

**LOCAL FINANCE NOTICE**CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN  
GOVERNORJANE M. KENNY  
COMMISSIONERBETH GATES  
DIRECTOR**MANDATE RELIEF 1996 —  
PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 113 OF P.L. 1996**

On September 5, 1996, Governor Whitman enacted P.L. 1996, c. 113. This law, also known as Assembly Bill A-7, was an initiative of the Legislature to continue efforts started last year to reduce the cost and administrative burden of a variety of State requirements. By consolidating a number of separately proposed bills into one Act, this year's effort continues the pattern and while reducing some mandated practices, it creates new opportunities for future mandate and cost reduction. The Act took effect immediately upon signing by the Governor.

This Local Finance Notice summarizes the changes made in the law and provides you an abridged version of the law itself. The reprint of the law shows only the changes to sections of law amended by the Act. While the summary represents the action taken in the law, consult with your legal counsel before taking any local action or making changes in practices.

**Dog license fee renewals:** Sections 1 and 2 permit a municipality to stagger the expiration of dog licenses, making administration easier since renewals would not occur at the same time, as long as expirations occur by June 30 of the year stated on the license.

**Elections in very small municipalities:** Section 3 requires the Department of State to investigate methods of reducing mandatory election costs in municipalities with populations of 500 persons or fewer. The Department shall report its findings to the Governor and to the Legislature in approximately six months from the date of the bill's enactment.

**Summary publication of board of health ordinances:** Sections 4 and 5 extends, to ordinances and health codes adopted by a local board of health, the same summary publication options, both prior to the public hearing and after adoption, that exist for other ordinances in an effort to reduce publication costs.

**Local approval of additional local traffic ordinances:** Section 6 adds to authority held by a municipality or county to enact traffic ordinances on its own by allowing them to impose parking restrictions, designate no passing zones, paint road striping and pavement markings on self-contained streets under municipal or county jurisdiction, as appropriate, without approval of the Commissioner of Transportation. R.S.39:4-8 was amended to permit a municipality or county to act by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, to affect these traffic control measures, with a copy of the ordinance or resolution transmitted, along with an engineer's certification to the Commissioner of Transportation. The Commissioner would have 90 days to review the ordinance or resolution and invalidate if the provisions: (1) are inconsistent with the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets or Highways; (2) are inconsistent with accepted engineering standards; (3) are not based on the results of an accurate traffic and engineering survey; or (4) place an undue traffic burden or impact on streets in an adjoining municipality or negatively affect the flow of traffic on the State highway system.

**Any agency ordinance may be printed by summary:** Section 7 expands the summary publication of ordinances by permitting ordinances adopted by any municipal or county agency, board or commission authorized by law to adopt ordinances to be published by title, or by title and summary. This covers those government agencies who have separate statutes authorizing them to enact ordinances.

**Procedure for any planning board to act as zoning board of adjustment:** Section 8 permits a nine member planning board in any municipality to exercise the powers of a zoning board of adjustment, if so provided by ordinance and approved by voter referendum. This option is currently available under section 16 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-25) to municipalities with a population of 10,000 or fewer. Section 8 also provides the mechanism for a municipality that has previously approved a referendum to allow its planning board to exercise the powers of a zoning board to return to the previous system.

**Bonding for Regional Contribution Agreements:** Section 9 allows a municipality to bond for the amount of any contribution that it makes as a "sending municipality" under a regional contribution agreement pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-312). This is expected to encourage regional contribution agreements and enhance low and moderate income housing stock in the State.

**Increased amount of initial temporary budget:** Section 10 amends N.J.S.A.40A:4-19 to increase the permissible amount of temporary county and municipal budgets from 25 percent of the previous year's total appropriations to 26.25 percent of those appropriations, an increase representing the proportional part of the 5 percent budget increase "cap" for those years a county or municipality increases its tax levy or budget. This allows counties and municipalities greater flexibility until an annual budget is adopted.

