

**SUBSTITUTE FOR
HOUSE BILL NO. 4885**

A bill to amend 1954 PA 116, entitled
"Michigan election law,"
by amending sections 207, 268, 327, 369, and 383 (MCL 168.207,
168.268, 168.327, 168.369, and 168.383), section 327 as amended by
1982 PA 505 and section 383 as amended by 2018 PA 120.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 207. ~~The governor may remove any and all county officers~~
2 ~~named in section 200 of this chapter when he shall be satisfied~~
3 ~~from sufficient evidence submitted to him, as hereinafter provided,~~
4 ~~that such officer has been guilty of official misconduct, or of~~
5 ~~wilful neglect of duty, or of extortion, or habitual drunkenness,~~
6 ~~or has been convicted of being drunk, or whenever it shall appear~~
7 ~~by a certified copy of the judgment of a court of record of this~~



~~state that such officer, after his election or appointment, shall have been convicted of a felony; but the governor shall take no action upon any such charges made to him against any such officer until the same shall have been exhibited to him in writing, verified by the affidavit of the party making them, that he believes the charges to be true. But no such officer shall be removed for such misconduct or neglect until charges thereof shall have been exhibited to the governor as above provided and a copy of the same served on such officer and an opportunity given him of being heard in his defense: Provided, That the service of such charges upon the person or persons complained against shall be made by handing to such person or persons a copy of such charges, together with all affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the original petition if such person or persons can be found; and if not, by leaving a copy at the last place of residence of such person or persons, with some person of suitable age, if such person can be found; and if not, by posting it in some conspicuous place upon his last known place of residence. No officer who has been removed in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be eligible to election or appointment to any office for a period of 3 years from the date of such removal.~~

(1) The governor may remove a county officer named in section 200 from office under this section if the governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted to the governor that the county officer is guilty of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

(2) Before the governor removes a county officer under this section, all of the following procedures must be followed:

(a) Charges against the county officer must be submitted to



1 the governor in writing by a qualified elector of the county that
2 the county officer represents specifying the grounds for removal.
3 The charges must be accompanied by any supporting evidence and by
4 the affidavit of the individual making the charges verifying that
5 the individual believes the charges to be true.

6 (b) Within 10 business days after receiving charges under
7 subdivision (a), the governor shall serve or cause to be served a
8 copy of the charges on the county officer. Service must be made as
9 follows:

10 (i) If the county officer can be found, by handing the county
11 officer a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits
12 accompanying the charges.

13 (ii) If the county officer cannot be found, by leaving a copy
14 of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits accompanying the
15 charges with an individual of suitable age at the county officer's
16 last known place of residence or, if an individual of suitable age
17 is not available, by posting the copy or copies in a conspicuous
18 place at the county officer's last known place of residence.

19 (c) The county officer must be given a minimum of 10 business
20 days after service is made under subdivision (b) to respond to the
21 charges.

22 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), within 60 calendar days after
23 receiving charges under this subsection, the governor shall do all
24 of the following:

25 (i) Review the charges to determine whether the evidence
26 supports a finding of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in
27 office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office by the
28 county officer.

29 (ii) Notify the individual making the charges of the



1 determination made under subparagraph (i) .

2 (iii) Notify the accused county officer of the determination
3 made under subparagraph (i) .

4 (e) If, after reviewing the charges, the governor does not
5 make a determination within 60 calendar days as required under
6 subdivision (d) , the governor shall notify the individual making
7 the charges and the accused county officer that no action will be
8 taken on the charges. The individual making the charges is not
9 prohibited from filing the same or similar charges against the
10 accused county officer under this section.

11 (3) The governor may consider the determination under
12 subsection (2) (d) (i) in exercising his or her duties under any law
13 of this state relating to the removal of a county officer.

14 (4) An individual removed from office under this section is
15 not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period
16 of 3 years after the date of removal.

