

CITY AND VILLAGE ZONING ACT (EXCERPT)
Act 207 of 1921

***** 125.585 THIS SECTION IS REPEALED BY ACT 110 OF 2006 EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006 *****

125.585 Board of appeals; rules governing procedure; appointment and terms of members; powers and duties of board; appeals; variances; remuneration; finality of decision; judicial review.

Sec. 5. (1) The legislative body of a city or village may act as a board of appeals upon questions arising under a zoning ordinance. The legislative body may establish rules to govern its procedure as a board of appeals. In the alternative, the legislative body may appoint a board of appeals consisting of not less than 5 members, each to be appointed for a term of 3 years. Appointments of the first members shall be for terms of 1, 2, and 3 years, respectively, so as nearly as possible to provide for the subsequent appointment of an equal number of members each year. After the initial appointments, each member shall hold office for the full 3-year term.

(2) Under procedures specified in the zoning ordinance, the legislative body of a city or village may appoint not more than 2 alternate members for the same term as regular members of the board of appeals. The alternate members may be called on a rotating basis as specified in the zoning ordinance to sit as regular members of the board of appeals in the absence of a regular member. An alternate member may also be called to serve in the place of a regular member for the purpose of reaching a decision on a case in which the regular member has abstained for reasons of conflict of interest. The alternate member called shall serve in the case until a final decision is made. The alternate member has the same voting rights as a regular member of the board of appeals.

(3) The board of appeals shall hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirements, decision, or determination made by an administrative official or body charged with the enforcement of an ordinance adopted under this act. The board of appeals shall also hear and decide matters referred to the board or upon which the board is required to pass under an ordinance adopted under this act. For special land use and planned unit development decisions, an appeal may be taken to the board of appeals only if provided for in the zoning ordinance.

(4) In a city or village having a population of less than 1,000,000, the concurring vote of a majority of the members of the board is necessary to reverse an order, requirement, decision, or determination of an administrative official or body, or to decide in favor of the applicant a matter upon which the board is required to pass under an ordinance, or to effect a variation in an ordinance except that a concurring vote of 2/3 of the members of the board is necessary to grant a variance from uses of land permitted in an ordinance. In a city having a population of 1,000,000 or more, the concurring vote of 2/3 of the members of the board is necessary to reverse an order, requirement, decision, or determination of an administrative official or body, or to decide in favor of the applicant a matter upon which the board is required to pass under an ordinance, or to grant a variance in an ordinance.

(5) An appeal may be taken by a person aggrieved, or by an officer, department, board, or bureau of the city or village. In addition, a variance in an ordinance may be applied for and granted pursuant to section 4 of the uniform condemnation procedures act, 1980 PA 87, MCL 213.54, and this act. A board of rules or board of building appeals of a city or village may be enlarged to consist of not less than 5 members, and these may be appointed as the board of appeals as provided in this section.

(6) An appeal under this section shall be taken, within a time prescribed by the board of appeals by general rule, by filing, with the officer or body from whom the appeal is taken and with the board of appeals, a notice of appeal specifying the grounds for the appeal. The officer or body from whom the appeal is taken shall immediately transmit to the board all the papers constituting the record upon which the action appealed from was taken.

(7) An appeal under this section stays all proceedings in furtherance of the action appealed from unless the officer or body from whom the appeal is taken certifies to the board of appeals, after the notice of appeal is filed, that by reason of facts stated in the certificate, a stay would in the opinion of the officer or body cause imminent peril to life or property. If such a certification is filed, the proceedings shall only be stayed by a restraining order. A restraining order may be granted by the board of appeals or by the circuit court, on application, on notice to the officer or body from whom the appeal is taken and on due cause shown.

(8) The board of appeals shall fix a reasonable time for the hearing of the appeal and give notice of the appeal to the persons to whom real property within 300 feet of the premises in question is assessed, and to the occupants of single and 2-family dwellings within 300 feet. The notice shall be delivered personally or by mail addressed to the respective owners and tenants at the address given in the last assessment roll. If a

tenant's name is not known, the term "occupant" may be used. Upon the hearing, a party may appear in person or by agent or by attorney.

(9) The board of appeals shall decide the appeal within a reasonable time. The board of appeals may reverse or affirm, wholly or partly, or may modify the order, requirement, decision, or determination appealed from and shall make an order, requirement, decision, or determination as in the board's opinion ought to be made in the premises, and to that end shall have all the powers of the officer or body from whom the appeal is taken. If there are practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship in carrying out the strict letter of the ordinance, the board of appeals may in passing upon appeals grant a variance in any of its rules or provisions relating to the construction, or structural changes in, equipment, or alteration of buildings or structures, or the use of land, buildings, or structures, so that the spirit of the ordinance shall be observed, public safety secured, and substantial justice done.

(10) The board of appeals may impose conditions upon an affirmative decision, as provided in section 4c(2). The legislative body of a city or village may authorize the remuneration of the members of the board for attendance at each meeting.

(11) The decision of the board of appeals is final. However, a person having an interest affected by the zoning ordinance may appeal to the circuit court. Upon appeal, the circuit court shall review the record and decision of the board of appeals to ensure that the decision meets all of the following requirements:

- (a) Complies with the constitution and laws of this state.
- (b) Is based upon proper procedure.
- (c) Is supported by competent, material, and substantial evidence on the record.
- (d) Represents the reasonable exercise of discretion granted by law to the board of appeals.

(12) If the court finds the record of the board of appeals inadequate to make the review required by this section, or that additional material evidence exists that with good reason was not presented to the board of appeals, the court shall order further proceedings before the board of appeals on conditions that the court considers proper. The board of appeals may modify its findings and decision as a result of the new proceedings, or may affirm the original decision. The supplementary record and decision shall be filed with the court.

(13) As a result of the review required by this section, the court may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the board of appeals.

History: 1921, Act 207, Imd. Eff. May 17, 1921;—CL 1929, 2637;—Am. 1941, Act 306, Eff. Jan. 10, 1942;—Am. 1947, Act 272, Eff. Oct. 11, 1947;—CL 1948, 125.585;—Am. 1952, Act 97, Eff. Sept. 18, 1952;—Am. 1968, Act 202, Eff. Nov. 15, 1968;—Am. 1973, Act 204, Imd. Eff. Jan. 11, 1974;—Am. 1978, Act 638, Eff. Mar. 1, 1979;—Am. 1979, Act 180, Eff. Mar. 18, 1980;—Am. 1986, Act 191, Imd. Eff. July 8, 1986;—Am. 2000, Act 20, Imd. Eff. Mar. 8, 2000.