

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

# HOUSE BILL NO. 1895

## 96TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES LOEHNER (Sponsor), WRIGHT, JOHNSON, REIBOLDT, ENTLICHER, DUGGER, QUINN, SHIVELY, SCHIEFFER, SWINGER, NANCE AND AULL (Co-sponsors).

6155H.011

D. ADAM CRUMBLISS, Chief Clerk

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### AN ACT

To amend chapter 262, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to University of Missouri extension districts.

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

Section A. Chapter 262, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 262.598, to read as follows:

**262.598. 1. As used in this section, the following terms shall mean:**

(1) “Consolidated district”, a district formed jointly by two or more councils;

(2) “Council”, a University of Missouri extension council authorized under section 262.563;

(3) “District” or “extension district”, a political subdivision formed by one or more councils;

(4) “Single-council district”, a district formed by one council;

(5) “Governing body”, the group of individuals who govern a district.

2. University of Missouri extension councils are hereby authorized to form extension districts made up of cooperating counties for the purpose of funding extension programming. An extension district may be a single-council district or a consolidated district. A single-council district shall be formed upon a majority vote of the full council. A consolidated district shall be formed upon a majority vote of each participating council.

3. In a single-council district, the council shall serve as the district's governing body. In addition to any other powers and duties granted to the council under sections

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

16 262.550 to 262.620, the council shall also have the powers and duties provided under  
17 subsection 5 of this section.

18 4. In a consolidated district, the governing body of the district shall consist of at  
19 least three, but no more than five, representatives appointed by each participating council.  
20 The term of office shall be two years. Representatives may be reappointed. This governing  
21 body shall elect officers, who shall serve as officers for two years, and establish a regular  
22 meeting schedule which shall be not less than once every three months.

23 5. The governing body of a district shall have the following powers and duties:

24 (1) Review the activities and annual budgets of each participating council;

25 (2) Determine, by September first of each year, the tax rate necessary to generate  
26 sufficient revenue to fund the extension programming in the district, which includes annual  
27 funding for each participating council for the costs of personnel and the acquisition,  
28 supply, and maintenance of each council's property, work, and equipment;

29 (3) Oversee the collection of any tax authorized under this section by ensuring the  
30 revenue is deposited into a special fund and monitoring the use of the funds to ensure they  
31 are used solely for extension programming in the district;

32 (4) Approve payments from the special fund in which the tax revenue is deposited;  
33 and

34 (5) Work cooperatively with each participating council to plan and facilitate the  
35 programs, equipment, and activities in the district.

36 6. The governing body of a district may submit a question to the voters of the  
37 district to institute a property tax levy in the county or counties that compose the district.  
38 Questions may be submitted to the voters of the district at any general municipal election.  
39 Any such proposed tax shall not exceed thirty cents per one hundred dollars of assessed  
40 valuation. Such question shall be submitted in substantially the following form:

41 "Shall the Extension District in ..... County (insert name of county)  
42 be authorized to levy an annual tax of ..... (insert amount not to exceed  
43 thirty) cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purpose  
44 of funding the University of Missouri Extension District programs,  
45 equipment, and services in the district?"

46 In a single-council district, if a majority of the voters in the county approve the question,  
47 then the district shall impose the tax. In a consolidated district, if a majority of voters in  
48 the district approve the tax, then the district shall impose the tax. If voters in a  
49 consolidated district approve the tax but the measure does not receive a majority of the  
50 votes cast in a particular county, that county's council may withdraw from the district by  
51 a majority vote of the council. The district shall be made up of the remaining counties and  
52 the tax shall be imposed in those counties. Revenues collected from the imposition of a tax

53 authorized under this section shall be deposited into a special fund dedicated only for use  
54 by the local district for programming purposes. If a majority of the voters in a single-  
55 council district do not approve the question, then no tax shall be imposed. If a majority  
56 of the voters in a consolidated district do not approve the question, then no tax shall be  
57 imposed in any county of the district.

