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**March 15, 2020**

## **1. Emergency Procurement Guidance**

During this upcoming week the Division of Local Government Services will be issuing guidance on emergency procurement but in the interim we call your attention to [Local Finance Notice 2018-20](#) specifically, page 3 and 5. As a reminder, in circumstances where an emergency affecting the public health, safety or welfare requires the immediate delivery of goods or the performance of services, a contract may be awarded without public bidding regardless of the bid threshold. N.J.S.A. 40A:11-6 and N.J.A.C. 5:34-6.1. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.12, contracts awarded under such circumstances are excepted from Pay-to-Play due to public exigency.

As a reminder, N.J.A.C. 5:34-9.3 outline the procedures to cancel or postpone the receipt of bids or proposals.

We suggest you review this material with your procurement official, administrator and attorney.

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## **2. COVID-19 Bill Package**

On Monday, the Assembly is considering a bill package related to COVID-19. Bills that will be considered are listed below. At this time the bill text is unavailable but will provide a more detail update once the bill text becomes available. At this time the Senate voting session is scheduled for March 23.

Municipal Concerns:

A-3095 - Provides county clerks with additional week to mail ballots for 2020 primary election.

A-3847 - Provides paid leave without utilizing accumulated leave for local government employees under certain circumstances.

A-3851 - Extends deadlines for adoption of county and municipal budgets under certain circumstances.

A-3850 - Allows public bodies to conduct meetings by electronic means during periods of emergency.

A3849 - Permits public agency to respond to request for government record within 21 calendar days during period of emergency or other exigency.

#### School Concerns:

A-3842 - Establishes Bridging the Digital Divide in Schools Grant Program in DOE to provide and expand access to technology and equipment for students in certain school districts.

A-3840 - Requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced price school meals during school closures due to COVID-19 epidemic

A-3839 - Makes supplemental appropriation of \$10 million from General Fund to DOE to support school facility cleaning and sanitization

A-3813 - Permits use of virtual or remote instruction to meet minimum 180-day school year requirement under certain circumstances.

#### Business Concerns:

A-3845 - Expands EDA small business loan program to include small businesses negatively affected by certain epidemics.

A-3844 - Concerns business interruption insurance during coronavirus disease 2019 state of emergency.

A-3841 - Extends time to file gross income tax or corporation business tax return by one month.

#### Health Issues:

A-3856 - Makes FY 2020 supplemental appropriation of \$10 million for residential facility sanitation due to coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.

A-3854 - Authorizes licensed health care facilities and laboratories to develop and administer coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) tests.

A-3860 - Facilitates use of telemedicine and telehealth to respond to health emergencies.

Labor Issues:

A-3843 - Requires health insurance and Medicaid coverage for testing and treatment of coronavirus disease 2019.

A-3848 - Concerns time off from work in connection with infectious disease.

A-3846 - Creates “Epidemic and Emergency Relief Fund”; provides for lost income of workers affected by epidemics.

:Public Assistance Issues

A-3859 - Concerns prohibition of residential tenant eviction and eviction due to residential foreclosure during certain emergency circumstances.

A-3858 - Requires Commissioner of Human Services to issue supplemental cash assistance payments to recipients of certain public assistance programs under certain circumstances.

A-3857 - Makes FY2020 supplemental appropriation of \$5 million to Community Food Bank of New Jersey to provide meals for children who are out of school and received subsidized lunches.

A-3855 - Requires food access information be displayed on websites of 2-1-1 system and executive branch departments during public health emergencies.

A-3853 - Establishes “COVID-19 Emergency Food Distribution Fund”; appropriates \$10,000,000.

AJR-158 - Urges FCC to take temporary measures to secure broadband access for those affected by COVID-19.

ACR-165 - Urges DHS to apply for federal waivers to facilitate and increase access to SNAP benefits during coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak.



New Jersey State League of Municipalities

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