

STATE OF NEW YORK

6935

2017-2018 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

March 24, 2017

Introduced by M. of A. OAKS, MONTESANO, LALOR, MALLIOTAKIS, CASTORINA, FRIEND, GIGLIO, LUPINACCI, RA, WALSH, WALTER -- Multi-Sponsored by -- M. of A. BARCLAY, BLANKENBUSH, CROUCH, FINCH, GOODELL, HAWLEY, KOLB, LOPEZ, McDONOUGH, McLAUGHLIN, RAIA -- read once and referred to the Committee on Election Law

AN ACT to amend the election law and the state finance law, in relation to requiring a proposition authorizing the creation of a state debt to contain an estimate of the debt service payable thereon, and to amend the state finance law, in relation to requiring publication of an explanation of the proposition authorizing the creation of state debt, deposits to the tax stabilization reserve fund, and using surplus moneys to reduce outstanding state funded debt

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The election law is amended by adding a new section 7-112 to read as follows:

§ 7-112. Ballots; form for proposition; additional requirements. Each duly certified proposition contained on the ballot and submitted to the voters of the state which provides for the creation of a state debt shall contain an estimate of the anticipated number of years over which such debt shall be amortized and the total expected debt service payable on the principal amount of such bonds until their retirement. Such information shall be printed in the largest type which is practicable to use in the space provided for the proposition. Such information shall be provided to the state board of elections and the secretary of state by the state comptroller not later than seven days after the passage of the law authorizing such proposition.

§ 2. Subdivision 2 of section 4-116 of the election law, as amended by chapter 60 of the laws of 1993, is amended to read as follows:

2. The state board of elections shall publish once in the week preceding any election at which proposed constitutional amendments or other

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

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1 propositions or questions are to be submitted to the voters of the state
2 an abstract of such amendment or question, including the estimate of the
3 amortization period and the total anticipated debt service payable on
4 the principal where the proposition authorizes the creation of a state
5 debt, a brief statement of the law or proceedings authorizing such
6 submission, a statement that such submission will be made and the form
7 in which it is to be submitted.

8 § 3. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 6 to
9 read as follows:

10 § 6. State publication concerning proposition. Any report, publica-
11 tion, pamphlet or other written document prepared by a state department,
12 agency, authority or other component or division of state government,
13 intended for distribution to the public, which is intended to promote
14 awareness of or explain the provisions contained in, or incidental to, a
15 duly certified proposition to be contained on the ballot and to be
16 submitted to the voters of the state which proposition provides for the
17 creation of a state debt shall contain therein an estimate of the antic-
18 ipated number of years over which such debt shall be amortized and the
19 total expected debt service payable on the principal amount of such
20 bonds until their retirement. Such information shall be printed in the
21 largest type which is practicable to use in such document.

22 § 4. Subdivisions 3 and 4 of section 92 of the state finance law, as
23 separately amended by chapters 405 and 957 of the laws of 1981, are
24 amended to read as follows:

25 3. At the close of each fiscal year any cash surplus remaining in the
26 general fund over and above the norm for such fiscal year shall be
27 transferred from or retained in such fund as hereinafter in this subdivi-
28 sion provided. There shall be transferred to the tax stabilization
29 reserve fund all of such surplus moneys, up to and including an amount
30 equivalent to [~~two-tenths~~] one-half of one per centum of such norm,
31 unless such transfer would increase such reserve fund to an amount in
32 excess of [~~two~~] five per centum of the amount of the norm for such
33 fiscal year, in which event such transfer shall be limited to such
34 amount as will increase such reserve fund to such [~~two~~] five per centum
35 limitation. Any balance of such surplus moneys, thereafter remaining in
36 the general fund, shall be retained in such fund and be available for
37 the reduction of state taxes.

38 4. In the event that at the close of any fiscal year the receipts
39 derived from the taxes, fees and other sources, required to be paid
40 during such fiscal year into the general fund of the state shall fall
41 below the norm for such fiscal year, there shall be transferred from the
42 tax stabilization reserve fund to the general fund to the extent that
43 there are sufficient moneys in the tax stabilization reserve fund, an
44 amount equal to the difference between the norm and the amount of such
45 receipts. If such transfer reduces the tax stabilization reserve fund to
46 an amount less than [~~two~~] five per centum of the norm for such fiscal
47 year, the amount so transferred shall be repaid in cash prior to the
48 computation and payment of any transfer to the fund pursuant to subdivi-
49 sion three of this section in not less than three equal annual install-
50 ments within the period of six years or less next succeeding the date of
51 such transfer; provided, however, that if any such annual installment
52 shall increase such reserve fund to an amount in excess of [~~two~~] five
53 per centum of the amount of the norm for the then current fiscal year,
54 such installment shall be limited to such amount as will increase such
55 reserve fund to such [~~two~~] five per centum limitation and no further
56 repayment of the whole or any part of such transfer shall be required in

1 any subsequent fiscal year. Repayments to the tax stabilization reserve
2 fund shall be stipulated in annual budget bills.

3 § 5. The state finance law is amended by adding a new section 65-a to
4 read as follows:

5 § 65-a. Use of surplus moneys to reduce outstanding state funded debt.
6 At the close of each fiscal year, at least ten percent of any cash
7 surplus remaining in the general fund after the transfer pursuant to
8 section ninety-two of this chapter shall be transferred to the debt
9 reduction reserve fund established by section ninety-seven-rrr of this
10 chapter.

11 § 6. Section 97-rrr of the state finance law, as amended by section 45
12 of part H of chapter 56 of the laws of 2000, is amended to read as
13 follows:

14 § 97-rrr. Debt reduction reserve fund. 1. There is hereby established
15 in the joint custody of the comptroller and the commissioner of taxation
16 and finance a fund to be known as the debt reduction reserve fund. [~~Such~~
17 ~~fund shall be established as a capital projects fund.~~]

18 2. Such fund shall consist of all monies credited or transferred ther-
19 eto from the general fund or from any other fund or sources pursuant to
20 law.

21 3. The monies in such fund, following appropriation by the legislature
22 and allocation by the director of the budget, shall be available [~~for~~
23 ~~the following purposes:~~

24 ~~(a) for the payment of principal, interest, and related expenses on~~
25 ~~general obligation bonds, lease purchase payments, or special contractu-~~
26 ~~al obligation payments, or] only for the [purposes] purpose of retiring~~
27 ~~or defeasing bonds or notes~~ previously issued, including any accrued
28 interest thereon, for any [~~state-supported bonding program or programs,~~
29 ~~and;~~

30 ~~(b) for the funding of capital projects, equipment acquisitions, or~~
31 ~~similar expenses which have been authorized by law to be financed~~
32 ~~through the issuance of bonds, notes, or other obligations] state funded~~
33 debt.

34 § 7. This act shall take effect immediately; provided, however that
35 provisions of section four of this act shall take effect three years
36 after it shall have become a law.