

# SENATE BILL NO. 245

March 16, 2021, Introduced by Senators MOSS and MCBROOM and referred to the Committee on Local Government.

A bill to amend 1966 PA 293, entitled

"An act to provide for the establishment of charter counties; to provide for the election of charter commissioners; to prescribe their powers and duties; to prohibit certain acts of a county board of commissioners after the approval of the election of a charter commission; to prescribe the mandatory and permissive provisions of a charter; to provide for the exercise by a charter county of certain powers whether or not authorized by its charter; and to prescribe penalties and provide remedies,"

by amending section 14 (MCL 45.514), as amended by 2017 PA 210.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

**1**           Sec. 14. (1) A county charter adopted under this act must

1 provide for all of the following:

2 (a) In a county that has a population of less than 1,500,000,  
3 for a salaried county executive, who ~~shall be~~ **is** elected at large  
4 on a partisan basis, and for the county executive's authority,  
5 duties, and responsibilities. In a county that has a population of  
6 1,500,000 or more, a county charter adopted under this act must  
7 provide for a form of executive government described and adopted  
8 under section 11a.

9 (b) The election of a legislative body to be known as the  
10 county board of commissioners, ~~whose term of office must be~~  
11 ~~concurrent with that of state representatives,~~ and for their  
12 authority, duties, responsibilities, and number, ~~which that~~ must be  
13 not less than 5 or more than 21. **Until December 31, 2024, the term**  
14 **of office of members of the county board of commissioners is**  
15 **concurrent with that of state representatives. Beginning January 1,**  
16 **2025, the term of office of members of the county board of**  
17 **commissioners is as specified in section 10(2) of 1966 PA 261, MCL**  
18 **46.410.** The county board of commissioners shall provide by  
19 ordinance for their compensation and may increase or decrease their  
20 compensation. A change in compensation is not effective during the  
21 term of office for which the legislative body making the change was  
22 elected. The charter must also provide for the partisan election of  
23 members of the legislative body from single-member districts to be  
24 established by the county apportionment commission as created in  
25 section 5 and under the standards and guidelines established in  
26 section 5 for reapportionment based on the last official federal  
27 decennial census, effective at the first regular general election  
28 of the members of the legislative body occurring not less than 12  
29 months after the completion and certification of the federal

1 **decennial** census. Each city and township must be apportioned so  
2 that it has the largest possible number of complete districts  
3 within its boundaries before any part of the city or township is  
4 joined to territory outside the boundaries of the city or township  
5 to form a district.

6 (c) The partisan election of a sheriff, a prosecuting  
7 attorney, a county clerk, a county treasurer, and a register of  
8 deeds, and for the authority of the county board of commissioners  
9 to combine the county clerk and register of deeds into 1 office as  
10 authorized by law.

11 (d) Except as provided in subdivision (c), the continuation of  
12 all existing county offices, boards, commissions, and departments  
13 whether established by law or by action of the county board of  
14 commissioners; the performance of their respective duties by other  
15 county offices, boards, commissions, and departments; or the  
16 discontinuance of these county offices, boards, commissions, and  
17 departments. Notwithstanding this subdivision in relation to  
18 existing county offices, boards, commissions, and departments, a  
19 county charter must insure the following:

20 (i) Except as otherwise provided under subsection (2), in a  
21 county that has a population of less than 1,500,000, the charter  
22 must not be in derogation of the powers and duties of the county  
23 road commission in the exercise of its statutory duties concerning  
24 the preservation of a county road system. The charter for these  
25 counties must provide for the creation of a commission that  
26 consists of not fewer than 3 or more than 5 members. Not less than  
27 1 member of the commission must be a resident of a township within  
28 the county.

29 (ii) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (2), in a

1 county that has a population of 1,500,000 or more, the charter must  
2 provide for the continuation of a county road system within the  
3 county. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this act, the  
4 charter described in this subparagraph must provide that  
5 responsibility for the determination of the expenditure of all  
6 funds for road construction and road maintenance and for carrying  
7 out the powers and duties pertaining to a county road system as  
8 provided in sections 9 to 32 of chapter IV of 1909 PA 283, MCL  
9 224.9 to 224.32, is vested in a commission that consists of not  
10 fewer than 3 or more than 5 members. The charter must provide that  
11 1 member of the commission is a resident of the most populous city  
12 in the county, 1 member is a resident of a city other than the most  
13 populous city within the county, and 1 member is a resident of a  
14 township within the county. The charter must provide that the  
15 commission is appointed by either the elected county executive or  
16 the chief administrative officer. Appointment to the commission  
17 ~~must require~~ **requires** advice and consent by a majority of the  
18 county board of commissioners elected and serving not more than 60  
19 days after the appointment. If the county board of commissioners  
20 does not vote on the appointment within 60 days, the appointment is  
21 final. The charter may provide for the number of members and a  
22 fixed term of years for the members of the commission, but the  
23 charter must provide that the members of the commission may be  
24 removed at the pleasure of the elected county executive or the  
25 chief administrative officer. The charter must specify duties and  
26 procedures to assure that administrative decisions made for road  
27 construction are coordinated with administrative decisions made for  
28 other programs which relate to roads. As used in this subparagraph,  
29 "road construction" means all of the following:

1 (A) The building of a new road or street and the improving of  
2 an existing road or street by correction grades, drainage  
3 structures, width, alignment, or surface.

