

AN ACT

RELATING TO TAXATION; AUTHORIZING CERTAIN COUNTIES TO IMPOSE A COUNTY EDUCATION GROSS RECEIPTS TAX FOR CONSTRUCTION AND RENOVATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF COUNTY EDUCATION GROSS RECEIPTS TAX REVENUE BONDS; AMENDING AND ENACTING SECTIONS OF THE NMSA 1978; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

Section 1. A new section of the County Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act, Section 7-20E-20 NMSA 1978, is enacted to read:

"7-20E-20. COUNTY EDUCATION GROSS RECEIPTS TAX--
AUTHORITY TO IMPOSE--RATE--ELECTION--USE OF REVENUE.--

A. Upon submission of a resolution to the governing body pursuant to Subsection C of this section, the governing body of a county shall enact an ordinance imposing an excise tax at a rate of one-half of one percent on any person engaging in business in the county for the privilege of engaging in business in the county. The tax imposed pursuant to this subsection may be referred to as the "county education gross receipts tax".

B. The governing body, at the time of enacting an ordinance imposing a county education gross receipts tax pursuant to Subsection A of this section shall dedicate the

revenue only for the payment of county education gross receipts tax bonds for public school capital projects and off-campus instruction program capital projects, if any, in the county. The tax shall be imposed for the period necessary for payment of the principal and interest on the county education gross receipts tax revenue bonds issued to accomplish the purpose for which the revenue is dedicated, but the period shall not exceed ten years from the effective date of the ordinance imposing the tax.

C. Upon a finding of need, the boards of every school district in a county that is either located wholly within the exterior boundaries of the county or that has a student membership no more than ten percent of whom reside outside the exterior boundaries of the county may enter into a joint agreement to submit a resolution to the governing body of the county requiring the governing body to impose a county education gross receipts tax and to issue county education gross receipts tax revenue bonds for funding public school capital projects and, if applicable, off-campus instruction program capital projects. The boards must agree to provide at least one-fourth of the bond proceeds for capital projects for an off-campus instruction program, if one of the school districts in the county has established such a program. The remaining revenues shall be distributed proportionately to each school district for public school capital outlay projects based on the ratio

that the population of each school district, according to the 2000 federal decennial census, bears to the population of all of the school districts in the county who are parties to the agreement.

D. An ordinance imposing the county education gross receipts tax shall not go into effect until after an election is held and a majority of the voters in the county voting in the election votes in favor of imposing the tax. The governing body shall adopt a resolution calling for an election within sixty days of the date the ordinance is adopted on the question of imposing the tax. The question shall be submitted to the voters of the county as a separate question at a general election or at a special election called for that purpose by the governing body. A special election shall be called, conducted and canvassed in substantially the same manner as provided by law for general elections. If a majority of the voters voting on the question approves the ordinance imposing the county education gross receipts tax, then the ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of the County Local Option Gross Receipts Taxes Act. If the question of imposing the county education gross receipts tax fails, a resolution from the boards of school districts in the county may not again be proposed to the governing body requesting imposition of the tax for a period of one year from the date of the election.

E. The proceeds from county education gross receipts tax revenue bonds shall be administered by the governing body and disbursed by the county treasurer to the respective school districts in the amounts and for the purposes authorized in this section and as set out in the resolution submitted by the boards to the governing body.

F. As used in this section:

(1) "board" means the governing body of a school district;

(2) "capital projects" means the designing, constructing and equipping of new buildings; the remodeling, renovating or making additions to and equipping existing buildings; or the improving or equipping of the grounds surrounding buildings;

(3) "county" means:

(a) a class B county with a population of less than twenty-five thousand according to the 1990 federal decennial census and a net taxable value for property tax purposes for the 1999 property tax year of more than five hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000);

(b) a county that has imposed a local hospital gross receipts tax pursuant to the Local Hospital Gross Receipts Tax Act, which tax will expire on December 31, 2001; and

(c) a county in which the question of imposing school district general obligation debt for public

school capital outlay projects has been submitted to the voters and has failed to pass at least twice in at least two school districts in the county in the six-year period immediately prior to imposition of a county education gross receipts tax; and

(4) "off-campus instruction program" means a program established by a school district pursuant to the Off-Campus Instruction Act. "

Section 2. Section 4-62-1 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 1992, Chapter 95, Section 1, as amended) is amended to read:

"4-62-1. REVENUE BONDS--AUTHORITY TO ISSUE--PLEDGE OF REVENUES--LIMITATION ON TIME OF ISSUANCE.--

A. In addition to any other law authorizing a county to issue revenue bonds, a county may issue revenue bonds pursuant to Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 for the purposes specified in this section. The term "pledged revenues", as used in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978, means the revenues, net income or net revenues authorized to be pledged to the payment of particular revenue bonds as specifically provided in Subsections B through L of this section.

