

## Assembly Bill No. 1532

### CHAPTER 114

An act to amend Sections 56131.5, 56325, 56326, 56326.5, 56327, 56327.3, 56329, 56332, 56332.5, 56375.3, 56381.6, 56383, 56384, 57002, 57075, 57075.5, 57177.5, and 57179 of the Government Code, relating to local government.

[Approved by Governor July 15, 2015. Filed with  
Secretary of State July 15, 2015.]

#### LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1532, Committee on Local Government. Local government: omnibus.

(1) Existing law, the Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000, requires a local agency formation commission to notify specified state agencies having oversight or regulatory responsibility over, or a contractual relationship with, a local health care district when a proposal is made for any of specified changes of organization affecting that district.

This bill would update obsolete references to a “hospital” district and replace outdated references to the State Department of Health Services with references to the State Department of Public Health and the State Department of Health Care Services.

(2) The Cortese-Knox-Hertzberg Local Government Reorganization Act of 2000 establishes in each county a local agency formation commission consisting of 7 members and provides for the selection of members of the commission and designation of alternate members according to specified procedures. Existing law establishes special procedures for the creation and selection of members of the commissions for Los Angeles County, Sacramento County, Santa Clara County, and counties in which there are no cities. Existing law provides for the selection of representatives of independent special districts on each commission by an independent special district selection committee. Existing law also provides for the apportionment of the annual operational costs for specified commissions among the classes of public agencies that select members on the commission.

This bill would recast these provisions and instead provide for the appointment of members and alternates to the commission of each county, including the above-described counties for which special procedures apply. The bill would also make various technical changes.

(3) Existing law authorizes the commission to waive protest proceedings and approve a change of organization or reorganization of a city, after notice and a hearing, of unincorporated islands. Existing law excludes from these provisions an unincorporated island within a city that is a gated community where services are currently provided by a community services district.

Existing law also authorizes, at the option of either the city or the county, a separate property tax transfer agreement between a city and a county regarding an annexation of territory subject to these provisions without affecting an existing master tax sharing agreement between the city and the county.

This bill would make technical, nonsubstantive changes to these provisions.

(4) Under existing law, a commission may establish a schedule of fees and service charges for proceedings taken by the commission, including a fee for amending a sphere of influence.

This bill would expand the list of proceedings in that provision to include updating a sphere of influence.

(5) Existing law requires the commission to appoint legal counsel. If the commission's legal counsel is subject to a conflict of interest on an issue before the commission, existing law requires the commission to appoint alternate staff to assist it. Existing law defines, for the purposes of provisions relating to commission officers and staff, the term "conflict of interest".

This bill would expand the definition of "conflict of interest" with respect to the commission's legal counsel to include matters covered by specified rules promulgated by the State Bar of California pertaining to representation of adverse interests.

(6) Existing law generally requires the commission to conduct a hearing for a change of organization or reorganization, as specified. However, the commission may, without a hearing, approve a change of organization that consists of an annexation or a detachment, or a reorganization that consists solely of annexations or detachments, or both, or the formation of a county service area for which the commission is authorized to waive protest proceedings if certain things have occurred.

This bill would additionally authorize the commission to approve, without a hearing, a proposal for an annexation, a detachment, or a reorganization consisting solely of annexations or detachments, or both, or formation of a county service area for which the commission is authorized to make determinations without a hearing and to waive protest proceedings, if the affected territory is uninhabited and certain conditions are met.

(7) Under existing law, in cases involving specified kinds of change of organization or reorganization the commission must, within 30 days after a hearing, make findings regarding the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn and take a specified action. If a majority protest exists, as specified, the commission must terminate proceedings. If written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by either between 25% and 50% of the registered voters in the affected territory or 25% of the number of owners of land who also own at least 25% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory, the commission must order the organization or change of organization subject to confirmation by the registered voters of the affected territory. If written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by less than 25% of the registered voters in the affected territory or less than 25% of the number of owners of land owning less than 25% of the assessed value of

land within the affected territory, the commission must order the change of organization or reorganization.

This bill would recast these provisions to specify that the commission may order the change of organization or reorganization without an election only if there is neither a majority protest nor written protests filed and not withdrawn by between 25% and 50% of the registered voters in the affected territory or 25% of the number of owners of land who also own at least 25% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory.

