



Sen. Craig Wilcox

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10200HB2369sam001

LRB102 11696 KTG 42383 a

1 AMENDMENT TO HOUSE BILL 2369

2 AMENDMENT NO. _____. Amend House Bill 2369 by replacing
3 everything after the enacting clause with the following:

4 "Section 5. The Counties Code is amended by changing
5 Section 5-2006 as follows:

6 (55 ILCS 5/5-2006) (from Ch. 34, par. 5-2006)

7 Sec. 5-2006. Tax for Veterans Assistance Commission. The
8 county board of each county having a population of less than 3
9 million in which there is a Veterans Assistance Commission as
10 provided in Section 9 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act
11 may levy a tax of not to exceed .03% of the assessed value
12 annually on all taxable property of the county, for the
13 purpose of providing assistance to military veterans and their
14 families pursuant to such Act. Whenever not less than 10% of
15 the electors of the county petition the county board to levy
16 the tax at not to exceed .04% of the assessed value, the county

1 board shall certify the proposition to the proper election
2 officials who shall submit the proposition at the next general
3 election in accordance with the general election law. If a
4 majority of the electors vote in favor of the proposition, the
5 county board may, annually, levy the tax as authorized. The
6 proceeds of any tax so levied shall be used exclusively for the
7 assistance purposes authorized thereunder, and a portion
8 thereof may be expended for the salaries ~~or expenses~~ of any
9 officers or employees of the Veterans Assistance Commission,
10 for the authorized reimbursement of any officer or employee of
11 the Veterans Assistance Commission, as provided in Section 10
12 of the Military Veterans Assistance Act, or for any other
13 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance.

14 The tax shall be separate from all other taxes which the
15 county is authorized to levy on the aggregate valuation of the
16 property within the county and shall not be included in any tax
17 limitation of the rate upon which taxes are required to be
18 extended, but shall be excluded therefrom and in addition
19 thereto. The tax shall be levied and collected in like manner
20 as the general taxes of the county, and, when collected, shall
21 be paid into a special fund in the county treasury and used
22 only as herein authorized, or disbursed from the county
23 treasury of a county in which a properly organized Veterans
24 Assistance Commission is authorized under Section 3-11008 of
25 this Code.

26 The limitations on tax rates herein provided may be

1 increased or decreased under the referendum provisions of the
2 General Revenue Law of Illinois.

3 If a county has levied the tax herein authorized or
4 otherwise meets the conditions set out in Section 12-21.13 of
5 the Illinois Public Aid Code, to qualify for State funds to
6 supplement local funds for public purposes under Articles III,
7 IV, V, VI, and IX of that Code and otherwise meets the
8 conditions set out in Article XII of that Code for receipt of
9 State aid, the Illinois Department of Human Services shall
10 allocate and pay to the county such additional sums as it
11 determines to be necessary to meet the needs of assistance to
12 military veterans and their families in the county and
13 expenses incident to the administration of such assistance. In
14 counties where a Veterans Assistance Commission has been
15 properly created, those County Veterans Assistance Commissions
16 shall be in charge of the administration of such assistance
17 provided under the Illinois Public Aid Code for military
18 veterans and their families.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

20 Section 10. The Military Veterans Assistance Act is
21 amended by changing Sections 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10 and by adding
22 Sections 9.1, 9.2, and 12 as follows:

23 (330 ILCS 45/1) (from Ch. 23, par. 3081)

24 Sec. 1. Definitions. As used in this Act:

1 "Veteran service organization" means a post, ship, camp,
2 chapter, or detachment of a congressionally chartered or state
3 chartered organization that (i) is formed by and for veterans,
4 (ii) has a paid membership of at least 15 individuals, and
5 (iii) provides responsible aid, assistance, or services to the
6 veteran community.

7 "Administrator of military veterans assistance" means the
8 commanders of the various veteran service organizations, the
9 superintendent of a County Veterans Assistance Commission, or
10 other persons whose duty it is, under the existing statutes,
11 to care for, relieve or maintain, wholly or in part, any person
12 who may be entitled to such assistance under the statutes of
13 the State of Illinois. This Act shall not infringe upon the
14 mandated powers and authorities vested in the Illinois
15 Department of Veterans' Affairs.

