

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 694  
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Short Title: Public Transit Authority.  
(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 20, 1989

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CREATION OF A REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION  
3 AUTHORITY.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
6 Article to read:

7 **“ARTICLE 26.**

8 **“REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY.**

9 **“§ 160A-600. Title.**

10 This Article shall be known and may be cited as the ‘Regional Public Transportation  
11 Authority Act.’

12 **“§ 160A-601. Definitions.**

13 As used in this Article, unless the context otherwise requires:

- 14 (1) ‘Authority’ means a Regional Public Transportation Authority as  
15 defined by subdivision (6) of this section.
- 16 (2) ‘Board of Trustees’ means the governing board of the Authority, in  
17 which the general legislative powers of the Authority are vested.
- 18 (3) ‘Population’ means the number of persons residing in respective areas  
19 as defined and enumerated in the most recent decennial federal census.

- 1           (4) 'Public transportation' means transportation of passengers whether or  
2 not for hire by any means of conveyance, including but not limited to a  
3 street or elevated railway or guideway, subway, motor vehicle or  
4 motor bus, carpool or vanpool, either publicly or privately owned and  
5 operated, holding itself out to the general public for the transportation  
6 of persons within or working within the territorial jurisdiction of the  
7 Authority, including charter service.
- 8           (5) 'Public transportation system' means, without limitation, a  
9 combination of real and personal property, structures, improvements,  
10 buildings, equipment, vehicle parking or other facilities, railroads and  
11 railroad rights-of-way whether held in fee simple by quitclaim or  
12 easement, and rights-of-way, or any combination thereof, used or  
13 useful for the purposes of public transportation. 'Public transportation  
14 system' however, does not include streets, roads, or highways except  
15 those for ingress and egress to vehicle parking.
- 16           (6) 'Regional Public Transportation Authority,' means a body corporate  
17 and politic organized in accordance with the provisions of this Article  
18 for the purposes, with the powers and subject to the restrictions  
19 hereinafter set forth.
- 20           (7) 'Unit of local government' means any county, city, town or  
21 municipality of this State, and any other political subdivision, public  
22 corporation, Authority, or district in this State, which is or may be  
23 authorized by law to acquire, establish, construct, enlarge, improve,  
24 maintain, own, and operate public transportation systems.
- 25           (8) 'Unit of local government's chief administrative official' means the  
26 county manager, city manager, town manager, or other person, by  
27 whatever title he shall be known, in whom the responsibility for the  
28 unit of local government's administrative duties is vested.

29 **"§ 160A-602. Definition of territorial jurisdiction of Authority.**

30 An authority may be created for any area of the State that, at the time of creation of  
31 the authority, meets the following criteria:

- 32           (1) The area consists of three counties:
- 33           (2) At least one of those counties contains at least part of a County  
34 Research and Production Service District established pursuant to Part 2  
35 of Article 16 of Chapter 153A of the General Statutes; and
- 36           (3) The other two counties each:
- 37           a. Contain at least one unit of local government that is designated  
38 by the Governor of the State of North Carolina as a recipient  
39 pursuant to Section 9 of the Urban Mass Transportation Act of  
40 1964, as amended; and
- 41           b. Are adjacent to at least one county that contains at least part of  
42 a County Research and Production Service District established  
43 pursuant to Part 2 of Article 16 of Chapter 153A of the General  
44 Statutes.

1 **"§ 160A-603. Creation of Authority.**

2 (a) The Boards of Commissioners of all three counties within an area for which  
3 an authority may be created as defined in G.S. 160A-602 may by resolution signify their  
4 determination to organize an authority under the provisions of this Article. Each of such  
5 resolutions shall be adopted after a public hearing thereon, notice of which hearing shall  
6 be given by publication at least once, not less than 10 days prior to the date fixed for  
7 such hearing, in a newspaper having a general circulation in the county. Such notice  
8 shall contain a brief statement of the substance of the proposed resolution, shall set forth  
9 the proposed articles of incorporation of the Authority and shall state the time and place  
10 of the public hearing to be held thereof. No county shall be required to make any other  
11 publication of such resolution under the provisions of any other law.