17 Sec. 268. ~~The governor may remove any county road commissioner~~
18 ~~when he shall be satisfied from sufficient evidence submitted to~~
19 ~~him, as hereinafter provided, that such officer has been guilty of~~
20 ~~official misconduct, or of wilful neglect of duty, or of extortion,~~
21 ~~or habitual drunkenness, or has been convicted of being drunk, or~~
22 ~~whenever it shall appear by a certified copy of the judgment of a~~
23 ~~court of record of this state that such officer, after his election~~
24 ~~or appointment, shall have been convicted of a felony; but the~~
25 ~~governor shall take no action upon any such charges made to him~~
26 ~~against any such officer until the same shall have been exhibited~~
27 ~~to him in writing, verified by the affidavit of the party making~~
28 ~~them, that he believes the charges to be true. But no such officer~~
29 ~~shall be removed for such misconduct or neglect until charges~~



~~thereof shall have been exhibited to the governor as above provided and a copy of the same served on such officer and an opportunity given him of being heard in his defense: Provided, That the service of such charges upon the person or persons complained against shall be made by handing to such person or persons a copy of such charges, together with all affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the original petition if such person or persons can be found; and if not, by leaving a copy at the last place of residence of such person or persons, with some person of suitable age, if such person can be found; and if not, by posting it in some conspicuous place upon his last known place of residence. No officer who has been removed in accordance with the provisions of this section shall be eligible to election or appointment to any office for a period of 3 years from the date of such removal.~~

(1) The governor may remove a county road commissioner from office under this section if the governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted to the governor that the county road commissioner is guilty of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

(2) Before the governor removes a county road commissioner under this section, all of the following procedures must be followed:

(a) Charges against the county road commissioner must be submitted to the governor in writing by a qualified elector of the county that the county road commissioner represents specifying the grounds for removal. The charges must be accompanied by any supporting evidence and by the affidavit of the individual making the charges verifying that the individual believes the charges to be true.



1 (b) Within 10 business days after receiving charges under
2 subdivision (a), the governor shall serve or cause to be served a
3 copy of the charges on the county road commissioner. Service must
4 be made as follows:

5 (i) If the county road commissioner can be found, by handing
6 the county road commissioner a copy of the charges and of any
7 affidavits or exhibits accompanying the charges.

8 (ii) If the county road commissioner cannot be found, by
9 leaving a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits
10 accompanying the charges with an individual of suitable age at the
11 county road commissioner's last known place of residence or, if an
12 individual of suitable age is not available, by posting the copy or
13 copies in a conspicuous place at the county road commissioner's
14 last known place of residence.

15 (c) The county road commissioner must be given a minimum of 10
16 business days after service is made under subdivision (b) to
17 respond to the charges.

18 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), within 60 calendar days after
19 receiving charges under this subsection, the governor shall do all
20 of the following:

21 (i) Review the charges to determine whether the evidence
22 supports a finding of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in
23 office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office by the
24 county road commissioner.

25 (ii) Notify the individual making the charges of the
26 determination made under subparagraph (i).

27 (iii) Notify the accused county road commissioner of the
28 determination made under subparagraph (i).

29 (e) If, after reviewing the charges, the governor does not



1 make a determination within 60 calendar days as required under
2 subdivision (d), the governor shall notify the individual making
3 the charges and the accused county road commissioner that no action
4 will be taken on the charges. The individual making the charges is
5 not prohibited from filing the same or similar charges against the
6 accused county road commissioner under this section.

7 (3) The governor may consider the determination under
8 subsection (2) (d) (i) in exercising his or her duties under any law
9 of this state relating to the removal of a county road
10 commissioner.

11 (4) An individual removed from office under this section is
12 not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period
13 of 3 years after the date of removal.

