18

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1877 Session of 2021

INTRODUCED BY FREEMAN, JAMES, MOUL, KNOWLES AND SAPPEY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

AS AMENDED ON SECOND CONSIDERATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, DECEMBER 14, 2021

AN ACT

Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania 1 Consolidated Statutes, in alteration of territory or 2 corporate entity and dissolution, providing for municipal 3 boundary change; and making related repeals. 5 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania 6 hereby enacts as follows: 7 Section 1. Chapter 7 of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes is amended by adding a subchapter to read: 8 9 SUBCHAPTER B 10 MUNICIPAL BOUNDARY CHANGE 11 Sec. 12 711. Scope of subchapter. 712. Definitions. 13 14 713. Interpretation. 15 714. Stream boundaries. 16 715. Boundary change agreement by abutting municipal 17 corporations MUNICIPALITIES.

716. Petition and establishment of disputed boundaries by

- judicial ascertainment.
- 2 717. Judicial ascertainment procedure.
- 3 718. Effective date of boundary change.
- 4 719. Notification of boundary change.
- 5 720. Monuments.
- 6 <u>721. Wards.</u>
- 7 722. Collection of taxes levied prior to change of boundary and
- 8 <u>authorized expenditures.</u>
- 9 723. Election districts and officers.
- 10 724. Governing body agreements.
- 11 725. Adjustment of indebtedness.
- 12 726. Judicial adjustment award proceedings.
- 13 <u>727. Compensation, expenses and costs.</u>
- 14 728. Territory located in multiple counties.
- 15 729. Bond issues.
- 16 § 711. Scope of subchapter.
- 17 This subchapter relates to municipal boundary changes and
- 18 adjustments to municipal indebtedness and property rights
- 19 <u>following boundary change.</u>
- 20 § 712. Definitions.
- 21 The following words and phrases when used in this subchapter
- 22 <u>shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the</u>
- 23 context clearly indicates otherwise:
- 24 "Abutting municipal corporations." Municipal corporations
- 25 that share contiguous territory.
- 26 "Boundary ascertainment." Establishment of a municipal
- 27 <u>boundary between abutting municipal corporations by judicial</u>
- 28 <u>decree</u>.
- "Boundary change" or "change of boundary." Any change in the
- 30 <u>municipal boundary between abutting municipal corporations</u>

- 1 MUNICIPALITIES, other than as a result of a merger or
- 2 <u>consolidation under Subchapter C (relating to consolidation and</u>

- 3 merger), including any transfer of territory, boundary
- 4 <u>clarification or boundary ascertainment.</u>
- 5 <u>"Boundary clarification." Establishment of a municipal</u>
- 6 boundary by agreement under this subchapter between municipal
- 7 corporations in a territorial area with a previously unclear
- 8 <u>boundary.</u>
- 9 "Contiguous territory." Territory of which a portion abuts
- 10 the boundary of another municipal corporation, including
- 11 territory separated from the exact boundary of another municipal
- 12 corporation by a street, road, railroad or highway or by a river
- 13 <u>or other natural or artificial stream of water.</u>
- 14 "Governing body." The council in a city, borough or
- 15 <u>incorporated town</u>, the board of commissioners in a county or
- 16 township of the first class, the board of supervisors in a
- 17 township of the second class or the legislative policymaking
- 18 body in a home rule municipality.
- "Impacted property." A parcel of real property that is
- 20 divided by a municipal boundary prior to, or will be divided
- 21 incident to, a proposed boundary change.
- 22 "Impacted territory." Territory which is subject to a
- 23 boundary change.
- 24 "Municipal corporation." A city, borough, incorporated town,
- 25 township or home rule municipality that is not a county.
- 26 "MUNICIPALITY." A COUNTY, CITY, BOROUGH, INCORPORATED TOWN <--
- 27 OR TOWNSHIP.
- 28 "Unclear boundary." Contiquous territory between two
- 29 <u>municipal corporations in which the exact boundary between the</u>
- 30 municipal corporations is in dispute or cannot be readily

