

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 248

Short Title: Taxpayer Debt Information Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Conrad, Fulghum, Cleveland, and Blust (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Finance.

March 7, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE ON THE BALLOT OF THE ESTIMATED  
3 AMOUNT OF INTEREST THAT WOULD BE INCURRED ON INDEBTEDNESS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 159-52(b) reads as rewritten:

6 "(b) The Commission shall approve the application if, upon the information and  
7 evidence it receives, it finds and determines:

8 (1) That the proposed bond issue is necessary or expedient.

9 (2) That the amount proposed is adequate and not excessive for the proposed  
10 purpose of the issue.

11 (3) That the unit's debt management procedures and policies are good, or that  
12 reasonable assurances have been given that its debt will henceforth be  
13 managed in strict compliance with law.

14 (4) That the increase in taxes, if any, necessary to service the proposed debt will  
15 not be excessive.

16 (5) That the proposed bonds can be marketed at reasonable rates of interest.

17 If the Commission approves the application, the Commission shall use the current interest  
18 rates to estimate the total amount of interest anticipated to result from the proposed bond at that  
19 rate and shall include that estimation in the order approving the application. If the Commission  
20 tentatively decides to deny the application because it is of the opinion that any one or more of  
21 these conclusions cannot be supported from the information presented to it, it shall so notify the  
22 unit filing the application. If the unit so requests, the Commission shall hold a public hearing on  
23 the application at which time any interested persons shall be heard. The Commission may  
24 appoint a hearing officer to conduct the hearing, and to present a summary of the testimony and  
25 his recommendations for the Commission's consideration."

26 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 159-61(d) reads as rewritten:

27 "(d) The form of the question as stated on the ballot shall be in substantially ~~the~~  
28 ~~following words:~~ the words set forth in this subsection. The question shall include the estimated  
29 total amount of principal and interest resulting from the proposed bond, as calculated by the  
30 Commission and included in the order approving the application pursuant to G.S. 159-52.

31 "Shall the order ~~authorizing~~ authorizing, but not requiring, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ bonds and resulting  
32 in an estimated total amount of interest of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ and an estimated total cost of debt of  
33 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for (briefly stating the purpose) be approved?

34 [ ] YES

35 [ ] NO""



1           **SECTION 3.** Article 1 of Chapter 142 of the General Statutes is amended by  
2 adding a new section to read:

3 **"§ 142-15.4. General obligation ballot question.**

4           In any general obligation bond issued by the General Assembly, the State Treasurer shall  
5 use the current interest rates to estimate the total amount of interest anticipated to result from  
6 the proposed bond at that rate, and the form of the question as stated on the ballot shall include  
7 (i) the amount of principal and the estimated total amount of interest and cost of debt resulting  
8 from the proposed bond, as calculated by the State Treasurer, and (ii) a statement indicating  
9 that approval of the general obligation bond does not require the issuance of the general  
10 obligation bond."

11           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to bonds  
12 proposed on or after that date.