12 (b) Each such resolution shall include articles of incorporation which shall set  
13 forth:

14 (1) The name of the authority;

15 (2) A statement that such authority is organized under this  
16 Article; and

17 (3) The names of the three organizing counties.

18 (c) A certified copy of each of such resolutions signifying the determination to  
19 organize an authority under the provisions of this Article shall be filed with the  
20 Secretary of State, together with proof of publication of the notice of hearing on each of  
21 such resolutions. If the Secretary of State finds that the resolutions, including the  
22 articles of incorporation, conform to the provisions of this Article and that the notices of  
23 hearing were properly published, he shall file such resolutions and proofs of publication  
24 in his office and shall issue a certificate of incorporation under the seal of the State and  
25 shall record the same in an appropriate book of record in his office. The issuance of  
26 such certificate of incorporation by the Secretary of State shall constitute the Authority  
27 a public body and body politic and corporate of the State of North Carolina. Said  
28 certificate of incorporation shall be conclusive evidence of the fact that such authority  
29 has been duly created and established under the provisions of this Article.

30 (d) When the Authority has been duly organized and its officers elected as herein  
31 provided the secretary of the Authority shall certify to the Secretary of State the names  
32 and addresses of such officers as well as the address of the principal office of the  
33 Authority.

34 (e) The Authority may become a Designated Recipient pursuant to the Urban  
35 Mass Transportation Act of 1964, as amended.

36 **"§ 160A-604. Territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.**

37 (a) The territorial jurisdiction of any authority created pursuant to this Article  
38 shall be coterminous with the boundaries of the three counties that organized it.

39 (b) Except as provided by this Article, the jurisdiction of the Authority may  
40 include all local public passenger transportation operating within the territorial  
41 jurisdiction of the Authority, but the Authority may not take over the operation of any  
42 existing public transportation without the consent of the owner.

43 (c) The Authority shall not have jurisdiction over public transportation  
44 subject to the jurisdiction of and regulated by the Interstate Commerce Commission, nor

1 shall it have jurisdiction over intrastate public transportation classified as common  
2 carriers of passengers by the North Carolina Utilities Commission.

3 **"§ 160A-605. Membership; officers; compensation.**

4 (a) The governing body of an authority is the Board of Trustees. The Board  
5 of Trustees shall consist of 11 members, appointed as follows:

6 (1) The county with the greatest population shall be allocated five  
7 members to be appointed as follows:

8 a. Two by the board of commissioners of that county;

9 b. Two by the city council of the city containing the largest  
10 population within that county; and

11 c. One by the city council of the city containing the second largest  
12 population within that county;

13 (2) The county with the next greatest population shall be allocated three  
14 members to be appointed as follows:

15 a. One by the board of commissioners of that county;

16 b. One by the city council of the city containing the largest  
17 population within that county; and

18 c. One jointly by that board of commissioners and city council, by  
19 procedures agreed on between them;

20 (3) The county with the least population shall be allocated two members to  
21 be appointed as follows:

22 a. One by the board of commissioners of that county; and

23 b. One by the city council of the city containing the largest  
24 population within that county; and

25 (4) One member of the Board of Transportation appointed by the  
26 Secretary of Transportation, to serve as an ex officio nonvoting  
27 member.

28 (b) Voting members of the Board of Trustees shall serve for terms of four  
29 years, provided that one-half of the initial appointments shall be for two-year terms, to  
30 be determined by lot at the first meeting of the Board of Trustees. Initial terms of office  
31 shall commence upon approval by the Secretary of State of the articles of incorporation.  
32 The member appointed by the Secretary of Transportation shall serve at his pleasure.

33 (c) An appointing authority may appoint one of its members to the Board of  
34 Trustees. Service on the Board of Trustees may be in addition to any other office which  
35 a person is entitled to hold. Each voting member of the Board of Trustees may hold  
36 elective public office as defined by G.S. 128-1.1(d).

37 (d) Members of the Board of Trustees shall reside within the territorial  
38 jurisdiction of the Authority as defined by G.S. 160A-604.

39 (e) The Board of Trustees shall annually elect from its membership a  
40 Chairperson, and a Vice-Chairperson, and shall annually elect a Secretary, and a  
41 Treasurer.

