CHAPTER 6

CHAPTER 6

(HB 83)

AN ACT relating to water districts.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

→ Section 1. KRS 65.060 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 65.008, 65.009, 65.065 and 65.070, the term "district" shall mean and the provisions of KRS 65.008, 65.009, 65.065 and 65.070 shall apply to any board, commission, or special district created pursuant to the following statutes: KRS 39F.020, 39F.160; KRS 65.160, 65.162, 65.210 to 65.300, 65.510 to 65.650; KRS 74.010 to 74.415[74.416]; KRS 75.010 to 75.260; KRS 76.005 to 76.210, 76.241 to 76.273, 76.274 to 76.279, 76.295 to 76.420, 76.600 to 76.640; KRS 77.005 to 77.305; KRS 80.262 to 80.610; KRS 91A.350 to 91A.390; KRS 96A.010 to 96A.230; KRS 104.450 to 104.680; KRS 107.310 to 107.500; KRS 108.010 to 108.070, 108.080 to 108.180; KRS 109.056, 109.059, 109.115 to 109.190; KRS 147.610 to 147.705; KRS 147A.050 to 147A.120; KRS 154.50-301 to 154.50-346; KRS 164.605 to 164.675; KRS 173.450 to 173.650, 173.710 to 173.800; KRS 179.700 to 179.735; KRS 183.132 to 183.160; KRS 184.010 to 184.300; KRS 210.460 to 210.480; KRS 212.720 to 212.760; KRS 216.310 to 216.360; KRS 220.010 to 220.613; KRS 262.100 to 262.660, 262.700 to 262.990; KRS 266.010 to 266.990; KRS 267.010 to 267.990; KRS 268.010 to 268.990; or KRS 273.405 to 273.453.

→ Section 2. KRS 65.805 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 65.810 to 65.830, unless the context otherwise requires, the word "district" shall mean, and the provisions of KRS 65.810 to 65.830 shall apply to, any special district governed by the following statutes: KRS 66.610 to 66.650, 74.010 to 74.415 [74.416], 108.010 to 108.070, 184.010 to 184.300, and 267.010 to 267.990.

- → Section 3. KRS 74.020 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) A water district shall be administered by a board of commissioners which shall control and manage the affairs of the district. The term of each commissioner is four (4) years, except as provided in this section:
 - (a) If a district lies wholly within a single county, or operates as a single-county district, as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, the board of commissioners shall be composed of either three (3) or five (5) members as the county judge/executive shall determine. Members of the board shall be residents of the district, or of any incorporated or unincorporated area served by the district in the county in which the district was originally established, who shall be appointed by the county judge/executive with the approval of the fiscal court. [If two (2) or more water districts within a single county merge as described in KRS 74.361, the county judge/executive may appoint up to two (2) additional commissioners with the approval of the fiscal court. [Initial appointments shall be for terms of two (2), three (3), and four (4) years, as designated by the court.
 - (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, if a district formed in a single county extends its area to include territory in *one* (1) or more[an] adjacent counties[county], as provided by KRS 74.115, the board of commissioners shall be appointed by the appropriate county judges/executive, with the approval of the respective fiscal courts of the concerned counties as follows: in two (2) county districts, three (3) members from the original district and two (2) members from the extended portion of the district; for extensions into three (3) or more counties, the respective county judges/executive, with the approval of the respective fiscal courts, shall appoint, in addition to the existing membership of the commission, two (2) members from the original one-county district and two (2) members from the newly extended portion of the district. Orders establishing the extension shall provide for the staggering of initial terms in an equitable manner.
 - (c) If a [single county] district acquires[administered as provided in paragraph (a) of this subsection shall acquire] an existing water or gas distribution system serving an area which extends beyond the boundaries of the district into one (1) or more additional counties[another county], or if a district [formed in a single county] extends its area to include territory in one (1) or more[an] adjacent counties[county] as provided by KRS 74.115, it may operate the distribution system so acquired, or extended, without adding additional board members, if the new area to be served [outside the county] shall be deemed to be a minor portion of the total area served by the district, and if the fiscal court of the county containing the minor portion of the total area shall have agreed to the acquisition or to the

extension of the distribution system. If less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the total assets of the distribution system are located within *any particular*[the] county *included in the territorial*[outside of the] boundaries of the district, it shall be conclusively presumed, *with respect to that particular county*, that the district comes within the terms of this subsection.

