

SESSION OF 2005

**SUPPLEMENTAL NOTE ON
SUBSTITUTE FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 2470**

As Recommended by House Committee on
Governmental Organization and Elections

Brief*

Substitute for HB 2470 would simplify procedures for the consolidation of counties and would establish a procedure for the consolidation of a city or cities with a county.

Substitute for HB 2470 would amend a statute dealing with county boundaries to simplify procedures for county consolidations or boundary changes. The bill would allow a petition by 5 percent of the qualified electors of each county to be affected by the boundary change to be presented to the boards of county commissioners. The boards of county commissioners would then adopt a resolution making the changes as proposed in the petitions. The county resolutions effecting the boundary change would have to be submitted to the electors of each county involved for approval.

At least three public hearings must be held and at least one public hearing must be held in each county affected by the proposed change and notice must be published in newspapers of general circulation at least three times prior to the date of each hearing.

Substitute for HB 2470 also 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 commis-

*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>

sion 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.

Background

The original HB 2470 contained a revision to a statute dealing with a clean drinking water fee for public water supply systems.

The House Committee eliminated the contents of the original bill contents and replaced them with the contents of HB 2093 (consolidation of counties) and HB 2094 (city-county consolidation), both as amended by the House Committee on Governmental Organization and Elections.

The contents of HB 2093, dealing with county consolidation, would have no fiscal impact on the state, according to that bill's fiscal note. The fiscal note for HB 2094 did not indicate any state fiscal impact.