

# ASSEMBLY, No. 2462

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 21, 2012

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ANGEL FUENTES**

**District 5 (Camden and Gloucester)**

**SYNOPSIS**

Requires that public address, and phone number or email address, of local elected officials be available on local unit website.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



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1 AN ACT requiring that contact information for local elected officials  
2 be made public and amending N.J.S.40A:4-10 and P.L.1966,  
3 c.293.

4  
5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State  
6 of New Jersey:

7  
8 1. N.J.S.40A:4-10 is amended to read as follows:

9 40A:4-10. No budget or amendment thereof shall be adopted  
10 unless the director shall have previously certified his approval  
11 thereof. Final adoption shall be by resolution adopted by a majority  
12 of the full membership of the governing body, and may be by title  
13 where the procedures required by N.J.S.40A:4-8 and N.J.S.40A:4-9  
14 or section 12 of P.L.1995, c.259 (C.40A:4-6.1), as applicable, have  
15 been followed.

16 The budget shall be adopted in the case of a county not later than  
17 February 25, and in the case of a municipality not later than March  
18 20 of the calendar fiscal year or September 20 of the State fiscal  
19 year, except that the governing body may adopt the budget at any  
20 time within 10 days after the director shall have certified his  
21 approval thereof and returned the same, if such certification shall be  
22 later than the date of the advertised hearing.

23 If, in the case of a municipality which operates on the State fiscal  
24 year, the governing body fails to adopt the budget within the  
25 permitted time, the chief financial officer of the local unit shall so  
26 notify the director the next working day after the expiration of the  
27 permitted time.

28 Copies of the budget, as adopted, in such form and in such  
29 quantity as determined by the Local Finance Board, shall be  
30 transmitted to the director, and made available in print for public  
31 inspection at the local library, within three days after adoption.

32 Upon adoption, the budget shall constitute an appropriation for  
33 the purposes stated therein and an authorization of the amount to be  
34 raised by taxation for the purposes of the local unit.

35 and made available online and in print as required by this section  
36 in a "user-friendly" summary format using plain language. In  
37 addition to the current year adopted budget, the local unit's adopted  
38 budgets of the immediately preceding three budget years also shall  
39 be provided for public inspection on the local unit's website, if one  
40 exists, or, if one does not exist, those budgets also shall be provided  
41 for public inspection on the website of the Department of  
42 Community Affairs. Any adopted budget posted online pursuant to  
43 this section shall remain posted online for the duration of the local  
44 budget year. The Local Finance Board shall promulgate a "user-

**EXPLANATION** – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

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1 friendly," plain language summary format for use by local units for  
2 this purpose pursuant to section 39 of P.L.2007, c.63 (C.40A:5-48).

3 In addition to the current year adopted budget and the  
4 immediately preceding three budget year budgets, the governing  
5 body of a local unit also shall provide the address of the public  
6 building in which the governing body holds its public meetings, and  
7 a public telephone number or email address that may be used by  
8 members of the public seeking to contact their local elected officials  
9 on the local unit's website, if one exists. If a local unit does not  
10 have a website, the public contact information required herein shall  
11 be provided for public inspection on the website of the Department  
12 of Community Affairs in the same manner as the current year  
13 adopted budget and the immediately preceding three budget year  
14 budgets are provided on the department's website pursuant to the  
15 requirements of this section.

16 (cf: P.L.2011, c.7, s.1)

17

18 2. Section 9 of P.L.1966, c.293 (C.52:27D-9) is amended to  
19 read as follows:

20 9. The department shall, in addition to other powers and duties  
21 invested in it by this act, or by any other law:

22 (a) Assist in the coordination of State and Federal activities  
23 relating to local government;

24 (b) Advise and inform the Governor on the affairs and problems  
25 of local government and make recommendations to the Governor  
26 for proposed legislation pertaining thereto;

27 (c) Encourage cooperative action by local governments,  
28 including joint service agreements, regional compacts and other  
29 forms of regional cooperation;

30 (d) Assist local government in the solution of its problems, to  
31 strengthen local self-government;

32 (e) Study the entire field of local government in New Jersey;

33 (f) Collect, collate, publish and disseminate information  
34 necessary for the effective operation of the department and useful to  
35 local government;

36 (g) Maintain an inventory of data and information and act as a  
37 clearing house and referral agency for information on State and  
38 Federal services and programs;

39 (h) Stimulate local programs through publicity, education,  
40 guidance and technical assistance concerning Federal and State  
41 programs;

42 (i) Convene meetings of municipal, county or other local  
43 officials to discuss ways of cooperating to provide service more  
44 efficiently and economically;

45 (j) Maintain and make available on request a list of persons  
46 qualified to mediate or arbitrate disputes between local units of  
47 government arising from joint service projects or other cooperative

1 activities, and further to prescribe rates of compensation for all such  
2 mediation, factfinding or arbitration services; and  
3 (k) Post on the department's website the annual budget and three  
4 immediately preceding adopted budgets of any municipality or  
5 county that does not maintain its own website, as well as the  
6 address of the public building in which the governing body of a  
7 county or municipality holds its public meetings, and a public  
8 telephone number or email address that may be used by members of  
9 the public seeking to contact their local elected officials, in the case  
10 of a municipality or county that does not maintain its own website,  
11 pursuant to the requirements of N.J.S.40A:4-10.  
12 (cf: P.L.2011, c.7, s.2)

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14 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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17 STATEMENT

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19 This bill would require counties and municipalities to provide on  
20 their websites the address of the public building in which the board  
21 of education or the governing body, as appropriate, holds its public  
22 meetings, and a public telephone number or email address that may  
23 be used by members of the public seeking to contact the members  
24 of the board of education or the governing body, as appropriate. If  
25 a county or municipal governing body does not have a website, the  
26 public contact information must be provided for public inspection  
27 on the website of the Department of Community Affairs.