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HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE - HSC

DIVISION 8. CEMETERIES [8100 - 9703] (*Division 8 enacted by Stats. 1939, Ch. 60.*)

PART 4. PUBLIC CEMETERY DISTRICTS [9000 - 9093] (*Part 4 repealed and added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5.*)

CHAPTER 3. Board of Trustees [9020 - 9031] (*Chapter 3 added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5.*)

9020. A legislative body of at least three members known as the board of trustees shall govern every district. The board of trustees shall establish policies for the operation of the district. The board of trustees shall provide for the faithful implementation of those policies which is the responsibility of the employees of the district.

(*Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.*)

9021. Within 30 days after the effective date of the formation of a district, a board of trustees shall be appointed as follows:

(a) In the case of a district that contains territory in a single county, the board of supervisors shall appoint three or five persons to the board of trustees.

(b) In the case of a district that contains territory in more than one county, the board of supervisors of the principal county shall appoint three or five persons from any county in which the district is located to the board of trustees.

(*Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.*)

9022. (a) Each person appointed by a board of supervisors to be a member of a board of trustees shall be a voter in the district.

(b) All trustees shall exercise their independent judgment on behalf of the interests of the residents, property owners, and the public as a whole in furthering the purposes and intent of this part. The trustees shall represent the interests of the public as a whole and not solely the interests of the board of supervisors that appointed them.

(*Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.*)

9023. (a) The initial board of trustees of a district formed on or after January 1, 2004, shall be determined pursuant to this section.

(b) The persons appointed to the initial board of trustees shall meet on the first Monday after 45 days after the effective date of the formation of the district.

(c) At the first meeting of the initial board of trustees, the trustees shall classify themselves by lot into two classes, as nearly equal as possible. The term of office of the class having the greater number shall expire at noon on the first Monday in January that is closest to the fourth year from the appointments made pursuant to Section 9021. The term of office of the class having the lesser number shall expire at noon on the first Monday in January that is closest to the second year from the appointments made pursuant to Section 9021.

(*Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.*)

9024. (a) Except as provided in subdivision (b) of this section, subdivision (c) of Section 9023, and subdivision (d) of Section 9026, the term of office for a member of the board of trustees shall be for a term of four years and until the appointment and qualification of the successor. Terms of office commence at noon on the first Monday in January.

(b) For districts formed before January 1, 2004, where the members of the board of trustees are not serving staggered terms, the board of supervisors shall stagger the terms of the trustees and to accomplish this purpose shall appoint trustees, on or after January 1, 2004, for terms of less than four years. However, a board of supervisors shall not reduce the term of office of a trustee once the trustee has been appointed to that term, whether the appointment was made before, on, or after January 1, 2004.

(c) Any vacancy in the office of a member appointed to a board of trustees shall be filled promptly pursuant to Section 1779 of the Government Code. Any person appointed to fill a vacant office shall fill the balance of the unexpired term.

(*Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.*)

9025. (a) A board of trustees may adopt a resolution requesting the board of supervisors of the principal county to increase or decrease the number of members of the board of trustees. The resolution shall specify the number of members for which the board of trustees requests the increase or decrease.

(b) Within 60 days of receiving a resolution adopted pursuant to subdivision (a), the board of supervisors shall consider the resolution at a public hearing. The board of supervisors shall give notice of its hearing by publishing a notice pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the jurisdiction of the district at least 10 days before the hearing. In addition, the board of supervisors shall mail the notice at least 10 days before the hearing to the district and any other person who has filed written request for notice with the clerk of the board of supervisors.

(c) At its hearing, the board of supervisors shall receive and consider any written or oral comments regarding the resolution. After receiving and considering those comments, the board of supervisors may adopt a resolution that orders the increase or decrease in the number of members of the board of trustees.

(d) If the board of supervisors adopts a resolution that orders an increase in the number of members of the board of trustees, the board of supervisors shall promptly appoint a person or persons to the board of trustees and specify their term of office, consistent with the requirements of this part. If the board of supervisors adopts a resolution that orders a decrease in the number of members of the board of trustees, the board of supervisors shall designate the trustee or trustees whose office shall be eliminated at the termination of the trustee's current term of office. Any trustee whose office is designated to be eliminated shall continue to serve until his or her term expires.

(Repealed and added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9026. (a) The board of supervisors of the principal county may appoint itself to be the board of trustees of a district and the board of supervisors may divest itself of that authority, pursuant to this section.

(b) In the case of a district that has a board of trustees appointed by the board of supervisors, the board of supervisors may adopt a resolution declaring its intention to appoint itself to be the board of trustees of the district. In the case of a district where the board of supervisors has appointed itself to be the board of trustees, the board of supervisors may adopt a resolution declaring its intention to divest itself of that authority.

(c) Within 60 days of adopting a resolution adopted pursuant to subdivision (b), the board of supervisors shall hold a public hearing on the question whether the board of supervisors should govern the district. The board of supervisors shall give notice of its hearing by publishing a notice pursuant to Section 6061 of the Government Code in at least one newspaper of general circulation within the jurisdiction of the district at least 10 days before the hearing. In addition, the board of supervisors shall mail the notice at least 10 days before the hearing to the district and any other person who has filed written request for notice with the clerk of the board of supervisors.