**Joint Insurance Fund refund retention:** Sections 11 and 12 authorize a local unit to utilize the dedication by rider mechanism to dedicate funds that are refunded from a joint insurance fund. The amounts would be retained to protect against a future year when claims payable by the joint insurance fund exceed contributions paid into the joint insurance fund by the local unit. Maintenance of such a revolving trust fund would allow a local unit to have assets readily available to make additional contributions into the joint insurance fund when they are needed without resorting to raising new monies. Local units opting to use this mechanism must do so by adopting a "rider" resolution and obtaining Division approval.

**Municipal "rotating" budget approval:** Section 13 permits the Local Finance Board to adopt rules establishing a three-year budget review cycle by the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, for municipalities. The governing body and the chief financial officer are required to certify to the Director that the municipality is in compliance with the statutory and regulatory budget procedures; the Director could require immediate compliance with the State budget law of any municipality in which the exemption from annual State review impairs the fiscal integrity or solvency of the municipality. The Director and Board will be developing rules this fall to set forth the standards for local approval and an implementation schedule to take effect for Calendar Year 1997 budgets. **This law does not relax the requirement of municipalities to prepare and file budget documents.** It only temporarily suspends the obligation for the Division to review and approve them.

**Increase in preauthorized tax refunds and cancellations:** Section 14 increases, from \$5 to \$10, the amount for which a tax collector can be preauthorized by resolution of the municipal governing body

to process property tax refunds or to process cancellations of refunds or delinquencies. A local resolution must be passed to give the authority to the tax collector.

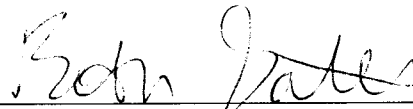
**Police officers serving as school crossing guards:** Sections 15 through 17 clarify the authority of municipalities to have police officers as adult crossing guards.

**"Normal" local public contract length extended from 12 to 24 months:** Sections 18 and 19 amend sections 3 and 15 respectively, of the "Local Public Contracts Law," (N.J.S.A. 40A:11-3 and 40A:11-15), to extend default maximum length of local public contracts from 12 months to 24 months, with the exception of those for professional services, which remain at 12 months. The **option** of an additional 12 month contract time is intended to enable local contracting units to obtain better prices. This does not affect contracts already in place, but can be used on any new contracts bid and executed after its enactment. In preparing bid specifications and contract awards, local contracting units should now take action to decide on the length of contract in addition to other contract decisions.

**Multiple agency servicing of affordable housing units:** Section 20 amends the "Fair Housing Act" to clarify that neither the Affordable Housing Management Service of the Department of Community Affairs or any other entity providing affordable housing management services to municipalities and developers providing affordable housing under that act cannot require an exclusive contract to service all of the eligible housing units of the municipality. This will allow a municipality with an appropriate administrative agency to save money by servicing a portion of the eligible units itself or contracting with another provider.

**Dog census conducted every two years:** Section 21 allows the governing body of a municipality to direct that the canvass of dogs in the municipality be made biennially instead of annually.

**Municipal Clerks are asked to share this Notice with the Mayor and Governing Body, Chief Administrative Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Chief of Police, Tax Collector, and other officials that may have interest in its various provisions.**



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Beth Gates, Director  
Division of Local Government Services

Distribution: Municipal Clerks, Clerks to the County Boards of Freeholders

P.L. 1996, CHAPTER 113

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter ~~struck-out~~ is old text deleted from the law.

AN ACT concerning relief of certain mandates on local governments and amending and supplementing various sections of statutory law.

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

1. Section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3) is amended to read as follows:

The person applying for the license and registration tag shall pay the fee fixed or authorized to be fixed in section 12 of this act. and the sum of \$1.00 for a one-year registration tag or \$3.00 for a three-year registration tag for each dog; and for each renewal, the fee for the license and for the registration tag shall be the same as for the original license and tag; and said licenses, registration tags and renewals thereof shall expire no later than June 30 in the year stated on the license: except that this expiration date shall not require a municipality to alter its schedule for administering rabies inoculations to any dog to be licensed and registered; nor shall this expiration date require a municipality to alter its schedule for renewing licenses and registration tags. provided that the registration period precedes June 30. The governing body of a municipality may stagger the expiration of such annual licenses so long as all expirations occur no later than June 30 in the calendar year stated on the license.

Only one license and registration tag shall be required in any licensing year for any dog owned in New Jersey, and such license and tag shall be accepted by all municipalities as evidence of compliance with this section.