(8) Under existing law, notwithstanding the above-described procedures for protest, in cases where a city with more than 100,000 people proposes to annex inhabited territory located in a county with a population of over 400,000, the commission must, within 30 days after a hearing, make findings regarding the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn and take specified action. If written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by 50% or more of the registered voters within the affected territory, the commission must terminate proceedings. If written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by either 15% or more of the registered voters in the affected territory or 15% or more of the number of owners of land who also own at least 15% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory, the commission must order the territory annexed subject to confirmation by the voters within the affected territory on the question of whether to be annexed to the city. The commission must request the city council to call a special election for this purpose. If written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by less than 15% of the registered voters in the affected territory and less than 15% of the owners of land who also own less than 15% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory, the commission must order the territory annexed without an election.

This bill would recast these provisions to specify that the commission may order the annexation without an election only if there are neither written protests filed and not withdrawn by 50% or more of the registered voters within the affected territory nor written protests filed and not withdrawn by 15% or more of the registered voters in the affected territory or 15% of the number of owners of land who also own at least 15% of the assessed value of land within the affected territory. The bill would also specify that the confirmation under these provisions is subject to a special election by the registered voters residing within the affected territory.

(9) Existing law requires the commission, in the case of elections on an order of consolidation of cities or districts, to issue a certificate of completion confirming the order of consolidation, or a certification of completion terminating proceedings, as specified.

This bill would instead require the commission to issue either a certification of completion or a certification of termination, as specified.

(10) Existing law requires the commission to execute a certificate of termination of proceedings if the majority of the votes cast by members of the commission are against the change in organization or reorganization.

This bill would instead require the commission to execute a certificate of termination of proceedings if the votes in favor of the change in organization or reorganization do not constitute a majority.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. Section 56131.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56131.5. (a) Upon the filing of an application for the formation of, annexation to, consolidation of, or dissolution of a local health care district created pursuant to Division 23 (commencing with Section 32000) of the Health and Safety Code or of an application for a reorganization including any of those changes of organization or the initiation by the commission of any of those changes of organization or any reorganization including any of those changes of organization, the commission shall notify all state agencies that have oversight or regulatory responsibility over, or a contractual relationship with, the local health care district that is the subject of the proposed change of organization or reorganization, of its receipt of the application or the initiation by the commission of the proposed change of organization or reorganization and the proposal, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) The State Department of Health Care Services, including, but not limited to, the Medi-Cal Division.

(2) The Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development, including, but not limited to, the Cal-Mortgage Loan Insurance Division.

(3) The California Health Facilities Financing Authority.

(4) The State Department of Public Health, including, but not limited to, the Licensing and Certification Division.

(b) A state agency shall have 60 days from the date of receipt of notification by the commission to comment on the proposal. The commission shall consider all comments received from any state agency in making its decision.

SEC. 2. Section 56325 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56325. There is hereby continued in existence in each county a local agency formation commission. Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the commission shall consist of members appointed as follows:

(a) Two appointed by the board of supervisors from their own membership. The board of supervisors shall appoint a third supervisor who shall be an alternate member of the commission. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of any supervisor on the commission who is absent or who disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission.

If the office of a regular county member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular county member until the appointment and qualification of a regular county member to fill the vacancy.

(b) Two appointed by the cities in the county, each of whom shall be a mayor or council member, appointed by the city selection committee. The city selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall also be a mayor or council member and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56335. The city selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the cities in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(c) Two presiding officers or members of legislative bodies of independent special districts appointed by the independent special district selection committee pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee shall also appoint a presiding officer or member of the legislative body of an independent special district as an alternate member who shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee is encouraged to make appointments that fairly represent the diversity of the independent special districts in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(d) One representing the general public appointed by the other members of the commission. The other members of the commission may also appoint one alternate member who shall serve pursuant to Section 56331. Appointment of the public member and alternate public member shall be subject to the affirmative vote of at least one of the members appointed by each of the other appointing authorities. Whenever a vacancy occurs in the public member or alternate public member position, the commission shall cause a notice of vacancy to be posted as provided in Section 56158. A copy of this notice shall be sent to the clerk or secretary of the legislative body of each local agency within the county. Final appointment to fill the vacancy may not be made for at least 21 days after the posting of the notice.

