House Bill 737

In The House

February 12, 1981	Introduced and referred to Committee on Local Government.
February 21, 1981	Committee recommend bill do pass as amended.
February 23, 1981	Bill printed and placed on members' desks.
	Second reading do not pass.

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1	Hause BILL NO. 737
2	INTRODUCED BY Alussaul Tony Vansin Calaily Comin
37,L	Paldron
4	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE
5	ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES DISTRICTS BY PETITION,
6	HEARING, AND ELECTION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF
7	COMMISSIONERS TO ADMINISTER THE FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICTS;

TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF 3 MILLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND

OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES: AND TO ALLOW THE ISSUANCE

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

OF BONDS TO FINANCE THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT.

Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of [this act] is to provide for the creation of municipal facilities districts to provide for and administer public facilities for the residents of the district and other persons, especially when new public facilities are necessary due to the diverse ownership of existing public facilities, which results in limited or restricted use or access by the public.

Section 2. Definitions. As used in [this act], the following definitions apply:

- (1) "District" means a municipal facilities district created or proposed for creation in accordance with the provisions of [this act] and other applicable laws.
- (2) "Public facility" means a structure, building, or

any portion thereof maintained primarily for activities and
events held for the benefit or enjoyment of the general
public or that may be rented, on a nondiscriminatory basis,
to private organizations or individuals for purposes not
contrary to the public interest.

(3) "Qualified signature" means the signed name or other mark, when properly witnessed, of a registered elector residing within a district.

Section 3. Petition to create municipal facilities district. (1) Proceedings for creation of a district may be initiated by a petition signed by not less than 20% of the registered electors who reside within the proposed district.

(2) The petition shall include a map showing the limits of the proposed district and shall be in the form provided for in Title 13, chapter 27.

Section 4. Filing of petition with election administrator -- certificate. (1) The complete petition shall be filed with the election administrator of the county where the district is located.

- 20 (2) The election administrator shall, within 30 days
 21 of receipt of the petition, examine the petition and attach
 22 a certificate to it stating:
- (a) the total number of registered electors who residewithin the proposed district;
 - (b) which and how many of the names on the petition

represent registered electors residing within the proposed district; and

- (c) whether or not the total number of qualified signatures on the petition equals or exceeds 20% of the total number of registered electors residing within the proposed district.
 - Section 5. Effect of insufficient number of qualified signatures. If the petition is found to contain fewer than 20% of the qualified signatures of the registered electors residing within the proposed district, the election administrator shall declare the petition void and shall include the declaration on the certificate attached to the petition.
 - Section 6. Presentation of the petition to the board of county commissioners hearing required. (1) If the petition contains the qualified signatures of at least 20% of the registered electors residing within the proposed district, the county clerk shall present the petition and the certificate to the board of county commissioners at its first scheduled meeting after the certificate has been signed and certified by the election administrator.
 - (2) The county commissioners shall examine the petition and shall by resolution set a public hearing on the creation of the district.
- 25 Section 7. Notice of hearing. (1) Notice of the public

- hearing shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation within the proposed district at least once each week for at least 2 consecutive weeks prior to the hearing.

 If no newspaper of general circulation exists in the proposed district, the notice of public hearing shall be posted in at least three public places within the proposed district for at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing.
 - (2) The notice shall state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing and shall describe the boundaries of the proposed district.
 - Section 8. Hearing on petition. (1) At the time fixed for the public hearing, the county commissioners shall hear all testimony offered in support of and in opposition to the petition and the creation of the district.
 - (2) The hearing may be adjourned from time to time to facilitate additional testimony, but no adjournment may delay the hearing beyond 2 weeks after the hearing date originally set forth in the public notice of hearing.
 - Section 9. Election on the question of creating a municipal facilities district. (1) The county commissioners, upon completion of the public hearing, shall proceed by resolution to refer the creation of a municipal facilities district to the registered electors of the proposed district.
 - (2) The county commissioners may designate in their

resolution whether a special election will be held or whether the matter will be voted on at the next primary or general election. If a special election is ordered, the county commissioners shall specify in their order the date for the election and the voting places and shall appoint and designate judges and clerks for the election.