(d) At its hearing, the board of supervisors shall receive and consider any written or oral comments regarding a resolution adopted pursuant to subdivision (b). At the conclusion of the hearing, the board of supervisors shall make a finding regarding the value of written protests filed and not withdrawn and take one of the following actions:

(1) In the case of a district that has a board of trustees appointed by the board of supervisors:

(A) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are less than 10 percent of the registered voters of the district, the board of supervisors may by a majority vote adopt a resolution terminating the appointed board of trustees and appointing itself as the board of trustees of the district. In that case, the terms of any trustees appointed by the board of supervisors shall terminate immediately.

(B) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are 10 percent or more of the registered voters of the district, the board of supervisors may determine that the proposed change in governance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. If the board of supervisors makes that determination, the board of supervisors may override those protests and by a four-fifths vote adopt a resolution terminating the appointed board of trustees and appointing itself as the board of trustees of the district. In that case, the terms of any trustees appointed by the board of supervisors shall terminate immediately.

(C) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are 10 percent or more of the registered voters of the district and if the board of supervisors does not adopt a resolution pursuant to paragraph (B), the board of supervisors shall adopt a resolution that terminates the proceedings to change the governance of the district.

(2) In the case of a district where the board of supervisors has appointed itself to be the board of trustees:

(A) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are less than 10 percent of the registered voters of the district, the board of supervisors may by a majority vote adopt a resolution divesting itself of that authority. In that case, the board of supervisors

shall promptly appoint persons as members of the board of trustees pursuant to this part.

(B) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are 10 percent or more of the registered voters of the district, the board of supervisors may determine that the proposed change in governance is necessary to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. If the board of supervisors makes that determination, the board of supervisors may override those protests and by a four-fifths vote adopt a resolution divesting itself of that authority. In that case, the board of supervisors shall promptly appoint persons as members of the board of trustees pursuant to this part.

(C) If the written protests filed and not withdrawn are 10 percent or more of the registered voters of the district and if the board of supervisors does not adopt a resolution pursuant to paragraph (B), the board of supervisors shall adopt a resolution that terminates the proceedings to change the governance of the district.

(Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9027. (a) A local agency formation commission, in approving either a consolidation of districts or the reorganization of two or more districts into a single district, may, pursuant to subdivisions (k) and (n) of Section 56886 of the Government Code, change the number of members on the board of trustees of the consolidated or reorganized district, provided that the resulting number of trustees shall be an odd number but not less than five.

(b) Upon the expiration of the terms of the members of the board of trustees of the consolidated or reorganized district whose terms first expire following the effective date of the consolidation or reorganization, the total number of members on the board of trustees shall be reduced until the number equals the number of members determined by the local agency formation commission.

(c) Notwithstanding subdivision (c) of Section 9024, in the event of a vacancy on the board of trustees of the consolidated or reorganized district at a time when the number of members of the board of trustees is greater than the number determined by the local agency formation commission, the vacancy shall not be filled and the membership of the board of trustees shall be reduced by one member.

(Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9028. (a) At the first meeting of the initial board of trustees of a newly formed district, and in the case of an existing district not later than the first meeting of every calendar year, the board of trustees shall elect its officers.

(b) The officers of a board of trustees are a chairperson, vice chairperson, and a secretary. The chairperson and vice chairperson shall be trustees. The secretary may be either a trustee or a district employee. A board of trustees may create additional officers and elect members to those positions. No trustee shall hold more than one office.

(c) Except as provided in Section 9077, the county treasurer of the principal county shall act as the district treasurer. The county treasurer shall receive no compensation for the receipt and disbursement of money of the district.

(Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9029. A board of trustees shall meet at least once every three months. Meetings of the board of trustees are subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, Chapter 9 (commencing with Section 54950) of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

(Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9030. (a) A majority of the board of trustees shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(b) Except as otherwise specifically provided to the contrary in this part, a recorded vote of a majority of the total membership of the board of trustees is required on each action.

(c) The board of trustees shall act only by ordinance, resolution, or motion.

(d) The board of trustees shall keep a record of all of its acts, including financial transactions.

(e) The board of trustees shall adopt rules for its proceedings.

(Added by Stats. 2003, Ch. 57, Sec. 5. Effective January 1, 2004.)

9031. (a) The board of trustees may provide, by ordinance or resolution, that each of its members may receive compensation in an amount not to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) for attending each meeting of the board. A member of the board of trustees shall not receive compensation for more than six meetings of the board in a calendar month. Commencing January 1, 2019, if the district compensates its members for more than four meetings in a calendar month, the board of trustees shall annually adopt a written policy describing, based on a finding supported by substantial evidence, why more than four meetings per calendar month are necessary for the effective operation of the district.

(b) The board of trustees, by ordinance adopted pursuant to Chapter 2 (commencing with Section 20200) of Division 10 of the Water Code, may increase the amount of compensation received for attending meetings of the board.

(c) In addition, members of the board of trustees may receive their actual and necessary traveling and incidental expenses incurred while on official business other than a meeting of the board.

(d) A member of the board of trustees may waive any or all of the payments permitted by this section.

(e) For the purposes of this section, a meeting of the board of trustees includes, but is not limited to, regular meetings, special meetings, closed sessions, emergency meetings, board field trips, district public hearings, or meetings of a committee of the board.

(f) For purposes of this section, the determination of whether a trustee's activities on any specific day are compensable shall be made pursuant to Article 2.3 (commencing with Section 53232) of Chapter 2 of Part 1 of Division 2 of Title 5 of the Government Code.

(g) Reimbursement for these expenses is subject to Sections 53232.2 and 53232.3 of the Government Code.

(Amended by Stats. 2018, Ch. 170, Sec. 1. (AB 2329) Effective January 1, 2019.)