4 (B) The building of bridges or grade separations and the  
5 repair of these structures by strengthening, widening, and the  
6 replacement of piers and abutments.

7 (C) The initial signing of newly constructed roads or streets,  
8 major resigning of projects, and the installation, replacement, or  
9 improvement of traffic signals.

10 (e) Subject to section 15c, the continuation and  
11 implementation of a system of pensions and retirement for county  
12 officers and employees in those counties that have a system in  
13 effect at the time of the adoption of the charter. The system  
14 provided under the charter must recognize the accrued rights and  
15 benefits of the officers and employees under the system then in  
16 effect. The charter must not infringe on ~~nor~~**or** be in derogation of  
17 those accrued rights and benefits. Subject to section 15c, the  
18 charter must not preclude future modification of the system.

19 (f) The continuation and implementation of a system of civil  
20 service in those counties having a system at the time of the  
21 adoption of the charter. The system of civil service provided under  
22 the charter must recognize the rights and status of persons under  
23 the civil service system then in effect. The charter must not  
24 infringe on ~~nor~~**or** be in derogation of those rights and that  
25 status. The charter must not preclude future modification of the  
26 system. Except as provided in subdivision (d), the charter must  
27 provide that the system of civil service be coordinated among the  
28 county offices, boards, commissions, and departments.

29 (g) That the general statutes and local acts of this state

1 regarding counties and county officers will continue in effect  
 2 except to the extent that this act permits the charter to provide  
 3 otherwise, if the charter does in fact provide otherwise.

4 (h) That all ordinances of the county will remain in effect  
 5 unless changed by the charter or an ordinance adopted under the  
 6 charter.

7 (i) The power and authority to adopt, amend, and repeal any  
 8 ordinance authorized by law or necessary to carry out any power,  
 9 function, or service authorized by this act and by the charter.

10 (j) The power and authority to enter into any  
 11 intergovernmental contract ~~which~~**that** is not specifically  
 12 prohibited by law.

13 (k) The power and authority to join, establish, or form with  
 14 any other governmental unit an intergovernmental district or  
 15 authority for the purpose of performing a public function or  
 16 service, ~~which~~**that** each is authorized to perform separately ~~and~~  
 17 the performance of which is not prohibited by law.

18 (l) A debt limit of not to exceed 10% of the state equalized  
 19 value of the taxable property within the county.

20 (m) The levy and collection of taxes, the fixing of an ad  
 21 valorem property tax limitation of not to exceed 1% of the state  
 22 equalized value of the taxable property within the county, and that  
 23 the levy of taxes from within this ad valorem property tax  
 24 limitation must not exceed, unless otherwise approved by the  
 25 electors, the tax rate in mills, equal to the number of mills  
 26 allocated to the county either by a county tax allocation board or  
 27 by a separate tax limitation under the property tax limitation act,  
 28 1933 PA 62, MCL 211.201 to 211.217a, in the year immediately  
 29 preceding the year in which the county adopts a charter.

1 (n) Initiative and referendum on all matters within the scope  
2 of the county's power and authority; and for the recall of all  
3 county officials.

4 (o) Amendment or revision of the charter initiated either by  
5 action of the legislative body of the county or by initiatory  
6 process. An amendment or revision ~~must-is~~ not ~~become~~ effective  
7 unless the amendment or revision is submitted to the electorate of  
8 the county and approved by a majority of those voting.

9 (p) That the acquisition, operation, and sale of public  
10 utility facilities for furnishing light, heat, or power ~~must be~~ **are**  
11 subject to the same restrictions as imposed on cities and villages  
12 by the state constitution of 1963 and applicable law.

13 (q) Annual preparation, review, approval, and adherence to a  
14 balanced budget in a manner which assures coordination among the  
15 county offices, boards, commissions, and departments, except as  
16 provided in subdivision (d).

17 (r) An annual audit by an independent certified public  
18 accountant of all county funds.

19 (s) That a county that incurs a budget deficit in any fiscal  
20 year shall prepare and submit a detailed and specific 5-year plan  
21 for short-term financial recovery and long-range financial  
22 stability to the governor and the legislature, before adoption of  
23 the next annual county budget, for review. The 5-year plan must  
24 include, but not be limited to, a projection of annual revenues and  
25 expenditures, an employee classification and pay plan, a capital  
26 improvements budget, and equipment replacement schedules.

27 (2) Subsection (1)(d) does not apply to a county in which the  
28 charter is amended to provide for an alternative method of carrying  
29 out the powers and duties ~~which-that~~ are otherwise provided by law

1 for a board of county road commissioners.

2 (3) The county board of commissioners may by resolution  
3 provide for staggered terms of office for the road commissioners  
4 under subsection (1)(d) so that not more than 2 road commissioners'  
5 terms of office expire in the same year.

6 Enacting section 1. This amendatory act does not take effect  
7 unless Senate Bill No. 242 of the 101st Legislature is enacted into  
8 law.