B. Gross receipts tax revenue bonds may be issued for one or more of the following purposes:

(1) constructing, purchasing, furnishing, equipping, rehabilitating, making additions to or making improvements to one or more public buildings or purchasing

or improving ground relating thereto, including but not necessarily limited to acquiring and improving parking lots, or any combination of the foregoing;

(2) acquiring or improving county or public parking lots, structures or facilities or any combination of the foregoing;

(3) purchasing, acquiring or rehabilitating firefighting equipment or any combination of the foregoing;

(4) acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing, otherwise improving or maintaining storm sewers and other drainage improvements, sanitary sewers, sewage treatment plants, water utilities or other water, wastewater or related facilities, including but not limited to the acquisition of rights of way and water and water rights, or any combination of the foregoing;

(5) reconstructing, resurfacing, maintaining, repairing or otherwise improving existing alleys, streets, roads or bridges or any combination of the foregoing or laying off, opening, constructing or otherwise acquiring new alleys, streets, roads or bridges or any combination of the foregoing; provided that any of the foregoing improvements may include the acquisition of rights of way;

(6) purchasing, acquiring, constructing, making additions to, enlarging, bettering, extending or equipping airport facilities or any combination of the

foregoing, including without limitation the acquisition of land, easements or rights of way;

(7) purchasing or otherwise acquiring or clearing land or purchasing, otherwise acquiring and beautifying land for open space;

(8) acquiring, constructing, purchasing, equipping, furnishing, making additions to, renovating, rehabilitating, beautifying or otherwise improving public parks, public recreational buildings or other public recreational facilities or any combination of the foregoing;

(9) acquiring, constructing, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing or otherwise improving or maintaining solid waste disposal equipment, equipment for operation and maintenance of sanitary landfills, sanitary landfills, solid waste facilities or any combination of the foregoing; or

(10) acquiring, constructing, extending, bettering, repairing or otherwise improving public transit systems or any regional transit systems or facilities.

A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the revenue from the first one-eighth of one percent increment and the third one-eighth of one percent increment of the county gross receipts tax and any increment of the county infrastructure gross receipts tax and county capital outlay gross receipts tax for payment of principal and interest due in connection with, and other expenses related to, gross

receipts tax revenue bonds for any of the purposes authorized in this section or specific purposes or for any area of county government services. If the revenue from the first one-eighth of one percent increment or the third one-eighth of one percent increment of the county gross receipts tax or any increment of the county infrastructure gross receipts tax or county capital outlay gross receipts tax is pledged for payment of principal and interest as authorized by this subsection, the pledge shall require the revenues received from that increment of the county gross receipts tax or any increment of the county infrastructure gross receipts tax or county capital outlay gross receipt tax to be deposited into a special bond fund for payment of the principal, interest and expenses. At the end of each fiscal year, money remaining in the special bond fund after the annual obligations for the bonds are fully met may be transferred to any other fund of the county.

Revenues in excess of the annual principal and interest due on gross receipts tax revenue bonds secured by a pledge of gross receipts tax revenue may be accumulated in a debt service reserve account. The governing body of the county may appoint a commercial bank trust department to act as trustee of the proceeds of the tax and to administer the payment of principal of and interest on the bonds.

C. Fire protection revenue bonds may be issued for acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing,

improving, constructing, purchasing, furnishing, equipping or rehabilitating any independent fire district project or facilities, including where applicable purchasing, otherwise acquiring or improving the ground for the project, or any combination of such purposes. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the county fire protection excise tax revenue for payment of principal and interest due in connection with, and other expenses related to, fire protection revenue bonds. These bonds may be referred to in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 as "fire protection revenue bonds".

