

P.L. 2025, CHAPTER 253, *approved January 12, 2026*
Assembly, No. 4877

1 AN ACT concerning the development and operation of rehabilitation
2 and reentry centers established by regional authorities and
3 amending P.L.2023, c.346.
4

5 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
6 of New Jersey:
7

8 1. Section 2 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-2) is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 2. As used in P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.):

11 "Authority" means a regional rehabilitation and reentry center
12 authority established pursuant to section 3 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.
13 40A:67-3).

14 "Bonds" means any bonds, interim certificates, notes,
15 debentures, or other obligations issued by the authority pursuant to
16 P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.).

17 "Center" means a regional rehabilitation and reentry center
18 developed, maintained, and operated by an authority pursuant to
19 section 3 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-3).

20 "Inter-county agreement" or "agreement" means an agreement as
21 provided in section 3 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-3), defining the
22 rights and responsibilities of the authority and its members, as may
23 be amended.

24 "Local Finance Board" means the Local Finance Board in the
25 Division of Local Government Services in the Department of
26 Community Affairs.

27 **["Management committee"]** "Board of authority commissioners"
28 or **["committee"]** "board" means a **["management committee"]**
29 "board of authority commissioners" established pursuant to section
30 4 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-4).
31 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.2)
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33 2. Section 3 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-3) is amended to
34 read as follows:

35 3. a. **["One"]** Two or more county governing bodies, may, by
36 adoption of **["an ordinance or resolution, or"]** parallel ordinances or
37 resolutions, as appropriate, establish a regional rehabilitation and
38 reentry center authority to develop, construct, maintain, and operate
39 a regional rehabilitation and reentry center. Upon adoption of the
40 parallel ordinances or resolutions, the counties shall negotiate and
41 agree to a proposed inter-county agreement for the operation of the
42 authority. The counties that enter into the inter-county agreement

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 may amend the agreement as provided in subsection c. of this
2 section.

3 b. Copies of a proposed inter-county agreement shall be
4 submitted to the Local Finance Board for review and consideration
5 pursuant to sections 4 and 5 of P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-4 and
6 C.40A:5A-5). The Local Finance Board shall approve or deny the
7 agreement and file its approval or denial with the clerk of the board
8 of commissioners of each county seeking to enter the agreement. If
9 the Local Finance Board does not deny the proposed agreement
10 within 60 days of the receipt of a complete application, or an
11 extended period to which the applicant counties may agree, the
12 proposed agreement shall be deemed approved and the authority
13 shall be established in accordance with the terms of the agreement.

14 c. A county may request to become a member of the authority
15 by negotiating an amended inter-county agreement with the
16 authority, through the **【management committee】** board of authority
17 commissioners. Upon entry into a proposed amended inter-county
18 agreement, the authority shall submit the proposed amended inter-
19 county agreement to the Local Finance Board for approval or denial
20 of the proposed amended agreement. If the Local Finance Board
21 does not deny a proposed amended agreement within 60 days of the
22 receipt of a complete application, or an extended period to which
23 the applicant counties may agree, the proposed amended agreement
24 shall be deemed approved.

25 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.3)

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27 3. Section 4 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-4) is amended to
28 read as follows:

29 4. An inter-county agreement made pursuant to section 3 of
30 P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-3) shall provide:

31 a. the name and purpose of the authority and the functions and
32 services to be provided by the authority;

33 b. the establishment and organization of a governing committee
34 for the authority, which shall be known as the **【management**
35 **committee】** board of authority commissioners, in which the powers
36 of the authority shall be vested. The **【management committee】**
37 board of authority commissioners shall be comprised of one
38 representative from each county who shall:

39 (1) be annually appointed by the board of commissioners of the
40 county;

41 (2) hold the position for a period of one year, commencing on
42 January 1 of each year; and

43 (3) be authorized to choose a designee to execute the duties of
44 their position;

45 c. if there are an even number of counties, the county with the
46 greatest number of inmates and pretrial detainees to be housed at
47 the center at its opening and for any subsequent year the greatest
48 number housed at the center as of November 1 in the year prior,