- (2) A commissioner may be removed from office as provided by KRS 65.007.
- (3) A commissioner who participates in any official action by the water district board of commissioners which results in a direct financial benefit to him may be removed from office as provided by KRS 65.007.
- (4) Vacancies shall be filled by the same appointing authority which is empowered to make the original appointment. Vacancies resulting from cause other than expiration of the term shall be filled for the unexpired term only. Notwithstanding the provisions of KRS 67.710, a vacancy resulting from the expiration of a term shall be filled by the Public Service Commission if, within ninety (90) days following the expiration of the term, the vacancy has not been filled by the appropriate county judge/executive with approval of the fiscal court.
- (5) The commission shall elect a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary, [and] treasurer, and any other officers and assistant officers as the commission may deem necessary, each of whom shall be members of the commission. Any two (2) or more offices may be held by the same person, except that the chairman may not hold any other office. Each commissioner shall execute a bond for[, approved by the county judge/executive, conditioned on] the faithful performance of the duties of his position.
- (6) Each commissioner shall receive an annual salary of not more than thirty-six hundred dollars (\$3,600), which shall be paid out of the water district fund, except that beginning January 1, 1999, each commissioner who completes during an educational year a minimum of six (6) instructional hours of water district management training approved by the Public Service Commission may receive an annual salary of not more than six thousand dollars (\$6,000) to be paid out of the water district fund. An educational year shall begin on January 1 and end on the following December 31. In the case of single-county districts, which shall be deemed to include districts described in paragraph (c) of subsection (1) of this section, the salary shall be fixed by the county judges/executive with the approval of their fiscal courts, it shall be fixed by the agreement between the county judges/executive with the approval of their fiscal courts. In fixing and approving the salary of the commissioners, the county judge/executive and the fiscal court shall take into consideration the financial condition of the district and its ability to meet its obligations as they mature.
- (7) (a) In order to receive an increase in salary as specified in subsection (6) of this section, commissioners shall successfully complete six (6) instructional hours of water district management training annually. The training shall be approved and paid for by the water district of the county the commissioner represents. Those commissioners not required to complete the six (6) instructional hours shall be reimbursed for the cost of instruction if they choose to complete the water district training.
 - (b) The Public Service Commission shall be responsible for the regulation of all water district management training programs for commissioners of water districts, combined water, gas, or sewer districts, or water commissions.
 - (c) The Public Service Commission shall encourage and promote the offering of high quality water district management training programs that enhance a water district commissioner's understanding of his or her responsibilities and duties. The commission shall, no later than January 1, 1999, establish standards and procedures to evaluate, accredit, and approve water district management training programs.
 - (d) The Public Service Commission may promulgate administrative regulations in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 13A to implement this section.
 - → Section 4. KRS 74.030 is amended to read as follows:

The [county attorney shall act as counsel to the water commission, except that the]commission may[, subject to approval of the county judge/executive,] employ *legal* counsel whose compensation shall be paid from water district funds.

→ Section 5. KRS 74.040 is amended to read as follows:

The commission may employ a person to serve as the chief executive officer[appoint a competent person as superintendent] of the water district[districts]. This person shall not be one of the water district's commissioners.

The person may be designated the general manager, superintendent, or chief executive officer of the district or by any other similar title. The chief executive officer[superintendent] shall perform such additional duties as the commission may require of him or her and shall be subject to the orders of the commission[and shall look after the improvements established under this chapter]. The chief executive officer shall[superintendent, with the approval and consent of the commission, may] employ all necessary labor and assistance in the performance of his or her duties, and he or she shall report to the commission all expenses incurred. The salary of the chief executive officer[superintendent] shall be fixed by the commission[and paid as other salaries provided for in this chapter are paid].

