

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

# SENATE BILL NO. 405

90TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY SENATORS SCOTT, SCHNEIDER, BENTLEY, STOLL, SIMS AND YECKEL.

Read 1st time February 3, 1999, and 1,000 copies ordered printed.

L1723.011

TERRY L. SPIELER, Secretary.

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## AN ACT

To repeal section 67.750, RSMo 1994, and sections 67.792, 67.793, 67.794, 67.795, 67.796, 67.797 and 67.799, RSMo Supp. 1998, relating to recreational systems of political subdivisions, and to enact in lieu thereof ten new sections relating to the same subject.

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

Section A. Section 67.750, RSMo 1994, and sections 67.792, 67.793, 67.794, 67.795, 67.796, 67.797 and 67.799, RSMo Supp. 1998, are repealed and ten new sections enacted in lieu thereof, to be known as sections 67.750, 67.791, 67.792, 67.793, 67.794, 67.795, 67.796, 67.797, 67.798 and 67.799, to read as follows:

67.750. As used in sections 67.750 to [67.780] **67.799**, the following terms mean:

(1) "Board", any board, commission, committee or council appointed or designated to carry out the provisions of sections 67.750 to [67.780] **67.799**;

(2) "**County**", any county or any city not within a county;

(3) "**District**", any regional recreational district proposed or created pursuant to sections 67.750 to 67.799;

(4) "**Executive**", any mayor, county executive, presiding commissioner, or other chief executive of a county;

(5) "Governing body", any city council, county commission, **board of aldermen, county council**, board of education or township board;

[(3)] (6) "**Metropolitan district**", any metropolitan park and recreation district established pursuant to section 67.791;

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

(7) "Political subdivision", any county, township, city, incorporated town or village in the state of Missouri, and any school district in any county of the first classification without a charter form of government with a population of one hundred thousand or more inhabitants which contains all or part of a city with a population of three hundred fifty thousand or more inhabitants;

**(8) "Regional recreation fund" or "metropolitan park and recreation fund", the fund held in the treasury of the county providing the largest financial contribution to the district or metropolitan district, as appropriate, which shall be the repository for all taxes and other moneys raised by or for the regional recreation district or metropolitan park and recreation district pursuant to sections 67.791 to 67.799.**

**67.791. 1. (1) A metropolitan park and recreation district may be created, incorporated and managed pursuant to this section and may exercise the powers given to such district pursuant to this section. Such a metropolitan district may include and is limited to any county of the first classification with a charter form of government and having a population of at least nine hundred thousand inhabitants according to the last decennial census, or any county within the standard metropolitan statistical area of any such county. Any county described in this subdivision may be included in a metropolitan district if the voters in the county or counties to be included in the district vote, pursuant to section 67.1625, to be included in such district. Any recreation system or public parks system which exists within a metropolitan district created pursuant to this section shall remain in existence with the same powers and responsibilities it had prior to the creation of the metropolitan district. Nothing in this section shall be construed in any manner to limit or prohibit:**

**(a) Later establishment or cessation of any park or recreation system provided by law; or**

**(b) Any powers and responsibilities of any park or recreation system provided by state law.**

**(2) When a metropolitan district is organized, it shall be a body corporate and a political subdivision, as that term is defined in section 67.750, of this state, and such district shall be known as ". . . . . Metropolitan Park and Recreation District", and in that name may sue and be sued, issue general revenue bonds and levy and collect taxes or fees pursuant to the limitations of this section.**

**(3) The metropolitan district shall have as its primary duty the development, operation and maintenance of a public system of interconnecting trails and parks throughout the counties comprising the district. The metropolitan district shall supplement but shall not substitute for the powers and responsibilities of the other parks and recreation systems within the metropolitan district and shall have the power to contract with other parks and recreation systems as well as with other public and private entities.**

**(4) Any trails and parks controlled or maintained by a metropolitan district and located within any county of the first classification with a charter form of government and having a population of more than two hundred ten thousand but less than three hundred thousand inhabitants shall be operated on a day-to-day basis by the parks department of such county. Nothing in this subdivision shall be deemed a delegation of policy-making authority to such parks department.**

**2. (1) The governing body of any county located within the proposed metropolitan district is hereby authorized to impose by ordinance a one-tenth of one cent sales tax on all retail sales subject to taxation pursuant to sections 144.010 to 144.525, RSMo, for the purpose of funding the creation, operation and maintenance of a metropolitan park and recreation district. The tax authorized by this section shall be in addition to all other sales taxes allowed by law. The governing body of any county within the proposed metropolitan district enacting such an ordinance shall submit to the voters of such county a proposal to approve its ordinance imposing the tax. Such ordinance shall become effective only after the majority of the voters voting on such ordinance approve such ordinance.**

