

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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SENATE BILL 873  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 7/14/98  
Third Edition Engrossed 7/16/98  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 8/4/98  
Fifth Edition Engrossed 10/28/98

Short Title: Local Government Debt Changes.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 15, 1997

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT CERTAIN TAX-EXEMPT AND TAXABLE DEBT  
3 ISSUED BY OR ON BEHALF OF A LOCAL GOVERNMENT IS SUBJECT TO  
4 APPROVAL BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. The title of Article 8 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes reads as  
7 rewritten:

8 "ARTICLE 8.  
9 "~~FINANCING AGREEMENTS.~~ AGREEMENTS AND OTHER  
10 FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS."

11 Section 2. Article 8 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes is amended by  
12 adding a new section to read:

13 "§ 159-153. Approval of other financing arrangements.

14 (a) Commission Approval Required. – Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
15 section, approval by the Commission in accordance with this section is required before a

1 unit of local government, or any public body, agency, or similar entity created by any  
2 action of a unit of local government, may do any of the following:

3 (1) Incur indebtedness.

4 (2) Enter into any similar type of financing arrangement.

5 (3) Approve or otherwise participate in the incurrence of indebtedness or  
6 the entering into of a similar type of financing arrangement by another  
7 party on its behalf.

8 (b) Exceptions. – Approval by the Commission in accordance with this section is  
9 not required in any of the following cases:

10 (1) Another law of this State already specifically requires Commission  
11 approval of the indebtedness or financing arrangement and the required  
12 approval is obtained in accordance with that law.

13 (2) The indebtedness or financing arrangement is a contract entered into by  
14 a unit of local government pursuant to G.S. 160A-20 and is not subject  
15 to review by the Commission pursuant to G.S. 160A-20(e).

16 (3) The indebtedness or financing arrangement is excepted from the review  
17 requirements of this Article because it does not meet the conditions of  
18 G.S. 159-148(a)(1) or (3) or because it is excluded pursuant to G.S. 159-  
19 148(b).

20 (c) Effect of Special Act. – No special, local, or private act shall be construed to  
21 create an exception from the review of the Commission required by this section unless  
22 the act explicitly excludes the review and approval of the Commission.

23 (d) Factors Considered. – The Commission may consider all of the following  
24 factors in determining whether to approve the incurrence of, entering into, approval of, or  
25 participation in any indebtedness or financing arrangement subject to approval pursuant  
26 to this section:

27 (1) Whether the undertaking is necessary or expedient.

28 (2) The nature and amount of the outstanding debt of the entity proposing to  
29 incur the indebtedness or enter the financing arrangement.

30 (3) Whether the entity proposing to operate the facilities financed by the  
31 indebtedness or financing arrangement and the entity obligating itself  
32 under the indebtedness or financing arrangement have demonstrated or  
33 can demonstrate the financial responsibility and capability to fulfill their  
34 obligations with respect to the indebtedness or financing arrangement.  
35 In making this determination, the Commission may consider the  
36 operating entity's experience and financial position, the nature of the  
37 undertaking being financed, and any additional security such as  
38 insurance, guaranties, or property to be pledged to secure the  
39 indebtedness or financing arrangement.

40 (4) Whether the proposed date and manner of sale of obligations will have  
41 an adverse effect upon any scheduled or anticipated sale of obligations  
42 by the State or any political subdivision or by any agency of either of  
43 them.

- 1           (5)    The local government unit's debt management procedures and policies.  
2           (6)    The local government unit's compliance with the Local Government  
3                Budget and Fiscal Control Act.  
4           (7)    Whether the local government unit is in default in any of its debt service  
5                obligations.

6           (e)    Documentation. – To facilitate the review of the proposed indebtedness or  
7           financing arrangement by the Commission, the Secretary may require the unit or other  
8           entity to obtain and submit any financial data and information about the proposed  
9           indebtedness or financing arrangement and security for it, including any proposed  
10           prospectus or offering circular, the proposed financing arrangement and security  
11           document, and annual and other financial reports and statements of the obligated entity.  
12           Applications and other documents required by the Commission must be in the form  
13           prescribed by the Commission.

14           (f)    Conditions for Approval. – If the Commission determines that all of the  
15           following conditions are met, the Commission shall approve the incurrence of the  
16           indebtedness, entering of the financing arrangement, or approval or other participation in  
17           the indebtedness or financing arrangement, by the unit of local government or the other  
18           entity referred to in subsection (a) of this section:

- 19                (1)    The amount of the indebtedness to be incurred or financed is not  
20                    excessive for the purpose contemplated.  
21                (2)    The entity that will operate the facilities financed by the indebtedness or  
22                    financing arrangement and the entity obligating itself under the  
23                    indebtedness or financing arrangement have demonstrated or can  
24                    demonstrate the financial responsibility and capability to fulfill their  
25                    obligations with respect to the indebtedness or financing arrangement.  
26                (3)    The proposed date and manner of sale of obligations will not have an  
27                    adverse effect upon any scheduled or anticipated sale of obligations by  
28                    the State or any political subdivision or any agency of either of them."

29           Section 3. This act becomes effective March 1, 1999, and applies to debt and  
30           financing arrangements incurred, entered into, approved, or participated in on or after that  
31           date.