

**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY CHECKLIST**  
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(County finance officers--  
certification)

**NJSA:** 40A:9-28.1

**LAWS OF:** 1993 **CHAPTER:** 87

**BILL NO:** S202

**SPONSOR(S)** Connors

**DATE INTRODUCED:** January 14, 1992

**COMMITTEE:** **ASSEMBLY:** Local Government

**SENATE:** <sup>Community</sup>  
~~County~~ Affairs

**AMENDED DURING PASSAGE:** No Assembly Committee substitute enacted

**DATE OF PASSAGE:** **ASSEMBLY:** March 1, 1993

**SENATE:** March 12, 1992

**DATE OF APPROVAL:** March 19, 1993

**FOLLOWING STATEMENTS ARE ATTACHED IF AVAILABLE:**

**SPONSOR STATEMENT:** Yes

**COMMITTEE STATEMENT:** **ASSEMBLY:** Yes

**SENATE:** Yes

**FISCAL NOTE:** No

**VETO MESSAGE:** No

**MESSAGE ON SIGNING:** No

**FOLLOWING WERE PRINTED:**

**REPORTS:** No

**HEARINGS:** No

KBG:pp

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE, No. 202 and ASSEMBLY, No. 619

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

ADOPTED JANUARY 11, 1993

Sponsored by Senator CONNORS and Assemblymen MORAN  
and CONNORS

1 AN ACT concerning county chief financial officers, and  
2 supplementing chapter 9 of Title 40A of the New Jersey  
3 Statutes and amending N.J.S.40A:5-2.

4

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

7 1. (New section) As used in this act:

8 "Chief financial officer" means the official appointed to be  
9 responsible for the proper financial administration of the county  
10 under the "Local Bond Law," (N.J.S.40A:2-1 et seq.); the "Local  
11 Budget Law," (N.J.S.40A:4-1 et seq.); the "Local Fiscal Affairs  
12 Law," (N.J.S.40A:5-1 et seq.); the "Local Public Contracts Law,"  
13 P.L.1971, c.198 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.) and such other statutes, and  
14 such rules and regulations promulgated by the Director of the  
15 Division of Local Government Services, the Local Finance Board,  
16 or any other State agency, as may pertain to the financial  
17 administration of the county.

18 "County finance officer" means a county director of finance,  
19 assistant director of finance, fiscal officer, comptroller, assistant  
20 comptroller, treasurer, assistant treasurer, deputy treasurer, or  
21 other position involved in day to day conduct of fiscal operations  
22 of a county government who is not a member of the governing  
23 body of a county.

24 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Local  
25 Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs.

26 2. (New section) a. The director shall hold examinations  
27 annually, and at such times as he may determine appropriate for  
28 certification of county finance officers. An applicant for  
29 examination shall present to the director written application on  
30 forms provided by the Division of Local Government Services,  
31 showing that the applicant holds a certified municipal finance  
32 officer certificate issued by the Division of Local Government  
33 Services pursuant to P.L.1971, c.413 (C.40A:9-140.1 et seq.), or:

34 (1) is not less than 21 years of age;

35 (2) is a citizen of the United States;

36 (3) is of good moral character;

37 (4) has obtained a certificate or diploma issued after at least  
38 four years of study in an approved secondary school or has  
39 received an academic education considered and accepted by the  
40 Commissioner of Education of this State as fully equivalent;

41 (5) has graduated from a four-year course at a college of  
42 recognized standing with a major course of study in business  
43 administration, accounting or equivalent subject; and

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.

1 (6) has two years of experience as a county finance officer.

2 b. An applicant who does not possess the college degree  
3 required under subsection a. of this section may qualify to take  
4 the examination by furnishing proof of four years of full-time  
5 experience in a position in a county government as a county  
6 finance officer. An applicant who does not possess four years of  
7 full-time experience in such a position may substitute one year of  
8 college education for one year of experience, up to a maximum of  
9 two years of college education. For the purpose of this section,  
10 one full year of college education is equal to 30 college credits.