**(2) The question shall be submitted to the voters in each county of the proposed metropolitan district in substantially the following form:**

**Shall there be organized in the County of . . . . , state of Missouri, a metropolitan park and recreation district for the purposes of improving water quality, increasing park safety, providing neighborhood trails, improving, restoring and expanding parks, providing disabled and expanded public access to recreational areas, preserving natural lands for wildlife and maintaining other recreational grounds within the boundaries of such proposed metropolitan district, and shall . . . . County join such other of . . . . (insert all counties within proposed district) Counties that approve the formation of such a district in their respective counties to form one metropolitan district to be known as ". . . . Metropolitan Park and Recreation District", with funding authority not to exceed one-tenth of one cent sales taxation, subject to an independent annual audit, with fifty percent of such revenue going to the metropolitan district and fifty percent being returned to . . . . County for local park improvements, all as authorized by the . . . . (insert name of governing body) of . . . . County pursuant to (insert ordinance number), on the . . . . day of . . . (insert month), . . . (insert year)?**

**G YES**

**G NO**

**In the event the proposed metropolitan district consists of only one county, if a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the proposal, then the metropolitan district shall be deemed organized, but if a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting are opposed to the proposal,**

**then the metropolitan district shall not be deemed organized unless and until another proposal to authorize the organization of a metropolitan district is submitted to the voters of the proposed district and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon. In the event that the proposed metropolitan district consists of more than one county, if a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting in a county proposed for inclusion in the metropolitan district are in favor of the proposal, then the metropolitan district shall be deemed organized and that county shall be included in the metropolitan district, but if a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting in the county proposed for inclusion are opposed to the proposal, then the county shall not be included in the metropolitan district. After the metropolitan district has been created, counties eligible for inclusion in the metropolitan district and not already included in the metropolitan district may join the metropolitan district after such a proposal is submitted to the voters of the county proposed for subsequent inclusion and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon in the county proposed for inclusion in the manner described in this subdivision.**

**3. (1) When a metropolitan district is organized in only one county, the executive of the county shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the governing body of the county, a board of directors for the district consisting of three persons chosen from the residents of that county. When a metropolitan district is organized in more than one county, the executive of each county shall, with the advice and consent of its governing body, appoint the number of board members allocated to such county as provided in subdivision (6) of this subsection. Upon the petition of the executive of the county from which the board member received his or her appointment, the governing body of the county may remove any board member for misconduct or neglect of duties.**

**(2) No board member shall hold a public office of any county within the metropolitan district, other than the office of notary public. Board members shall be citizens of the United States and they shall reside within the county from which they are appointed. No board member shall receive compensation for performance of duties as a board member. No board member shall be financially interested directly or indirectly in any contract entered into pursuant to this section.**

**(3) The board members appointed to the metropolitan district shall hold office for three-year terms, except that for members first appointed, such members shall be staggered as evenly as possible between terms of one year, two years and three years. The executives of the counties within the metropolitan district shall meet to determine and implement a fair allocation of the staggered terms among the counties, provided that counties eligible to appoint more than one board member may not**

**appoint board members with identical initial terms until each of a one-year, two-year and three-year initial term has been applied to such county. On the expiration of such initial terms of appointment and on the expiration of any subsequent term, the resulting vacancies shall be filled by the executives of the respective counties, with the advice and consent of the respective governing bodies. All vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same manner for the duration of the term being filled. Board members shall serve until their successors are named and such successors have commenced their terms as board members. Board members shall be eligible for reappointment.**

**(4) Promptly after their appointment, the initial board members shall hold an organizational meeting at which they shall elect a president and such other officers from among their number as they may deem necessary. The members shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for their guidance and for the government of the parks, neighborhood trails and recreational grounds and facilities as may be expedient and not inconsistent with this section.**

**(5) Board members shall have the exclusive control of the expenditures of all money collected to the credit of the metropolitan park and recreation fund created pursuant to subsection 5 of this section, and of the supervision, improvement, care and custody of public parks, neighborhood trails, recreational facilities and grounds owned, maintained or managed by the metropolitan district. All moneys received for such purposes shall be deposited in the treasury of the county providing the largest financial contribution to the district to the credit of the metropolitan park and recreation fund and shall be kept separate and apart from the other moneys of such county. The board shall have power to purchase or otherwise secure ground to be used for such parks, neighborhood trails, recreational facilities and grounds, shall have power to appoint suitable persons to maintain such parks, neighborhood trails, recreational grounds and facilities and administer recreational programs and fix their compensation, and shall have power to remove such appointees. The board shall keep accurate records of all its proceedings and actions and shall compile and publish reports of information relating to the metropolitan district and to the board's functions and proceedings pursuant to the laws of this state.**

