

FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2020

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A BILL FOR AN ACT TO AMEND THE FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION AND AUDIT ACT

Enacted by the Parliament of The Bahamas

1. Short title and commencement.

- (1) This Act, which amends the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 2010, may be cited as the Financial Administration and Audit (Amendment) Act, 2020.
- (2) This Act shall come into force on the 1st day of July, 2020.

2. Insertion of new section 34A into the principal Act.

The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 34 of the following new section—

“34A. Monthly and quarterly reporting.

- (1) Every public sector entity that receives fifty percent or more of its operating budget from subventions from the Government shall prepare and submit to the Minister monthly and quarterly financial statements and reports for that entity within thirty days of the end of the reporting period.
- (2) The financial statements and reports referred to in subsection (1), must be signed by the chief executive officer or the chief financial officer.
- (3) Where a public sector entity has a Board of Directors, the financial statements and reports referred to in subsection (1) must be reviewed and endorsed by the Board, or by a subcommittee or a member of the Board designated by the

Board to review and endorse the periodic financial statements and reports referred to in subsection (1).

- (4) Where there is a conflict between this section and any other provision in any other law, this section shall prevail.
- (5) The Minister may by regulations prescribe the form and content for the monthly and quarterly financial statements and reports.
- (6) The Minister may withhold any subventions payable to a public sector entity where there is—
 - (a) a delay in the submission of any of the reports required under this section; or
 - (b) a deficiency in the content of any of the reports required under this section,and the Minister believes that the delay or deficiency is not reasonably justified.”.

3. Insertion of new section 46 into principal Act.

The principal Act is amended by the insertion immediately after section 45 of the new section—

“46. Warrants by electronic means.

Any financial warrants made, endorsed or approved under this Act and its regulations may be made, endorsed or approved by electronic means.”.

OBJECTS AND REASONS

This Bill seeks to amend the Financial Administration and Audit Act, 2010.

Clause 2 seeks to provide for monthly and quarterly reporting for public sector entities that receive a subvention from the government that amounts to fifty percent or more of its operating budget.

Clause 3 seeks to provide for making endorsing and approving of warrants by electronic means