

1 AN ACT concerning fire protection.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The Township Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 200-12 and by adding Sections 200-13 and 200-14 as  
6 follows:

7 (60 ILCS 1/200-12)

8 Sec. 200-12. Tax increase; referendum.

9 (a) A township with a population of less than 100,000  
10 may levy taxes at a rate in excess of 0.02% of the value of  
11 all taxable property within the township as equalized or  
12 assessed by the Department of Revenue if the increase is  
13 approved by the voters as provided in this Section. The  
14 township board may, by ordinance, place the question of  
15 whether the tax rate of the township should be increased from  
16 0.02% to 0.125% for fire protection, rescue, and emergency  
17 vehicles and equipment on the ballot at any election. The  
18 township board shall certify the question to the proper  
19 election officials, who shall submit the question at an  
20 election in accordance with the general election law. The  
21 question shall be in the following form.

22 Shall the maximum allowable tax rate for the (name  
23 of township) Township, be increased from 0.02% to 0.125%  
24 of the value of all taxable property within the township  
25 as equalized or assessed by the Department of Revenue for  
26 fire protection, rescue, and emergency vehicles and  
27 equipment?

28 The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

29 The result of the referendum shall be entered upon the  
30 records of the township. If a majority of the voters at the  
31 election vote in favor of the proposition, the township may

1 levy taxes annually at a tax extendable rate not to exceed  
2 0.125% of the value of all taxable property within the  
3 township as equalized or assessed by the Department of  
4 Revenue.

5 A referendum held under this Section shall be conducted  
6 in accordance with the Election Code.

7 (b) The township board may levy the taxes at a rate in  
8 excess of 0.125% but not in excess of 0.40% of the value of  
9 all taxable property within the township as equalized or  
10 assessed by the Department of Revenue. The tax may not be  
11 levied until the question of levying the tax has been  
12 submitted to the electors of the township at a regular  
13 election and approved by a majority of the electors voting on  
14 the question. The township board shall certify the question  
15 to the proper election officials, who shall submit the  
16 question at an election in accordance with the general  
17 election law. The proposition shall be in substantially the  
18 following form:

19 Shall the maximum allowable tax rate for the (insert  
20 name of township) township fire department be increased  
21 from 0.125% to 0.40% of the value of all taxable property  
22 within the township as equalized or assessed by the  
23 Department of Revenue?

24 The votes shall be recorded as "Yes" or "No".

25 The results of the referendum shall be entered upon the  
26 records of the township. If a majority of the electors  
27 voting on the question vote in the affirmative, the township  
28 board may thereafter levy the tax.

29 (Source: P.A. 90-296, eff. 8-1-97.)

30 (60 ILCS 1/200-13 new)

31 Sec. 200-13. Board authority. The township board of any  
32 township operating a fire department has the power and it is  
33 its legal duty and obligation to provide as nearly adequate

1 protection from fire for all persons and property within the  
2 township as possible and to prescribe necessary regulations  
3 for the prevention and control of fire within the township.  
4 The township board may provide and maintain life saving and  
5 rescue equipment, services, and facilities, including  
6 emergency ambulance service. Except in cities having a  
7 population of 500,000 or more inhabitants and except in  
8 municipalities in which fire prevention codes have been  
9 adopted, the township board has the express power to adopt  
10 and enforce fire prevention codes and standards parallel to  
11 national standards.

12 (60 ILCS 1/200-14 new)

13 Sec. 200-14. Fire department regulations and rules. A  
14 township providing fire protection services on the effective  
15 date of this amendatory Act of the 92nd General Assembly  
16 shall be held to the standard of Sections 16.01 through 17 of  
17 the Fire Protection District Act, substituting "township"  
18 where "fire protection district" is indicated.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
20 becoming law.