

Date of Hearing: April 10, 2019

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Cecilia Aguiar-Curry, Chair

AB 632 (Aguiar-Curry) – As Amended April 1, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Counties: offices: consolidation.

**SUMMARY:** Allows the Board of Supervisors in Lake County, by ordinance, to consolidate the offices of Auditor-Controller and Treasurer-Tax Collector when one of the offices has a vacancy. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Adds Lake County to the list of counties that may, by ordinance, consolidate the duties of the offices of Auditor-Controller (AC) and Treasurer-Tax Collector (TTC) into the elected office of Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector.
- 2) Specifies that the Lake County Board of Supervisors cannot consolidate the AC and TTC offices until there is a vacancy in one of those offices.
- 3) Clarifies that this bill is a special statute only applicable to Lake County.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Allows for the consolidation of duties of certain county offices.
- 2) Allows the Board of Supervisors in Mendocino County, Sonoma County, Trinity County, Santa Cruz, and Tulare County to consolidate the duties of the offices of AC and TTC into the elected office of Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector through an ordinance.

**FISCAL EFFECT:** None

**COMMENTS:**

- 1) **Bill Summary.** This bill allows the Lake County Board of Supervisors, by ordinance, to consolidate the duties of the offices of AC and TTC into the elected office of Auditor-Controller-Treasurer-Tax Collector only when there is a vacancy in one of the offices.

Lake County is the sponsor of this bill.

- 2) **Author's Statement.** According to the author, "Lake County government is facing various financial challenges. In the past six years, Lake County has been ravaged by wildfires that burned 53% of the county's land and destroyed nearly 2,600 structures. No other county in California has experienced wildfires so frequently, and the County has been struggling to make ends meet in light of such widespread destruction.

"To help alleviate the County's financial struggles, they have proposed combining two of their County government positions (the AC and the TTC) into one. Combining the AC and TTC can lead to greater efficiency and collaboration in the County's fiscal department, because these offices share overlapping functions."

- 3) **Background.** Current law enumerates a number of county officers in addition to the county board of supervisors. County supervisors can adopt ordinances that consolidate many of these separate offices. In addition, the Legislature has allowed specific counties to consolidate other offices, most recently with AB 546 (Stone), Chapter 14, Statutes of 2013, which allows Santa Cruz County to combine the elected office of AC with the elected position of TTC, and SB 567 (Aanestad), Chapter 703, Statutes of 2008, which grants the same authority to Trinity County.
- 4) **Arguments in Support.** Lake County, the sponsor of the bill, states, “Our County government is facing numerous and competing financial challenges. On December 4, 2018, our Board adopted a Fiscal Crisis Management Plan (FCMP)...Seeking the flexibility to consolidate offices is consistent with multiple priorities under our FCMP.”
- 5) **Arguments in Opposition.** None on file.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:****Support**

Lake County [SPONSOR]

**Opposition**

None on file

**Analysis Prepared by:** Itzel Vasquez-Rodriguez / Angela Mapp / L. GOV. / (916) 319-3958