

FIRST REGULAR SESSION
[TRULY AGREED TO AND FINALLY PASSED]
HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

SENATE BILL NO. 196

95TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

2009

1060L.02T

AN ACT

To repeal section 247.031, RSMo, and to enact in lieu thereof one new section relating to detachment from public water supply districts.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Section 247.031, RSMo, is repealed and one new section
2 enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as section 247.031, to read as follows:

247.031. 1. Territory included in a district that is not being served by
2 such district may be detached from such district provided that there are no
3 outstanding general obligation or special obligation bonds and no contractual
4 obligations of greater than twenty-five thousand dollars for debt that pertains to
5 infrastructure, fixed assets or obligations for the purchase of water. If any such
6 bonds or debt is outstanding, and the written consent of the holders of such bonds
7 or the creditors to such debt is obtained, then such territory may be detached in
8 spite of the existence of such bonds or debt, except such consent shall not be
9 required for special obligation bonds if the district has no water lines or other
10 facilities located within any of the territory detached. Detachment may be made
11 by the filing of a petition with the circuit court in which the district was
12 incorporated. The petition shall contain a description of the tract to be detached
13 and a statement that the detachment is in the best interest of the district or the
14 inhabitants and property owners of the territory to be detached, together with the
15 facts supporting such allegation. The petition may be submitted by the district
16 acting through its board of directors, in which case the petition shall be signed
17 by a majority of the board of directors of the district. The petition may also be
18 submitted by voters residing in or by landowners owning land in the territory

EXPLANATION—Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in this bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

19 sought to be detached. If there are more than ten voters and landowners in such
 20 territory, the petition shall be signed by five or more voters or landowners within
 21 the territory; if there are less than ten voters and landowners within such
 22 territory, the petition shall be signed by fifty percent or more of the voters and
 23 landowners within the territory. In the event there are no voters living within
 24 such territory proposed to be detached, then the petition may be submitted by
 25 owners of more than fifty percent of the land in the territory proposed to be
 26 detached, in which case said petition shall be signed by the owners so submitting
 27 the petition. **In the event the petition is not submitted by the district
 28 acting through its board of directors, the petitioner shall name the
 29 district as a defendant and serve a copy of the petition upon the
 30 district by certified or registered mail with a return receipt requested
 31 at least thirty-five days before the date of the hearing of the petition.**

32 2. Such petition shall be filed in the circuit court having jurisdiction and
 33 the court shall set a date for hearing on the proposed detachment and the clerk
 34 **of the circuit court shall give notice [thereof] of the filing of the petition
 35 and the hearing to the district by certified or registered mail with a
 36 return receipt requested if the district is not the petitioner, and in a
 37 newspaper of general circulation in the county in which the
 38 proceedings are pending and in a newspaper of general circulation in
 39 the territory proposed to be detached. Such notice shall be published
 40 in three consecutive issues of a weekly newspaper [in each county in which any
 41 portion of the territory proposed to be detached lies], or in lieu thereof, in twenty
 42 consecutive issues of a daily newspaper [in each county in which any portion of
 43 the tract proposed to be detached lies;]. The last insertion of the notice [to] shall
 44 be made not less than seven nor more than twenty-one days before the hearing
 45 date.** Such notice shall be substantially as follows:

46 IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF
 47 COUNTY, MISSOURI
 48 NOTICE OF THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR
 49 TERRITORIAL DETACHMENT FROM
 50 PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT NO.
 51 OF COUNTY, MISSOURI.

52 To all voters and landowners of land within the boundaries of the
 53 above-described district:

54 You are hereby notified:

55 1. That a petition has been filed in this court for the detachment of the
56 following tracts of land from the above-named public water supply district, as
57 provided by law:

58 (Describe tracts of land).

59 2. That a hearing on said petition will be held before this court **in** on
60 the day of, 20 ..., at,m.

61 3. Exceptions or objections to the detachment of said tracts from said
62 public water supply district may be made by **the district or** any voter or
63 landowner of land within the district from which territory is sought to be
64 detached, provided such exceptions or objections are in writing, **specify the**
65 **grounds on which they are made, and are filed with the court** not [less]
66 **later** than five days prior to the date [set for] **of the** hearing [on] **of** the petition.

67 4. The names and addresses of the attorneys for the petitioner are:

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.....

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Clerk of the Circuit Court of

71

..... County, Missouri

72 3. The court, for good cause shown, may continue the case or the hearing
73 thereon from time to time until final disposition thereof.

74 4. Exceptions or objections to the detachment of such territory may be
75 made by any voter or landowner within the boundaries of the district, including
76 the territory to be detached. [The] **In the event the petition is not**
77 **submitted by the district acting through its board of directors, the**
78 **district may file exceptions or objections.** Exceptions or objections shall be
79 in writing [and], shall specify the grounds upon which they are made, and shall
80 be filed not later than five days before the date set for hearing the petition. [If
81 any such exceptions or objections are filed, the court shall take them into
82 consideration when considering the petition for detachment and the evidence in
83 support of detachment] **In considering the petition for detachment, the**
84 **court shall take into consideration the evidence in support of and**
85 **opposition to the petition, including such exceptions and objections.** If
86 the court finds that the detachment will be in the best interest of the district and
87 the inhabitants and landowners of the area to be detached will not be adversely
88 affected or if the court finds that the detachment will be in the best interest of
89 the inhabitants and landowners of the territory to be detached and will not
90 adversely affect the remainder of the district, it shall approve the detachment and

91 grant the petition.

92 5. If the court approves the detachment, it shall make its order detaching
93 the territory described in the petition from the remainder of the district, or in the
94 event it shall find that only a portion of said territory should be detached, the
95 court shall order such portion detached from the district. The court shall also
96 make any changes in subdistrict boundary lines it deems necessary to meet the
97 requirements of sections 247.010 to 247.220. Any subdistrict line changes shall
98 not become effective until the next annual election of a member of the board of
99 directors.

100 6. A certified copy of the court's order shall be filed in the office of the
101 recorder **of deeds** and in the office of the county clerk in each county in which
102 any of the territory of the district prior to detachment is located, and in the office
103 of the secretary of state. Costs of the proceeding shall be borne by the petitioner
104 or petitioners.

✓

Bill

Copy