42 (f) Members of the Board of Trustees shall receive the sum of fifty dollars  
43 (\$50.00) as compensation for attendance at each duly conducted meeting of the  
44 Authority.

1 **"§ 160A-606. Voting; removal.**

2 (a) Six members of the Board of Trustees shall constitute a quorum for the  
3 transaction of business. Except as provided by G.S. 160A-605(a)(4), each member shall  
4 have one vote.

5 (b) Each member of the Board of Trustees may be removed with or without  
6 cause by the appointer(s). If the appointment was made jointly by two boards, the  
7 removal must be concurred in by both.

8 (c) Appointments to fill vacancies shall be made for the remainder of the  
9 unexpired term by the respective appointer(s) charged with the responsibility for  
10 making such appointments pursuant to G.S. 160A-605. All members shall serve until  
11 their successors are appointed and qualified, unless removed from office.

12 **"§ 160A-607. Advisory committees.**

13 The Board of Trustees may provide for the selection of such advisory committees as  
14 it may find appropriate, which may or may not include members of the Board of  
15 Trustees.

16 **"§ 160A-607.1. Special tax board.**

17 (a) The special tax board of an authority shall be composed of two  
18 representatives from each of the counties organizing the authority appointed annually by  
19 the board of commissioners of each of those counties' members at the first regular  
20 meeting thereof in January, except that the initial members shall serve a term beginning  
21 on the date that the initial terms of the board of trustees of that authority begin under  
22 G.S. 160A-605(b), and ending on the last day of December of that year. Each member  
23 of the special tax board must be a member of the board of commissioners of the county  
24 by which he was appointed. Membership on the special tax board may be held in  
25 addition to the offices authorized by G.S. 128-1 or G.S. 128-1.1. Said representatives  
26 shall hold office from their appointment until their successors are appointed and  
27 qualified, except that when any member of the special tax board ceases for any reason to  
28 be a member of the board of commissioners of the county by which he was appointed,  
29 he shall simultaneously cease to be a member of said special tax board. Upon the  
30 occurrence of any vacancy on said special tax board, the vacancy shall be filled within  
31 30 days after notice thereof by the board of commissioners of the county having a  
32 vacancy in its representation. Each member of the special tax board, before entering  
33 upon his duties, shall take and subscribe an oath or affirmation to support the  
34 Constitution and laws of the United States and of this State and to discharge faithfully  
35 the duties of his office; and a record of each such oath shall be filed in the minutes of  
36 the respective participating units of local government.

37 (b) The special tax board shall meet regularly at such places and on such dates as  
38 are determined by the board. The initial meeting shall be called jointly by the chairmen  
39 of the boards of commissioners of the counties organizing the authority. Special  
40 meetings may be called by the chairman on his own initiative and shall be called by him  
41 upon request of two or more members of the board. All members shall be notified in  
42 writing at least 24 hours in advance of such meeting. A majority of the members of the  
43 special tax board shall constitute a quorum. No vacancy in the membership of the  
44 special tax board shall impair the right of a quorum to exercise all the rights and

1 perform all the duties of the special tax board. No action, other than an action to recess  
2 or adjourn, shall be taken except upon a majority vote of the entire authorized  
3 membership of said special tax board. Each member, including the chairman, shall be  
4 entitled to vote on any question.

5 (c) The special tax board shall elect annually in January from among its members  
6 a chairman, vice-chairman, secretary and treasurer, except that initial officers shall be  
7 elected at the first meeting of the special tax board.

8 **"§ 160A-608. Purpose of the Authority.**

9 The purpose of the Authority shall be to finance, provide, operate, and maintain for a  
10 safe, clean, reliable, adequate, convenient, energy efficient and environmentally sound  
11 public transportation system for the service area of the Authority through the granting of  
12 franchises, ownership and leasing of terminals, buses and other transportation facilities  
13 and equipment, and otherwise through the exercise of the powers and duties conferred  
14 upon it, in order to enhance mobility in the region and encourage sound growth patterns.

15 Such a service, facility, or function shall be financed, provided, operated, or  
16 maintained in the service area of the Authority either in addition to or to a greater or  
17 lesser extent than services, facilities, or functions are financed, provided, operated, or  
18 maintained for the entirety of the respective units of local government.

