ASSEMBLY, No. 4033

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 16, 2022

Sponsored by:
Assemblyman CRAIG J. COUGHLIN
District 19 (Middlesex)
Assemblyman BENJIE E. WIMBERLY
District 35 (Bergen and Passaic)
Senator PAUL A. SARLO
District 36 (Bergen and Passaic)
Senator M. TERESA RUIZ
District 29 (Essex)

Co-Sponsored by:
Assemblymen Conaway, Calabrese and Assemblywoman Pintor Marin

SYNOPSIS
Extends deadline for completion of school district’s annual audit.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT
As amended on January 8, 2024 by the General Assembly pursuant to the Governor's recommendations.

(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 12/11/2023)

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

1. N.J.S.18A:23-1 is amended to read as follows:
   18A:23-1. The board of education of every school district shall cause an annual audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions to be made by a public school accountant employed by it, which audit shall be completed not later than [5 months after] the January 31 next following the end of the school fiscal year. Notwithstanding the provisions of this section, or of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the board of education of every school district shall submit the Audit Summary to the commissioner not later than the January 15 next following the end of the school fiscal year.
   (cf:P.L.2010, c.49, s.1)

2. N.J.S.18A:23-3 is amended to read as follows:
   18A:23-3. The report of each annual audit shall be filed, by the public school accountant making the same, with his recommendations with the board of education of the district, and such accountant shall [within 5 days thereafter] not later than the February 5 next following the end of the school fiscal year file two duplicate copies thereof certified under his signature in the office of the commissioner. The commissioner annually shall publish a summary of such recommendations as made for each school district and the steps which have been taken in each district for their implementation.
   (cf:P.L.1975, c.212, s.32)

1. a. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S.18A:23-1 or of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, the board of education of every school district shall complete the annual audit of the district's accounts and financial transactions required pursuant to N.J.S.18A:23-1 for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years not later than the January 10 next following the end of the school fiscal year, and the board of education of every school shall submit the Audit Summary to the Commissioner of Education not later than the January 1 next following the end of the school fiscal year. For school years thereafter, the board of education of every school district

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.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

1Assembly amendments adopted in accordance with Governor's recommendations January 8, 2024.
district shall complete its annual audit in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 18A: 23-1.

b. Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.S. 18A: 23-3 or of any law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, for the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years, the report of each annual audit shall be filed by the public school accountant making the same, with his recommendations with the board of education of the district, and such account shall not later than the January 15 next following the end of the school fiscal year file two duplicate copies thereof certified under his signature in the office of the commissioner. For school years thereafter, the board of education of every school district shall complete its annual audit in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S. 18A: 23-3.

c. Ninety days following the end of fiscal year 2025, the Commissioner of Education, in consultation with the State Treasurer, shall submit a report to the Governor, and to the Legislature pursuant to section 2 of P.L. 1991, c.164 (C.52:14-19.1), on the impacts of shifting the deadline for completion of the annual audit, including any impacts to the school budgeting process. The report shall include, but not be limited to, recommendations on the advisability of permanently extending the deadlines for completion and submission of the annual audit.¹

¹[3.] ²¹ This act shall take effect immediately.