
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 479 Session of
2021

INTRODUCED BY HUTCHINSON, J. WARD, DUSH, SCHWANK AND KEARNEY,
MARCH 31, 2021

REFERRED TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT, MARCH 31, 2021

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246, No.47), entitled "An
2 act empowering the Department of Community and Economic
3 Development to assist municipalities in avoiding financial
4 distress; declare certain municipalities as financially
5 distressed; providing for the restructuring of debt of
6 financially distressed municipalities; limiting the ability
7 of financially distressed municipalities to obtain government
8 funding; authorizing municipalities to participate in Federal
9 debt adjustment actions and bankruptcy actions under certain
10 circumstances; authorizing certain taxes; and providing for
11 the disincorporation of municipalities and the establishment
12 of unincorporated service districts," in municipal financial
13 distress, further providing for designation and for
14 performance of coordinator; and, in receivership in
15 municipalities, further providing for receiver.

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

18 Section 1. Section 221 of the act of July 10, 1987 (P.L.246,
19 No.47), known as the Municipalities Financial Recovery Act, is
20 amended by adding subsections to read:

21 Section 221. Designation.

22 * * *

23 (f) Prohibitions.--The coordinator may not:

24 (1) Engage in any conduct prohibited by the act of July

1 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known as the State Adverse
2 Interest Act, or 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating to ethics
3 standards and financial disclosure).

4 (2) Receive any compensation, fee or commission:

5 (i) From the distressed municipality unless
6 specifically authorized by the coordinator's contract.

7 (ii) In accordance with any sale or lease of
8 property or other financial transaction involving the
9 distressed municipality or an authority directly or
10 indirectly controlled by the distressed municipality.

11 (g) Prior appointment.--A person who has previously
12 contracted with the department or the distressed municipality as
13 a coordinator, receiver, financial consultant, legal counsel or
14 through a contract under the Early Intervention Program under
15 Chapter 1-A may not be deemed ineligible to be appointed as a
16 coordinator under this section solely on the basis of that
17 contract.

18 Section 2. Section 224.1(b) of the act is amended to read:
19 Section 224.1. Performance of coordinator.

20 * * *

21 (b) Termination of coordinator.--An unfavorable review under
22 this section or a violation of section 221(f) may constitute
23 grounds for termination of the coordinator's contract.

24 Section 3. Section 705(f) of the act is amended and the
25 section is amended by adding a subsection to read:

26 Section 705. Receiver.

27 * * *

28 (f) Prohibitions.--The receiver [shall] may not:

29 (1) Seek or hold a position as any other elected or
30 appointed public official within this Commonwealth or as a

1 political party officer during the term of the receivership.

2 (2) Seek election as a public official or political
3 party officer for one year after the person's service as
4 receiver has ended.

5 (3) Engage in any conduct prohibited by the act of July
6 19, 1957 (P.L.1017, No.451), known as the State Adverse
7 Interest Act, or 65 Pa.C.S. Ch. 11 (relating to ethics
8 standards and financial disclosure).

9 (4) Receive any compensation, fee or commission:

10 (i) From the distressed municipality unless
11 specifically authorized by the receiver's contract.

12 (ii) In accordance with any sale or lease of
13 property or other financial transaction involving the
14 distressed municipality or an authority directly or
15 indirectly controlled by the distressed municipality.

16 * * *

17 (h) Prior appointment.--A person who has previously
18 contracted with the department or the distressed municipality as
19 a coordinator, receiver, financial consultant, legal counsel or
20 through a contract under the Early Intervention Program under
21 Chapter 1-A may not be deemed ineligible to be appointed as a
22 receiver under this section solely on the basis of that
23 contract.

24 Section 4. This act shall take effect in 60 days.