→ Section 6. KRS 74.050 is amended to read as follows:

The treasurer of the commission shall be the lawful custodian of [pay out] the funds of the water district and shall cause the funds to be disbursed according to procedures adopted by the commission [only upon presentation of warrants signed by the chairman and countersigned by the secretary of the commission]. The procedures shall include a requirement for approval of disbursements by a commissioner in addition to the treasurer. The treasurer shall cause to be maintained a proper record of the receipts and disbursements of the water district in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for utilities. In addition to the compensation for commissioners as set out in Section 3 of this Act, as compensation for his or her services the treasurer shall receive an amount fixed by the commission, not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200) per year. The treasurer [He] shall execute bond to the commission in an amount and with such surety as determined [fixed] by the commission.

→ Section 7. KRS 74.070 is amended to read as follows:

[The commission may acquire and install pipe and water laterals, and operate a water system for any district.] The commission shall be a body corporate for all purposes, and may make contracts for the water district with municipalities and other persons[for a water supply]. All corporate powers of the water district shall be exercised by, or under the authority of, its commission. The business and affairs of the water district shall be managed under the direction and oversight of its commission. The commission[It] may prosecute and defend suits, hire the chief executive officer[necessary employees] and do all acts necessary to carry on the work of the water district. The commission may adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the provisions of this chapter.

→ Section 8. KRS 74.110 is amended to read as follows:

The territorial limits of an established water district may be enlarged or diminished in the following way:

- (1) The commission shall file a petition with the county judge/executive, describing the territory to be annexed or stricken off, and setting out the reasons therefor.
- (2) Notice of the petition shall be given *in the manner provided by KRS Chapter 424*. Within thirty (30) days after the notice, any resident of the water district or the territory proposed to be annexed may file objections and exceptions.
- (3) The county judge/executive shall set the matter for hearing, and if the county judge/executive finds that it is reasonably necessary, he shall enter an order annexing or striking off the proposed territory. If the county judge/executive finds that the proposed change is unnecessary, he shall dismiss the petition. Either party may appeal the order to the Circuit Court.
- (4) If any of the territory stricken off has been assessed to pay the costs of any improvements, the commission shall strike the assessments from the assessment roll and refund to the respective owners any assessments collected on the land which have been stricken off.
- (5) If a deficit is incurred by striking off part of a water district, or by striking assessments from the assessment roll, so that the assessment roll is insufficient to pay the bonded indebtedness of the district, the deficit shall be paid out of the general fund of the district, realized from all other resources in the district.

→ Section 9. KRS 74.330 is amended to read as follows:

Refunding bonds shall be issued under the signature of the chairman of the commission, the countersignature of the treasurer of the commission, and the seal of the district. The bonds shall be serially numbered. The commission shall prescribe the form and denominations of the bonds, and the time, not exceeding *forty* (40)[thirty (30)] years, at which they will mature and be redeemable. The bonds shall bear interest at a rate or rates or method of determining rates as the commission directs, be payable at least annually, and shall have interest coupons attached. The proceeds of the bonds shall be used exclusively for the refunding of bonded debts. In case any officer whose signature or

countersignature appears on the bonds or coupons ceases to be an officer before delivery of the bonds, his signature or countersignature shall nevertheless be valid the same as if he had been in office until delivery.