Dogs used as guides for blind persons and commonly known as "seeing-eye" dogs, dogs used to assist handicapped persons and commonly known as "service dogs," or dogs used to assist deaf persons and commonly known as "hearing ear" dogs shall be licensed and registered as other dogs hereinabove provided for, except that the owner or keeper of such dog shall not be required to pay any fee therefor.

License forms and uniform official metal registration tags designed by the State Department of Health shall be furnished by the municipality and shall be numbered serially and shall bear the year of issuance and the name of the municipality.

(cf: P.L.1983, c.485, s.2)

2. Section 4 of P.L.1982, c.203 (C.4:19-15.3a) is amended to read as follows:

Subsequent to the effective date of P.L.1982, c.203, the provisions of any law to the contrary notwithstanding:

a. All annual licenses required pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.2), section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3) and section 8 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.8) shall expire no later than June 30 in the calendar year next following issuance;

provided that the license and registration tag fee shall be prorated for any license and registration tag which is valid for longer than 12 months. The governing body of a municipality may stagger the expiration of such annual licenses so long as all expirations occur no later than June 30 in the calendar year next following issuance.

b. Any 3-year registration tag issued pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.2) or section 3 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.3), which is due to expire January 31 of the year of the effective date of this act, shall be valid until June 30 of that year.

Upon renewal of the three-year licenses on June 30 of the calendar year next following issuance, the municipality may assess a fee, in addition to the annual fee, which reflects a prorated portion of the three-year fee for the period January 31 to June 30 preceding renewal.

(cf: P.L.1983, c.40, s.2)

3. The Department of State shall investigate the methods of reducing mandatory election costs in municipalities with populations of 500 persons or less. The Department of State shall report its finding to the Governor and to the Legislature on or before the first day of the seventh month following enactment of this provision.

4. R.S.26:3-66 is amended to read as follows:

26:3-66. No health ordinance or code shall be finally adopted unless it shall have been:

a. Given a first reading, which first reading may be by title, at a meeting held at least one week prior to final passage;

b. Published, in summary form, in a newspaper published and circulating in the municipality or county for which the local board is organized, and in the case of a municipal board of health, if there be no such newspaper, then in at least one newspaper published and circulating in the county in which the municipality is located, at least two days prior to final passage.

The publication shall contain a notice stating the time and place when and where the local board will consider the final passage of the proposed ordinance or code;

c. Posted on the bulletin board or other place upon which public notices are customarily posted in the building where the local board regularly meets prior to the meeting for final consideration. Copies of the ordinance or code shall be made available to members of the general public of the county upon request; and

d. Upon the opening of the meeting for final consideration of the ordinance or code, given a second reading, which reading may be by title. Thereafter, the ordinance may be passed with or without amendments, or rejected.

(cf: P.L.1991, c.36, s.1)

5. **R.S.26:3-67** is amended to read as follows:

26:3-67. Before any health ordinance or code shall take effect, a summary of the ordinance or code, or its title, shall be published at least once in a newspaper published and circulating as prescribed in section 26:3-66 of this title. (cf: R.S.26:3-67)

6. **R.S.39:4-8** is amended to read as follows.

39:4-8. a. Except as otherwise provided in this section, no ordinance or resolution concerning, regulating or governing traffic or traffic conditions, adopted or enacted by any board or body having jurisdiction over highways, shall be of any force or effect unless the same is approved by the Commissioner of Transportation, according to law. The commissioner shall not be required to approve any such ordinance, resolution or regulation, unless, after investigation by him, the same shall appear to be in the interest of safety and the expedition of traffic on the public highways.

b. In the case of totally self-contained streets under municipal jurisdiction which have no direct connection with any street in any other municipality, or in the case of totally self-contained streets under county jurisdiction which have no direct connection with any street in any other county, the municipality or county may, by ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, without the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation, designate reasonable and safe speed limits, parking restrictions, no passing zones, mid-block crosswalks and crosswalks at intersections, and erect appropriate signs, designate any intersection as a stop or yield intersection and erect appropriate signs and place longitudinal pavement markings delineating the separation of traffic flows and the edge of the pavement, provided that the municipal or county engineer shall, under his seal as a licensed professional engineer, certify to the municipal or county governing body, as appropriate, that any designation or erection of signs or placement of markings: (1) has been approved by him after investigation by him of the circumstances, (2) appears to him to be in the interest of safety and the expedition of traffic on the public highways and (3) conforms to the current standards prescribed by the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways, as adopted by the Commissioner of Transportation.

