

# SENATE BILL 458

L6, P1

9lr2277  
CF 9lr2279

---

By: **Senator Jones (Chair, Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds) and Senators Currie, Forehand, and Haines**

Introduced and read first time: February 4, 2009

Assigned to: Budget and Taxation

---

## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Treasurer – Local Government Units – Local Debt Policies**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring a certain report of the financial officer of a political  
4 subdivision to be submitted to the State Treasurer; requiring certain additional  
5 information to be included in the report; requiring certain financial officers to  
6 submit a certain updated report on request of the State Treasurer; repealing a  
7 requirement that certain local government investment guidelines include a  
8 certain form; requiring each local government unit to adopt a certain local debt  
9 policy; requiring a copy of the policy to be mailed to the State Treasurer;  
10 requiring the State Treasurer to send a certain notice if the State Treasurer  
11 makes certain findings regarding the policy; requiring a certain local governing  
12 body to revise the policy under certain circumstances; requiring a local  
13 governing body to submit a certain revised policy under certain circumstances;  
14 requiring the State Treasurer to contact a certain local government if certain  
15 requirements are not met; requiring certain financial officers to provide certain  
16 information requested by the State Treasurer; altering certain definitions;  
17 defining certain terms; repealing obsolete language; making stylistic changes;  
18 making technical corrections; and generally relating to local debt policies of  
19 local government units.

20 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
21 Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions  
22 Section 2–101  
23 Annotated Code of Maryland  
24 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

25 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
26 Article 95 – Treasurer  
27 Section 22F  
28 Annotated Code of Maryland

---

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 (2003 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

2 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
3 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

4 **Article 24 – Political Subdivisions – Miscellaneous Provisions**

5 2–101.

6 (a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

7 (2) “Department” means the Department of Legislative Services.

8 (3) “Financial officer” means the treasurer or other financial officer of  
9 a political subdivision.

10 (4) “Political subdivision” includes:

11 (i) A county;

12 (ii) A municipal corporation in the State;

13 (iii) A special taxing district in the State; and

14 (iv) A public corporation of the State.

15 (b) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, if a political  
16 subdivision is authorized to incur debt to be redeemed from a fee, charge, or the  
17 proceeds of a levy, then within 120 days after the end of the fiscal year of the political  
18 subdivision, its financial officer shall submit **TO THE DEPARTMENT AND STATE**  
19 **TREASURER**, subject to § 2–1246 of the State Government Article, [to the  
20 Department] a comprehensive report on the financial condition of the political  
21 subdivision as of the end of that fiscal year.

22 (2) If a political subdivision subject to the provisions of paragraph (1)  
23 of this subsection has a population of more than 400,000, the report required under  
24 paragraph (1) of this subsection may be submitted within 180 days after the end of the  
25 fiscal year of the political subdivision.

26 (c) A report under this section shall be on the form that the Department  
27 provides.

28 (d) A report under this section shall include the affidavit of the financial  
29 officer and all of the following information that applies to the political subdivision:

30 (1) The assessed valuation of taxable and tangible property in the  
31 political subdivision;

- 1           (2)    The total indebtedness of the political subdivision;
- 2           (3)    The following categories of the total indebtedness:
- 3                   (i)    Bond indebtedness that is redeemable from the proceeds of  
4 general and ad valorem taxes;
- 5                   (ii)   Temporary or floating indebtedness;
- 6                   (iii)   Obligations that are incurred in anticipation of tax  
7 collection;
- 8                   (iv)   Current bills payable;
- 9                   (v)   Contingent liability that results from the guaranty of an  
10 obligation of another political subdivision; and
- 11                  (vi)   Self-liquidating bond indebtedness;
- 12           (4)    As to self-liquidating bond indebtedness:
- 13                   (i)    The amount of indebtedness for each project; and
- 14                   (ii)   The source of the revenue for its liquidation;
- 15           (5)    As to each sinking fund for retirement of obligations:
- 16                   (i)    Each obligation for which the fund is established;
- 17                   (ii)   The amount of the fund; and
- 18                   (iii)   The manner in which money in the fund is invested;
- 19           (6)    As to the tax levy for the fiscal year for which the report is made:
- 20                   (i)    The amount of the levy imposed;
- 21                   (ii)   The amount of the levy collected; and
- 22                   (iii)   Separate items for:
- 23                           1.    The amount of any special assessment levied; and
- 24                           2.    The amount of that assessment collected;
- 25           (7)    As to the tax levy for each of the 3 fiscal years immediately  
26 preceding the fiscal year for which the report is made:

- 1 (i) The amount of the levy imposed; and
- 2 (ii) The amount of uncollected taxes;
- 3 (8) As to the population of the political subdivision:
- 4 (i) The population in the most recent federal census; and
- 5 (ii) Any official or unofficial population estimates for the fiscal
- 6 year for which the report is made;
- 7 (9) A copy of the most recent actuarial report on the pension system of
- 8 the political subdivision, unless it is a county or municipal corporation and a member
- 9 of the State pension system; [and]
- 10 (10) **AS TO ALL CATEGORIES OF INDEBTEDNESS:**
- 11 (I) **VARIABLE INTEREST RATE DEBT INSTRUMENTS;**
- 12 (II) **INTEREST RATE EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS OR SWAPS;**
- 13 **AND**
- 14 (III) **OTHER DERIVATIVES, INCLUDING FUTURES AND**
- 15 **OPTIONS; AND**
- 16 (11) Any other information about the financial affairs of the political
- 17 subdivision that the Department finds pertinent or appropriate and necessary to show
- 18 accurately the financial condition of the political subdivision.
- 19 (e) **ON REQUEST OF THE STATE TREASURER, A FINANCIAL OFFICER**
- 20 **SHALL SUBMIT AN UPDATED REPORT ON THE INDEBTEDNESS OF THE POLITICAL**
- 21 **SUBDIVISION AS REQUIRED IN SUBSECTION (D) OF THIS SECTION.**
- 22 (F) (1) A financial officer may not fail **TO:**
- 23 (i) [To submit] **SUBMIT** a report under this section; or
- 24 (ii) [Within 15 days after receiving notice that the Department
- 25 finds the report inadequate, to resubmit] **RESUBMIT** a report that meets the
- 26 requirements of this section **WITHIN 15 DAYS AFTER RECEIVING NOTICE THAT THE**
- 27 **DEPARTMENT FINDS THE REPORT INADEQUATE.**
- 28 (2) A financial officer who violates any provision of this subsection is
- 29 personally liable to the State for a penalty of \$10 for each day or part of a day for
- 30 which the report is overdue.

**Article 95 – Treasurer**

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27  
28  
29  
30

22F.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Chief executive” means:

(i) For Baltimore City, the Mayor;

(ii) For a nonhome rule county, the chairman or president of the board of county commissioners;

(iii) For a charter county, the elected county executive or, if the county does not have an elected executive, the chairman or president of the county council;

(iv) For a code home rule county, the chairman or president of the board of county commissioners;

(v) For a community college, a designee of the board of trustees;

(vi) For a municipal corporation, the mayor or, if the municipal corporation does not have a mayor, the chairman or president of the municipal governing body; [and]

(vii) For the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the Chairman of the Commission;

**(VIII) FOR A PUBLIC CORPORATION, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER; AND**

**(IX) FOR AN AUTHORITY, THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY.**

(3) (i) “Community college” includes a regional community college established under Title 16, Subtitle 2 of the Education Article.

(ii) “Community college” does not include the Baltimore City Community College.

**(4) “FINANCIAL OFFICER” MEANS THE TREASURER OR OTHER FINANCIAL OFFICER OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INVESTMENT OF PUBLIC FUNDS OR THE ISSUANCE AND MANAGEMENT OF DEBT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT.**

- 1                   **(5)** “Governing body” means:
- 2                   (i) For Baltimore City, the Mayor and City Council of  
3 Baltimore;
- 4                   (ii) For a nonhome rule county, the county commissioners;
- 5                   (iii) For a charter county, as provided by local law, the county  
6 council or the county executive and the county council;
- 7                   (iv) For a code county, the county commissioners;
- 8                   (v) For a community college, the board of trustees;
- 9                   (vi) For a municipal corporation, the body provided by the  
10 municipal charter; [and]
- 11                   (vii) For the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission, the  
12 Commission;

13                   **(VIII) FOR A PUBLIC CORPORATION, THE BOARD OF**  
14 **DIRECTORS; AND**

15                   **(IX) FOR AN AUTHORITY, THE BOARD OF THE AUTHORITY.**

16                   [(5) “Investment manager” means the director of finance, treasurer, or  
17 other official of a local government unit who is responsible for the investment of public  
18 funds of the local government unit.]

