

Act No. 22
Public Acts of 1991
Approved by the Governor
May 16, 1991
Filed with the Secretary of State
May 16, 1991

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
86TH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 1991**

Introduced by Rep. Van Singel

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL No. 4566

AN ACT to amend sections 4 and 4a of Act No. 108 of the Public Acts of 1961, entitled as amended "An act to provide for loans by the state of Michigan to school districts for the payment of principal and interest upon school bonds; to prescribe the terms and conditions thereof, and the conditions upon which levies for bond principal and interest shall be included in computing the amount to be so loaned by the state; to prescribe the powers and duties of the superintendent of public instruction and the state treasurer in relation to such loans; to provide for the repayment of such loans; and to provide for other matters in respect to such loans," section 4 as amended by Act No. 26 of the Public Acts of 1990 and section 4a as amended by Act No. 254 of the Public Acts of 1990, being sections 388.954 and 388.954a of the Michigan Compiled Laws; and to add section 4c.

The People of the State of Michigan enact:

Section 1. Sections 4 and 4a of Act No. 108 of the Public Acts of 1961, section 4 as amended by Act No. 26 of the Public Acts of 1990 and section 4a as amended by Act No. 254 of the Public Acts of 1990, being sections 388.954 and 388.954a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, are amended and section 4c is added to read as follows:

Sec. 4. (1) The superintendent of public instruction shall issue his or her certificate qualifying an issue of bonds, upon application for a certificate being made by the school district, if the superintendent finds the following:

(a) That the last maturity date of the issue of bonds is not less than 10 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds subject to the following qualifications and exceptions:

(i) Except for bonds issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of the school code of 1976, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, being section 380.1274a of the Michigan Compiled Laws, or as otherwise provided in this subparagraph, if the ratio of debt to valuation of the school district exceeds 4%, the last maturity date of the issue of bonds shall be not less than 15 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds; if the ratio of debt to valuation of the school district exceeds 7%, the last maturity date of the issue of bonds shall be not less than 25 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds; or if the ratio of debt to valuation of the school district exceeds 12%, the last maturity date of the issue of bonds shall be not less than 29 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds. Regardless of the ratio of debt to valuation of a school district, the state treasurer may authorize the last maturity date of an issue of bonds of that school district to be not less than 10 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds if the state treasurer determines it is financially beneficial to the state or to the school district. As used in this section, "ratio of debt to valuation" means that ratio arrived at by dividing the total tax supported bonded indebtedness of the school district outstanding as of the date of the filing of the application required by this act, including the bonds proposed to be qualified, by the assessed valuation of the school district as last equalized by the state. The refunding part of any proposed issue of bonds shall not be included in the total indebtedness of the school district for the purposes of this section.

(ii) If the bonds are issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, the last maturity of the issue of bonds may be less than 10 years from the issuance date appearing on the bonds but not less than the number of years approved by the superintendent of public instruction in the certificate of qualification. The certificate of qualification of the superintendent of public instruction shall contain a certification and approval that the bonds are issued for such a purpose, which approval shall be final and conclusive and shall set forth the minimum number of years for the last maturity of the bonds.

(b) That the yearly principal maturity date is not less than 5 months after the major part of the taxes for the bonds becomes by law a lien upon the property assessed.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this subdivision, that the amount of principal maturing in any calendar year is not less than the amount of principal maturing in any prior calendar year and, except for bonds issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, if the ratio of debt to valuation of the school district exceeds 12%, that the first 10 principal maturities do not in the aggregate exceed 25% of the total principal amount of the bonds proposed to be qualified. Regardless of the amount of principal maturing in any calendar year and regardless of the ratio of debt to valuation of the school district, the state treasurer may authorize principal maturities in any amount if the state treasurer determines it is financially beneficial to the state or to the school district. At the request of the school district, the state treasurer may grant that authorization as part of the procedure of preliminary qualification under subdivision (f).

(d) That the cost of the project for which the bonds are to be issued is within reasonable standards of cost as established by the state board of education, which standards may vary as to different localities in accordance with any variance in construction costs between localities.

(e) Except for bonds issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, that there exists a need for the project based upon current and probable future enrollment and that the project is designed to provide school facilities reasonably adequate to meet that need.