SEC. 3. Section 56326 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56326. In Los Angeles County, the commission shall consist of nine members, appointed as follows:

(a) Two appointed by the board of supervisors from its own membership. The board of supervisors shall also appoint a third supervisor who shall be an alternate member of the commission. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of any supervisor on the commission who is absent or who disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission.

If the office of the regular county member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular county member until the appointment and qualification of a regular county member to fill the vacancy.

(b) One appointed by the board of supervisors, who shall not be a member of the board of supervisors but who shall be a resident of the San Fernando Valley Statistical Area, as defined in subdivision (c) of Section 11093. The board of supervisors shall also appoint an alternate member who shall not be a member of the board of supervisors but who is a resident of the San Fernando Valley Statistical Area. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of the member appointed pursuant to this subdivision if that member

is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission.

If the office of the regular member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular member until the appointment and qualification of a regular member to fill the vacancy.

(c) Two appointed by the cities in the county, each of whom shall be a mayor or council member, appointed by the city selection committee. The city selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall also be a mayor or council member and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56335. The city selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the cities in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(d) One appointed by the presiding officer of the legislative body of a city in the county having a population in excess of 30 percent of the total population of the county who is a member of the legislative body of the city. The presiding officer of the legislative body shall also appoint an alternate member who is a member of the legislative body. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of the member appointed pursuant to this subdivision if the member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission.

If the office of the regular member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular member until the appointment and qualification of a regular member to fill the vacancy.

(e) Two presiding officers or members of legislative bodies of independent special districts appointed by the independent special district selection committee pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall be a presiding officer or member of the legislative body of an independent special district and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the independent special districts in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(f) One representing the general public appointed by the other members of the commission. The other members of the commission may also appoint one alternate member who shall serve pursuant to Section 56331.

SEC. 4. Section 56326.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56326.5. In Sacramento County, the commission shall consist of seven members, appointed as follows:

(a) Two appointed by the board of supervisors from their own membership. The board of supervisors shall appoint a third supervisor who shall serve as an alternate member of the commission. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of any supervisor on the commission who is absent or who disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular county member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former

regular county member until the appointment and qualification of a regular county member to fill the vacancy.

(b) One appointed by the City of Sacramento who is a member of the city council, appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council. The mayor shall also appoint, subject to confirmation by the council, an alternate member who is a member of the city council. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of the regular city member if the city member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular city member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular city member until the appointment and qualification of a regular city member to fill the vacancy.

(c) One appointed by the cities in the county, who is a mayor or council member appointed by the city selection committee. The city selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall also be a mayor or council member and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56335. The city selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the cities in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(d) Two presiding officers or members of legislative bodies of independent special districts appointed by the independent special district selection committee pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall be a presiding officer or member of the legislative body of an independent special district and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56332. The independent special district selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the independent special districts in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(e) One representing the general public, appointed by the other six members of the commission. The commission may also appoint an alternate public member who may serve and vote in the place of the regular public member if the regular public member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular public member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular public member until the appointment and qualification of a regular public member to fill the vacancy.

SEC. 5. Section 56327 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56327. In Santa Clara County, the commission shall consist of five members, appointed as follows:

(a) Two appointed by the board of supervisors from their own membership. The board of supervisors shall appoint a third supervisor who shall serve as an alternate member of the commission. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of any supervisor on the commission who is absent or who disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular county member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former

regular county member until the appointment and qualification of a regular county member to fill the vacancy.

(b) One appointed by the city in the county having the largest population, who is a member of the legislative body of the city, appointed by the city council. The city council shall also appoint an alternate member who is a member of the legislative body of the city. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of the regular city member if the city member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular city member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular city member until the appointment and qualification of a regular city member to fill the vacancy.

(c) One appointed by the cities in the county, who is a mayor or council member appointed by the city selection committee. The city selection committee shall also appoint one alternate member who shall also be a mayor or council member and shall be appointed and serve pursuant to Section 56335. The city selection committee is encouraged to appoint members to fairly represent the diversity of the cities in the county, with respect to population and geography.

(d) One representing the general public, appointed by the other four, or, if the commission is enlarged pursuant to Section 56327.3, the other six, members of the commission. This member shall not be a resident of a city which is already represented on the commission. The commission may also appoint an alternate public member, who shall not be a resident of a city represented on the commission, and who may serve and vote in the place of the regular public member if the regular public member is absent or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission. If the office of the regular public member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular public member until the appointment and qualification of a regular public member to fill the vacancy.

