

ASSEMBLY, No. 4125

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 7, 2020

Sponsored by:

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District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

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District 38 (Bergen and Passaic)

SYNOPSIS

Authorizes local units to temporarily make special emergency appropriations for COVID-19 response.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT authorizing local units to temporarily make special
2 emergency appropriations for COVID-19 response and amending
3 N.J.S.40A:4-53.

4
5 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
6 *of New Jersey:*

7
8 1. N.J.S.40A:4-53 is amended to read as follows:

9 40A:4-53. A local unit may adopt an ordinance authorizing
10 special emergency appropriations for the carrying out of any of the
11 following purposes:

12 a. Preparation of an approved tax map.

13 b. Preparation and execution of a complete program of
14 revaluation of real property for the use of the local assessor, or of
15 any program to update and make current any previous revaluation
16 program when such is ordered by the county board of taxation.

17 c. Preparation of a revision and codification of its ordinances.

18 d. Engagement of special consultants for the preparation, and
19 the preparation of a master plan or plans, when required to conform
20 to the planning laws of the State.

21 e. Preparation of drainage maps for flood control purposes.

22 f. Preliminary engineering studies and planning necessary for
23 the installation and construction of a sanitary sewer system.

24 g. Authorized expenses of a consolidation commission
25 established pursuant to the "Municipal Consolidation Act,"
26 P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et seq.) or sections 25 through 29 of
27 the "Uniform Shared Services and Consolidation Act," P.L.2007,
28 c.63 (C.40A:65-25 through C.40A:65-29).

29 h. Contractually required severance liabilities resulting from
30 the layoff or retirement of employees. Such liabilities shall be paid
31 without interest and, at the sole discretion of the local unit, may be
32 paid in equal annual installments over a period not to exceed five
33 years.

34 i. Preparation of a sanitary or storm system map.

35 j. Liabilities incurred to the Department of Labor and
36 Workforce Development for the reimbursement of unemployment
37 benefits paid to former employees.

38 k. Subject to approval by the Director of the Division of Local
39 Government Services, non-recurring expenses incurred by a
40 municipality to implement a consolidation with another
41 municipality, or municipalities, pursuant to the "Municipal
42 Consolidation Act," P.L.1977, c.435 (C.40:43-66.35 et seq.); the
43 sparsely populated municipalities law, P.L.1995, c.376 (C.40:43-
44 66.78 et seq.); sections 25 through 29 of the "Uniform Shared
45 Services and Consolidation Act," P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:65-25

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 through C.40A:65-29); or N.J.S.40A:7-1 et seq., in the case of a
2 consolidation effectuated through the annexation of land comprising
3 an entire municipality or entire municipalities, to another
4 municipality. The director shall approve the ordinance if he or she
5 determines that the non-recurring expenses are reasonable and
6 permissible by law and that the consolidation will result in long-
7 term savings for the municipality.

8 l. For the five-year period following the effective date of
9 P.L. , c. (pending before the Legislature as this bill), expenses
10 incurred by a municipality in response to COVID-19, including but
11 not limited to those relating to any management, testing, and
12 treatment, and the provision or distribution of economic assistance.

13 As used in this subsection, "COVID-19" means the coronavirus
14 disease 2019, as announced by the World Health Organization on
15 February 11, 2020, and first identified in Wuhan, China.

16 A copy of all ordinances or resolutions as adopted relating to
17 special emergency appropriations shall be filed with the director.
18 (cf: P.L.2017, c.101, s.1)

19
20 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

21 22 23 STATEMENT

24
25 This bill would authorize a municipality or county to make
26 special emergency appropriations to support its response to the
27 COVID-19 crisis. As a result of this authorization, municipalities
28 and counties would also be able to issue special emergency notes to
29 fund these appropriations under current law. This bill would
30 provide these local units with added financial flexibility to
31 effectively respond to the COVID-19 public health and economic
32 emergency.

33 Under the bill, municipalities and counties could, over a five
34 year period, make special emergency appropriations as they grapple
35 with the unexpected costs related to COVID-19. These cost
36 uncertainties may persist over this period as long-term testing,
37 financial measures, and other responses needed for public health
38 and economic recovery continue to evolve.