

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 electors voting in a referendum to dissolve the municipality  
 22 that must be held if one or more of the following criteria  
 23 applies:

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

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

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

38        4. A grand jury or an Auditor General audit report was  
39 issued within the past 3 years that contains a significant  
40 number of findings and the municipality has failed to resolve  
41 five or more of those findings within 12 months after issuance  
42 of the report.

43        (2) (a) If a vote of the qualified voters is required  
44 pursuant to paragraph (1) (b), the governing body of the  
45 municipality or, if the municipal governing body does not act  
46 within 30 days, the governing body of the county or counties in  
47 which the municipality is located, shall set the date of the  
48 election, which shall be the next regularly scheduled election  
49 or a special election held prior to such election, if approved  
50 by a majority of the members of the governing body of each

51 governmental unit affected, but no sooner than 30 days after  
52 passage of the ordinance. Notice of the election shall be  
53 published at least once each week for 2 consecutive weeks prior  
54 to the election in a newspaper of general circulation in the  
55 municipality.

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

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