- → Section 10. KRS 74.361 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky determines as a legislative finding of fact that reduction of the number of operating water districts in the Commonwealth will be in the public interest, in that mergers of such districts will tend to eliminate wasteful duplication of costs and efforts, result in a sounder and more businesslike degree of management, and ultimately result in greater economies, less cost, and a higher degree of service to the general public; and that the public policy favors the merger of water districts wherever feasible.
- (2) The Public Service Commission of Kentucky is authorized and empowered to initiate, carry out, and complete such investigations, inquiries, and studies as may be reasonably necessary to determine the advisability as to the merger of water districts. Prior to ordering a hearing with reference to the merger of any water district into one (1) or more additional water districts, the Public Service Commission shall cause to be prepared in writing a feasibility report and study regarding the proposed merger, containing such studies, investigations, facts, historical data, and projections as in the circumstances may be required in order to enable the commission to formulate a proper decision regarding such merger.
- (3) Based upon the written report and study required to be made incident to any water district merger, the Public Service Commission may propose by order that a merger of water districts be accomplished, and, upon the issuance of such order, shall give actual notice to all water districts proposed to be merged. Said order shall provide for a formal public hearing to be held before the Public Service Commission on the subject of such proposed merger. Actual notice of such merger hearing shall also be furnished to the county judges/executive of each county containing a water district proposed to be merged, and each water commissioner of a water district proposed to be merged, and notice of such public hearing shall be afforded to the public served by the respective water districts sought to be merged, by newspaper notice in accordance with the provisions of KRS Chapter 424.
- (4) A formal hearing before the Public Service Commission shall be held with reference to such merger proposal, and, upon such occasion, all water districts which are sought to be merged into a single entity shall be afforded the right to appear, to present evidence, to examine all exhibits and testimony, to cross-examine all witnesses, and to submit such memoranda, written evidence, and briefs as may be desired. Such public hearing may be adjourned from time to time by the Public Service Commission, and notice of such adjournments may, but need not, be afforded as with reference to the initial public hearing. At the conclusion of such proceedings, the Public Service Commission shall enter its order, either merging the water districts which are the subject of the merger proceedings into a single water district, or abandoning the merger proposal.
- (5) Outstanding obligations of any water district merged in accordance with the provisions of this section which are secured by the right to levy an assessment as provided by KRS 74.130 to 74.230, inclusive, or secured by a pledge of the income and revenues of the systems operated by any such merged water district, shall continue to be retired from such moneys and funds as shall be collected from the users of facilities operated by such merged water districts in the original water district area in accordance with the terms and provisions of the enabling laws and the authorizing resolutions or indentures under which the outstanding obligations were issued, until all such obligations have been retired.
- (6) In any order ordering the merger of water districts, the Public Service Commission shall make such additional orders as may be required in connection with the schedule of rates, rentals and charges for services rendered to be levied by the water district which remains in existence following such merger, having due regard to contractual commitments made and entered into by the constituent merged water districts in connection with the issuance of obligations by such districts.
- (7) Upon the effective date of any merger of water districts, the water commissioners of the merged water districts shall continue to serve as water commissioners of the resulting district, regardless of their normal term expiration, until one (1) year after approval of the merger by the Public Service Commission. Thereafter, the board shall be composed as set forth in Section 11 of this Act. [for the remainder of the terms for which they were appointed, and, following the expiration of the terms of such water commissioners,] The appropriate county judge/executive or county judges/executive shall appoint and reappoint water commissioners to manage the business and affairs of the resultant water district, in the manner provided by Section 11 of this Act[KRS 74.020].

