
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 455 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY RYAN, GLEIM, KEEFER, LEWIS, KAUFFMAN, COOK AND
B. MILLER, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT, FEBRUARY 9, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 53 (Municipalities Generally) of the Pennsylvania
2 Consolidated Statutes, in indebtedness and borrowing, further
3 providing for definitions, for classification and authority
4 to issue bonds and notes, for cost of project and for
5 exclusion of other self-liquidating debt to determine net
6 nonelectoral debt or net lease rental debt; providing for
7 preliminary filings with department prior to issuance of
8 certain debt; further providing for ordinance authorizing
9 issuance of bonds or notes or instruments evidencing lease
10 rental debt, for small borrowing for capital purposes, for
11 debt statement, for submission to department, for fees for
12 filing, for certificate of approval of transcript, for effect
13 of failure of timely action by department and for records of
14 department; and providing for duties of participants in
15 transactions relating to incurring debt and issuing bonds and
16 notes.

17 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
18 hereby enacts as follows:

19 Section 1. The definition of "self-liquidating debt" in
20 section 8002(b) of Title 53 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
21 Statutes is amended and subsection (c) is amended by adding
22 definitions to read:

23 § 8002. Definitions.

24 * * *

25 (b) Exclusions from debt.--With respect to exclusions from

1 any particular category of debt and subject to additional
2 definitions contained in subsequent provisions of this subpart
3 which are applicable to specific provisions of this subpart, the
4 following words and phrases when used in this subpart shall have
5 the meanings given to them in this section unless the context
6 clearly indicates otherwise:

7 "Self-liquidating debt." Debt payable solely from rents,
8 rates or other charges to the ultimate users of the project, to
9 be financed in whole or in part by that debt, or payable solely
10 from special levies or assessments of benefits lawfully
11 earmarked exclusively for that purpose. The term also includes
12 debt or any portion thereof at the time qualified as self-
13 liquidating pursuant to this subpart, whether or not solely
14 payable from those sources. The term "ultimate users" includes
15 the local government unit itself only where its use of the
16 project is incidental to the use of the project by other users.
17 A debt with respect to which debt service payments have been
18 made under a guaranty of the debt shall not be considered self-
19 liquidating.

20 * * *

21 (c) Other definitions.--Subject to additional definitions
22 contained in subsequent provisions of this subpart which are
23 applicable to specific provisions of this subpart, the following
24 words and phrases when used in this subpart shall have the
25 meanings given to them in this section unless the context
26 clearly indicates otherwise:

27 * * *

28 "Financial advisor." A person retained directly by a local
29 government unit who for compensation engages in the business of
30 advising that local government unit, either directly or in

1 writing, as to the value of securities, bonds or notes or as to
2 the advisability of investing in, purchasing or selling
3 securities, bonds or notes. The term does not include an
4 attorney, accountant or engineer whose performance of such
5 services is solely incidental to the practice of his profession.
6 The term does not include a lender, underwriter or other entity
7 purchasing the bonds or notes of a local government unit.

8 * * *

9 "Working capital." An amount which constitutes, under
10 generally accepted accounting principles, the cost of the day-
11 to-day operations of the project as well as a proper allowance
12 for contingencies, for a period not to exceed one year after
13 completion of the project. Working capital for periods exceeding
14 one year shall be treated as unfunded debt under sections 8129
15 (relating to scope of unfunded debt) and 8130 (relating to
16 approval by court to fund unfunded debt). Reimbursements under a
17 guaranty or amounts to be used to address budgetary deficits of
18 a local government unit or for other purposes not related to the
19 construction or operation of the project do not constitute
20 reasonable working capital in connection with the incurring of
21 debt under this subpart.

22 Section 2. Sections 8005(c) and (d) and 8007 of Title 53 are
23 amended to read:

24 § 8005. Classification and authority to issue bonds and notes.

