

**104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY****State of Illinois****2025 and 2026****SB3879**

Introduced 2/6/2026, by Sen. Julie A. Morrison

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

60 ILCS 1/55-65

60 ILCS 1/55-70 new

Amends the Township Code. Provides that, in addition to all townships, all road district officers shall be subject to the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act. Provides that, in addition to all requirements of specified provisions of the State Officials and Employee Ethics Act and specified provisions of the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act, all townships shall adopt ordinances or resolutions that include the appointment or designation of an individual, commission, or committee to serve as the auditing entity that is responsible for receiving, hearing, investigating, adjudicating, and disposing of all complaints and allegations of improper governmental action, ethical misconduct, either under State or local laws, rules, ordinances, or policies by any official or employee of the township or any official or employee of a road district within the township. Provides that, if the township does not appoint an auditing entity, then the auditing entity shall be the State's Attorney of the county in which the unit of local government is located. Provides that the township's auditing entity shall have jurisdiction over any township assessor's or road district's offices, including all officials and employees of the township assessor's or road district's offices. Provides that, beginning in 2026, each officer, member, and employee of each township and road district must complete, at least annually, an ethics training program that equals or exceeds the minimum ethics training set forth in the model ethics training program developed by the Attorney General. Provides that, instead of enacting an ordinance, resolution, or policy, a township or road district, may, with the consent of the county board in which the township or road district is located, subject itself to the jurisdiction of that county's ethics officer or inspector general and all ethics laws applicable thereto, including all ethics policies, rules, regulations, and ordinances adopted by the county. Effective Immediately.

LRB104 18317 RTM 31757 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 5. The Township Code is amended by changing
5 Section 55-65 and by adding Section 55-70 as follows:

6 (60 ILCS 1/55-65)

7 Sec. 55-65. Prohibited activities. All township and road
8 district officers shall be subject to the Public Officer
9 Prohibited Activities Act.

10 (Source: P.A. 88-62.)

11 (60 ILCS 1/55-70 new)

12 Sec. 55-70. Township ethics officers and training.

13 (a) Except as otherwise provided in subsection (c), in
14 addition to the requirements of Article 70 of the State
15 Officials and Employee Ethics Act and Sections 4.1 and 4.5 of
16 the Public Officer Prohibited Activities Act, each township
17 shall adopt ordinances or resolutions that provide for the
18 appointment or designation of an individual, commission, or
19 committee to serve as the auditing entity that is responsible
20 for receiving, hearing, investigating, adjudicating, and
21 disposing of all complaints and allegations of improper
22 governmental action or ethical misconduct under State or local

1 laws, rules, ordinances, or policies by any official or
2 employee of the township or any official or employee of a road
3 district within the township. The auditing entity may not be
4 an elected township or road district official. If the auditing
5 official is a commission or committee, then no member of the
6 commission or committee may be an elected township or road
7 district official. If the township does not appoint an
8 auditing entity, then the auditing entity shall be the State's
9 Attorney of the county in which the unit of local government is
10 located. The township's auditing entity shall have
11 jurisdiction over any township assessor's or road district's
12 offices, including all officials and employees of the township
13 assessor's or road district's offices.

14 (b) Beginning in 2026, each officer, member, and employee
15 of each township and road district must complete, at least
16 annually, an ethics training program that equals or exceeds
17 the minimum ethics training set forth in the model ethics
18 training program developed by the Attorney General. Any
19 organization listed in Section 85-15 is authorized to
20 administer annual ethics training if the trainings meet the
21 requirements provided by the Attorney General. Any person who
22 fills a vacancy in an elective or appointed office in a
23 township or road district and any person newly employed in a
24 position at a township or road district must complete the
25 initial ethics training program required under this Section
26 within 30 days after commencement of the person's office or

1 employment. Each township and road district shall maintain
2 certificates of completion for the ethics training program
3 required under this Section, and each officer, member, and
4 employee must certify in writing that they completed the
5 ethics training program. The certificate developed under this
6 Section must be filed with the office of the township clerk on
7 or before the deadline to complete the training. Failure to
8 complete the ethics training program in a timely manner shall
9 be grounds for disciplinary action, which may include a
10 financial penalty, to be determined by the auditing entity.

11 (c) Instead of enacting an ordinance, resolution, or
12 policy under subsection (a), a township or road district, may,
13 with the consent of the county board in which the township or
14 road district is located, subject itself to the jurisdiction
15 of that county's ethics officer or inspector general and all
16 ethics laws applicable thereto, including all ethics policies,
17 rules, regulations, and ordinances adopted by the county.

18 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
19 becoming law.