

P.L. 2020, CHAPTER 12, *approved March 20, 2020*
Assembly, No. 3851

1 **AN ACT** concerning county and municipal budgets and amending
2 P.L.1989, c.31.

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

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7 1. Section 1 of P.L.1989, c.31 (C.40A:4-5.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law, rule or
10 regulation to the contrary, the Director of the Division of Local
11 Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs,
12 hereinafter the "director," may, with the approval of the Local
13 Finance Board, in the Department of Community Affairs, extend the
14 dates for the introduction and approval, and for the adoption, of
15 county and municipal budgets, for any local fiscal year, beyond the
16 dates required under the "Local Budget Law" (N.J.S.40A:4-1 et
17 seq.).

18 b. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection a. of this
19 section, whenever a Public Health Emergency pursuant to the
20 "Emergency Health Powers Act," P.L.2005, c.222 (C.26:13-1 et
21 seq.) or a State of Emergency pursuant to P.L.1942, c. 251
22 (C.App.A.9-33 et seq.), or both, has been declared by the Governor
23 and is in effect, the director may extend the statutory dates for the
24 introduction and approval, and adoption, of county and municipal
25 budgets without the approval of the Local Finance Board.

26 Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, the
27 governing body of a local unit may adopt the budget for that unit at
28 any time within 10 days after the director has certified his approval
29 thereof and returned the same, if the certification is later than the
30 date of the advertised hearing.
31 (cf: P.L.1991, c.75, s.10)

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33 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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38 This bill would expand the current authority of the Director of
39 the Division of Local Government Services, in the Department of
40 Community Affairs, to extend the statutory dates for the
41 introduction and approval, and for the adoption, of county and

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 municipal budgets when the Governor has declared a Public Health
2 Emergency or State of Emergency.

3 P.L.1989, c.31 permits the Director of the Division of Local
4 Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs,
5 with the approval of the Local Finance Board, to extend the dates
6 for the introduction and approval, and for the adoption, of county
7 and municipal budgets, for any local fiscal year, beyond the dates
8 required under the "Local Budget Law" (N.J.S.40A:4-1 et seq.).

9 This bill would amend that law to permit the director to extend
10 those dates unilaterally whenever a Public Health Emergency or a
11 State of Emergency, or both, has been declared by the Governor and
12 is in effect.

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17 Permits extension of deadlines for adoption of county and
18 municipal budgets under certain circumstances.