25 * * *

26 (c) Authority to issue bonds and notes and lease rental
27 debt.--Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, every
28 local government unit shall have full power and authority to
29 issue bonds or notes, and make guaranties, leases, subsidy
30 contracts or other agreements evidencing the acquisition of

1 capital assets payable out of taxes and other general revenues,
2 to provide funds for and towards the cost of or the cost of
3 completing any project or combination of projects which the
4 local government unit is authorized to own, acquire, subsidize,
5 operate or lease or to participate in owning, acquiring,
6 subsidizing, operating or leasing with others, to issue tax
7 anticipation notes and funding bonds or notes as provided in
8 this subpart and to contract for insurance covering the risks of
9 nonpayment of principal, interest and premium of bonds, notes,
10 tax anticipation notes and guaranties.

11 (d) Nature of guaranty procedure for issuance and
12 prohibitions.--The following shall apply to a guaranty:

13 (1) For the purpose of this subpart, unless debt
14 evidenced by a guaranty has been approved as electoral debt
15 in accordance with Subchapter C (relating to procedure for
16 securing approval of electors), the guaranty shall be deemed
17 to be nonelectoral debt if the local government unit
18 guaranties its own bonds or notes and shall be deemed to be
19 lease rental debt if it guaranties the bonds or notes of an
20 authority or another local government unit. For the purpose
21 of all other statutes, the guaranty shall be deemed to create
22 debt or indebtedness of the local government unit making the
23 guaranty.

24 (2) (i) A local government unit may issue a guaranty of
25 debt of another separate and distinct local government
26 unit or an authority the local government unit did not
27 incorporate, only after the local government unit has
28 conducted its own due diligence to determine the risks
29 involved in the transaction, including the impact of the
30 guaranty on the future financial condition of the local

1 government unit, the financial condition of the entity
2 seeking the guaranty, the sources and reliability of
3 revenue to cover the underlying obligation and the
4 likelihood of default of the entity seeking the guaranty.
5 A guaranty may only be made by vote of the governing body
6 after a public meeting at which the local government unit
7 demonstrates such due diligence. A local government unit
8 may only issue a guaranty to an authority or other local
9 government unit for projects which are expressly
10 authorized by statute, including projects under section
11 5607 (relating to purposes and powers).

12 (ii) Notwithstanding the provisions of subparagraph
13 (i), a local government unit may not issue a guaranty to
14 a separate and distinct authority or local government
15 unit for sums due under a qualified interest rate
16 management agreement, nor may guaranties be issued for
17 projects which involve untested technology or
18 experimentation.

19 (3) A local government unit is prohibited from
20 collecting a fee to guaranty the debt of an authority or
21 another local government unit.

22 (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter
23 or any other law to the contrary, an authority or a municipal
24 authority in existence on the effective date of this
25 paragraph incorporated by two or more local government units
26 for the purpose of providing loan programs for capital
27 projects for the benefit of local government units and
28 authorities or municipal authorities, shall not be subject to
29 the provisions of paragraph (2).

30 § 8007. Cost of project.

1 (a) Included costs.--The cost of a project includes the
2 amount of all payments to contractors or for the acquisition of
3 a project or for lands, easements, rights and other
4 appurtenances deemed necessary for the project, fees of
5 architects, engineers, appraisers, consultants, financial
6 advisors and attorneys incurred in connection with the project
7 financing costs, costs of necessary printing and advertising,
8 costs of preliminary feasibility studies and tests, cost
9 estimates and interest on money borrowed to finance the project,
10 if capitalized, to the date of completion of construction and,
11 if deemed necessary, for one year thereafter, amounts to be
12 placed in reserve funds, if any, a reasonable initial working
13 capital for operating the project and a proper allowance for
14 contingencies and any amount which constitutes, under generally
15 accepted accounting principles, a cost of, and which has been
16 determined by an independent actuary or other expert to be
17 required for the purposes of, a reserve or a contribution toward
18 a combined reserve, pool or other arrangement for losses or
19 liabilities covered by a self-insurance arrangement established
20 by one or more local government units.