A certified copy of the adopted ordinance or resolution, as appropriate, shall be transmitted by the clerk of the municipality or county, as appropriate, to the commissioner within 30 days of adoption, together with a copy of the engineer's certification; a statement of the reasons for the engineer's decision; detailed information as to the location of streets, intersections and signs affected by any designation or erection of signs or placement of markings; and traffic count, accident and speed sampling data, when appropriate. The commissioner, at his discretion, may invalidate the provisions of the ordinance or resolution within 90 days of receipt of the certified copy if he reviews it and finds that the provisions of the ordinance or resolution are inconsistent with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets or Highways; are inconsistent with

accepted engineering standards; are not based on the results of an accurate traffic and engineering survey; or place an undue traffic burden or impact on streets in an adjoining municipality or negatively affect the flow of traffic on the State highway system.

Nothing in this subsection shall allow municipalities to designate any intersection with any highway under State or county jurisdiction as a stop or yield intersection or counties to designate any intersection with any highway under State or municipal jurisdiction as a stop or yield intersection.

c. Subject to the provisions of R.S.39:4-138, in the case of any street under municipal or county jurisdiction, a municipality or county may, without the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation, do the following:

By ordinance or resolution:

- (1) prohibit or restrict general parking;
- (2) designate restricted parking under section 1 of P.L.1977, c.309 (C.39:4-197.6);
- (3) designate time limit parking;
- (4) install parking meters.

By ordinance, resolution or regulation:

- (1) designate loading and unloading zones and taxi stands;
- (2) approve street closings for periods up to 48 continuous hours; and
- (3) designate restricted parking under section 1 of P.L.1977, c.202 (C.39:4-197.5).

Nothing in this subsection shall allow municipalities or counties to establish angle parking or to reinstate or add parking on any street, or approve the closure of streets for more than 48 continuous hours, without the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation.  
(cf: P.L.1995, c.412, s.1)

7. **R.S.40:49-2** is amended to read as follows:

40:49-2. Except as otherwise provided in R.S.40:49-6 and 40:49-12, the procedure for the passage of ordinances shall be as follows:

a. Every ordinance after being introduced and having passed a first reading, which first reading may be by title, shall be published in its entirety or by title or by title and summary at least once in a newspaper published and circulated in the municipality, if there be one, and if not, in a newspaper printed in the county and circulating in the municipality, together with a notice of the introduction thereof, the time and place when and where it will be further considered for final passage, a clear and concise statement prepared by the clerk of the governing body setting forth the purpose of the ordinance, and the time and place when and where a copy of the ordinance can be obtained without cost by any member of the general public who wants a copy of the ordinance. If there be only one such publication the same shall be at least one week prior to the time fixed for further consideration for final passage. If there be more than one publication, the first shall be at least one week prior to the time fixed for further consideration for final passage.

b. At the time and place so stated in such publication, or at any time and place to which the meeting for the further

consideration of the ordinance shall from time to time be adjourned, all persons interested shall be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the ordinance. The opportunity to be heard shall include the right to ask pertinent questions concerning the ordinance by any resident of the municipality or any other person affected by the ordinance. Final passage thereof shall be at least 10 days after the first reading.

c. Upon the opening of the hearing, the ordinance shall be given a second reading, which reading may be by title, and thereafter, it may be passed with or without amendments, or rejected. Prior to the said second reading, a copy of the ordinance shall be posted on the bulletin board or other place upon which public notices are customarily posted in the principal municipal building of the municipality, and copies of the ordinance shall be made available to members of the general public of the municipality who shall request such copies. If any amendment be adopted, substantially altering the substance of the ordinance, the ordinance as so amended shall not be finally adopted until at least one week thereafter, and the ordinance as amended shall be read at a meeting of the governing body, which reading may be by title, and shall be published in its entirety or by title or by title and summary, together with a notice of the introduction, the time and place when and where a copy of the amended ordinance can be obtained without any cost by any member of the general public who desires a copy, a clear and concise statement prepared by the clerk of the governing body setting forth the purpose of the ordinance, and the time and place when and where the amended ordinance will be further considered for final passage, at least two days prior to the time so fixed. At the time and place so fixed, or at any other meeting to which the further consideration of the amended ordinance may be adjourned, the governing body may proceed to pass the ordinance, as amended, or again amend it in the same manner.