- 1 shall appoint an additional **【committee】 board** member for a term of
2 one year, commencing January 1 of each year;
- 3 d. the manner of selection of a head warden of the regional
4 rehabilitation and reentry center and any related satellite facilities
5 and the wardens that shall represent each county;
- 6 e. the manner of selection and duties of the director, deputy
7 director, treasurer, chief financial officer, and secretary, who all
8 shall serve a term of one year commencing January 1 of each year,
9 and the selection of any other officers or authority staff, as
10 determined by the **【committee】 board**;
- 11 f. the voting requirements for action by the **【committee】**
12 **board**, including the requirements for how many members constitute
13 a quorum;
- 14 g. the duties of the **【committee】 board**, which shall include the
15 obligation to comply with the "Local Authorities Fiscal Control
16 Law," P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.) except as otherwise
17 provided in P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.), and the laws of
18 this State and, in addition, with every provision in the inter-county
19 agreement creating the authority on its part to be kept or performed;
- 20 h. in the event of a **【committee】 board** vacancy, the vacancy
21 shall be filled by a majority vote of the **【management committee】**
22 **board** at the next meeting following the date of vacancy on an
23 interim basis, until the time that the appointing board of county
24 commissioners makes a formal appointment to the **【committee】**
25 **board** for the remainder of the term;
- 26 i. the manner in which counties may withdraw from
27 participation in the inter-county agreement and the proportional
28 responsibility, if any, of a withdrawing county for authority debt
29 issued prior to withdrawal;
- 30 j. provisions for the disposition, division, or distribution of any
31 property or assets of the authority on dissolution subject to section
32 20 or 21 of P.L. 1983,c.313 (C.40A:5A-20 or C.40A:5A-20 21);
33 and
- 34 k. **【the terms of the inter-county agreement and the method, if**
35 **any, by which the inter-county agreement may be rescinded or**
36 **terminated; however, the inter-county agreement shall not be**
37 **rescinded or terminated so long as the authority has bonds**
38 **outstanding, unless provision for full payment of the bonds, by**
39 **escrow or otherwise, has been made pursuant to the terms of the**
40 **bonds or the resolution, trust indenture, or security instrument**
41 **securing the bonds; and**
- 42 l. **【that the 【management committee】 board shall conduct**
43 **meetings in conformity with the "Senator Byron M. Baer Open**
44 **Public Meetings Act," P.L.1975, c.231 (C.10:4-6 et seq.) and shall**
45 **meet at least once during each quarter of the calendar year, with**
46 **special meetings convened by the director or upon the request of at**
47 **least two 【committee】 board members, with at least 48 hours' notice**

1 by telephone or email to all members of the **management**
2 **committee** board.

3 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.4)

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5 4. Section 6 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-6) is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 6. An authority shall be a public body politic and corporate,
8 established as an instrumentality exercising public and essential
9 governmental functions to provide for the public health and welfare.
10 The authority shall have the duties, privileges, immunities, rights,
11 liabilities, and disabilities of a public body politic and corporate and
12 shall have taxing power. The authority shall be a "contracting unit"
13 for purposes of the "Local Public Contracts Law," P.L.1971, c.198
14 (C.40A:11-1 et seq.), shall have perpetual succession until
15 termination or dissolution in accordance with the agreement, and
16 shall have the powers to:

17 a. adopt and have a common seal and to alter the same at
18 pleasure;

19 b. sue and be sued;

20 c. acquire, own, rent, hold, lease, as lessor or lessee, use and
21 sell or otherwise dispose of, mortgage, pledge, or grant a security
22 in, any real or personal property, commodity, or service or interest
23 therein;

24 d. plan, develop, acquire, construct, reconstruct, operate,
25 manage, dispose of, participate in, maintain, repair, extend, or
26 improve a center or satellite facility, and act as agent, or designate
27 one or more other persons employed by or contracting with the
28 center to act as its agent, in connection with the planning,
29 acquisition, construction, operation, maintenance, repair, extension,
30 or improvement of the center, and provision to the members of
31 rehabilitation and reentry services, to meet the needs of the
32 members and the State, which shall include the hiring of experts to
33 perform a population review and projected bed needs;

34 e. make and execute additional contracts and other instruments
35 necessary or convenient to the exercise of its powers;

36 f. employ **agents** correctional police officers and other
37 employees, without regard to the provisions of Title 11A, Civil
38 Service, of the New Jersey Statutes, but does not preclude
39 employees from entering or becoming party to a collective
40 bargaining agreement;