**(6) When a metropolitan district is organized in more than one county, each county shall be represented by a certain number of board members. The distribution of board members shall reflect such factors as the intent and purpose of the district, each county's interest in the district, each county's population, each county's financial contribution to the district, the amount and quality of land dedicated to metropolitan district use in each county, the existing and planned locations of district improvements and organizational efficiency. The board members shall be distributed as follows:**

**(a) Until January 1, 2012:**

**a. Any constitutional charter city not within a county shall appoint three board members;**

**b. Any county of the first classification with a charter form of government having a population of more than two hundred ten thousand but less than three hundred thousand inhabitants shall appoint two members;**

**c. Any county other than those described in subparagraphs a. and b. of this paragraph which does not have a population of at least nine hundred thousand inhabitants shall appoint one member;**

**d. Any county of the first classification with a charter form of government having a population of at least nine hundred thousand inhabitants shall appoint a number of board members equal to the total number of members appointed by all other counties in such metropolitan district combined;**

**e. Any new county entering the metropolitan district shall, along with any county described in subparagraph d. of this paragraph, appoint the appropriate number of new board members pursuant to this paragraph as soon as practicable after the date of entrance of such new county into the metropolitan district, provided that such appointment shall be made on or before the date of the second board of directors meeting after such county's entrance;**

**(b) Beginning on January 1, 2012, the board of directors shall consist of eighteen members who shall be selected by the executives of each member county. During the period between September 1, 2011, and January 1, 2012, the executives of each member county shall meet to determine the appropriate allocation of board members among the counties, including addressing the allocation of staggered terms among the various counties and taking into account the factors set forth in this subdivision. If the executives are unable to agree on an appropriate allocation, then the matter shall be submitted to binding arbitration. Such arbitration shall be conducted by three persons selected by lot from the roster of qualified commercial arbitrators in the Eastern District of Missouri maintained by the American Arbitration Association. The decision of the arbitrators shall be rendered before January 1, 2012. If, as a result of the reallocation provided by this paragraph, any county loses members on the board, the executive of such county shall designate which board member or members from such county shall resign. If, as a result of the reallocation provided by this paragraph, a county gains members on the board, the executive of such county shall appoint additional board members with the advice and consent of the governing body of such county.**

**4. (1) A metropolitan park and recreation district shall have the power to:**

**(a) Issue bonds, notes, or other obligations for any of the purposes of the district, and to refund such bonds, notes or obligations, as provided in subsection 6 of**

**this section;**

**(b) Contract with public and private entities or individuals both within and without the state and shall have the power to contract with the United States or any agency thereof in furtherance of any of the purposes of the district;**

**(c) Own, hold, control, lease, purchase from willing sellers, contract and sell any and all rights in land, buildings, improvements, and any and all other real, personal or mixed property, provided that real property within a county may only be purchased by the metropolitan district if a majority of the board members from the county in which such real property is located consent to such acquisition;**

**(d) Receive property, both real and personal, or money which has been granted, donated, devised or bequeathed to the district;**

**(e) Establish and collect reasonable charges for the use of the facilities of the district; and**

**(f) Maintain an office and staff at such place or places in this state as it may designate and conduct such business and operations as is necessary to fulfill the district's duties pursuant to this section.**

**(2) When a public highway, street or road extends into or through a public trail, trail area or park area of a metropolitan district, or when a public highway, street or road forms all or part of a suitable connection between two or more public trails, trail areas or park areas within a metropolitan district, and it is advisable by the board to make alterations in the route or width of the highway or to grade, drain, pave or otherwise improve the highway, the board may enter into agreements, consistent with the purposes of the metropolitan district, with the public authorities in control of the portion of the highway, street or road that lies within any, or forms any part of, a connecting link to and between any, public trail, trail area or park area of a metropolitan district. Any agreement with any such public authority shall follow the procedure authorized by law for dealing with such authority, and any agreement shall provide for the payment by the board of an agreed upon portion of the costs of such agreement. This subdivision shall not alter the legal status of such highway, street or road in any way;**

