

Disclaimer: This is guidance material only and does not replace reading the legislation. For further information refer to the legislation. Please check the website for updates and other information.

GSF Bill basics of what, why, who and when

At a glance

- The GSF Bill consolidates and reforms four financial management Acts in NSW dating from the 1980's.
- The GSF Bill affects all NSW Government agencies, Ministers, Secretaries, agency heads, officers and employees.
- The GSF Bill is proposed to commence in two stages: on 1 December 2018 and 1 July 2019, respectively.

Which Acts are being replaced?

The GSF Bill consolidates and reforms financial management provisions in four Acts:

- the *Public Finance and Audit Act 1983* (the PFA Act)
- the *Public Authorities (Financial Arrangements) Act 1987* (the PAFA Act)
- the *Annual Reports (Departments) Act 1985*
- the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984*

The PFA Act is to be amended by removing provisions not related to public sector audit requirements, and renaming it as the *Government Sector Audit Act 1983* (the GSA Act). The GSA Act will be a separate, standalone Act that contains legislative provisions (i) empowering the Auditor-General, Audit Office and Public Accounts Committee, and (ii) addressing the audit of public sector entities. The other three Acts listed above will be repealed and replaced by the GSF Bill.

Why are these Acts being replaced?

The GSF Bill consolidates and reforms the State's financial management legislation to support a new financial management framework for the State's government sector. It is designed to strengthen performance, accountability and transparency in the government sector and maximise the State's ability to realise balance sheet potential.

The GSF Bill also clarifies the responsibilities and powers of those who have a role in managing the State's finances. It facilitates the provision of more meaningful information to those making decisions on resource allocation, and will improve the quality of information reported to Parliament, the community and other stakeholders.

Who will be affected?

The GSF Bill affects all NSW Government entities and agencies, Ministers, Departmental Secretaries, agency heads and "government officers" (within the meaning of the Bill). "Government officers" include a range of people associated with the public sector, such as employees of Public Service agencies.

How is the GSF Bill structured and when will it commence?

Government Sector Finance Bill 2018	1 Dec 2018	1 July 2019
Part 1 (Preliminary)	✓	
Part 2 (Key concepts)	✓	
Part 3 (Roles and responsibilities)	✓	
Part 4 (Budget, appropriations and Special Deposits accounts)		✓
Part 5: section 5.1 (budget controls), section 5.2 (conditions on Ministerial delegations), section 5.5 (authorisation of expenditure)	✓	
Part 5: section 5.3 (tax equivalent payments), section 5.4 (financial distributions), section 5.6 (gifts of government property), section 5.7 (act of grace payments)		✓
Part 6 (Financial Services and Arrangements)	✓	
Part 7 (Reporting – financial, annual and consolidated)		✓
Part 8 (Performance information)	✓	
Part 9 (Administration and enforcement)	✓	
Part 10: sections 10.1 and 10.3 (Miscellaneous: Workers Compensation Insurance Fund and Public Accounts Committee)		✓
Part 10: section 10.2 (Miscellaneous: <i>Duties Act 1997</i> exemptions)	✓	
Part 10: section 10.4 (Miscellaneous: Regulations)	Date of Assent	
Schedule 1 (Savings and transitional arrangements)	Date of Assent	

Need more information?

More detailed information about the GSF Bill is available from Treasury's website at www.treasury.nsw.gov.au or email Treasury's legislation team at Legislation@treasury.nsw.gov.au