Sec. 4703. (1) Two or more municipalities, by resolution of their legislative bodies, may file a petition with the department requesting that a sewage disposal district or a water supply district or a combination of both be organized to function in the area described in the petition. The petition shall set forth all of the following:
   (a) The proposed name of the district.
   (b) That there is need in the interests of public health and welfare for the district to function in the area described in the petition.
   (c) A description of the area proposed to be organized as a district. The description is not required to be given by metes and bounds or by legal subdivision, but is sufficient if the description is generally accurate and designates the local units of governments comprised within the proposed district. The territory shall include only area within the boundaries of the petitioning municipality.
   (d) A request that a referendum be held within the defined territory on the question of creation of the district in the territory, and that the agency create the requested district.

(2) When more than 1 petition is filed covering a portion of the same territory, the agency may consolidate all or any of the petitions.