16 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

17 (330 ILCS 45/2) (from Ch. 23, par. 3082)

18 Sec. 2. The purpose of this Act is, in part, to provide, in
19 accordance with this Section, For the just and 7 necessary,7
20 and needed assistance and services to of military veterans,7
21 who served in the Armed Forces of the United States and whose
22 last discharge from the service was honorable or general under
23 honorable conditions ~~to be eligible for assistance,~~ to their
24 families, and to the families of deceased veterans with
25 service ~~as described in this Section~~ who need such assistance

1 and services. The following actions shall be taken in support
2 of that purpose:

3 (1) The supervisor of general assistance or the county
4 board shall provide such sums of money as may be just and
5 necessary to be drawn by the commander, quartermaster or
6 commandant of any veterans service organization, in the
7 city or town, or the superintendent of any Veterans'
8 Assistance Commission of the county, upon the
9 recommendation of the assistance committee of that
10 veterans service organization or Veterans' Assistance
11 Commission.

12 (A) Funding for Veterans Assistance Commissions
13 may be derived from 3 sources, if applicable:

14 (i) a tax levied under Section 5-2006 of the
15 Counties Code and Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois
16 Public Aid Code;

17 (ii) funds from the county general corporate
18 fund; and

19 (iii) State funds from the Department of Human
20 Services.

21 (B) The minimum amount to be provided annually to
22 Veterans Assistance Commissions is provided in Section
23 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code, unless the
24 delegates of the County Veterans Assistance Commission
25 determine that a lesser amount covers the just and
26 necessary sums.

1 (2) If any supervisor of general assistance or county
2 board fails or refuses after such recommendation to
3 provide just and necessary sums of money for such
4 assistance, then the veteran service organization or the
5 superintendent of any Veterans' Assistance Commission
6 located in the district of such supervisor of general
7 assistance or such county board shall apply to the circuit
8 court of the district or county for relief by mandamus
9 upon the supervisor of general assistance or county board
10 requiring him, her or it to pay, or to appropriate and pay
11 such sums of money, and upon proof made of the justice and
12 necessity of the claim, the circuit court shall grant the
13 sums so requested.

14 (3) Such sums of money shall be drawn in the manner now
15 provided under Section 5-2006 of the Counties Code and
16 Section 12-21.13 of the Illinois Public Aid Code. Orders
17 of commanders, quartermasters, commandants, or
18 superintendents of those veterans service organizations or
19 those Veterans' Assistance Commissions shall be proper
20 warrants for the expenditure of such sums of money.

21 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

22 (330 ILCS 45/8) (from Ch. 23, par. 3088)

23 Sec. 8. The commander, quartermaster, or commandant of any
24 veteran service organization or the superintendent of any
25 county Veterans' Assistance Commission of Illinois shall

1 annually report to the Governor, on or before the first day of
2 January of each year, such portions of the transactions of the
3 aforementioned veteran service organization or Veterans
4 Assistance Commission relating thereto as the commander or
5 superintendent may deem to be of interest to that organization
6 and the people of the State. A copy of that report shall be
7 provided to the president or chairperson of the county board
8 and shall be made publicly available online.

9 (Source: P.A. 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

10 (330 ILCS 45/9) (from Ch. 23, par. 3089)

11 Sec. 9. Veterans Assistance Commission.

12 (a) In counties having 2 or more veteran service
13 organizations as may be recognized by law, the veteran service
14 organizations may come together to form a Veterans Assistance
15 Commission of such county. The Veterans Assistance Commission
16 of such county may act as the central service office for all
17 veterans and their families and for the families of deceased
18 veterans. The Commission shall be composed of delegates and
19 alternates from a majority of such veteran service
20 organizations selected annually as determined by each veteran
21 service organization. When so organized a Commission shall be
22 clothed with all the powers and may be charged with all the
23 duties theretofore devolving upon the different veteran
24 service organizations within the county as provided in Section
25 2.