58 7. The county commission of any county in which the tax authorized under this  
59 section is levied and collected:

60 (1) Shall be exempt from the funding requirements under section 262.597 if revenue  
61 derived from the tax authorized under this section is in excess of an amount equal to two  
62 hundred percent of the average funding received under section 262.597 for the immediately  
63 preceding three years; or

64 (2) May reduce the current year's funding amount under section 262.597 by thirty-  
65 three percent of the amount of tax revenues derived from the tax authorized under this  
66 section which exceed the average amount of funding received under section 262.597 for the  
67 immediately preceding three years.

68 8. Any county that collects tax revenues authorized under this section shall transfer  
69 all attributable revenue plus monthly interest for deposit into the district's special fund.  
70 The governing body of the district shall comply with the prudent investor standard for  
71 investment fiduciaries as provided in section 105.688.

72 9. In any county in which a single-council district is established, and for which a  
73 tax has not been levied, the district may be dissolved in the same manner in which it was  
74 formed.

75 10. A county may withdraw from a consolidated district at any time by the filing  
76 of a petition with the circuit court having jurisdiction over the district. The petition shall  
77 be signed by not fewer than ten percent of those who voted in the most recent presidential  
78 election in the county seeking to withdraw that is part of a consolidated district stating that  
79 further operation of the district is contrary to the best interests of the inhabitants of county  
80 in which the district is located and that the county seeks to withdraw from the district. The  
81 circuit court shall hear evidence on the petition. If the court finds that it is in the best  
82 interest of the inhabitants of the county in which the district is located for the county to  
83 withdraw from the district, the court shall make an order reciting the same and submit the  
84 question to the voters. The question shall be submitted in substantially the following  
85 format:

86 "Shall the County of ..... (insert name of county) being part of  
87 ..... (insert name of district) Extension District withdraw from the  
88 district?"

89       **The question shall be submitted at the next general municipal election date.**  
90       **The election returns shall be certified to the court. If the court finds that**  
91       **two-thirds of the voters voting on the question voted in favor of withdrawing**  
92       **from the district, the court shall issue an order withdrawing the county from**  
93       **the district, which shall contain a proviso that the district shall remain intact**  
94       **for the sole purposes of paying all outstanding and lawful obligations and**  
95       **disposing of the district's property. No additional costs or obligations for**  
96       **the withdrawing county shall be created except as necessary. The**  
97       **withdrawal shall occur on the first day of the following January after the**  
98       **vote. If the court finds that two-thirds of the voters voting on the question**  
99       **shall not have voted favorably on the question to withdraw from the district,**  
100       **the court shall issue an order dismissing the petition and the district shall**  
101       **continue to operate.**

102       **11. The governing body of any district may seek voter approval to increase its**  
103       **current tax rate authorized under this section, provided such increase shall not cause the**  
104       **total tax to exceed thirty cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation. To propose**  
105       **such an increase, the governing body shall submit the question to the voters at the general**  
106       **municipal election in the county in which the district is located. The question shall be**  
107       **submitted in substantially the following form:**

108               **"Shall the Extension District in ..... (insert name of county or**  
109               **counties) be authorized to increase the tax rate from ..... (insert current**  
110               **amount of tax) cents to ..... (insert proposed amount of tax not to exceed**  
111               **thirty) cents per one hundred dollars of assessed valuation for the purpose**  
112               **of funding the University of Missouri Extension District programs,**  
113               **equipment, and services in the district?"**

114       **In a single-council district, if a majority of the voters in the county approve the question,**  
115       **then the district shall impose the tax. In a consolidated district, if a majority of voters in**  
116       **the district approve the tax rate, then the district shall impose the new tax rate. Revenues**  
117       **collected from the imposition of the tax authorized under this section shall be deposited**  
118       **into the special fund dedicated only for use by the district. If a majority of the voters in**  
119       **a single-council district do not approve the question, then the tax shall not be imposed. If**  
120       **a majority of the voters in a consolidated district do not approve the question, then the tax**  
121       **shall not be imposed in any county of the district.**

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