21 (b) Excluded costs.--Costs paid, from sources other than the
22 debt that is to be refunded, more than two years before an
23 issuance of new debt to finance the costs may not be included in
24 the costs of a project financed by the new debt. Reimbursements
25 under a guaranty or amounts to be used by a local government
26 unit to address budgetary deficits or other purposes not related
27 to the project do not constitute a cost of a project in
28 connection with the incurring of debt under this subpart.

29 (c) Funding of unfunded debt.--Costs that qualify for
30 funding of unfunded debt under section 8130 (relating to

1 approval by court to fund unfunded debt) may only constitute a
2 cost of a project if the local government unit complies with the
3 requirements of section 8130.

4 Section 3. Section 8026(a)(5) of Title 53 is amended and the
5 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

6 § 8026. Exclusion of other self-liquidating debt to determine
7 net nonelectoral debt or net lease rental debt.

8 (a) Filings with department.--Self-liquidating debt shall
9 not be excluded in determining net nonelectoral debt or net
10 lease rental debt for the purpose of establishing net debt of
11 either category where the debt is evidenced by general
12 obligation bonds or notes, by bonds, notes or other obligations
13 of an authority or of another local government unit or by a
14 guaranty until there has been filed with and approved by the
15 department a report to the local government unit from qualified
16 registered engineers or architects or other persons qualified by
17 experience appropriate to the project, setting forth:

18 * * *

19 (5) The estimated net revenues of the project for each
20 year of the remaining life of the bonds, notes or obligations
21 with an explanation for any assumed increase and a
22 computation showing, in reasonable detail, that the net
23 revenues, together with other available funds to be received
24 in respect of the project, will be sufficient in each year to
25 pay the annual debt service, other than capitalized debt
26 service, on the bonds, notes or obligations or a specified
27 aggregate principal amount thereof.

28 * * *

29 (c) Change in circumstances.--If there has been a change in
30 circumstances and the local government unit has existing debt

1 that was previously approved by the department as self-
2 liquidating or subsidized, a new certification shall be filed.
3 The certification shall specify whether or not the debt should
4 continue to be treated as self-liquidating or subsidized and
5 state whether any decrease in the amount to be excluded is
6 required by any change in circumstances, other than resulting
7 from the payments of debt.

8 Section 4. Title 53 is amended by adding a section to read:
9 § 8102.1. Preliminary filings with department prior to issuance
10 of certain debt.

11 (a) General rule.--At least 10 days prior to the enactment
12 of an ordinance authorizing the sale or issuance of any general
13 obligation bonds or notes or guaranteed revenue bonds or notes
14 constituting nonelectoral debt or any agreement evidencing lease
15 rental debt, a local government unit shall obtain proof of
16 having filed with the department the information and
17 documentation required by this section. Proof of filing for
18 purposes of subsection (c) may be obtained by a certified mail
19 return receipt or other delivery requiring signature, or a
20 notice of receipt from the department.

21 (b) Required filings.--A local government unit shall file
22 with the department a basic description of the intended
23 financing and, as applicable, the following information and
24 documentation:

25 (1) Evidence that the local government unit is current
26 in the filing of its annual financial statements with
27 Commonwealth agencies under applicable State law.

28 (2) A description of the intended type and amount of
29 payment or performance bond, letter of credit or other
30 financial security proposed to insure the completion of the

1 project.

2 (3) Information that the local government unit is up to
3 date on all of its municipal securities disclosures required
4 under 17 CFR § 240.15c2-12 (relating to municipal securities
5 disclosure).

6 (4) A copy of the interest rate management plan prepared
7 or reviewed by an independent financial advisor with respect
8 to a proposed qualified interest rate management agreement.

9 (5) If the local government unit intends for the
10 proposed debt to be self-liquidating or subsidized, a
11 statement that the debt will qualify as self-liquidating or
12 subsidized debt, including filings required under section
13 8024 (relating to exclusion of subsidized debt from net
14 nonelectoral debt or net lease rental debt), 8025 (relating
15 to exclusion of self-liquidating debt evidenced by revenue
16 bonds or notes to determine net nonelectoral debt) or 8026
17 (relating to exclusion of other self-liquidating debt to
18 determine net nonelectoral debt or net lease rental debt), as
19 applicable.