14 ~~Sec. 327. The governor shall remove all city officers chosen~~
15 ~~by the electors of a city or any ward or voting district of a city,~~
16 ~~when the governor is satisfied from sufficient evidence submitted~~
17 ~~to the governor that the officer has been guilty of official~~
18 ~~misconduct, wilful neglect of duty, extortion, or habitual~~
19 ~~drunkenness, or has been convicted of being drunk, or whenever it~~
20 ~~appears by a certified copy of the judgment of a court of record of~~
21 ~~this state that a city officer, after the officer's election or~~
22 ~~appointment, has been convicted of a felony. The governor shall not~~
23 ~~take action upon any charges made to the governor against a city~~
24 ~~officer until the charges have been exhibited to the governor in~~
25 ~~writing, verified by the affidavit of the party making them, that~~
26 ~~he or she believes the charges to be true. But a city officer shall~~
27 ~~not be removed for misconduct or neglect until charges of~~
28 ~~misconduct or neglect have been exhibited to the governor as~~
29 ~~provided in this section and a copy of the charges served on the~~



~~officer and an opportunity given the officer of being heard in his or her defense. The service of the charges upon the officer complained against shall be made by personal service to the officer of a copy of the charges, together with all affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the original petition, if the officer can be found; and if not, by leaving a copy at the last known place of residence of the officer, with a person of suitable age, if a person of suitable age can be found; and if not, by posting the copy of the charges in a conspicuous place at the officer's last known place of residence. An officer who has been removed from office pursuant to this section shall not be eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period of 3 years from the date of the removal. A person who has been convicted of a violation of section 12a(1) of Act No. 370 of the Public Acts of 1941, being section 38.412a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, shall not be eligible for election or appointment to an elective or appointive city office for a period of 20 years after conviction.~~

(1) The governor may remove a city officer chosen by the electors of a city or a ward or voting district of a city from office under this section if the governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted to the governor that the city officer is guilty of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

(2) Before the governor removes a city officer under this section, all of the following procedures must be followed:

(a) Charges against the city officer must be submitted to the governor in writing by a qualified elector of the city that the city officer represents specifying the grounds for removal. The charges must be accompanied by any supporting evidence and by the



1 affidavit of the individual making the charges verifying that the
2 individual believes the charges to be true.

3 (b) Within 10 business days after receiving charges under
4 subdivision (a), the governor shall serve or cause to be served a
5 copy of the charges on the city officer. Service must be made as
6 follows:

7 (i) If the city officer can be found, by handing the city
8 officer a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits
9 accompanying the charges.

10 (ii) If the city officer cannot be found, by leaving a copy of
11 the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits accompanying the
12 charges with an individual of suitable age at the city officer's
13 last known place of residence or, if an individual of suitable age
14 is not available, by posting the copy or copies in a conspicuous
15 place at the city officer's last known place of residence.

16 (c) The city officer must be given a minimum of 10 business
17 days after service is made under subdivision (b) to respond to the
18 charges.

19 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), within 60 calendar days after
20 receiving charges under this subsection, the governor shall do all
21 of the following:

22 (i) Review the charges to determine whether the evidence
23 supports a finding of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in
24 office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office by the
25 city officer.

26 (ii) Notify the individual making the charges of the
27 determination made under subparagraph (i).

28 (iii) Notify the accused city officer of the determination made
29 under subparagraph (i).



1 (e) If, after reviewing the charges, the governor does not
2 make a determination within 60 calendar days as required under
3 subdivision (d), the governor shall notify the individual making
4 the charges and the accused city officer that no action will be
5 taken on the charges. The individual making the charges is not
6 prohibited from filing the same or similar charges against the
7 accused city officer under this section.

8 (3) The governor may consider the determination under
9 subsection (2) (d) (i) in exercising his or her duties under any law
10 of this state relating to the removal of a city officer.

11 (4) An individual removed from office under this section is
12 not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period
13 of 3 years after the date of removal.

