

LEGISLATIVE BILL 111

Approved by the Governor February 15, 2013

Introduced by McGill, 26; Ashford, 20; Karpisek, 32; Krist, 10.

FOR AN ACT relating to budgets; to amend sections 13-503, 13-504, 13-505, 13-506, 13-508, and 13-509.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska; to authorize a city of the first class, a city of the second class, or a village to adopt a biennial budget as prescribed; to redefine terms; to harmonize provisions; to repeal the original sections; and to declare an emergency.

Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

Section 1. Section 13-503, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-503 For purposes of the Nebraska Budget Act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(1) Governing body ~~shall mean~~ means the governing body of any county agricultural society, elected county fair board, joint airport authority formed under the Joint Airport Authorities Act, city or county airport authority, bridge commission created pursuant to section 39-868, cemetery district, city, village, municipal county, community college, community redevelopment authority, county, drainage or levee district, educational service unit, rural or suburban fire protection district, historical society, hospital district, irrigation district, learning community, natural resources district, nonprofit county historical association or society for which a tax is levied under subsection (1) of section 23-355.01, public building commission, railroad transportation safety district, reclamation district, road improvement district, rural water district, school district, sanitary and improvement district, township, offstreet parking district, transit authority, metropolitan utilities district, Educational Service Unit Coordinating Council, and political subdivision with the authority to have a property tax request, with the authority to levy a toll, or that receives state aid;

(2) Levying board ~~shall mean~~ means any governing body which has the power or duty to levy a tax;

(3) Fiscal year ~~shall mean~~ means the twelve-month period used by each governing body in determining and carrying on its financial and taxing affairs;

(4) Tax ~~shall mean~~ means any general or special tax levied against persons, property, or business for public purposes as provided by law but shall not include any special assessment;

(5) Auditor ~~shall mean~~ means the Auditor of Public Accounts;

(6) Cash reserve ~~shall mean~~ means funds required for the period before revenue would become available for expenditure but shall not include funds held in any special reserve fund;

(7) Public funds ~~shall mean~~ means all money, including nontax money, used in the operation and functions of governing bodies. For purposes of a county, city, or village which has a lottery established under the Nebraska County and City Lottery Act, only those net proceeds which are actually received by the county, city, or village from a licensed lottery operator shall be considered public funds, and public funds shall not include amounts awarded as prizes;

(8) Adopted budget statement ~~shall mean~~ means a proposed budget statement which has been adopted or amended and adopted as provided in section 13-506. Such term shall include additions, if any, to an adopted budget statement made by a revised budget which has been adopted as provided in section 13-511;

(9) Special reserve fund ~~shall mean~~ means any special fund set aside by the governing body for a particular purpose and not available for expenditure for any other purpose. Funds created for (a) the retirement of bonded indebtedness, (b) the funding of employee pension plans, (c) the purposes of the Political Subdivisions Self-Funding Benefits Act, (d) the purposes of the Local Option Municipal Economic Development Act, (e) voter-approved sinking funds, or (f) statutorily authorized sinking funds shall be considered special reserve funds;

(10) Biennial period ~~shall mean~~ means the two fiscal years comprising a biennium commencing in odd-numbered or even-numbered years used by a city or village in determining and carrying on its financial and taxing affairs; and

(11) Biennial budget ~~shall mean~~ means a budget by a city of the primary or metropolitan class that adopts a charter provision providing for

a biennial period to determine and carry on the city's financial and taxing affairs or a budget by a city of the first or second class or village that provides for a biennial period to determine and carry on the city's or village's financial and taxing affairs.

Sec. 2. Section 13-504, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-504 (1) Each governing body shall annually or biennially prepare a proposed budget statement on forms prescribed and furnished by the auditor. The proposed budget statement shall be made available to the public by the political subdivision prior to publication of the notice of the hearing on the proposed budget statement pursuant to section 13-506. A proposed budget statement shall contain the following information, except as provided by state law:

(a) For the immediately preceding fiscal year or biennial period, the revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, other than revenue received from personal and real property taxation, allocated to the funds and separately stated as to each such source: The unencumbered cash balance at the beginning and end of the year or biennial period; the amount received by taxation of personal and real property; and the amount of actual expenditures;

(b) For the current fiscal year or biennial period, actual and estimated revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, allocated to the funds and separately stated as to each such source: The actual unencumbered cash balance available at the beginning of the year or biennial period; the amount received from personal and real property taxation; and the amount of actual and estimated expenditures, whichever is applicable. Such statement shall contain the cash reserve for each fiscal year or biennial period and shall note whether or not such reserve is encumbered. Such cash reserve projections shall be based upon the actual experience of prior years or biennial periods. The cash reserve shall not exceed fifty percent of the total budget adopted exclusive of capital outlay items;

(c) For the immediately ensuing fiscal year or biennial period, an estimate of revenue from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, other than revenue to be received from taxation of personal and real property, separately stated as to each such source: The actual or estimated unencumbered cash balances, whichever is applicable, to be available at the beginning of the year or biennial period; the amounts proposed to be expended during the year or biennial period; and the amount of cash reserve, based on actual experience of prior years or biennial periods, which cash reserve shall not exceed fifty percent of the total budget adopted exclusive of capital outlay items;

(d) A statement setting out separately the amount sought to be raised from the levy of a tax on the taxable value of real property (i) for the purpose of paying the principal or interest on bonds issued by the governing body and (ii) for all other purposes;

(e) A uniform summary of the proposed budget statement, including each proprietary function fund included in a separate proprietary budget statement prepared pursuant to the Municipal Proprietary Function Act, and a grand total of all funds maintained by the governing body; and

(f) For municipalities, a list of the proprietary functions which are not included in the budget statement. Such proprietary functions shall have a separate budget statement which is approved by the city council or village board as provided in the Municipal Proprietary Function Act.