SEC. 6. Section 56327.3 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56327.3. In Santa Clara County, the commission shall be enlarged by two members if, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 56821), the commission orders representation of special districts upon the commission.

SEC. 7. Section 56329 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56329. If there is no city in the county, the commission shall consist of five members, appointed as follows which may be further augmented pursuant to Sections 56332 and 56332.5:

(a) Three appointed by the board of supervisors from their own membership. The board of supervisors shall appoint a fourth supervisor who is an alternate member of the commission. The alternate member may serve and vote in place of any supervisor on the commission who is absent or who disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting of the commission.



If the office of a regular county member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular county member until the appointment and qualification of a regular county member to fill the vacancy.

(b) Two representing the general public appointed by the other three members of the commission. Appointment of the public member and alternate public member shall be subject to the affirmative vote of at least one of the members selected by each of the other appointing authorities.

SEC. 8. Section 56332 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56332. (a) The independent special district selection committee shall consist of the presiding officer of the legislative body of each independent special district. However, if the presiding officer of an independent special district is unable to participate in a meeting or election of the independent special district selection committee, the legislative body of the district may appoint one of its members as an alternate to participate in the selection committee in the presiding officer's place. Those districts shall include districts located wholly within the county and those containing territory within the county representing 50 percent or more of the assessed value of taxable property of the district, as shown on the last equalized county assessment roll. Each member of the committee shall be entitled to one vote for each independent special district of which he or she is the presiding officer or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body. Members representing a majority of the eligible districts shall constitute a quorum.

(b) The executive officer shall call and give written notice of all meetings of the members of the selection committee. A meeting shall be called and held under one of the following circumstances:

(1) Whenever the executive officer anticipates that a vacancy will occur within the next 90 days among the members or alternate member representing independent special districts on the commission.

(2) Whenever a vacancy exists among the members or alternate member representing independent special districts upon the commission.

(3) Upon receipt of a written request by one or more members of the selection committee representing districts having 10 percent or more of the assessed value of taxable property within the county, as shown on the last equalized county assessment roll.

(c) The selection committee shall appoint two regular members and one alternate member to the commission. The members so appointed shall be elected or appointed members of the legislative body of an independent special district residing within the county but shall not be members of the legislative body of a city or county. If one of the regular district members is absent from a commission meeting or disqualifies himself or herself from participating in a meeting, the alternate district member may serve and vote in place of the regular district member for that meeting. Service on the commission by a regular district member shall not disqualify, or be cause for disqualification of, the member from acting on proposals affecting the special district on whose legislative body the member serves. The special district selection committee may, at the time it appoints a member or

alternate, provide that the member or alternate is disqualified from voting on proposals affecting the district on whose legislative body the member serves.

(d) If the office of a regular district member becomes vacant, the alternate member may serve and vote in place of the former regular district member until the appointment and qualification of a regular district member to fill the vacancy.

(e) A majority of the independent special district selection committee may determine to conduct the committee's business by mail, including holding all elections by mailed ballot, pursuant to subdivision (f).

(f) If the independent special district selection committee has determined to conduct the committee's business by mail or if the executive officer determines that a meeting of the special district selection committee, for the purpose of appointing the special district members or filling vacancies, is not feasible, the executive officer shall conduct the business of the committee by mail. Elections by mail shall be conducted as provided in this subdivision.

(1) The executive officer shall prepare and deliver a call for nominations to each eligible district. The presiding officer, or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body, may respond in writing by the date specified in the call for nominations, which date shall be at least 30 days from the date on which the executive officer mailed the call for nominations to the eligible district.

(2) At the end of the nominating period, if only one candidate is nominated for a vacant seat, that candidate shall be deemed appointed. If two or more candidates are nominated, the executive officer shall prepare and deliver one ballot and voting instructions to each eligible district. The ballot shall include the names of all nominees and the office for which each was nominated. Each presiding officer, or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body, shall return the ballot to the executive officer by the date specified in the voting instructions, which date shall be at least 30 days from the date on which the executive officer mailed the ballot to the eligible district.

(3) The call for nominations, ballot, and voting instructions shall be delivered by certified mail to each eligible district. As an alternative to the delivery by certified mail, the executive officer, with prior concurrence of the presiding officer or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body, may transmit materials by electronic mail.

