



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB3656

Introduced 2/18/2025, by Rep. Kam Buckner

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

New Act

Creates the Municipal Home Rule Charter Act. Provides that any home rule municipality with a population over 500,000 people may adopt a charter to govern municipal affairs. Provides that a charter shall be its organic law. Provides that a charter must be consistent with the Illinois Constitution and U.S. Constitution. Provides that, unless a State law specifically applies to home rule or charter municipalities, language in charters shall be considered supreme when in conflict with a State law. Provides that a qualifying municipality may create a charter commission by a vote of two-thirds vote of the entire legislative body of the municipality. Provides that, within one year of the first organizing meeting of the commission, the commission shall prepare a charter to be approved by a majority of commissioners. Provides that, upon adoption of a charter by the charter commission, it shall go before voters at the next regular general election. Provides that, upon receiving 60% of the vote, the charter is considered adopted. Provides that, if the charter fails, then the process is dead and a municipal legislative body must pass a new ordinance for a new commission in order to adopt a charter. Provides that, if the charter commission fails to adopt a charter, then the commission shall expire.

LRB104 10892 RTM 20974 b

1 AN ACT concerning local government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Short title. This Act may be cited as the
5 Municipal Home Rule Charter Act.

6 Section 5. Charter.

7 (a) Any home rule municipality with a population over
8 500,000 people may adopt a charter to govern municipal
9 affairs.

10 (1) A charter shall be its organic law.

11 (2) A charter must be consistent with the Illinois
12 Constitution and U.S. Constitution.

13 (3) Unless a State law specifically applies to home
14 rule or charter municipalities, language in charters shall
15 be considered supreme when in conflict with a State law.

16 (b) A qualifying municipality may create a charter
17 commission by a vote of two-thirds vote of the entire
18 legislative body of the municipality.

19 (1) A charter commission shall have the same number of
20 members as the legislative body of the municipality.

21 (2) When a charter commission is created, its members
22 shall be elected at the next regular general election, if
23 the ordinance creating the commission is enacted by

1 December 31 of the year prior to a general election in
2 which the President of the United States or the Governor
3 is elected.

4 (3) Provisions for petitions, including, but not
5 limited to, filing petitions, shall be governed by the
6 ordinance creating the commission.

7 (4) Upon certification of the election, the commission
8 is considered established and shall hold an organizing
9 meeting within 60 days of its creation.

10 (5) Administrative support shall be provided by the
11 clerk of the municipality.

12 (6) To be eligible to serve on the commission, a
13 person must be a registered voter in the municipality,
14 have resided in the municipality for at least 1 year, and
15 be 18 years of age by the date of the election of
16 commissioners.

17 (7) The salary of commission members shall be equal to
18 the salary of the lowest earning municipal legislator and
19 the commission shall have a budget equal to the average of
20 the last 3 years of the total budget of the legislative
21 department of the municipality, including, but not limited
22 to, salaries, staff, and offices.

23 (8) The commission shall have the power to designate
24 its officers and rules, other than that it must elect a
25 chairperson. Until a chairperson is elected, the clerk of
26 the municipality shall serve as acting chairperson. As

1 acting chairperson, the clerk shall have no power other
2 than to call the commission to order and govern the
3 election of the chairperson in a manner consistent with
4 Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised.

5 (9) The commission may hire staff as necessary.

6 (10) Within one year of the first organizing meeting
7 of the commission, the commission shall prepare a charter
8 to be approved by a majority of commissioners. Upon
9 adoption of a charter by the charter commission, it shall
10 go before voters at the next regular general election.

11 (A) Upon receiving 60% of the vote, the charter is
12 considered adopted.

13 (B) If the charter fails, then the process is dead
14 and a municipal legislative body must pass a new
15 ordinance for a new commission in order to adopt a
16 charter.

17 (C) If the charter commission fails to adopt a
18 charter, then the commission shall expire.