

## CHAPTER 93

AN ACT concerning environmental infrastructure projects, amending and supplementing P.L.1985, c.334, and amending P.L.1997, c.224.

**BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.58:11B-9.5 "Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Fund."

1. a. The trust shall create and establish a special fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Fund") for the disaster relief emergency short-term or temporary loan program of the trust (hereinafter referred to as the "Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program").

The Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Fund shall be credited with:

(1) moneys deposited in the fund as administrative fees received by the trust pursuant to subsection o. of section 5 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-5);

(2) moneys received by the trust as repayment of the principal of and the interest or premium on loans made from the fund;

(3) any interest earnings received on the moneys in the fund;

(4) such other moneys as the Legislature may appropriate to the trust for deposit into the fund at any time to finance or refinance emergency short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program;

(5) the proceeds of any bonds, notes or other obligations that may be issued by the trust from time to time in any principal amounts as in the judgment of the trust shall be necessary or appropriate to provide sufficient funds for deposit into the fund to finance or refinance emergency short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program; and

(6) any other source of available funds that may be deemed by the trust to be necessary or appropriate to provide sufficient funds for deposit into the fund to finance or refinance emergency short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program, including, without limitation, any funds drawn by the trust from a revolving line of credit or other similar financial vehicle, that may be procured by the trust pursuant to the provisions of section 5 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-5), for deposit into the fund to finance or refinance emergency short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program.

b. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) to the contrary, the trust may make emergency short-term or temporary Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program loans to: (1) local government units to finance or refinance the costs incurred in the environmental planning and design associated with such wastewater treatment system projects, and wastewater treatment system projects, as applicable; or (2) local government units, public water utilities, or private persons to finance or refinance the costs incurred in the environmental planning and design of water supply projects, and water supply projects, as applicable.

Emergency short-term or temporary loans may be made upon the determination and certification in writing by the department that any such project is necessary and appropriate to: repair damages to a wastewater treatment system or water supply facility directly arising from an act of terrorism, seismic activity, or weather conditions that occurred within the prior three fiscal years that gave rise to a declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency, provided the wastewater treatment system or water supply facility is located in a county included in the Governor's state of emergency declaration; or mitigate the risk of future damage to a wastewater treatment system or water supply facility from an act of

terrorism, seismic activity, or weather conditions comparable in scope and severity to the act of terrorism, seismic activity, or weather conditions that occurred within the prior three fiscal years that gave rise to a declaration by the Governor of a state of emergency, provided the wastewater treatment system or water supply facility is located in a county included in the Governor's state of emergency declaration, without regard to any other provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 or P.L.1997, c.224, including, without limitation, the provisions of section 20 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-20), section 24 of P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-20.1), the Interim Financing Program Eligibility List pursuant to subsection d. of section 9 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-9), or any administrative or legislative approvals. Any such short-term or temporary loan pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program shall mature no later than the last day of the third succeeding fiscal year following the closing date on which the short-term or temporary loan was made by the trust to the project sponsor.

c. The trust may make short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program to one or more of the project sponsors, for the respective projects thereof, identified on the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program project priority list (hereinafter referred to as the "Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Eligibility List") in the form provided to the Legislature by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection. The Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Eligibility List shall be submitted to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L.1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1) at least once in each fiscal year. An environmental infrastructure project or a project sponsor thereof not identified on the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Eligibility List submitted to the Legislature shall not be eligible for a short-term or temporary loan from the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program Fund.

2. Section 6 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-6) is amended to read as follows:

C.58:11B-6 Issuance of bonds, notes, other obligations.

6. a. Except as may be otherwise expressly provided in the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.), the trust may from time to time issue its bonds, notes or other obligations in any principal amounts as in the judgment of the trust shall be necessary to provide sufficient funds for any of its corporate purposes, including the payment, funding or refunding of the principal of, or interest or redemption premiums on, any bonds, notes or other obligations issued by it, whether the bonds, notes or other obligations or the interest or redemption premiums thereon to be funded or refunded have or have not become due, the establishment or increase of reserves or other funds to secure or to pay the bonds, notes or other obligations or interest thereon and all other costs or expenses of the trust incident to and necessary to carry out its corporate purposes and powers.

b. Whether or not the bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust are of a form and character as to be negotiable instruments under the terms of Title 12A of the New Jersey Statutes, the bonds, notes and other obligations are made negotiable instruments within the meaning of and for the purposes of Title 12A of the New Jersey Statutes, subject only to the provisions of the bonds, notes and other obligations for registration.

c. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust shall be authorized by a resolution or resolutions of the trust and may be issued in one or more series and shall bear any date or dates, mature at any time or times, bear interest at any rate or rates of interest per annum, be in any denomination or denominations, be in any form, either coupon, registered or book entry, carry any conversion or registration privileges, have any rank or priority, be executed

in any manner, be payable in any coin or currency of the United States which at the time of payment is legal tender for the payment of public and private debts, at any place or places within or without the State, and be subject to any terms of redemption by the trust or the holders thereof, with or without premium, as the resolution or resolutions may provide. A resolution of the trust authorizing the issuance of bonds, notes or other obligations may provide that the bonds, notes or other obligations be secured by a trust indenture between the trust and a trustee, vesting in the trustee any property, rights, powers and duties in trust consistent with the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) as the trust may determine.

d. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust may be sold at any price or prices and in any manner as the trust may determine. Each bond, note or other obligation shall mature and be paid not later than 20 years from the effective date thereof, or the certified useful life of the project or projects to be financed by the bonds, whichever is less.

All bonds of the trust shall be sold at such price or prices and in such manner as the trust shall determine, after notice of sale, a summary of which shall be published at least once in at least three newspapers published in the State of New Jersey and at least once in a publication carrying municipal bond notices and devoted primarily to financial news published in New Jersey or the city of New York, the first summary notice to be at least five days prior to the day of bidding. The notice of sale may contain a provision to the effect that any or all bids made in pursuance thereof may be rejected. In the event of such rejection or of failure to receive any acceptable bid, the trust, at any time within 60 days from the date of such advertised sale, may sell such bonds at private sale upon terms not less favorable to the State than the terms offered by any rejected bid. The trust may sell all or part of the bonds of any series as issued to any State fund or to the federal government or any agency thereof, at private sale, without advertisement.

e. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust may be issued under the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) without obtaining the consent of any department, division, board, bureau or agency of the State, and without any other proceedings or the happening of any other conditions or things, other than those consents, proceedings, conditions or things which are specifically required by P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.).

f. Bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust issued under the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) shall not be a debt or liability of the State or of any political subdivision thereof other than the trust and shall not create or constitute any indebtedness, liability or obligation of the State or any political subdivision, but all these bonds, notes and other obligations, unless funded or refunded by bonds, notes or other obligations, shall be payable solely from revenues or funds pledged or available for their payment as authorized in P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.). Each bond, note and obligation shall contain on its face a statement to the effect that the trust is obligated to pay the principal thereof or the interest thereon only from its revenues, receipts or funds pledged or available for their payment as authorized in P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.), and that neither the State, nor any political subdivision thereof, is obligated to pay the principal or interest and that neither the faith and credit nor the taxing power of the State, or any political subdivision thereof, is pledged to the payment of the principal of or the interest on the bonds, notes or other obligations.

g. The aggregate principal amount of bonds, notes or other obligations, including subordinated indebtedness of the trust, shall not exceed (1) \$5,000,000,000 with respect to

bonds, notes or other obligations issued to finance the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.93 (C.58:11B-9.5), and (2) \$2,800,000,000 with respect to bonds, notes or other obligations issued for all other purposes of the trust. In computing the foregoing limitations there shall be excluded all the bonds, notes or other obligations, including subordinated indebtedness of the trust, which shall be issued for refunding purposes, whenever the refunding shall be determined to result in a savings.

(1) Upon the decision by the trust to issue refunding bonds, except for current refunding, and prior to the sale of those bonds, the trust shall transmit to the Joint Budget Oversight Committee, or its successor, a report that a decision has been made, reciting the basis on which the decision was made, including an estimate of the debt service savings to be achieved and the calculations upon which the trust relied when making the decision to issue refunding bonds. The report shall also disclose the intent of the trust to issue and sell the refunding bonds at public or private sale and the reasons therefor.

(2) The Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor shall have the authority to approve or disapprove the sales of refunding bonds as included in each report submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) of this subsection. The committee shall notify the trust in writing of the approval or disapproval within 30 days of receipt of the report. Should the committee not act within 30 days of receipt of the report, the trust may proceed with the sale of the refunding bonds, provided that the sale of refunding bonds shall realize not less than 3.00% net present value debt service savings.

(3) No refunding bonds shall be issued unless the report has been submitted to and approved by the Joint Budget Oversight Committee or its successor as set forth in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection.

(4) Within 30 days after the sale of the refunding bonds, the trust shall notify the committee of the result of that sale, including the prices and terms, conditions and regulations concerning the refunding bonds, the actual amount of debt service savings to be realized as a result of the sale of refunding bonds, and the intended use of the proceeds from the sale of those bonds.

