

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

**SESSION LAW 2002-120  
HOUSE BILL 1490**

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT LOCAL REVENUES MAY NOT BE WITHHELD OR  
IMPOUNDED BY THE GOVERNOR AND TO CLARIFY THE FRANCHISE  
TAX ON ELECTRIC POWER COMPANIES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 105-113.82(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Time. – The revenue shall be distributed to cities and counties within 60 days after March 31 of each year. The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 105-116.1(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Distribution. – The Secretary must distribute to the cities part of the taxes collected under this Article on electric power companies. Each city's share for a calendar quarter is the percentage distribution amount for that city for that quarter minus one-fourth of the city's hold-back amount and one-fourth of the city's proportionate share of the annual cost to the Department of administering the distribution. The Secretary must make the distribution within 75 days after the end of each calendar quarter. The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 105-187.44(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Distribution. – Within 75 days after the end of each calendar quarter, the Secretary must distribute to the cities part of the tax proceeds collected under this Article during that quarter. The amount to be distributed to a city is one-half of the amount of tax attributable to that city for that quarter under subsection (a) of this section. The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 105-164.44F is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(f) Nature. – The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 5.** G.S. 136-41.1 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(d) Nature. – The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 6.** G.S. 159B-27(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) The State shall distribute to cities and towns which receive electric power and energy from their ownership share of a project or to which electric power and energy is

sold by a joint agency an amount equal to a tax of three and nine hundredths percent (3.09%) of all moneys expended by a municipality on account of its ownership share of a project, including payment of principal and interest on bonds issued to finance such ownership share, or an amount equal to a tax of three and nine hundredths percent (3.09%) of the gross receipts from all sales of electric power and energy to such city or town by a joint agency, as the case may be. The General Assembly finds that the revenue distributed under this section is local revenue, not a State expenditure, for the purpose of Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution. Therefore, the Governor may not reduce or withhold the distribution."

**SECTION 7.** G.S. 143-25 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143-25. Maintenance appropriations dependent upon adequacy of revenues to support them.**

(a) All maintenance appropriations now or hereafter made are hereby declared to be maximum, conditional and proportionate appropriations, the purpose being to make the appropriations payable in full in the amounts named herein if necessary and then only in the event the aggregate revenues collected and available during each fiscal year of the biennium for which such appropriations are made, are sufficient to pay all of the appropriations in full; otherwise, the said appropriations shall be deemed to be payable in such proportion as the total sum of all appropriations bears to the total amount of revenue available in each of said fiscal years. The Except as provided in subsection (b) of this section, the Director of the Budget is hereby given full power and authority to examine and survey the progress of the collection of the revenue out of which such appropriations are to be made, and to declare and determine the amounts that can be, during each quarter of each of the fiscal years of the biennium properly allocated to each respective appropriation. In making such examination and survey, he the Director of the Budget shall receive estimates of the prospective collection of revenues from the Secretary of Revenue and every other revenue collecting agency of the State. The Director of the Budget may reduce all of said appropriations pro rata when necessary to prevent an overdraft or deficit to the fiscal period for which such appropriations are made. The Governor may also reduce all of said appropriations pursuant to Article III, Section 5(3) of the Constitution in accordance with subsection (b) of this section, after consulting with the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations under G.S. 120-76(8) if prior consultation is required by that section. The purpose and policy of this Article are to provide and insure that there shall be no overdraft or deficit in the general fund of the State at the end of the fiscal period, growing out of appropriations for maintenance and the Director of the Budget is directed and required to so administer this Article as to prevent any such overdraft or deficit. Prior to taking any action under this section to reduce appropriations pro rata, the Governor may consult with the Advisory Budget Commission.

(b) The General Assembly recognizes that it has required units of local government to adopt and maintain annual balanced budgets and take other steps to assure financially sound operations under the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act and other provisions of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes. Accordingly, the General Assembly finds that in order to satisfy those statutory requirements and provide adequate services to their citizens, units of local government must be able to rely on the funds and local revenue sources the General Assembly has provided.

It is the intent of the General Assembly that funds that have been collected by the State on behalf of local governments and funds that the General Assembly has appropriated or otherwise committed to local governments shall not be reduced except as provided in this section. In exercising the powers contained in Section 5(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution, the Governor shall not withhold from distribution funds that have been collected by the State on behalf of local governments or funds that the General Assembly has appropriated or otherwise committed to local governments unless, after making adequate provision for the prompt payment of principal of and interest on bonds and notes of the State according to their terms, the Governor has

exhausted all other sources of revenue of the State including surplus remaining in the treasury at the beginning of the fiscal period.

This subsection does not authorize the Governor to withhold revenues from taxes levied by units of local governments and collected by the State. The General Assembly recognizes that under Section 19 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution and under the Due Process Clause of the United States Constitution, the State is prohibited from taking local tax revenue."

**SECTION 8.** G.S. 105-116 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e1) An electric power company engaged in the business of furnishing electricity, electric lights, current, or power that collects the annual franchise or privilege tax pursuant to subsection (a) of this section and remits the tax collected to the Secretary shall not be subject to any additional franchise or privilege tax imposed upon it by any city or county."

**SECTION 9.** The provisions of this act are severable. If any provision of this act is held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision.

**SECTION 10.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 12<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This bill having been presented to the Governor for his signature on the 13<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002 and the Governor having failed to approve it within the time prescribed by law, the same is hereby declared to have become a law.

This 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2002

s/ Ashley D. Blizzard  
Enrolling Clerk