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43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

JOSEPH A. FIDEL

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AN ACT

RELATING TO WASTEWATER FACILITIES; AMENDING THE WASTEWATER

FACILITY CONSTRUCTION LOAN ACT; TRANSFERRING THE ADMINISTRATION

OF THE WASTEWATER FACILITY CONSTRUCTION LOAN ACT AND FUND TO THE

NEW MEXICO FINANCE AUTHORITY; AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE

NMSA 1978.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. Section 74-6A-3 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1986, Chapter 72, Section 3, as amended) is amended to read:

"74-6A-3. DEFINITIONS.--As used in the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act:

A. "authority" means the New Mexico finance authority:

[A.] B. "commission" means the water quality control commission;

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[B.	"di vi si on"	means the	envi ronmental	i mprovement
division of th	e health and	envi ronme	nt denartment:	1

C. "department" means the department of environment;

[C.] <u>D.</u> "financial assistance" means loans, the purchase or refinancing of existing local political subdivision obligations, loan guarantees, credit enhancement techniques to reduce interest on loans and bonds, bond insurance and bond guarantees or any combination of these purposes;

[D.] <u>E.</u> "fund" means the wastewater facility construction loan fund;

[E.] F. "local authority" means any municipality, county, incorporated county, sanitation district, water and sanitation district or any similar district, recognized Indian tribe or other issuing agency created pursuant to a joint powers agreement acting on behalf of any entity listed in this subsection:

[F.] G. "operate and maintain" means to perform all necessary activities, including replacement of equipment or appurtenances, to assure the dependable and economical function of a wastewater facility in accordance with its intended purpose;

[6.] <u>H.</u> "wastewater facility" means a publicly owned system for treating or disposing of sewage or wastes either by surface or underground methods, including any equipment, plant, treatment works, structure, machinery, apparatus or land, in any

combination, that is acquired, used, constructed or operated for
the storage, collection, reduction, recycling, reclamation,
disposal, separation or treatment of water or wastes or for the
final disposal of residues resulting from the treatment of water
or wastes, such as pumping and ventilating stations, facilities,
plants and works, outfall sewers, interceptor sewers and
collector sewers and other real or personal property and
appurtenances incident to their use or operation. "Wastewater
facility" also includes a nonpoint source water pollution
control project as eligible under the [federal] Clean Water Act
[of 1977];

 $\ensuremath{\left[\frac{H.}{L.}\right]}$ $\ensuremath{\underline{I.}}$ "account" means the wastewater suspense account;

[I. "board" means the state board of finance;

- J. "bonds" means wastewater bonds or other obligations [authorized by the commission to be] issued by the [board] authority pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act;
- K. "Clean Water Act" means the federal Clean Water Act of 1977 and its subsequent amendments or successor provisions; and
- [L. "federal securities" means direct obligations of the United States, or obligations the principal and interest of which are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States, or an ownership interest in either of the foregoing;]

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[M-] L. "force account construction" means construction performed by the employees of a local authority rather than through a contractor.

[N. "holders" means persons who are owners of bonds, whether registered or not, issued pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act;

0. "issuing resolution" means a formal statement adopted by the board to issue bonds pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act, including any trust agreement, trust indenture or similar instrument providing terms and conditions for the bonds to be issued; and

P. "recommending resolution" means a formal statement adopted by the commission recommending to the board that bonds be issued pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act, including any trust agreement, trust indenture or similar instrument providing the terms and conditions for the bonds that are issued.]"

Section 2. Section 74-6A-4 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 172, Section 4) is amended to read:

"74-6A-4. FUND CREATED--ADMINISTRATION. --

A. There is created in the [state treasury]

authority a revolving loan fund to be known as the "wastewater

facility construction loan fund", which shall be administered by

the [division as agent for the commission] authority and

operated as a separate account. The [commission] authority is

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authorized to establish procedures [and adopt regulations as] required to administer the fund in accordance with the Clean Water Act and state law. [Any regulations relating to the issuance of bonds and the expenditure of proceeds of bond issues shall be approved by the board.] The [commission] authority shall, whenever possible, coordinate application procedures and funding cycles with the New Mexico Community Assistance Act.

