

Act No. 396  
Public Acts of 1996  
Approved by the Governor  
October 6, 1996  
Filed with the Secretary of State  
October 8, 1996

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
88TH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 1996**

Introduced by Senator Shugars

# **ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 734**

AN ACT to amend section 11 of Act No. 156 of the Public Acts of 1851, entitled as amended "An act to define the powers and duties of the county boards of commissioners of the several counties, and to confer upon them certain local, administrative and legislative powers; and to prescribe penalties for the violation of the provisions of this act," as amended by Act No. 22 of the Public Acts of 1996, being section 46.11 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

*The People of the State of Michigan enact:*

Section 1. Section 11 of Act No. 156 of the Public Acts of 1851, as amended by Act No. 22 of the Public Acts of 1996, being section 46.11 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 11. A county board of commissioners, at a lawfully held meeting, may do 1 or more of the following:

(a) Purchase, for the use of the county, real estate necessary for the erection of buildings for the support of the poor of that county and for a farm to be used in connection with that support.

(b) Purchase or lease, for a term not to exceed 20 years, real estate necessary for the site of a courthouse, jail, clerk's office, or other county building in that county.

(c) Determine the site of a county building.

(d) Authorize the sale or lease of real estate belonging to the county, and prescribe the manner in which a conveyance of the real estate is to be executed.

(e) Remove or designate a new site for a county building required to be at the county seat, if the new site is not outside the limits of the village or city in which the county seat is situated, and remove or designate a new site for a county infirmary or medical care facility.

(f) Erect the necessary buildings for jails, clerks' offices, and other county buildings, and prescribe the time and manner of erecting them.

(g) Borrow or raise by tax upon the county those funds authorized by law.

(h) Provide for the repayment of a loan made by the board, by tax upon the county. The loan shall be repaid within 15 years after the date of the loan, except that a loan to erect a county building for a public function shall be repaid within 30 years after the date of the loan.

(i) Prescribe and fix the salaries and compensation of employees of the county if not fixed by law and, except in a county having a board of county auditors, adjust claims against the county. The sum allowed in the adjustment of a claim is subject to appeal as provided by law.

(j) Direct and provide for the raising of money necessary to defray the current expenses and charges of the county and the necessary charges incident to or arising from the execution of the board's lawful authority, subject to the

limitations prescribed in this act. The county board of commissioners may borrow in a year, in anticipation of the levy or collection of taxes for the year, a sum of money, not exceeding 50% of the tax to be levied or collected for the general fund of the county, necessary to defray current expenses of the county. The money borrowed shall be repaid from the tax when levied and collected.

(k) Abolish or revive the distinctions between township and county poor.

(l) Authorize the making of a new tax roll.

(m) By majority vote of the members of the county board of commissioners elected and serving, pass ordinances that relate to county affairs and do not contravene the general laws of this state or interfere with the local affairs of a township, city, or village within the limits of the county, and pursuant to section 10b provide suitable sanctions for the violation of those ordinances. The board may change the limits of a city, village, or school district within the county as provided by law. If there is not a general law governing the subject, or if a change cannot be made pursuant to a general law, the board may change the limits of the village upon petition of at least 10% of the resident taxpayers. An ordinance or act of incorporation provided in this subdivision shall take effect when notice of the adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The clerk of the county board of commissioners shall engross each ordinance or act, and it shall be signed by the chairperson of the county board of commissioners and certified by the clerk of the county board of commissioners. If, within 50 days after the county board of commissioners adopts an ordinance or act, a petition signed by not less than 20% of the electors residing in the district to be affected by the ordinance or act is filed with the county clerk asking that the ordinance or act be submitted to electors of the district to be affected by the ordinance or act for approval or rejection, then the ordinance or act shall not take effect until it is approved by a majority of the electors of the district affected voting on that issue at a regular or special election called for that purpose. The county board of commissioners shall provide the manner of submitting the ordinance or act to the electors for their approval and of determining the result of the election.