Section 10. Conduct of election on question of creating district. (1) The election shall be conducted in accordance with general election laws.

10 (2) At the election, the ballots shall contain the

YES - Municipal facilities district

NO - Municipal facilities district

Section 11. District to be governed by elected facilities board of commissioners. The district shall be governed by a facilities board of commissioners which shall consist of three members. The initial members shall be appointed by a selection board. Subsequent to the initial appointments. facilities commissioners shall be elected.

Section 12. Selection of initial facilities board of commissioners. (1) The initial facilities board of commissioners shall consist of three members appointed by a selection board composed of the county commissioners of the county in which the district is located and one representative from each governing body of each incorporated

municipality included or partially included in the district.

2 (2) The appointed commissioners shall serve until the 3 first county general election after their appointment.

Section 13. Election of facilities board commissioners. (1) Any registered elector in the district may file before the deadline for candidacy in the next primary election a petition of candidacy for election to the facilities board with the election administrator of the county where the district is located. No filing fee is required.

- 11 (2) All candidates shall file a nonpartisan petition 12 for candidacy as provided in 13-14-113.
 - (3) The names of the six candidates receiving the highest number of votes in the primary election shall be placed on the ballots in the county general election.

Section 14. Term of office. (1) At the first election of commissioners for the facilities board, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes in the county general election shall receive a 4-year term on the board. The two candidates receiving the next highest number of votes in the county general election shall receive 2-year terms on the board.

(2) After the initial election, two seats on the board shall be filled at every county general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall serve

- a 4-year term and the candidate receiving the next highest
 number of votes shall serve a 2-year term.
- 3 Section 15. Vacancies on the facilities board. The 4 selection board provided for in [section 12] shall fill all 5 vacancies occurring on the facilities board.

- Section 16. Notice of vacancy on facilities board. (1)

 The selection board shall give public notice of its solicitation of applications for membership on the facilities board of commissioners. Any registered elector of the district may submit an application to be considered by the selection board in filling the vacancy.
- (2) The notice shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the district, at least once each week for at least 2 consecutive weeks prior to the date set for the appointment.
- (3) If there is no newspaper having general circulation within the boundaries of the proposed district, the notice of solicitation shall be posted in at least three public places within the boundaries of the proposed district for at least 2 weeks prior to the appointment.
- Section 17. Compensation of facilities board commissioners. The commissioners of the facilities board shall serve without pay except for reimbursement for necessary and approved expenses incurred when representing the facilities board on official business.

Section 18. Powers of facilities board. The facilities board shall have all powers necessary and proper to the acquisition, purchase, construction, renovation, establishment, operation, improvement, maintenance, and administration of adequate public facilities within the district.

Section 19. Employment of administrative officer. The facilities board shall employ a qualified administrative officer for the facilities district. The facilities board shall give public notice of its solicitation of applications for the position of administrative officer in a manner consistent with other public notices required in [sections 7 and 16], except that the facilities board may also give notice in appropriate publications and in other ways in order to attract the best available candidates for the position.

- Section 20. Facilities district budget. The facilities board shall annually present its budget to the county commissioners at the regular budget meetings as prescribed by law and shall certify the amount of money necessary for its operations during the ensuing year.
- Section 21. Mill levy authorized -- limitations. (1)
 The county commissioners shall annually, at the time of
 levying county taxes, fix and levy a tax in mills upon all
 property within the district sufficient to raise the amount

of money certified by the facilities board.

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- (2) The facilities board may include in the annual district budget an amount to be placed into a capital improvements fund, which shall include the amount of money necessary to meet anticipated needs for maintenance, renovation, or improvement of public facilities commensurate with the public need as determined by the facilities board. Any money remaining in the capital improvements fund at the end of the county's fiscal year may be carried over into the following year but may be used only as originally intended.
- (3) The tax levied by the county commissioners for the purposes of the district, not including that for bonded indebtedness, may not in any year exceed 3 mills on each dollar of taxable valuation of property within the district.
- Section 22. Collection of tax -- role of county treasurer. (1) The money collected under the facilities district tax levy shall be deposited in a municipal facilities district fund administered by the county treasurer.
- 20 (2) The county treasurer is ex officio the treasurer 21 for the district and shall keep a detailed account of:
 - (a) all tax money paid into the fund;
- (b) all other money• from whatever source• received bythe district; and
- 25 (c) all payments and disbursements from the district

1 fund for whatever purpose.

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2 Section 23. Warrants to be used for payments. Funds
3 shall be paid out on warrants issued under the direction of
4 the facilities board and signed by a majority of the
5 members.

Section 24. Facilities district bonds authorized. A facilities district may borrow money by the issuance of general obligation or revenue bonds or a combination thereof to provide funds for the district.

Section 25. Limitation on bonded indebtedness. The amount of general obligation bonds issued to provide funds for the district and outstanding at any time may not exceed 5% of the value of the taxable property in the district, as determined by the last assessment for state and county taxes before the issuance of such bonds.

Section 26. Procedure for enlarging a facilities district. (1) The boundaries of any facilities district may be enlarged if 51% of the qualified electors of the area to be added to the existing district either sign a petition requesting addition to the district or, in a special or general election, yote in favor of addition to the district.

- 22 (2) Each addition must be approved by a majority vote
 23 of the board of facilities commissioners.
- 24 (3) All property within any addition to the district 25 is subject to all existing indebtedness of the district.

(4) If the addition includes all or part of another county, budgeting procedures shall remain unchanged, but budget presentations shall be made, as described, to all affected boards of county commissioners, and the liability of each county shall be determined so that each county shall levy an equal number of mills. The treasurer of the original county shall remain as ex officio treasurer of the district.

Section 27. Petition for dissolution of district. A facilities district may be dissolved upon presentation to the county commissioners of a petition favoring dissolution and signed by at least 51% of the qualified electors of the district.

Section 28. Notice of hearing on question of dissolution. (1) A notice of a hearing on the question of whether to dissolve shall be given in the manner prescribed in [section 7].

(2) The notice shall state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing.

Section 29. Hearing on the question of dissolution —decision. (1) If upon such hearing the county commissioners find that the district is not indebted beyond funds immediately available to extinguish all of its debts and obligations and that there is good reason for the dissolution of such district, the county commissioners shall order dissolution of the district.

(2) The order shall be filed of record, and the dissolution shall be effective 6 months after the date of filing the order, if the facilities board of commissioners of the district certifies to the county commissioners that all debts and obligations of the district have been paid, discharged, or irrevocably settled and provides proof of all such payments, discharges, or settlements.

Section 30. Distribution of district assets after dissolution. Assets of the district remaining after all debts and obligations of the district have been paid, discharged, or irrevocably settled shall be divided among the counties and municipalities within or partially within the dissolved district based proportionally upon the taxable valuation of each county or municipality.

Section 31. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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Approved by Comm. on Local Government

