

2020 Regular Session

SENATE BILL NO. 415

BY SENATOR MIZELL

FISCAL CONTROLS. Provides relative to fiscal administrators of political subdivisions.
(gov sig)

1 AN ACT

2 To amend and reenact R.S. 39:1351(A)(2)(a) and (3), and the introductory paragraph of R.S.
3 39:1351(B)(1) and R.S. 1339:51(B)(1)(a), 1352(A)(1) and (3), 39:1352(B)(1),
4 1353(A) and 1354(A), and to enact R.S. 39:1352(B)(2)(e) and (4), relative to fiscal
5 administrators of political subdivisions; to provide relative to appointments; to
6 provide relative to duties of a fiscal administrator; to provide relative to the adoption
7 of budget amendments; and to provide for related matters.

8 Be it enacted by the Legislature of Louisiana:

9 Section 1. R.S. 39:1351(A)(2)(a) and (3), and the introductory paragraph of R.S.
10 39:1351(B)(1)and R.S. 39:1351 (B)(1)(a), 1352(A)(1) and (3), 1352(B)(1), 1353(A) and R.S.
11 1354(A) are hereby amended and reenacted and R.S. 39:1352(B)(2)(e)and (4) are hereby
12 enacted to read as follows:

13 §1351. Appointment of a fiscal administrator

14 A. * * *

15 (2)(a) If it is determined by the unanimous decision of the legislative auditor,
16 the attorney general, and the state treasurer at a public meeting to consider such
17 matters that a political subdivision is reasonably certain to **not maintain financial**

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§1352. Duties of a fiscal administrator

A.(1) A fiscal administrator shall perform such **internal** investigation of the financial affairs of the political subdivision as he deems necessary. He shall have access to all papers, books, records, documents, films, tapes, and other forms of recordation of the political subdivision or, as they relate to such political subdivision, of the state.

* * *

(3) The fiscal administrator, subject to ~~approval of the court~~ **state court**, shall have authority to direct all fiscal operations of the political subdivision and to take whatever action he deems necessary to return the political subdivision to financial stability, ~~in accordance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies with which the political subdivision must comply.~~ Such authority shall include but not be limited to authority to take one or more of the following actions:

* * *

B.(1) After his **initial** investigation, the fiscal administrator shall file a written report with the court, the governing authority of the political subdivision, the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the legislative auditor. **This report shall be updated on at least a quarterly basis during the term of fiscal administration.**

(2) The report shall contain the following:

* * *

(e) A proposed three-year plan with the goal of establishing and maintaining financial stability for the political subdivision once fiscal administration is terminated.

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(4) Upon the termination of fiscal administration, the fiscal administrator shall submit a final plan for approval by the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the legislative auditor. The approved plan shall remain in place for three years and shall be subject to periodic review by the state

Proposed law retains present law but makes technical changes.

Present law provides that after his investigation, the fiscal administrator will file a written report with the court, the governing authority of the political subdivision, the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the legislative auditor.

Proposed law retains present law but makes technical changes and further provides that the report will be updated on at least a quarterly basis during the term of fiscal administration.

Present law provides that the report will contain the following:

- (1) An estimate of the revenue and expenditures of the political subdivision for the remainder of its current fiscal year and the fiscal year following.
- (2) Amendments to the comprehensive budget of the political subdivisions adopted pursuant to present law or a proposed comprehensive budget if such budget has not been previously adopted, which will ensure that payments of debt service are a priority budget item and that they will be timely made by the political subdivision during the remainder of the current fiscal year and the fiscal year following or such amendments will ensure having sufficient revenue to pay current expenditures, excluding civil judgments, or, in the case of a city, parish, or other local public school board, such amendments will ensure resolving its status as financially at risk as that status has been defined by rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.
- (3) An estimate of the financial aid or new revenue which may be needed by the political subdivision if the fiscal administrator determines that revenues of the political subdivision are, or will be, insufficient to ensure both timely payments of debt service as a priority over items in the budget, and a reduced, but adequate, funding level for other needs of the political subdivision or as is needed to have sufficient revenue to pay current expenditures, excluding civil judgments, or, in the case of a city, parish, or other local public school board, as is needed to resolve its status as financially at risk as that status has been defined by rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Proposed law retains present law but adds the additional requirement of a proposed plan with the goal of establishing and maintaining financial stability for the political subdivision once fiscal administration is terminated.

Proposed law provides that upon the termination of fiscal administration, the fiscal administrator will submit a final plan for approval by the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the legislative auditor. The approved plan will remain in place for three years and will be subject to periodic review by the state treasurer, the attorney general, and the legislative auditor.

Present law provides that within seven days after receipt of the report, the governing authority of the political subdivision will adopt in an open meeting an appropriate budget adoption instrument which contains the comprehensive budget, or amendments to the original comprehensive budget of the political subdivision, as proposed in the fiscal administrator's report adoption of those revisions which do not make it reasonably certain that the political subdivision will fail to make timely debt service payments or which do not make it reasonably certain that the political subdivision will fail to have sufficient revenue to pay current expenditures, excluding civil judgments, or, in the case of a city, parish, or other local, public school board, which do not make it reasonably certain that the school board will fail to resolve its status as financially at risk as that status has been defined by rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during the remainder of the current fiscal year and the fiscal year following.

Proposed law retains present law but makes technical change.

Present law provides that the fiscal administrator will monitor revenues and expenditures of the political subdivision under the adopted budget, issuing such supplemental reports as he deems necessary until it is reasonably certain that debt service payments by the political subdivision will be timely made during the remainder of the current fiscal year and the fiscal year following or that there will be sufficient revenue to pay current expenditure, excluding civil judgments, or, in the case of a city, parish, or other local public school board, its status as financially at risk as that status has been defined by rule by the State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education will be resolved. The supplemental reports will be subject to adoption, approval, and court review as provided for in present law.

Proposed law retains present law but requires the issuing of supplemental reports no less frequently than required in present law.

Effective upon signature of the governor or lapse of time for gubernatorial action.

(Amends R.S. 39:1351(A)(2)(a) and (3) and 1351(B)(1)(intro para) and (a), 1352(A)(1) and (3), 1352(B)(1), 1353(A) and 1354(A); adds R.S. 39:1352(B)(2)(e) and (4))