11 c. Every applicant shall furnish proof that he has received  
12 certificates indicating satisfactory completion of complete  
13 training in the following courses:

- 14 (1) municipal finance administration;
- 15 (2) municipal current fund accounting I;
- 16 (3) municipal current fund accounting II;
- 17 (4) municipal capital and trust fund accounting;
- 18 (5) municipal budget preparation and control;
- 19 (6) county fiscal operations;
- 20 (7) principles of financial management; and
- 21 (8) preparation of annual financial statements;

22 all as provided by the Division of Local Government Services or  
23 Rutgers, The State University, with the approval of the Division  
24 of Local Government Services.

25 d. Each completed application form shall be accompanied by a  
26 fee in the amount of \$50, payable to the State Treasurer and shall  
27 be filed with the director at least 30 days prior to the date of  
28 examination. Examinations shall be written, or both written and  
29 oral, and shall be of such character as fairly to test and  
30 determine the ability of the person tested to perform the duties  
31 of chief financial officer.

32 e. Upon finding by the director that the applicant has  
33 successfully completed the examination, a county finance officer  
34 certificate shall be issued to the applicant, upon the payment of a  
35 fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New  
36 Jersey.

37 f. Notwithstanding the qualifications established in this  
38 section, a county finance officer certificate shall be issued to any  
39 person who shall make application as required in this section, pay  
40 a fee of \$50 to the order of the Treasurer of the State of New  
41 Jersey, and:

42 (1) is licensed as a registered municipal accountant in the State  
43 of New Jersey and who shall furnish proof that he has received a  
44 certificate indicating satisfactory completion or instruction of  
45 training courses in principles of financial management, and  
46 county fiscal operations, as described herein; or

47 (2) is a certified municipal finance officer in the State of New  
48 Jersey and within one year of the date of enactment of P.L. ,  
49 c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this bill)  
50 furnishes proof that he has five years of experience as a county  
51 finance officer; or

52 (3) is a certified municipal finance officer in the State of New  
53 Jersey and furnishes evidence that he successfully took and  
54 passed the examination for such certification as provided under

1 section 2 of P.L.1971, c.413 (C.40A:9-140.2) and that he has  
2 received a certificate indicating satisfactory completion of  
3 training courses in preparation of annual financial statements,  
4 and county fiscal operations as described herein; or

5 (4) who has been serving as a county finance officer for five  
6 years, and who shall make application as required in this section  
7 within six months of the effective date of this act, and who shall  
8 furnish proof of service as described herein; however, the  
9 certificate shall be marked as restricted to the county employing  
10 the county finance officer. A county finance officer holding a  
11 restricted certificate shall then be subject to all provisions  
12 affecting other certificate holders under this act, including, but  
13 not limited to renewal and continuing education.

14 3. (New section) a. Commencing July 1, 1995, all county  
15 finance officer certificates shall be renewed upon application,  
16 payment of the required fee of \$50 and verification that the  
17 applicant has met continuing education requirements, all as set  
18 forth in this section. Each renewal shall be for a period of two  
19 years. The renewal date shall be 30 days prior to the expiration  
20 date.

21 b. Each applicant for renewal of a county finance officer  
22 certificate, on a form prescribed by the director, shall furnish  
23 proof of having earned at least 3.0 continuing education units in  
24 subject areas and minimum contact hours as prescribed by the  
25 director. For the purposes of this section, 1.0 continuing  
26 education unit equals 10 contact hours. Upon verification of this  
27 requirement and upon payment of a fee of \$50 to the order of the  
28 Treasurer of the State of New Jersey, the director shall renew  
29 the county finance officer certificate.

30 c. When the holder of a county finance officer certificate has  
31 allowed the certificate to lapse by failing to renew the  
32 certificate, a new application and certificate shall be required.  
33 If application is made within six months of the expiration of the  
34 certificate, then application may be made in the same manner as  
35 a renewal.

36 4. (New section) a. Notwithstanding the provisions of any law  
37 to the contrary, in every county there shall be a chief financial  
38 officer appointed in the same manner as department directors in  
39 accordance with the county's form of government. The term of  
40 office shall be three years, which shall run from January 1 in the  
41 year in which the chief financial officer is appointed. The  
42 compensation for the chief financial officer shall be set forth in a  
43 county salary resolution.

44 b. No person shall serve as the chief financial officer of any  
45 county in which he serves as a member of the governing body.

46 c. Commencing July 1, 1996, no person shall be appointed or  
47 reappointed as a chief financial officer unless he holds a county  
48 finance officer certificate issued pursuant to section 2 of this act.