14 ~~Sec. 369. The governor shall remove a township officer chosen~~
15 ~~by the electors of any township, when the governor is satisfied~~
16 ~~from the evidence submitted that the officer has been guilty of~~
17 ~~official misconduct, wilful neglect of duty, extortion, habitual~~
18 ~~drunkenness, or has been convicted of being drunk, or when it~~
19 ~~appears by a certified copy of the judgment of a court of record of~~
20 ~~this state that the officer, after the officer's election or~~
21 ~~appointment, was convicted of a felony. The governor shall not take~~
22 ~~action upon the charges made against the officer until the charges~~
23 ~~are exhibited in writing, verified by the affidavit of the party~~
24 ~~making the charges that the party believes the charges to be true.~~
25 ~~The officer shall not be removed for misconduct or neglect until~~
26 ~~charges of the misconduct or neglect are exhibited to the governor~~
27 ~~as provided in this section, a copy of the charges served on the~~
28 ~~officer, and an opportunity given to the officer of being heard in~~
29 ~~his defense. The service of the charges upon the officer shall be~~



1 ~~made by handing to the officer a copy of the charges, together with~~
2 ~~the affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the original~~
3 ~~petition if the officer can be found; if the officer cannot be~~
4 ~~found a copy shall be left at the last place of residence of the~~
5 ~~officer with a person of suitable age, if a person can be found. If~~
6 ~~a person cannot be found, a copy shall be posted in a conspicuous~~
7 ~~place upon the officer's last known place of residence. An officer~~
8 ~~who has been removed in accordance with this section shall not be~~
9 ~~eligible for election or appointment to an office for a period of 3~~
10 ~~years after the date of removal from office.~~

11 (1) The governor may remove a township officer chosen by the
12 electors of a township from office under this section if the
13 governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted to the governor
14 that the township officer is guilty of gross neglect of duty,
15 corrupt conduct in office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance
16 in office.

17 (2) Before the governor removes a township officer under this
18 section, all of the following procedures must be followed:

19 (a) Charges against the township officer must be submitted to
20 the governor in writing by a qualified elector of the township that
21 the township officer represents specifying the grounds for removal.
22 The charges must be accompanied by any supporting evidence and by
23 the affidavit of the individual making the charges verifying that
24 the individual believes the charges to be true.

25 (b) Within 10 business days after receiving charges under
26 subdivision (a), the governor shall serve or cause to be served a
27 copy of the charges on the township officer. Service must be made
28 as follows:

29 (i) If the township officer can be found, by handing the



1 township officer a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or
2 exhibits accompanying the charges.

3 (ii) If the township officer cannot be found, by leaving a copy
4 of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits accompanying the
5 charges with an individual of suitable age at the township
6 officer's last known place of residence or, if an individual of
7 suitable age is not available, by posting the copy or copies in a
8 conspicuous place at the township officer's last known place of
9 residence.

10 (c) The township officer must be given a minimum of 10
11 business days after service is made under subdivision (b) to
12 respond to the charges.

13 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), within 60 calendar days after
14 receiving charges under this subsection, the governor shall do all
15 of the following:

16 (i) Review the charges to determine whether the evidence
17 supports a finding of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in
18 office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office by the
19 township officer.

20 (ii) Notify the individual making the charges of the
21 determination made under subparagraph (i).

22 (iii) Notify the accused township officer of the determination
23 made under subparagraph (i).

24 (e) If, after reviewing the charges, the governor does not
25 make a determination within 60 calendar days as required under
26 subdivision (d), the governor shall notify the individual making
27 the charges and the accused township officer that no action will be
28 taken on the charges. The individual making the charges is not
29 prohibited from filing the same or similar charges against the



1 accused township officer under this section.

2 (3) The governor may consider the determination under
3 subsection (2) (d) (i) in exercising his or her duties under any law
4 of this state relating to the removal of a township officer.

5 (4) An individual removed from office under this section is
6 not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period
7 of 3 years after the date of removal.