- (8) Any order of merger entered by the Public Service Commission in accordance with this section shall be subject to all of the provisions of KRS Chapter 278, with reference to petitions for rehearing, and appeal.
- (9) Using the authority of this section the Public Service Commission can also cause mergers of water associations into water associations or mergers of water associations into water districts.
- (10) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prohibit or limit in any respect the acquisition by water utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or by municipally owned water utilities of the assets of water districts or water associations or the merger of water districts or water associations and water utilities subject to the jurisdiction of the commission or municipally owned water utilities.
 - → Section 11. KRS 74.363 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) Boards of commissioners of any two (2) or more water districts may by concurrent action and by approval of a majority of the membership of the board of each merge their districts into one (1).
- (2) [Notwithstanding any provisions to the contrary in KRS 74.361(7), in case of a merger under this section,]The members of the boards of commissioners of the merged water districts shall serve as members of the board of commissioners of the resulting district, regardless of their normal term expiration, until one (1) year after approval of the merger by the Public Service Commission. Thereafter, the board shall be composed as follows:
 - (a) If the boundaries of the resulting district lie wholly within a single county, the board of commissioners shall be composed of between three (3) and seven (7) members as *agreed upon by the merged water districts in their merger documents*[the county judge/executive shall determine].
 - (b) If the boundaries of the resulting district lie within two (2) or more counties, the board of commissioners shall be composed of six (6) or more members as *agreed upon by the merged water districts in their merger documents*[follows: four (4) members shall be appointed by the county judge/executive of the county in which the greatest portion of the population of the district resides; two (2) members shall be appointed by the county judge/executive of the county in which the next greatest portion of the population of the district resides; and one (1) member shall be appointed by the county judge/executive of each remaining county in which a portion of the population of the district resides].
- (3) Each appointment to the board of commissioners of the resulting district shall be made by the appropriate county judge/executive with the approval of the fiscal court. Each member of the board shall be a resident of the county from which he or she is appointed. The initial terms of the board of commissioners after the merger shall be as follows: approximately one-third (1/3) of the commissioners shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years; approximately one-third (1/3) of the commissioners shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years; and the remaining commissioners shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. Thereafter, all commissioners shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years. The provisions of KRS 74.020(2) to (7) shall apply to all commissioners and vacancies on the board of commissioners.
- (4) The resulting district shall have all the assets and legal liabilities of the water districts joining in the merger. The separate existences of the water districts joining in the merger, except the resulting district, shall cease, and the title to all real estate and other property owned by the water districts joining in the merger shall be vested in the resulting district without reversion or impairment. Bonded obligations of any district secured by the right to levy an assessment as provided by KRS 74.130 through 74.230 or secured by the revenue of the systems operated by the district shall continue to be retired or a sinking fund for such purpose created from the tax assessments or revenue from the system operated by the district from funds collected over the same area by the new board of commissioners in accordance with the laws under which the bonds were issued until all bonded obligations of the old district have been retired.
 - → Section 12. KRS 74.370 is amended to read as follows:
- (1) Any water district, created in the manner provided in KRS 74.010 to 74.070, both inclusive, may if the commissioners of such water district deem it feasible, build, or acquire or enlarge a water system without resort to, or in combination with, the right to levy assessments for the cost of such water system, as is provided in KRS 74.130 to 74.240[74.250], both inclusive, and may obtain the funds with which to build, acquire or enlarge such system by the issuance of revenue bonds, payable solely from the revenue to be derived from the operation of such system, or payable partially from revenues and partially from assessments.
- (2) In the event the commissioners shall decide to finance the cost of such construction, acquisition or enlargement by the issuance of revenue bonds, secured solely by the revenue of the system or partially by the revenue of the Legislative Research Commission PDF Version

system and partially by assessments, the commission shall note such decision by appropriate resolution, and shall thereafter proceed under the provisions of KRS 96.350 to 96.510, both inclusive, and the water district and the commission shall have the same powers and duties as a city of the second to sixth class inclusive under the provisions of KRS 96.350 to 96.510, both inclusive. However, the water district and the commission shall not be limited solely to the revenue of the system in securing revenue bonds so issued.

→ Section 13. KRS 74.407 is amended to read as follows:

In addition to the other authority which water districts presently have under this chapter, water districts are hereby authorized to acquire, develop, maintain and operate sewage disposal systems within the confines of their respective districts except that such sewer systems shall not include territory within the boundaries of existing municipal corporations having the authority to provide such sewer services without the consent of such municipal corporations. In the event of annexation of territory within a water district by another municipal corporation authorized to provide sewer systems and services, the water district may continue to provide and charge for sewer services within such newly annexed areas until such annexing municipal corporation makes adequate payment, by negotiation or condemnation, for such sewage disposal facilities owned and operated by the water district. The water district commissioners shall have all of the powers and authority, as regards sewer systems that are conferred upon them for the purpose of furnishing a water supply under KRS 74.010 to 74.415[74.390].