D. Environmental revenue bonds may be issued for the acquisition and construction of solid waste facilities, water facilities, wastewater facilities, sewer systems and related facilities. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the county environmental services gross receipts tax revenue for payment of principal and interest due in connection with, and other expenses related to, environmental revenue bonds. These bonds may be referred to in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 as "environmental revenue bonds".

E. Gasoline tax revenue bonds may be issued for the acquisition of rights of way for and the construction, reconstruction, resurfacing, maintenance, repair or other improvement of county roads and bridges. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the county gasoline tax

revenue for payment of principal and interest due in connection with, and other expenses related to, county gasoline tax revenue bonds. These bonds may be referred to in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 as "gasoline tax revenue bonds".

F. Utility revenue bonds or joint utility revenue bonds may be issued for acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing or otherwise improving water facilities, sewer facilities, gas facilities or electric facilities or for any combination of the foregoing purposes. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the net revenues from the operation of the utility or joint utility for which the particular utility or joint utility bonds are issued to the payment of principal and interest due in connection with, and other expenses related to, utility or joint utility revenue bonds. These bonds may be referred to in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 as "utility revenue bonds" or "joint utility revenue bonds".

G. Project revenue bonds may be issued for acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing, improving, constructing, purchasing, furnishing, equipping or rehabilitating any revenue-producing project, including as applicable purchasing, otherwise acquiring or improving the ground therefor and including but not limited to acquiring and improving parking lots, or may be issued for any combination of the foregoing purposes. The county may

pledge irrevocably any or all of the net revenues from the operation of the revenue-producing project for which the particular project revenue bonds are issued to the payment of the interest on and principal of the project revenue bonds. The net revenues of any revenue-producing project may not be pledged to the project revenue bonds issued for any other revenue-producing project that is clearly unrelated in nature; but nothing in this subsection prevents the pledge to any of the project revenue bonds of the revenues received from existing, future or disconnected facilities and equipment that are related to and that may constitute a part of the particular revenue-producing project. A general determination by the governing body that facilities or equipment is reasonably related to and constitutes a part of a specified revenue-producing project shall be conclusive if set forth in the proceedings authorizing the project revenue bonds. As used in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978:

(1) "project revenue bonds" means the bonds authorized in this subsection; and

(2) "project revenues" means the net revenues of revenue-producing projects that may be pledged to project revenue bonds pursuant to this subsection.

H. Fire district revenue bonds may be issued for acquiring, extending, enlarging, bettering, repairing, improving, constructing, purchasing, furnishing, equipping

and rehabilitating any fire district project, including where applicable purchasing, otherwise acquiring or improving the ground therefor, or for any combination of the foregoing purposes. The county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the revenues received by the fire district from the fire protection fund as provided in the Fire Protection Fund Law and any or all of the revenues provided for the operation of the fire district project for which the particular bonds are issued to the payment of the interest on and principal of the bonds. The revenues of a fire district project shall not be pledged to the bonds issued for a fire district project that clearly is unrelated in its purpose; but nothing in this section prevents the pledge to such bonds of revenues received from existing, future or disconnected facilities and equipment that are related to and that may constitute a part of the particular fire district project. A general determination by the governing body of the county that facilities or equipment is reasonably related to and constitutes a part of a specified fire district project shall be conclusive if set forth in the proceedings authorizing the fire district bonds.

I. Law enforcement protection revenue bonds may be issued for the repair and purchase of law enforcement apparatus and equipment that meet nationally recognized standards. The county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the revenues received by the county from the law enforcement

protection fund distributions pursuant to the Law Enforcement Protection Fund Act to the payment of the interest on and principal of the law enforcement protection revenue bonds.

J. Hospital emergency gross receipts tax revenue bonds may be issued for acquiring, equipping, remodeling or improving a county hospital or county health facility. A county may pledge irrevocably to the payment of the interest on and principal of the hospital emergency gross receipts tax revenue bonds any or all of the revenues received by the county from a county hospital emergency gross receipts tax imposed pursuant to Section 7-20E-12.1 NMSA 1978 and dedicated to payment of bonds or a loan for acquiring, equipping, remodeling or improving a county hospital or county health facility.