d. Upon passage, every ordinance, or the title, or the title and a summary, together with a notice of the date of passage or approval, or both, shall be published at least once in a newspaper circulating in the municipality, if there be one, and if not, in a newspaper printed in the county and circulating in the municipality. No other notice or procedure with respect to the introduction or passage of any ordinance shall be required.

Nothing herein shall be construed to affect the provisions of R.S.40:49-7 to 40:49-12 or R.S.40:49-27.

For the purposes of this section, "governing body" shall include any municipal or county agency, board or commission authorized by law to adopt ordinances. (cf: P.L. 1995, c.259, s.6)

**8. Section 16 of P.L.1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-25) is amended to read as follows:**

16. a. The planning board shall follow the provisions of this act and shall accordingly exercise its power in regard to:

- (1) The master plan pursuant to article 3:

- (2) Subdivision control and site plan review pursuant to article 6;

- (3) The official map pursuant to article 5;

- (4) The zoning ordinance including conditional uses pursuant to article 8;

- (5) The capital improvement program pursuant to article 4;

- (6) Variances and certain building permits in conjunction with subdivision, site plan and conditional use approval pursuant to article 7.

b. The planning board may:

- (1) Participate in the preparation and review of programs or plans required by State or federal law or regulation;

- (2) Assemble data on a continuing basis as part of a continuous planning process; and

- (3) Perform such other advisory duties as are assigned to it by ordinance or resolution of the governing body for the aid and assistance of the governing body or other agencies or officers.

c. (1) In a municipality having a population of 10,000 or less, a nine-member planning board, if so provided by ordinance, shall exercise, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, all the powers of a board of adjustment; but the Class I and the Class III members shall not participate in the consideration of applications for development which involve relief pursuant to subsection d. of section 57 of P.L. 1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-70).

(2) In any municipality, a nine-member planning board, if so provided by ordinance, subject to voter referendum, shall exercise, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, all the powers of a board of adjustment; but the Class I and the Class III members shall not participate in the consideration of applications for development which involve relief pursuant to subsection d. of section 57 of P.L. 1975, c.291 (C.40:55D-70).

d. In a municipality having a population of 2,500 or less, the planning board, if so provided by ordinance, shall exercise, to the same extent and subject to the same restrictions, all of the powers of an historic preservation commission, provided that at least one planning board member meets the qualifications of a Class A member of an historic preservation commission and at least one member meets the qualifications of a Class B member of that commission.

e. In any municipality in which the planning board exercises the power of a zoning board of adjustment pursuant to subsection c. of this section, a zoning board of adjustment may be appointed pursuant to law, subject to voter referendum permitting reconstitution of the board. The public question shall be initiated through an ordinance adopted by the governing body.

(cf: P.L. 1994, c.186, s.1)

**9. N.J.S.40A:2-3 is amended to read as follows:**

40A:2-3. Any local unit, by bond ordinance, may incur indebtedness, borrow money, authorize and issue negotiable obligations for financing:

- a. any capital improvement or property which it may lawfully make or acquire;
- b. any purpose for which it is authorized or required by law to make an appropriation, except current expenses and payment of obligations (other than those for temporary financing); or
- c. the amount of any contribution by a local unit that is a sending municipality under a regional contribution agreement pursuant to section 12 of P.L. 1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-312).

No local unit shall borrow money or issue its obligations for purposes authorized under this chapter except as provided in this chapter.  
(cf: N.J.S.40A:2-3)

**10. N.J.S.40A:4-19** is amended to read as follows:

40A:4-19. The governing body may and, if any contracts, commitments or payments are to be made prior to the adoption of the budget, shall, by resolution adopted within the first 30 days of the beginning of the fiscal year, make appropriations to provide for the period between the beginning of the fiscal year and the adoption of the budget.

