

SENATE BILL No. 198

By Senator Steineger

2-4

9 AN ACT concerning counties; relating to the establishment of county
10 consolidation commission.

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12 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

13 Section 1. (a) The governor shall appoint a 12-member county uni-
14 fication study commission. The appointments shall be made by May 30,
15 2009. No more than seven members of the commission shall be from the
16 same political party. At least two members shall be from each congres-
17 sional district. Members of the commission shall include, but not be lim-
18 ited to, persons with experience in business mergers and consolidations,
19 business management, business finance, municipal finance, law, educa-
20 tion, political science or public administration.

21 (b) Members of the commission shall be paid compensation, subsis-
22 tence allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided by K.S.A. 75-
23 3223, and amendments thereto.

24 (c) The governor shall appoint an executive director of the commis-
25 sion. The executive director shall receive compensation established by
26 the governor, within the limits of appropriations for that purpose. The
27 executive director shall employ other staff and may contract with con-
28 sultants, as the executive director deems necessary to carry out the func-
29 tions of the commission. Staff employed by the executive director shall
30 receive compensation established by the executive director and approved
31 by the governor, within the limits of appropriations for that purpose.

32 (d) Within 30 days following the appointment of all members of the
33 commission, the commission shall meet and organize by the election of
34 a chairperson and vice-chairperson and other officers deemed necessary.
35 The commission may adopt rules governing the conduct of its meetings.

36 (e) The commission shall hold public hearings for the purpose of
37 receiving information and materials which will aid in the drafting of the
38 plan.

39 Sec. 2. The commission shall prepare and adopt a plan addressing
40 the consolidation of counties. The commission shall conduct such studies
41 and investigations as it deems appropriate to complete its work. Such
42 studies and investigations shall include, but not be limited to, the
43 following:

- 1 (a) The feasibility of implementing a county consolidation plan which
2 would consolidate the 105 counties in Kansas into the following 13 coun-
3 ties or consolidated counties:
- 4 (1) Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Sherman, Thomas, Sheri-
5 dan, Graham, Wallace, Logan, Gove, Greeley, Wichita, Scott and Lane
6 counties;
- 7 (2) Hamilton, Kearny, Finney, Stanton, Grant, Haskell, Gray, Mor-
8 ton, Stevens, Seward and Meade counties;
- 9 (3) Rooks, Trego, Ellis, Ness, Rush and Pawnee counties;
- 10 (4) Hodgeman, Ford, Edwards, Kiowa, Clark and Comanche
11 counties;
- 12 (5) Russell, Lincoln, Barton, Ellsworth, Rice, Stafford, Reno, Pratt,
13 Kingman, Barber and Harper counties;
- 14 (6) Phillips, Smith, Osborne, Jewell, Republic, Mitchell, Cloud,
15 Washington, Marshall and Clay counties;
- 16 (7) Ottawa, Saline, Dickinson, McPherson, Marion, Harvey, Riley,
17 Pottawatomie, Geary, Wabaunsee, Morris and Chase counties;
- 18 (8) Sedgwick, Butler, Sumner and Cowley counties;
- 19 (9) Greenwood, Woodson, Wilson, Elk, Chautauqua, Montgomery,
20 Crawford, Labette, Cherokee, Allen, Bourbon and Neosho counties;
- 21 (10) Osage, Lyon, Coffey, Franklin, Miami, Anderson and Linn
22 counties;
- 23 (11) Shawnee and Douglas counties;
- 24 (12) Wyandotte and Johnson counties; and
- 25 (13) Nemaha, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Atchison, Jefferson and
26 Leavenworth counties.
- 27 (b) the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative operations
28 of the consolidated county plan; and
- 29 (c) The costs, savings and benefits of the consolidated county plan.
- 30 Sec. 3. (a) For the purposes of performing its studies and investiga-
31 tions, the commission or its executive director may administer oaths and
32 affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence,
33 require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memo-
34 randa, agreements or other documents or records which the commission
35 or executive director deems relevant or material to its studies and
36 investigation.
- 37 (b) On or before January 1, 2011, the commission shall submit its
38 final plan to the governor and legislature. The final plan shall include the
39 full text and an explanation of the proposed plan, and comments deemed
40 desirable by the commission.
- 41 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
42 publication in the statute book.