1 (1) Every January 1, all Veterans Assistance
2 Commissions shall publish a notice to each veteran service
3 organization within their respective county calling on
4 them to select delegates and alternates for that county's
5 Veterans Assistance Commission by the methods provided in
6 this subsection. The Veterans Assistance Commissions shall
7 allow each veteran service organization until March 1 to
8 respond, at which time those selected and duly appointed
9 delegates and alternates shall begin their term of office
10 with full voting rights. Once selected, delegates and
11 alternates are bound by the Public Officer Prohibited
12 Activities Act.

13 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3), veteran
14 service organizations shall be permitted to select one
15 delegate and one alternate.

16 (3) In counties with 5 or more of the same veteran
17 service organizations, all the constituent veteran service
18 organizations shall be permitted to select up to 5
19 delegates and 5 alternates ~~a single delegate and single~~
20 ~~alternate~~ to represent that veteran service organization
21 instead of each constituent veteran service organization
22 selecting one delegate and one alternate. For the purposes
23 of meeting the majority requirement of this subsection,
24 when the constituent groups of a veteran service
25 organization choose to select those delegates and
26 alternates, those selected and duly appointed delegates

1 and alternates ~~a single delegate and single alternate, the~~
2 ~~single delegate and single alternate~~ shall represent the
3 aggregate percentage of the constituent groups.

4 (4) If a veteran service organization serves more than
5 one county, then it shall be permitted to select one
6 delegate and one alternate for the Veterans Assistance
7 Commission in each county in which at least 25% of its
8 members reside.

9 (5) All undertakings of, or actions taken by, the
10 Commission shall require a vote from a majority of the
11 full commission membership. No committee or other subgroup
12 of delegates and alternates formed by the Commission,
13 whether selected or appointed, may be granted the power or
14 authority to act in the place of or on behalf of the full
15 body of the duly selected or appointed Commission
16 membership.

17 (6) No superintendent or any other employee of the
18 Veterans Assistance Commission may retain the position of
19 delegate or alternate or any voting rights while employed
20 by the Veterans Assistance Commission.

21 (7) No committee or other subgroup of delegates and
22 alternates formed by the Commission, whether selected or
23 appointed, may bar any other duly appointed Commission
24 member from attending or otherwise being present during
25 any closed meetings or sessions of that committee or
26 group.

1 (8) The county may, at its discretion, appoint a
2 representative to the Commission who may attend any public
3 meeting of the Commission. That representative shall be a
4 veteran, may not have voting rights, may not hold any
5 office or title on the Commission, and may not be present
6 during any nonpublic meeting of the Commission, except as
7 authorized in this Act. For matters of executive session,
8 the non-voting county appointee may attend meetings that
9 are closed in accordance with paragraphs (1), (3), (5),
10 (6), or (11) of subsection (c) of Section 2 of the Open
11 Meetings Act for litigation matters not relating to
12 litigation between the Commission and the County.

13 (b) The Commission and its selected or appointed
14 superintendent shall have oversight of the distribution of all
15 moneys and supplies appropriated for the benefit of military
16 veterans and their families, subject to such rules,
17 regulations, administrative procedures or audit reviews as are
18 required by this Act and as are necessary as approved by the
19 Commission to carry out the spirit and intent of this Act. No
20 warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for the
21 payment of money without the presentation of an itemized
22 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the
23 Commission.

24 (c) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance
25 Commission, selected, appointed, or hired by the Commission is
26 an at-will employee who shall be answerable to, and shall

1 report to, the Commission.

2 (d) The superintendent shall be evaluated annually and a
3 written report shall be generated. A copy of the report from
4 the evaluation shall be provided to the entire Commission
5 membership.

6 (e) A superintendent may be removed from office if, after
7 delegates from no less than 3 different veteran service
8 organizations file a written request calling for the
9 superintendent's removal, there is a vote from a majority of
10 the full Commission membership in favor of such removal.

11 (f) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall establish
12 and maintain bylaws that outline the framework, policies, and
13 procedures for conducting the business of the Commission and
14 for the rules and regulations that apply to its members. Those
15 bylaws shall reflect compliance with all relevant laws at the
16 time they are established and shall be revised as necessary to
17 remain in compliance with current law. The establishment of
18 those bylaws, and any revisions thereafter, shall require a
19 minimum two-thirds majority vote of approval from a majority
20 of the full Commission membership.

