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I N S E N A T E

May 2, 2014

Introduced by Sen. GOLDEN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Local Government

AN ACT to amend the local finance law, in relation to the sale of bonds and notes of the city of New York, the refunding of bonds, the down payment for projects financed by bonds, variable rate debt, and interest rate exchange agreements of the city of New York; to amend the New York state financial emergency act, for the city of New York, in relation to a pledge and agreement of the state; and to amend chapter 142 of the laws of 2004, amending the local finance law relating to interest rate exchange agreements of the city of New York and refunding bonds of such city, in relation to the effectiveness thereof

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, REPRESENTED IN SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

1 Section 1. The opening paragraph of paragraph (a) of section 54.10 of
2 the local finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013, is
3 amended to read as follows:
4 To facilitate the marketing of any issue of bonds or notes of the city
5 of New York issued on or before June thirtieth, two thousand [fourteen]
6 FIFTEEN, the mayor and comptroller of such city may, subject to the
7 approval of the state comptroller and the limitations on private sales
8 of bonds and notes, respectively, provided by law:
9 S 2. The opening paragraph of paragraph a of section 57.00 of the
10 local finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013, is
11 amended to read as follows:
12 Bonds shall be sold only at public sale and in accordance with the
13 procedure set forth in this section and sections 58.00 and 59.00 of this
14 title, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph. Bonds may be sold
15 at private sale to the United States government or any agency or instru-
16 mentality thereof, the state of New York municipal bond bank agency, to
17 any sinking fund or pension fund of the municipality, school district or
18 district corporation selling such bonds, or, in the case of sales by the
19 city of New York prior to July first, two thousand [fourteen] FIFTEEN,
20 also to the municipal assistance corporation for the city of New York or
21 to any other purchaser with the consent of the mayor and the comptroller

EXPLANATION--Matter in *ITALICS* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets
[] is old law to be omitted.

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1 of such city and approval of the state comptroller, or, in the case of
2 sales by the county of Nassau prior to December thirty-first, two thou-
3 sand seven, also to the Nassau county interim finance authority with the
4 approval of the state comptroller, or, in the case of sales by the city
5 of Buffalo prior to June thirtieth, two thousand thirty-seven, also to
6 the Buffalo fiscal stability authority with the approval of the state
7 comptroller, or, in the case of bonds or other obligations of a munici-
8 pality issued for the construction of any sewage treatment works, sewage
9 collecting system, storm water collecting system, water management
10 facility, air pollution control facility or solid waste disposal facili-
11 ty, also to the New York state environmental facilities corporation, or,
12 in the case of bonds or other obligations of a school district or a city
13 acting on behalf of a city school district in a city having a population
14 in excess of one hundred twenty-five thousand but less than one million
15 inhabitants according to the latest federal census, issued to finance or
16 refinance the cost of school district capital facilities or school
17 district capital equipment, as defined in section sixteen hundred seven-
18 ty-six of the public authorities law, also to the dormitory authority of
19 the state of New York. Bonds of a river improvement or drainage district
20 established by or under the supervision of the department of environ-
21 mental conservation may be sold at private sale to the state of New York
22 as investments for any funds of the state which by law may be invested,
23 provided, however, that the rate of interest on any such bonds so sold
24 shall be approved by the water power and control commission and the
25 state comptroller. Bonds may also be sold at private sale as provided in
26 section 63.00 of this title. No bonds shall be sold on option or on a
27 deferred payment plan, except that options to purchase, effective for a
28 period not exceeding one year, may be given:

29 S 3. Subdivision 3 of paragraph g of section 90.00 of the local
30 finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013, is amended to
31 read as follows:

