

State of Wisconsin



2005 Assembly Bill 366

Date of enactment: **March 23, 2006**

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2005 WISCONSIN ACT 186

AN ACT *to create* 66.1110 of the statutes; **relating to:** authorizing the creation of neighborhood improvement districts.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 66.1110 of the statutes is created to read:
66.1110 Neighborhood improvement districts. (1)

In this section:

- (a) "Board" means a neighborhood improvement district board elected under sub. (4) (a).
- (b) "Chief executive officer" means a mayor, city manager, village president, or town chairperson.
- (c) "Local legislative body" means a common council, village board of trustees, or town board of supervisors.
- (d) "Municipality" means a city, village, or town.
- (e) "Neighborhood improvement district" means an area within a municipality consisting of nearby but not necessarily contiguous parcels, at least some of which are used for residential purposes and are subject to general real estate taxes, and property that is acquired and owned by the board if the local legislative body approved acquisition of the property under sub. (4) (d) as part of its approval of the initial operating plan under sub. (3) (e).
- (f) "Operating plan" means a plan adopted or amended under this section for the development, redevelopment, maintenance, operation, and promotion of a neighborhood improvement district.

(g) "Owner" means the owner of real property that is located within the boundaries, or the proposed boundaries, of a neighborhood improvement district.

(h) "Planning commission" means a plan commission under s. 62.23 or, if none exists, a board of public land commissioners or, if none exists, a planning committee of the local legislative body.

(2) An operating plan shall include at least all of the following elements:

- (a) The special assessment method applicable to the neighborhood improvement district.
- (b) The kind, number, and location of all proposed expenditures within the neighborhood improvement district.
- (c) A description of the methods of financing all estimated expenditures and the time when related costs will be incurred.
- (d) A description of how the creation of the neighborhood improvement district promotes the orderly development of the municipality, including its relationship to any municipal master plan.
- (e) A statement as to whether the local legislative body authorizes the board to own real property and, if so, a description of the real property to be owned, the purpose of the ownership, and a statement of to whom the

* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES 2003-04 : Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication as designated" by the secretary of state [the date of publication may not be more than 10 working days after the date of enactment].

real property will be transferred if the neighborhood improvement district is terminated.

(f) A legal opinion that pars. (a) to (e) have been complied with.

(3) A municipality may create a neighborhood improvement district and adopt its operating plan if all of the following conditions are met:

(a) An owner of real property subject to general real estate taxes and located in the proposed neighborhood improvement district designated under par. (b) has petitioned the municipality for creation of a neighborhood improvement district.

(b) The planning commission has designated a proposed neighborhood improvement district and adopted its proposed initial operating plan.

(c) At least 30 days before creation of the neighborhood improvement district and adoption of its initial operating plan by the municipality, the planning commission has held a public hearing on its proposed neighborhood improvement district and initial operating plan. Notice of the hearing shall be published as a class 2 notice under ch. 985. Before publication, a copy of the notice, together with a copy of the proposed initial operating plan and a copy of a detail map showing the boundaries of the proposed neighborhood improvement district, shall be sent by certified mail to all owners of real property within the proposed neighborhood improvement district. The notice shall state the boundaries of the proposed neighborhood improvement district and shall indicate that copies of the proposed initial operating plan are available from the planning commission on request.

(d) Within 30 days after the hearing under par. (c), one of the following has not filed a petition with the planning commission protesting the proposed neighborhood improvement district or its proposed initial operating plan:

1. The owners of property to be assessed under the proposed initial operating plan having a valuation equal to more than 40 percent of the valuation of all property to be assessed under the proposed initial operating plan, using the method of valuation specified in the proposed initial operating plan.

2. The owners of property to be assessed under the proposed initial operating plan having an assessed valuation equal to more than 40 percent of the assessed valuation of all property to be assessed under the proposed initial operating plan.

(e) The local legislative body has voted to adopt the proposed initial operating plan for the neighborhood improvement district. The local legislative body shall publish a class 2 notice under ch. 985 regarding the meeting at which the local legislative body will vote on whether to adopt the proposed initial operating plan for the neighborhood improvement district. Before publication, a copy of the notice shall be sent by certified mail to

all owners of real property within the proposed neighborhood improvement district.

(4) (a) 1. If the local legislative body adopts the proposed initial operating plan under sub. (3) (e), it shall determine the size of board, which shall consist of at least 5 members, all of whom shall own or occupy real property in the neighborhood improvement district.

2. The number of board members who represent commercial and residential property, respectively, shall be set by the local legislative body, as closely as possible, in the same proportion as is the aggregate valuation of commercial property in the neighborhood improvement district to the total assessed value of all property in the district, and the aggregate valuation of residential property in the district to the total assessed value of all property in the district.

3. The local legislative body shall set the time and place for a meeting at which members of the board will be elected, and shall publish a class 2 notice under ch. 985 that contains this information. The notice shall specify that all individuals who either own or occupy real property within the neighborhood improvement district are eligible to serve on the board and vote at the election.

4. At the meeting, the individuals who own or occupy real property shall be divided into 2 groups. One group shall consist of those individuals who own or occupy commercial property, and one group shall consist of those individuals who own or occupy residential property. Each group shall elect from among its members the number of board members set to represent its group by the local legislative body under subd. 2.

5. Board members elected under subd. 4 shall serve a one year term, and may be reelected. Annually, the number of board members who represent commercial and residential properties, based on the calculation described in subd. 2., may be reallocated by the local legislative body to the greatest extent possible to be consistent with the proportion described under subd. 2.

