

Overview

The Decennial Committees on Local Government Efficiency Act, 50 ILCS 70/1, *et seq.*, requires units of local government that levy any tax, including park districts, forest preserve districts, and conservation districts, to form a committee to study local government efficiencies and issue a report to the county board in which the unit of local government is situated. The Act does not apply to municipalities and counties.

IAPD worked with state legislators and other stakeholders to relieve the most costly and burdensome provisions of this legislation before it became law. Although still an unfunded mandate, the law gives park districts, forest preserve districts, and conservation districts the ability to appoint the committee membership and provides an opportunity for these agencies to demonstrate the countless ways in which they efficiently and effectively deliver park, recreation, and conservation programs, facilities, and services to their residents.

As one resource to our members, IAPD has prepared this fact sheet to assist in meeting the requirements of this new law.

Committee Formation

Units of local government are required to form a committee no later than June 10, 2023, which is one year after the effective date of the Act, and at least once every ten years thereafter.

Committee Composition

Each committee must include:

- The elected or appointed members of the governing board of the governmental unit;
- At least two residents of the governmental unit appointed by the board president and approved by the board; and,
- The chief executive officer or other officer of the governmental unit, if any.

The board president or their designee shall chair the committee. The chair may appoint additional members to the committee as they believe appropriate. Committee members serve without compensation but may be reimbursed for incurred expenses with the approval of the governmental unit.

The committee may, but is not required to, employ or use the services of specialists in public administration and governmental management, and any other trained consultants, analysts, investigators, and assistants it considers appropriate.

The committee is considered a public body to which the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act applies.

Duties of the Committee

The duties of each committee include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- Study the governmental unit's governing statutes, ordinances, rules, procedures, powers, jurisdiction, shared services, intergovernmental agreements, and interrelationships with other governmental units and the State of Illinois.
- Collect data, research, and analysis as necessary to prepare a written report that includes recommendations with respect to increased accountability and efficiency.
- Provide a written report to the administrative office of the county board in each county in which the governmental unit is located no later than eighteen months after the formation of the committee.

Committee Meetings

The committee is required to meet at least three times. The committee may, but is not required, to meet during the regularly scheduled meeting of the governmental units if:

1. Separate notice is given in conformance with the Open Meetings Act;
2. The committee meeting is listed as part of the board of the governmental unit's agenda; and,
3. At least a majority of the members of the committee are present at the committee's meeting.

However, because the committee's membership is not identical to the park board membership, the park board would want to adjourn or recess its regular meeting before convening a meeting of the committee if it chooses to meet on the same day as a regularly scheduled meeting.

Each meeting of the committee must be public and held in accordance with the Open Meetings Act. The committee must provide an opportunity for any person to be heard at each meeting for at least three minutes. At the conclusion of each meeting, the committee must conduct a survey of residents who attended the meeting and ask for input on matters discussed at the meeting. Although not the required method, a survey conducted by email to all residents who attended the meeting and provided a valid email address is one way to satisfy this survey requirement. Pursuant to the Open Meetings Act, all public bodies must keep written minutes for each meeting of the committee.

Committee Report

Each committee must provide its report to the administrative office of the county board in each county in which the governmental unit is located no later than eighteen months after the formation of the committee. If a governmental unit is located in multiple counties, it should provide the report to the administrative office of each county board in all counties in which the governmental unit is located. If the committee is formed on the last possible date (June 10, 2023), then the report would need to be provided no later than December 10, 2024. After the report is issued, the committee is dissolved until it is reestablished with newly appointed members in 10 years.

IAPD requests that member agencies provide a copy of the final report to IAPD so that we can utilize this information in future advocacy efforts.

Questions of Concerns

As always, for more information, please feel welcome to contact IAPD by phone at (217) 523-4554, or by email at janselment@ilparks.org or mremmert@ilparks.org.