

4359--A

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I N   S E N A T E

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Introduced by Sens. YOUNG, BRESLIN, KENNEDY, O'MARA, VALESKY -- (at request of the Legislative Commission on Rural Resources) -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government -- recommitted to the Committee on Local Government in accordance with Senate Rule 6, sec. 8 -- reported favorably from said committee, ordered to first and second report, ordered to a third reading, passed by Senate and delivered to the Assembly, recalled, vote reconsidered, restored to third reading, amended and ordered reprinted, retaining its place in the order of third reading

AN ACT to amend the general municipal law, in relation to municipal annexation

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1     Section 1. The section heading of section 703 of the general municipal  
2     law, as added by chapter 844 of the laws of 1963, is amended to read as  
3     follows:  
4     Petition [for annexation] BY RESIDENTS OR PROPERTY OWNERS TO INITIATE  
5     ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY.  
6     S 2. The general municipal law is amended by adding a new section  
7     703-a to read as follows:  
8     S 703-A. RESOLUTION BY GOVERNING BOARDS OF MUNICIPALITIES TO INITIATE  
9     ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY. EXCEPT FOR TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED  
10    WHICH IS ENTIRELY UNINHABITED OR TERRITORY IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT,  
11    OR OUTSIDE OF SUCH DISTRICT BUT ELIGIBLE FOR AN AGRICULTURAL ASSESSMENT,  
12    PURSUANT TO ARTICLE TWENTY-FIVE-AA OF THE AGRICULTURE AND MARKETS LAW,  
13    THE GOVERNING BOARDS OF TWO OR MORE MUNICIPALITIES WHICH HAVE MUTUALLY  
14    AGREED TO STUDY THE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY, MAY, BY JOINT RESOLUTION,  
15    PROPOSE THE ANNEXATION OF SUCH TERRITORY, PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF  
16    THIS ARTICLE.

EXPLANATION--Matter in ITALICS (underscored) is new; matter in brackets  
[ ] is old law to be omitted.

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1 S 3. The section heading and subdivision 1 of section 704 of the  
2 general municipal law, as added by chapter 844 of the laws of 1963, are  
3 amended to read as follows:

4 Notice of hearing on petition [for] OR JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITIATE  
5 annexation OF TERRITORY. 1. [Within twenty days after the receipt of  
6 such petition] IN THE EVENT IT IS PROPOSED TO ANNEX TERRITORY, the  
7 governing board or boards of the local government or governments to  
8 which it is proposed to annex such territory and the governing board or  
9 boards of the affected local government or governments in which such  
10 territory is situated shall, WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF A PETI-  
11 TION OR ADOPTION OF A JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION, respec-  
12 tively cause a notice to be published once in its or their official  
13 newspapers, or, if there be no official newspaper, in a newspaper  
14 published in the county and having general circulation within the area  
15 of such local government or governments, as the case may be. The govern-  
16 ing board of each affected local government in which such territory is  
17 situated also shall cause a copy of such notice to be mailed to each  
18 person or corporation owning real property in such territory as shown by  
19 the last preceding assessment roll and to all persons residing in such  
20 territory qualified to vote for officers of the city, town or village,  
21 as the case may be, in which such territory is situated as their names  
22 appear upon the register of voters for the last preceding general  
23 election. Where the territory to be annexed is situated wholly or part-  
24 ly within a village, the governing board of such village and the govern-  
25 ing board of a town or towns in which such territory is wholly or partly  
26 situated may provide by agreement for joint publication and mailing of  
27 such notice. Failure to mail such notice or failure of any addressee to  
28 receive the same shall not in any manner affect the validity of the  
29 petition OR JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY or of  
30 any proceedings taken thereon PROVIDED THAT THE MUNICIPALITIES THAT  
31 ADOPTED A JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION HAVE DEMONSTRATED A  
32 GOOD FAITH ATTEMPT TO MAIL SUCH NOTICE TO EACH PERSON OR CORPORATION  
33 OWNING REAL PROPERTY AS REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION. Such notice shall  
34 state that a petition for the annexation of territory OR A JOINT RESOL-  
35 UTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION OF TERRITORY to the local government or  
36 governments (naming it or them and briefly describing the territory  
37 proposed to be annexed thereto) has been [received] PROPOSED, that at a  
38 specified place in one of such local governments on a specified day not  
39 less than twenty days nor more than forty days after the publication and  
40 mailing of such notice, which place and date shall be specified therein,  
41 a joint hearing will be had upon such petition OR JOINT RESOLUTION TO  
42 INITIATE ANNEXATION by such governing boards. Each of such governing  
43 boards shall cause a copy of such notice to be mailed not less than ten  
44 days prior to the date of such joint hearing to the school authorities  
45 of any school district in which all or part of the territory proposed to  
46 be annexed is situated and, where it is proposed to annex territory to a  
47 city, to the school authorities of any school district (a) adjoining the  
48 territory proposed to be annexed and (b) located wholly or partly within  
49 such city. EACH OF SUCH GOVERNING BOARDS SHALL ALSO CAUSE A COPY OF SUCH  
50 NOTICE TO BE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT, IF ONE  
51 EXISTS.