- 1 <u>discerned as a result of conflicting or missing records.</u>
- 2 § 713. Interpretation.
- 3 (a) Certain actions unaffected. -- Nothing in this act shall
- 4 <u>preclude, restrict or limit successive changes in boundaries and</u>
- 5 <u>territorial limits of any municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY.</u> <--
- 6 (b) County boundaries unaffected. -- When a boundary change is
- 7 made under the provisions of this act which results in a
- 8 <u>municipal corporation which lies partly in one county and partly</u>
- 9 <u>in one or more other counties</u>, the territory within the
- 10 municipal corporation shall, for county purposes, be and remain
- 11 a part of the county in which the respective territory is
- 12 physically located.
- 13 (c) School districts unaffected. -- Nothing in this act, and
- 14 no action taken under this act, shall affect or apply to any
- 15 school district or any school district boundary, but nothing
- 16 <u>shall preclude further action from being taken under the</u>
- 17 provisions of the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known
- 18 <u>as the Public School Code of 1949</u>, or other applicable
- 19 provisions of law to change the boundary or location of a school
- 20 district.
- 21 (d) Initiative and referendum. -- Nothing in this act shall
- 22 preclude a change of boundary by initiative and referendum as
- 23 provided in sections 8 and 14 of Article IX of the Constitution
- 24 of Pennsylvania.
- 25 § 714. Stream boundaries.
- 26 (a) General rule. -- If a municipal corporation is bounded by
- 27 the nearest margin of a navigable stream and the opposite
- 28 municipal corporation is also bounded by the nearest margin of
- 29 the same stream, the middle of the stream shall be the boundary
- 30 between the municipal corporations.

- 1 (b) Prior actions unaffected. -- Nothing in this section shall
- 2 <u>be construed to affect any boundary established prior to the</u>
- 3 effective date of this section between municipal corporations or
- 4 repeal any local or special law contrary to this section.
- 5 § 715. Boundary change agreement by abutting municipal <--
- 6 <u>corporations MUNICIPALITIES.</u>
- 7 (a) General rule. -- Two or more abutting municipal
- 8 corporations, may, by the adoption of an ordinance memorializing
- 9 <u>an agreement under this subchapter:</u>
- 10 (1) Transfer or exchange territory between municipal
- 11 <u>corporations.</u>
- 12 (2) Establish a territorial boundary between municipal
- corporations by boundary clarification.
- 14 (A.1) COUNTY BOUNDARY AGREEMENT BY CERTAIN ABUTTING
- 15 COUNTIES.--TWO OR MORE ABUTTING COUNTIES MAY, BY THE ADOPTION OF
- 16 AN ORDINANCE MEMORIALIZING AN AGREEMENT UNDER THIS SUBCHAPTER,
- 17 TRANSFER TERRITORY BETWEEN COUNTIES TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY TO
- 18 ALIGN A PORTION OF THE COUNTY TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY WITH THE
- 19 TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY OF A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WHERE THE
- 20 MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IS DIVIDED BY THE EXISTING COUNTY
- 21 TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY.
- 22 (b) Prohibition on unincorporated territory. -- No boundary
- 23 <u>change may result in territory not incorporated in any municipal</u>

- 24 corporation OR COUNTY.
- 25 (c) Contents of ordinance. -- An ordinance under this section
- 26 shall provide a description of the territory to be transferred
- 27 by a change of boundary, or territorial boundary to be
- 28 established within the impacted territory, and shall contain or
- 29 <u>have attached a plot showing the courses and distances of the</u>
- 30 boundaries of the municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES as