19                   **(6)** “Local government unit” means:

- 20                   (i) Baltimore City;
- 21                   (ii) A community college;
- 22                   (iii) A county;
- 23                   (iv) A municipal corporation; [or]
- 24                   (v) The Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission;

25                   **(VI) A PUBLIC CORPORATION AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE DEBT;**  
26 **OR**

27                   **(VII) AN AUTHORITY OF THE STATE AUTHORIZED TO ISSUE**  
28 **DEBT.**

1                   (7)   (i)   “Public funds” means any revenue held by a local  
2 government unit as part of:

- 3                               1.   A general fund;
- 4                               2.   A special fund;
- 5                               3.   A capital improvement fund;
- 6                               4.   A debt service fund;
- 7                               5.   An enterprise fund;
- 8                               6.   An internal service fund; or
- 9                               7.   Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph (ii) of  
10 this paragraph, any other account of the local government unit.

11                               (ii)   “Public funds” does not include revenues held as part of a  
12 pension fund, other postemployment benefits fund, or trust fund account.

13                   (b)   This section and the local government investment guidelines adopted by  
14 the State Treasurer under this section supersede any local law, including any charter  
15 provision, or any other public general law to the extent of any conflict.

16                   (c)   (1)   (i)   After consulting with local government officials, the State  
17 Treasurer shall adopt by regulation local government investment guidelines to govern  
18 the investment of public funds by local government units in a manner that will  
19 facilitate sound cash management while protecting the public and assuring that a  
20 local government unit has access to its public funds as required.

21                               (ii)   The State Treasurer’s local government investment  
22 guidelines shall:

- 23                               1.   State the types of investments in which public funds  
24 may be invested;
- 25                               2.   Include guidance for the prudent investment of public  
26 funds based on cash flow projections, income, liquidity, investment ratings, and risk;
- 27                               3.   Require that investments by a board of education and  
28 a board of library trustees are in compliance with the local investment policy of the  
29 respective county; and
- 30                               4.   Prohibit borrowing of funds for the express purpose of  
31 investing those funds.

1 [(iii) The State Treasurer's local government investment  
2 guidelines shall include a form that local government units shall use to comply with  
3 subsection (e) of this section. The form shall be adaptable to the investment needs of  
4 each local government unit and shall require sufficient detail to identify all pertinent  
5 aspects of an investment portfolio, including any realized losses. The form also shall  
6 require that each county include investments managed in accounts for or by the board  
7 of education and the board of library trustees of the county. The form shall provide for  
8 certification as required under subsection (e) of this section.]

9 (2) (i) [On or before September 1, 1995, the] **THE** governing body  
10 of each local government unit shall adopt by resolution a local investment policy that:

11 1. Is consistent with the local government investment  
12 guidelines adopted by the State Treasurer; and

13 2. Meets the individual needs of the local government  
14 unit.

15 (ii) Promptly after the adoption of a local investment policy, the  
16 local government unit shall mail a certified copy to the State Treasurer.

17 (iii) If the State Treasurer determines that the local investment  
18 policy is not consistent with the local government investment guidelines adopted by  
19 the State Treasurer, the State Treasurer shall notify the local government unit and  
20 the governing body of the local government unit shall prepare and submit a revised  
21 local investment policy that is consistent with the State Treasurer's guidelines.

22 (3) If the governing body of a local government unit amends its local  
23 investment policy, the local government shall submit its new policy to the State  
24 Treasurer consistent with the provisions of paragraph (2) of this subsection.

25 [(d)] (4) [An investment manager] **A FINANCIAL OFFICIAL** may not invest  
26 public funds of the local government unit in a manner inconsistent with the local  
27 investment policy.