- B. The following shall be deposited directly in the fund:
- (1) grants from the federal government or its agencies allotted to the state for capitalization of the fund;
- (2) funds as appropriated by the legislature to implement the provisions of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act or to provide state matching funds that are required by the terms of any federal grant under the Clean Water Act;
- (3) loan principal, interest and penalty payments if required by the terms of any federal grant under the Clean Water Act;
- (4) money transferred from the account as needed to fulfill requirements of the Clean Water Act; and
- (5) any other public or private money dedicated to the fund.
- C. Money in the fund is appropriated for expenditure by the [commission] authority in a manner consistent with the terms and conditions of the federal capitalization grants and

the Clean Water Act and may be used:

- (1) to provide loans for the construction or rehabilitation of wastewater facilities:
- (2) to purchase, refund or refinance obligations incurred by local authorities in the state for wastewater facilities where the obligations were incurred and construction commenced after March 7, 1985;
- (3) to guarantee, or purchase insurance for, obligations of local authorities to improve credit market access or reduce interest rates;
- (4) to provide a source of revenue or security for the payments of principal and interest on bonds [recommended by the commission and] issued by the [board] authority if the proceeds of the bonds are deposited in the fund or if the proceeds of the bonds are used to make loans to local authorities to the extent provided in the terms of the federal grant;
- (5) to provide loan guarantees for similar revolving funds established by local authorities;
- (6) to fund the administrative expenses of the [board, the commission and the division] authority necessary to implement the provisions of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act, including but not limited to costs of servicing loans and issuing bonds, fund start-up costs, financial management and legal consulting fees and reimbursement costs for support

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services from other state agencies; and

- to fund other programs for which the federal government authorizes use of wastewater grants or to provide for any other expenditure consistent with the Clean Water Act grant program and state law.
- Pursuant to [regulations adopted by] its <u>procedures</u> the [commission, the division] <u>authority</u> may impose and collect a fee from each local authority that receives financial assistance from the fund, which fee shall be used solely for the costs of administering the fund.
- Money not currently needed for the operation of the fund or otherwise dedicated may be invested according to the provisions of [Chapter 6, Article 10 NMSA 1978] the New Mexico Finance Authority Act and all interest earned on such investments shall be credited to the fund. Money remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund but shall accrue to the credit of the fund.
- F. [Acting as agent for the commission, the division] The authority shall maintain full authority for the operation of the fund in accordance with applicable federal and state law, including but not limited to [preparing the annual intended use plan and ensuring that loan recipients are on the state priority list or otherwise satisfy Clean Water Act requirements.
 - G. The [division] authority shall establish fiscal

controls and accounting procedures that are sufficient to assure proper accounting for fund payments, disbursements and balances and shall provide an annual report and an annual independent audit on the fund to the governor and to the United States environmental protection agency as required by the Clean Water Act.

H. The balance of the fund shall be transferred from the state treasurer to the authority upon the effective date of this 1997 act.

I. All loans held by the division and the department shall be transferred on the effective day of this 1997 act to the authority."

Section 3. Section 74-6A-7 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 172, Section 5) is amended to read:

"74-6A-7. LOAN PROGRAM-ADMINISTRATION. --

A. The [division] authority shall establish a program to provide financial assistance to local authorities, individually or jointly, for acquisition, construction or modification of wastewater facilities. The [division as agent of the commission] authority is authorized to enter into contracts and other agreements to carry out the provisions of the Wastewater Facility Loan Construction Act, including [but not limited to] contracts, memoranda of understanding and agreements with federal agencies, the department, the commission, local authorities and other parties.