- 1 follows:
- 2 (1) In the case of a transfer of territory, municipal
- 3 boundaries before and after the proposed change in the
- 4 boundaries or territorial limits.
- 5 (2) In the case of a boundary established to resolve an
- 6 <u>unclear boundary, the proposed boundary and a description of</u>
- 7 <u>the area which was in dispute or unclear.</u>
- 8 (d) Public meeting. -- In addition to the procedures that
- 9 apply to the proposal and adoption of ordinances, each
- 10 municipality shall accept public comment on the proposed
- 11 <u>ordinance at a regular or special meeting occurring not less</u>
- 12 than 10 days after the ordinance is introduced and occurring not
- 13 <u>less than 10 days prior to the adoption of the ordinance.</u>
- 14 Nothing shall prevent the municipalities from satisfying this
- 15 requirement by holding a joint public meeting in one of the
- 16 municipalities.
- 17 (e) Notification of ordinance. -- Within 15 days after
- 18 enactment of an ordinance under this subchapter, the governing
- 19 body of a municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY shall perform all <--
- 20 of the following acts:
- 21 (1) Assign, for reference, a distinctive designation to
- 22 any impacted territory.
- 23 (2) File with the clerk of court and board of
- commissioners of the county, a certified copy of the
- 25 ordinance by which the change was effected, together with a
- 26 plot, showing the courses and distances of the boundaries
- 27 <u>before and after the change and clearly indicating any</u>
- designation or designations, as provided in paragraph (1). If
- 29 <u>the impacted territory is located in OR IMPACTS THE</u>
- 30 TERRITORIAL BOUNDARY OF more than one county, the documents

- 1 and information shall be filed in each impacted county.
- 2 (3) Notify the record owner of each impacted property in
- 3 writing.
- 4 (f) Petition and suspension of ordinance. -- A boundary change
- 5 <u>under an ordinance enacted under this section shall be suspended</u>
- 6 <u>following the presentation of a petition, in writing, to the</u>
- 7 municipal secretary, OR THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNTY, AS THE <--
- 8 CASE MAY BE, of at least one impacted municipal corporation <--
- 9 MUNICIPALITY protesting the proposed boundary change. A valid <--
- 10 petition under this section shall be composed of:
- 11 (1) at least 20% of registered electors of the municipal
- 12 <u>corporation OR COUNTY. Petitioners must provide their address</u> <--
- on the petition along with their respective signatures; or
- 14 (2) at least one owner of an impacted property.
- 15 (g) Deadline for filing petition and notice. -- A petition
- 16 <u>under subsection (f) shall be filed with the secretary or clerk</u>
- 17 of the municipal corporation, OR THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNTY, <--
- 18 AS THE CASE MAY BE, where the registered electors reside no
- 19 later than the 20th day after the date on which the municipal
- 20 corporation files its documents under subsection (e) (2) in the
- 21 county. If the required number of registered electors have
- 22 signed the petition, the municipal secretary or clerk shall
- 23 provide notice of the petition to the governing body of all
- 24 impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES.
- 25 (h) Referendum. -- The following shall apply:
- 26 (1) If the required number of electors or owners have
- 27 <u>signed the petition as provided in subsection (f) in any</u>
- impacted municipal corporation OR COUNTY, the governing body <--
- of each impacted municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY shall
- 30 call for a referendum to be held at the time of the next

- 1 general, municipal or primary election occurring at least 90
- 2 days after the petition has been filed, at which election the
- 3 guestion of whether the boundary change as provided in the
- 4 <u>ordinance of each affected municipality will be submitted to</u>
- 5 the electors of each affected municipality. Notice of the
- 6 election and the text of the question to be submitted to the
- 7 <u>electors shall be published in the same manner as publication</u>
- 8 <u>is required in section 1201 of the act of June 3, 1937</u>
- 9 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the Pennsylvania Election Code.
- 10 (2) The question to be submitted to the electors on the
- ordinance shall be framed to identify the ordinance, followed
- by the words "yes" and "no." The question shall be placed on
- the ballot which shall be counted, returned and computed in
- 14 <u>accordance with the election laws of this Commonwealth.</u>
- 15 (3) If the majority of the qualified electors of the
- 16 <u>municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY voting on the ordinance</u>
- 17 vote for the ordinance in all impacted municipal corporations <--

- 18 MUNICIPALITIES, the boundary change shall take effect.
- 19 § 716. Petition and establishment of disputed boundaries by
- judicial ascertainment.
- 21 (a) Judicial ascertainment. -- A court of common pleas may,
- 22 upon presentation of a petition, ascertain and establish
- 23 disputed boundaries of two or more municipal corporations.
- 24 (b) Bond required.--If a petition is presented, the court
- 25 under subsection (a) may require the petitioners to file a bond
- 26 in a sufficient amount to secure the payment of all costs of the
- 27 proceeding.
- 28 (c) Petition requirement. -- A petition under this section
- 29 shall be submitted in writing by:
- 30 (1) One or more owners of an impacted property.