21 (g) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall, in writing,
22 adopt all applicable policies already established and in place
23 in its respective county, including, but not limited to,
24 policies related to compensation, employee rights, ethics,
25 procurement, and budget, and shall adapt those policies to fit
26 its organizational structure. Those policies shall then be

1 considered the policies of the Veterans Assistance Commission
2 and they shall be implemented and adhered to, accordingly, by
3 the superintendent and by the Commission. The Commission shall
4 amend its adopted policies whenever a county board amends an
5 applicable policy within 60 days of the county board
6 amendment.

7 (h) No warrant authorized under this Act may be issued for
8 the payment of money without the presentation of an itemized
9 statement or claim, approved by the superintendent of the
10 Commission and reported to the full Commission membership.

11 (i) Each Veterans Assistance Commission shall perform an
12 annual audit in accordance with the Governmental Account Audit
13 Act using either the auditing services provided by its
14 respective county or the services of an independent auditor
15 whose services shall be paid for by the Commission. A copy of
16 that audit report shall be provided to the president or
17 chairperson of the county board.

18 (j) Veterans Assistance Commissions and county boards
19 subject to this Act shall cooperate fully with the boards,
20 commissions, agencies, departments, and institutions of the
21 State. The funds held and made available by the county, the
22 State, or any other source shall be subject to financial and
23 compliance audits in accordance with the Illinois State
24 Auditing Act.

25 (k) ~~(e)~~ The Veterans Assistance Commission shall be in
26 charge of the administration of any benefits provided under

1 Articles VI and IX of the Illinois Public Aid Code for military
2 veterans and their families.

3 (l) The Veterans Assistance Commission shall represent
4 veterans in their application for or attempts to obtain
5 benefits and services through State and federal agencies,
6 including representing veterans in their appeals of adverse
7 decisions.

8 (m) The superintendent of the Veterans Assistance
9 Commission and its employees must comply with the procedures
10 and regulations adopted by the Veterans Assistance Commission
11 and the regulations of the Department of Human Services.

12 (n) To further the intent of this Act of assisting
13 military veterans, this Act is to be construed so that the
14 Veterans Assistance Commission shall provide needed services
15 to eligible veterans.

16 (Source: P.A. 102-484, eff. 8-20-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

17 (330 ILCS 45/9.1 new)

18 Sec. 9.1. Violations.

19 (a) If the Attorney General has reasonable cause to
20 believe that there is or has been a violation of Section 8 or 9
21 or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10, then the Attorney
22 General may commence a civil action in the name of the People
23 of the State to enforce the provisions of this Act in any
24 appropriate circuit court. The court, in its discretion, may
25 exercise all powers necessary, including, but not limited to:

1 injunction; mandamus; revocation; forfeiture or suspension of
2 any funding, rights, privileges, responsibilities, or support,
3 as deemed necessary to ensure compliance; and any other action
4 the court may deem appropriate.

5 (b) Prior to initiating a civil action, the Attorney
6 General shall conduct a preliminary investigation to determine
7 whether there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation
8 is being or has been committed and whether the dispute can be
9 resolved without litigation. In conducting this investigation,
10 the Attorney General may:

11 (1) require the individual, group, or entity to file a
12 statement or report in writing under oath or otherwise, as
13 to all information the Attorney General may consider
14 necessary;

15 (2) examine under oath any person alleged to have
16 participated in or with knowledge of the alleged
17 violation;

18 (3) issue subpoenas or conduct hearings in aid of any
19 investigation; or

20 (4) examine any record, book, document, account, or
21 paper as the Attorney General may consider necessary.

22 (c) Service by the Attorney General of any notice
23 requiring a person to file a statement or report, or of a
24 subpoena upon any person, shall be made:

25 (1) personally by delivery of a duly executed copy
26 thereof to the person to be served or, if a person is not a

1 natural person, in the manner provided by the Code of
2 Civil Procedure when a complaint is filed; or

3 (2) by mailing by certified mail a duly executed copy
4 thereof to the person to be served at the person's last
5 known abode or principal place of business within this
6 State.

