



Illinois State Association of Counties

June 12, 2021

The Honorable JB Pritzker
Governor
State of Illinois
207 State House
Springfield, IL 62706

Dear Governor Pritzker:

I write to respectfully request that you sign Senate Bill 501 into law.

The bill is an initiative of the Illinois State Association of Counties (ISACO) to amend state law to require that a county only be required to rename a township that shares its name with another township if the identically named townships are located within the same county.

Under current law, the Secretary of State is responsible for identifying instances where two or more townships in the state share a name. In such instances, it becomes the responsibility of the county (or counties) with the township(s) that did not first adopt the name to provide a different name on behalf of the township(s).

The Secretary of State does not actively enforce this statute and duplicate township names would only become an issue if the similarly named townships were located within the same county. There are presently 74 instances of duplicate township names throughout the state. In some cases, more than two townships share the same name. There are no instances of duplicate township names in the same county.

ISACO is unaware of any instance where townships bearing identical names has created a problem.

Once again, I respectfully request that you sign Senate Bill 501 into law. Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please feel welcome to contact me at (217) 679-3368 or by email at jmccoy@isacoil.org whenever I can be of service. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Joe McCoy
Executive Director

Cc: The Honorable Donald P. DeWitte, State Senator
The Honorable Keith R. Wheeler, State Representative
Tiffany Newbern-Johnson, Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs