

# Legislative Analysis



## CHANGING THE NAME OF A TOWNSHIP

Phone: (517) 373-8080  
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**House Bill 4637 as reported from committee**  
**Sponsor: Rep. David W. Martin**  
**Committee: Local Government and Municipal Finance**  
**Complete to 6-2-21**

Analysis available at  
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

### SUMMARY:

House Bill 4637 would amend 1846 RS 16, concerning powers and duties of townships, to authorize a township to change its name through a resolution adopted by 2/3 of the township board and approved by township voters.

Under the bill, a township board could change the name of the township by a resolution that is adopted by 2/3 of the members elected to and serving on the board. The resolution would have to include the new township name and could take effect only if approved by a majority of the township's voters at an election held on the next succeeding August or November regular election date that is at least 60 days after the resolution is adopted. If a majority of the voters approve the resolution, the township could change its name to that new name.

A township could not change its name more often than once every 25 years.

Proposed MCL 41.2a

### FISCAL IMPACT:

Townships that undergo a name change under the bill would incur marginal costs related to the replacement of materials bearing the former township name. Costs associated with this could include the replacement of signs, stationery, mailing or office supplies, and vehicle lettering or decals, among other various changes, and the labor and administrative time spent on updating materials bearing the former township name.

The bill would have no fiscal impact on the state or on other townships and local units of government.

### POSITIONS:

A representative of the Michigan Townships Association testified in support of the bill.  
(4-28-21)

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