7 (d) Whenever any person fails to comply with any subpoena
8 issued under this Section or whenever satisfactory copying or
9 reproduction of any material requested in an investigation
10 cannot be done and the person refuses to surrender the
11 material, the Attorney General may file in any appropriate
12 circuit court, and serve upon the person, a petition for a
13 court order for the enforcement of the subpoena or other
14 request.

15 Any person who has received a subpoena issued under
16 subsection (b) may file in the appropriate circuit court, and
17 serve upon the Attorney General, a petition for a court order
18 to modify or set aside the subpoena or other request. The
19 petition must be filed either: (1) within 20 days after the
20 date of service of the subpoena or at any time before the
21 return date specified in the subpoena, whichever date is
22 earlier, or (2) within a longer period as may be prescribed in
23 writing by the Attorney General.

24 The petition shall specify each ground upon which the
25 petitioner relies in seeking relief under this subsection and
26 may be based upon any failure of the subpoena to comply with

1 the provisions of this Section or upon any constitutional or
2 other legal right or privilege of the petitioner. During the
3 pendency of the petition in the court, the court may stay, as
4 it deems proper, the running of the time allowed for
5 compliance with the subpoena or other request, in whole or in
6 part, except that the petitioner shall comply with any portion
7 of the subpoena or other request not sought to be modified or
8 set aside.

9 (e) In the administration of this Act, the Attorney
10 General may accept an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance with
11 respect to any violation of the Act from any person or entity
12 who has engaged in, is engaging in, or was about to engage in
13 such violation. Evidence of a violation of an Assurance of
14 Voluntary Compliance shall be prima facie evidence of a
15 violation of this Act in any subsequent proceeding brought by
16 the Attorney General against the alleged violator.

17 (330 ILCS 45/9.2 new)

18 Sec. 9.2. Remedies.

19 (a) Whenever the Attorney General has reason to believe
20 that any person, group, or entity is violating, has violated,
21 or is about to violate Section 8 or 9 or subsection (a), (b),
22 or (c) of Section 10, the Attorney General may bring an action
23 in the name of the People of the State against the person,
24 group, or entity to restrain by preliminary or permanent
25 injunction the use of any practice that violates Section 8 or 9

1 or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10. In such an
2 action, the court may award restitution to recoup the loss of
3 moneys set aside to provide services to veterans or any other
4 relief that the court deems proper.

5 (b) In addition, the court may assess a civil penalty not
6 to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of Section 8 or 9 or
7 subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10.

8 (c) In any action brought under the provisions of Section
9 8 or 9 or subsection (a), (b), or (c) of Section 10, the
10 Attorney General is entitled to recover costs.

11 (d) If a court orders a party to make payments to the
12 Attorney General and the payments are to be used for the
13 operations of the Office of the Attorney General or a party
14 agrees, in an out-of-court settlement, to make payment to the
15 Attorney General for the operations of the Office of the
16 Attorney General, then moneys shall be deposited into the
17 Attorney General Court Ordered and Voluntary Compliance
18 Payment Projects Fund. Moneys in the Fund shall be used,
19 subject to appropriation, for the performance of any function
20 pertaining to the exercise of the duties of the Attorney
21 General, including, but not limited to, enforcement of any law
22 of this State and conducting public education programs.
23 However, any moneys in the Fund that are required by the court
24 or by an agreement to be used for a particular purpose shall be
25 used for that purpose.

1 (330 ILCS 45/10) (from Ch. 23, par. 3090)

2 Sec. 10. Superintendents and counties.

3 (a) The executive powers of the Commission shall be vested
4 in a superintendent ~~selected or appointed~~ ~~elected~~ by a vote
5 from a majority of the full Commission membership and who
6 shall have received an honorable discharge from the armed
7 forces of the United States.

8 (b) Superintendent vacancies shall be filled, whether
9 long-term or temporarily, at the next regularly scheduled full
10 Commission meeting or within 30 days at a specially convened
11 meeting, whichever comes sooner, and shall be selected by a
12 vote from a majority of the full Commission membership.

13 (c) Any individual who may be tasked with assuming the
14 duties of or may be vested with the executive powers of a
15 superintendent, whether as acting or interim superintendent,
16 must be selected or appointed by a vote from a majority of the
17 full Commission membership and must have received an honorable
18 discharge from the armed forces of the United States.