49 d. When a vacancy occurs in the office of chief financial  
50 officer following the appointment of a certified county finance  
51 officer to that office, the governing body or chief executive  
52 officer, as appropriate, may appoint, for a period not to exceed  
53 one year and commencing on the date of the vacancy, a person  
54 who does not hold a county finance officer certificate to serve as

1 a temporary chief financial officer. Any person so appointed,  
2 with the approval of the director, may be reappointed as chief  
3 financial officer following the termination of the temporary  
4 appointment for one additional year. No county shall have a  
5 temporary chief financial officer for more than two consecutive  
6 years.

7 e. If a governing body fails or refuses to comply with this  
8 section, and has received an order from the director to do so, the  
9 members of a governing body who willfully fail or refuse to  
10 comply each shall be subject to a personal penalty of \$25 for each  
11 day after the date fixed for final action that the failure or  
12 refusal to comply continues. The amount of the penalty may be  
13 recovered by the director in the name of the State as a personal  
14 debt of the member of the governing body and upon receipt shall  
15 be paid into the State Treasury.

16 5. (New section) A county finance officer certificate may be  
17 issued without fee by the director to any employee of the  
18 Division of Local Government Services for the sole purpose of  
19 enabling that employee to serve as a chief financial officer on an  
20 interim basis in any county when so instructed by the director.

21 When an employee of the director is instructed to serve as a  
22 chief financial officer for a county on an interim basis, the  
23 director may establish a fee for the service based upon the time  
24 spent and other expenses for the work. The county, upon request  
25 for payment for chief financial officer services, shall forward a  
26 check to the director, payable to the State Treasurer. The  
27 amount, if not paid when billed, shall be recoverable in an action  
28 at law.

29 6. (New section) Any county finance officer certificate may  
30 be revoked or suspended by the director for dishonest practices or  
31 willful or intentional failure, neglect or refusal to comply with  
32 the Constitution of the State of New Jersey or laws relating to  
33 county finances or other good cause. The governing body  
34 together with the appropriate chief executive officer of any  
35 county may request a review by the director of the behavior or  
36 practices of a certified county finance officer. The director may  
37 also initiate a review of the behavior or practices of a certified  
38 county finance officer if he finds it advisable to do so through the  
39 normal exercise of his statutory duties and responsibilities. No  
40 certificate shall be revoked or suspended except under a proper  
41 hearing before the director or his designee after due notice. If  
42 the county finance officer certificate of a person serving as a  
43 chief financial officer or county finance officer shall be revoked,  
44 that person shall be removed from his office or position by the  
45 director, the office or position shall be declared vacant, and that  
46 person shall not be eligible to hold the office or position or to  
47 make application for recertification for a period of five years  
48 from the date of revocation.

49 7. (New section) The director is authorized to adopt, in  
50 accordance with the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968,  
51 c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.), such regulations, forms and  
52 procedures as may be necessary to carry out the terms of this act.

53 8. N.J.S.40A:5-2 is amended to read as follows:

54 40A:5-2. As used in this chapter and any act amendatory to

1 and supplementary thereto unless the context indicates  
2 otherwise: "local unit" means any county, municipality, special  
3 district or any public body corporate and politic created or  
4 established under any law of this State by or on behalf of any one  
5 or more counties or municipalities, or any board, commission,  
6 department or agency of any of the foregoing having custody of  
7 funds, but shall not include a school district;

8 "governing body" means the governing body of a county or the  
9 commission, council, board or body having control of the finances  
10 of a municipality or any other local unit as defined herein;

11 "chief financial officer" means, except in the case of a  
12 municipality, the director of revenue and finance, comptroller,  
13 treasurer, collector or other financial officer of a local unit. In  
14 the case of a municipality, the chief financial officer means the  
15 person appointed pursuant to section 5 of P.L.1988, c.110  
16 (C.40A:9-140.10); in the case of a county, the chief financial  
17 officer means the person appointed pursuant to section 4 of  
18 P.L. , c. (C. ) (pending before the Legislature as this  
19 bill);

20 "chief executive officer" means the county executive, county  
21 manager, county supervisor or president of the board of chosen  
22 freeholders, as appropriate to the form of government of a  
23 county, or the mayor, manager or commissioner, as appropriate  
24 to the form of government of a municipality, or the chairman,  
25 president, director or other chief executive officer of any other  
26 local unit;

27 "warrant" means the draft or check of any local unit used in  
28 warranting disbursement of moneys and shall, in every instance,  
29 be evidenced by the issuance of a check of the local unit. In no  
30 instance shall it be necessary for the local unit to refer to, or  
31 issue, a check separate and distinct from the warrant;

32 "check" means the instrument by which moneys of any local  
33 unit are disbursed.