19 **"§ 160A-609. Service area of the Authority.**

20 The service area of the Authority shall be as determined by the Board of Trustees  
21 consistent with its purpose.

22 **"§ 160A-610. General powers of the Authority.**

23 The general powers of the Authority shall include any or all of the following:

24 (1) To sue and be sued;

25 (2) To have a seal;

26 (3) To make rules and regulations, not inconsistent with this Chapter, for  
27 its organization and internal management;

28 (4) To employ persons deemed necessary to carry out the functions and  
29 duties assigned to them by the Authority and to fix their compensation,  
30 within the limit of available funds;

31 (5) With the approval of the unit of local government's chief  
32 administrative official, to use officers, employees, agents and facilities  
33 of the unit of local government for such purposes and upon such terms  
34 as may be mutually agreeable;

35 (6) To retain and employ counsel, auditors, engineers and private  
36 consultants on an annual salary, contract basis, or otherwise for  
37 rendering professional or technical services and advice;

38 (7) To acquire, lease as lessee with or without option to purchase, hold,  
39 own, and use any franchise, property, real or personal, tangible or  
40 intangible, or any interest therein and to sell, lease as lessor with or  
41 without option to purchase, transfer (or dispose thereof) whenever the  
42 same is no longer required for purposes of the Authority, or exchange  
43 same for other property or rights which are useful for the Authority's  
44 purposes, including but not necessarily limited to parking facilities;

- 1           (8)    To acquire by gift, purchase, lease as lessee with or without option to  
2           purchase or otherwise to construct, improve, maintain, repair, operate  
3           or administer any component parts of a public transportation system or  
4           to contract for the maintenance, operation or administration thereof or  
5           to lease as lessor the same for maintenance, operation, or  
6           administration by private parties, including but not necessarily limited  
7           to parking facilities;
- 8           (9)    To make or enter into contracts, agreements, deeds, leases with or  
9           without option to purchase, conveyances or other instruments,  
10          including contracts and agreements with the United States, the State of  
11          North Carolina, and units of local government;
- 12          (10)   To surrender to the State of North Carolina any property no longer  
13          required by the Authority;
- 14          (11)   To develop and make data, plans, information, surveys and studies of  
15          public transportation facilities within the territorial jurisdiction of the  
16          Authority, to prepare and make recommendations in regard thereto;
- 17          (12)   To enter in a reasonable manner lands, waters or premises for the  
18          purpose of making surveys, soundings, drillings, and examinations  
19          whereby such entry shall not be deemed a trespass except that the  
20          Authority shall be liable for any actual and consequential damages  
21          resulting from such entries;
- 22          (13)   To develop and carry out demonstration projects;
- 23          (14)   To make, enter into, and perform contracts with private parties, and  
24          public transportation companies with respect to the management and  
25          operation of public passenger transportation;
- 26          (15)   To make, enter into, and perform contracts with any public utility,  
27          railroad or transportation company for the joint use of property or  
28          rights, for the establishment of through routes, joint fares or transfer of  
29          passengers;
- 30          (16)   To make, enter into, and perform agreements with governmental  
31          entities for payments to the Authority for the transportation of persons  
32          for whom the governmental entities desire transportation;
- 33          (17)   With the consent of the unit of local government which would  
34          otherwise have jurisdiction to exercise the powers enumerated in this  
35          subdivision: to issue certificates of public convenience and necessity;  
36          and to grant franchises and enter into franchise agreements and in all  
37          respects to regulate the operation of buses, taxicabs and other methods  
38          of public passenger transportation which originate and terminate  
39          within the territorial jurisdiction of the Authority as fully as the unit of  
40          local government is now or hereafter empowered to do within the  
41          territorial jurisdiction of the unit of local government;
- 42          (18)   To operate public transportation systems and to enter into and perform  
43          contracts to operate public transportation services and facilities and to  
44          own or lease property, facilities and equipment necessary or

1 convenient therefor, and to rent, lease or otherwise sell the right to do  
2 so to any person, public or private; further, to obtain grants, loans and  
3 assistance from the United States, the State of North Carolina, any  
4 public body, or any private source whatsoever;