1	HOUSE BIEL NO. 737
2	INTRODUCED BY DUSSAULT, LORY, HANSON,
3	EUDAILY, KEMMIS, WALDRON
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5	A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE
6	ESTABLISHMENT OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES DISTRICTS BY PETITION.
7	HEARING, AND ELECTION; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ELECTION OF
8	COMMISSIONERS TO ADMINISTER THE FACILITIES IN THE DISTRICTS;
9	TO AUTHORIZE THE LEVY OF 3 MILLS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND
10	OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL FACILITIES; AND TO ALLOW THE ISSUANCE
ıı	OF BONDS TO FINANCE THE OPERATION OF THE DISTRICT.*
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13	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:
14	Section 1. Purpose. The purpose of [this act] is to
15	provide for the creation of municipal facilities districts
16	to provide for and administer public facilities for the
17	residents of the district and other persons, especially when
18	new public facilities are necessary due to the diverse
19	ownership of existing public facilities, which results in
20	limited or restricted use or access by the public-
21	Section 2. Definitions. As used in {this act}. the
22	following definitions apply:
23	(1) "District" means a municipal facilities district
24	created or proposed for creation in accordance with the
25	provisions of [this act] and other applicable laws.

ı	(2) "Public facility" means a structure, building, or
2	any portion thereof AND REAL PROPERTY maintained primarily
3	for activities and events held for the benefit or enjoyment
4	of the general public or that may be rented, on a
5	nondiscriminatory basis, to private organizations or
5	individuals for purposes not contrary to the public
7	interest.

8 (3) "Qualified signature" means the signed name or
9 other mark, when properly witnessed, of a registered elector
10 residing within a district.

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- Section 3. Petition to create municipal facilities district. (1) Proceedings for creation of a district may be initiated by a petition signed by not less than 20% of the registered electors who reside within the proposed district.
- {2} The petition shall include a map showing the limits of the proposed district and shall be in the form provided for in Title 13, chapter 27.
- Section 4. Filing of petition with election
 administrator -- certificate. (1) The complete petition
 shall be filed with the election administrator of the county
 where the district is located.
- 22 (2) The election administrator shall, within 30 days
 23 of receipt of the petition, examine the petition and attach
 24 a certificate to it stating:

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(a) the total number of registered electors who reside

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within the proposed district;

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- (b) which and how many of the names on the petition represent registered electors residing within the proposed district; and
- (c) whether or not the total number of qualified signatures on the petition equals or exceeds 20% of the total number of registered electors residing within the proposed district.
- Section 5. Effect of insufficient number of qualified signatures. If the petition is found to contain fewer than 20% of the qualified signatures of the registered electors residing within the proposed district, the election administrator shall declare the petition void and shall include the declaration on the certificate attached to the petition.
- Section 6. Presentation of the petition to the board of county commissioners hearing required. (1) If the petition contains the qualified signatures of at least 20% of the registered electors residing within the proposed district, the county clerk shall present the petition and the certificate to the board of county commissioners at its first scheduled meeting after the certificate has been signed and certified by the election administrator.
- 24 (2) The county commissioners shall examine the
 25 petition and shall by resolution set a public hearing on the

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creation of the district.

Section 7. Notice of hearing. (1) Notice of the public hearing shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation within the proposed district at least once each week for at least 2 consecutive weeks prior to the hearing. If no newspaper of general circulation exists in the proposed district, the notice of public hearing shall be posted in at least three public places within the proposed district for at least 2 weeks prior to the hearing.

- (2) The notice shall state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing and shall describe the boundaries of the proposed district.
- Section 8. Hearing on petition. (1) At the time fixed for the public hearing, the county commissioners shall hear all testimony offered in support of and in opposition to the petition and the creation of the district.
- (2) The hearing may be adjourned from time to time to facilitate additional testimony, but no adjournment may delay the hearing beyond 2 weeks after the hearing date originally set forth in the public notice of hearing.
- Section 9. Election on the question of creating a municipal facilities district. (1) The county commissioners, upon completion of the public hearing, shall proceed by resolution to refer the creation of a municipal facilities district to the registered electors of the proposed

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- 1 district.
- 2 (2) The county commissioners may designate in their
- 3 resolution whether a special election will be held or
- whether the matter will be voted on at the next primary or
- general election. If a special election is ordered, the
- 6 county commissioners shall specify in their order the date
- 7 for the election and the voting places and shall appoint and
- 8 designate judges and clerks for the election.
- 9 Section 10. Conduct of election on question of
- 10 creating district. (1) The election shall be conducted in
- 11 accordance with general election laws.
- 12 (2) At the election, the ballots shall contain the
- 13 words:

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- 14 YES Municipal facilities district
 - NO Municipal facilities district
- 16 Section 11. District to be governed by elected
- 17 facilities board of commissioners. The district shall be
- 18 governed by a facilities board of commissioners which shall
- 19 consist of three members. The initial members shall be
- 20 appointed by a selection board. Subsequent to the initial
- 21 appointments, facilities commissioners shall be elected.
- 22 Section 12. Selection of initial facilities board of
- 23 commissioners. (1) The initial facilities board of
- 24 commissioners shall consist of three members appointed by a
- 25 selection board composed of the county commissioners of the

- 1 county in which the district is located and one 2 representative from each governing body of each incorporated 3 municipality included or partially included in the district.
- 4 (2) The appointed commissioners shall serve until the first county general election after their appointment.
- 6 Section 13. Election of facilities board
- 7 commissioners. (1) Any registered elector in the district
- 8 may file before the deadline for candidacy in the next
- 9 primary election a petition of candidacy for election to the
- 10 facilities board with the election administrator of the
- 11 county where the district is located. No filing fee is
- 12 required.
- 13 (2) All candidates shall file a nonpartisan petition
- 14 for candidacy as provided in 13-14-113.
- 15 (3) The names of the six candidates receiving the
- 16 highest number of votes in the primary election shall be
- 17 placed on the ballots in the county general election.
- 18 Section 14. Term of office. (1) At the first election
- 19 of commissioners for the facilities board, the candidate
- 20 receiving the highest number of votes in the county general
- 21 election shall receive a 4-year term on the board. The two
- 22 candidates receiving the next highest number of votes in the
- 23 county general election shall receive 2-year terms on the
- 24 board.
- 25 (2) After the initial election, two seats on the board

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- shall be filled at every county general election. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall serve a 4-year term and the candidate receiving the next highest number of votes shall serve a 2-year term.
- Section 15. Vacancies on the facilities board. The selection board provided for in [section 12] shall fill all vacancies occurring on the facilities board.

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- Section 16. Notice of vacancy on facilities board. (1)

 The selection board shall give public notice of its solicitation of applications for membership on the facilities board of commissioners. Any registered elector of the district may submit an application to be considered by the selection board in filling the vacancy.
- (2) The notice shall be published in a newspaper having general circulation in the district, at least once each week for at least 2 consecutive weeks prior to the date set for the appointment.
- (3) If there is no newspaper having general circulation within the boundaries of the proposed district, the notice of sol-icitation shall be posted in at least three public places within the boundaries of the proposed district for at least 2 weeks prior to the appointment.
- 23 Section 17. Compensation of facilities board 24 commissioners. The commissioners of the facilities board 25 shall serve without pay except for reimbursement for

- necessary and approved expenses incurred when representing the facilities board on official business.
- Section 18. Powers of facilities board. The facilities board shall have all powers necessary and proper to the acquisition, purchase, construction, renovation, establishment, operation, improvement, maintenance, and administration of adequate public facilities within the district.
- Section 19. Employment of administrative officer. The facilities board shall MAY employ a qualified administrative officer for the facilities district. The facilities board shall give public notice of its solicitation of applications for the position of administrative officer in a manner consistent with other public notices required in [sections 7 and 16], except that the facilities board may also give notice in appropriate publications and in other ways in order to attract the best available candidates for the position.
- Section 20. Facilities district budget. The facilities board shall annually present its budget to the county commissioners at the regular budget meetings as prescribed by law and shall certify the amount of money necessary for its operations during the ensuing year.
- 24 Section 21. Mill levy authorized -- limitations. (1)
 25 The SUBJECT TO THE LIMITATIONS OF THIS SECTION THE county

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commissioners shall annually, at the time of levying county 2 taxes. fix and levy a tax in mills upon all property within 3 the district sufficient to raise the amount of money certified by the facilities board.