34 (cf: P.L.1991, c.175, s.15)

35 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

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40 Requires appointment of, and establishes requirements for county  
41 chief financial officers.

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SENATE, No. 202

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1992 SESSION

By Senator CONNORS

1 AN ACT concerning county finance officers, and supplementing  
2 Chapter 9 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statues.

3

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

6 1. As used in this act:

7 "Applicant" means a person seeking to be certified as eligible  
8 to hold the position of county finance officer pursuant to the  
9 provisions of this act

10 "County finance officer" means a county comptroller or county  
11 treasurer who is not a member of the governing body of a county.

12 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Local  
13 Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 "Division" means the Division of Local Government Services in  
15 the Department of Community Affairs.

16 2. The director shall issue a county finance officer certificate  
17 to an applicant who has successfully completed the examination  
18 set forth in section 3 of this act, after receipt by the director of  
19 a fee of \$25.00, payable to the State Treasurer.

20 3. An applicant shall present to the director a written  
21 application on forms provided by the division, showing that the  
22 applicant is not less than 21 years of age, is a citizen of the  
23 United States, is of good moral character, has obtained a  
24 certificate or diploma issued after at least four years of study in  
25 an approved secondary school or has received an academic  
26 education considered and accepted by the Commissioner of  
27 Education of this State as fully equivalent, and has graduated  
28 from a four year course at a college of recognized standing. An  
29 applicant who does not meet the college education requirement  
30 may substitute full-time experience in a county government  
31 position as a county comptroller, assistant comptroller, county  
32 treasurer, assistant county treasurer or deputy  
33 treasurer on a year-for-year basis. An applicant also shall  
34 furnish proof that he has received certificates indicating  
35 satisfactory completion of, or has been the instructor of,  
36 complete training courses in county finance administration,  
37 county current fund Accounting I and II, county capital and trust  
38 fund accounting, county budget preparation and control, and  
39 principles of financial management, or such other training  
40 courses as are certified as their equivalent by Rutgers University,  
41 the State University of New Jersey, and approved by the  
42 division. The director shall hold examinations semi-annually and  
43 at such other times as the director determines to be appropriate  
44 for certification of county finance officers. The first  
45 examinations for certification of county finance officers shall

1 take place not less than 180 days from the effective date of this  
2 act. Examinations shall be written, or both written and oral, and  
3 shall be of such character as fairly to test and determine the  
4 ability of the person tested to perform the duties of county  
5 finance officer.

6 4. Notwithstanding the qualifications established in section 3  
7 of this act, a county finance officer certificate shall be issued to  
8 any person who is licensed as a registered municipal accountant  
9 in the State of New Jersey who shall make application as required  
10 in section 3 of this act, and who shall furnish proof of receipt of a  
11 certificate indicating satisfactory completion or instruction of a  
12 training course in principles of financial management, or such  
13 other training course as is certified as its equivalent by Rutgers  
14 University, The State University of New Jersey, and approved by  
15 the division after receipt by the director of a fee of \$25.00.

16 5. The governing body of each county shall, by ordinance or  
17 resolution as appropriate, create the position of county finance  
18 officer and establish the compensation therefor.

19 6. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a county  
20 finance officer certificate may be issued without fee by the  
21 director to any employee of the division, for the sole purpose of  
22 enabling that employee to serve as a county finance officer on an  
23 interim basis in any county when so instructed by the director.