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B. The commission shall adopt a system for the
ranking of wastewater facility construction projects for
financial assistance. The department shall prepare a priority
listing of projects using the commission's ranking system and
submit the list to the authority."
Section 4. Section 74-6A-8 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,

Chapter 172, Section 6) is amended to read:

"74-6A-8. FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE--CRITERIA. --

Financial assistance shall be provided only to local authorities that:

- meet the requirements for financial capability set by the [division] authority to assure sufficient revenues to operate and maintain the wastewater facility for its useful life and to repay the financial assistance;
- agree to operate and maintain the wastewater facility so that the facility will function properly over its structural and material design life;
- (3) agree to maintain separate project accounts, to maintain project accounts properly in accordance with generally accepted governmental accounting standards and to conduct an audit of the project's financial records;
- provide a written assurance, signed by an attorney, that the local authority has or will acquire proper title, easements and rights-of-way to the property upon or through which the wastewater facility proposed for funding is to

be constructed or extended;

- (5) require the contractor of the wastewater facility construction project to post a performance and payment bond in accordance with the requirements of Section 13-4-18 NMSA 1978 and its subsequent amendments and successor provisions;
- (6) provide a written notice of completion and start of operation of the wastewater facility;
- (7) appear on the priority list of the fund, regardless of rank on such list; and
- (8) provide such information to the [division] authority as [required by the commission] it requires in order to comply with the provisions of the Clean Water Act and state law.
- B. Loans shall be made only to local authorities that establish one or more dedicated sources of revenue to repay the money received from the [commission] authority and to provide for operation, maintenance and equipment replacement expenses. A local authority, any existing statute to the contrary notwithstanding, may do any of the following:
- authority at periodic intervals a sum sufficient to provide all or any part of bond debt service with respect to the bonds

 [recommended by the commission and] issued by the [board]

 authority to fund the loan for the wastewater facility project of the local authority and pay over the debt service to the

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account of the wastewater facility project for deposit to the fund;

- (2) fulfill any obligation to pay the [commission] authority by the issuance of bonds, notes or other obligations in accordance with the laws authorizing issuance of local authority obligations; provided however that, notwithstanding the provisions of Sections 4-54-3 or 6-15-5 NMSA 1978 or other statute or law requiring the public sale of local authority obligations, such obligations may be sold at private sale to the [commission] authority at the price and upon the terms and conditions the local authority shall determine;
- (3) levy, collect and pay over to the [eommission] authority and obligate itself to continue to levy, collect and pay over to the [eommission] authority the proceeds of one or more of the following:
- (a) sewer or waste disposal service fees or charges;
 - (b) licenses, permits, taxes and fees;
- $(c) \quad special \ assessments \ on \ the \ property \\ served \ or \ benefited \ by \ the \ wastewater \ facility \ project; \ [and] \ \underline{or}$
- (d) other revenue available to the local
 authority;
- (4) undertake and obligate itself to pay its contractual obligation to the [commission] authority solely from the proceeds from any of the sources specified in Paragraph (3)

of this subsection or, in accordance with the laws authorizing issuance of local authority obligations, impose upon itself a general obligation pledge to the [commission] authority additionally secured by a pledge of any of the sources specified in Paragraph (3) of this subsection; [and] or

- (5) enter into agreements, perform acts and delegate functions and duties as its governing body shall determine is necessary or desirable to enable the [division as agent for the commission] authority to fund a loan to the local authority to aid it in the construction or acquisition of a wastewater facility project.
- C. Each loan made by the [division as agent for the commission] authority shall provide that repayment of the loan shall begin not later than one year after completion of construction of the wastewater facility project for which the loan was made and shall be repaid in full no later than twenty years after completion of the construction. All principal and interest on loan payments shall be deposited in the fund.
- D. Financial assistance shall be made with an annual subsidized interest rate to be [five percent or less] as determined by the [commission] authority and in accordance with the authority's adopted procedures.
- E. A zero-percent interest rate may be approved by the [division] authority when the following conditions have been met by the local authority:

- (1) the local authority's average user cost is at least fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per month or a higher amount as determined by the [commission] authority; and
- (2) the local authority's median household income is less than [three-fourths] a percentage of the statewide nonmetropolitan median household income as determined by the authority's procedures.
- F. A local authority may use the proceeds from financial assistance received under the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act to provide a local match or any other nonfederal share of a wastewater facility construction project as allowed pursuant to the Clean Water Act.
- G. Financial assistance received pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act shall not be used by a local authority on any wastewater facility project constructed in fulfillment or partial fulfillment of requirements made of a subdivider under the provisions of the Land Subdivision Act or the New Mexico Subdivision Act.
- H. Financial assistance shall be made only to local authorities that employ or contract with a registered professional engineer to provide and be responsible for engineering services on the wastewater facility project. Such services include but are not limited to an engineering report, construction contract documents, supervision of construction and start-up services.

