

12-343. Same; commission, powers and duties; studies and investigations; consolidation plan, submission to legislature, voter approval. (a) The commission shall prepare and adopt a plan addressing the consolidation of the city and county or certain city and county offices, functions, services and operations. The commission shall conduct such studies and investigations as it deems appropriate to complete its work. Such studies and investigations shall include, but not be limited to:

(1) Studies of the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative operations of the city and county.
(2) Studies of the costs and benefits of consolidating the city and county or certain city and county offices, functions, services and operations.

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

(c) For the purposes of performing its studies and investigations, the commission or its executive director may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take evidence, require the production of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements or other documents or records which the commission or executive director deems relevant or material to its studies and investigation.

(d) On or before November 29, 1996, the commission shall prepare and adopt a preliminary plan addressing the consolidation of the city and county or certain city and county offices, functions, services and operations it deems advisable. Copies of the preliminary plan shall be filed with the county election officer, city clerk and each public library within the county and shall be available to members of the public for inspection upon request. The commission shall hold at least one public hearing to obtain citizen views concerning the preliminary plan. Notice of such hearing or hearings shall be published at least once in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. Following the public hearings on the preliminary plan, the commission may adopt, or modify and adopt, the preliminary plan as the final plan.

(e) On or before January 13, 1997, the commission shall submit its final plan to the governor and legislature. The final plan shall include the full text and an explanation of the proposed plan, and comments deemed desirable by the commission, a written opinion by an attorney admitted to practice law in the state of Kansas and retained by the executive director for such purpose that the proposed plan is not in conflict with the constitution or the laws of the state, and any minority reports. Copies of the final plan shall be filed with the county election officer, city clerk and each public library within the county and shall be available to members of the public for inspection upon request. The commission shall continue in existence at least 90 days following the submission of the final plan pursuant to this subsection.

(f) Unless the legislature, by concurrent resolution adopted on or before February 12, 1997, the 30th day of the 1997 regular session, rejects such plan, the plan shall be submitted to the qualified electors of the county at the school district general election on April 1, 1997. Such election shall be called and held by the county election officer in the manner provided by the general bond law. A summary of the final plan shall be prepared by the commission and shall be published once each week for two consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation within the county. If a majority of the electors voting on the plan vote in favor thereof, the consolidation plan shall be implemented in the manner provided by the plan. If a majority of the electors vote against such plan, the proposed consolidation plan shall not be implemented.

If the commission submits a final plan which does not recommend the consolidation of the city and county or certain city and county offices, functions, services and operations, the provisions of this subsection shall not apply.

History: L. 1996, ch. 11, § 4; Feb. 29.