5 (19) To enter into and perform contracts and agreements with other public  
6 transportation authorities, regional public transportation authorities or  
7 units of local government pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 160A-460  
8 through 160A-464 (Part 1 of Article 20 of Chapter 160A of the  
9 General Statutes); further to enter into contracts and agreements with  
10 private transportation companies;

11 (20) To operate public transportation systems extending service into any  
12 political subdivision of the State of North Carolina unless a particular  
13 unit of local government operating its own public transportation  
14 system or franchising the operation of a public transportation system  
15 by majority vote of its governing board, shall deny consent;

16 (21) Except as restricted by covenants in bonds, notes, or equipment trust  
17 certificates, to set in its sole discretion rates, fees and charges for use  
18 of its public transportation system;

19 (22) To do all things necessary or convenient to carry out its purpose and to  
20 exercise the powers granted to the Authority;

21 (23) To collect or contract for the collection of taxes which it is authorized  
22 by law to levy;

23 (24) To issue bonds or other obligations of the Authority as provided by  
24 law and apply the proceeds thereof to the financing of any public  
25 transportation system or any part thereof and to refund, whether or not  
26 in advance of maturity or the earliest redemption date, any such bonds  
27 or other obligations; and

28 (25) To contract for, or to provide and maintain, with respect to the  
29 facilities and property owned, leased with or without option to  
30 purchase, operated or under the control of the Authority, and within  
31 the territory thereof, a security force to protect persons and property,  
32 dispense unlawful or dangerous assemblages and assemblages which  
33 obstruct full and free passage, control pedestrian and vehicular traffic,  
34 and otherwise preserve and protect the public peace, health, and safety;  
35 for these purposes a member of such force shall be a peace officer and,  
36 as such, shall have authority equivalent to the authority of a police  
37 officer of the city or county in which said member of such force is  
38 discharging such duties.

39 **"§ 160A-611. Authority of Utilities Commission not affected.**

40 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Article, nothing in this Article shall be  
41 construed to limit or otherwise affect the power or authority of the North Carolina  
42 Utilities Commission or the right of appeal to the North Carolina Utilities Commission  
43 as provided by law.

1 (b) The North Carolina Utilities Commission shall not have jurisdiction over  
2 rates, fees, charges, routes, and schedules of an Authority for service within its  
3 territorial jurisdiction.

4 **"§ 160A-612. Fiscal accountability.**

5 An Authority is a public authority subject to the provisions of Chapter 159 of the  
6 General Statutes.

7 **"§ 160A-613. Funds.**

8 (a) The establishment and operation of an Authority are governmental functions  
9 and constitute a public purpose, and the State of North Carolina and any unit of local  
10 government may appropriate funds to support the establishment and operation of the  
11 Authority. The State of North Carolina and any unit of local government may also  
12 dedicate, sell, convey, donate or lease any of their interests in any property to the  
13 Authority.

14 (b) The Authority may levy an annual vehicle registration tax not to exceed five  
15 dollars (\$5.00) per vehicle in accordance with G.S. 20-97.1.

16 **"§ 160A-614. Effect on existing franchises and operations.**

17 Creation of the Authority shall not have an effect on any existing franchises granted  
18 by any unit of local government; such existing franchises shall continue in full force and  
19 effect until legally terminated; further, all ordinances and resolutions of the unit of local  
20 government regulating local public transportation systems, bus operations, and taxicabs  
21 shall continue in full force and effect now and in the future, unless superseded by  
22 regulations of the Authority; such superseding, if any, may occur only on the basis of  
23 prior mutual agreement between the Authority and the respective unit of local  
24 government.

25 **"§ 160A-615. Termination.**

26 The Board of Trustees may terminate the existence of the Authority at any time  
27 when it has no outstanding indebtedness. In the event of such termination, all property  
28 and assets of the Authority not otherwise encumbered shall automatically become the  
29 property of the State of North Carolina, and the State of North Carolina shall succeed to  
30 all rights, obligations, and liabilities of the Authority.

31 **"§ 160A-616. Controlling provisions.**

32 Insofar as the provisions of this Article are not consistent with the provisions of any  
33 other law, public or private, the provisions of this Article shall be controlling.

