

January 11, 2019

To the Honorable Members of
The Illinois House of Representatives,
100th General Assembly:

Today, I return House Bill 4637 of the 100th General Assembly with specific recommendations for change.

This legislation amends the process by which townships in McHenry County may be dissolved in an effort to consolidate and reduce Illinois' excessive layers of local government.

While I applaud the effort to create a clear process that aligns with the Illinois Constitution's vision that townships may be dissolved if approved by referendum, this is a process that should be available with equal clarity across the state.

This legislation also mandates the abolition of certain road districts in Lake and McHenry County. This question of consolidating services should also go to the voters through a referendum, a process that Lake and McHenry County—and all other counties—can already pursue under state law.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 9(e) of Article IV of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby return House Bill 4637, entitled "AN ACT concerning local government," with the following specific recommendations for change:

On page 3, by replacing lines 11 through 16 with the following:

“(55 ILCS 5/5-1184 new)

Sec. 5-1184. Dissolution of townships in a county. If

a township in a county dissolves as provided in Article

24 of the Township Code, the respective county shall assume the

powers, duties, and obligations of each dissolved township as

provided in Article 24 of the Township Code.”; and

On page 3, by replacing line 21 with: “TOWNSHIPS IN A COUNTY”; and

On page 4, by replacing line 3 with: “under this Article shall be in addition to”; and

On page 4, by replacing lines 8 and 9 with: “means the registered voters of any single township.”; and

On page 4, by replacing line 11 with: “Sec. 24-15. Dissolving a township. By”; and

On page 4, by replacing line 13 with: “any county may submit a proposition to dissolve the”; and

On page 4, by replacing line 21 with: “township must be filed with the”; and

On page 4, by replacing line 22 through 23 with: “governing board of the township, the county board of the county in which the township is located, and the county clerk not less than 122 days”; and

On page 5, by replacing line 16 with: “the county clerk shall, by publication in one or more”; and

On page 5, by replacing line 22 with: “Residents of (dissolving township) and (name of county) County are”; and

On page 5, by replacing line 24 with: “township) and (name of county) County requesting a referendum to”; and

On page 6, by replacing line 3 with: “liabilities being transferred to (name of county) County.”; and

On page 6, by replacing line 20 with: “transferred to (name of county) County?”; and

On page 7, by replacing line 8 through 9 with: “dissolving township shall be transferred to the county. All township funds of the dissolved township shall”; and

On page 8, by replacing line 7 with: “the county except as provided in paragraph (6).”; and

On page 8, by replacing line 8 with: “(6) The county board of the county shall give”; and

On page 8, by replacing line 23 with: “one or more offers are received by the county on or”; and

On page 8, by replacing line 25 with: “dissolving township, the county board of the county”; and

On page 9, by replacing line 4 through 5 with: “road district or road districts are retained by the county. The receiving unit of local government that assumes”; and

By deleting page 9, line 14 through page 10, line 16.

With these changes, House Bill 4637 would have my approval.

Sincerely,

Bruce Rauner
GOVERNOR