

**MICHIGAN PLANNING ENABLING ACT (EXCERPT)**  
**Act 33 of 2008**  
**ARTICLE II.**  
**PLANNING COMMISSION CREATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

**125.3811 Planning commission; creation; adoption of ordinance by local unit of government; notice required; exception; adoption of charter provision by city or home rule village; effect of repeal of planning act; continued exercise or transfer of powers and duties of zoning board or zoning commission.**

Sec. 11.

(1) A local unit of government may adopt an ordinance creating a planning commission with powers and duties provided in this act. The planning commission of a local unit of government shall be officially called "the planning commission", even if a charter, ordinance, or resolution uses a different name such as "plan board" or "planning board".

(2) Within 14 days after a local unit of government adopts an ordinance under subsection (1) creating a planning commission, the clerk of the local unit shall transmit notice of the adoption to the planning commission of the county where the local unit is located. However, if there is not a county planning commission or if the local unit adopting the ordinance is a county, notice shall be transmitted to the regional planning commission engaged in planning for the region within which the local unit is located. Notice under this subsection is not required when a planning commission created before the effective date of this act continues in existence under this act, but is required when an ordinance governing or creating a planning commission is amended or superseded under section 81(2)(b) or (3)(b).

(3) If, after the effective date of this act, a city or home rule village adopts a charter provision providing for a planning commission, the charter provision shall be implemented by an ordinance that conforms to this act. Section 81(2) provides for the continuation of a planning commission created by a charter provision adopted before the effective date of this act.

(4) Section 81(3) provides for the continuation of a planning commission created under a planning act repealed under section 85.

(5) Section 83 provides for the continued exercise by a planning commission, or the transfer to a planning commission, of the powers and duties of a zoning board or zoning commission.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

**125.3813 Planning commission; effect of township ordinance; number of days; petition requesting submission of ordinance to electors; filing; petition subject to Michigan election law; violation.**

Sec. 13.

(1) Subject to subsection (2), a township ordinance creating a planning commission under this act shall take effect 63 days after the ordinance is published by the township board in a newspaper having general circulation in the township.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), before a township ordinance creating a planning commission takes effect, a petition may be filed with the township clerk requesting the submission of the ordinance to the electors residing in the unincorporated portion of the township for their approval or rejection. The petition shall be signed by a number of qualified and registered electors residing in the unincorporated portion of the township equal to not less than 8% of the total vote cast for all candidates for governor, at the last preceding general election at which a governor was elected. If such a petition is filed, the ordinance shall not take effect until approved by a majority of the electors residing in the unincorporated portion of the township voting thereon at the next regular or special election that allows reasonable time for proper notices and printing of ballots or at any special election called for that purpose, as determined by the township board. The township board shall specify the language of the ballot question.

(3) Subsection (2) does not apply if the planning commission created by the ordinance is the successor to an existing zoning commission or zoning board as provided for under section 301 of the Michigan zoning enabling act, 2006 PA 110, MCL 125.3301.

(4) If a township board does not on its own initiative adopt an ordinance under this act creating a planning commission, a petition may be filed with the township clerk requesting the township board to adopt such an ordinance. The petition shall be signed by a number of qualified and registered electors as provided in subsection

(2). If such a petition is filed, the township board, at its first meeting following the filing shall submit the question to the electors of the township in the same manner as provided under subsection (2).

(5) A petition under this section, including the circulation and signing of the petition, is subject to section 488 of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.488. A person who violates a provision of the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992, applicable to a petition described in this section is subject to the penalties prescribed for that violation in the Michigan election law, 1954 PA 116, MCL 168.1 to 168.992.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

**125.3815 Planning commission; membership; appointment; terms; vacancy; representation; qualifications; ex-officio members; board serving as planning commission; removal of member; conditions; conflict of interest; additional requirements.**

**Sec. 15.**

(1) In a municipality, the chief elected official shall appoint members of the planning commission, subject to approval by a majority vote of the members of the legislative body elected and serving. In a county, the county board of commissioners shall determine the method of appointment of members of the planning commission by resolution of a majority of the full membership of the county board.