→ Section 14. KRS 76.005 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 76.010 to 76.295 unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "District" means a metropolitan sewer district authorized by KRS 76.010 to 76.210.
- (2) "Board" means the board described in KRS 76.030.
- (3) "District area," "within the district," "corporate limits of the district" and similar terms mean that area of a county containing a city of the first class which area was on April 1, 1964, either inside the city of the first class or served by sanitary or combined sanitary and storm water sewers which were under the immediate control and custody of the district, that area of such a county which is added to the district pursuant to KRS 76.170, and that area of such a county which may be annexed to the city of the first class except that no construction subdistrict shall be construed to be within the district area.
- (4) "Construction subdistrict bonds and obligations" and like phrases mean any obligation whatsoever that has been incurred by the district because of some function or activity of a construction subdistrict. Such debts are not obligations of the district, and such debts may be paid only from moneys received by the district on account of the construction subdistrict, or from the funds, if any, in the construction subdistrict reserve fund.
- (5) "Construction subdistrict facilities" are all sewerage facilities within a construction subdistrict, and all sewerage facilities in a county containing a district outside the district area which
 - (a) are not a part of a sewer construction district organized pursuant to KRS 76.300 to 76.420 or a sanitation district organized pursuant to KRS 220.010 to 220.540 or a sewer system of a municipal corporation or a sewer system of a water district organized pursuant to KRS 74.010 to 74.415[74.416];
 - (b) join together two (2) or more construction subdistricts or lead from a construction subdistrict to the district area or lead from a construction subdistrict to a disposal plant or a treatment plant outside the construction subdistrict and outside the district area.
- (6) "District facilities" are all facilities of the district within the district area.
 - → Section 15. KRS 76.242 is amended to read as follows:

The construction subdistrict shall not include the whole or any part of any incorporated city of the first, second, third or fourth class, or any sanitation district or sewer construction district, or that part of a water district in which the water district has exercised its power to establish sanitary sewerage facilities pursuant to KRS 74.407 to 74.415[74.416], except with the consent of the legislative or managing board of such city or district. With such consent, the property owners of such city or district will be considered as freeholders of the construction subdistrict.

→ Section 16. KRS 220.010 is amended to read as follows:

As used in KRS 220.010 to 220.540, unless the context otherwise requires:

- (1) "Sanitary works," "improvements," "sanitary system" or "sanitary sewers," means any works constructed by a sanitation district in accordance with the purposes of KRS 220.010 to 220.540, as set forth in KRS 220.030.
- (2) "Person" means any person, firm, copartnership, association or corporation other than a public corporation.
- (3) "Public corporation" means any county, city, school district, water district or drainage district, and any other governmental agency or political subdivision clothed with the power of levying general or special taxes or issuing bonds payable from special funds.
- (4) "Land" or "property" means real property.
- (5) "Board of directors," "directors" or "board" means the governing body of a sanitation district.
- (6) "Sanitation commissioner" or "commissioner" means the commissioner of sanitation districts, as provided for in KRS 220.020.
- (7) "District" means a sanitation district authorized by KRS 220.010 to 220.540.
- (8) "District area," "within the district," "corporate limits of the district" and similar terms mean that area established to be within the district in accordance with KRS 220.020 to 220.540. No construction subdistrict shall be construed to be within the district area.
- (9) "Construction subdistrict bonds and obligations" and like phrases mean any obligation whatsoever that has been incurred by the district because of some function or activity of a construction subdistrict. Such debts are not obligations of the district, and such debts may be paid only from moneys received by the district on account of the construction subdistrict, or from the funds, if any, in the construction subdistrict reserve fund.
- (10) "Construction subdistrict facilities" are all sewage facilities within a construction subdistrict, and all sewage facilities outside the district area which join together two (2) or more construction subdistricts or lead from a construction subdistrict to the district area or lead from a construction subdistrict to a disposal plant or a treatment plant outside the construction subdistrict and outside the district area, and which are not a part of a sewer system of a municipal corporation or a sewer system of a water district organized pursuant to KRS 74.010 to 74.415[74.416].
- (11) "District facilities" are all facilities of the district as provided for in KRS 220.020 to 220.540.
 - → Section 17. KRS 220.554 is amended to read as follows:

The construction subdistrict shall not include the whole or any part of any incorporated city, sanitation district, sewer construction district, or that part of a water district in which the water district has exercised its power to establish sanitary sewage facilities pursuant to KRS 74.407 to 74.415[74.416] except with the consent of the legislative or managing board of such city or district. With such consent, the property owners of such city or district will be considered as freeholders of the construction subdistrict.

→ Section 18. The following KRS sections are repealed:

74.250 Fees -- Costs.

74.416 Approval of sanitary sewer system project in Jefferson County.

Signed by Governor April 7, 2008.