoenaed;

16 4. Administer oaths to witnesses appearing before the committee when the
17 committee deems the administration of an oath necessary and advisable
18 as provided by law. This decision to administer oaths shall be taken by a
19 majority vote of the committee of the legislative council; and

20 5. Recommend the removal of any appointee to a board or commission
21 described in subsection (13)(f) of this section.

22 (c) The legislative council of the consolidated local government shall adopt by
23 resolution any process or procedures deemed necessary for the administration
24 of subpoenas and oaths.

25 (d) The legislative council of the consolidated local government may only act to
26 remove an appointee to a board or commission described in subsection (13)(f)
27 of this section upon the recommendation of the Government Oversight and

1 Audit Committee.

2 (e) The Government Oversight and Audit Committee shall have the power to
3 issue subpoenas or administer oaths. Except as provided in KRS 65.003(7),
4 the legislative council of the consolidated local government shall not delegate
5 those powers to any other entity or entities not a part of the legislative council
6 of the consolidated local government.

7 (15) The consolidated local government council shall be known as the legislative council
8 of/..... County Metro Government, which shall be a
9 combination of the names of the largest city in existence in the county on the date
10 of the adoption of the consolidated local government and the county.

11 ➔Section 5. KRS 67C.105 is amended to read as follows:

12 (1) All executive and administrative power of the government shall be vested in the
13 office of the mayor. The term "executive and administrative power" shall be
14 construed broadly. The mayor shall be the chief executive of a consolidated local
15 government formed under the provisions of KRS 67C.101 to 67C.137.

16 (2) (a) The mayor shall be nominated and elected in nonpartisan~~partisan~~ elections
17 for a term of four (4) years in the same election years as other local
18 government officials as regulated by the regular election laws of the
19 Commonwealth.

20 (b) The mayor shall assume office on the first Monday in January following his
21 or her election. He or she shall serve until a successor qualifies.

22 (c) After January 1, 2023, the mayor may serve for no more than two (2)
23 consecutive terms, after which time he or she shall be prohibited from running
24 for election or being appointed as mayor for a period of at least four (4) years.

25 (3) The mayor shall be at least twenty-one (21) years old, a qualified voter~~[- a member~~
26 ~~of his or her political party]~~, and a resident of the territory encompassing the
27 consolidated local government for a period of at least one (1) year prior to his or her

1 election as mayor. The mayor shall continue to reside within the geographic
2 boundary of the consolidated local government throughout his or her term of office.

3 (4) Except as otherwise provided in KRS 67C.101 to 67C.137, the mayor shall have all
4 the power and authority that the mayor of the city of the first class and the county
5 judge/executive exercised under the Constitution and the general laws of the
6 Commonwealth of Kentucky prior to the consolidation.

7 (5) The mayor is authorized to supervise, administer, and control all departments and
8 agencies as may be created by KRS 67C.101 to 67C.137 or created by ordinance.
9 The mayor shall appoint all department and agency directors. The appointees shall
10 serve at the pleasure of the mayor. Specifically, the mayor shall:

11 (a) Prepare and submit an annual report coinciding with the fiscal year, on the
12 state of the consolidated local government, to be presented at a public meeting
13 of the council;

14 (b) Submit an annual budget no fewer than sixty (60) days prior to the end of the
15 fiscal year;

16 (c) Oversee the administration and implementation of the adopted budget
17 ordinance;

18 (d) Enforce the ordinances of the consolidated local government;

19 (e) Supervise all officers, agents, employees, cabinets, departments, offices,
20 agencies, functions, and duties of the consolidated local government;

21 (f) Call special meetings of the consolidated local government council;

22 (g) Appoint and remove his or her own staff at his or her own pleasure;

23 (h) Execute written contracts, subscriptions, agreements, or obligations of the
24 consolidated local government;

25 (i) Approve or veto ordinances and resolutions adopted by the consolidated local
26 government council;

27 (j) Submit any written contracts, subscriptions, agreements, or obligations

1 exceeding the small purchase amount established pursuant to KRS 45A.385 in
2 a resolution to the legislative council for its approval or its disapproval. Those
3 written contracts, subscriptions, agreements, or obligations awarded to the
4 lowest evaluated bid or proposal pursuant to KRS 45A.343 to 45A.460 shall
5 be excluded, unless the legislative council changes the threshold for
6 submission of a resolution. The legislative council may, by ordinance, set
7 threshold amounts other than those established by KRS 45A.385 for the small
8 purchases for submission of a resolution for its approval or disapproval; and

9 (k) Appoint a deputy mayor within seven (7) days of the mayor taking the oath of
10 office and keep the office of deputy mayor filled throughout the mayor's term.