20 (6) If the local government unit has existing debt which
21 was previously approved by the department as self-liquidating
22 or subsidized, an explanation as to why the debt should
23 continue to be treated as self-liquidating or subsidized and
24 that no decrease in the amount to be excluded is required by
25 any change in circumstances, other than resulting from the
26 payments of the debt, or, if there has been a change in
27 circumstances, information demonstrating the amount of debt
28 that should continue to be treated as self-liquidating or
29 subsidized.

30 (7) Schedules demonstrating the estimated net debt

1 service impact of the transaction and information
2 demonstrating that the local government unit adopted or
3 approved a plan to provide the tax or other revenues
4 necessary to pay the debt service on the debt, if applicable.

5 (8) The debt statement required by section 8110
6 (relating to debt statement).

7 (9) A statement of the intended manner of sale of the
8 bonds or notes, and if bonds or notes are to be sold at
9 private sale by negotiation, the basis for the local
10 government unit's finding that selling the bonds or notes in
11 such manner are in the best financial interests of the local
12 government unit.

13 (10) A project cost statement detailing the intended
14 uses of debt proceeds.

15 (11) If a guaranty from another local government unit is
16 proposed as a portion of the proposed borrowing, information
17 demonstrating compliance with section 8005(d) (relating to
18 classification and authority to issue bonds and notes).

19 (12) The declaration required by section 8291(a)
20 (relating to duties of participants).

21 (13) A statement as to whether or not the bonds or notes
22 are zero coupon or capital appreciation bonds or notes and,
23 if so, the ratio of total estimated principal and interest
24 payments over the proceeds of the issue.

25 (c) Action by department.--

26 (1) The department shall have 20 days after receipt of
27 the filing required under subsection (b) to notify the local
28 government unit of receipt of a complete filing. An
29 acknowledgment of a complete filing shall be valid for one
30 year from the date of the filing's issuance.

1 (2) If the department fails to notify the local
2 government unit of an incomplete filing or fails to otherwise
3 acknowledge the receipt of a filing within 20 days, the local
4 government unit may proceed to incur the debt or may presume
5 the filing to be valid and complete for one year from the
6 date the filing was submitted to the department.

7 (3) If the department finds in its reasonable discretion
8 that the requirements are not satisfied in connection with
9 the proposed debt, the department shall issue a notice of
10 such incomplete filing and the local government unit may not
11 proceed to incur the debt until acknowledgment from the
12 department that the filing requirements of subsection (b)
13 have been completed.

14 (4) The department shall deny the intended financing,
15 after reviewing the completed filing within the time limit
16 provided in paragraph (1), if it finds that the local
17 government unit failed to meet any of the requirements
18 included within the documentation required under subsection
19 (b). The department shall provide the local government unit
20 with a detailed explanation of its reason for denial.

21 (d) Exempt transactions.--The following debt transactions
22 shall be exempt from the requirement to file preliminary
23 documentation under this section:

24 (1) Small borrowing for capital purposes as provided in
25 section 8109 (relating to small borrowing for capital
26 purposes).

27 (2) Transactions under Subchapter C of Chapter 82
28 (relating to refunding of debt) which consist exclusively of
29 the issuance and sale of obligations, the proceeds of which
30 are to be used solely for purposes specified in section

1 8241(b)(1) (relating to power to refund) for the payment or
2 redemption of outstanding obligations upon or prior to
3 maturity and the costs of issuing the obligations. A
4 refunding transaction which includes a qualified interest
5 rate management agreement shall not be exempt from the
6 requirements of this section.

7 (e) Review.--All determinations by the department under this
8 section are reviewable as provided under 2 Pa.C.S. Ch. 7
9 (relating to judicial review).