I. Financial assistance shall be made only for
eligible items. For financial assistance composed entirely of
state funds, eligible items include but are not limited to the
costs of engineering feasibility reports, contracted engineering
design, inspection of construction, special engineering
services, start-up services, contracted construction, materials
purchased or equipment leased for force account construction,
land or acquisition of existing facilities, but eligible items
do not include the costs of water rights and local authority
administrative costs. For financial assistance made from
federal funds, eligible items are those identified pursuant to
the Clean Water Act.

- J. In the event of default by the local authority, the [commission] authority may enforce its rights by suit or mandamus or may utilize all other available remedies under state law."
- Section 5. Section 74-6A-9 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 172, Section 7) is amended to read:
 - "74-6A-9. [COMMISSION] AUTHORITY--POWERS.--
- A. In administering the Wastewater Facility

 Construction Loan Act, the [commission] authority shall have the following powers [which may be implemented by the division, in addition to those specified in the Water Quality Act]:
- (1) to provide financial assistance to local authorities to finance all or part of a wastewater facility,

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including all forms of assistance for which the fund may be used pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act;

[(2) to adopt recommending resolutions
recommending that the board issue bonds or refunding bonds
pursuant to the provisions of the Wastewater Facility
Construction Loan Act;

(3) (2) to execute agreements concerning state contributions to the fund made pursuant to the Clean Water Act, including obligating [the commission] itself to pay a portion of the estimated reasonable cost of a wastewater facility of a local authority as may be required to meet the water quality goals of the Clean Water Act and the state;

[(4)] (3) to foreclose upon, attach or condemn any wastewater facility, property or interest in the facility pledged, mortgaged or otherwise available as security for a project financed in whole or in part pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act in the event of a default by a local authority;

[(5)] (4) to acquire and hold title to or leasehold interest in real and personal property and to sell, convey or lease that property for the purpose of satisfying a default or enforcing the provisions of a loan agreement;

[(6) through its agent the division] (5) to manage the fund, to grant and administer financial assistance to local authorities and to apply for and accept grants, including

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but not limited to capitalization grant awards made to the state in accordance with the Clean Water Act and the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act;

[(7)] (6) to appoint and employ attorneys, financial advisors, underwriters and other experts and agents and employees as the business of the [commission] authority may require;

[(8)] (7) to sue or be sued and to prosecute and defend, at law or in equity, in any court having jurisdiction over the subject matter and the parties to the matter:

[(9)] (8) to collect application, origination and administrative fees from the local authority, the total of which for any loan shall not exceed four percent of the value of the loan requested or authorized;

[(10)] (9) to adopt [regulations] procedures necessary and appropriate to implement the provisions of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act; and

 $[\frac{(11)}{(10)}]$ to have and exercise all the rights and powers necessary, incidental to or implied from the specific powers enumerated in this section.

B. Specific powers enumerated in this section shall not limit any power necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes and intent of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act.

C. The [commission] authority shall use accounting,
audit and fiscal procedures conforming to generally accepted
government accounting standards [and shall otherwise prepare
audits and budgets in accordance with state law. The fiscal
year of the commission shall coincide with the fiscal year of
the state] with respect to the fund.
D. The [commission] authority shall deliver an
annual report during the first week of each regular session of

- D. The [commission] authority shall deliver an annual report during the first week of each regular session of the legislature on the status of the wastewater facility construction loan program and the fund to the governor and legislature.
- E. The authority shall have the power to issue bonds or refunding bonds pursuant to the New Mexico Finance Authority

 Act and the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act when the authority determines that a bond issue is required or desirable to implement the provisions of the Wastewater Facility

 Construction Loan Act.
- F. As security for the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued by the authority, the authority is authorized to pledge, transfer and assign:
- (1) any obligations of each local authority, payable to the authority;
- (2) the security for the local authority obligations:
 - (3) any grant, subsidy or contribution from the

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United States or any of its agencies or instrumentalities; or
(4) any income, revenues, funds or other money
of the authority from any other source appropriated or
authorized for use for the purpose of implementing the
provisions of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act,
including the fund.

