

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

SENATE BILL NO. 940

99TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HEGEMAN.

Read 1st time January 22, 2018, and ordered printed.

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary.

5590S.02I

AN ACT

To repeal sections 65.610 and 65.620, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof two new sections relating to the imposition of a tax to fund roads and bridges upon abolishing the township form of county government.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Sections 65.610 and 65.620, RSMo, are repealed and two new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 65.610 and 65.620, to read as follows:

65.610. 1. Upon the petition of at least ten percent of voters at the last general election of any county having heretofore adopted township organization, praying therefor, the county commission shall submit the question of the abolition of township organization to the voters of the county at a general or special election. **The question shall include a countywide tax levy for road and bridge purposes.** The total vote for governor at the last general election before the filing of the petition where a governor was elected shall be used to determine the number of voters necessary to sign the petition. If the petition is filed six months or more prior to a general election, the proposition shall be submitted at a special election to be ordered by the county commission within sixty days after the petition is filed; if the petition is filed less than six months before a general election, then the proposition shall be submitted at the general election next succeeding the filing of the petition. The election shall be conducted, the vote canvassed and the result declared in the same manner as provided by law in respect to elections of county officers. The clerk of the county commission shall give notice that a proposition for the abolition of township organization form of county government in the county is to be voted upon by causing a copy of the

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

18 order of the county commission authorizing such election to be published at least
 19 once each week for three successive weeks, the last insertion to be not more than
 20 one week prior to the election, in some newspaper published in the county where
 21 the election is to be held, if there is a newspaper published in the county and, if
 22 not, by posting printed or written handbills in at least two public places in each
 23 election precinct in the county at least twenty-one days prior to the date of
 24 election. The clerk of the county commission shall provide the ballot which shall
 25 be printed and in substantially the following form:

26 OFFICIAL BALLOT

27 (Check the one for which you wish to vote)

28 Shall township organization form of county government be abolished in
 29 _____ County **and a countywide tax at a rate of collected**
 30 **for road and bridge purposes?**

31 YES NO

32 If a majority of the electors voting upon the proposition shall vote for the
 33 abolition thereof the township organization form of county government shall be
 34 declared to have been abolished; and township organization shall cease in said
 35 county; and except as provided in section 65.620 all laws in force in relation to
 36 counties not having township organization shall immediately take effect and be
 37 in force in such county.

38 2. No election or any proposal for either the adoption of township
 39 organization or for the abolition of township organization in any county shall be
 40 held within two years after an election is held under this section.

65.620. 1. Whenever any county abolishes township organization the
 2 county treasurer and ex officio collector shall immediately settle his accounts as
 3 treasurer with the county commission and shall thereafter perform all duties,
 4 exercise all powers, have all rights and be subject to all liabilities imposed and
 5 conferred upon the county collector of revenue under chapter 52 until the first
 6 Monday in March after the general election next following the abolishment of
 7 township organization and until a collector of revenue for the county is elected
 8 and qualified. The person elected collector at the general election as aforesaid,
 9 if that election is not one for collector of revenue under chapter 52, shall serve
 10 until the first Monday in March following the election and qualification of a
 11 collector of revenue under chapter 52. Upon abolition of township organization
 12 a county treasurer shall be appointed to serve until the expiration of the term of
 13 such officer pursuant to chapter 54.

14 2. Upon abolition of township organization, title to all property of all
15 kinds theretofore owned by the several townships of the county shall vest in the
16 county and the county shall be liable for all outstanding obligations and liabilities
17 of the several townships.

18 3. The terms of office of all township officers shall expire on the abolition
19 of township organization and the township trustee of each township shall
20 immediately settle his accounts with the county clerk and all township officers
21 shall promptly deliver to the appropriate county officers, as directed by the
22 county commission, all books, papers, records and property pertaining to their
23 offices.

24 [4. For a period of one calendar year following the abolition of the
25 townships or until the voters of the county have approved a tax levy for road and
26 bridge purposes, whichever occurs first, the county collector shall continue to
27 collect a property tax on a countywide basis in an amount equal to the tax levied
28 by the township that had the lowest total tax rate in the county immediately
29 prior to the abolishment of the townships. The continued collection of the tax
30 shall be considered a continuation of an existing tax and shall not be considered
31 a new tax levy.]

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