(2) A city, village, or township planning commission shall consist of 5, 7, or 9 members. A county planning commission shall consist of 5, 7, 9, or 11 members. Members of a planning commission other than ex officio members under subsection (5) shall be appointed for 3-year terms. However, of the members of the planning commission, other than ex officio members, first appointed, a number shall be appointed to 1-year or 2-year terms such that, as nearly as possible, the terms of 1/3 of all the planning commission members will expire each year. If a vacancy occurs on a planning commission, the vacancy must be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as provided for an original appointment. A member shall hold office until a successor is appointed.

(3) The membership of a planning commission must be representative of important segments of the community, such as the economic, governmental, educational, and social development of the local unit of government, in accordance with the major interests of the local unit of government, such as agriculture, natural resources, recreation, education, public health, government, transportation, industry, housing, and commerce. The membership must also be representative of the entire territory of the local unit of government to the extent practicable.

(4) Members of a planning commission must be qualified electors of the local unit of government. However, the following number of planning commission members may be individuals who are not qualified electors of the local unit of government but are qualified electors of another local unit of government:

(a) 3, in a city that on September 1, 2008 had a population of more than 2,700 but less than 2,800.

(b) 2, in a city or village that has, or on September 1, 2008 had, a population of less than 5,000, except as provided in subdivision (a).

(c) 1, in a local unit of government not described in subdivision (a) or (b).

(5) In a township that on September 1, 2008 had a planning commission created under former 1931 PA 285, 1 member of the legislative body or the chief elected official, or both, may be appointed to the planning commission as ex officio members. In any other township, 1 member of the legislative body must be appointed to the planning commission as an ex officio member. In a city, village, or county, the chief administrative official or an individual designated by the chief administrative official, if any, the chief elected official, 1 or more members of the legislative body, or any combination thereof, may be appointed to the planning commission as ex officio members, unless prohibited by charter. However, in a city, village, or county, not more than 1/3 of the members of the planning commission may be ex officio members. Except as provided in this subsection, an elected officer or employee of the local unit of government is not eligible to be a member of the planning commission. The term of an ex officio member of a planning commission is as follows:

(a) The term of a chief elected official must correspond to the individual's term as chief elected official.

(b) The term of a chief administrative official expires with the term of the chief elected official that appointed the chief administrative official.

(c) The term of a member of the legislative body expires with the member's term on the legislative body.

(6) For a county planning commission, the county shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that the membership of the county planning commission includes a member of a public school board or an administrative employee of a school district located, in whole or in part, within the county's boundaries. This subsection applies each time an appointment is to be made to the planning commission, unless an incumbent is being reappointed or an

ex officio member is being appointed under subsection (5).

(7) Subject to subsection (8), a city or village that has a population of less than 5,000, and that has not created a planning commission by charter, may by an ordinance adopted under section 11(1) provide that 1 of the following boards serve as its planning commission:

(a) The board of directors of the economic development corporation of the city or village created under the economic development corporations act, 1974 PA 338, MCL 125.1601 to 125.1636.

(b) The board of a downtown development authority created under part 2 of the recodified tax increment financing act, 2018 PA 57, MCL 125.4201 to 125.4230, if the boundaries of the downtown district are the same as the boundaries of the city or village.

(c) The board of a tax increment finance authority under part 3 of the recodified tax increment financing act, 2018 PA 57, MCL 125.4301 to 125.4329, if the boundaries of the authority district are the same as the boundaries of the city or village.

(8) Subsections (1) to (5) do not apply to a planning commission established under subsection (7). All other provisions of this act apply to a planning commission established under subsection (7).

(9) The legislative body may remove a member of the planning commission for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office on written charges and after a public hearing. Before casting a vote on a matter on which a member may reasonably be considered to have a conflict of interest, the member shall disclose the potential conflict of interest to the planning commission. The member is disqualified from voting on the matter if so provided by the bylaws or by a majority vote of the remaining members of the planning commission. Failure of a member to disclose a potential conflict of interest as required by this subsection constitutes malfeasance in office. Unless the legislative body, by ordinance, defines conflict of interest for the purposes of this subsection, the planning commission shall do so in its bylaws.

