

Senate Fiscal Agency
P. O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

SFA**BILL ANALYSIS**

Telephone: (517) 373-5383
Fax: (517) 373-1986
TDD: (517) 373-0543

Senate Bill 809 (as introduced 11-13-97)
Sponsor: Senator Walter H. North
Committee: Government Operations

Date Completed: 5-12-98

CONTENT

The bill would amend Public Act 156 of 1851, which prescribes the powers and duties of county boards of commissioners, to increase the number of signatures required to initiate proceedings for the consolidation of townships within a county. Currently, proceedings for consolidation may be initiated by the filing of a petition with the county board of commissioners signed by a number of registered electors, who are residents of the area proposed to be consolidated, equal to at least 5% of the total population of each of the affected townships. The bill would increase the minimum signature requirement to 20%.

Under the Act, if the board finds that a petition for consolidation has met the conditions prescribed in the Act, the board must submit the proposal to the voters of the affected townships. The board must reject the petition if a proposal to consolidate the same townships had been voted on within the preceding two years.

MCL 46.16b

Legislative Analyst: G. Towne

FISCAL IMPACT

This bill would increase the number of signatures required from at least 5% to not less than 20% of the township residents in each township to consolidate two or more townships. Although local unit consolidations may reduce expenses, no townships have consolidated in several years. This bill would have no State fiscal impact.

Fiscal Analyst: R. Ross

S9798\S809SA

This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan Senate staff for use by the Senate in its deliberations and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.