

MERGER OF MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS

19A.

(A) TWO OR MORE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SITUATED WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY MAY UNITED TO FORM ONE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION IF ANY PART OF THE LEGAL BOUNDARY OF ONE OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ABUTS ON THE LEGAL BOUNDARY OF THE OTHER UNITING MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS. NO MERGER SHALL BECOME EFFECTIVE WITHOUT THE PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE COUNTY IN WHICH THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS ARE SITUATED.

(B) UNIFICATION OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SHALL BE INITIATED BY THE PASSAGE OF A "PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION" IN SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME FORM BY THE LEGISLATIVE BODIES OF EACH OF THE UNITING CORPORATIONS. THE PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION SHALL INCLUDE A DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE BOUNDARIES OF THE AREA OF PROPOSED UNIFICATION. THE DESCRIPTION SHALL COMPRISE A SURVEY OF COURSES AND DISTANCES AND MAY ALSO BE BY GENERAL LANDMARKS AND PLACE NAMES. THE PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION MUST BE APPROVED BY EACH OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS IN THE MANNER PROVIDED FOR THE ADOPTION OF OTHER ORDINARY LEGISLATION BY THE MUNICIPAL CHARTER OR BY-LAWS OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION WHICH IS CONSIDERING THE PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION. UPON APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION, THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SHALL PREPARE A UNIFIED CHARTER.

(C) EACH OF THE UNIFYING MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS SHALL DESIGNATE IFIVE REPRESENTATIVES TO MEET TOGETHER AND DRAFT A UNIFIED CHARTER ~~THE SAME NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES, WHICH MAY NOT BE LESS THAN THREE NOR MORE THAN FIVE, WHO SHALL MEET TOGETHER AS A CHARTER COMMISSION TO DRAFT A UNIFIED CHARTER WITHIN SIX MONTHS OF THE ADOPTION OF THE PROPOSAL OF UNIFICATION REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION.~~ THESE REPRESENTATIVES SHALL ADOPT RULES AND ELECT OFFICERS FROM AMONG THEIR NUMBER AS THEY FEEL NECESSARY TO GOVERN THEIR MEETINGS AND EXPEDITE THE DRAFTING OF THE UNIFIED CHARTER; BUT NONE OF THESE RULES MAY CONFLICT WITH ANY OF THE PROVISIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF ARTICLE 23A OF THE ANNOTATED CODE OF MARYLAND.

(D) THE UNIFIED CHARTER SHALL PROVIDE THAT THE UNIFIED MUNICIPAL CORPORATION RECEIVE ALL OF THE ASSETS AND UNPAID DEBTS OF THE INDIVIDUAL MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS.

(E) THE UNIFIED CHARTER MAY CONTAIN ALL THE POWERS HELD BY THE SEPARATE MUNICIPAL CORPORATIONS, BUT IF ALL OF THE CORPORATIONS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE UNIFIED MUNICIPAL CORPORATION DO NOT POSSESS PLANNING AND ZONING POWERS, THE LAND OF THOSE CORPORATIONS NOT HAVING THAT POWER SHALL NOT, FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE YEARS FOLLOWING THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE UNIFIED CHARTER, BE PLACED IN A ZONING CLASSIFICATION WHICH PERMITS A LAND USE SUBSTANTIALLY DIFFERENT FROM THE USE FOR SUCH LAND SPECIFIED IN THE CURRENT AND DULY ADOPTED MASTER PLAN