(5) The committee shall review all information and reports submitted in accordance with this subsection and may, on its own initiative, make observations to the trust, or to the Legislature, or both, as it deems appropriate.

h. Each issue of bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust may, if it is determined by the trust, be general obligations thereof payable out of any revenues, receipts or funds of the trust, or special obligations thereof payable out of particular revenues, receipts or funds, subject only to any agreements with the holders of bonds, notes or other obligations, and may be secured by one or more of the following:

(1) Pledge of revenues and other receipts to be derived from the payment of the interest on and principal of notes, bonds or other obligations issued to the trust by one or more local government units, and any other payment made to the trust pursuant to agreements with any local government units, or a pledge or assignment of any notes, bonds or other obligations of any local government unit and the rights and interest of the trust therein;

(2) Pledge of rentals, receipts and other revenues to be derived from leases or other contractual arrangements with any person or entity, public or private, including one or more local government units, or a pledge or assignment of those leases or other contractual arrangements and the rights and interest of the trust therein;

(3) Pledge of all moneys, funds, accounts, securities and other funds, including the proceeds of the bonds, notes or other obligations;

(4) Pledge of the receipts to be derived from the payments of State aid, payable to the trust pursuant to section 12 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-12);

(5) A mortgage on all or any part of the property, real or personal, of the trust then owned or thereafter to be acquired, or a pledge or assignment of mortgages made to the trust by any person or entity, public or private, including one or more local government units and the rights and interest of the trust therein.

i. The trust shall not issue any bonds, notes or other obligations, or otherwise incur any additional indebtedness, on or after June 30, 2033.

j. (Deleted by amendment, P.L.1996, c.88).

3. Section 9 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-9) is amended to read as follows:

C.58:11B-9 Loans to local governments.

9. a. (1) The trust may make and contract to make loans to local government units, or to a local government unit on behalf of another local government unit, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) to finance the cost of any wastewater treatment system project or water supply project, which the local government unit may lawfully undertake or acquire and for which the local government unit is authorized by law to borrow money.

(2) The trust may make and contract to make loans to public water utilities, or to any other person or local government unit on behalf of a public water utility, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) to finance the cost of any water supply project, which the public water utility may lawfully undertake or acquire.

(3) The trust may make and contract to make loans to private persons other than local government units, or to any other person or local government unit on behalf of a private person, in accordance with and subject to the provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) to finance the cost of stormwater management systems.

The loans may be made subject to those terms and conditions as the trust shall determine to be consistent with the purposes thereof. Each loan by the trust and the terms and conditions thereof shall be subject to approval by the State Treasurer, and the trust shall make available to the State Treasurer all information, statistical data and reports of independent consultants or experts as the State Treasurer shall deem necessary in order to evaluate the loan. Each loan to a local government unit, public water utility or any other person shall be evidenced by notes, bonds or other obligations thereof issued to the trust. In the case of each local government unit, notes and bonds to be issued to the trust by the local government unit (1) shall be authorized and issued as provided by law for the issuance of notes and bonds by the local government unit, (2) shall be approved by the Local Finance Board in the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, and (3) notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.40A:2-27, N.J.S.40A:2-28 and N.J.S.40A:2-29 or any other provisions of law to the contrary, may be sold at private sale to the trust at any price, whether or not less than par value, and shall be subject to redemption prior to maturity at any times and at any prices as the trust and local government units may agree. Each loan to a local government unit, public water utility or any other person and the notes, bonds or other obligations thereby issued shall bear interest at a rate or rates per annum as the trust and the local government unit, public water utility or any other person, as the case may be, may agree.

b. The trust is authorized to guarantee or contract to guarantee the payment of all or any portion of the principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations issued by a local government unit to finance the cost of any wastewater treatment system project or water supply project, which the local government unit may lawfully undertake or acquire and for which the local government unit is authorized by law to borrow money, and the guarantee shall constitute an obligation of the trust for the purposes of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.). Each guarantee by the trust and the terms and conditions thereof shall be subject to approval by the State Treasurer, and the trust shall make available to the State Treasurer all information, statistical data and reports of independent consultants or experts as the State Treasurer shall deem necessary in order to evaluate the guarantee.

c. The trust shall not make or contract to make any loans or guarantees to local government units, public water utilities or any other person, or otherwise incur any additional indebtedness, on or after June 30, 2033.

d. Notwithstanding any provision of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-1 et seq.) or P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-10.1 et al.) to the contrary, the trust may receive funds from any source or issue its bonds, notes or other obligations in any principal amounts as in the judgment of the trust shall be necessary to provide sufficient funds to finance or refinance short-term or temporary loans to local government units, public water utilities or private persons for any wastewater treatment system projects included on the project priority list and eligible for approval pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-20) or water supply projects included on the project priority list and eligible for approval pursuant to section 24 of P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-20.1), as applicable, without regard to any other provisions of P.L.1985, c.334 or P.L.1997, c.224, including, without limitation, any administrative or legislative approvals.