41 g. contract with any person, entity, or public agency within or
42 outside the State of New Jersey for the construction or operation of
43 the center, or for any interest or share therein, on terms and for a
44 period of time as its **committee** board shall determine;

45 h. incur indebtedness through the issuance of bonds, provide
46 for and secure the payment of any bonds and the rights of the
47 holders thereof, and to purchase, hold, and dispose of any bonds;

- 1 i. accept gifts or grants of real or personal property, money,
2 material, labor, or supplies solely for the purposes and exclusive use
3 and benefit of the authority, and to make and perform those
4 agreements and contracts as may be necessary or convenient in
5 connection with the procuring, acceptance, or disposition of the
6 gifts or grants;
- 7 j. make and enforce by-laws or rules and regulations for the
8 management and regulation of its business and affairs and for the
9 use, maintenance, and operation of its properties and to amend its
10 by-laws;
- 11 k. do and perform any acts and things authorized by P.L.2023,
12 c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.), through or by means of its own officers,
13 agents, and employees, or by contract with any person;
- 14 l. enter into contracts, execute instruments, and do and
15 perform all things necessary, convenient, or desirable for the
16 purposes of the authority, or to carry out any power expressly
17 authorized under P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.);
- 18 m. join organizations, including private or trade organizations,
19 which the **【committee】 board** has deemed to be beneficial to the
20 accomplishment of the authority's purposes;
- 21 n. invest any funds held in reserve or sinking funds, or any
22 funds not required for immediate disbursement, including the
23 proceeds from the sale of any bonds, in those obligations, securities,
24 and other investments as the authority deems to be proper and are
25 authorized pursuant to law; and
- 26 o. **【introduce an annual budget by January 26th of each year**
27 **and adopt a budget by February 25th of each year. Procedures】**
28 establish procedures for budget introduction and adoption, which
29 shall be made pursuant to the 【"Local Budget Law," N.J.S.40A:4-1
30 et seq.】 "Local Authorities Fiscal Control Law," P.L.1983, c.313
31 (C.40A:5A-1 et seq.), and which shall be subject to the cap on
32 calculation of adjusted tax levy by local units pursuant to
33 N.J.S.40A:4-45.45, and shall include the following:
- 34 (1) an amount to be raised by taxation, which shall be conveyed
35 to the Board of Taxation in each participation county within 15 days
36 of the adoption of the budget;
- 37 (2) the chief financial officer of the authority shall certify the
38 Average Daily Population (ADP) of the inmates from each
39 participating county, for the previous year, by February 1st of each
40 year;
- 41 (3) based on the ADP and, if determined by a separate formula,
42 the apportionment of any debt service pursuant to the inter-county
43 agreement, the chief financial officer of the authority shall certify
44 each county's proportional share of inmates for the previous year.
45 By February 15th of each year, the proportional share for each
46 county shall be conveyed to the appropriate County Board of
47 Taxation, to be used to calculate the amount of taxes to be levied in

1 each of the participating counties. These taxes shall be assessed,
2 levied, and collected within the respective taxing districts in the
3 manner prescribed by law; and

4 (4) in each local budget year in which the function of a county
5 jail is transferred from the county government to the authority, the
6 county shall deduct from its final appropriations upon which its
7 permissible county tax levy is calculated, the amount which the
8 county expended for that function during the last full budget year it
9 was included in the county budget.

10 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.6)

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12 5. Section 8 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-8) is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 8. Upon adoption of a bond resolution, the **management**
15 **committee** board of authority commissioners, on behalf of the
16 authority, shall have power to incur indebtedness, borrow money,
17 and issue bonds for the purpose of financing the construction or
18 operation of the center and any satellite facilities to meet the needs
19 of its members or of funding or refunding the bonds issued pursuant
20 to P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.). The bonds shall be
21 authorized by the bond resolution and may be issued in one or more
22 series and shall bear the date or dates, mature at a time or times not
23 exceeding 40 years from the date thereof or through the date for the
24 expected dissolution of the authority pursuant to the agreement,
25 whichever occurs first, bear interest at a rate or rates within a
26 maximum rate as permitted by law, be in a denomination or
27 denominations, be in a form, either coupon or registered, carry
28 conversion or registration privileges, have a rank or priority, be
29 executed in a manner, be payable from sources in a medium of
30 payment at a place or places within or without the State, and be
31 subject to the terms of redemption, with or without a premium, as
32 the bond resolution may provide.

