

Act No. 407
Public Acts of 2002
Approved by the Governor
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**STATE OF MICHIGAN
91ST LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2002**

Introduced by Senators DeBeaussaert

ENROLLED SENATE BILL No. 977

AN ACT to amend 1957 PA 185, entitled "An act to authorize the establishing of a department and board of public works in counties; to prescribe the powers and duties of any municipality subject to the provisions of this act; to authorize the incurring of contract obligations and the issuance and payment of bonds or notes; to provide for a pledge by a municipality of its full faith and credit and the levy of taxes without limitation as to rate or amount to the extent necessary; to validate obligations issued; and to prescribe a procedure for special assessments and condemnation," by amending sections 11, 12, and 25 (MCL 123.741, 123.742, and 123.755).

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Sec. 11. (1) The acquirement of a water supply, sewage disposal or refuse system, or the making of lake improvements or erosion control systems, or the improvement, enlargement, or extension of any of these may be financed by 1 or more of the following methods:

(a) By the issuance of revenue bonds under the revenue bond act of 1933, 1933 PA 94, MCL 141.101 to 141.140, or any other applicable act.

(b) By the issuance of bonds in anticipation of payments to become due under contracts where 1 or more municipalities agree to pay to the county operating under this act certain sums toward the cost of the acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension of a project that may be made under this act.

(c) By the issuance of bonds in anticipation of the payment of special assessments made by the board of public works.

(d) By money advanced by a county operating under this act under agreements with a municipality or municipalities for the repayment of the money.

(e) By money advanced, from time to time, before or during construction of a project by a public corporation, in which event the county operating under this act shall reimburse the corporation, with interest not to exceed 8% per annum or without interest as may be agreed, when funds are available for that purpose. The obligation of the county to make the reimbursement may be evidenced by a contract or note, the contract or note may be made payable out of the payments to be made by municipalities, under contracts as described in section 12 or 15, or out of the proceeds of bonds issued under this act by the county or out of any other available funds. The contract or note is not subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(2) Bonds issued under this act shall be authorized by an ordinance or a resolution approved by the board of public works and adopted by the county board of commissioners of the county operating under this act. The county board of commissioners is authorized by a 3/5 vote of its members elect, to pledge the full faith and credit of the county for the prompt payment of the principal of and interest on any bonds issued pursuant to this act. The county's full faith and credit may be pledged to the payment of principal and interest on revenue bonds issued under subsection (1)(a). If it becomes necessary for the county operating under this act to advance any money, other than its share of the cost of the

project, for the payment of principal and interest, then it shall be entitled to reimbursement from any surplus from time to time existing in the fund from which the principal and interest are primarily payable. If the faith and credit of the county is pledged for the payment of principal of and interest on any bonds issued under this act, the county may, in the case of insufficiency of funds primarily pledged for the payment, pay the funds from its general fund or levy taxes without limitation as to rate or amount in addition to any other taxes that the county is authorized to levy but not in excess of the rate or amount necessary to make up the deficiency. The bonds shall be issued in the name of the county and shall be executed by the chairperson of the county board of commissioners and its county clerk, who shall also cause their facsimile signatures to be affixed to the interest coupons to be attached to the bonds. The county clerk shall also affix to the bonds the seal of the county. Bonds issued under this act are negotiable instruments and shall be serial bonds payable annually, with the first maturity due not more than 5 years and the last maturity not more than 40 years from the date of issue. This subsection shall apply to special assessment bonds as well as other bonds. Annual maturity payable after 5 years from the date of the bonds shall not be less than 1/4 of the amount of any subsequent maturity on the same series of bonds. The bonds shall bear interest at not more than the maximum rate permitted by the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821, payable semiannually except that the first coupon may be for any number of months not exceeding 10. The bonds and coupons shall be made payable in lawful money of the United States of America and shall be exempt from all taxation by this state or by any taxing authority within this state. The county board of commissioners may authorize the board of public works to sell the bonds in accordance with the laws of this state.

Sec. 12. (1) A county operating under this act and any 1 or more municipalities including the county itself may enter into a contract or contracts for the acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension of a water supply, a sewage disposal, or a refuse system, or the making of lake improvements or erosion control systems and for the payment of the costs by the contracting municipalities, with interest, over a period not exceeding 40 years.

(2) In the contract, each contracting municipality may pledge its full faith and credit for the payment of its obligations under the contract. If the municipality has taxing power, it may each year levy a tax in an amount that will be sufficient for the prompt payment of all or part of the contract obligations due before the following year's tax collection. If the contract or an unlimited tax pledge in support of the contract has been approved by the electors, the tax may be in addition to any tax that the municipality may otherwise be authorized to levy and may be imposed without limitation as to rate or amount but shall not be in excess of the rate or amount necessary to pay the contract obligation. The contract is not subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821. For the payment of contractual obligations incurred under this act, a township shall levy a tax only on the taxable property in the unincorporated areas of the township unless the township and a village have agreed that a part of the capacity in the county system allocated to the township by contract pursuant to this act will be used to serve areas in a village located wholly or partly within the township and the village has not itself agreed to purchase the capacity in the county system. If a contracting municipality at the time of its annual tax levy has on hand in cash any amount pledged to the payment of the current obligations for which the tax levy is to be made, then the annual tax levy may be reduced by that amount. For the purpose of obtaining the credit, funds may be raised by a municipality by using 1 or more of the following methods:

(a) By service charges to users of the system or lake improvements.

(b) By special assessment upon lands benefited.

(c) By the exaction of charges for the connection of properties, directly or indirectly, to the system or for the availability of the system to serve properties, directly or indirectly, or at a present or future time.

(d) By setting aside any state collected funds disbursed to the municipality and usable therefor.

(e) By setting aside any other available money.

(3) For the purpose of obtaining the credit, municipalities contracting for the acquisition, improvement, enlargement, or extension of an erosion control system shall levy special assessments upon all lands benefited to cover not less than 3/4 of the total project cost contracted for by the local unit. A municipality may agree to raise all or any part of its contract obligation by any of the methods provided in this section that are available. The powers in this act granted to any municipality shall be exercised by its governing body. A contract entered into before May 12, 1959, which complies with this act, is validated.

Sec. 25. (1) The board of public works may provide that the assessments made on any roll shall be payable in 1 or more annual installments, not exceeding 30. The board may vary the principal amount of each installment but an installment shall not be less than 1/4 of the amount of a subsequent installment. Annual installments need not be extended upon the special assessment roll until after confirmation.

(2) All unpaid installments shall bear interest from the date fixed by the board of public works, payable annually, at a rate to be set by the board at the time the special assessment is established, which shall not exceed any of the following:

(a) If bonds are not issued, 8% per annum.

(b) If bonds are issued, the maximum rate permitted to be charged under the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

(3) Installments of special assessments shall be spread as provided in this act, 1 each year, upon the tax rolls upon which county taxes are spread. The board of public works shall specify the first year of this spread, which shall not be later than the year following that in which the roll was confirmed. The board may provide the times and conditions upon which installments of special assessments may be paid in advance of their due dates.

(4) Bonds issued under this section are subject to the revised municipal finance act, 2001 PA 34, MCL 141.2101 to 141.2821.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

Carol Morey Viventi

Secretary of the Senate.

Jay E. Randall

Clerk of the House of Representatives.

Approved

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Governor.