

CHAPTER 383A

RAMSEY COUNTY

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383A.39 COURTHOUSE AND CITY HALL.

Subdivision 1. Courthouse and city hall administration. (1) The Saint Paul city hall and Ramsey county court house building is in charge of a joint committee of seven members appointed as follows:

(a) the mayor of the city of Saint Paul is ex officio a member of and the chairman of the committee;

(b) three members of the committee are appointed annually by the president of the Saint Paul city council from the members of the council, and three members are appointed annually by the chairman of the board of county commissioners from the members of the board.

(2) The committee has entire charge of the building and may appoint the janitor, custodian and other employees that it considers necessary for the proper care and management of the building and at the compensation that the committee determines.

(3) The expense of keeping the building in repair and the necessary expense of heating and maintaining it shall be paid equally by the city and county; one-half thereof out of the treasury of the city, and one-half out of the treasury of the county.

Subd. 2. Saturday closing. (1) **Authority.** Ramsey county and the city of Saint Paul may jointly, by resolution adopted by both the board of commissioners and the city council, close the building containing the principal offices of the city and the county, known as the city hall and court house, on Saturday.

(2) **Effect of closing.** An act authorized, required or permitted by law or contract to be performed at or in the city hall and court house on Saturday may be performed on the next succeeding regular business day and no liability or loss of rights on the part of any person shall result from the closing.

(3) **Open, additional hours.** The city hall and court house may be kept open for the transaction of business on the next business day following each Saturday until 9:00 p.m.

Subd. 3. Rooms for law library. In Ramsey county, the court house and city hall committee may provide rooms in the court house and city hall for the use of a law library and the committee may install its library therein by purchase, leasing or securing it from an individual or association upon the terms and conditions that to it is for the interest of the people.

History: 1974 c 435 s 3.12

NOTE: The amendment to this section by Laws 1981, chapter 292, section 1, required local approval by both the city council of the city of St. Paul and the board of county commissioners of Ramsey county. The city council has not approved the amendment.

383A.404 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

[For text of subs 1 to 6, see M.S.1986]

Subd. 7. Salaries payable out of Ramsey county treasury. All annual salaries for the community corrections department shall be payable out of the Ramsey county treasury.

History: 1987 c 384 art 1 s 37

383A.551 RAMSEY COUNTY; CHARTER COMMISSION.

Subdivision 1. **Ramsey county legislative delegation.** For purposes of sections 383A.551 to 383A.556, the Ramsey county legislative delegation means all elected members of the state house of representatives and state senate whose legislative district includes a portion of Ramsey county.

Subd. 2. **Chair of delegation.** The chair of the Ramsey county state house of representatives delegation and the chair of the Ramsey county state senate delegation shall act as co-chairs of the Ramsey county legislative delegation.

History: 1987 c 103 s 1

383A.552 CHARTER COMMISSION; NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Within 30 days of the effective date of Laws 1987, chapter 103, the Ramsey county legislative delegation shall nominate 41 persons as candidates for appointment to a charter commission to frame a charter to provide for the form of government for Ramsey county. Five persons who reside in the district shall be nominated for each of the county commissioner districts in the county. Six persons who reside in the county shall also be nominated without regard to county commissioner districts. Within 30 days of the selection of nominees the judges of the second judicial district shall appoint the charter commission of 17 members consisting of two appointees for each county commissioner district selected from those nominated from each county commissioner district and three appointees from those nominated at large to serve at large. The commission members must be qualified voters in Ramsey county. No person shall be disqualified from serving on the charter commission because of holding an elective or appointive office.

History: 1987 c 103 s 2

383A.553 CHARTER COMMISSION; TERMS; CHAIR; EXPENSES AND ADMINISTRATION.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** Members of the charter commission shall hold office until a final report has been made as provided in section 383A.554. Vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority. Appointments shall be made by filing with the board of county commissioners. An appointee shall file acceptance of the appointment with the board of county commissioners within ten days or be considered to have declined the appointment.

Subd. 2. **Chair; rules.** The charter commission shall meet within 30 days after the initial appointment, elect a chair from their number, and establish rules, including quorum requirements for its operation and procedures.

Subd. 3. **Expenses and administration.** The members of the charter commission shall receive no compensation except reimbursement for expenses they actually incur in the course of their duties. The board of county commissioners may make an appropriation to the charter commission to be used to employ research and clerical assistance, for supplies, and to meet expenses considered necessary by the charter commission. Employees of the charter commission 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 personnel director shall assist the charter commission to test and hire employees. The county attorney shall provide legal services as may be requested.

History: 1987 c 103 s 3

383A.554 POWERS AND DUTIES.

Before December 31, 1988, the charter commission shall deliver to the board of county commissioners either (1) its report determining that the present form of county government is adequate for the county and that a charter is not necessary or desirable, or (2) a draft of a proposed charter. The report must be signed by a majority of the

members of the charter commission. The proposed charter may provide for any form of government consistent with the constitution of the state of Minnesota. It 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. The charter commission is required to hold at least one public hearing in each of the county commissioner districts.

It shall provide for present functions to be assumed by new elective or appointive officers as shall be provided for in the charter and may provide for other powers consistent with other law. It shall provide methods of procedure in respect to the operation of the government created and the duties of all officers. It shall provide for a home rule charter commission consistent with article XII, section 5, of the constitution of the state of Minnesota and may provide for alternative methods for amending or abandoning the charter consistent with the constitution. The county may be authorized to acquire by gift, devise, purchase, or condemnation or sell or lease 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 be subject to the charter, provided that the charter provisions are not in conflict with general laws relating to public indebtedness. The county shall continue to have all the powers granted by law.

Personnel matters relating to Ramsey county employees shall continue to be governed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 383A.281 to 383A.301 and Minnesota Statutes, sections 197.455 to 197.48. A charter proposed for adoption under sections 383A.551 to 383A.556 shall not apply to personnel matters.

History: 1987 c 103 s 4

383A.555 ELECTION; BALLOT.

Subdivision 1. **Procedure; notice.** Upon delivery of the proposed charter to the board of county commissioners, the board shall submit it to the voters at the general election in 1990. The election shall be conducted as nearly as possible in accordance with chapter 372, provided that the polls shall remain open until 8:00 p.m. The notice of election must contain the complete charter and must be published once a week for two successive weeks in a qualified newspaper of general circulation within the county.

Subd. 2. **Ballot form.** The ballot must be in the following form:

“Shall the proposed new county charter be adopted?
 Yes
 No”

The voter shall place an “X” after one of the last two words to express the voter’s choice.

History: 1987 c 103 s 5

383A.556 EFFECTIVE DATE.

If a majority of all the voters voting in the county at the election vote in favor of the proposed charter, it shall be adopted. The charter shall take effect two years after the election. At that time the courts shall take judicial notice of the new charter and upon the election or appointment of officers under the charter the former officials of Ramsey county shall deliver to them all records, money, and other public property under their control.

History: 1987 c 103 s 6