24 7. Any county finance officer certificate may be revoked or  
25 suspended by the director for dishonest practices or willful or  
26 intentional failure, neglect or refusal to comply with the  
27 Constitution of the State of New Jersey or laws relating to  
28 county finances or other good cause. The governing body  
29 together with the appropriate chief executive officer of any  
30 county may request a review by the director of the behavior or  
31 practices of a county finance officer. The director also may  
32 initiate a review of the behavior or practices of a county finance  
33 officer if found advisable to do so through the normal exercise of  
34 the director's statutory duties and responsibilities. No  
35 certificate shall be revoked or suspended except under a proper  
36 hearing before the director or the director's designee after due  
37 notice. If the county finance officer certificate of a person  
38 serving as a county finance officer is revoked, such person shall  
39 be removed from office or position by the director; the office or  
40 position shall be declared vacant, and the person shall not be  
41 eligible to hold the office or position of a county finance officer  
42 or to make application for recertification for a period of five  
43 years from the date of revocation.

44 8. Commencing on the last day of the third year following the  
45 enactment of this act, no person shall be appointed or  
46 reappointed as a county finance officer unless that person holds a  
47 county finance officer certificate issued pursuant to this act,  
48 except that: a. a county finance officer who on the last day of  
49 the third year following the enactment of this act has held office  
50 continuously for five consecutive years in the same county may  
51 continue to serve in that position and shall not be removed from  
52 office or denied reappointment for failure to qualify as a  
53 certified county finance officer pursuant to the provisions of this  
54 act, and b. when a vacancy occurs in the position of county



1 finance officer, the governing body or chief executive officer of  
2 the county, as appropriate, may appoint, for a period not to  
3 exceed one year from the date of the vacancy, a person who does  
4 not hold a county finance officer certificate to serve as a  
5 temporary county finance officer. Any person so appointed may  
6 be reappointed as county finance officer following the  
7 termination of the temporary appointment for one additional  
8 year, except that no person shall serve as temporary county  
9 finance officer for more than two years in any county.

10 9. The director is authorized to adopt, in accordance with the  
11 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et  
12 seq.), such regulations, forms and procedures as may be necessary  
13 to carry out the terms of this act.

14 10. This act shall take effect immediately.  
15  
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17 STATEMENT  
18

19 This bill provides for the qualification and certification of  
20 county finance officers. County finance officer applicants are  
21 required to pay a \$25.00 examination fee and completion of  
22 complete training courses prior to certification. The  
23 circumstances by which an issued certificate may be revoked or  
24 suspended are also established.

25 In addition, the bill provides that commencing on the last day  
26 of the third year following the enactment of this act, no person  
27 shall be appointed or reappointed as a county finance officer  
28 unless the person holds a county finance officer's certificate.  
29 However, a county finance officer who on the last day of the  
30 third year following the enactment of this act has held the  
31 position continuously for five years in the same county shall not  
32 be denied reappointment for failure to qualify as a certified  
33 county finance officer.

34 The bill also provides for temporary appointments as county  
35 finance officer for a period not to exceed two years.

36 The bill further permits the Director of the Division of Local  
37 Government Services to issue without fee a county finance  
38 officer's certificate to an employee of that division for the sole  
39 purpose of enabling that employee to serve as a county finance  
40 officer on an interim basis in any county when so instructed by  
41 the director.  
42  
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48 Requires completion of complete training courses and sets  
standards for certification of county finance officers.

ASSEMBLY, No. 619

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 1992 SESSION

By Assemblymen MORAN and CONNORS

1 AN ACT concerning county finance officers, and supplementing  
2 Chapter 9 of Title 40A of the New Jersey Statues.

3

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

6 1. As used in this act:

7 "Applicant" means a person seeking to be certified as eligible  
8 to hold the position of county finance officer pursuant to the  
9 provisions of this act

10 "County finance officer" means a county comptroller or county  
11 treasurer who is not a member of the governing body of a county.

12 "Director" means the Director of the Division of Local  
13 Government Services, in the Department of Community Affairs.

14 "Division" means the Division of Local Government Services in  
15 the Department of Community Affairs.

16 2. The director shall issue a county finance officer certificate  
17 to an applicant who has successfully completed the examination  
18 set forth in section 3 of this act, after receipt by the director of  
19 a fee of \$25.00, payable to the State Treasurer.