32 3. Outstanding bonds may, pursuant to a power to recall and redeem or
33 with the consent of the holders thereof, be exchanged for refunding
34 bonds (i) if the refunding bonds are to bear interest at a rate equal to
35 or lower than that borne by the bonds to be refunded or (ii) if, in the
36 case of the city of New York prior to July first, two thousand [four-
37 teen] FIFTEEN, the annual payment required for principal and interest on
38 the refunding bond is less than the annual payment required for princi-
39 pal and interest on the bond to be refunded, in each case such annual
40 payments to be determined by dividing the total principal and interest
41 payments due over the remaining life of the bond by the number of years
42 to maturity of the bond or (iii) if the bonds to be refunded were issued
43 by the city of New York after June thirtieth, nineteen hundred seventy-
44 eight and prior to July first, two thousand [fourteen] FIFTEEN and
45 contain covenants referring to the existence of the New York state
46 financial control board for the city of New York or any other covenants
47 relating to matters other than the prompt payment of principal and
48 interest on the obligations when due and the refunding bond omits or
49 modifies any such covenant.

50 S 4. Subdivision 8 of paragraph d of section 107.00 of the local
51 finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013, is amended to
52 read as follows:

53 8. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the financing by the
54 city of New York prior to July first, two thousand [fourteen] FIFTEEN of
55 any object or purpose which has a period of probable usefulness deter-
56 mined by law by the issuance of any bonds or notes, including (i) the

1 issuance of bonds or notes to obtain reimbursement for funds heretofore
2 advanced for the object or purpose for which the bonds or notes are
3 being issued, (ii) the issuance of bonds or notes to redeem notes previ-
4 ously issued for the object or purpose for which the bonds or notes are
5 being issued or (iii) the issuance of bonds to refund bonds previously
6 issued for the object or purpose for which bonds are being issued.

7 S 5. The closing paragraph of paragraph a of section 54.90 of the
8 local finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 Notwithstanding the foregoing, whenever in the judgment of the finance
11 board of the city of New York the interest of such city would be served
12 thereby, the city of New York may without further approval issue bonds
13 or notes, on or before July fifteenth, two thousand [fourteen] FIFTEEN,
14 with interest rates that vary in accordance with a formula or procedure
15 and are subject to a maximum rate of interest set forth or referred to
16 in the bonds or notes and may provide the holders thereof with such
17 rights to require the city or other persons to purchase such bonds or
18 notes or renewals thereof from the proceeds of the resale thereof or
19 otherwise from time to time prior to the final maturity of such bonds or
20 notes as the finance board of the city of New York may determine and the
21 city may resell, at any time prior to final maturity, any such bonds or
22 notes acquired as a result of the exercise of such rights; provided,
23 however, that at no time shall the total principal amount of bonds and
24 notes issued by the city of New York pursuant to this paragraph (other
25 than bonds and notes (1) bearing interest at rates and for periods of
26 time that are specified without reference to future events or contingen-
27 cies, or (2) described in section 136.00 of this article) exceed twenty-
28 five percent of the limit prescribed by section 104.00 of this arti-
29 cle.

30 S 6. The opening paragraph of subdivision 1 of paragraph d of section
31 54.90 of the local finance law, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of
32 2013, is amended to read as follows:

33 On or before July fifteenth, two thousand [fourteen] FIFTEEN the mayor
34 and comptroller of the city of New York may:

35 S 7. Subdivision 1 of section 10-a of section 2 of chapter 868 of the
36 laws of 1975, constituting the New York state financial emergency act
37 for the city of New York, as amended by chapter 79 of the laws of 2013,
38 is amended to read as follows:

39 1. In the event that after the date on which the provisions of this
40 act become operative, any notes or bonds are issued by the city prior to
41 July 1, [2014] 2015, or any bonds are issued by a state financing agen-
42 cy, the state of New York hereby authorizes the city and authorizes and
43 requires such state financing agency to include a pledge and agreement
44 of the state of New York in any agreement made by the city or such state
45 financing agency with holders or guarantors of such notes or bonds that
46 the state will not take any action which will (a) substantially impair
47 the authority of the board during a control period, as defined in subdivi-
48 sion twelve of section two of this act as in effect on the date such
49 notes or bonds are issued (i) to approve, disapprove, or modify any
50 financial plan or financial plan modification, including the revenue
51 projections (or any item thereof) contained therein, subject to the
52 standards set forth in paragraphs a, c, d, e and f of subdivision one of
53 section eight of this act as in effect on the date such notes or bonds
54 are issued and paragraph b of such subdivision as in effect from time to
55 time, (ii) to disapprove a contract of the city or a covered organiza-
56 tion if the performance of such contract would be inconsistent with the

