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Lashway, Lisa

From: egg@dca.state.nj.us
Sent: Friday, December 21, 2012 3:37 PM
To: Lashway, Lisa
Subject: Rule Proposal - User-Friendly Budget for Municipalities

Dear Municipal Clerk:

The Local Finance Board is proposing new rules to implement a user-friendly budget for municipalities. Under proposed N.J.A.C. 5:30-19, which implements N.J.S.A. 40A:5-48, municipalities would provide comprehensive budget data to the Division of Local Government Services on an electronic reporting platform created by the Division. In turn, the Division will convert this data into a format that allows the public to better understand their municipality's finances. Municipalities would submit the user-friendly budget data to the Division concurrently with the adopted annual municipal budget (or later in the discretion of the Director).

These proposed rules incorporate input from various stakeholders, and are meant to enhance the transparency of municipal finances by making detailed municipal budget information more accessible to ordinary citizens and local elected officials. The User-Friendly Budget rule proposal can be found on the Division's website and may be accessed by clicking the following link: http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/resources/rules docs/PRN 2012-182.pdf. An updated version of the proposed data reporting platform is also on our website and can be access by clicking http://www.nj.gov/dca/divisions/dlgs/programs/mc bud docs/user friendly budget template rule proposal.xls.

The public comment period on the rule proposal expires February 15, 2013. Interested parties may provide comments to the Local Finance Board via email at Pat.McNamara@dca.state.nj.us or in writing to the following address:

Patricia McNamara, Executive Secretary
Local Finance Board
Department of Community Affairs
P.O. Box 803
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0803

THIS E-MAIL HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING OFFICIALS: Municipal Clerk and Chief Financial Officer