20 3. An applicant shall present to the director a written  
21 application on forms provided by the division, showing that the  
22 applicant is not less than 21 years of age, is a citizen of the  
23 United States, is of good moral character, has obtained a  
24 certificate or diploma issued after at least four years of study in  
25 an approved secondary school or has received an academic  
26 education considered and accepted by the Commissioner of  
27 Education of this State as fully equivalent, and has graduated  
28 from a four year course at a college of recognized standing. An  
29 applicant who does not meet the college education requirement  
30 may substitute full-time experience in a county government  
31 position as a county comptroller, assistant comptroller, county  
32 treasurer, assistant county treasurer or deputy  
33 treasurer on a year-for-year basis. An applicant also shall  
34 furnish proof that he has received certificates indicating  
35 satisfactory completion of, or has been the instructor of,  
36 complete training courses in county finance administration,  
37 county current fund Accounting I and II, county capital and trust  
38 fund accounting, county budget preparation and control, and  
39 principles of financial management, or such other training  
40 courses as are certified as their equivalent by Rutgers University,  
41 the State University of New Jersey, and approved by the  
42 division. The director shall hold examinations semi-annually and  
43 at such other times as the director determines to be appropriate  
44 for certification of county finance officers. The first  
45 examinations for certification of county finance officers shall

1 take place not less than 180 days from the effective date of this  
2 act. Examinations shall be written, or both written and oral, and  
3 shall be of such character as fairly to test and determine the  
4 ability of the person tested to perform the duties of county  
5 finance officer.

6 4. Notwithstanding the qualifications established in section 3  
7 of this act, a county finance officer certificate shall be issued to  
8 any person who is licensed as a registered municipal accountant  
9 in the State of New Jersey who shall make application as required  
10 in section 3 of this act, and who shall furnish proof of receipt of a  
11 certificate indicating satisfactory completion or instruction of a  
12 training course in principles of financial management, or such  
13 other training course as is certified as its equivalent by Rutgers  
14 University, The State University of New Jersey, and approved by  
15 the division after receipt by the director of a fee of \$25.00.

16 5. The governing body of each county shall, by ordinance or  
17 resolution as appropriate, create the position of county finance  
18 officer and establish the compensation therefor.

19 6. Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, a county  
20 finance officer certificate may be issued without fee by the  
21 director to any employee of the division, for the sole purpose of  
22 enabling that employee to serve as a county finance officer on an  
23 interim basis in any county when so instructed by the director.

24 7. Any county finance officer certificate may be revoked or  
25 suspended by the director for dishonest practices or willful or  
26 intentional failure, neglect or refusal to comply with the  
27 Constitution of the State of New Jersey or laws relating to  
28 county finances or other good cause. The governing body  
29 together with the appropriate chief executive officer of any  
30 county may request a review by the director of the behavior or  
31 practices of a county finance officer. The director also may  
32 initiate a review of the behavior or practices of a county finance  
33 officer if found advisable to do so through the normal exercise of  
34 the director's statutory duties and responsibilities. No  
35 certificate shall be revoked or suspended except under a proper  
36 hearing before the director or the director's designee after due  
37 notice. If the county finance officer certificate of a person  
38 serving as a county finance officer is revoked, such person shall  
39 be removed from office or position by the director; the office or  
40 position shall be declared vacant, and the person shall not be  
41 eligible to hold the office or position of a county finance officer  
42 or to make application for recertification for a period of five  
43 years from the date of revocation.

44 8. Commencing on the last day of the third year following the  
45 enactment of this act, no person shall be appointed or  
46 reappointed as a county finance officer unless that person holds a  
47 county finance officer certificate issued pursuant to this act,  
48 except that: a. a county finance officer who on the last day of  
49 the third year following the enactment of this act has held office  
50 continuously for five consecutive years in the same county may  
51 continue to serve in that position and shall not be removed from  
52 office or denied reappointment for failure to qualify as a  
53 certified county finance officer pursuant to the provisions of this  
54 act, and b. when a vacancy occurs in the position of county

1 finance officer, the governing body or chief executive officer of  
2 the county, as appropriate, may appoint, for a period not to  
3 exceed one year from the date of the vacancy, a person who does  
4 not hold a county finance officer certificate to serve as a  
5 temporary county finance officer. Any person so appointed may  
6 be reappointed as county finance officer following the  
7 termination of the temporary appointment for one additional  
8 year, except that no person shall serve as temporary county  
9 finance officer for more than two years in any county.

10 9. The director is authorized to adopt, in accordance with the  
11 "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1  
12 et seq.), such regulations, forms and procedures as may be  
13 necessary to carry out the terms of this act.

