

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 368

Short Title: Water/Sewer Authorities Payment Assist. Progs. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Insko, Potts, Hurley, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Energy and Public Utilities, if favorable, Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 24, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO EMPOWER WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITIES DURING PERIODS OF
3 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES TO MODIFY REVENUE COLLECTION
4 PRACTICES AND TO FUND PROGRAMS OF PAYMENT ASSISTANCE FOR
5 PERSONS OF LOW INCOME.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 162A-6(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

8 "(9b) To suspend standard revenue collection practices during a declared emergency
9 in order to assure continuation of service during the emergency, and to apply
10 grants and other federal, State, and local funds to replace revenues lost as a
11 result of customer delinquency during the emergency. During a suspension of
12 revenue collection practices under this subdivision, the authority may make
13 accommodations, including the forgiveness of balances in arrears from
14 low-income customers, to the extent of and when required as a condition for
15 receipt of the federal, State, or local funding. For purposes of this subdivision,
16 "declared emergency" means the period of an emergency, as defined in
17 G.S. 166A-19.3, declared by one of the authorities set out in G.S. 166A-19.20
18 or G.S. 155A-19.22 for an area that includes all or part of the service area of
19 the authority and "low-income" means persons in households the annual
20 income of which, adjusted for family size, is not more than sixty percent
21 (60%) of the local area median family income as defined by the most recent
22 figures published by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban
23 Development."

24 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.



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