

CHAPTER 357I

BENEFITED SECONDARY ROAD SERVICES DISTRICTS

Referred to in [§331.382](#)

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357I.1 Definitions.

As used in [this chapter](#), unless the context otherwise requires:

1. “Board” means the board of supervisors of a county.
2. “Book”, “list”, “record”, or “schedule” kept by a county auditor, assessor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, or other county officer means the county system as defined in [section 445.1](#).
3. “District” means a benefited secondary road services district.
4. “Trustee” means a trustee of a district.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §21](#)

357I.2 Petition for public hearing.

1. The board shall, on the petition of twenty-five percent of the resident property owners in a proposed district if the assessed valuation of the property owned by the petitioners represents at least twenty-five percent of the total assessed value of the proposed district, hold a public hearing concerning the establishment of a proposed district. The petition shall include a statement containing the following information:

- a. The need for secondary road services.
- b. The district to be served.
- c. The approximate number of families in the district.
- d. A general description of the secondary road services to be provided in the district by the county.

2. The board may require a bond of the petitioners conditioned for the payment of all costs and expenses incurred in the proceedings in case the district is not established.

3. If part or all of the proposed district lies within two miles of the boundaries of a city, the board shall send a copy of the petition to each such city before scheduling the public hearing on the petition. A city that receives a copy of the petition may require that any road or street improvements and associated drainage improvements constructed within the district after establishment of the district be constructed in compliance with requirements for such improvements then in effect within the city. The city shall notify the board of the city's response to the petition within thirty days of receiving the petition. If the city wants requirements for road or street improvements and associated drainage improvements then in effect within the city to apply within the district, the requirements shall be included in the resolution of the board establishing the district and shall be incorporated into the plans and specifications for the improvements prepared by the district engineer or county engineer. The plans and specifications shall be subject to approval by the board and by the city council of each affected city, which approval must occur before commencement of construction. If costs for construction of improvements according to a city's standards exceed the costs for such construction according to county standards, the petitioners shall pay the difference in the costs.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §22; 2011 Acts, ch 34, §88](#)

Referred to in [§357I.4, 357I.10](#)

357I.3 Limitation on area and property comprising district.

1. A district is limited to property within a residential subdivision that was in existence prior to January 1, 2007, and that has received county road services pursuant to an agreement between the county and residents of the subdivision prior to July 1, 2008.

2. Subject to the limitations in [subsection 1](#), a district may include all or parts of the unincorporated areas of one township and any unincorporated areas of adjoining townships or parts of adjoining townships.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §23](#)

357I.4 Time of hearing.

The public hearing required in [section 357I.2](#) shall be held within thirty days of the presentation of the petition. Notice of hearing shall be given by publication in two successive issues of any newspaper of general circulation within the district. The last publication shall be not less than one week before the proposed hearing.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §24](#)

Referred to in [§357I.7](#), [357I.8](#)

357I.5 Action by board.

After, and within ten days of, the hearing, the board shall either establish the district by resolution or disallow the petition.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §25](#)

357I.6 Engineer.

1. When the board establishes a district, the board shall appoint a competent disinterested civil engineer, who shall prepare a preliminary plat showing:

a. The proper design in general outline of the district.

b. The lots and parcels of land within the proposed district as they appear on the county auditor's plat books with the names of the owners.

c. The assessed valuation of the lots and parcels.

2. The compensation of the engineer on the preliminary investigation shall be determined by the board. The engineer shall file a report with the county auditor within thirty days of appointment. The board may extend the time upon good cause shown.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §26](#)

357I.7 Hearing on engineer's report.

After the engineer's report is filed, the board shall give notice, as provided in [section 357I.4](#), of a public hearing to be held concerning the engineer's preliminary plat.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §27](#)

357I.8 Election on proposed levy and candidates for trustees.