11 The deputy mayor shall:

- 12 1. Meet all the qualifications for mayor established pursuant to subsection
13 (3) of this section;
- 14 2. Serve at the mayor's pleasure and may be replaced by the mayor for any
15 cause; and
- 16 3. Have only the duties assigned to him or her by the mayor.

17 (6) (a) If the office of mayor becomes vacant by reason of death, resignation, or
18 removal:

- 19 1. The deputy mayor shall become the temporary mayor, inheriting all
20 powers and duties of the mayor;
- 21 2. The deputy mayor shall serve as temporary mayor for no more than
22 thirty (30) days until the council, by a majority vote of the members of
23 the council, shall elect a resident of the consolidated local government
24 who meets the qualifications for mayor established pursuant to
25 subsection (3) of this section to serve as mayor. The council may select
26 the temporary mayor for this position. If the legislative council fails to
27 elect a person to fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days after the

1 vacancy occurs, the Governor shall fill the vacancy in the office by
 2 appointment of a qualified person who is a resident of the consolidated
 3 local government and meets the qualifications for mayor established
 4 pursuant to subsection (3) of this section; and

5 3. The tenure of the gubernatorial appointment shall be governed by
 6 Section 152 of the Kentucky Constitution.

7 (b) If the offices of both the mayor and deputy mayor become vacant by reason of
 8 death, resignation, or removal:

9 1. The presiding officer of the consolidated local government council shall
 10 become the temporary mayor, inheriting all powers and duties of the
 11 mayor;

12 2. The presiding officer shall serve as temporary mayor for no more than
 13 thirty (30) days until the council shall, by a majority vote of the
 14 members of the council, elect a resident of the consolidated local
 15 government who meets the qualifications for mayor established pursuant
 16 to subsection (3) of this section. The council may select the temporary
 17 mayor for this position. If the legislative council fails to elect a person to
 18 fill the vacancy within thirty (30) days after the vacancy occurs, the
 19 Governor shall fill the vacancy in the office by appointment of a
 20 qualified person who is a resident of the consolidated local government
 21 and meets the qualifications for mayor established pursuant to
 22 subsection (3) of this section; and

23 3. The tenure of the gubernatorial appointment shall be governed by
 24 Section 152 of the Kentucky Constitution.

25 (7) The mayor of a consolidated local government shall be known as the mayor of
 26 /..... County Metro Government, which shall be a combination
 27 of the names of the largest city in existence in the county on the date of the

1 adoption of the consolidated local government and the county.

2 ➔Section 6. KRS 117.125 is amended to read as follows:

3 No voting system or voting equipment shall be approved for use after January 1, 2024, by
4 the State Board of Elections, either upon initial examination or reexamination, and no
5 voting equipment or voting system shall be purchased after July 14, 2022, unless the
6 system and equipment has been certified under KRS 117.379 and is so constructed that it
7 shall:

- 8 (1) Ensure secrecy to the voter in the act of voting so that no person can see or know
9 for whom any other voter has voted or is voting, except for those voters requiring
10 assistance under KRS 117.255;
- 11 (2) Permit votes to be cast for any candidate entitled to have his or her name printed
12 upon the ballots at any primary, regular election, or special election, and for or
13 against any public question entitled to be placed upon the ballots;
- 14 (3) Except at a primary~~[or at a special election held under KRS 67C.103(12)]~~, permit a
15 voter to vote for all the candidates of one (1) party or for one (1) or more candidates
16 of every party having candidates entitled to be voted for, or for one (1) or more
17 independent, political organization, or political group candidates;
- 18 (4) Permit a voter to vote for as many persons for an office as the voter is lawfully
19 entitled to vote for, and no more;
- 20 (5) Prevent a voter from voting for more persons for any office than the voter is entitled
21 to vote for, and from voting for the same person, or for or against the same
22 question, more than once;
- 23 (6) Permit a voter to vote for or against any question the voter may have the right to
24 vote on, but no other;
- 25 (7) Provide for a nonpartisan ballot;
- 26 (8) Be capable of being adjusted for use in a primary so that a voter may not vote for
27 any person except those seeking nomination as candidates of the voter's party, as

