

P.L. 1997, CHAPTER 58, *approved April 1, 1997*
Assembly, No. 2719

1 AN ACT concerning the "State Judicial Unification Act" and amending
2 and supplementing P.L.1993, c.275.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
5 of New Jersey:

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7 1. Section 6 of P.L.1993, c.275 (C.2B:10-6) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 6. a. **[In]** Except as provided in subsection e., in local fiscal years
10 1995, 1996 and 1997, each county shall pay a share of its base year
11 amount as determined by the director based on the following schedule:

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13 (1) 1995..... 87.5% of the base year amount;
14 (2) 1996..... 62.5% of the base year amount;
15 (3) 1997..... 50.0% of the base year amount.

16 b. **[Each]** Except as provided in subsection e., each county shall
17 pay the respective amounts established in subsection a. to the State
18 Treasurer on the following schedule:

- 19 (1) 1995..... On May 15, 50.0% of the base year
20 amount, and on October 1, 37.5% of
21 the base year amount;
22 (2) 1996..... On May 15, 37.5% of the base year
23 amount, and on October 1, 25.0% of
24 the base year amount;
25 (3) 1997..... On May 15, 25.0% of the base year
26 amount, and on October 1, 25.0% of
27 the base year amount.

28 c. In local budget year 1998 and thereafter, no county shall be
29 required to pay judicial costs or probation costs unless a county elects
30 to proceed under subsection e. of this section in which case the county
31 shall not be required to pay judicial costs or probation costs in local
32 budget year 1999 and thereafter.

33 d. No county shall be required to pay the employer pension

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

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 contribution on behalf of any employee who becomes an employee of
2 the State under this act after the date the person becomes an employee
3 of the State. However, notwithstanding the provisions of subsections
4 b. and c. above, it shall continue to be the responsibility of each county
5 to pay any additional liability for any employee who would have
6 become an employee of the State under this act but who retired and
7 received a benefit under P.L.1993, c.138 as provided under that act,
8 and the liability for late enrollment of an employee in the Public
9 Employees' Retirement System, whose date of compulsory enrollment
10 is prior to the date the person becomes an employee of the State under
11 this act, as provided under section 48 of P.L.1971, c.213
12 (C.43:15A-7.1).

13 e. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. and b. of this
14 section, a county may elect in local fiscal year 1997 to pay its share of
15 its base year amount in 1997 and 1998 as follows: in 1997 25.0% of
16 its base year amount on May 15, 1997 and in 1998 25.0% of its base
17 year amount on May 15, 1998.

18 (cf: P.L.1993, c.275, s.6)

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20 2. (New section) The Director of the Division of Local
21 Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs shall
22 implement the schedule of payments and shall direct the manner by
23 which each county shall make payment to the State pursuant to the
24 provisions of subsection e. of section 6 of P.L.1993, c.275 (C.2B:10-
25 6).

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27 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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32 This bill provides an opportunity for property taxpayers to benefit
33 from the difference between the State fiscal year budget cycle and the
34 county calendar year budget cycle. This bill would permit counties to
35 elect to change certain dates on which counties are required to pay
36 over monies which are percentages of a base year amount defined in
37 the "State Judicial Unification Act" to the State. Current law requires
38 a \$120 million payment from counties in 1997, 25 % of the base year
39 amount on May 15, 1997 and 25% of the base year amount on
40 October 1, 1997. This bill would permit the counties to provide a
41 \$60 million payment on May 15, 1997 (25% of the base year amount
42 as currently required) and another payment of \$60 million on May 15,
43 1998 rather than on October 1, 1997 (as currently required in
44 subsection b. of the section). The State's General Fund would still
45 receive the \$120 million anticipated. Because county budgets are on
46 a calendar basis, this deferral would provide an additional \$60 million

1 in property tax relief during tax year 1997. The effect of this
2 legislation would be to permit the counties to accelerate the property
3 tax benefit into calendar year 1997 by allowing the counties to retain
4 use of \$60 million until May 15, 1998 if they choose to proceed under
5 this bill.

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10 Amends the "State Judicial Unification Act."