G. The bonds and other obligations issued by the authority shall be issued and delivered in accordance with the provisions of the New Mexico Finance Authority Act and may be sold at any time the authority determines appropriate. The authority may apply the proceeds of the sale of the bonds to:

(1) the purposes of the Wastewater Facility

Construction Loan Act or the purposes for which the fund may be used:

(2) the payment of interest on bonds issued by the authority for a period not to exceed three years from the date of issuance of the bonds; and

(3) the payment of all expenses, including publication and printing charges, attorney fees, financial advisory and underwriter fees and premiums or commissions that the authority determines are necessary or advantageous in connection with the recommendation, advertisement, sale, creation and issuance of bonds.

H. In the event that funds are not available for a loan for a drinking water facility project when application is

made, in order to accelerate the completion of any drinking water facility project, the local authority may, with the approval of the authority, obligate such local authority to provide local funds to pay that portion of the cost of the drinking water facility project that the authority agrees to make available by loan, and the authority may reimburse the amount expended on its behalf by the local authority.

I. Authority members or employees and any person executing bonds issued pursuant to the New Mexico Finance

Authority Act and the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act shall not be liable personally on such bonds or be subject to any personal liability or accountability by reason of the issuance thereof.

J. All bonds, notes and certificates issued by the authority shall be special obligations of the authority, payable solely from the revenue, income, fees or charges that may, pursuant to the provisions of the New Mexico Finance Authority Act and the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act, be pledged to the payment of such obligations, and the bonds, notes or certificates shall not create an obligation, debt or liability of the state. No breach of any pledge, obligation or agreement of the authority shall impose a pecuniary liability upon the state or a charge upon its general credit or taxing power."

Section 6. Section 74-6A-13 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991,

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Chapter 172, Section 11) is amended to read:

"74-6A-13. AGREEMENT OF THE STATE NOT TO LIMIT OR ALTER RIGHTS OF OBLIGEES. -- The state [hereby] pledges to and agrees with the holders of any bonds or other obligations issued under the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act and with those parties who enter into contracts with the commission or with the [division] authority pursuant to the provisions of the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act that the state shall not limit, alter, restrict or impair the rights vested in the [commission] authority to fulfill the terms of agreements made with the holders of bonds or other obligations recommended and issued pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act and with the parties who may enter into contracts with <u>a local</u> authority, the commission or the authority pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act and that the state shall not limit, alter, restrict or impair the rights vested in a local authority or in the commission or the [board or the division] authority to fulfill the terms of contracts made with the commission or the [board] authority and with parties who enter into contracts with such local authorities or with the [division acting as agent of the commission] authority pursuant to the Wastewater Facility Construction Loan Act. The state further agrees that it shall not in any way impair the rights or remedies of the holders of such bonds or other obligations of such parties until such bonds and other obligations, together

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with interest thereon, with interest on any unpaid installment of interest and all costs and expenses in connection with any action or proceeding by or on behalf of such holders, are fully met and discharged and such contracts are fully performed on the part of the commission, [the board,] the local authorities or the [division acting as agent of the commission] authority. Nothing in this subsection precludes such limitation or alteration if and when adequate provision is made by law for the protection of the holders of bonds or other obligations [recommended by the commission and] issued by the [board] authority or those entering into such contracts with the commission, or the commission under any contract with a local authority, or with the [division acting as agent for the The commission or the [board] authority commission] authority. may include this pledge and undertaking for the state or the authority in such bonds or other obligations and in such contracts. "

Section 7. REPEAL. -- Section 74-6A-10 through 74-6A-12 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1991, Chapter 172, Sections 8 through 10) are repealed.

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