- 1 candidates for a nonpartisan office, or as candidates for an office of the Court of
2 Justice;
- 3 (9) Permit each voter to vote for all the candidates for presidential electors of any party
4 by one (1) operation;
- 5 (10) Permit each voter to vote, in any regular or special election, for any person for
6 whom the voter desires to vote whose name does not appear upon the ballot by
7 providing a method of write-in voting;
- 8 (11) Be safe, efficient, and accurate in the conduct of elections, and correctly register
9 and accurately count all votes cast for each person, and for or against each public
10 question;
- 11 (12) (a) Provide each voter an opportunity to verify votes recorded on the permanent
12 paper ballot, either visually or using assistive voting technology, by producing
13 a voter-verified paper audit trail;
- 14 (b) Provide each voter an opportunity to change votes or correct any error before
15 the voter's ballot is cast and counted; and
- 16 (c) Provide a voter who spoils his or her ballot another ballot as provided under
17 this chapter;
- 18 (13) Use an individual, discrete, permanent, paper ballot cast by the voter for tabulating
19 purposes;
- 20 (14) Preserve the paper ballot as an official record available for use in any audit or
21 recount;
- 22 (15) Be suitably designed for the purpose used, constructed of a durable material, and
23 safely transportable;
- 24 (16) Be capable of determining whether the voting equipment has been unlocked and
25 operated or adjusted in any manner after once being locked;
- 26 (17) Have a public counter with a register which is visible from the outside of the
27 counter or device that will show at all times during an election how many persons

- 1 have voted;
- 2 (18) Have a protective cumulative counter indicating the number of votes cast for each
3 person, and the votes cast for or against each public question which cannot be seen,
4 reset, or tampered with without unlocking a covering device by a key or other
5 security apparatus that cannot unlock any other part of the equipment, and which
6 prevents changes to the cumulative counter once the system has been put into
7 operation on the day of any election;
- 8 (19) Provide for the tabulating of votes at the precinct as required under KRS 117.275;
- 9 (20) Provide locks or other security apparatus by which the operation of the voting
10 equipment may be locked before the time for opening the polls and after the time
11 for closing the polls;
- 12 (21) Permit a voter to readily learn the method of operating it, to expeditiously cast a
13 vote for all candidates and on all questions of the voter's choice, and when operated
14 properly, register and record correctly and accurately every vote cast;
- 15 (22) Bear a number or other unique designation that will distinguish it from any other
16 voting equipment or voting system;
- 17 (23) Produce a real-time audit log record for the voting system, and produce a paper
18 record with a manual audit capacity which shall be available as an official record
19 for any recount conducted related to any primary or election in which the system is
20 used;
- 21 (24) Be accessible for individuals with impairments, including nonvisual accessibility
22 for the blind or visually impaired, in a manner that provides the same opportunity
23 for access and participation, including privacy and independence, as for other
24 voters;
- 25 (25) Prohibit voting equipment that tabulates or aggregates votes used in official results
26 from connecting to any network, including the internet, or communicating with any
27 device external to the voting system;

1 (26) Meet or exceed the standards for a voting system established by the Election
2 Assistance Commission, as amended from time to time, and those approved under
3 KRS 117.379; and

4 (27) Meet such other requirements as may be established by the State Board of Elections
5 in administrative regulations promulgated under KRS Chapter 13A to reflect
6 changes in technology to ensure the integrity and security of voting systems.

7 ➔Section 7. KRS 177.360 is amended to read as follows:

8 (1) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section, the Department of Rural and
9 Municipal Aid shall allocate the funds set apart under KRS 177.320(1) for
10 construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of state-maintained secondary and
11 rural highways as follows:

12 (a) One-fifth (1/5) shall be apportioned equally among the one hundred twenty
13 (120) counties.

14 (b) One-fifth (1/5) shall be apportioned among the one hundred twenty (120)
15 counties on the basis of the ratio which the rural population of each county
16 bears to the total rural population of the state. "Rural population" as used here
17 means the population in a county outside cities, towns, and urban areas having
18 a population of twenty-five hundred (2,500) or more as shown by the most
19 recent decennial census of the United States Bureau of the Census, and county
20 population shall be determined by the most recent decennial census of the
21 United States Bureau of the Census.

22 (c) One-fifth (1/5) shall be apportioned among the one hundred twenty (120)
23 counties on the basis of the ratio that the public road mileage outside of cities,
24 towns, and urban areas having a population of twenty-five hundred (2,500) or
25 more bears to the total mileage of such roads for the entire state.

26 (d) Two-fifths (2/5) shall be apportioned among the one hundred twenty (120)
27 counties on the basis of the ratio which the square-mile rural area of the

1 county bears to the total square-mile rural area of the state. "Rural area" as
2 used here means that area of the county outside of cities, towns, and urban
3 areas having a population of twenty-five hundred (2,500) or more and shown
4 by the most recent decennial census of the United States Bureau of the
5 Census.

6 (2) A sum not exceeding six percent (6%) of the allocation provided by KRS
7 177.320(1) to each county shall be deducted at the beginning of each fiscal year and
8 adjusted quarterly to cover the maintenance, administrative, engineering, and other
9 costs of the program.

10 (3) Of the total amount apportioned by the provisions of this section, a sum not
11 exceeding six percent (6%) may be deducted and placed by the Department of
12 Rural and Municipal Aid in a special emergency account to be expended at the
13 direction of the commissioner to meet unforeseen emergencies on rural and
14 secondary roads and bridges.