(4) If the executive officer has transmitted the call for nominations or ballot by electronic mail, the presiding officer, or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body, may respond to the executive officer by electronic mail.

(5) Each returned nomination and ballot shall be signed by the presiding officer or his or her alternate as designated by the governing body of the eligible district.

(6) For an election to be valid, at least a quorum of the special districts must submit valid ballots. The candidate receiving the most votes shall be

elected, unless another procedure has been adopted by the selection committee. Any nomination and ballot received by the executive officer after the date specified is invalid, provided, however, that if a quorum of ballots is not received by that date, the executive officer shall extend the date to submit ballots by 60 days and notify all districts of the extension. The executive officer shall announce the results of the election within seven days of the date specified.

(7) All election materials shall be retained by the executive officer for a period of at least six months after the announcement of the election results.

(g) For purposes of this section, “executive officer” means the executive officer or designee as authorized by the commission.

SEC. 9. Section 56332.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56332.5. If the commission does not have representation from independent special districts on January 1, 2001, the commission shall initiate proceedings for representation of independent special districts upon the commission if requested by independent special districts pursuant to this section. If an independent special district adopts a resolution proposing representation of independent special districts upon the commission, it shall immediately forward a copy of the resolution to the executive officer. Upon receipt of those resolutions from a majority of independent special districts within a county, adopted by the districts within one year from the date that the first resolution was adopted, the commission, at its next regular meeting, shall adopt a resolution of intention. The resolution of intention shall state whether the proceedings are initiated by the commission or by an independent special district or districts, in which case, the names of those districts shall be set forth. The commission shall order the executive officer to call and give notice of a meeting of the independent special district selection committee to be held within 15 days after the adoption of the resolution in order to appoint independent special district representation on the commission pursuant to Section 56332.

SEC. 10. Section 56375.3 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56375.3. (a) In addition to those powers enumerated in Section 56375, a commission shall approve, after notice and hearing, the change of organization or reorganization of a city, and waive protest proceedings pursuant to Part 4 (commencing with Section 57000) entirely, if all of the following are true:

(1) The change of organization or reorganization is initiated on or after January 1, 2000.

(2) The change of organization or reorganization is proposed by resolution adopted by the affected city.

(3) The commission finds that the territory contained in the change of organization or reorganization proposal meets all of the requirements set forth in subdivision (b).

(b) Subdivision (a) applies to territory that meets all of the following requirements:

(1) It does not exceed 150 acres in area, and that area constitutes the entire island.

(2) The territory constitutes an entire unincorporated island located within the limits of a city, or constitutes a reorganization containing a number of individual unincorporated islands.

(3) It is surrounded in either of the following ways:

(A) Surrounded, or substantially surrounded, by the city to which annexation is proposed or by the city and a county boundary or the Pacific Ocean.

(B) Surrounded by the city to which annexation is proposed and adjacent cities.

(4) It is substantially developed or developing. The finding required by this paragraph shall be based upon one or more factors, including, but not limited to, any of the following factors:

(A) The availability of public utility services.

(B) The presence of public improvements.

(C) The presence of physical improvements upon the parcel or parcels within the area.

(5) It is not prime agricultural land, as defined by Section 56064.

(6) It will benefit from the change of organization or reorganization or is receiving benefits from the annexing city.

(7) This subdivision does not apply to any unincorporated island within a city that is a gated community where services are currently provided by a community services district.

(8) Notwithstanding any other law, at the option of either the city or the county, a separate property tax transfer agreement may be agreed to between a city and a county pursuant to Section 99 of the Revenue and Taxation Code regarding an annexation subject to this subdivision without affecting any existing master tax sharing agreement between the city and county.

(c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, this subdivision shall not apply to all or any part of that portion of the development project area referenced in subdivision (e) of Section 33492.41 of the Health and Safety Code that as of January 1, 2000, meets all of the following requirements:

(1) Is unincorporated territory.

(2) Contains at least 100 acres.

(3) Is surrounded or substantially surrounded by incorporated territory.

(4) Contains at least 100 acres zoned for commercial or industrial uses or is designated on the applicable county general plan for commercial or industrial uses.

(d) The Legislature finds and declares that the powers set forth in subdivision (a) for territory that meets all the specifications in subdivision (b) are consistent with the intent of promoting orderly growth and development pursuant to Section 56001 and facilitate the annexation of disadvantaged unincorporated communities, as defined in Section 56033.5.

SEC. 11. Section 56381.6 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56381.6. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of Section 56381, for counties whose membership on the commission is established pursuant to Sections 56326, 56326.5, 56327, or 56328, the commission's annual

operational costs shall be apportioned among the classes of public agencies that appoint members to the commission in proportion to the number of members appointed by each class. The classes of public agencies that may be represented on the commission are the county, the cities, and independent special districts. Any alternative cost apportionment procedure may be adopted by the commission, subject to a majority affirmative vote of the commission that includes the affirmative vote of at least one of the members appointed by the county, one of the members appointed by the cities, and one of the members appointed by districts, if special districts are represented on the commission.

(b) Allocation of costs among individual cities and independent special districts and remittance of payments shall be in accordance with the procedures of Section 56381. Notwithstanding Section 56381, any city that has permanent membership on the commission pursuant to Sections 56326, 56326.5, 56327, or 56328 shall be apportioned the same percentage of the commission's annual operational costs as its permanent member bears to the total membership of the commission, excluding any public members selected by all the members. The balance of the cities' portion of the commission's annual operational costs shall be apportioned to the remaining cities in the county in accordance with the procedures of Section 56381.

SEC. 12. Section 56383 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56383. (a) The commission may establish a schedule of fees and a schedule of service charges for the proceedings taken pursuant to this division, including, but not limited to, all of the following:

- (1) Filing and processing applications filed with the commission.
- (2) Proceedings undertaken by the commission and any reorganization committee.
- (3) Amending or updating a sphere of influence.
- (4) Reconsidering a resolution making determinations.

(b) The fees shall not exceed the estimated reasonable cost of providing the service for which the fee is charged and shall be imposed pursuant to Section 66016. The service charges shall not exceed the cost of providing the service for which the service charge is charged and shall be imposed pursuant to Section 66016.

(c) The commission may require that an applicant deposit some or all of the required amount that will be owed with the executive officer before any further action is taken. The deposit shall be made within the time period specified by the commission. No application shall be deemed filed until the applicant deposits the required amount with the executive officer. The executive officer shall provide the applicant with an accounting of all costs charged against the deposited amount. If the costs are less than the deposited amount, the executive officer shall refund the balance to the applicant after the executive officer verifies the completion of all proceedings. If the costs exceed the deposited amount, the applicant shall pay the difference prior to the completion of all proceedings.

(d) The commission may reduce or waive a fee, service charge, or deposit if it finds that payment would be detrimental to the public interest. The

reduction or waiver of any fee, service charge, or deposit is limited to the costs incurred by the commission in the proceedings of an application.

(e) Any mandatory time limits for commission action may be deferred until the applicant pays the required fee, service charge, or deposit.

(f) The signatures on a petition submitted to the commission by registered voters shall be verified by the elections official of the county and the costs of verification shall be provided for in the same manner and by the same agencies which bear the costs of verifying signatures for an initiative petition in the same county.

(g) For incorporation proceedings that have been initiated by the filing of a sufficient number of voter signatures on petitions that have been verified by the county registrar of voters, the commission may, upon the receipt of a certification by the proponents that they are unable to raise sufficient funds to reimburse fees, service charges, or deposits for the proceedings, take no action on the proposal and request a loan from the General Fund of an amount sufficient to cover those expenses subject to availability of an appropriation for those purposes and in accordance with any provisions of the appropriation. Repayment of the loan shall be made a condition of approval of the incorporation, if successful, and shall become an obligation of the newly formed city. Repayment shall be made within two years of the effective date of incorporation. If the proposal is denied by the commission or defeated at an election, the loan shall be forgiven.

SEC. 13. Section 56384 of the Government Code is amended to read:

56384. (a) The commission shall appoint an executive officer who shall conduct and perform the day-to-day business of the commission. If the executive officer is subject to a conflict of interest on a matter before the commission, the commission shall appoint an alternate executive officer. The commission may recover its costs by charging fees pursuant to Section 56383.

(b) The commission shall appoint legal counsel to advise it. If the commission's counsel is subject to a conflict of interest on a matter before the commission, the commission shall appoint alternate legal counsel to advise it. The commission may recover its costs by charging fees pursuant to Section 56383.