34 **"§ 160A-617. Bonds and notes authorized.**

35 In addition of the powers granted by this Article, the Authority may issue bonds and  
36 notes pursuant to the provisions of the Local Government Bond Act and the Local  
37 Government Revenue Bond Act for the purpose of financing public transportation  
38 systems or any part thereof and to refund such bonds and notes, whether or not in  
39 advance of their maturity or earliest redemption date. Any bond order must be  
40 approved by ordinance adopted by each board of county commissioners within the  
41 territorial jurisdiction of the Authority. To pay any bond or note issued under the Local  
42 Government Bond Act, the Authority may not pledge the levy of any ad valorem tax,  
43 but only a tax or taxes it is authorized to levy.

44 **"§ 160A-618. Equipment trust certificates.**

1 In addition to the powers here and before granted, the Authority shall have  
2 continuing power to purchase equipment, and in connection therewith execute  
3 agreements, leases with or without option to purchase, or equipment trust certificates.  
4 All money required to be paid by the Authority under the provisions of such  
5 agreements, leases with or without option to purchase, and equipment trust certificates  
6 shall be payable solely from the fares, fees, rentals, charges, revenues, and earnings of  
7 the Authority, monies derived from the sale of any surplus property of the Authority and  
8 gifts, grants, and contributions from any source whatever. Payment for such equipment  
9 or rentals therefore, may be made in installments; the deferred installments may be  
10 evidenced by equipment trust certificates payable solely from the aforesaid revenues or  
11 receipts and title to such equipment may or may not vest in the Authority until the  
12 equipment trust certificates are paid.

13 **"§ 160A-619. Power of eminent domain.**

14 (a) The Authority shall have continuing power to acquire, by gift, grant, devise,  
15 bequest, exchange, purchase, lease with or without option to purchase, or any other  
16 lawful method, including but not limited to the power of eminent domain, the fee or any  
17 lesser interest in real or personal property for use by the Authority.

18 (b) Exercise of the power of eminent domain by the Authority shall be in  
19 accordance with Chapter 40A of the General Statutes.

20 **"§ 160A-620. Tax exemption.**

21 The property of the Authority, both real and personal, its acts, activities and income  
22 shall be exempt from any tax or tax obligation; in the event of any lease of Authority  
23 property, or other arrangement which amounts to a leasehold interest, to a private party,  
24 this exemption shall not apply to the value of such leasehold interest nor shall it apply to  
25 the income of the lessee. Otherwise, however, for the purpose of taxation, when  
26 property of the Authority is leased to private parties solely for the purpose of the  
27 Authority, the acts and activities of the lessee shall be considered as the acts and  
28 activities of the Authority and the exemption. The interest on bonds or obligations  
29 issued by the Authority shall be exempt from State taxes.

30 **"§ 160A-621. Removal and relocation of utility structures.**

31 (a) The Authority shall have the power to require any public utility, railroad, or  
32 other public service corporation owning or operating any installations, structures,  
33 equipment, apparatus, appliances or facilities in, upon, under, over, across or along any  
34 ways on which the Authority has the right to own, construct, operate or maintain its  
35 public transportation system, to remove or relocate such installation, structures,  
36 equipment, apparatus, appliances or facilities from their locations.

37 (b) If the owner or operator thereof fails or refuses to remove or relocate them,  
38 the Authority may proceed to do so. The Authority may provide the necessary new  
39 locations, and for that purpose the power of eminent domain as provided in G.S. 160A-  
40 619 may be exercised provided the new locations shall not be in, on or above, a public  
41 way; the Authority may also acquire the necessary new locations by purchase or  
42 otherwise.

43 (c) The Authority shall reimburse the public utility, railroad or other public  
44 service corporation, for the cost of relocations which shall be the entire amount paid or

1 incurred by the utility properly attributable thereto after deducting the cost of any  
2 increase in the service capacity of the new installations, structures, equipment,  
3 apparatus, appliances or facilities and any salvage value derived from the old  
4 installations, structures, equipment, apparatus or appliances."

5 Sec. 1.1. G.S. 40A-3(c) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

6 "(13) A regional transportation authority established under Article 26 of  
7 Chapter 160A of the General Statutes for the purposes of that Article."