(10) An ordinance creating a planning commission may impose additional requirements relevant to the subject matter of, but not inconsistent with, this section.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008 ;-- Am. 2010, Act 105, Imd. Eff. June 29, 2010 ;-- Am. 2024, Act 153, Eff. Apr. 2, 2025

### **125.3817 Chairperson, secretary, and other offices; election; terms; appointment of advisory committees.**

#### **Sec. 17.**

(1) A planning commission shall elect a chairperson and secretary from its members and create and fill other offices as it considers advisable. An ex officio member of the planning commission is not eligible to serve as chairperson. The term of each officer shall be 1 year, with opportunity for reelection as specified in bylaws adopted under section 19.

(2) A planning commission may appoint advisory committees whose members are not members of the planning commission.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

### **125.3819 Bylaws; adoption; public record requirements; annual report by planning commission.**

#### **Sec. 19.**

(1) A planning commission shall adopt bylaws for the transaction of business, and shall keep a public record of its resolutions, transactions, findings, and determinations.

(2) A planning commission shall make an annual written report to the legislative body concerning its operations and the status of planning activities, including recommendations regarding actions by the legislative body related to planning and development.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

**125.3821 Meetings; frequency; time; place; special meeting; notice; compliance with open meetings act; availability of writings to public.**

Sec. 21.

(1) A planning commission shall hold not less than 4 regular meetings each year, and by resolution shall determine the time and place of the meetings. Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, a special meeting of the planning commission may be called by the chairperson or by 2 other members, upon written request to the secretary. Unless the bylaws provide otherwise, the secretary shall send written notice of a special meeting to planning commission members not less than 48 hours before the meeting.

(2) The business that a planning commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting of the planning commission held in compliance with the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275. Public notice of the time, date, and place of a regular or special meeting shall be given in the manner required by that act.

(3) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by a planning commission in the performance of an official function shall be made available to the public in compliance with the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

**125.3823 Compensation; expenses; preparation of budget; acceptance of gifts.**

Sec. 23.

(1) Members of a planning commission may be compensated for their services as provided by the legislative body. A planning commission may adopt bylaws relative to compensation and expenses of its members and employees for travel when engaged in the performance of activities authorized by the legislative body, including, but not limited to, attendance at conferences, workshops, educational and training programs, and meetings.

(2) After preparing the annual report required under section 19, a planning commission may prepare a detailed budget and submit the budget to the legislative body for approval or disapproval. The legislative body annually may appropriate funds for carrying out the purposes and functions permitted under this act, and may match local government funds with federal, state, county, or other local government or private grants, contributions, or endowments.

(3) A planning commission may accept gifts for the exercise of its functions. However, in a township, other than a township that on the effective date of this act had a planning commission created under former 1931 PA 285, only the township board may accept such gifts, on behalf of the planning commission. A gift of money so accepted in either case shall be deposited with the treasurer of the local unit of government in a special nonreverting planning commission fund for expenditure by the planning commission for the purpose designated by the donor. The treasurer shall draw a warrant against the special nonreverting fund only upon receipt of a voucher signed by the chairperson and secretary of the planning commission and an order drawn by the clerk of the local unit of government. The expenditures of a planning commission, exclusive of gifts and grants, shall be within the amounts appropriated by the legislative body.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008

**125.3825 Employment of planning director and other personnel; contract for services; use of information and advice provided by public officials, departments, and agencies.**

Sec. 25.

(1) A local unit of government may employ a planning director and other personnel as it considers necessary,

contract for the services of planning and other technicians, and incur other expenses, within a budget authorized by the legislative body. This authority shall be exercised by the legislative body, unless a charter provision or ordinance delegates this authority to the planning commission or another body or official. The appointment of employees is subject to the same provisions of law as govern other corresponding civil employees of the local unit of government.

(2) For the purposes of this act, a planning commission may make use of maps, data, and other information and expert advice provided by appropriate federal, state, regional, county, and municipal officials, departments, and agencies. All public officials, departments, and agencies shall make available public information for the use of planning commissions and furnish such other technical assistance and advice as they may have for planning purposes.

**History:** 2008, Act 33, Eff. Sept. 1, 2008