(n) Require a county officer whose salary or compensation is paid by the county to make a report under oath to the county board of commissioners on any subject connected with the duties of that office and require the officer to give a bond reasonable or necessary for the faithful performance of the duties of the office. An officer who neglects or refuses either to make a report or give a bond within a reasonable time after being required to do so may be removed from office by the board by a vote of 2/3 of the members elected or appointed, and the office declared vacant. The board may fill the vacancy for the unexpired portion of the term for which the officer was elected or appointed. If an election occurs before the expiration of the unexpired term, and if the office is elective, the vacancy shall be filled at that election. The board shall give reasonable notice of the election to fill the vacancy.

(o) Authorize a township in the county, by a vote of the electors of the township, to borrow or raise by tax upon the township money to build or repair roads or bridges in the township, or in the use of which the township is interested, and to prescribe the time for the repayment of a loan, which shall be within 15 years, and for assessing the principal and interest on the loan upon the township. If a road or bridge is situated partly in 1 township and partly in another, or on the line between townships, or if a township has a particular local interest in the construction or repair of a bridge, the county board of commissioners may determine, under the regulations the board establishes, the proportion that a township shall contribute to the building and repairing of the road or bridge. The amount apportioned to the township shall be assessed and collected in the same manner as other township taxes are assessed and collected by law.

(p) Represent the county and have the care and management of the property and business of the county if other provisions are not made.

(q) Establish rules and regulations in reference to the management of the interest and business concerns of the county as the board considers necessary and proper in all matters not especially provided for in this act or under the laws of this state. The county board of commissioners shall not audit or allow a claim, including a bill or charge, against the county unless the claim has been filed with the county clerk of the county before the fourth day of a regular meeting of the board, or before the second day of an adjourned or other meeting, the claim is contracted by the board during the session of the board or the claim is for mileage and per diem of the members of the board. The county clerk shall keep a book of all claims in the order in which the claims are presented, giving the name of each claimant and the amount and date of presentation of each claim. The book, after the time prescribed for the presentation of claims, shall be delivered to the chairperson for the use of the board. At the October session, the board, by a vote of 2/3 of the members, may receive and allow accounts that have wholly accrued during the session.

(r) Subject to subdivision (s), remove an officer or agent appointed by the board if, in the board's opinion, the officer or agent is incompetent to execute properly the duties of the office or if, on charges and evidence, the board is satisfied that the officer or agent is guilty of official misconduct, or habitual or willful neglect of duty, and if the misconduct or neglect is a sufficient cause for removal. However, an officer or agent shall not be removed for that misconduct or neglect unless charges of misconduct or neglect are preferred to the county board of commissioners or the chairperson of the county board of commissioners, notice of the hearing, with a copy of the charges, is delivered to the officer or agent, and a full opportunity is given the officer or agent to be heard, either in person or by counsel.

(s) If the county has an appointed county manager or other appointed chief administrative officer or a county controller, the county board of commissioners may enter into an employment contract with that officer. The term of the

employment contract may extend beyond the terms of the members of the county board of commissioners. The term of the employment contract shall be 3 years or less, unless the employment contract is entered into on or after August 1 of an even-numbered year, in which case the term of the employment contract shall be 1 year or less. However, in a county organized under Act No. 293 of the Public Acts of 1966, being sections 45.501 to 45.521 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, with an appointed chief administrative officer, an employment contract with the appointed chief administrative officer shall be for the term provided by section 11a of Act No. 293 of the Public Acts of 1966, being section 45.511a of the Michigan Compiled Laws. An employment contract under this subdivision shall be in writing and shall specify the compensation to be paid to the officer, any procedure for changing the compensation, any fringe benefits, and any other conditions of employment. If the officer serves at the pleasure of the county board of commissioners, the contract shall so state and may provide for severance pay or other benefits in the event the employment of the officer is terminated at the pleasure of the county board of commissioners.

(t) Establish rules consistent with the open meetings act, Act No. 267 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 15.261 to 15.275 of the Michigan Compiled Laws, for the manner of proceeding before the board.

(u) Acquire by exchange land needed for county purposes, including the purchase of land to be used in exchange for other land of approximate equal value owned by the federal government and needed for county purposes.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Secretary of the Senate.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved -----

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Governor.