8 Sec. 2. G.S. 159-81(1) reads as rewritten:

9 "(1) 'Municipality' means a county, city, town, incorporated  
10 village, sanitary district, metropolitan sewerage district, metropolitan  
11 water district, county water and sewer district, water and sewer  
12 authority, hospital authority, hospital district, parking authority,  
13 special airport district, regional public transportation authority, and  
14 airport authority, a joint agency created pursuant to Part 1 of Article  
15 20 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes, but not any other forms  
16 of local government."

17 Sec. 3. G.S. 159-44(4) reads as rewritten:

18 "(4) 'Unit,' 'unit of local government,' or 'local government'  
19 means counties; cities, towns, and incorporated villages; sanitary  
20 districts; mosquito control districts; hospital districts; metropolitan  
21 sewerage districts; metropolitan water districts; county water and  
22 sewer districts; regional public transportation authorities; and  
23 special airport districts."

24 Sec. 4. G.S. 159-48(e) reads as rewritten:

25 "(e) Each sanitary district, mosquito control district, hospital district, metropolitan  
26 sewerage district, metropolitan water district, county water and sewer district, regional  
27 public transportation authority and special airport district is authorized to borrow money  
28 and issue its bonds under this Article in evidence thereof for the purpose of paying any  
29 capital costs of any one or more of the purposes for which it is authorized, by general  
30 laws uniformly applicable throughout the State, to raise or appropriate money, except  
31 for current expenses."

32 Sec. 5. G.S. 159-51 reads as rewritten:

33 "**§ 159-51. Application to Commission for approval of bond issue; preliminary**  
34 **conference; acceptance of application.**

35 No bonds may be issued under this Article unless the issue is approved by the Local  
36 Government Commission. The governing board of the issuing unit shall file an  
37 application for Commission approval of the issue with the secretary of the Commission.  
38 If the issuing unit is a regional public transportation authority, the application must be  
39 accompanied by a resolution of the special tax board of that authority approving of the  
40 application. The application shall state such facts and have attached to it such  
41 documents concerning the proposed bonds and the financial condition of the issuing unit  
42 as the secretary may require. The Commission may prescribe the form of the  
43 application.

1 Before he accepts the application, the secretary may require the governing board or  
2 its representatives to attend a preliminary conference to consider the proposed bond  
3 issue.

4 After an application in proper form has been filed, and after a preliminary  
5 conference if one is required, the secretary shall notify the unit in writing that the  
6 application has been filed and accepted for submission to the Commission. The  
7 secretary's statement shall be conclusive evidence that the unit has complied with this  
8 section."

9 Sec. 6. G.S. 159-85(a) reads as rewritten:

10 "(a) Neither the State nor a municipality may issue revenue bonds under this  
11 Article unless the issue is approved by the Commission. The State Treasurer or the  
12 governing board of the issuing municipality or its duly authorized agent, as the case  
13 may be, shall file an application for Commission approval of the issue with the secretary  
14 of the Commission. If the issuing municipality is a regional public transportation  
15 authority, the application must be accompanied by a resolution of the special tax board  
16 of that authority approving of the application. The application shall state such facts and  
17 have attached to it such documents concerning the proposed revenue bonds and the  
18 financial condition of the State or the issuing municipality, as the case may be, and its  
19 utilities and enterprises as the secretary may require. The Commission may prescribe  
20 the form of the application."

21 Sec. 7. Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
22 section to read:

23 **"§ 20-97.1. Regional Transportation Authority Registration Tax.**

24 (a) In accordance with this section, a Regional Transportation Authority  
25 organized under Article 26 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes may levy an annual  
26 license tax upon any motor vehicle with a tax situs within its territorial jurisdiction as  
27 defined by G.S. 160A-602.

28 (b) The purpose of the tax levied under this section is to raise revenue for capital  
29 and operating expenses of a Regional Transportation Authority in providing a public  
30 transportation system.

31 (c) The annual levy under this section must be a full dollar amount, but may not  
32 exceed five dollars (\$5.00) per year.