- 1 (2) Ten or more residents of any municipal corporation
- 2 <u>impacted by the disputed boundary.</u>
- 3 § 717. Judicial ascertainment procedure.
- 4 (a) Appointment. -- Upon application by petition under section
- 5 716 (relating to petition and establishment of disputed
- 6 boundaries by judicial ascertainment), the court shall appoint
- 7 three impartial individuals as commissioners, one of whom must
- 8 be a surveyor or registered engineer.
- 9 (b) Hearing. -- After providing notice to interested parties
- 10 and upon publication of the petition, as directed by the court,
- 11 the commissioners shall hold a hearing and view the disputed
- 12 <u>lines and boundaries.</u>
- (c) Stay of proceedings. -- In the event that the governing
- 14 body of a municipal corporation notifies the court that the
- 15 <u>impacted municipal corporations intend to resolve the disputed</u>
- 16 boundary by agreement under this act, the court shall stay any
- 17 proceedings under this section for 90 days. A stay may be
- 18 extended at the discretion of the court if it appears that the
- 19 impacted parties are pursuing an agreement in good faith.
- 20 (d) Report. -- A majority of the commissioners shall issue the
- 21 report and recommendations to the court, accompanied by a plot
- 22 or draft of the lines and boundaries proposed to be ascertained
- 23 and established if the lines and boundaries cannot be fully
- 24 designated by natural lines or boundaries.
- 25 (e) Exceptions.--Exceptions to the report under subsection
- 26 (d) may be filed within 30 days after the filing of the report
- 27 by an interested person or political subdivision. The court
- 28 shall set and provide notice of a hearing on the exceptions.
- 29 After a hearing under this subsection, the court may sustain or
- 30 dismiss the exceptions. If the court has sustained the

- 1 exceptions, the court may refer the report back to the same or
- 2 new commissioners with the authority to make another report.
- 3 (f) Decree.--If no exceptions are filed within 30 days after
- 4 the filing of the report, or the exceptions have been dismissed,
- 5 the court shall confirm the report. If a report is confirmed,
- 6 the court shall:
- 7 (1) Enter a decree ascertaining and establishing the
- 8 <u>lines and boundaries as shown in the report.</u>
- 9 (2) Direct publication of the decree under paragraph
- 10 (1).
- 11 (3) Order that the boundary line be marked by
- 12 <u>appropriate monuments.</u>
- 13 (g) Compensation, expenses and costs. -- The compensation and
- 14 <u>expenses of commissioners appointed under subsection (a) shall</u>
- 15 be in a reasonable amount as approved by the court. The court
- 16 shall, by order, provide how costs and expenses of the
- 17 proceedings shall be paid and may assess the costs individually
- 18 or in apportioned amounts against the following:
- 19 <u>(1) The petitioners.</u>
- 20 (2) Any interested municipal corporation.
- 21 § 718. Effective date of boundary change.
- 22 (a) Change by ordinance. -- The change in boundaries under an
- 23 ordinance shall take effect on January 1 of the year following
- 24 the date on which all of the documents under section 715(e)(2)
- 25 (relating to boundary change agreement by abutting municipal

- 26 corporations MUNICIPALITIES) have been filed, unless:
- 27 (1) the filing date is within 60 days prior to the end
- of a calendar year, in which case the change shall take
- 29 effect as of January 1 of the second year following the
- 30 filing date; or

1	(2) a timely petition is filed under section 715 in	
2	which case the petition shall act as a supersedeas and the	
3	change in boundaries in all impacted municipal corporations	<
4	MUNICIPALITIES shall only take effect if the referendum under	_<
5	section 715 passes, where the boundary change shall take	
6	effect on January 1 of the year following the referendum.	
7	(b) Change by ascertainment A change of boundaries by	
8	judicial ascertainment shall take effect on the effective date	
9	of the decree.	
10	(c) Change by referendum In the event of a change of	
11	boundary under the provisions of section 8 of Article IX of the	_
12	Constitution of Pennsylvania by referendum, the change of	
13	boundary shall take effect on January 1 of the year following	
14	the referendum.	
15	§ 719. Notification of boundary change.	
16	(a) General rule Within 15 days after a change in	
17	boundaries has taken effect, the governing body of a municipal	<
18	corporation MUNICIPALITY shall file a final report of the	<
19	boundary change containing the following information with the	
20	County Board of Elections, the Department of Community and	
21	Economic Development, the Department of Transportation, the	
22	Governor's Office of Policy Development or its successor, the	
23	Department of Education and the State Tax Equalization Board:	
24	(1) The name of the impacted municipal corporations	<
25	MUNICIPALITIES.	<

