

Article 10.

Managing Debt Capacity.

**§ 142-100. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Article is to provide tools for sound debt management by providing an annual debt affordability study to establish guidelines for maintaining prudent debt levels and by establishing a system for prioritizing State capital needs when the needs exceed the State's capacity for new debt. (2004-179, s. 5.1.)

**§ 142-101. Debt Affordability Advisory Committee.**

(a) Membership. – The Debt Affordability Advisory Committee is created in the Department of State Treasurer. The Committee shall consist of five ex officio members or their designees and four appointed members, as follows:

- (1) The State Treasurer.
- (2) The Secretary of Revenue.
- (3) The State Budget Officer.
- (4) The State Auditor.
- (5) The State Controller.
- (6) Two members of the public appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- (7) Two members of the public appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

(b) Officers and Staff. – The State Treasurer shall serve as the chair of the Committee. The Committee shall meet at the call of the chair. The Department of State Treasurer shall provide space for the Committee to meet. The Department shall also provide the Committee with necessary staff and supplies to enable it to carry out its duties in an effective manner.

(c) Compensation. – Members of the Committee shall serve without pay but shall receive per diem and allowances provided by G.S. 138-5 and G.S. 138-6.

(d) Duties. – The Debt Affordability Advisory Committee shall annually advise the Governor and the General Assembly on the estimated debt capacity of the State for the upcoming 10 fiscal years. The Committee shall oversee the undertaking of an annual debt affordability study and the establishment of guidelines for evaluating the State's debt burden. The guidelines should include target and ceiling ratios of net tax-supported debt to personal income and debt service to revenues, target and floor percentages for the 10-year payout ratio, and target and floor percentages for the unreserved General Fund balance. The Committee's recommendations shall include recommendations on debt capacities for debt supported by the General Fund, the Highway Fund, and the Highway Trust Fund. The Committee shall also recommend any other debt management policies it considers desirable and consistent with sound management of the State's debt.

(e) Reports. – The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Fiscal Research Division by February 1 of each year. (2004-179, s. 5.1; 2007-551, s. 1.)

**§ 142-102: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 142-103: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 142-104: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 142-105: Reserved for future codification purposes.**

**§ 142-106: Reserved for future codification purposes.**