The total of the appropriations so made shall not exceed ~~25%~~ 26.25% of the total of the appropriations made for all purposes in the budget for the preceding fiscal year excluding, in both instances, appropriations made for interest and debt redemption charges, capital improvement fund and public assistance.

Nothing herein contained shall prevent or relieve the governing body from making appropriations during the last 10 days of the year preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for all interest and debt redemption charges maturing during the fiscal year.  
(cf: P.L. 1991, c.75, s.16)

**11. N.J.S.40A:4-39** is amended to read as follows:

40A:4-39. a. In the budget of any local unit, dedicated revenues anticipated during the fiscal year from any dog tax, dog license, revenues collected pursuant to N.J.S.18A:39-1.2, solid fuel license, sinking fund for term bonds, bequest, escheat, federal grant, motor vehicle fine dedicated to road repairs, relocation costs deposited into a revolving relocation assistance fund established pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1987, c.98 (C.20:4-4.1a), receipts from franchise assessments levied pursuant to section 4 of P.L. 1995, c.173 (C.40A:12A-53), refund payments from a joint insurance fund deposited into a joint insurance revolving fund established pursuant to section 12 of P.L. 1996 c.113 and, subject to the prior written consent of the director, other items of like character when the revenue is not subject to reasonably accurate estimate in advance, may be included in said budget by annexing to said budget a statement in substantially the following form:

"The dedicated revenues anticipated during the year ..... from ..... (here insert one or more of the sources above, as the case may be) are hereby anticipated as revenue and are hereby appropriated for the purposes to which said revenue is dedicated by statute or other legal requirement."

b. Dedicated revenues included in accordance with this section shall be available for expenditure by the local unit as and when received in cash during the fiscal year. The inclusion of such dedicated revenues shall be subject to the approval of the director, who may require such explanatory statements or data in connection therewith as the director deems advisable for the information and protection of the public.  
(cf: P.L. 1995, c.271, s.2)

**12.** The governing body of any local unit that has established a joint insurance fund may by resolution or ordinance, as appropriate, establish a joint insurance revolving fund into which may be deposited any refunds paid to the local unit by the joint insurance fund to be dedicated for the payment of liabilities to the fund in future years. In no event shall amounts deposited in a joint insurance revolving fund exceed the annual amount contributed by the local unit to the joint insurance fund during the prior year.

Moneys appropriated from the joint insurance revolving fund shall be used by the local unit to cover losses attributable to claims being paid by the joint insurance fund in future years which exceed contributions paid into the joint insurance fund by the local unit.

**13. N.J.S.40A:4-78** is amended to read as follows:

40A:4-78. a. If the director finds that all requirements of law and of the regulations of the local government board have been met, he shall approve the budget, otherwise he shall refuse to approve it.

The director, in refusing to approve a budget, shall not substitute his discretion with respect to the amount of an appropriation when such amount is not made mandatory because of the requirements of law.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.40A:4-10 and N.J.S.40A:4-76 through 40A:4-79, the Local Finance Board is authorized to adopt rules, pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L. 1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), to exempt certain municipalities from the requirement that the director approve their annual budgets and to provide instead for a system of local examination and approval of such budgets by municipal officials, provided that:

(1) the director finds that such municipalities are fiscally sound and that their fiscal practices are conducted in accordance with law and sound administrative practice;

(2) the director shall examine the budgets of such municipalities in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.40A:4-10 and N.J.S.40A:4-76 through 40A:4-79, at least every third year;

(3) the governing body and chief financial officer of each such municipality shall each file a certification with the director stating that, with reference to the adopted budget of the municipality, they have:

(a) examined the budget in the manner prescribed under N.J.S.40A:4-76;

(b) determined that the budget complies with the requirements set forth in N.J.S.40A:4-77; and

(c) determined that the budget complies with all other provisions of law, including, but not limited to, the "Local Budget Law," N.J.S.40A:4-1 et seq., P.L.1976, c.68 (C.40A:4-45.1 et seq.), and the regulations of the Local Finance Board.