- 26 (2) A land survey showing the courses and distances of
- 27 <u>the boundary in the impacted territory.</u>
- 28 <u>(3) The location of the monuments along the new boundary</u>
- 29 <u>line.</u>
- 30 <u>(4) The total assessed valuation of the impacted</u>

- 1 <u>territory.</u>
- 2 (5) The approximate population of the impacted
- 3 territory.
- 4 (6) The designation, as provided for in section 715(e)
- 5 (1) (relating to boundary change agreement by abutting
- 6 <u>municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES</u>), by which the impacted <--
- 7 <u>territory is to be known.</u>
- 8 (7) In the case of a boundary change by judicial
- 9 <u>ascertainment</u>, the decree shall be attached to the report.
- 10 (b) Combined notifications authorized.--All municipal <--
- 11 <u>corporations MUNICIPALITIES impacted by a boundary change may</u> <--
- 12 jointly provide for a combined final report under subsection
- 13 <u>(a)</u>.
- 14 § 720. Monuments.
- The impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES shall <--
- 16 provide for the placement of monuments, no more than 1,500 feet
- 17 apart, along the newly established boundary line, other than
- 18 where a natural line can be described, in a manner adequate that
- 19 the entire territory in question can be depicted and represented
- 20 for the future. The coordinates of monuments shall be expressed
- 21 <u>in terms of the State Plane Coordinate System in effect on the</u>
- 22 date of the change of boundary.
- 23 § 721. Wards.
- 24 (a) Increased municipal territory. -- If a municipal
- 25 corporation gaining territory is divided among wards, the
- 26 governing body shall, within 30 days after the change in
- 27 boundaries is effective, provide for the distribution of the
- 28 gained territory among the wards of the municipal corporation or
- 29 for the creation of one or more wards out of the gained
- 30 territory.

- 1 (b) Decreased municipal territory.--If the municipal
- 2 corporation decreasing territory is divided among wards, the
- 3 governing body of the municipal corporation, shall within 30
- 4 days after the change in boundaries is effective, provide for
- 5 the alteration of wards among the remaining territory.
- 6 § 722. Collection of taxes levied prior to change of boundary
- 7 <u>and authorized expenditures.</u>
- 8 (a) Taxes. -- All taxes assessed and levied against property
- 9 <u>in an impacted territory prior to the effective date of the</u>
- 10 boundary change shall be paid to the municipal corporation <--
- 11 MUNICIPALITY which levied the tax, and the collection and <--
- 12 <u>enforcement of taxes under this subsection shall be as though</u>
- 13 the change of boundary had not taken place.
- 14 (b) Expenditures. -- A municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY <--
- 15 initiating a boundary change by ordinance under this subchapter
- 16 is authorized to make reasonable expenditures for surveys
- 17 required to describe the property under consideration, or for
- 18 any other necessary purpose.
- 19 § 723. Election districts and officers.
- 20 All election districts in the impacted territory shall remain
- 21 as constituted prior to the boundary change and shall become
- 22 election districts of the municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY <---
- 23 gaining territory on the change in designation in accordance
- 24 with the act of June 3, 1937 (P.L.1333, No.320), known as the
- 25 Pennsylvania Election Code. All election district officers shall
- 26 continue in office until the expiration of the officer's term,
- 27 <u>unless the office is vacated.</u>
- 28 § 724. Governing body agreements.
- 29 (a) General rule.--Prior to the effective date of a boundary
- 30 change, an impacted municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY may

