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# Study Commission schedules hearings

Recommendations to give the city-county chief executive veto power and to eliminate the Joint Advisory Council are two of three proposals which will be laid out for public examination and comment at a pair of hearings scheduled for next month.

The proposed amendments to the Anaconda-Deer Lodge County Charter government will be discussed at two public hearings on April 3 and April 18. The hearings will be conducted by the A-DLC Study Commission.

The first three proposed amendments will be presented at the first public hearing and the remaining two proposed amendments will be introduced at the second. Both meetings will be at 7:30 p.m. at the county courthouse courtroom.

Proposed recommendation No. 1 would require all county boards be created by ordinance with specific requirements. The changes would require regular meetings, stating the purpose and powers of each board or commission. Also, included in the amendments would be the length

of each board or commission's existence.

The second proposed recommendation would amend the charter to give veto power to the chief executive subject to commission override. Two-thirds vote, or four of the five commissioners, could overturn the chief executive's veto.

At the present time, neither the chief executive nor the commissioners have any veto power. The commissioners maintain fiscal control, but are powerless to order the chief executive to take any particular action.

Proposed recommendation No. 3 would be the elimination of the joint advisory council and changing the method of filling vacancies on the county commission. Vacancies on the commission are now filled from the ranks of the advisory council, according to district.

A commission vacancy would be filled by the commission appointing the person who finished as the runner-up in the most-recent general election.

The Study Commission members

— chairman Jake Maciag, vice chairman Tom Radonich, Mike Grayson, Ed McCarthy Jr. and Shirley Kelly — have been studying and reviewing the county charter for the past 17 months. They were elected to their posts in November 1994, with the exception of Kelly, who was appointed to fill a vacancy this past January.

The process has included interviews with various county officials and other employees regarding the workings of Anaconda-Deer Lodge County's unique charter form of government. The charter provides so-called "self-governing powers" to the consolidated city-county government.

"Here is an opportunity for Anaconda-Deer Lodge County citizens to express their comments about the proposed amendments," Maciag said "We encourage people to attend this public hearing and offer their opinion."

The voters will have the opportunity to decide on all recommendations in the November general election.