**(3) The metropolitan district shall purchase and use only those materials, products, supplies, provisions and other needed articles produced, manufactured, compounded, made or grown within this state, when such articles are found in marketable quantities in the state and are of a quality suited to the purpose intended and can be secured without additional cost over foreign products or products of other states, provided that quality and fitness of articles shall be considered in purchasing or letting contracts for articles mentioned in this subdivision.**

**(4) The metropolitan district shall not have any power of eminent domain.**

**5. The sales tax authorized in subsection 2 of this section shall be collected and allocated as follows:**

**(1) Fifty percent of the sales taxes collected from each county shall be deposited in the metropolitan park and recreational fund to be administered by the board of directors of the district to pay costs associated with the establishment, administration, operation and maintenance of public recreational facilities, parks, and public recreational grounds associated with the district.**

**(2) Fifty percent of the sales taxes collected from each county shall be returned to the source county for park purposes, except that forty percent of such fifty percent amount shall be reserved for distribution to municipalities within the county in the form of grant revenue sharing funds. Each county in the district shall establish its own process for awarding the grant proceeds to its municipalities for park purposes.**

**6. (1) Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall be issued pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of directors of the metropolitan district which shall set out the estimated cost to the metropolitan district of the proposed improvements, and shall further set out amount of bonds to be issued, their purpose or purposes, their date or dates, denomination or denominations, rate or rates of interest, time or times of payment, both of principal and of interest, place or places of payment and all other details in connection with such bonds. Any such bonds may be subject to such provision for redemption prior to maturity, with or without premium, and at such times and upon such conditions as may be provided by the resolution.**

**(2) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 108.170, RSMo, such bonds shall bear interest at rate or rates determined by the metropolitan district and shall mature within a period not exceeding twenty years and may be sold at public or private sale for not less than ninety-five percent of the principal amount of such bonds. Bonds issued by the metropolitan district shall possess all of the qualities of negotiable instruments pursuant to the laws of this state.**

**(3) Such bonds may be payable to bearer, may be registered or coupon bonds and if payable to bearer, may contain such registration provisions as to either principal and interest, or principal only, as may be provided in the resolution authorizing such bonds, which resolution may also provide for the exchange of registered and coupon bonds. Such bonds and any coupons attached thereto shall be signed in such manner and by such officers of the district as may be provided by the resolution authorizing the bonds. The metropolitan district may provide for the replacement of any bond which has become mutilated, destroyed or lost.**

**(4) Bonds issued by the metropolitan district shall be payable as to principal, interest and redemption premium, if any, out of all or any part of the metropolitan parks and recreation fund, including revenues derived from sales taxes. Neither the**



**board members nor any person executing the bonds shall be personally liable on such bonds by reason of the issuance of such bonds. Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not constitute a debt, liability, or obligation of this state, or any political subdivision of this state, nor shall any such obligations be a pledge of the faith and credit of this state, but shall be payable solely from the revenues and assets held by the metropolitan district. The issuance of bonds pursuant to this section shall not directly, indirectly or contingently obligate this state or any political subdivision of this state, other than the metropolitan district, to levy any form of taxation for such bonds or to make any appropriation for their payment. Each obligation or bond issued pursuant to this section shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the metropolitan district shall not be obligated to pay such bond nor the interest on such bond except from the revenues received by the metropolitan district or assets of the metropolitan district lawfully pledged for such district, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of this state or of any political subdivision of this state other than the metropolitan district is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on such obligation or bond. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed in such manner and pursuant to such restrictions as the metropolitan district may provide in the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds.**

**(5) The metropolitan district may issue negotiable refunding bonds for the purpose of refunding, extending, or unifying the whole or any part of such bonds then outstanding, or any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by any other public agency, public body or political subdivision in connection with any facilities to be acquired, leased or subleased by the metropolitan district, which refunding bonds shall not exceed the amount necessary to refund the principal of the outstanding bonds to be refunded and the accrued interest on such bonds to the date of such refunding, together with any redemption premium, amounts necessary to establish reserve and escrow funds and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the refunding. The board shall provide for the payment of interest and principal of such refunding bonds in the same manner as was provided for the payment of interest and principal of the bonds refunded.**

**(6) In the event that any of the board members or officers of the metropolitan district whose signatures appear on any bonds or coupons shall cease to be on the board or cease to be an officer before the delivery of such bonds, such signatures shall remain valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if such board members or officers had remained in office until such delivery.**

**(7) The metropolitan district is hereby declared to be performing a public function and bonds of the metropolitan district are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and, accordingly, interest on such bonds**

**and income from such bonds shall be exempt from income taxation by this state.**

67.792. 1. A regional recreational district may be created, incorporated and managed as provided in sections 67.792 to 67.799 and may exercise the powers prescribed by sections 67.792 to 67.799. A regional recreational district may include municipalities or territory not in municipalities or both, or territory in one or more counties, [but a regional recreational district shall not include any territory that is included in a recreational system established as provided in sections 67.750 to 67.780 or territory within an incorporated area with a public parks system established as provided in sections 90.500 to 90.570, RSMo, except by mutual agreement of the recreational system or public parks system and the regional recreational district, the recreational system or public parks system may be included within the regional recreational district] **if the voters in the proposed district vote, pursuant to section 67.796, to be included in the regional recreational district. No regional recreational district shall be organized pursuant to sections 67.792 to 67.799 if such district contains any portion of, according to the last federal decennial census:**

**(1) A county of the first classification having a charter form of government and having a population of at least nine hundred thousand inhabitants;**

**(2) A county of the first classification having a charter form of government and having a population of more than two hundred ten thousand but less than three hundred thousand inhabitants;**

**(3) A city not within a county; or**

**(4) A county of the first classification having a population of more than one hundred seventy thousand but less than one hundred seventy-five thousand inhabitants.**

**Any recreation system or public parks system, which exists in whole or in part within a regional recreational district created pursuant to sections 67.792 to 67.799 shall remain in existence with the same powers and responsibilities it had prior to the creation of the regional recreational district. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit or prohibit later establishment or cessation of any park or recreation system or any powers and responsibilities of any such park or recreation system pursuant to state law.**

2. When a regional recreational district is organized it shall be a body corporate and a political subdivision of the state, **as that term is defined in subdivision (7) of section 67.750**, and shall be known as ". . . . . Regional Recreational District", and in that name may sue and be sued, **issue general revenue bonds and** levy and collect taxes within the limitations of sections 67.792 to 67.799.

67.793. **1.** Whenever the creation of a regional recreational district is desired, one hundred or more persons residing in the proposed district may file with the county clerk in which the [territory or the greater part thereof is situated] **greater part of the proposed district's**

**population resides** a petition requesting the creation of the regional recreational district. In case the proposed district is situated in two or more counties, the petition shall be filed in the office of the county clerk of the county in which the greater part of the [area is situated] **proposed district's population resides**, and the governing body of that county shall set the petition for public hearing and conduct such hearing. The petition shall set forth:

- (1) A description of the territory to be embraced in the proposed district;
- (2) The names of the municipalities located within the proposed district;
- (3) The name of the proposed district;
- (4) The population of the proposed district;
- (5) The assessed valuation of the proposed district; [and]

**(6) The type and rate of tax proposed to be levied; and**

[~~(6)~~] **(7)** A request that the question be submitted to the voters residing within the limits of the proposed regional recreational district whether they will establish a regional recreational district [under] **pursuant to** the provisions of sections 67.792 to 67.799 to be known as ". . . Regional Recreational District" for the purpose of establishing, **operating** and maintaining public parks, **neighborhood trails** and recreational facilities within the boundaries of the district.

**2. Whenever one hundred or more persons residing in an area contiguous to an existing regional recreational district desire to become part of that contiguous district, such persons may file a petition with the county clerk of the county in which the greater part of the population within the proposed addition to the district resides, and the governing body of that county shall set the petition for public hearing and conduct such hearing. The petition for the addition to a district shall set forth the same facts required for the creation of such a district pursuant to subdivisions (1) to (7) of subsection 1 of this section, except that:**

**(1) Subdivision (6) of subsection 1 of this section shall only permit the imposition of a tax on the real property located within the addition to the district; and**

**(2) Subdivision (7) of subsection 1 of this section shall, in the petition for the addition, be a request that the question be submitted to the voters residing within the limits of the proposed addition to the ". . . . . regional recreational district" as to whether or not they will become a part of the ". . . . . regional recreational district" for the purpose of establishing, operating and maintaining public parks, neighborhood trails and recreational facilities within the boundaries of such district.**

**3. The petition shall, after having been filed pursuant to this section, receive a hearing by the governing body of the county of filing pursuant to section 67.794.**

**4. The governing body of any county otherwise eligible to participate in a regional recreational district may directly authorize, by ordinance, the creation of a regional recreational district or an addition to an existing regional recreational district**

**without the submission of a petition. The governing body of each such county shall, upon the enactment of such ordinance, submit the question of its approval to the voters in such county. If less than an entire county is proposed to participate in such a regional recreational district, the question may be submitted to the voters residing in the proposed area, provided, that any regional recreational district which is supported by a sales tax shall be approved by the voters of the entire county. The proposed district shall consist only of those counties, or portions of counties, where the governing body has approved an ordinance to create a district.**

67.794. 1. Upon the filing of the petition with the county clerk **pursuant to section 67.793**, the county clerk shall present it to the governing body of the county who shall [thereupon] set the petition for hearing not less than thirty days nor more than forty days after the filing.