The trust shall create and establish a special fund (hereinafter referred to as the "Interim Financing Program Fund") for the short-term or temporary loan financing or refinancing program (hereinafter referred to as the "Interim Financing Program").

Any short-term or temporary loans made by the trust pursuant to this subsection may only be made in advance of the anticipated loans the trust may make and contract to make under the provisions of subsection a. of this section from any source of funds anticipated to be received by the trust. Any such short-term or temporary loan made pursuant to the Interim Financing Program shall mature no later than the last day of the third succeeding fiscal year following the closing date on which the short-term or temporary loan was made by the trust to the project sponsor. The trust may make short-term or temporary loans pursuant to the Interim Financing Program to any one or more of the project sponsors, for the respective projects thereof, identified in the interim financing project priority list (hereinafter referred to as the "Interim Financing Program Eligibility List") in the form provided to the Legislature by the Commissioner of Environmental Protection.

Incremental revisions or supplements to the Interim Financing Program Eligibility List may be submitted to the Legislature at any time between January 15th and May 15th of each year.

The Interim Financing Program Eligibility List, including any revision thereof or supplement thereto, shall be submitted to the Legislature on or before June 30 of each year on a day when both Houses are meeting. The President of the Senate and the Speaker of the General Assembly shall cause the date of submission to be entered upon the Senate Journal and the Minutes of the General Assembly, respectively. Any environmental infrastructure project or the project sponsor thereof not identified in the Interim Financing Program

Eligibility List shall not be eligible for a short-term or temporary loan from the Interim Financing Program Fund.

4. Section 21 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-21) is amended to read as follows:

C.58:11B-21 Financial plan.

21. On or before May 15 of each year, the trust shall submit to the Legislature a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the wastewater treatment system projects either on the project priority list approved pursuant to section 20 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-20) or as otherwise approved by the Legislature. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust which the trust intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the terms and conditions thereof, a list of loans to be made to local government units or private persons, including the terms and conditions thereof and the anticipated rate of interest per annum and repayment schedule therefor, and a list of loan guarantees or contracts to guarantee the payment of all or a portion of the principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations issued by a local government unit to finance the cost of a wastewater treatment system project, and the terms and conditions thereof.

The financial plan shall also set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its proposed operations during the forthcoming fiscal year, including amounts of income from all sources, and the uniform schedule of fees and charges established by the trust pursuant to subsection o. of section 5 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-5), and the amounts to be derived therefrom, and shall summarize the status of each wastewater treatment system project for which loans or guarantees have been made by the trust, and shall describe major impediments to the accomplishment of the planned wastewater treatment system projects.

The financial plan shall identify the wastewater treatment system projects financed during the prior fiscal year through the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.93 (C.58:11B-9.5), including a project description, the amount of the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program loan for each project, and the duration of such Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program loan.

5. Section 25 of P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-21.1) is amended to read as follows:

C.58:11B-21.1 Submission of financial plan to Legislature.

25. On or before May 15 of each year, the trust shall submit to the Legislature a financial plan designed to implement the financing of the water supply projects either on the project priority list approved pursuant to section 24 of P.L.1997, c.224 (C.58:11B-20.1) or as otherwise approved by the Legislature. The financial plan shall contain an enumeration of the bonds, notes or other obligations of the trust which the trust intends to issue, including the amounts thereof and the terms and conditions thereof, a list of loans to be made to local government units, public water utilities, or to any other person or local government unit on behalf of a public water utility, including the terms and conditions thereof and the anticipated rate of interest per annum and repayment schedule therefor, and a list of loan guarantees or contracts to guarantee the payment of all or a portion of the principal and interest on bonds, notes or other obligations issued by a local government unit to finance the cost of a water supply project, and the terms and conditions thereof.

The financial plan shall also set forth a complete operating and financial statement covering its proposed operations during the forthcoming fiscal year, including amounts of income from all sources, and the uniform schedule of fees and charges established by the

trust pursuant to subsection o. of section 5 of P.L.1985, c.334 (C.58:11B-5), and the amounts to be derived therefrom, and shall summarize the status of each water supply project for which loans or guarantees have been made by the trust, and shall describe major impediments to the accomplishment of the planned water supply projects.

The financial plan shall identify the water supply projects financed during the prior fiscal year through the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program established pursuant to section 1 of P.L.2013, c.93 (C.58:11B-9.5), including a project description, the amount of the Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program loan for each project, and the duration of such Disaster Relief Emergency Financing Program loan.

6. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved August 7, 2013.