10 Section 5. Sections 8103(a)(1), 8109(a)(1) and 8110(b) of
11 Title 53 are amended to read:

12 § 8103. Ordinance authorizing issuance of bonds or notes or
13 instruments evidencing lease rental debt.

14 (a) General rule.--The ordinance or ordinances or, in the
15 case of notes issued under section 8109 (relating to small
16 borrowing for capital purposes), the resolution authorizing the
17 issuance of bonds or notes or the execution of a lease,
18 guaranty, subsidy contract or other agreement evidencing lease
19 rental debt by a local government unit shall contain, in
20 substance:

21 (1) In all cases, including lease rental debt, the
22 following:

23 (i) A brief description of the project for which the
24 debt is to be incurred and, if a capital project, a
25 realistic estimated useful life thereof.

26 (ii) A statement of the aggregate principal amount
27 of bonds or notes proposed to be issued pursuant to the
28 ordinance or, as the case may be, to be secured by the
29 instrument evidencing lease rental debt.

30 (iii) A statement whether the debt is to be incurred

1 as electoral debt, nonelectoral debt or lease rental
2 debt.

3 (iv) An authorization and direction to one or more
4 specified officers and their successors to prepare and
5 certify and, except in the case of notes issued under
6 section 8109, to file the debt statement required by
7 section 8110 (relating to debt statement), to execute and
8 deliver the bonds or notes or the instrument evidencing
9 lease rental debt and to take other necessary action.
10 This designation may be changed from time to time
11 thereafter.

12 (v) In the case of nonelectoral or lease rental debt
13 which is subject to exclusion as subsidized debt or self-
14 liquidating debt if the exclusion is presently desired,
15 an authorization to the proper officers of the local
16 government unit to prepare and file any statements
17 required by Subchapter B of Chapter 80 (relating to
18 limitations on debt of local government units) which are
19 necessary to qualify all or any portion of the debt for
20 exclusion from the appropriate debt limit as self-
21 liquidating debt or subsidized debt. If an exclusion is
22 to be claimed that the debt will be self-liquidating, the
23 identity of the expert relied upon to make that
24 determination.

25 (vi) As an exhibit, a disclosure statement in a
26 format prescribed by the department containing
27 information as to the following:

28 (A) The principal amount of the debt, the term
29 over which the debt will be repaid and the estimated
30 net debt service obligation to the local government

1 unit.

2 (B) A breakdown of the expected use of debt
3 proceeds for:

4 (I) The acquisition and construction of real
5 estate, including land, buildings, easements,
6 rights and other appurtenances deemed necessary
7 for the project.

8 (II) Equipment and furnishings.

9 (III) Fees of architects, engineers,
10 financial advisors, attorneys and other
11 professionals incurred in connection with the
12 project.

13 (IV) Costs of necessary printing and
14 advertising.

15 (V) Costs of preliminary feasibility studies
16 and tests.

17 (VI) Working capital for operating the
18 project.

19 (C) A description of the basis for the decision
20 that the bonds or notes are to be sold at a public
21 sale, at a private sale by negotiation or upon
22 invitation at the price the governing body
23 determines.

24 (D) The identity of the bond counsel.

25 (E) The identity of the sinking fund depository
26 and paying agent.

27 (F) The identities of the purchasers of the
28 bonds or notes.

29 (G) Whether a qualified interest rate management
30 agreement is associated with the debt.

1 (H) Whether the project involves the sale of
2 assets owned by the local government unit.

3 (I) The local government unit's plan to provide
4 necessary tax or other revenues to pay the debt
5 service on the debt.

6 * * *

7 § 8109. Small borrowing for capital purposes.

8 (a) General rule.--Any local government unit may incur debt
9 by resolution rather than by ordinance to be evidenced by notes
10 to provide funds for a project as defined in this subpart
11 without complying with the requirements of Subchapter A of
12 Chapter 82 (relating to Department of Community and Economic
13 Development) if:

14 (1) The aggregate amount of the debt outstanding at any
15 one time shall not exceed the lesser of [~~\$125,000~~] \$250,000
16 or 30% of the nonelectoral debt limit as authorized in
17 section 8022(a) (relating to limitations on incurring of
18 other debt).