- 1 execute an agreement fully resolving:
- 2 (1) Transfers of any funds and indebtedness related to
- 3 property within the impacted territory.
- 4 (2) The sharing of costs associated with the territorial
- 5 <u>alteration or clarification.</u>
- 6 (3) The sharing or division of any tax or fee revenues
- 7 <u>associated with property within the impacted territory in the</u>
- 8 year that a territorial alteration occurs.
- 9 <u>(4) A resolution of any matters, rights or other issues</u>
- incident to the transfer of territory.
- 11 (b) Exception. -- In the event that an agreement under this
- 12 <u>section is incorporated in an ordinance, sections 725 (relating</u>
- 13 to adjustment of indebtedness), 726 (relating to judicial
- 14 adjustment award proceedings), 727 (relating to compensation,
- 15 expenses and costs), 728 (relating to territory located in
- 16 multiple counties) and 729 (relating to bond issues) shall not
- 17 apply.
- 18 § 725. Adjustment of indebtedness.
- 19 (a) Property. -- The following shall apply:
- 20 (1) Following a boundary change under this subchapter or
- 21 any other provision of law, the governing bodies of the
- 22 impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES shall make an <--
- 23 equitable adjustment and apportionment of all the public real
- and personal property impacted by the change of boundary.
- 25 (2) Except as provided under paragraph (3), the property
- under paragraph (1) shall include funds and indebtedness.
- 27 (3) If adjusting property and indebtedness under
- 28 paragraph (1), streets, sewers and utilities may not be
- 29 <u>considered except to the extent that current and unpaid</u>
- 30 indebtedness was incurred for the construction and

- 1 improvement of the property. 2 (b) Proportion. -- In making the adjustment and apportionment under subsection (a), the following shall apply: 3 (1) The municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY gaining 4 5 6 7 8
- territory shall be entitled to a division of the property and
- indebtedness in the same proportion that the assessed
- valuation of the taxable real estate included within the
- territorial limits of the newly gained territory bears to the
- 9 assessed valuation of the taxable real estate in the
- municipal corporation losing territory immediately prior to 10
- the boundary change. The municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY <--11
- 12 losing territory shall be entitled to the remainder of the
- 13 property and indebtedness.
- 14 (2) If indebtedness was incurred by the municipal
- corporation MUNICIPALITY losing territory for an improvement <--15
- located wholly within the territorial limits of the newly 16
- transferred territory, the indebtedness shall be assumed by 17
- 18 the municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY gaining territory. <--
- 19 (3) If only part of the improvement is located within
- 20 the newly transferred territory, the part of the indebtedness
- 21 representing the part of the improvement located within
- 22 transferred territory shall be assumed by the municipal <--
- 23 corporation MUNICIPALITY gaining territory and the adjustment <--

- 24 and apportionment of any remaining debt shall be retained by
- 25 the municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY losing territory.
- 26 (c) Form. -- The adjustment and apportionment made under this
- 27 section must meet all of the following:
- (1) Be in writing and duly executed and acknowledged by 28
- 29 the secretary or clerk of each impacted municipal
- corporation, OR THE CHIEF CLERK OF THE COUNTY, AS THE CASE 30

- 1 MAY BE.
- 2 (2) Be filed in the office of the clerk of the court of
- 3 <u>common pleas of the county.</u>
- 4 (3) Be filed as a copy with the Department of Community
- 5 <u>and Economic Development.</u>
- 6 (d) Petition for judicial adjustment.--If the governing
- 7 bodies of the impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES <--
- 8 cannot make an amicable adjustment and apportionment of the
- 9 property and indebtedness within six months after the effective
- 10 date of the change in boundaries, the governing body of a
- 11 <u>municipal corporation</u> MUNICIPALITY may present a petition to the <--
- 12 <u>court of common pleas requesting a judicial adjustment.</u>
- (e) Appointment. -- After receiving a petition under
- 14 <u>subsection</u> (d), the court shall appoint three disinterested
- 15 commissioners who meet all of the following requirements:
- 16 (1) Are residents and taxpayers of the county.
- 17 (2) Are not residents of or own real estate in an
- 18 impacted municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY.
- 19 (f) Report.--The individuals appointed under subsection (e)