(2) The actual or estimated unencumbered cash balance required to be included in the budget statement by this section shall include deposits and investments of the political subdivision as well as any funds held by the county treasurer for the political subdivision and shall be accurately stated on the proposed budget statement.

(3) The political subdivision shall correct any material errors in the budget statement detected by the auditor or by other sources.

Sec. 3. Section 13-505, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-505 The estimated expenditures plus the required cash reserve for the ensuing fiscal year or biennial period less all estimated and actual unencumbered balances at the beginning of the year or biennial period and less the estimated income from all sources, including motor vehicle taxes, other than taxation of personal and real property shall equal the amount to be received from taxes, and such amount shall be shown on the proposed budget statement pursuant to section 13-504. The amount to be raised from taxation of personal and real property, as determined above, plus the estimated revenue from other sources, including motor vehicle taxes, and the unencumbered balances shall equal the estimated expenditures, plus the necessary required

cash reserve, for the ensuing year or biennial period.

Sec. 4. Section 13-506, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-506 (1) Each governing body shall each year or biennial period conduct a public hearing on its proposed budget statement. Notice of place and time of such hearing, together with a summary of the proposed budget statement, shall be published at least five days prior to the date set for hearing in a newspaper of general circulation within the governing body's jurisdiction. When the total operating budget, not including reserves, does not exceed ten thousand dollars per year or twenty thousand dollars per biennial period, the proposed budget summary may be posted at the governing body's principal headquarters. After such hearing, the proposed budget statement shall be adopted, or amended and adopted as amended, and a written record shall be kept of such hearing. The amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall be certified to the levying board after the proposed budget statement is adopted or is amended and adopted as amended. If the levying board represents more than one county, a member or a representative of the governing board shall, upon the written request of any represented county, appear and present its budget at the hearing of the requesting county. The certification of the amount to be received from personal and real property taxation shall specify separately (a) the amount to be applied to the payment of principal or interest on bonds issued by the governing body and (b) the amount to be received for all other purposes. If the adopted budget statement reflects a change from that shown in the published proposed budget statement, a summary of such changes shall be published within twenty days after its adoption in the manner provided in this section, but without provision for hearing, setting forth the items changed and the reasons for such changes.

(2) Upon approval by the governing body, the budget shall be filed with the auditor. The auditor may review the budget for errors in mathematics, improper accounting, and noncompliance with the ~~provisions of the~~ Nebraska Budget Act or sections 13-518 to 13-522. If the auditor detects such errors, he or she shall immediately notify the governing body of such errors. The governing body shall correct any such error as provided in section 13-511. Warrants for the payment of expenditures provided in the budget adopted under this section shall be valid notwithstanding any errors or noncompliance for which the auditor has notified the governing body.

Sec. 5. Section 13-508, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-508 (1) After publication and hearing thereon and within the time prescribed by law, each governing body, except as provided in subsection (3) of this section, shall file with and certify to the levying board or boards on or before September 20 of each year or September 20 of the final year of a biennial period and file with the auditor a copy of the adopted budget statement which complies with sections 13-518 to 13-522 or 79-1023 to 79-1030, together with the amount of the tax required to fund the adopted budget, setting out separately (a) the amount to be levied for the payment of principal or interest on bonds issued by the governing body and (b) the amount to be levied for all other purposes. Proof of publication shall be attached to the statements. Learning communities shall also file a copy of such adopted budget statement with member school districts on or before September 1 of each year. The governing body, in certifying the amount required, may make allowance for delinquent taxes not exceeding five percent of the amount required plus the actual percentage of delinquent taxes for the preceding tax year or biennial period and for the amount of estimated tax loss from any pending or anticipated litigation which involves taxation and in which tax collections have been or can be withheld or escrowed by court order. For purposes of this section, anticipated litigation shall be limited to the anticipation of an action being filed by a taxpayer who or which filed a similar action for the preceding year or biennial period which is still pending. Except for such allowances, a governing body shall not certify an amount of tax more than one percent greater or lesser than the amount determined under section 13-505.

(2) Each governing body shall use the certified taxable values as provided by the county assessor pursuant to section 13-509 for the current year in setting or certifying the levy. Each governing body may designate one of its members to perform any duty or responsibility required of such body by this section.

(3)(a) A Class I school district shall do the filing and certification required by subsection (1) of this section on or before August 1 of each year.

(b) A learning community shall do such filing and certification on

or before September 1 of each year.

Sec. 6. Section 13-509.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, is amended to read:

13-509.01 On and after the first day of its fiscal year in 1993 and of each succeeding year or on or after the first day of its biennial period and until the adoption of the budget by a governing body in September, the governing body may expend any balance of cash on hand for the current expenses of the political subdivision governed by the governing body. Except as provided in section 13-509.02, such expenditures shall not exceed an amount equivalent to the total amount expended under the last budget in the equivalent period of the prior budget year or biennial period. Such expenditures shall be charged against the appropriations for each individual fund or purpose as provided in the budget when adopted.

Sec. 7. Original sections 13-503, 13-504, 13-505, 13-506, 13-508, and 13-509.01, Reissue Revised Statutes of Nebraska, are repealed.

Sec. 8. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when passed and approved according to law.