

SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE BILL NO. 881

A bill to amend 1973 PA 139, entitled

"An act to provide forms of county government; to provide for county managers and county executives and to prescribe their powers and duties; to abolish certain departments, boards, commissions, and authorities; to provide for transfer of certain powers and functions; to prescribe powers of a board of county commissioners and elected officials; to provide organization of administrative functions; to transfer property; to retain ordinances and laws not inconsistent with this act; to provide methods for abolition of a unified form of county government; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies,"

by amending section 9 (MCL 45.559), as amended by 1980 PA 100,
and by adding section 9a.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 9. (1) A county executive who is a qualified elector
2 in the county shall be elected on a partisan basis for a term of
3 4 years concurrent with ~~that~~ **the term** of the county prosecuting
4 attorney, county clerk, county register of deeds, county
5 treasurer, county sheriff, elected county auditors, and county
6 drain commissioner. ~~The first term of office of~~ **If** a county

1 executive ~~—, when~~ **is** elected at an election different than the
 2 election for county officers, **his or her first term** shall extend
 3 only until the January following the election ~~—at which—~~ **for**
 4 county officers. ~~—are elected.~~

5 (2) The first county executive may be nominated in the same
 6 or next primary or general election held after the election in
 7 which alternate B is approved. The county executive shall then
 8 be elected in the next regular primary or general election
 9 occurring not less than 30 days nor more than 90 days after the
 10 date of the election in which alternate B is approved or in which
 11 he or she was nominated. If a primary or general election is not
 12 scheduled during ~~the~~ **that** period, the ~~county executive shall~~
 13 ~~be elected at a special election called by the~~ board of county
 14 commissioners ~~for this purpose within the period. Thereafter,~~
 15 ~~the~~ **shall call a special election to elect a county executive.**
 16 **The** county executive shall be nominated and elected ~~in~~
 17 ~~accordance with and subject~~ **pursuant** to the laws applicable to
 18 the nomination and election of other county officials.

19 (3) If the first election of a county executive is a special
 20 election for that purpose only, and ~~not more than~~ **only** 1
 21 candidate for each political party qualifies to have his or her
 22 name appear on the primary ballot, a primary election shall not
 23 be held, and the candidate qualifying shall be certified as the
 24 nominee of the political party for which he or she filed.

25 (4) ~~The~~ **Except as provided under section 9a, if the** office
 26 of elected county executive ~~which~~ becomes vacant due to
 27 resignation or death, **the vacancy** shall be filled by appointment

1 of the board of county commissioners until the next general
2 election. A new county executive shall be elected at the next
3 general election after the resignation or death of a county
4 executive and in the manner provided in this section for the
5 election of county executives. The newly elected county
6 executive shall serve a term equal to the balance of the term for
7 which the county executive who resigned or died was elected.

8 (5) The salary of the county executive for the initial term
9 shall be established by the board of county commissioners ~~not~~
10 ~~less than~~ **at least** 6 months before the **effective** date of the
11 optional unified form of county government, containing alternate
12 B. ~~becomes effective.~~ The salary shall be established by the
13 board consistent with the procedures established for other
14 elected officials. The county executive's salary shall be
15 commensurate with the duties and responsibilities of the office.
16 The salary of a county executive shall not be reduced during his
17 or her term of office except as part of a general salary
18 reduction.

19 **Sec. 9a. (1) For counties with a population of more than**
20 **1,000,000, if a vacancy occurs in the office of the elected**
21 **county executive due to death or resignation of the elected**
22 **county executive, the chief deputy shall take the constitutional**
23 **oath of office and serve as the county executive until the county**
24 **board of commissioners appoints a successor to the elected county**
25 **executive or until a special election is held as provided by**
26 **law.**

27 (2) If the county board of commissioners elects to appoint a

Senate Bill No. 881 as amended December 11, 2003

1 successor, the appointment shall be made no later than 30 days
2 from the date of the death or resignation. A county executive
3 appointed by the county board of commissioners shall serve until
4 the next general election. If the county board of commissioners
5 does not make an appointment within the required 30 days under
6 this subsection, a special election shall be held at the earliest
7 possible date allowed by law.

8 (3) If the chief deputy is unable to serve as the county
9 executive due to death or resignation of the chief deputy, the
10 next highest ranking deputy shall take the constitutional oath of
11 office and serve as the county executive until the county board
12 of commissioners appoints a successor as provided under
13 subsection (1) or until a special election is held as provided by
14 law.

15 (4) A new county executive shall be elected at the next
16 general election after the death or resignation of a county
17 executive as provided in section 9 for the election of county
18 executives. The newly elected county executive shall serve a
19 term equal to the balance of the term for which the county <<executive
20 who died or resigned was elected.>>

21 (5) Within 10 days after being sworn in, the county executive
22 shall appoint a chief deputy. The county executive may also
23 appoint additional deputies whom he or she considers necessary to
24 perform the functions and duties of the office of elected county
25 executive.

26 (6) The county executive shall file a statement with the
27 county clerk identifying the individual appointed as chief deputy
and all other individuals appointed as a deputy or assistant

1 deputy. The statement shall also identify the ranking order of
2 the deputies.

3 (7) If the county executive is absent or unable to perform
4 the duties of his or her office, the chief deputy shall perform
5 the duties of the county executive until such time that the
6 elected county executive can resume the duties of his or her
7 office.

8 (8) The county executive may revoke his or her appointments
9 at any time.