

1                   A bill to be entitled  
 2           An act relating to dissolution of municipalities;  
 3           amending s. 165.051, F.S.; requiring the dissolution  
 4           of a municipality after a referendum is held if  
 5           specified conditions are met; providing the procedures  
 6           for setting the date for a referendum to dissolve a  
 7           municipality; providing notice requirements; providing  
 8           an effective date.

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 10 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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 12           Section 1. Section 165.051, Florida Statutes, is amended  
 13 to read:

14           165.051 Dissolution procedures.—

15           (1) The charter of any existing municipality may be  
 16 revoked and the municipal corporation dissolved by ~~either~~:

17           (a) A special act of the Legislature; ~~or~~

18           (b) An ordinance of the governing body of the  
 19 municipality, approved by a vote of the qualified voters; or

20           (c) Approval of a vote of a majority of the qualified  
 21 voters voting in a referendum to dissolve the municipality that  
 22 must be held if one or more of the following criteria applies:

23           1. The municipality has been in a state of financial  
 24 emergency for 2 or more years.

25           2. A financial emergency board has been established in

26 response to a financial emergency and the municipality has  
27 failed to comply with the terms included in any signed agreement  
28 with the Governor's office as part of the financial emergency.  
29 Failure to comply with the terms of any signed agreement  
30 includes failing to submit a recovery plan, the required budget  
31 documents and amendments, and invoices that support requested  
32 expenditures.

33 3. The municipality has submitted its annual financial  
34 report required by s. 218.32, and the annual financial audit  
35 report required by s. 218.39, significantly late for 2 or more  
36 consecutive years.

37 4. A grand jury or an Auditor General audit report was  
38 issued within the past 3 years that identifies significant  
39 problems with the municipality.

40 (2)(a) If a vote of the qualified voters is required  
41 pursuant to paragraph (1)(b), the governing body of the  
42 municipality or, if the municipal governing body does not act  
43 within 30 days, the governing body of the county or counties in  
44 which the municipality is located, shall set the date of the  
45 election, which shall be the next regularly scheduled election  
46 or a special election held prior to such election, if approved  
47 by a majority of the members of the governing body of each  
48 governmental unit affected, but no sooner than 30 days after  
49 passage of the ordinance. Notice of the election shall be  
50 published at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks prior

51 | to the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
52 | municipality.

53 |       (b) Within 30 days after one or more of the criteria  
54 | contained in subparagraphs (1)(c)1.-4., is met, the governing  
55 | body of the municipality or, if the municipal governing body  
56 | does not act, the governing body of the county or counties in  
57 | which the municipality is located, shall set the date of the  
58 | referendum to dissolve the municipality, which shall be the next  
59 | regularly scheduled election or a special election held prior to  
60 | such election. Notice of the election shall be published at  
61 | least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks prior to the  
62 | election in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
63 | municipality.

64 |       Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2020.