15 (4) Apportionments as required by the provisions of this section shall be made on the
16 basis of revenue estimates supplied by the Finance and Administration Cabinet and
17 adjusted quarterly in accordance with the most recent revision of the estimates by
18 the Finance and Administration Cabinet.

19 (5) Any county eligible to receive county road aid moneys in accordance with KRS
20 177.320 and this section shall be required to submit a uniform financial information
21 report to the Department for Local Government in accordance with KRS 65.905
22 before any payment of county road aid funds shall be made. The Department for
23 Local Government shall notify the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid no later
24 than March 1 annually of any county that has not submitted a uniform financial
25 information report. The Department of Rural and Municipal Aid shall, upon
26 notification by the Department for Local Government, immediately suspend all
27 county road aid moneys to the county until the county complies with the provisions

1 of KRS 65.900 to 65.925 and submits the uniform financial information report to
2 the Department for Local Government. The Department for Local Government
3 shall immediately notify the Department of Rural and Municipal Aid to reinstate
4 county road aid moneys to any county affected by this subsection as soon as the
5 county submits the uniform financial information report.

6 **(6) In distributing county road aid funds received by a consolidated local government**
7 **established under KRS Chapter 67C, a consolidated local government shall**
8 **establish procedures to identify project needs in unincorporated areas that**
9 **prioritize consideration of the following factors:**

10 **(a) Population growth;**

11 **(b) Population density; and**

12 **(c) Economic development potential.**

13 ➔Section 8. (1) Each consolidated local government shall establish, support,
14 and maintain through December 31, 2024, a Property Valuation Review Commission.
15 The purpose of this commission shall be to review appropriate records to ensure that the
16 property valuation administrator of the county containing the consolidated local
17 government assesses property within the county consistently and that property types or
18 classifications are assessed uniformly within the boundaries of the consolidated local
19 government for all taxable property assessed as of January 1, 2023. The commission shall
20 identify the various property types or classifications that exist within the boundaries of
21 the county containing the consolidated local government and review sufficient sample
22 properties to determine consistency and uniformity. The property valuation administrator
23 shall cooperate with the requests of the commission for the purposes of this section. The
24 commission shall not disclose any confidential or proprietary information provided to it
25 by the property valuation administrator.

26 (2) The commission shall be composed of seven (7) members appointed by the mayor
27 as follows:

- 1 (a) Three (3) members recommended by an association of realtors active within
2 the county containing the consolidated local government of which one (1)
3 shall be a real estate broker;
- 4 (b) One (1) member recommended by a commercial real estate association active
5 within the county containing the consolidated local government;
- 6 (c) Two (2) members representing a national association of real estate brokers,
7 one (1) of which shall be:
- 8 1. Recommended by a residential appraisal business entity that commonly
9 makes residential appraisals within the county containing the
10 consolidated local government; and
- 11 2. Selected and appointed by the mayor of the consolidated local
12 government under the general authority of this subsection; and
- 13 (d) One (1) member recommended by a local association exclusively representing
14 cities within the county containing the consolidated local government.
- 15 (3) Each entity set out in subsection (2) of this section shall make its recommendations
16 for appointments within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Act. The mayor
17 shall complete the appointment no later than sixty (60) days after the effective date
18 of this Act. Vacancies shall be filled in the same manner as the original
19 appointments and as soon as possible after the vacancy.
- 20 (4) Each member of the commission shall be qualified to evaluate property for tax
21 assessment purposes.
- 22 (5) Commission members shall be entitled only to reimbursement from the
23 consolidated local government for actual expenses incurred in the performance of
24 their duties as commission members.
- 25 (6) The commission shall elect from its members one (1) member to serve as chair, one
26 (1) member to serve as vice-chair, and one (1) member to serve as secretary.
- 27 (7) If the commission selects a property for review in which a commission member has

1 a personal or private interest, that member shall disclose his or her interest to the
2 commission and shall refrain from evaluating that property. Any such disclosure
3 shall be made a public record of the commission.

4 (8) The commission shall make a report of its findings and transmit those findings to
5 the Legislative Research Commission, the mayors and metro councils of the
6 consolidated local governments, and the Finance and Administration Cabinet no
7 later than December 31, 2024, after which the commission shall be dissolved.

8 ➔Section 9. Sections 4, 5, and 6 of this Act take effect January 1, 2025.

9 ➔Section 10. Whereas it is imperative to make the appointments in a timely
10 manner while giving the commission time to perform its task within the time limits, an
11 emergency is declared to exist, and Section 8 of this Act takes effect upon its passage and
12 approval by the Governor or upon its otherwise becoming a law.