19 * * *

20 § 8110. Debt statement.

21 * * *

22 (b) Previously excluded self-liquidating or subsidized
23 debt.--Where debt has previously been excluded as self-
24 liquidating or subsidized debt, the debt statement shall be
25 accompanied by a certification that indicates one of the
26 following:

27 (1) no decrease in the amounts to be excluded is
28 required by any change of circumstances [or, if there has
29 been a change, other than decreases resulting from the
30 payments of bonds or notes, so that less debt is to be

1 excluded. If it has become possible to exclude a greater
2 amount of debt and the local government unit desires to do
3 so, the debt statement shall be accompanied by appropriate
4 certificates supporting the revised amount to be excluded,
5 and a revised approval shall be obtained from the
6 department.]; or

7 (2) a decrease in the amounts to be excluded is required
8 due to a change in circumstances, in which case:

9 (i) The change in circumstance must be described. If
10 it has become possible to exclude a greater amount of
11 debt and the local government unit wants to do so, the
12 debt statement shall be accompanied by appropriate
13 certifications supporting the revised amount to be
14 excluded and a revised approval shall be obtained from
15 the department.

16 (ii) No debt service payments have been made under a
17 guaranty of debt previously established as self-
18 liquidating. Debt service payments that have been made
19 under a guarantee of the local government unit shall no
20 longer be considered self-liquidating unless and until
21 the local government unit files with the department a new
22 report satisfying the requirements of section 8025
23 (relating to exclusion of self-liquidating debt evidenced
24 by revenue bonds or notes to determine net nonelectoral
25 debt) or 8026 (relating to exclusion of other self-
26 liquidating debt to determine net nonelectoral debt or
27 net lease rental debt), as the case may be.

28 Section 6. Section 8111(a) of Title 53 is amended by adding
29 paragraphs to read:

30 § 8111. Submission to department.

1 (a) General rule.--Before delivering any bonds or notes
2 other than notes representing small borrowings issued under
3 section 8109 (relating to small borrowing for capital purposes),
4 the local government unit shall apply for and receive or be
5 deemed to have received the approval of the department under
6 section 8204 (relating to certificate of approval of transcript)
7 or 8206 (relating to effect of failure of timely action by
8 department). The application, in such form as the department
9 prescribes, shall be accompanied by a transcript of the
10 proceedings consisting of certified copies of any of the
11 following, not previously filed, which are applicable:

12 * * *

13 (8) A written statement with regard to the manner of
14 compliance or intended compliance with the requirements of
15 the act of December 20, 1967 (P.L.869, No.385), known as the
16 Public Works Contractors' Bond Law of 1967.

17 (9) An itemized statement of all estimated disbursements
18 for costs to be made from the proceeds of the borrowing to
19 the extent possible.

20 * * *

21 Section 7. Sections 8203, 8204, 8206 and 8207(a) and (c) of
22 Title 53 are amended to read:

23 § 8203. Fees for filing.

24 [Every] (a) General rule.--Except as provided in subsection
25 (b), every filing with the department shall be accompanied by a
26 filing fee as determined in section 605-A of the act of April 9,
27 1929 (P.L.177, No.175), known as The Administrative Code of
28 1929.

29 (b) Exception.--A preliminary filing under section 8102.1
30 (relating to preliminary filings with department prior to

1 issuance of certain debt) shall be accompanied by a fee of \$50.

2 (c) Payments.--No submission shall constitute a filing until
3 the proper fee is paid. All fees received under this section
4 shall be paid by the department into the State Treasury through
5 the Department of Revenue.

6 § 8204. Certificate of final approval [of transcript].