33 (d) The Board of Trustees of a Regional Transportation Authority may levy the  
34 tax provided by this section by passage of a resolution, after not less than 10 days'  
35 public notice and after a public hearing. Collection of the tax, and liability therefor,  
36 shall begin and continue only on and after the first day of a calendar month set by the  
37 Board of Trustees in the resolution levying the tax, which shall in no case be earlier than  
38 the first day of the third calendar month after the adoption of the resolution.

39 (e) The Board of Trustees, upon adoption of the resolution, shall cause a certified  
40 copy of the resolution to be delivered immediately to the Division of Motor Vehicles.  
41 Upon receipt of the certified copy, the Division of Motor Vehicles shall proceed to  
42 collect and administer the tax at the same time and in the same manner as in G.S. 20-87  
43 (1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and (7), and G.S. 20-88.

1           (f) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may adopt such rules as are necessary  
2 and proper to implement this section.

3           (g) The Board of Trustees may, by resolution, proceed to terminate the levy and  
4 the imposition of the tax under this section under the same procedures as subsections (d)  
5 and (e) of this section, and may likewise increase or decrease the amount of the tax  
6 under such procedures, subject to the limitations of subsections (c) or (h) of this section.

7           (h) No liability for any tax levied under this section which shall have attached  
8 prior to the effective date on which a levy is terminated or reduced shall be discharged  
9 as a result of such termination or reduction, and no right to a refund of tax or otherwise,  
10 which shall have accrued prior to the effective date on which a levy is terminated or  
11 reduced shall be denied as a result of such termination. Collection of the increased or  
12 decreased tax, and liability therefor, shall begin and continue only on and after the first  
13 day of a calendar month set by the Board of Trustees in the resolution increasing or  
14 reducing the tax, which shall in no case be earlier than the first day of the third calendar  
15 month after the adoption of the resolution. The effective date of the termination of the  
16 tax shall be only on and after the first day of a calendar month set by the Board of  
17 Trustees in the resolution terminating the tax, which shall in no case be earlier than the  
18 first day of the third calendar month after the adoption of the resolution.

19           (i) Only vehicles required to pay a tax under G.S. 20-87(1), (2), (4), (5), (6), and  
20 (7) and G.S. 20-88 shall be subject to the tax provided by this section. Taxes shall be  
21 prorated in accordance with G.S. 20-66 or G.S. 20-95, as applicable.

22           (j) The fact that the county listed by the owner under G.S. 105-314 as the county  
23 where the vehicle is subject to ad valorem taxation is within the territorial jurisdiction of  
24 the Authority shall be **prima facie** evidence that the vehicle has a tax situs within the  
25 territorial jurisdiction of the Authority.

26           (k) Taxes paid under this section shall be credited to a special fund, and the net  
27 proceeds disbursed quarterly to the appropriate Regional Transportation Authority.  
28 Interest credited to the fund shall be disbursed quarterly to the Highway Fund to  
29 reimburse the Division of Motor Vehicles for the cost of collecting and administering  
30 the tax.

31           (l) No regional transportation authority may adopt any resolution to levy any tax  
32 under this section, or increase the amount of the levy, unless the special tax board of  
33 that authority has passed a resolution approving of the levy or increase in amount,  
34 unless such levy or increase in tax is necessary for debt service on bonds or notes that  
35 special tax board had previously approved under G.S. 159-51 or G.S. 159-85."

36           Sec. 8. G.S. 105-314(a) reads as rewritten:

37           "(a) Every motor vehicle owner applying to the State Division of Motor Vehicles  
38 for motor vehicle license tags, or for renewal of such, shall specify in the application the  
39 county in which each such motor vehicle is subject to ad valorem taxation. If any such  
40 vehicle is not subject to ad valorem taxation in this State, that fact, with the reason  
41 therefor, shall be stated in the application. No State license tags shall be issued to any  
42 applicant, or renewed for such applicant until the requirements of this subsection have  
43 been met. It shall be a misdemeanor to knowingly make a false statement in the  
44 application as to the information required to be supplied by this section."

1           Sec. 9. The Legislative Research Commission shall make a comprehensive  
2 study of financing of public transportation in North Carolina, and report its  
3 recommendations to the 1991 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

4           Sec. 10. This act is effective upon ratification.