

SESSION OF 2005

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2094

As Amended by House Committee on
Governmental Organization and Elections

Brief*

HB 2094 would create the Efficiency in Local Government Act as a vehicle to allow the consolidation of city and county governments.

The bill would provide for the creation of a reorganization study commission if the governing bodies of the city and the county adopt a joint resolution providing for the commission and if a majority of county voters agree at an election on that issue. Membership of this commission could either be appointed or elected as determined by the city and county governing bodies.

The reorganization commission would be required to adopt a plan for the reorganization of city and county government. The plan may not provide for the replacement of elected officers with appointed ones. The commission must hold at least three public hearings on a proposed reorganization plan and notice of the hearing must be given in the largest circulating newspaper in the county at least three times before each meeting.

The bill requires a dual majority approval of any reorganization plan; *i.e.* a majority of voters within each city must approve the plan for the particular city to be included and a majority of the voters in the unincorporated area must also approve the plan for the consolidation plan to go into effect. Both the election notice and the ballot question must contain the notation that a tax levy will be made to pay the costs.

The House Committee added the dual majority vote requirement; the added newspaper notice; the ballot question language regarding the

*Supplemental notes are prepared by the Legislative Research Department and do not express legislative intent. The supplemental note and fiscal note for this bill may be accessed on the Internet at <http://www.kslegislature.org>

necessity of a tax levy and the increased number of meetings required of the reorganization commission.

Background

The bill, as introduced, was supported by Representative Mike O'Neal, the Kansas Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations, the League of Kansas Municipalities, the mayor of the City of Topeka, and the City of Emporia.

Several amendments to the bill were suggested by the newly formed Kansas County Officials Association and the Kansas Farm Bureau.