33 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.8)

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35 6. Section 10 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-10) is amended to
36 read as follows:

37 10. An authority shall file a copy of a bond resolution adopted
38 by the **management committee** board of authority commissioners
39 in its office and in the office of the clerk of the board of
40 commissioners, and may publish, in a newspaper published or
41 circulating in each county's community, a notice stating the fact and
42 date of adoption of the bond resolution and the places where the
43 authority has filed the bond resolution for public inspection, the
44 date of the first publication of the notice, and that an action or
45 proceeding in a court questioning the validity or proper
46 authorization of bonds provided for by the bond resolution, or the
47 validity of any covenants, agreements, or contract provided for by
48 the bond resolution, shall commence within 20 days after the first

1 publication of the notice. If the notice shall be published and if no
2 action or proceeding questioning the validity of the establishment of
3 the authority or the validity or proper authorization of bonds
4 provided for by the bond resolution referred to in the notice, or the
5 validity of any covenants, agreements, or contract provided for by
6 the bond resolution shall be commenced or instituted within 20 days
7 after the first publication of the notice, then the residents, taxpayers,
8 and owners of property in each of the counties, and all other
9 persons, shall be barred and foreclosed from instituting or
10 commencing any action or proceeding in any court, or from
11 pleading any defense to any action or proceedings, questioning the
12 validity of the establishment of the authority, the validity or proper
13 authorization of the bonds, or the validity of the covenants,
14 agreements, or contracts. The authority shall be conclusively
15 deemed to have been validly established and to be authorized to
16 transact business and exercise powers as an authority pursuant to
17 P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.), and the bonds, covenants,
18 agreements, and contracts shall be conclusively deemed to be valid
19 and binding obligations in accordance with their terms and tenor.
20 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.10)

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22 7. Section 12 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-12) is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 12. Neither the members of the **[committee]** board nor any
25 person executing bonds issued pursuant to P.L.2023, c.346
26 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.) shall be liable personally on the bonds by
27 reason of their issuance. Bonds or other obligations issued pursuant
28 to P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et seq.) shall not be a debt or
29 liability of the State, and bonds or other obligations issued by the
30 authority shall not be a debt or liability of the State, of any local
31 unit, of any county, or of any municipality, and shall not create or
32 constitute any indebtedness, liability, or obligation of the State of
33 any local unit, of any county, or of any municipality, either legal,
34 moral, or otherwise, and nothing in P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-1 et
35 seq.) shall be construed to authorize the authority to incur
36 indebtedness on behalf of or to obligate the State, any local unit,
37 county, or municipality.
38 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346 s.12)

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40 8. Section 21 of P.L.2023, c.346 (C.40A:67-21) is amended to
41 read as follows:

42 21. An authority shall conduct an annual audit of its accounts
43 pursuant to section 15 of P.L.1983, c.313 (C.40A:5A-15), and for
44 this purpose shall employ a certified public accountant or a
45 registered municipal accountant, licensed pursuant to the laws of
46 the State. The audit shall be completed and filed with the authority
47 within four months after the close of its fiscal year and the authority
48 shall file a certified duplicate with the Director of the Division of

1 Local Government Services in the Department of Community
2 Affairs within five days after the original report is filed with the
3 authority.

4 (cf: P.L.2023, c.346, s.21)

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6 9. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill amends existing law establishing a regional authority to
12 develop and operate a rehabilitation and reentry center. The bill
13 renames the "management committee" as the "board of authority
14 commissioners" and requires two or more counties to enter into an
15 agreement establishing the regional authority.

16 The bill also makes certain changes to: 1) time considerations
17 concerning applications to the Local Finance Board, 2) provisions
18 related to withdrawal from and dissolution of authorities under the
19 bill, and 3) provide for certain financial apportionments for debt
20 service. The bill further allows for a registered municipal
21 accountant to conduct an audit of the authority and makes specific
22 reference to the employment of correctional police officers.

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27 Replaces definition of "management committee" with "board of
28 authority commissioners" and makes various changes to existing
29 law concerning administration of regional authority.