

corporation operating under and in accordance with the charter so proposed, in all respects to be effective and observed as the charter of the municipal corporation. If less than a majority of those who vote on any such question of proposed incorporation shall cast their votes in favor of the incorporation under the proposed charter, the [board or council] COUNTY GOVERNING BODY likewise shall so proclaim, adding to the proclamation the statement that the proposed incorporation is of no effect and that as to the said proposed municipal incorporation the proposed charter is null and void and of no effect whatsoever.

[26.] 27.

(A) [The] SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS OF SUBSECTION (B) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY SHALL DEFRAY THE expenses of:

- (1) [the] THE referendum election;
- (2) THE ORIGINAL ELECTION OF OFFICERS; AND
- (3) THE REASONABLE COSTS OF ANY THIRD PARTY CONSULTANTS HIRED BY THE COUNTY GOVERNING BODY TO ANALYZE ISSUES RELATED TO THE PROPOSED INCORPORATION [shall be defrayed by the board of county commissioners or county council, but if].

(B) IF the referendum vote results in incorporation, the municipal corporation shall repay the total amount of [such] THE expenses SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION to the [board or council] COUNTY GOVERNING BODY, within [one] 1 year following the effective date of the incorporation.

(C) AFTER 1 YEAR FROM THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF THE INCORPORATION, A COUNTY GOVERNING BODY MAY WITHHOLD ANY PAYMENTS DUE TO THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION FOR PURPOSES OF SATISFYING ANY UNPAID EXPENSES SPECIFIED IN SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION.

[27.] 28.

(a) At the time of making public proclamation as to the vote on the question of incorporation under the proposed charter, the [board of county commissioners or county council] COUNTY GOVERNING BODY shall send the information concerning the charter adopted by the municipal corporation to the Department of Legislative [Reference] SERVICES, as provided in § 9A of this article for municipal officials.

(b) A proposal to incorporate a municipal corporation and to adopt a charter may not be rescinded after its formal submission, in any manner other than that of a formal charter repeal as provided in the subheading "Repeal of Charter" in this subtitle.

(c) The charter is not effective and shall not be applied or considered as if effective unless and until it has been registered as required in this section.

(d) The charter is included in the requirements of § 17A of this subtitle, including its printing and indexing in the laws enacted by the General Assembly.