6. Annually, board members shall be elected under the procedures contained in this paragraph. If a vacancy occurs during the term of a board member, an individual shall be elected to fill the unexpired term of the member under the procedures contained in this paragraph.

(b) The board shall annually consider and may make changes to the operating plan, which may include termination of the plan, for the neighborhood improvement district. The board shall then submit the operating plan to the local legislative body for its approval. If the local legislative body disapproves the operating plan, the board shall consider and may make changes to the operating plan and may continue to resubmit the operating plan until local legislative body approval is obtained. Any change to the special assessment method applicable to the neighborhood improvement district shall be approved by the local legislative body.

(c) The board shall prepare and make available to the public annual reports describing the current status of the neighborhood improvement district, including expenditures and revenues. The report shall include an independent certified audit of the implementation of the operating plan obtained by the municipality. The municipality shall obtain an additional independent certified audit upon termination of the neighborhood improvement district.

(d) Either the board or the municipality, as specified in the operating plan as adopted, or amended and approved under this section, has all of the powers necessary or convenient to implement the operating plan, including the power to contract.

(5) All special assessments received from a neighborhood improvement district and all other appropriations by the municipality or other moneys received for the benefit of the neighborhood improvement district shall be placed in a segregated account in the municipal treasury. No disbursements from the account may be made except to reimburse the municipality for appropriations other than special assessments, to pay the costs of audits required under sub. (4) (c) or on order of the board for the purpose of implementing the operating plan. On termination of the neighborhood improvement district by the municipality, all moneys collected by special assessment remaining in the account shall be disbursed to the owners of specially assessed property in the neighborhood improvement district, in the same proportion as the last collected special assessment.

(6) (a) Subject to pars. (b) and (c), a municipality shall terminate a neighborhood improvement district if one of the following occurs:

1. The owners of property assessed under the operating plan having a valuation equal to more than 50 percent of the valuation of all property assessed under the operating plan, using the method of valuation specified in the operating plan, file a petition with the planning commission requesting termination of the neighborhood improvement district.

2. The owners of property assessed under the operating plan having an assessed valuation equal to more than 50 percent of the assessed valuation of all property assessed under the operating plan, file a petition with the planning commission requesting termination of the neighborhood improvement district.

3. The owners of property assessed under the operating plan having a valuation equal to more than 50 percent of the valuation of all property assessed under the operating plan fail to file a petition with the planning commission to continue the neighborhood improvement district within one year of the date on which the membership of the board changes from a majority which represents commercial properties to a majority that represents residential properties, or vice versa, as described under sub. (4) (a) 3.

(b) 1. A petition may not be filed under this subsection earlier than one year after the date on which the municipality first adopts the operating plan for the neighborhood improvement district.

2. On and after the date on which a petition is filed under par. (a) 1. or 2., or on and after the date on which a petition must be filed under par. (a) 3., neither the board nor the municipality may enter into any new obligations by contract or otherwise to implement the operating plan until the expiration of 30 days after the date of the hearing under subd. 3. and unless the neighborhood improvement district is not terminated under par. (c).

3. Within 30 days after the filing of a petition under par. (a) 1. or 2., the planning commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed termination. Within 30 days after the deadline for filing a petition under par. (a) 3. passes, the planning commission shall hold a public hearing on the proposed termination. Notice of the hearing shall be published as a class 2 notice under ch. 985. Before publication, a copy of the notice, together with a copy of a detail map showing the boundaries of the neighborhood improvement district, shall be sent by certified mail to all owners of real property within the neighborhood improvement district. The notice shall state the boundaries of the neighborhood improvement district and shall indicate that copies of the operating plan are available from the planning commission on request and are posted in the building in which the municipality's governing body regularly holds its meetings.

4. Within 30 days after the date of the hearing under subd. 3., every owner of property assessed under the operating plan may send written notice to the planning commission indicating, if the owner signed a petition under par. (a) 1. or 2., that the owner retracts the owner's request to terminate the neighborhood improvement district, or, if the owner did not file or sign a petition under par. (a) 1. or 2., that the owner requests termination of the neighborhood improvement district under par. (a) 1. or 2.

5. Within 30 days after the date of the hearing under subd. 3., every owner of property assessed under the operating plan may send written notice to the planning commission indicating, if the owner signed a petition under par. (a) 3., that the owner retracts the owner's request to continue the neighborhood improvement district, or, if the owner did not file or sign a petition under par. (a) 3., that the owner requests continuation of the neighborhood improvement district under subd. 3.

(c) After the expiration of 30 days after the date of the hearing under par. (b) 3., and after adding any additions and subtracting any retractions under par. (b) 4. and 5., the municipality shall terminate the neighborhood improvement district on the date on which the obligation with the latest completion date entered into to implement the operating plan expires if the owners who have signed the petition requesting the termination of the neighborhood improvement district under par. (a) 1. or 2. consti-

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tute the required groups specified in par. (a) 1. or 2., or if an insufficient representation of owners, as described under par. (a) 3., petition to continue the neighborhood improvement district under par. (a) 3.

(7) (a) Any parcel of real property used exclusively for less than 8 residential dwelling units and real property that is exempted from general property taxes under s.

70.11 may not be specially assessed for purposes of this section.

(b) A municipality may terminate a neighborhood improvement district at any time.

(c) This section does not limit the power of a municipality under other law to regulate the use of or specially assess real property.
