

4. Adopt rules and regulations and enforce compliance with such orders and with provisions of State law, charters, ordinances, and resolutions with respect to indebtedness, including the levy and collection of taxes for debt purposes, and the segregation, safekeeping, investment, and application of money for the payment of debt.¹⁵

Local units are advised with respect to the comparative advantage of revenue and general obligation bonds, factors affecting debt service costs, and techniques and procedures in marketing of bonds.

The commission collects data relative to interest rates, maturities, number of bids, and bond ratings on each bond issue. This information is not currently available for distribution.¹⁶

New Jersey.—The division of local government in the department of the treasury has general regulatory control over the fiscal affairs, including borrowing, of local governments in New Jersey. The duties of the division include:

1. Receiving and filing copies of annual audits of all municipalities and counties;
2. Receiving, filing, and certifying all local budgets;
3. Receiving, filing, and certifying all annual and supplemental debt statements;
4. Preparing an annual report of comparative financial statistics of local government units.¹⁷

The division and the local government board, a semiautonomous agency within the division, undertake studies in the field of municipal finance; publish reports, guides, and statistical data on local government finances; hold hearings on the extension of credit for school districts and municipalities; and give formal financial advice on written request from local units.

The primary activity of the division with respect to the marketing of municipal bond issues is the promulgation of rules and regulations for use by registered municipal accountants licensed by the State board of public accountants. Such accountants are employed by local units to prepare annual reports and to serve as financial advisers. They assist in the preparation of brochures prepared in connection with the sale of bonds and in the establishment of sound debt service retirement schedules.

Small municipalities in New Jersey have had little difficulty marketing bond issues. Usually such units receive bids from several bidders, and interest rates received generally compare favorably with those received by other jurisdictions.¹⁸

North Carolina.—The North Carolina Local Government Commission has two major responsibilities with respect to marketing municipal bond issues. First, the commission must approve all municipal bond issues and notes before issuance, and, second, it is responsible, by law, for marketing all municipal securities.

¹⁵ See Municipal Finance Commission, *Municipal Finance Acts and Rules and Regulations* (Lansing, Mich., no date), ch. II.

¹⁶ Letter from E. Boomie Mikrut, director of Michigan Municipal Finance Commission, Mar. 29, 1966. In addition to the services provided by the Michigan Finance Commission, the Michigan Municipal League offers to all municipalities in the State a financial consulting service on a fee basis. The service includes a complete advisory program with respect to marketing bond issues.

¹⁷ George C. Skillman, division of local government, "New Jersey Municipalities," vol. XLI, No. 7 (October 1964), p. 11. Mr. Skillman was director of the division of local government.

¹⁸ Letter from W. G. Coward, acting director, division of local government, Apr. 5, 1966.