



**House
Legislative
Analysis
Section**

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**COUNTY COMMISSIONERS: SIZE OF
VOTE TO EXERCISE POWERS**

House Bill 5701

Sponsor: Rep. Robert Brackenridge

Committee: Local Government

Complete to 4-19-96

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 5701 AS INTRODUCED 3-20-96

Public Act 156 of 1851 defines the powers and duties of the county boards of commissioners, and Section 12 requires that certain specified powers can only be exercised with a two-thirds vote of the members elected to the board. House Bill 5701 would repeal Section 12, while maintaining the two-thirds requirement for some powers.

The bill would continue to require a two-thirds vote for:

-- the removal or designation of a new site for a county building required to be at the county seat and for the removal or designation of a new site for a county infirmary or medical care facility;

-- authorizing a township in the county, by a vote of township electors, to borrow money or raise taxes to build or repair roads and bridges or determining a township's proportion of contribution to the building or repairing of a road located in more than one township.

The bill would no longer require a two-thirds vote for:

-- determining the site of a county building;

-- erecting the necessary buildings for jails, clerks' offices, and other county buildings, and prescribing the time and manner of erecting them;

-- authorizing the making of a new tax roll;

-- representing the county and being responsible for the care and management of the property and business of the county if other provisions are not made.

The bill also would delete the provisions specifically granting a county the power to purchase property for the support of the poor and for a farm to be used in connection with that support and the power to abolish or revive the distinctions between township and county poor.

MCL 46.10b and 46.11

■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.