

Bills Affecting Local Government – 3/21/2020

[A3851](#) P.L.2020 c.12

Schaer (D36) — permits the Director of the Division of Local Government Services in the Department of Community Affairs, with the approval of the Local Finance Board, to extend the dates for the introduction and approval, and for the adoption of county and municipal budgets for any local fiscal year beyond the dates required under the "Local Budget Law" (N.J.S.40A:4-1 et seq.).

[A3850](#) P.L.2020 c.11

Murphy (D7) — Allows public bodies to conduct a meeting and public business, cause a meeting to be open to the public, vote, and receive public comment by means of communication or other electronic equipment during a state of emergency, public health emergency, or state of local disaster emergency.

The bill also allows a public body to provide notice of meetings electronically through the internet during that time, but requires that public bodies who exercise this option limit, to the extent practicable, the public business conducted at that meeting to matters necessary for the continuing operation of government and that relate to the applicable emergency declaration.

The bill does not modify any current authorization under law to do anything permitted under the bill during periods when such declarations of emergency are not in effect.

[A3849](#) P.L.2020 c.10

Johnson (D37) — Modifies deadline by which public agency is required to respond to request for government record during period of emergency to require instead that a records custodian make a reasonable effort to respond within seven business days, as circumstances permit.

[A3848](#) P.L.2020 c.9

Lopez (D19) — Concerns time off from work in connection with infectious disease. Prohibits an employer, during the Public Health Emergency and State of Emergency concerning the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic, from terminating or refusing to reinstate an employee if the employee requests or takes time off from work based on a written or electronically transmitted recommendation from a medical professional licensed in New Jersey that the employee take time off work for a specified period of time because the employee has, or is likely to have, an infectious disease which may infect others at the employee's workplace.

If an employer violates the provisions of the bill, the affected employee may file a complaint with the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development or initiate a court action. If the employer is found to be in violation, the commissioner or the court is required to order the reinstatement of the employee and fine the employer \$2,500 for each violation.

Other Bills

[A3840](#) P.L.2020 c.6

Lampitt (D6) — Requires school districts to provide school meals or meal vouchers to students eligible for free and reduced price school meals during school closures due to COVID-19 epidemic.

[A3095](#) P.L.2020 c.5

Mazzeo (D2) — Provides county clerks with additional week to mail ballots for 2020 primary election; requires ballot position draw to occur one day early if statutory date falls on holiday.

[A3852](#) P.L.2020 c.2

Coughlin (D19) — Allows conduct of State business and legislative sessions at locations other than Trenton during periods of emergency or other exigency; allows conduct of legislative business using electronic means.

A3865 P.L.2020 c.16

Chaparro (D33) — Limits return of items purchased from retail food stores under certain circumstances.

P.L.2020 c.1

McKnight (D31) — Concerns prohibition of residential tenant eviction and eviction due to residential foreclosure during certain emergency circumstances.