14 10. This act shall take effect immediately.  
15  
16

### 17 STATEMENT

18  
19 This bill provides for the qualification and certification of  
20 county finance officers. County finance officer applicants are  
21 required to pay a \$25.00 examination fee and completion of  
22 complete training courses prior to certification. The  
23 circumstances by which an issued certificate may be revoked or  
24 suspended are also established.

25 In addition, the bill provides that commencing on the last day  
26 of the third year following the enactment of this act, no person  
27 shall be appointed or reappointed as a county finance officer  
28 unless the person holds a county finance officer's certificate.  
29 However, a county finance officer who on the last day of the  
30 third year following the enactment of this act has held the  
31 position continuously for five years in the same county shall not  
32 be denied reappointment for failure to qualify as a certified  
33 county finance officer.

34 The bill also provides for temporary appointments as county  
35 finance officer for a period not to exceed two years.

36 The bill further permits the Director of the Division of Local  
37 Government Services to issue without fee a county finance  
38 officer's certificate to an employee of that division for the sole  
39 purpose of enabling that employee to serve as a county finance  
40 officer on an interim basis in any county when so instructed by  
41 the director.  
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47 Requires completion of complete training courses and sets  
standards for certification of county finance officers.

ASSEMBLY LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR

**SENATE, No. 202 and ASSEMBLY, No. 619**

**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

DATED: JANUARY 11, 1993

The Assembly Local Government Committee favorably reports an Assembly committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 202 and Assembly Bill No. 619.

The Assembly committee substitute for Senate Bill No. 202 and Assembly Bill No. 619 requires the appointment of, and provides for the qualification and certification of county chief financial officers. Under this committee substitute the qualifications for certification as a county finance officer are similar to the qualifications required for certification as a municipal finance officer. County finance officer certificate applicants are required complete a series of training courses and to pay a \$50 examination fee prior to certification. The circumstances under which an issued certificate may be revoked or suspended are also established.

The committee substitute provides that commencing July 1, 1996, no person shall be appointed or reappointed as a county chief financial officer unless that person holds a county finance officer certificate. Registered municipal accountants who have completed the certified municipal finance officer courses, certified municipal finance officers, and persons who have been serving as a county finance officer for at least five years may make application for a county finance officer certificate without further qualification. A county finance officer who is grandfathered in under this provision will be issued a certification restricted to his county and also will be required to take continuing education courses in order to have his certificate renewed.

The committee substitute also provides for the temporary appointment of a noncertified person as a county chief financial officer for a period not to exceed one year, or two years with the approval of the director, upon the occurrence of a vacancy in the office of chief financial officer.

The committee substitute further permits the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to revoke the certificate of a county chief financial officer for cause and after a hearing. A person whose certificate has been revoked would be removed from office and would be unable to serve in that office or apply for recertification for a period of five years. The director is permitted to issue without fee a county finance officer's certificate to an employee of the Division of Local Government Services for the sole purpose of enabling that employee to serve as a county chief financial officer on an interim basis in any county when so instructed by the director.

The committee substitute provides for a personal penalty of \$25 per day against any members of a county governing body who do not appoint a chief financial officer in accordance with the provisions of the committee substitute, after receiving an order from the director.

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SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

SENATE, No. 202

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: FEBRUARY 13, 1992

The Senate Community Affairs Committee favorably reports Senate Bill No. 202.

Senate Bill No. 202 provides for the qualification and certification of county finance officers. County finance officer applicants are required to pay a \$25.00 examination fee and completion of complete training courses prior to certification. The circumstances by which an issued certificate may be revoked or suspended are also established.

In addition, the bill provides that commencing on the last day of the third year following the enactment of this act, no person shall be appointed or reappointed as a county finance officer unless the person holds a county finance officer's certificate. However, a county finance officer who on the last day of the third year following the enactment of this act has held the position continuously for five years in the same county shall not be denied reappointment for failure to qualify as a certified county finance officer.

The bill also provides for temporary appointments as county finance officer for a period not to exceed two years.

The bill further permits the Director of the Division of Local Government Services to issue without fee a county finance officer's certificate to an employee of that division for the sole purpose of enabling that employee to serve as a county finance officer on an interim basis in any county when so instructed by the director.

This bill was pre-filed for introduction in the 1992 session pending technical review. As reported, the bill includes the changes required by technical review which has been performed.