STUDENT NOTE

Some Municipal Annexation Problems in West Virginia

When a city or town in West Virginia desires to annex additional territory, it is frequently faced with perplexing problems in determining just what the proper procedures are. In some instances it is almost impossible to say with certainty whether certain annexation provisions of the code are applicable for a proposed annexation. One of the major problems is that the annexation provisions of West Virginia’s code are found in two separate chapters, chapter 8 and chapter 8A. The requirements for annexing additional territory are quite different in each of the two chapters. The purpose of this note is to examine these different annexation laws and to explore some of the problems encountered in their interpretation and application.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

To get a clear picture of annexation law as it exists in West Virginia today, it is first necessary to trace its general history from the state’s inception to the present time.

[ 394 ]