

**SENATE BILL No. 204**

By Committee on Ways and Means

2-14

1 AN ACT concerning counties; relating to the establishment of a county  
2 consolidation commission.

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4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The governor shall appoint a 12-member county  
6 unification study commission. The appointments shall be made by July  
7 30, 2011. No more than seven members of the commission shall be from  
8 the same political party. At least two members shall be from each  
9 congressional district. Members of the commission shall include, but not  
10 be limited to, persons with experience in business mergers and  
11 consolidations, business management, business finance, municipal  
12 finance, law, education, political science or public administration.

13 (b) Members of the commission shall be paid compensation,  
14 subsistence allowances, mileage and other expenses as provided by  
15 K.S.A. 75-3223, and amendments thereto.

16 (c) The governor shall appoint an executive director of the  
17 commission. The executive director shall receive compensation  
18 established by the governor, within the limits of appropriations for that  
19 purpose. The executive director shall employ other staff and may contract  
20 with consultants, as the executive director deems necessary to carry out  
21 the functions of the commission. Staff employed by the executive director  
22 shall receive compensation established by the executive director and  
23 approved by the governor, within the limits of appropriations for that  
24 purpose.

25 (d) Within 30 days following the appointment of all members of the  
26 commission, the commission shall meet and organize by the election of a  
27 chairperson and vice-chairperson and other officers deemed necessary.  
28 The commission may adopt rules governing the conduct of its meetings.

29 (e) The commission shall hold public hearings for the purpose of  
30 receiving information and materials which will aid in the drafting of the  
31 plan and shall review Kansas county consolidation studies conducted by  
32 various university professors.

33 Sec. 2. The commission shall prepare and adopt a plan  
34 addressing the consolidation of counties. The commission shall conduct  
35 such studies and investigations as it deems appropriate to complete its  
36 work. Such studies and investigations shall include, but not be limited to,

1 the following:

2 (a) The feasibility of implementing a county consolidation plan  
3 which would consolidate the 105 counties in Kansas into fewer counties  
4 or consolidated counties, including, but not limited to, a county  
5 consolidation plan that would consolidate counties into 23 county units as  
6 follows:

7 (1) Butler county;

8 (2) Allen, Bourbon, Cherokee, Crawford, Montgomery, Wilson and  
9 Woodson counties;

10 (3) Clark, Comanche, Edwards, Ford, Grey, Hodgeman, Kiowa and  
11 Ness counties;

12 (4) Douglas county;

13 (5) Anderson, Franklin, Linn and Miami counties;

14 (6) Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Morris, Osage and Wabaunsee  
15 counties;

16 (7) Finney, Greeley, Hamilton, Kearney, Lane, Scott and Wichita  
17 counties;

18 (8) Barton, Ellsworth, Pawnee, Rice, Rush and Stafford counties;

19 (9) Ellis, Graham, Norton, Osborne, Phillips, Rooks, Russell, Smith  
20 and Trego counties;

21 (10) Barber, Harper, Kingman, Pratt and Reno counties;

22 (11) Johnson county;

23 (12) Leavenworth county;

24 (13) Grant, Haskell, Meade, Morton, Seward, Stanton and Stevens  
25 counties;

26 (14) Geary, Pottawatomie and Riley counties;

27 (15) Harvey, McPherson and Marion counties;

28 (16) Clay, Cloud, Jewell, Marshall, Mitchell, Republic and  
29 Washington counties;

30 (17) Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson and Nemaha  
31 counties;

32 (18) Cheyenne, Decatur, Gove, Logan, Rawlins, Sheridan, Sherman,  
33 Thomas and Wallace counties;

34 (19) Dickinson, Lincoln, Ottawa and Saline counties;

35 (20) Sedgwick county;

36 (21) Shawnee county;

37 (22) Chautauqua, Cowley, Elk and Sumner counties; and

38 (23) Wyandotte county.

39 (b) the efficiency and effectiveness of the administrative operations of  
40 the consolidated county plan; and

41 (c) the costs, savings and benefits of the consolidated county plan.

42 Sec. 3. (a) For the purposes of performing its studies and  
43 investigations, the commission or its executive director may administer

1 oaths and affirmations, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, take  
2 evidence, require the production of any books, papers, correspondence,  
3 memoranda, agreements or other documents or records which the  
4 commission or executive director deems relevant or material to its studies  
5 and investigation.

6 (b) On or before January 1, 2013, the commission shall submit its final  
7 plan to the governor and legislature. The final plan shall include the full  
8 text and an explanation of the proposed plan, and comments deemed  
9 desirable by the commission.

10 Sec. 4. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
11 publication in the statute book.