1 financial plan or to approve or disapprove proposed short-term or long-
2 term borrowing of the city or a covered organization or any agreement or
3 other arrangement referred to in subdivision four of section seven of
4 this act, or (iii) to establish and adopt procedures with respect to the
5 deposit in and disbursement from the board fund of city revenues; (b)
6 substantially impair the authority of the board to review financial
7 plans, financial plan modifications, contracts of the city or the
8 covered organizations and proposed short-term or long-term borrowings of
9 the city and the covered organizations; (c) substantially impair the
10 independent maintenance of a separate fund for the payment of debt
11 service on bonds and notes of the city; (d) alter the composition of the
12 board so that the majority of the voting members of the board are not
13 officials of the state of New York elected in a state-wide election or
14 appointees of the governor; (e) terminate the existence of the board
15 prior to the time to be determined in accordance with section thirteen
16 of this act as in effect on the date such notes or bonds are issued; (f)
17 substantially modify the requirement that the city's financial state-
18 ments be audited by a nationally recognized independent certified public
19 accounting firm or consortium of firms and that a report on such audit
20 be furnished to the board; or (g) alter the definition of a control
21 period set forth in subdivision twelve of section two of this act, as in
22 effect on the date such notes or bonds are issued, or substantially
23 alter the authority of the board, as set forth in said subdivision to
24 reimpose or terminate a control period; provided, however, that the
25 foregoing pledge and agreement shall be of no further force and effect
26 if at any time (i) there is on deposit in a separate trust account with
27 a bank, trust company or other fiduciary sufficient moneys or direct
28 obligations of the United States or obligations guaranteed by the United
29 States, the principal of and/or interest on which will provide moneys to
30 pay punctually when due at maturity or prior to maturity by redemption,
31 in accordance with their terms, all principal of and interest on all
32 outstanding notes and bonds of the city or such state financing agency
33 containing this pledge and agreement and irrevocable instructions from
34 the city or such state financing agency to such bank, trust company or
35 other fiduciary for such payment of such principal and interest with
36 such moneys shall have been given, or (ii) such notes and bonds, togeth-
37 er with interest thereon, have been paid in full at maturity or have
38 otherwise been refunded, redeemed, defeased, or discharged; and provided
39 further that the foregoing pledge and agreement shall be of full force
40 and effect upon its inclusion in any agreement made by the city or state
41 financing agency with holders or guarantors of such notes or bonds.

42 Upon payment for such obligations issued pursuant to this act by the
43 original and all subsequent holders inclusion of the foregoing covenant
44 shall be deemed conclusive evidence of valuable consideration received
45 by the state and city for such covenant and of reliance upon such pledge
46 and agreement by any such holder. The state hereby grants any such bene-
47 fited holder the right to sue the state in a court of competent juris-
48 diction and enforce this covenant and agreement and waives all rights of
49 defense based on sovereign immunity in such an action or suit.

50 S. 8. Section 5 of chapter 142 of the laws of 2004, amending the local
51 finance law relating to interest rate exchange agreements of the city of
52 New York and refunding bonds of such city, as amended by chapter 79 of
53 the laws of 2013, is amended to read as follows:

54 S. 5. This act shall take effect immediately, provided, that section
55 three of this act shall expire and be deemed repealed July 15, [2014]
56 2015.

1 S 9. Separability. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part
2 of this act shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to
3 be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the
4 remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause,
5 sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the
6 controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered.
7 S 10. This act shall take effect immediately.