(4) all budget documents required by law or the regulations adopted by the Local Finance Board shall be filed with the director on a timely basis;

(5) other criteria and responsibilities as established by the regulations adopted by the Local Finance Board are met.

c. The director shall act to require immediate compliance with the "Local Budget Law," N.J.S.40A:4-1 et seq., if the director finds that any such exemption impairs the fiscal integrity or solvency of any such municipality. Any appeal of a governing body's action in adopting an annual budget shall be made to the director.  
(cf: N.J.S.40A:4-78)

**14. Section 1 of P.L.1983, c.568 (C.40A:5-17.1) is amended to read as follows:**

1. a. Notwithstanding the provision of any law to the contrary, the governing body of a municipality may adopt a resolution authorizing a municipal employee chosen by the governing body to process, without further action on the part of the governing body, any property tax refund of less than \$5.00 \$10.00.

b. Notwithstanding subsection a. of this section or any provision of law to the contrary, the governing body of a municipality may adopt a resolution authorizing a municipal employee chosen by the governing body to process, without further action on the part of the governing body, the cancellation of any property tax refund or delinquency of less than \$5.00 \$10.00.  
(cf: P.L.1987, c.82, s.1)

**15. Section 1 of P.L.1979, c.82 (C.40A:9-154.1) is amended to read as follows:**

1. The governing body, or the chief executive, or the chief administrative officer, as appropriate to the form of government of any municipality, may appoint adult school crossing guards for terms not exceeding 1 year and revoke such appointments for cause and after proper hearing before the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer of the municipality. No person shall be appointed as an adult school crossing guard unless he:

- a. Is a citizen and resident of this State;
- b. Is sound in body and of good health;
- c. Is of good moral character; and
- d. Has not been convicted of any criminal offense involving moral turpitude.

An adult school crossing guard shall ~~not~~ may be a member of the police department or force of the municipality and his powers and duties as an adult school crossing guard shall cease at the expiration of the term for which he was appointed. He shall not have the right to bear

firearms or the power of arrest unless the crossing guard is also a member of a police department or force.

Every adult school crossing guard shall be under the supervision and direction of the chief of police or other chief law enforcement officer of the municipality wherein he is appointed and shall perform his duties only in such municipality. He shall comply with the rules and regulations applicable to the conduct and decorum of the regular police officers of the municipality. Before any adult school crossing guard is appointed the chief of police shall ascertain the eligibility of the applicant and make a report to the governing body, or the chief executive or chief administrative officer, as the case may be.  
(cf: P.L.1981, c.227, s.1)

**16. Section 2 of P.L.1979, c.82 (C.40A:9-154.2) is amended to read as follows:**

2. Every adult school crossing guard shall be trained for the proper performance of his duties and responsibilities. Such training shall consist of a minimum of 2 hours of classroom instruction which shall include information on methods of traffic control and the duties and responsibilities of adult school crossing guards and a minimum of 20 hours of field training in which the trainee shall be supervised by an experienced adult school crossing guard or a regular police officer. This training requirement may be waived by the chief of police for an adult school crossing guard who is also a police officer.  
(cf: P.L.1979, c.82, s.2)

**17. Section 3 of P.L.1979, c.82 (C.40A:9-154.3) is amended to read as follows:**

3. Before being assigned to any post, an adult school crossing guard shall be provided with a uniform which shall identify his function and which shall be distinct from the uniform of a member of the regular police department or force. Such uniform shall include but not be limited to a safety vest, a hat, and breast and hat badges which shall bear an identification number, and the name of the municipality in which he is employed. A police officer appointed as an adult crossing guard shall wear such uniform as directed by the chief of police of the municipality.  
(cf: P.L.1979, c.82, s.3)

**18. Section 3 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-3) is amended to read as follows:**

3. a. Any purchase, contract or agreement for the performance of any work or the furnishing or hiring of materials or supplies, the cost or price of which, together with any other sums expended or to be expended for the performance of any work or services in connection with the same immediate program, undertaking, activity or project or the furnishing of similar materials or supplies during the same fiscal year paid with or out of public funds, does not exceed in the fiscal year the total sum of \$7,500.00 or the amount determined pursuant to subsection b. of this section, may be made, negotiated or awarded by a contracting agent



when so authorized by resolution of the governing body of the contracting unit without public advertising for bids. Such authorization may be granted for each purchase, contract or agreement or by a general delegation of the power to make, negotiate or award such purchases, contracts or agreements pursuant to this section.