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- 20 shall hold a hearing and make a report to the court containing
- 21 an adjustment and apportionment of all the property and the
- 22 indebtedness between the impacted municipal corporations
- 23 MUNICIPALITIES. Notice shall be made as provided by the court. <--
- 24 The report shall state the amount due to, payable from and the
- 25 amount of indebtedness that shall be assumed by each impacted
- 26 municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY.
- 27 § 726. Judicial adjustment award proceedings.
- 28 (a) Notice. -- The commissioners appointed under section
- 29 725(e) (relating to adjustment of indebtedness) shall give the
- 30 <u>impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES at least five</u>

- 1 days' notice of the filing of the report under section 725(f).
- 2 (b) Exceptions.--If exceptions are filed to the report made
- 3 under section 725(f), the court shall dispose of the exceptions
- 4 and shall enter its decree confirming or modifying the award.
- 5 (c) Confirmation. -- Unless exceptions are filed to the report
- 6 within 30 days after the date of the filing, the report shall be
- 7 confirmed by the court and the court shall issue an appropriate
- 8 order effectuating the report.
- 9 § 727. Compensation, expenses and costs.
- The commissioners appointed under section 725(e) (relating to
- 11 <u>adjustment of indebtedness</u>) shall receive compensation and
- 12 <u>expenses for their services as provided by the court. The costs</u>
- 13 of the proceedings, including the compensation and expenses of
- 14 the commissioners, shall be apportioned by the court between the

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- 15 impacted municipal corporations MUNICIPALITIES.
- 16 § 728. Territory located in multiple counties.
- 17 If the impacted territory is located in two or more counties,
- 18 Commonwealth Court shall have exclusive jurisdiction over the
- 19 proceedings to adjust and apportion the indebtedness between the
- 20 municipal corporations MUNICIPALITY.
- 21 § 729. Bond issues.
- 22 In a proceeding to adjust and apportion indebtedness, a
- 23 municipal corporation MUNICIPALITY shall have power to issue and <--
- 24 deliver interest-bearing bonds in liquidation of the
- 25 indebtedness ascertained, to be its proportionate share payable,
- 26 if the bonds are acceptable to the municipal corporation
- 27 MUNICIPALITY entitled to receive the bonds. The court may make <--
- 28 necessary orders for the collection and payment.
- 29 Section 2. Repeals are as follows:
- 30 (1) The General Assembly declares that the repeals under

- paragraph (2) are necessary to effectuate the addition of 53
 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7 Subch. B.
 - (2) The following acts and parts of acts are repealed:
 - (i) The act of April 28, 1903 (P.L.332, No.260), entitled "An act for the annexation of any city, borough, township, or part of a township, to a contiguous city, and providing for the indebtedness of the same."
 - (ii) The act of May 31, 1923 (P.L.473, No.258), entitled "An act authorizing the annexation to cities of the second class of portions of townships not exceeding one hundred acres in area and totally surrounded by said cities; and providing for the division of the assets and liabilities of said townships."
 - (iii) The act of May 12, 1925 (P.L.596, No.320), entitled "An act providing for the alteration of the boundaries of counties in certain cases for the adjustment of the indebtedness thereof; providing the effect thereof."
 - (iv) Sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of the Act of June 24, 1931 (P.L.1206, No.331), known as The First Class Township Code.
 - (v) Sections 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306 and 307 of the Act of May 1, 1933 (P.L.103, No.69), known as The Second Class Township Code.
 - (vi) The act of June 15, 1939 (P.L.372, No.217), entitled "An act affecting cities of the second class A, authorizing the annexation of boroughs and townships thereto under certain conditions, and, in connection therewith, placing duties upon or affecting courts of quarter sessions, county boards of elections, and

1 officers of boroughs, townships and cities of the second 2 class A, and providing for the payment of the indebtedness of the various territorial units involved." 3 The act of July 20, 1953 (P.L.550, No.145), 4 entitled "An act providing for and regulating the 5 6 annexation of parts of a second class township to boroughs, cities and townships." 7 (viii) 8 Pa.C.S. §§ 501, 502, 503, 504, 505 and 506. 8 9 (ix) 11 Pa.C.S. §§ 10601, 10602, 10603, 10604, 10605 10 and 10606. (3) All other acts and parts of acts are repealed 11 insofar as they are inconsistent with this act. 12

Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.

13