52 S 4. Section 707 of the general municipal law, as added by chapter 844  
53 of the laws of 1963, is amended to read as follows:

54 S 707. Disposition of property in area proposed to be annexed. 1.  
55 Except as may be provided in an agreement among the affected local  
56 governments, as authorized by subdivision two of this section concerning

1 the retention, division, REGULATION, LAND USE or other disposition of  
2 real and personal property and rights in real and personal property of  
3 any affected local government or governments or any special or improve-  
4 ment district in the territory proposed to be annexed, all real or  
5 personal property and rights in real and personal property, including,  
6 but not limited to, LAND USE, streets, avenues, roads, highways, bridg-  
7 es, overpasses, underpasses, culverts, sidewalks, street lighting  
8 fixtures, and conduits, pipes, drains, either above or below the ground  
9 surface, and appurtenances and appurtenant rights in relation thereto,  
10 owned by any of such local governments (other than the one to which such  
11 territory is annexed) shall become the property of the county, city,  
12 village, or town (where the territory is not annexed to a village or  
13 villages in the town), to which such territory is annexed as of the date  
14 of such annexation, but the ownership of any real and personal property  
15 or rights in real and personal property of, or acquired for, special or  
16 improvement districts in such territory shall remain unaffected.

17 2. At any time prior to their determinations as provided by section  
18 seven hundred eleven of this article, the governing boards of the  
19 affected local governments, or their designated representatives, shall  
20 have power to agree on the retention, division, REGULATION, LAND USE or  
21 other disposition, either with or without consideration, of real or  
22 personal property and rights in real or personal property of any such  
23 affected local government or of any special or improvement districts in  
24 which the territory proposed to be annexed is situated. Any such agree-  
25 ment shall be in writing and shall be executed by such governing boards,  
26 or their designated representatives, covering the matters agreed upon.  
27 Such agreement may provide for the execution of any deeds or instruments  
28 affecting the retention, division, REGULATION, LAND USE or other dispo-  
29 sition of such property, either with or without consideration. Any such  
30 agreement shall be followed in the local law to be adopted pursuant to  
31 section seven hundred fourteen of this article.

32 S 5. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 711 of the general municipal law,  
33 as added by chapter 844 of the laws of 1963, are amended to read as  
34 follows:

35 1. Within ninety days after the hearing held pursuant to section seven  
36 hundred five OF THIS ARTICLE is concluded, the governing board of each  
37 affected local government shall determine by a majority vote of its  
38 total voting strength whether the petition OR JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITI-  
39 ATE ANNEXATION complies with the provisions of this article and whether,  
40 on the basis of considerations including but not limited to those relat-  
41 ing to the effects upon (a) the territory proposed to be annexed, (b)  
42 the local government or governments to which the territory is proposed  
43 to be annexed, (c) the remaining area of the local government or govern-  
44 ments in which the territory is situated and (d) any school district,  
45 fire district or other district corporation, public benefit corporation,  
46 fire protection district, fire alarm district or town or county improve-  
47 ment district, situated wholly or partly in such territory, it is in the  
48 over-all public interest to approve such proposed annexation.