2. Notice shall be given by the governing body of the county of the time and place where the hearing will be held, by publication on three separate days in one or more newspapers having a general circulation within the territory proposed to be incorporated as a regional recreational district **or to be added to an existing regional recreational district**, the first of which publications shall be not less than twenty days prior to the date set for the hearing and if there is no such newspaper, then notice shall be posted in ten of the most public places in the territory, not less than twenty days prior to the date set for the hearing. This notice shall include a description of the territory as set out in the petition, names of municipalities located therein [and], **and the type and rate of the tax to be levied**, the name of the proposed district and the question of creating a regional recreational district **or adding to an existing district**.

3. The costs of printing and publication or posting of notices of public hearing thereon shall be paid in advance by the petitioners, and, if a district is organized [under the provisions of] **or territory is added to an existing district pursuant to** sections 67.792 to 67.799, such persons shall be reimbursed out of the funds received by the district from taxation or other sources.

4. If two or more petitions covering in part the same territory are filed prior to the public hearing upon the petition which is first filed, the petitions shall be consolidated for public hearing, and hearing [thereon] **on such petitions** may be continued to permit the giving of notice of any subsequent petitions. At the public hearing upon the petitions, the petitioners in the petition first filed may move to amend the petition to include any part of the territory described in the subsequent petitions, either as originally filed or as amended. Any such motion shall be allowed by the governing body of the county. The public hearing shall proceed upon the first petition as originally filed or as so amended, and further proceedings upon any other petitions subsequently filed shall be stayed until the termination of all proceedings upon the first petition, or any petition may be dismissed or withdrawn upon motion of the petitioners therein by their representatives.

67.795. If the governing body of the county finds that the petition and notice meets the requirements of sections 67.793 and 67.794, and that the boundaries as defined are reasonable

boundaries for the formation of **or addition to** a regional recreational district, [it shall order the submission of the question] **the question of the creation of or addition to a regional recreational district shall be submitted to the voters in the proposed or existing district.**

67.796. Pursuant to sections 67.793 to 67.795, the question shall be submitted to the voters in the proposed district in substantially the following form:

**(1) For the creation of a new district:**

Shall there be organized in the counties of . . . . . , state of Missouri, a regional recreational district for the establishment and maintenance of public parks, recreational facilities, and other recreational grounds within the boundaries of such proposed district, to be known as ". . . . . Regional Recreational District" as (requested by petition filed with the county clerk of . . . . . Or provided by ordinance no . . . of . . . ) County, Missouri, on the . . . day of (month) . . . , [19] (year). . . ?

G YES

G NO

**(2) For an addition to a district:**

Shall there be annexed to the ". . . . . Regional Recreational District" the territory within the boundaries of (describe the territory)?

G YES

G NO

If a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the proposal, then the district shall be deemed organized **or added, as the case may be**. If a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting are opposed to the proposal, then the district shall not be organized **or added to** unless and until another proposal to authorize the organization of **or addition to** a regional recreational district is submitted to the voters of the proposed district and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon. **In the event that the proposed district or addition to a district consists of more than one county, if a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting in the territory proposed for inclusion in the district are in favor of the proposal, then the district shall be deemed organized, but if a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting in the territory proposed for inclusion are opposed to the proposal, then the district shall not be organized, or territory shall not be added, as the case may be, unless and until another proposal to authorize the organization of or addition to a regional recreational district is submitted to the voters of the proposed district and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon.**

67.797. 1. When a regional recreational district is organized[,] **in only one county, the executive, as that term is defined in subdivision (4) of section 67.750, with the advice and consent of** the governing body of the county shall appoint a board of directors for the district

consisting of seven persons, chosen from the residents of the district. Where the district is in more than one county, the [governing body] **executives, as defined in subdivision (4) of section 67.750, of the counties in the district shall, with the advice and consent of the governing bodies** of each county shall, as nearly as practicable, evenly appoint such members **and allocate staggered terms pursuant to subsection 2 of this section**, with the [governing body of] the county having the largest area within the district appointing a greater number of directors if the directors cannot be appointed evenly. No member of the governing body of the county or [member] **official** of any municipal government located within the district shall be a member of the board and no director shall receive compensation for performance of duties as a director. **Members of the board of directors shall be citizens of the United States and they shall reside within the district. No board member shall be interested directly or indirectly in any contract entered into pursuant to sections 67.792 to 67.799.**