28 **(D) (1) (I) ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, THE GOVERNING**  
29 **BODY OF EACH LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL ADOPT BY RESOLUTION,**  
30 **MOTION, OR ORDINANCE A LOCAL DEBT POLICY THAT:**

31 **1. IS CONSISTENT WITH THE MARYLAND**  
32 **CONSTITUTION, ARTICLES 23A, 24, AND 31 AND ALL OTHER APPLICABLE**  
33 **STATUTES, CHARTERS, AND LOCAL LAWS; AND**

34 **2. MEETS THE INDIVIDUAL NEEDS OF THE LOCAL**  
35 **GOVERNMENT UNIT.**

1                   **(II) PROMPTLY AFTER THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL DEBT**  
2 **POLICY, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL MAIL A CERTIFIED COPY TO THE**  
3 **STATE TREASURER.**

4                   **(III) IF THE STATE TREASURER DETERMINES THAT THE**  
5 **LOCAL DEBT POLICY IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THE MARYLAND CONSTITUTION,**  
6 **ARTICLES 23A, 24, AND 31 OR OTHER APPLICABLE STATUTES, CHARTERS, OR**  
7 **LOCAL LAW:**

8                               **1. THE STATE TREASURER SHALL NOTIFY THE**  
9 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT; AND**

10                              **2. THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE LOCAL**  
11 **GOVERNMENT UNIT SHALL PREPARE AND SUBMIT A REVISED LOCAL DEBT**  
12 **POLICY.**

13                   **(2) IF THE GOVERNING BODY OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT**  
14 **AMENDS ITS LOCAL DEBT POLICY, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SHALL SUBMIT ITS**  
15 **REVISED POLICY TO THE STATE TREASURER CONSISTENT WITH THE**  
16 **PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

17           (e) [(1) This subsection only applies to a local government unit whose total  
18 annual expenditures for total operations, as reported in the most recent publication by  
19 the Department of Legislative Services entitled "Local Government Finances in  
20 Maryland", exceed \$1,000,000.

21                   (2) (i) On or before January 15 and July 15 of each year, beginning  
22 October 1995 and continuing through October 1999, the investment manager shall  
23 complete the form adopted by the State Treasurer to report all investments of the local  
24 government unit on the close of the final day of the immediately preceding half of the  
25 fiscal year.

26                               (ii) The investment manager shall certify the accuracy of the  
27 form and that the investments reported on the form are in compliance with the local  
28 investment policy and promptly submit the form to the chief executive.

29                   (3) (i) On or before January 30 and July 30 of each year, beginning  
30 October 1995 and continuing through October 1999, the chief executive shall review  
31 the form received from the investment manager.

32                               (ii) The chief executive shall certify the date on which the form  
33 was received and that the chief executive has reviewed the form to verify that the  
34 information complies with the local investment policy and promptly mail a copy of the  
35 completed certified form to the State Treasurer.

1           (4) The State Treasurer shall review the forms to verify that the chief  
2 executive, a governing body, or an independent auditor engaged by the chief executive  
3 or a governing body has certified their compliance with this section and the local  
4 government investment guidelines.

5           (f)] (1) The State Treasurer shall contact the local government unit to  
6 seek compliance if a local government unit fails to:

7                   (i) Adopt a local investment policy that is consistent with the  
8 local government investment guidelines adopted by the State Treasurer; or

9                   (ii) [Comply with the reporting requirements under subsection  
10 (e) of this section] **ADOPT A LOCAL DEBT POLICY IN ACCORDANCE WITH (D)(1)(I)**  
11 **OF THIS SECTION.**

12                   (2) **ON REQUEST OF THE STATE TREASURER, A FINANCIAL**  
13 **OFFICER SHALL PROVIDE TO THE STATE TREASURER, IN THE FORMAT AND**  
14 **TIME FRAME REQUESTED:**

15                           (I) **A REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT**  
16 **PORTFOLIO; OR**

17                           (II) **A REPORT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEBT**  
18 **PORTFOLIO IN THE FORMAT REQUIRED UNDER ARTICLE 24, § 2-101 OF THE**  
19 **CODE.**

20                   (3) If the local government unit [continues to fail] **FAILS** to comply  
21 with this subsection, the State Treasurer shall notify in writing the Joint Committee  
22 on the Management of Public Funds.

23                   [(3)] (4) The Joint Committee on the Management of Public Funds  
24 may request the Attorney General to seek judicial enforcement against the local  
25 government unit.

26           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
27 October 1, 2009.