

SENATE BILL No. 922

May 1, 2014, Introduced by Senators BRANDENBURG, BIEDA, PAPPAGEORGE, MARLEAU, ROBERTSON, HILDENBRAND and KOWALL and referred to the Committee on Finance.

A bill to amend 2001 PA 34, entitled
"Revised municipal finance act,"
by amending section 518 (MCL 141.2518), as added by 2012 PA 329.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 518. (1) Through December 31, ~~2014~~, 2016, in connection
2 with the partial or complete cessation of accruals to a defined
3 benefit plan or the closure of the defined benefit plan to new or
4 existing employees, and the implementation of a defined
5 contribution plan, or to fund costs of a county, city, village, or
6 township that has already ceased accruals to a defined benefit
7 plan, a county, city, village, or township may by ordinance or
8 resolution of its governing body, and without a vote of its
9 electors, issue a municipal security under this section to pay all

1 or part of the costs of the unfunded pension liability for that
2 retirement program provided that the amount of taxes necessary to
3 pay the principal and interest on that municipal security, together
4 with the taxes levied for the same year, shall not exceed the limit
5 authorized by law.

6 (2) Through December 31, ~~2014~~, **2016**, a county, city, village,
7 or township may by ordinance or resolution of its governing body,
8 and without a vote of its electors, issue a municipal security
9 under this section to pay the costs of the unfunded accrued health
10 care liability provided that the amount of taxes necessary to pay
11 the principal and interest on that municipal security, together
12 with the taxes levied for the same year, shall not exceed the limit
13 authorized by law or to refund in whole or in part a contract
14 obligation issued for the same purpose. Postemployment health care
15 or benefits may be funded by the county, city, village, or
16 township. The funding of postemployment health care benefits by a
17 county, city, village, or township as provided in this act shall
18 not constitute a contract to pay the postemployment health care
19 benefits.

20 (3) Before a county, city, village, or township issues a
21 municipal security under this section, the county, city, village,
22 or township shall publish a notice of intent to issue the municipal
23 security. The notice of intent and the rights of referendum shall
24 meet the requirements of section 517(2).

25 (4) Before a county, city, village, or township issues a
26 municipal security under this section, the county, city, village,
27 or township shall prepare and make available to the public a

1 comprehensive financial plan that includes all of the following:

2 (a) An analysis of the current and future obligations of the
3 county, city, village, or township with respect to each retirement
4 program and each postemployment health care benefit program of the
5 county, city, village, or township.

6 (b) Evidence that the issuance of the municipal security
7 together with other funds lawfully available will be sufficient to
8 eliminate the unfunded pension liability or the unfunded accrued
9 health care liability.

10 (c) A debt service amortization schedule and a description of
11 actions required to satisfy the debt service amortization schedule.

12 (d) A certification by the person preparing the plan that the
13 comprehensive financial plan is complete and accurate.

14 (e) If the proceeds of the borrowing are to be deposited in a
15 health care trust fund, a plan in place from the county, city,
16 village, or township to mitigate the increase in health care costs
17 and may include a wellness program that promotes the maintenance or
18 improvement of healthy behaviors.

19 (5) Municipal securities issued under this section by a
20 county, city, village, or township and the interest on and income
21 from the municipal securities are exempt from taxation by this
22 state or a political subdivision of this state.

23 (6) The proceeds of a municipal security issued under this
24 section may be used to pay the costs of issuance of the municipal
25 security. Except for a refunding, the proceeds of a municipal
26 security issued under this section to cover unfunded health care
27 liability shall be deposited in a health care trust fund, a trust

1 created by the issuer which has as its beneficiary a health care
2 trust fund, or, for a county, city, village, or township, a
3 restricted fund within a trust that would only be used to retire
4 the municipal securities issued under subsection (1) or (3). A
5 county, city, village, or township shall have the power to create a
6 trust to carry out the purposes of this subsection. The trust
7 created under this subsection shall invest its funds in the same
8 manner as funds invested by a health care trust fund. The trust
9 created under this subsection shall comply with all of the
10 following:

11 (a) Report its financial condition according to generally
12 accepted accounting principles.

13 (b) Be tax-exempt under the internal revenue code.

14 (7) A county, city, village, or township issuing municipal
15 securities under this section may enter into indentures or other
16 agreements with trustees and escrow agents for the issuance,
17 administration, or payment of the municipal securities.

18 (8) Before a county, city, village, or township issues a
19 municipal security under this section, the county, city, village,
20 or township shall obtain the approval of the department.

21 (9) If a county, city, village, or township has issued a
22 municipal security under this section, that county, city, village,
23 or township shall not change the benefit structure of the defined
24 benefit plan if the defined benefit plan is undergoing the partial
25 cessation of accruals. However, a county, city, village, or
26 township may reduce benefits of the defined benefit plan for years
27 of service that accrue after the issuance of municipal securities

1 under this section.

2 (10) A county, city, village, or township shall not issue a
3 municipal security under subsection (1) or (2) unless the county,
4 city, village, or township has been assigned a credit rating within
5 the category of AA or higher or the equivalent by at least 1
6 nationally recognized rating agency.

7 (11) A county, city, village, or township that issues a
8 municipal security under subsection (1) shall covenant with the
9 holders of the municipal security and this state that it will not,
10 after the issuance of the municipal security and while the
11 municipal security is outstanding, rescind whatever action it has
12 taken to make a partial or complete cessation of accruals to a
13 defined benefit plan or the closure of the defined benefit plan for
14 new or existing employees.

15 (12) IF A COUNTY, CITY, VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP HAS ISSUED A
16 MUNICIPAL SECURITY UNDER SUBSECTION (1) OR (2), THE COUNTY, CITY,
17 VILLAGE, OR TOWNSHIP MAY ISSUE A REFUNDING SECURITY TO REFUND THAT
18 MUNICIPAL SECURITY UNDER THIS SECTION AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2016 IF
19 THAT REFUNDING SECURITY DOES NOT HAVE A FINAL MATURITY LATER THAN
20 THE FINAL MATURITY OF THE MUNICIPAL SECURITY BEING REFUNDED AND IF
21 THE MUNICIPALITY THAT ISSUED THE MUNICIPAL SECURITY HAS BEEN
22 ASSIGNED A CREDIT RATING WITHIN THE CATEGORY OF AA OR HIGHER OR THE
23 EQUIVALENT BY AT LEAST 1 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED RATING AGENCY IN
24 CONNECTION WITH THE REFUNDING SECURITY.