(f) Subject to subsection (3), if a bond issue requires an election, that a bond issue that a school district wishes to qualify has been given preliminary qualification prior to the official action of the board of education calling for the election on the bond issue.

(g) If the bonds are issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, and if the bonds have not been approved by a majority of the school electors voting on the question, that the school district has demonstrated and the state treasurer has approved the method of payment for, and the ability to pay, the bonds and that the school district has received the prior approval of the department of treasury for the issuance of the bonds under the municipal finance act, Act No. 202 of the Public Acts of 1943, being sections 131.1 to 139.3 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

(2) For refunding bonds issued to refund bonds issued before May 4, 1955, the superintendent of public instruction shall issue the certificate of qualification if the superintendent finds that the refunding bonds comply with the requirements set forth in subsection (1)(c). For refunding bonds issued to refund bonds issued on or after May 4, 1955, or issued to refund loans from the state made under the authority of this act, the superintendent shall issue the certificate of qualification if the superintendent finds that the refunding bonds comply with the requirements set forth in subsection (1)(c) and also that the refunding bonds are being issued to refund loans from the state made under the authority of this act or that the bonds representing the original indebtedness either were qualified or satisfied the requirements for qualification in effect when issued or would have satisfied the requirements set forth in subsection (1)(d),(e), and (f) had those requirements been in effect when the bonds were issued. Refunding bonds issued to refund loans from the state made under the authority of this act shall be considered as refunding bonds for all purposes including section 16 of article IX of the state constitution of 1963.

(3) The requirement of subsection (1)(f) does not apply to a bond issue that is approved by the school district electors between December 31, 1990 and July 1, 1991 and that is in part ineligible for qualification. A series of bonds for such a bond issue may be qualified by the superintendent of public instruction if it is limited to either a project or projects eligible for qualification or refunding of obligations issued for a purpose described in section 1274a of Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, or both.

Sec. 4a. (1) Subject to subsection (2), an unexpended balance of the proceeds of sale of any school district bonds heretofore or hereafter issued, remaining after completion of the project, to the extent of 15% of the amount of the issue or, for a fourth class school district located in a county with a population of not more than 27,000, to the extent of 40% of the amount of the issue, with the approval of the electors in the case of bonds issued before August 28, 1964, may be used for school construction, equipment and site acquisition and development if that use is approved by the superintendent of public instruction, and any remaining balance shall be paid immediately into the bond and interest redemption fund established for the bonds and shall be used either for the redemption of callable bonds, or, before the first call date only, for purchasing the bonds on the open market at not more than the fair market value or used to reduce the amount required to be levied to

meet current principal and interest on the bonds as they become due. Any unexpended balance of the proceeds of sale of any school district bonds heretofore or hereafter issued, remaining after payment in full of the principal of and interest on the bonds, may be used to increase or continue expenditures for any of the projects or purposes for which the bonds were initially authorized and issued, even though all projects for which the bonds were initially authorized and issued have not been completed. This section shall apply unless allocations of specified amounts for stated projects or purposes were contained in the ballot question by which the bonds were initially authorized, in which case the use must be approved by the superintendent of public instruction.

(2) The superintendent of public instruction shall not approve a use of the unexpended balance of the proceeds of any school district bonds as authorized under subsection (1) unless he or she finds that the school district seeking approval has demonstrated a compelling justification for not immediately paying all of the unexpended balance into the bond and interest redemption fund established for the bonds.

(3) As used in this section, "fourth class school district" means a school district organized as a school district of the fourth class under the school code of 1976, Act No. 451 of the Public Acts of 1976, being sections 380.1 to 380.1852 of the Michigan Compiled Laws.

Sec. 4c. If the superintendent of public instruction determines that there are sufficient funds to complete all projects for which the bonds were initially authorized and issued, and if the use is approved by the superintendent of public instruction, an unexpended balance of the proceeds of sale of any school district bonds issued on or after September 1, 1989 may be used to increase or continue expenditures for any of the projects or purposes for which the bonds were initially authorized and issued, even though 1 or more of the projects for which the bonds were initially authorized and issued have not been completed. This section shall not apply after December 31, 1995.

This act is ordered to take immediate effect.

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Clerk of the House of Representatives.

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Secretary of the Senate.

Approved

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Governor.