

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
1969 SESSION

CHAPTER 646
HOUSE BILL 975

1 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE UTILITIES COMMISSION TO ENTER INTO
2 AGREEMENTS WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR
3 INSPECTION OF NATURAL GAS PIPELINES IN NORTH CAROLINA.
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:
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7 **Section 1.** G.S. 62-50 is hereby amended by designating the existing provisions of
8 said Section at subsection (a) thereof and by adding a new subsection (b), (c), (d) and (e) at the
9 end thereof to read as follows:

10 "(b) The Commission is hereby authorized to enter into agreements with the United
11 States Department of Transportation and other Federal agencies and with other states or Public
12 Utilities Commissions of other states for the regulation of natural gas pipelines located within
13 the State of North Carolina and upon the execution of such cooperative agreements, the
14 Commission is authorized to utilize Commission personnel for inspection, investigation, and
15 regulation of safety standards for interstate and intrastate natural gas pipelines in North
16 Carolina, and to share in the cost of such regulation with other agencies having duties with
17 respect to the regulation of said natural gas pipelines, and to receive funds from the United
18 States Department of Transportation for such regulation."

19 "(c) The Utilities Commission is hereby authorized to enter into cooperative agreements
20 for inspection of all natural gas pipelines of North Carolina to the end that the Utilities
21 Commission may enter into agreements with the Linked States Department of Transportation or
22 other Federal or State agencies to regulate and inspect the safety standards for all natural gas
23 pipelines in the State of North Carolina, including interstate natural gas pipelines."

24 "(d) Any person who violates any provision of this Section, or any regulation of the
25 Utilities Commission issued thereunder, shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed one
26 thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each violation for each day that the violation persists, the
27 maximum civil penalty not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for any
28 continuing violation."

29 "(e) Any action for civil penalty or any claim for said penalty may be compromised by
30 the Utilities Commission and settled for an agreed amount. In determining the amount of the
31 penalty imposed in civil action, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, the amount of the
32 penalty shall be considered in relation to the size of the business of the person charged, the
33 gravity of the violation, and the good faith of the person charged in attempting to achieve
34 compliance, after any prior notification of a violation. The amount of the penalty, when finally
35 determined in a civil action, or the amount agreed upon in compromise, may be deducted from
36 any sums owing by the State to the person charged, or may be collected as in the case of any
37 judgment in a civil action in the State courts."

38 **Sec. 2.** All laws and clauses of laws in conflict with the provisions of this Act are
39 hereby repealed.

40 **Sec. 3.** This Act shall be in full force and effect from and after September 15, 1969.
41 In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 29th day of May,
42 1969.