K. Economic development gross receipts tax revenue bonds may be issued for the purpose of furthering economic development projects as defined in the Local Economic Development Act. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the county infrastructure gross receipts tax to the payment of the interest on and principal of the economic development gross receipts tax revenue bonds for the purpose authorized in this subsection.

L. County education gross receipts tax revenue bonds may be issued for public school or off-campus instruction program capital projects as authorized in

Section 7-20E-20 NMSA 1978. A county may pledge irrevocably any or all of the county education gross receipts tax revenue to the payment of interest on and principal of the county education gross receipts tax revenue bonds for the purpose authorized in this section.

M Except for the purpose of refunding previous revenue bond issues, no county may sell revenue bonds payable from pledged revenue after the expiration of two years from the date of the ordinance authorizing the issuance of the bonds or, for bonds to be issued and sold to the New Mexico finance authority as authorized in Subsection C of Section 4-62-4 NMSA 1978, after the expiration of two years from the date of the resolution authorizing the issuance of the bonds. However, any period of time during which a particular revenue bond issue is in litigation shall not be counted in determining the expiration date of that issue.

N. No bonds may be issued by a county, other than an H class county, a class B county as defined in Section 4-36-8 NMSA 1978 or a class A county as described in Section 4-36-10 NMSA 1978, to acquire, equip, extend, enlarge, better, repair or construct a utility unless the utility is regulated by the public regulation commission pursuant to the Public Utility Act and the issuance of the bonds is approved by the commission. For purposes of Chapter 4,

Article 62 NMSA 1978, a "utility" includes but is not limited to a water, wastewater, sewer, gas or electric utility or joint utility serving the public. H class counties shall obtain public regulation commission approvals required by Section 3-23-3 NMSA 1978.

0. Any law that imposes or authorizes the imposition of a county gross receipts tax, a county environmental services gross receipts tax, a county fire protection excise tax, a county infrastructure gross receipts tax, the county education gross receipts tax, a county capital outlay gross receipts tax, the gasoline tax or the county hospital emergency gross receipts tax, or that affects any of those taxes, shall not be repealed or amended in such a manner as to impair outstanding revenue bonds that are issued pursuant to Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978 and that may be secured by a pledge of those taxes unless the outstanding revenue bonds have been discharged in full or provision has been fully made therefor.

P. As used in this section:

(1) "county infrastructure gross receipts tax revenue" means the revenue from the county infrastructure gross receipts tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978;

(2) "county capital outlay gross receipts

tax revenue" means the revenue from the county capital outlay gross receipts tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978;

(3) "county education gross receipts tax revenue" means the revenue from the county education gross receipts tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978;

(4) "county environmental services gross receipts tax revenue" means the revenue from the county environmental services gross receipts tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978;

(5) "county fire protection excise tax revenue" means the revenue from the county fire protection excise tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978;

(6) "county gross receipts tax revenue" means the revenue attributable to the first one-eighth of one percent and the third one-eighth of one percent increments of the county gross receipts tax transferred to the county pursuant to Section 7-1-6.13 NMSA 1978 and any distribution related to the first one-eighth of one percent made pursuant to Section 7-1-6.16 NMSA 1978;

(7) "gasoline tax revenue" means the revenue from that portion of the gasoline tax distributed to the county pursuant to Sections 7-1-6.9 and 7-1-6.26 NMSA 1978; and

(8) "public building" includes but is not limited to fire stations, police buildings, county or regional jails, county or regional juvenile detention facilities, libraries, museums, auditoriums, convention halls, hospitals, buildings for administrative offices, courthouses and garages for housing, repairing and maintaining county vehicles and equipment.

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Q. As used in Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978, the term "bond" means any obligation of a county issued under Chapter 4, Article 62 NMSA 1978, whether designated as a bond, note, loan, warrant, debenture, lease-purchase agreement or other instrument evidencing an obligation of a county to make payments. "

Section 3. A new section of the Public School Capital Outlay Act is enacted to read:

"EFFECT UPON SCHOOL DISTRICT INDEBTEDNESS REQUIREMENT. --To meet the requirement in the Public School Capital Outlay Act that a school district be indebted at a certain level, the amount of county education gross receipts tax revenue bond debt incurred by a county for public school capital projects of the school district shall be deemed to be indebtedness. "

Section 4. EMERGENCY. --It is necessary for the public peace, health and safety that this act take effect immediately. _____