Any purchase, contract or agreement made pursuant to this section may be awarded for a period of ~~12~~ 24 consecutive months notwithstanding that such ~~12-month~~ 24-month period does not coincide with the fiscal year, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 5 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-5) may be awarded for a period not exceeding 12 consecutive months. The Division of Local Government Services shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations concerning the methods of accounting for all contracts that do not coincide with the fiscal year.

b. The Governor, in consultation with the Department of the Treasury, shall, no later than March 1 of each odd-numbered year, adjust the threshold amount set forth in subsection a. of this section, or subsequent to 1985 the threshold amount resulting from any adjustment under this subsection or section 17 of P.L.1985, c.469, in direct proportion to the rise or fall of the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers in the New York City and the Philadelphia areas as reported by the United States Department of Labor. The Governor shall, no later than June 1 of each odd-numbered year, notify each governing body of the adjustment. The adjustment shall become effective on July 1 of each odd-numbered year.  
(cf: P.L.1991, c.143, s.1)

**19. Section 15 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-15) is amended to read as follows:**

15. All purchases, contracts or agreements for the performing of work or the furnishing of materials, supplies or services shall be made for a period not to exceed ~~12~~ 24 consecutive months, except that contracts for professional services pursuant to subparagraph (i) of paragraph (a) of subsection (1) of section 5 of P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-5) shall be made for a period not to exceed 12 consecutive months. Contracts or agreements may be entered into for longer periods of time as follows:

(1) Supplying of:

(a) ~~Fuel for heating purposes, for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, two years: (Deleted by amendment, P.L. 1996, c.113.)~~

(b) ~~Fuel or oil for use of airplanes, automobiles, motor vehicles or equipment for any term not exceeding in the aggregate, two years: (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1996, c.113.)~~

(c) Thermal energy produced by a cogeneration facility, for use for heating or air conditioning or both, for any term not exceeding 40 years, when the contract is approved by the Board of Public Utilities. For the purposes of this paragraph, "cogeneration" means the simultaneous

production in one facility of electric power and other forms of useful energy such as heating or process steam;

*No other changes were made to this statute.*

(cf: P.L.1995, c.371, s.1)

**20. Section 24 of P.L.1985, c.222 (C.52:27D-324) is amended to read as follows:**

The agency shall establish procedures for entering into, and shall enter into, contractual agreements with willing municipalities or developers of inclusionary developments whereby the agency will administer resale controls and rent controls in municipalities where no appropriate administrative agency exists. The contractual agreements shall be for the duration of the controls and shall involve eligibility determinations, determination of initial occupants, the marketing of units, maintenance of eligibility lists for subsequent purchasers or renters, and determination of maximum resale prices or rents. The agency may charge the municipality or inclusionary developer a reasonable per unit fee for entering into such an agreement, or may charge a reasonable fee to a low or moderate income household at the time the home is sold subject to the resale control or both. Agency fees shall be established according to methods or schedules approved by the State Treasurer.

Neither the agency nor any other entity entering into an agreement to provide services to a municipality under this section shall require, as a condition of that agreement, that these services be provided for all eligible housing units in the municipality. A municipality, at its discretion, may enter into an agreement for the provision of services for any reasonable portion of its eligible housing units.  
(cf: P.L.1985, c.222, s.24)

**21. Section 15 of P.L.1941, c.151 (C.4:19-15.15) is amended to read as follows:**

Any person appointed for the purpose by the governing body of the municipality, shall, either annually or biennially, at the direction of the governing body, cause a canvass to be made of all dogs owned, kept or harbored within the limits of their respective municipalities and shall report, on or before September 1 of [each] the year in which the census is taken, to the clerk or other person designated to license dogs in the municipality and to the local board of health, and to the State Department of Health the result thereof, setting forth in separate columns the names and addresses of persons owning, keeping or harboring unlicensed dogs, the number of unlicensed dogs owned, kept or harbored by each of said persons, together with a complete description of each of said unlicensed dogs.  
(cf: P.L.1979, c.442, s.1)

22. This act shall take effect immediately.