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H.B. 331
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

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Version: As Passed by the House

Primary Sponsors: Reps. Mathews and T. Young

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SUMMARY

- Creates a new pathway to village dissolution by doing the following:
 - Requiring, about every ten years, each county to evaluate the villages located within the county to determine if the village is providing sufficient services and fielding candidates for all elected village offices.
 - Requiring the question of dissolution to be placed on the ballot if these factors are not satisfied.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Village dissolution

Current law sets forth three pathways to dissolving a village; each is described in [LSC's Members Brief on Village Dissolution \(PDF\)](#), available at www.lsc.ohio.gov. The bill creates a fourth pathway applicable to all villages that requires, about every ten years, each county to evaluate the villages located within the county; if certain factors are not satisfied, the question of whether the village should dissolve is put to the voters.

Evaluation

The county auditor, county treasurer, and a county commissioner jointly must evaluate every village located within the county. For a village located in multiple counties, the evaluation is performed by the county wherein the largest portion of the village's population resides. The county must complete its evaluation by December 31 of the year after the results of a federal decennial census is released (e.g., if results are released in 2031, the evaluation must be complete by the end of 2032). The evaluation spans the roughly ten-year period beginning when the previous results were released and ending when the most recent results were released.

Factors

The county must determine two things. First, whether the village itself provided, or contracted with a private nongovernmental entity to provide, at least five of the following services:

- Police protection;
- Fire-fighting services;
- Garbage collection;
- Water or sewer service;
- Emergency medical services;
- Road maintenance;
- Park services or other recreation services;
- Human services;
- A public library established and operated solely by the village.

Second, the county must determine whether, at each election where an elected village position was voted upon, at least one candidate appeared on the ballot for each elected village position.

Finding

The county must notify the village of its finding. If the village satisfied the factors, the process ends. If the county finds the village did not satisfy the factors, the village is prohibited from creating any new liabilities, which is current practice under the other pathways to dissolution. And, the county must file its finding with the board of elections of the county where the largest portion of the village's population resides. The board then submits the question of dissolution to the voters at the next general election that is at least 90 days after the board received the finding.

If the voters vote in favor of a dissolution, the dissolution proceeds in accordance with the existing procedures, which are described in [LSC's Members Brief on Village Dissolution \(PDF\)](#), available at www.lsc.ohio.gov.¹

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	11-15-23
Reported, H. Government Oversight	05-08-24
Passed House (88-3)	06-12-24

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¹ R.C. 703.331, with conforming changes in 703.31, 703.32, and 703.33.