

MICHIGAN STATUTES GOVERNING COUNTY APPORTIONMENT COMMISSION

Public Act 261 of 1966

46.401 County apportionment commission; apportionment of county into county commissioner districts.

Sec. 1. (1) Within 60 days after the publication of the latest United States official decennial census figures, the county apportionment commission in each county of this state shall apportion the county into not less than 5 nor more than 21 county commissioner districts as nearly of equal population as is practicable and within the limitations of section 2.

(2) If a county is not in compliance with section 2 on the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, the county apportionment commission of that county shall, within 30 days of the effective date of the amendatory act that added this subsection, apportion the county in compliance with section 2. For subsequent apportionments in a county that is apportioned under this subsection, the county apportionment commission of that county shall comply with the provisions of subsection (1).

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1968, Act 153, Imd. Eff. June 13, 1968;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

Constitutionality: The Michigan Supreme Court reversed a Court of Appeals ruling which held that the first sentence in section 1(2) of 2011 PA 280, MCL 46.401, violates section 29 of article IV of the state constitution of 1963. The Court of Appeals ruled that the provision constituted an improperly enacted local act and should be stricken from the act (Frank Houston et al. v Governor and Oakland County Board of Commissioners, Nos. 308724 and 308725). The Michigan Supreme Court, in its holding that the law is constitutional, stated that while the law may apply

46.402 Number of county commissioners based on county population.

Sec. 2.

County Population Number of Commissioners

Under 5,001 Not more than 7

5,001 to 10,000 Not more than 10

10,001 to 50,000 Not more than 15

Over 50,000 Not more than 21

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970;—Am. 2004, Act 369, Imd. Eff. Oct. 11, 2004;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

46.403 County apportionment commission; membership; convening apportionment commission; adopting rules of procedure; quorum; action by majority vote; conducting business at public meeting; notice of meeting; availability of certain writings to public.

Sec. 3. (1) Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the county apportionment commission shall consist of the county clerk, the county treasurer, the prosecuting attorney, and the statutory county chairperson of each of the 2 political parties receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the office of secretary of state in the last preceding general election. If a county does not have a statutory chairperson of a political party, the 2 additional members shall be a party representative from each of the 2 political parties receiving the greatest number of votes cast for the office of secretary of state in the last preceding general election and appointed by the chairperson of the state central committee for each of the political parties. In a county with a population of 1,000,000 or more that has adopted an optional unified form of county government under 1973 PA 139, MCL 45.551 to 45.573, with an elected county executive, the county apportionment commission shall be the county board of commissioners. The clerk shall convene the apportionment commission and they shall adopt their rules of procedure. A majority of the members of the apportionment commission shall be a quorum sufficient to conduct its business. All action of the apportionment commission shall be by majority vote of the commission.

(2) The business which the apportionment commission may perform shall be conducted at a public meeting 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 the meeting shall be given in the manner required by the open meetings act, 1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 to 15.275.

(3) A writing prepared, owned, used, in the possession of, or retained by the 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: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1977, Act 185, Imd. Eff. Nov. 17, 1977;—Am. 2011, Act 280, Eff. Mar. 28, 2012.

46.404 County commissioner districts; guidelines for apportionment.

Sec. 4. In apportioning the county into commissioner districts, the county apportionment commission shall be governed by the following guidelines in the stated order of importance:

(a) All districts shall be single-member districts and as nearly of equal population as is practicable. The latest official published figures of the United States official census shall be used in this determination, except that in cases requiring division of official census units to meet the population standard, an actual population count may be used to make such division. Other governmental census figures of total population may be used if taken subsequent to the last decennial United States census and the United States census figures are not adequate for the purposes of this act. The secretary of state shall furnish the latest official published figures to the county apportionment commissions forthwith upon this act taking effect, and within 15 days after publication of subsequent United States official census figures.

A contract may be entered into with the United States census bureau to make any special census if the latest United States decennial census figures are not adequate.

(b) All districts shall be contiguous.

(c) All districts shall be as compact and of as nearly square shape as is practicable, depending on the geography of the county area involved.

(d) No township or part thereof shall be combined with any city or part thereof for a single district, unless such combination is needed to meet the population standard.

(e) Townships, villages and cities shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.

(f) Precincts shall be divided only if necessary to meet the population standard.

(g) Residents of state institutions who cannot by law register in the county as electors shall be excluded from any consideration of representation.

(h) Districts shall not be drawn to effect partisan political advantage.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967;—Am. 1969, Act 137, Eff. Mar. 20, 1970.

46.405 Apportionment plan; filing by county apportionment commission; access.

Sec. 5. The apportionment plan approved by the commission shall be filed in the office of the county clerk at which time it shall become effective, and copies of it shall be forthwith forwarded by the county clerk to the secretary of state for filing and shall be made available at cost to any registered voter of the county.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.406 Apportionment plan; petition for review.

Sec. 6. Any registered voter of the county within 30 days after the filing of the plan for his county may petition the court of appeals to review such plan to determine if the plan meets the requirements of the laws of this state. Any findings of the court of appeals may be appealed to the supreme court of the state as provided by law.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.407 Apportionment plan; failure of apportionment commission to submit; submission by registered voter.

Sec. 7. If the apportionment commission has failed to submit a plan for its county within 60 days but not less than 30 days after the latest official published census figures are available or within such additional time as may be granted by the court of appeals for good cause shown on petition from the apportionment commission, any registered voter of the county may submit a plan to the commission for approval. The commission shall choose from among those submitted to it a plan meeting the requirements of the laws of this state and file such plan in the office of the county clerk as set forth in section 5 within 30 days after the deadline for the filing of the commission's own plan or any extension granted thereon.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.

46.408 Official apportionment plan.

Sec. 8. Once an apportionment plan has been found constitutional and according to the provisions of this act and all appeals have been exhausted, or if no appeal is taken, when the time for appeal has expired, that plan shall be the official apportionment plan for the county until the next United States official decennial census figures are available.

History: 1966, Act 261, Eff. Mar. 10, 1967.