

Sec. 2. **REPEAL.** Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 10.41, is repealed.

Sec. 3. [471.705] **Subd. 3.** This act may be cited as the "Minnesota Open Meeting Law".

Sec. 4. The effective date of this act is May 1, 1974.

Approved May 24, 1973.

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## CHAPTER 681—S.F.No.1540

[Not Coded]

*An act relating to St. Louis county, providing for a charter commission to recommend a form of county government and providing for its adoption.*

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. **ST. LOUIS COUNTY; CHARTER COMMISSION.** Subdivision 1. For the purposes of this act the St. Louis county legislative delegation shall mean all duly elected members of the state house of representatives and state senate whose legislative district includes any portion of St. Louis county.

Subd. 2. The chairman of the St. Louis county legislative delegation shall be a member of the delegation who has been elected chairman by the majority of the members of the delegation.

Sec. 2. Within 30 days of the effective date of this act the St. Louis county legislative delegation shall nominate 45 persons as candidates for appointment to a charter commission to frame a charter to provide for the form of government of St. Louis county as provided in this act. Within 30 days thereafter the judges of the district court of the 6th judicial district residing in St. Louis county shall appoint the charter commission of 15 persons. The commission members shall be qualified voters in St. Louis county. No person shall be disqualified from serving on the charter commission by reason of his holding any elective or appointive office, except legislative.

Sec. 3. Subdivision 1. Charter commission members shall hold office until a final report has been made as provided in section 4. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. Appointments shall be made by filing such appointments with the county

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auditor and the appointee shall file acceptance of the appointment with the county auditor within ten days or the appointee shall be deemed to have declined the appointment.

Subd. 2. The charter commission shall meet within 30 days after the initial appointment and shall elect a chairman from their number and shall establish rules, including quorum requirements for their operations and procedures.

Subd. 3. The members of the charter commission shall receive no compensation. \$35,000 shall be appropriated by the board of county commissioners to the charter commission; such amount shall be used to employ research and clerical assistance, for supplies, for meeting expenses and such other expenses, as shall be deemed necessary by the charter commission. Any employees shall be in the unclassified service of the county. The charter commission shall have the right to request and receive assistance from any county official. If requested, the civil service commission shall assist the charter commission in testing and hiring of employees and the county attorney shall render any and all legal services as may be requested. The appropriation provided in this subdivision shall not be subject to the tax levy limitations as provided in Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 275 or any other provision of law.

Sec. 4. Prior to June 1, 1974, the charter commission shall deliver to the county auditor either (1) its report determining that the present form of county government is adequate for the county and that a new charter is not necessary or desirable, or (2) a draft of a proposed charter. The report shall be signed by a majority of the members of the charter commission. Such proposed charter may provide for any form of government not inconsistent with the constitution of the state of Minnesota, and may provide for the establishment and administration of all departments of a county government and for the regulation of all local county functions. It may abolish or consolidate any department or agency or any elective office now existing at the expiration of the present term of the incumbent elective officer.

It shall provide for present functions to be assumed by new elective or appointive officers as shall be provided for in the charter. It shall provide methods of procedure in respect to the operation of the government thereby created and the duties of all officers. The county may be authorized to acquire by gift, devise, purchase or condemnation any property needed for the full discharge of its duties and powers. All special and general laws authorizing the county to incur indebtedness or issue bonds shall continue in full force and effect. The county shall continue to have all the powers granted by law.

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Sec. 5. Subdivision 1. Upon delivery of the proposed charter to the county auditor, the county auditor shall cause it to be submitted to the voters at the general election in 1974. The election shall be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 372. The notice of election shall contain the complete charter and shall be published once a week for two successive weeks in the official newspaper of the county.

Subd. 2. The ballot shall be in the following form:

"Shall the proposed new charter be adopted?

Yes .....  
No .....

The voter shall place an "X" after one of the last two words to express his choice.

Sec. 6. If a majority of the votes cast on the proposition are in favor of the proposed charter, it shall be adopted. The charter shall take effect two years after the election. Thereupon the courts shall take judicial notice of the new charter and upon the election or appointment of officers thereunder the former officials of St. Louis county shall deliver to them all records, money and other public property under their control.

Sec. 7. This act is effective upon its approval by a majority of the members of the board of county commissioners of St. Louis county and upon compliance with Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 645.021.

In the event the county commissioners have failed to approve this act within 60 days of the date this act is filed with the secretary of state then a special election shall be had on the approval of this act. The question submitted to the voters shall be:

"Shall Laws 1973, Chapter . . . . ., permitting St. Louis county to appoint a charter commission be approved?

Yes .....  
No .....

If a majority of the votes cast on the question are in the affirmative the act shall be effective and the county shall comply with Minnesota Statutes, Section 645.021. The election shall be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 372.

Approved May 24, 1973.

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