2. The directors **appointed to the regional recreation district** shall hold office for three-year terms, except that of the members first appointed, two shall hold office for one year, two shall hold office for two years and three shall hold office for three years. **The executives of the counties within the regional recreational district shall meet to determine and implement a fair allocation of the staggered terms among the counties, provided that counties eligible to appoint more than one board member may not appoint board members with identical initial terms until each of a one-year, two-year and three-year initial term has been applied to such county.** On the expiration of such initial terms of appointment and on the expiration of any subsequent term, the resulting [vacancy] **vacancies** shall be filled by [election at the next regularly scheduled election date throughout the district. Board members shall be elected for terms of three years. Such elections shall be held according to this section and the applicable laws of this state. The originally appointed board members shall be eligible to run for office] **the executives of the respective counties, with the advice and consent of the respective governing bodies. All vacancies on the board shall be filled in the same manner for the duration of the term being filled. Board members shall serve until their successors are named and such successors have commenced their terms as board members. Board members shall be eligible for reappointment. Upon the petition of the county executive of the county from which the board member received his or her appointment, the governing body of the county may remove any board member for misconduct or neglect of duties.**

3. Directors shall immediately after their appointment [or election,] meet and organize by the election of one of their number president, and by the election of such other officers as they may deem necessary. The directors shall make and adopt such bylaws, rules and regulations for their guidance and for the government of the parks, **neighborhood trails** and recreational grounds and facilities as may be expedient, not inconsistent with sections 67.792 to 67.799. They shall have

the exclusive control of the expenditures of all money collected to the credit of the **regional** recreational fund and of the supervision, improvement, care and custody of public parks [and], **neighborhood trails**, recreational facilities and grounds [within] **owned, maintained or managed by** the district. All moneys received for such purposes shall be deposited in the treasury of the county containing the largest portion of the district to the credit of the **regional** recreational fund and shall be kept separate and apart from the other moneys of such county. Such board shall have power to purchase or otherwise secure ground to be used for such parks [and], **neighborhood trails**, recreational grounds and facilities, shall have power to appoint suitable persons to maintain such parks [and], **neighborhood trails and** recreational facilities and administer recreational programs and fix their compensation, and shall have power to remove such appointees.

**4. The board of directors may issue debt for the district pursuant to section 67.798.**

**5. If a county, or a portion of a county, not previously part of any district, shall enter a district, the executives of the new member county and any previous member counties shall promptly meet to apportion the board seats among the counties participating in the enlarged district.**

**67.798. 1. Bonds issued pursuant to sections 67.792 to 67.798 shall be issued pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of directors of the district which shall set out the estimated cost to the directors of the district of the proposed improvements, and shall further set out amount of bonds to be issued, their purpose or purposes, their date or dates, denomination or denominations, rate or rates of interest, time or times of payment, both of principal and of interest, place or places of payment and all other details in connection with such bonds. Any such bonds may be subject to such provision for redemption prior to maturity, with or without premium, and at such times and upon such conditions as may be provided by the resolution.**

**2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 108.170, RSMo, such bonds shall bear interest at such rate or rates determined by the district and shall mature within a period not exceeding twenty years and may be sold at public or private sale for not less than ninety-five percent of the principal amount of such bonds. Bonds issued by the district shall possess all of the qualities of negotiable instruments pursuant to the laws of this state.**

**3. Such bonds may be payable to bearer, may be registered or coupon bonds and if payable to bearer, may contain such registration provisions as to either principal and interest, or principal only, as may be provided in the resolution authorizing such bonds, which resolution may also provide for the exchange of registered and coupon bonds. Such bonds and any coupons attached to such bonds shall be signed in such manner and by such officers of the district as may be provided by the resolution**

**authorizing such bonds. The district may provide for the replacement of any bond which has become mutilated, destroyed or lost.**