49 2. a. At such time, each such governing board shall adopt a resolution  
50 which shall include findings with respect to compliance of the petition  
51 OR JOINT RESOLUTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION, with the provisions of this  
52 article and with respect to the effect of such proposed annexation on  
53 the over-all public interest. In the case of a governing board which has  
54 executed any agreement described in subdivision two of section seven  
55 hundred seven or subdivision two of section seven hundred eight of this  
56 article relating to the assumption of indebtedness or other liabilities

1 or the disposition of property rights in the event of annexation, its  
2 findings with respect to the effect of such annexation on the over-all  
3 public interest shall be based on and include the terms and conditions  
4 of such agreement to the extent applicable. Where no agreement as  
5 described herein governs the assumption of indebtedness or other liabil-  
6 ities or the disposition of property, such findings shall be based on  
7 and include provisions concerning such assumption or disposition  
8 prescribed in subdivision one of section seven hundred seven or subdivi-  
9 sion one of section seven hundred eight of this article, as the case may  
10 be.

11 b. Each such board shall thereupon make and sign a written order  
12 accordingly containing its determination and file copies thereof,  
13 together with copies of the agreement, if any, the petition OR JOINT  
14 RESOLUTION TO INITIATE ANNEXATION, the notice, the written objections,  
15 if any, and testimony and minutes of proceedings taken and kept on the  
16 hearing, in the offices of the clerks of all the affected local govern-  
17 ments. In the event that the governing board of an affected local  
18 government does not make, sign and file a written order as required by  
19 this section, such governing board shall be deemed to have approved the  
20 proposed annexation as of the expiration of the ninety-day period  
21 provided in subdivision one [hereof] OF THIS SECTION.

22 S 6. Subdivisions 1 and 2 of section 713 of the general municipal law,  
23 as added by chapter 844 of the laws of 1963, is amended to read as  
24 follows:

25 1. Not later than ninety days after the entry of a final judgment of a  
26 court or the filing in the offices of the clerks of the affected local  
27 governments of orders of the governing boards of such affected local  
28 governments approving a proposed annexation, the governing board of each  
29 city, town and village in which such territory is situated shall call a  
30 special election to be conducted in the manner hereinafter provided to  
31 determine whether the proposed annexation should be approved, provided,  
32 however, that the governing board of a town shall call such election  
33 only with respect to territory outside any village situated therein. All  
34 persons residing in such territory proposed to be annexed, OR RESIDING  
35 OUTSIDE OF THE TERRITORY PROPOSED TO BE ANNEXED BUT RESIDING ON A PARCEL  
36 OF LAND WHERE A PORTION OF SUCH PARCEL IS WITHIN SUCH TERRITORY PROPOSED  
37 TO BE ANNEXED, and qualified to vote for officers of the city, town or  
38 village, as the case may be, in which such territory is situated shall  
39 be entitled to vote. The proposition to be voted upon shall state "Shall  
40 the territory generally described below be annexed to the .....  
41 (name of local government or governments)?" Below such question the  
42 territory proposed to be annexed shall be briefly described. Except as  
43 otherwise provided herein, such election shall be conducted in the  
44 manner provided by law for the conduct of special elections in the city,  
45 town or village, as the case may be, in which such territory is situ-  
46 ated.

47 2. If such proposition is approved by a majority of the qualified  
48 persons voting thereon, the petition OR JOINT RESOLUTION, together with  
49 a certificate of election which shall set forth or have annexed thereto  
50 a description of the territory to be annexed, shall, within twenty days  
51 after such election be filed by the governing board or boards of the  
52 city, town or village, as the case may be, in the office of the clerk of  
53 such local government or governments and in the office of the clerk or  
54 clerks of the local government or governments to which such territory is  
55 to be annexed.

56 S 7. This act shall take effect immediately.