When a preliminary plat has been approved by the board, an election shall be held within the district within sixty days to approve or disapprove the levy of a tax not to exceed in any fiscal year one dollar per thousand dollars of assessed value on all the taxable property within the district and to choose candidates for the offices of trustees of the district. Notice of the election, including the time and place of holding the election, shall be given as provided in [section 357I.4](#). The vote shall be by ballot which shall state clearly the proposition to be voted upon and any registered voter residing within the district at the time of the election may vote. It is not mandatory for the county commissioner of elections to conduct elections held pursuant to [this chapter](#), but the elections shall be conducted in accordance with [chapter 49](#) where not in conflict with [this chapter](#). Judges shall be appointed to serve without pay by the board from among the registered voters of the district to be in charge of the election. The proposition is approved if sixty percent of those voting on the proposition vote in favor of it.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §28](#)

Referred to in [§357I.10](#), [357I.11](#), [357I.12](#)

357I.9 Trustees — term and qualification.

At the election, the names of up to three candidates for trustee shall be written in by the voters on blank ballots without formal nomination and the board shall appoint three from among the five receiving the highest number of votes as trustees for the district. One trustee shall be appointed to serve for one year, one for two years, and one for three years. The trustees and their successors must be residents of the district and shall give bond in the amount required by the board, the premium of which shall be paid by the district. Vacancies shall be filled by election, but if there are no candidates for a trustee office, the vacancy may be filled by appointment by the board. The term of succeeding trustees shall be three years.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §29](#)

357I.10 Trustees' powers.

The trustees may contract only with the county to provide road services including road paving, reconstruction, or maintenance, according to the county's standards for such services, on roads within the district and on any road outside the district that provides a direct route between the subdivision comprising the district and the nearest paved street or highway, other than roads identified under [section 357I.2, subsection 3](#), and may certify for levy an annual tax as provided in [section 357I.8](#). The trustees may purchase materials incidental to the administrative functions of the trustees and perform all other acts necessary to properly maintain and operate the district. The trustees are allowed necessary expenses in the discharge of their duties, but they shall not receive a salary.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §30](#)

357I.11 Revenues excluded from county general fund transfers.

The amount of revenue collected from the tax levied pursuant to [section 357I.8](#) shall not be included in the calculation of property tax revenues transferred to the secondary road fund annually under [section 331.429](#).

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §31](#)

357I.12 Bonds in anticipation of revenue.

A district may anticipate the collection of taxes by the levy authorized in [this chapter](#), and to carry out the purposes of [this chapter](#) may issue bonds payable in not more than ten equal installments with the rate of interest not exceeding that permitted by [chapter 74A](#). An indebtedness shall not be incurred under [this chapter](#) until authorized by an election. The election shall be held and notice given in the same manner as provided in [section 357I.8](#), and the same sixty percent vote shall be necessary to authorize indebtedness. Subject to [section 39.2, subsection 4](#), both propositions may be submitted to the voters at the same election.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §32](#); [2023 Acts, ch 71, §131, 136](#)

2023 amendment applies July 1, 2023, for elections on propositions relating to the issuing of bonds or other indebtedness occurring on or after that date; 2023 Acts, ch 71, §136

357I.13 Dissolution of district.

Upon petition of thirty-five percent of the resident eligible electors, the board may dissolve a district and dispose of any remaining property, the proceeds of which shall first be applied against outstanding obligations and any balance shall be applied to tax credit of property owners of the district. However, if the district is annexed, the board of supervisors may transfer the remaining property and balance to the city which annexed the territory. The board shall continue to levy a tax after dissolution of a district, of not to exceed twenty-seven cents per thousand dollars of assessed value on all the taxable property of the district, until all outstanding obligations of the district are paid.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §33](#)

357I.14 Incorporation of district land.

If part of a district is incorporated by a city and there are outstanding indebtedness obligations against the district, the city shall pay the outstanding obligations against the part of the district which is incorporated by the city.

[2008 Acts, ch 1124, §34](#)