(c) The commission may appoint staff as it deems appropriate. If staff for the commission is subject to a conflict of interest on a matter before the commission, the commission shall appoint alternate staff to assist it. The commission may recover its costs by charging fees pursuant to Section 56383.

(d) (1) For purposes of this section, the term "conflict of interest" shall be defined as it is for the purpose of the Political Reform Act of 1974 (Title 9 (commencing with Section 81000)) and shall also include matters proscribed by Article 4 (commencing with Section 1090) of Chapter 1 of Division 4 of Title 1.

(2) For the purposes of subdivision (b), the term "conflict of interest" shall also include matters addressed by Rule 3-310 of the Rules of

Professional Conduct promulgated by the State Bar of California, pertaining to representation of adverse interests.

SEC. 14. Section 57002 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57002. (a) Within 35 days following the adoption of the commission's resolution making determinations, the executive officer of the commission shall set the proposal for hearing and give notice of that hearing by mailing, publication, and posting, as provided in Chapter 4 (commencing with Section 56150) of Part 1. The hearing shall not be held prior to the expiration of the reconsideration period specified in subdivision (b) of Section 56895. The date of that hearing shall not be less than 21 days, or more than 60 days, after the date the notice is given.

(b) Where the proceeding is for the establishment of a district as a subsidiary district of a city, upon the request of the affected district, the date of the hearing shall be at least 90 days, but no more than 135 days, from the date the notice is given.

(c) If authorized by the commission pursuant to Section 56662 or 56663, a change of organization or reorganization may be approved without notice, hearing, and election.

SEC. 15. Section 57075 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57075. In the case of registered voter districts or cities, where a change of organization or reorganization consists solely of annexations, detachments, the exercise of new or different functions or class of services or the divestiture of the power to provide particular functions or class of services within all or part of the jurisdictional boundaries of a special district, or any combination of those proposals, the commission, not more than 30 days after the conclusion of the hearing, shall make a finding regarding the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn, and take one of the following actions, except as provided in subdivision (b) of Section 57002:

(a) In the case of inhabited territory, take one of the following actions:

(1) Terminate proceedings if a majority protest exists in accordance with Section 57078.

(2) Order the change of organization or reorganization subject to confirmation by the registered voters residing within the affected territory if written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by either of the following:

(A) At least 25 percent, but less than 50 percent, of the registered voters residing in the affected territory.

(B) At least 25 percent of the number of owners of land who also own at least 25 percent of the assessed value of land within the affected territory.

(3) Order the change of organization or reorganization without an election if paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subdivision do not apply.

(b) In the case of uninhabited territory, take either of the following actions:

(1) Terminate proceedings if a majority protest exists in accordance with Section 57078.

(2) Order the change of organization or reorganization if written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by owners of land who own less than 50 percent of the total assessed value of land within the affected territory.

SEC. 16. Section 57075.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57075.5. Notwithstanding Section 57075, if territory proposed to be annexed to a city with more than 100,000 residents is inhabited and is located in a county with a population of over 4,000,000, the commission, not more than 30 days after conclusion of the hearing, shall make a finding regarding the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn and shall take one of the following actions:

(a) Terminate proceedings if written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by 50 percent or more of the registered voters residing within the affected territory.

(b) Order the change of organization or reorganization subject to confirmation by the registered voters residing within the affected territory, and request the city council to call a special election and submit to the voters residing within the affected territory the question of whether it shall be annexed to the city, if written protests have been filed and not withdrawn by either of the following:

(1) At least 15 percent of the registered voters residing within the affected territory.

(2) At least 15 percent of the number of owners of land who also own not less than 15 percent of the total assessed value of land within the affected territory.

(c) Order the territory annexed without an election if subdivisions (a) and (b) do not apply.

SEC. 17. Section 57177.5 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57177.5. In the case of elections on an order of consolidation of cities or districts, the commission shall take one of the following actions:

(a) Execute a certificate of completion confirming the order of consolidation if, within the territory of each city or district ordered to be consolidated, a majority of the votes cast on the question favored the consolidation.

(b) Execute a certificate of termination of proceedings if, in one of the cities or districts ordered to be consolidated, the votes cast in favor of consolidation did not constitute a majority.

SEC. 18. Section 57179 of the Government Code is amended to read:

57179. The commission shall execute a certificate of termination of proceedings if the votes cast in favor of the change of organization or reorganization do not constitute a majority.