

SENATE BILL 279

By Watson

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 51 and Title 6, Chapter 58, relative to annexation.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 6-51-102, is amended by deleting subdivisions (a)(1) and (2) in their entirety and by substituting instead the following language:

(a)

(1) A municipality, when petitioned by a majority of the residents and property owners of the affected territory, or upon its own initiative when it appears that the prosperity of such municipality and territory will be materially retarded and the safety and welfare of the inhabitants and property endangered, after notice and public hearing, by ordinance, may extend its corporate limits by annexation of such territory adjoining its existing boundaries as may be deemed necessary for the welfare of the residents and property owners of the affected territory as well as the municipality as a whole; provided, that the ordinance shall not become operative until approval of such annexation by a majority of qualified voters who reside in the territory proposed for annexation.

(2) If a proposal to extend the corporate limits by the annexation of territory adjoining the existing boundaries of a municipality is proposed by the municipality upon its own initiative by ordinance, the ordinance shall not become operative until an election is held at the expense of the proposing municipality for approval or disapproval of such annexation by the qualified voters who reside in the territory proposed for annexation. The operation of the ordinance shall be subject to approval of the voters who reside in such territory. The county election

commission shall hold an election thereon, providing options to vote "For" or "Against" the ordinance, not less than forty-five (45) days nor more than sixty (60) days after the receipt of a certified copy of such ordinance, and a majority vote of those voting in the election shall determine whether the ordinance is to be operative. A vote "For" the ordinance shall be a vote "For Annexation" and a vote "Against" the ordinance shall be a vote "Against Annexation." If the vote is for the ordinance, the ordinance shall become operative thirty (30) days after the date that the county election commission makes its official canvass of the election returns; such ordinance shall not become operative before the expiration of one hundred twenty (120) days following the final passage of the annexation ordinance. If the ordinance is rejected, all relevant provisions in this chapter shall apply to the question of annexation in such county.

SECTION 2. Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 6-58-111(a), is amended by deleting the language "A municipality possesses exclusive authority to annex territory located within its approved urban growth boundaries" and by substituting instead the language "Except as provided in § 6-51-102(a), a municipality possesses exclusive authority to annex territory located within its approved urban growth boundaries".

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.