8 Sec. 383. ~~The governor shall remove all village officers~~
9 ~~chosen by the electors of a village if the governor is satisfied~~
10 ~~from sufficient evidence submitted to the governor that the officer~~
11 ~~is guilty of official misconduct, wilful neglect of duty,~~
12 ~~extortion, or habitual drunkenness, or has been convicted of being~~
13 ~~drunk, or if it appears by a certified copy of the judgment of a~~
14 ~~court of record of this state that a village officer, after the~~
15 ~~officer's election or appointment, has been convicted of a felony.~~
16 ~~The governor shall not take action upon any charges made to the~~
17 ~~governor against a village officer until the charges have been~~
18 ~~exhibited to the governor in writing, verified by the affidavit of~~
19 ~~the party making them, that the party believes the charges to be~~
20 ~~true. A village officer must not be removed for misconduct or~~
21 ~~neglect until charges of misconduct or neglect have been exhibited~~
22 ~~to the governor as provided in this section and a copy of the~~
23 ~~charges served on the officer and an opportunity given the officer~~
24 ~~of being heard in his or her defense. The service of the charges~~
25 ~~upon the person or persons complained against must be made by~~
26 ~~personal service to the officer of a copy of the charges, together~~
27 ~~with all affidavits or exhibits which may be attached to the~~
28 ~~original petition, if the officer can be found, and if not, by~~
29 ~~leaving a copy of the charges at the last known place of residence~~



~~of the officer with a person of suitable age, if a person of suitable age can be found, and if not, by posting the copy of the charges in a conspicuous place at the officer's last known place of residence. An officer who has been removed from office under this section is not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period of 3 years from the date of the removal from office.~~

(1) The governor may remove a village officer chosen by the electors of a village from office under this section if the governor is satisfied from the evidence submitted to the governor that the village officer is guilty of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office.

(2) Before the governor removes a village officer under this section, all of the following procedures must be followed:

(a) Charges against the village officer must be submitted to the governor in writing by a qualified elector of the village that the village officer represents specifying the grounds for removal. The charges must be accompanied by any supporting evidence and by the affidavit of the individual making the charges verifying that the individual believes the charges to be true.

(b) Within 10 business days after receiving charges under subdivision (a), the governor shall serve or cause to be served a copy of the charges on the village officer. Service must be made as follows:

(i) If the village officer can be found, by handing the village officer a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits accompanying the charges.

(ii) If the village officer cannot be found, by leaving a copy of the charges and of any affidavits or exhibits accompanying the



1 charges with an individual of suitable age at the village officer's
2 last known place of residence or, if an individual of suitable age
3 is not available, by posting the copy or copies in a conspicuous
4 place at the village officer's last known place of residence.

5 (c) The village officer must be given a minimum of 10 business
6 days after service is made under subdivision (b) to respond to the
7 charges.

8 (d) Subject to subdivision (e), within 60 calendar days after
9 receiving charges under this subsection, the governor shall do all
10 of the following:

11 (i) Review the charges to determine whether the evidence
12 supports a finding of gross neglect of duty, corrupt conduct in
13 office, or any other misfeasance or malfeasance in office by the
14 village officer.

15 (ii) Notify the individual making the charges of the
16 determination made under subparagraph (i).

17 (iii) Notify the accused village officer of the determination
18 made under subparagraph (i).

19 (e) If, after reviewing the charges, the governor does not
20 make a determination within 60 calendar days as required under
21 subdivision (d), the governor shall notify the individual making
22 the charges and the accused village officer that no action will be
23 taken on the charges. The individual making the charges is not
24 prohibited from filing the same or similar charges against the
25 accused village officer under this section.

26 (3) The governor may consider the determination under
27 subsection (2) (d) (i) in exercising his or her duties under any law
28 of this state relating to the removal of a village officer.

29 (4) An individual removed from office under this section is



- 1 not eligible for election or appointment to any office for a period
- 2 of 3 years after the date of removal.