19 (d) The designated superintendent of the Veterans
20 Assistance Commission of the county shall, under the direction
21 of the Commission, have charge of and maintain an office in the
22 county building or a central location within the county, to be
23 used solely by the Commission for providing the just,
24 necessary, and needed services mandated by law.

25 (e) The county shall provide for the funding of the office
26 and ~~provide~~ ~~furnish~~ all necessary furnishings, supplies, and

1 services as passed by the county board in its annual
2 appropriation, and the county shall provide or fund services,
3 including, but not limited to, human resources and payroll
4 support; information technology services and equipment;
5 telephone services and equipment; printing services and
6 equipment; postage costs; and liability insurance. Any
7 litigation or legal settlement that has a financial impact to
8 the county is subject to the approval of the county board.
9 ~~telephone, printing, stationery, and postage therefor.~~

10 (f) The county shall also provide to the employees of the
11 Commission all benefits available to county employees,
12 including, but not limited to, benefits offered through the
13 Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund or any other applicable
14 county retirement fund; health, life, and dental insurance;
15 and workers compensation insurance. Employer contributions and
16 costs for these benefits, services, and coverages may come
17 from Commission funds. Counties not currently providing
18 benefits to Commission employees must comply with this
19 subsection within 90 days after the effective date of this
20 amendatory Act of the 102nd General Assembly.

21 (g) The county board shall, in any county where a Veterans
22 Assistance Commission is organized, in addition to sums
23 appropriated for these just, necessary, and needed services as
24 provided by law and approved by the Commission under this Act,
25 appropriate such additional sums, upon recommendation of the
26 Veterans Assistance Commission, to properly compensate, in

1 accordance with the requirements of subsection (g) of Section
2 9 and subsection (e) of this Section, the officers and
3 employees required to administer such assistance. The county
4 board shall also provide funds to the Commission to reimburse
5 the superintendent, officers, delegates and employees for
6 certain expenses which are approved by the Commission. The
7 superintendent and other employees shall be employees of the
8 Veterans Assistance Commission, and no provision in this
9 Section or elsewhere in this Act shall be construed to mean
10 that they are employees of the county.

11 (h) Superintendents, subject to rules formulated by the
12 Commission, shall select, as far as possible, Veteran Service
13 Officers and other employees from among military veterans,
14 including those who have served or may still be serving as
15 members of the Illinois National Guard or a reserve component
16 of the armed forces of the United States, who did not receive a
17 bad conduct or dishonorable discharge or other equivalent
18 discharge thereof, or their spouses, surviving spouses, or
19 children. Employees of the Commission shall be at-will
20 employees.

21 (i) In a county with less than 2,000,000 inhabitants, the
22 superintendent may, in conformance with subsection (f) of
23 Section 3-9005 of the Counties Code, request ~~legal assistance~~
24 from the State's Attorney serving the county in which the
25 Veterans Assistance Commission is located, an opinion upon any
26 question of law relating to a matter in which the county

1 Veterans Assistance Commission may be concerned. With regard
2 to matters involving Section 8 or 9 or subsection (a), (b), or
3 (c) of Section 10, the State's Attorney shall confer with the
4 Office of the Attorney General before rendering an opinion.

5 (j) Superintendents of all counties subject to this Act,
6 when required by the Commission, shall give bond in the sum of
7 \$2,000 for the faithful performance of their duties.

8 (k) All persons ~~elected or~~ selected or appointed to fill
9 positions provided for in this Section shall be exempt from
10 the operation and provisions of any civil service act or laws
11 of this State, and the secretary of the Commission shall be
12 appointed by the superintendent.

13 (Source: P.A. 102-56, eff. 7-9-21; 102-732, eff. 1-1-23.)

14 (330 ILCS 45/12 new)

15 Sec. 12. Home rule. A home rule unit may not operate, act,
16 or fail to act in a manner that is inconsistent with the
17 provisions of this Act. This Section is a limitation under
18 subsection (i) of Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois
19 Constitution on the concurrent exercise by home rule units of
20 powers and functions exercised by the State.

21 Section 999. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
22 becoming law."