**4. Bonds issued by the district shall be payable as to principal, interest and redemption premium, if any, out of all or any part of the recreation fund, including revenues derived from annual property taxes. Neither the board members nor any person executing the bonds shall be personally liable on such bonds by reason of the issuance of such bonds. Bonds issued pursuant to this section shall not constitute a debt, liability or obligation of this state, or any political subdivision of this state other than the issuing district, nor shall any such obligations be a pledge of the faith and credit of this state, but shall be payable solely from the revenues and assets held by the district. The issuance of bonds pursuant to this section shall not directly, indirectly or contingently obligate this state or any political subdivision of this state other than the issuing district, or the district, to levy any form of taxation for such bonds or to make any appropriation for their payment. Each obligation or bond issued pursuant to this section shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the district shall not be obligated to pay such bond nor the interest on such bond except from the revenues received by the district or assets of the district lawfully pledged for such district, and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of this state or of any political subdivision of this state other than the issuing district is pledged to the payment of the principal of, or the interest on, such obligation or bond. The proceeds of such bonds shall be disbursed in such manner and pursuant to such restrictions as the district may provide in the resolution authorizing the issuance of such bonds.**

**5. The district may issue negotiable refunding bonds for the purpose of refunding, extending or unifying the whole or any part of such bonds then outstanding, or any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by any other public agency, public body or political subdivision in connection with any facilities to be acquired, leased or subleased by the district, which refunding bonds shall not exceed the amount necessary to refund the principal of the outstanding bonds to be refunded and the accrued interest on such bonds to the date of such refunding, together with any redemption premium, amounts necessary to establish reserve and escrow funds and all costs and expenses incurred in connection with the refunding. The board shall provide for the payment of interest and principal of such refunding bonds in the same manner as was provided for the payment of interest and principal of the bonds refunded.**

**6. In the event that any of the board members or officers of the district whose signatures appear on any bonds or coupons shall cease to be on the board before the delivery of such bonds, such signatures shall remain valid and sufficient for all purposes, the same as if such board members or officers had remained in office until such delivery.**



**7. The district is hereby declared to be performing a public function and bonds of the district are declared to be issued for an essential public and governmental purpose and, accordingly, interest on such bonds and income from such bonds shall be exempt from income taxation by this state.**

67.799. 1. A regional recreational district may, by a majority vote of its board of directors, impose an annual **property** tax for the establishment and maintenance of public parks and recreational facilities and grounds within the boundaries of the regional recreational district not to exceed sixty cents per year on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation on all property within the district, except that no such tax shall become effective unless the board of directors of the district submits to the voters of the district, at a county or state general, primary or special election, a proposal to authorize the tax.

2. The question shall be submitted in substantially the following form:

Shall a . . . . . cent tax per one hundred dollars assessed valuation be levied for public parks and recreational facilities?

G YES

G NO

If a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the proposal, then the tax shall become effective. If a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting are opposed to the proposal, then the board of directors shall have no power to impose the tax unless and until the board of directors of the district submits another proposal to authorize the tax and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon.

3. The **property** tax authorized in **subsections 1 and 2** of this section shall be levied and collected in the same manner as other ad valorem property taxes are levied and collected [and shall be deposited in a special recreational fund. Moneys in the special recreational fund shall only be used by the board of directors to pay costs associated with the establishment, administration and maintenance of public recreational facilities, parks, and public recreational grounds].

**4. (1) A regional recreational district may, by a majority vote of its board of directors, impose a tax not to exceed one-half of one cent on all retail sales subject to taxation pursuant to sections 144.010 to 144.525, RSMo, for the purpose of funding the creation, operation and maintenance of public parks, recreational facilities and grounds within the boundaries of a regional recreational district. The tax authorized by this subsection shall be in addition to all other sales taxes allowed by law. No tax pursuant to this subsection shall become effective unless the board of directors submits to the voters of the district, at a county or state general, primary or special election, a proposal to authorize the tax, and such tax shall become effective only after the majority of the voters voting on such tax approve such tax. Only whole counties**

**participating in a regional recreational district shall be able to impose a sales tax pursuant to this subsection.**

**(2) In the event the district seeks to impose a sales tax pursuant to this subsection, the question shall be submitted in substantially the following form:**

**Shall a . . . . cent sales tax be levied on all retail sales within the district for public parks and recreational facilities?**

**G YES**

**G NO**

**If a majority of the votes cast on the proposal by the qualified voters voting thereon are in favor of the proposal, then the tax shall become effective. If a majority of the votes cast by the qualified voters voting are opposed to the proposal, then the board of directors shall have no power to impose the tax unless and until another proposal to authorize the tax is submitted to the voters of the district and such proposal is approved by a majority of the qualified voters voting thereon.**

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Bill

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