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- (2) The facilities board may include in the annual district budget an amount to be placed into a capital improvements fund, which shall include the amount of money necessary to meet anticipated needs for maintenance. renovation, or improvement of public facilities commensurate with the public need as determined by the facilities board. Any money remaining in the capital improvements fund at the end of the county's fiscal year may be carried over into the following year but may be used only as originally intended.
- (3) The tax levied by the county commissioners for the purposes of the district, not including that for bonded indebtedness, may not in any year exceed 3 mills on each dollar of taxable valuation of property within the district. Section 22. Collection of tax -- role of county treasurer. (1) The money collected under the facilities district tax levy shall be deposited in a municipal facilities district fund administered by the county treasurer.
- 23 (2) The county treasurer is ex officio the treasurer 24 for the district and shall keep a detailed account of:

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25 (a) all tax money paid into the fund;

1	(p)	all	other	money•	from	whatever	source.	received	b
2	the distri	ict;	and						

- 3 (c) all payments and disbursements from the district fund for whatever purpose.
- 5 Section 23. Warrants to be used for payments. Funds shall be paid out on warrants issued under the direction of 6 7 the facilities board and signed by a majority of the members.
- Section 24. Facilities district bonds authorized. A 9 10 facilities district may borrow money by the issuance of general obligation or revenue bonds or a combination thereof 11 12 to provide funds for the district.
- 13 Section 25. Limitation on bonded indebtedness. The amount of general obligation bonds issued to provide funds 14 for the district and outstanding at any time may not exceed 15 16 5% of the value of the taxable property in the district, as 17 determined by the last assessment for state and county taxes before the issuance of such bonds. 18
- 19 Section 26. Procedure for enlarging a facilities 20 district. (1) The boundaries of any facilities district may be enlarged if 51% of the qualified electors of the area to 21 22 be added to the existing district either sign a petition 23 requesting addition to the district or, in a special or general election, vote in favor of addition to the district. 24
- 25 (2) Each addition must be approved by a majority vote

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of the board of facilities commissioners.

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(3) All property within any addition to the district is subject to all existing indebtedness of the district.

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- (4) If the addition includes all or part of another county, budgeting procedures shall remain unchanged, but budget presentations shall be made, as described, to all affected boards of county commissioners, and the liability of each county shall be determined so that each county shall levy an equal number of mills. The treasurer of the original county shall remain as ex officio treasurer of the district.
- Section 27. Petition for dissolution of district. A facilities district may be dissolved upon presentation to the county commissioners of a petition favoring dissolution and signed by at least 51% of the qualified electors of the district.
- Section 28. Notice of hearing on question of dissolution. (1) A notice of a hearing on the question of whether to dissolve shall be given in the manner prescribed in [section 7].
- (2) The notice shall state the time, date, place, and purpose of the hearing.
- Section 29. Hearing on the question of dissolution -decision. (1) If upon such hearing the county commissioners
 find that the district is not indebted beyond funds
 immediately available to extinguish all of its debts and

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obligations and that there is good reason for the dissolution of such district, the county commissioners shall order dissolution of the district.

4 (2) The order shall be filed of record, and the dissolution shall be effective 6 months after the date of filing the order, if the facilities board of commissioners of the district certifies to the county commissioners that all debts and obligations of the district have been paid, discharged, or irrevocably settled and provides proof of all such payments, discharges, or settlements.

Section 30. Distribution of district assets after dissolution. Assets of the district remaining after all debts and obligations of the district have been paid, discharged, or irrevocably settled shall be divided among the counties and municipalities within or partially within the dissolved district based proportionally upon the taxable valuation of each county or municipality.

Section 31. Severability. If a part of this act is invalid, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid part remain in effect. If a part of this act is invalid in one or more of its applications, the part remains in effect in all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications.

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