7 (a) Examination of transcripts and filings.--

8 (1) The department shall, upon receipt of any bond or
9 note transcripts or other filings, carefully examine them to
10 determine whether the debt outstanding and to be outstanding
11 is within the applicable limitations imposed by this subpart
12 and whether the proceedings for incurring the debt, for
13 issuing and selling the bonds or notes and for excluding
14 self-liquidating and subsidized debt have been taken in
15 conformity with the Constitution of Pennsylvania and this
16 subpart.

17 (2) If the debt requires preliminary filings to be made
18 under section 8102.1 (relating to preliminary filings with
19 department prior to issuance of certain debt), the
20 preliminary filings shall become part of the transcript and
21 be a requirement for final approval under this section.

22 (b) Duty to certify.--If, upon completion of its
23 examination, a transcript or other filing is found by the
24 department to be in conformity with the Constitution of
25 Pennsylvania and this subpart, the department shall certify its
26 approval to the local government unit if required under other
27 provisions of this subpart.

28 § 8206. Effect of failure of timely action by department.

29 If the local government unit has submitted [a filing] an
30 application for final approval to the department by certified

1 mail, return receipt requested, or otherwise has an official
2 receipt from the department, and the local government unit has
3 not, within 20 days of the date of receipt of the filing by the
4 department, received the certificate of final approval or
5 disapproval or notification of correctable error, the filing
6 shall be deemed to have been approved for all purposes unless
7 the local government unit has extended the time within which the
8 department may act by written communication to the department or
9 by failure to object to a written communication from the
10 department requesting the extension. Extensions shall not exceed
11 one additional period of 20 days.

12 § 8207. Records of department.

13 (a) Retention period.--

14 (1) The department shall keep all proceedings, including
15 all applications and statements by a local government unit
16 under sections 8102.1 (relating to preliminary filings with
17 department prior to issuance of certain debt), 8111 (relating
18 to submission to department) and 8201 (relating to
19 certification to department of bond or note transcript or
20 lease, guaranty, subsidy contract or other agreement) on file
21 for a period of not less than [four months after issuance of
22 its certificate of approval or disapproval and thereafter as
23 long as any appeal respecting the proceedings is pending and
24 not finally determined.] five years after the debt issuance
25 has been paid off by the local government unit.

26 (2) The department shall also keep copies of all
27 documents filed with the department relating to a qualified
28 interest rate management agreement for as long as the
29 qualified interest rate management agreement is in effect.

30 * * *

1 (c) Records open for inspection.--[The records of the
2 department shall be public records available for examination by
3 any citizen of this Commonwealth or any bondholders or
4 noteholders.] All submissions, determinations and records of the
5 department under this subpart, including those related to
6 qualified interest rate management agreements and including
7 correspondence with the interested parties to any debt
8 proceeding, shall be public records available for examination by
9 any citizen of this Commonwealth, any interested parties or any
10 bondholder or noteholder, including holders of tax anticipation
11 notes, of the local government unit.

12 Section 8. Chapter 82 of Title 53 is amended by adding a
13 subchapter to read:

14 SUBCHAPTER G

15 OTHER PROVISIONS

16 Sec.

17 8291. Duties of participants.

18 § 8291. Duties of participants.

19 (a) Declaration of representation.--

20 (1) As a condition of participation in transactions
21 under Chapter 81 (relating to incurring debt and issuing
22 bonds and notes) and this chapter, each attorney, financial
23 advisor or municipal advisor registered under the Securities
24 Exchange Act of 1934 (48 Stat. 881, 15 U.S.C. § 78a et seq.)
25 who is involved in the transaction shall provide a written
26 declaration to the local government unit as to:

27 (i) Which party is being represented by the attorney
28 or financial advisor.

29 (ii) The source from which the attorney or financial
30 advisor will receive compensation for services related to

1 the transaction.

2 (iii) Whether the compensation is dependent upon the
3 issuance of debt by the local government unit.

4 (2) A full-time employee of the local government unit
5 shall not be required to file a declaration under this
6 subsection.

7 (b) Fiduciary duty of representatives retained by local
8 government units.--

9 (1) An attorney or financial advisor, including an
10 independent financial advisor under section 8281 (relating to
11 qualified interest rate management agreements) who is
12 retained and compensated by a local government to represent
13 the local government unit in a transaction under this
14 subpart, shall stand in a fiduciary relationship to the local
15 government unit.

16 (2) (i) With regard to a financial advisor who
17 represents a local government unit, the term "fiduciary
18 duty" shall mean the duty to perform loyally, in good
19 faith and in a manner the financial advisor reasonably
20 believes to be in the best interests of the local
21 government unit. The financial advisor shall act with
22 such care, including reasonable inquiry, skill and
23 diligence that a person of ordinary prudence would use
24 under similar circumstances, and provide opinion as to
25 possible positive and negative impacts of a transaction.

26 (ii) With regard to attorneys licensed to practice
27 law in this Commonwealth, the fiduciary duty shall be as
28 prescribed by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, including
29 the Pennsylvania Rules of Professional Conduct.

30 (3) An attorney or financial advisor in the course of

1 the representation shall be entitled to rely on reasonable
2 representations and certifications made to the attorney or
3 financial advisor by architects, engineers and other persons
4 retained by and the officers and employees of a local
5 government unit.

6 (4) Pursuant to subsection (f) of Municipal Securities
7 Rulemaking Board Rule G-23 (relating to activities of
8 financial advisors), 17 CFR §§ 240.15Ba1-1 (relating to
9 definitions), 240.15Ba1-2 (relating to registration of
10 municipal advisors and information regarding certain natural
11 persons), 240.15Ba1-3 (relating to exemption of certain
12 natural persons from registration under section 15B(a)(1)(B)
13 of the act), 240.15Ba1-4 (relating to withdrawal from
14 municipal advisor registration), 240.15Ba1-5 (relating to
15 amendments to Form MA and Form MA-I), 240.15Ba1-6 (relating
16 to consent to service of process to be filed by non-resident
17 municipal advisors; legal opinion to be provided by non-
18 resident municipal advisors), 240.15Ba1-7 (relating to
19 registration of successor to municipal advisor) and
20 240.15Ba1-8 (relating to books and records to be made and
21 maintained by municipal advisors), and only as to those
22 representatives retained and compensated directly by the
23 local government unit, the fiduciary duty described in this
24 section shall be in addition to any duty imposed by rules
25 promulgated by the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board that
26 may apply to the attorney or financial advisor.

27 (c) Ultra vires acts.--An officer or member of the governing
28 body of a local government unit or a financial advisor or
29 attorney may not knowingly participate in a violation of this
30 title.

1 (d) Materially false or misleading certifications.--An
2 officer or member of the governing body of a local government
3 unit or an attorney or financial advisor may not knowingly file
4 a materially false or misleading certification or statement with
5 the department under this subpart.

6 (e) Penalties.--

7 (1) An officer or member of the governing body of a
8 local government unit or an attorney or financial advisor who
9 aids or participates in the commission of an act prohibited
10 in subsection (c) or (d) commits a misdemeanor of the second
11 degree and shall, upon conviction, be sentenced to pay a fine
12 of not more than \$5,000 or to imprisonment for not more than
13 two years, or both.

14 (2) Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a local government
15 unit may seek civil judicial redress for a violation of this
16 section that results in damages to the local government unit
17 not caused by the local government unit or its agents. A
18 local government unit shall prohibit or restrict the future
19 participation in transactions under this subpart of an
20 individual attorney or financial advisor who violates this
21 section and may also prohibit or restrict participation of a
22 firm that employs the attorney or financial advisor for a
23 period not to exceed two years.

24 Section 9. All acts and parts of acts are repealed insofar
25 as they are inconsistent with the amendment or addition of 53
26 Pa.C.S. §§ 8002(b) and (c), 8005(c) and (d), 8007, 8026(a)(5),
27 8102.1, 8111(a), 8204, 8206, 8207(a) and (c) and 8291.

28 Section 10. This act shall take effect in 60 days.