

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
1983 SESSION

CHAPTER 333
HOUSE BILL 649

AN ACT TO REVISE THE PARTS OF CHAPTER 162A OF THE GENERAL
STATUTES RELATING TO METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 162A-65(a)(11) is amended on the seventh line immediately following the word "plants," by adding the words "facilities for the generation and transmission of electric power and energy,".

Sec. 2. G.S. 162A-67(d) is amended in the third paragraph by deleting the seventh and eighth sentences and substituting in lieu thereof the following:

"The members of the district board may receive compensation in an amount to be determined by the board, but not to exceed that compensation paid to members of Occupational Licensing Boards as provided in G.S. 93B-5(a) for each meeting of the board attended and for attendance at each regularly scheduled committee meeting of the board."

Sec. 3. G.S. 162A-69 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(13a) To adopt ordinances to regulate and control the discharge of sewage into any sewerage system owned or operated by the district. Prior to the adoption of any ordinance or any amendment to any ordinance the district shall first pass a declaration of intent to adopt such ordinance or amendment. The declaration of intent shall describe the ordinance or amendment which it is proposed that the district adopt. The declaration of intent shall be submitted to each governing body for review and comment. The district shall take into consideration any comment and suggestions with respect to the proposed ordinance or amendment offered by any governing body and may modify such proposed ordinance or amendment to reflect comment and suggestions offered by any governing body. Thereafter, the district shall be authorized to adopt such ordinance or any amendment to it at any time after 60 days following the submission of the declaration of intent to each governing body."

Sec. 4. Article 5 of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

"§ 162A-81. Adoption and enforcement of ordinances. – (a) A district shall have the same power as a city under G.S. 160A-175 to assess civil fines and penalties for violation of its ordinances, and may secure injunctions to further insure compliance with its ordinances as provided by this section.

(b) An ordinance may provide that its violation shall subject the offender to a civil penalty of not more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000) to be recovered by the district in a civil action in the nature of debt if the offender does not pay the penalty

within a prescribed period of time after he has been cited for violation of the ordinance. Any person assessed a civil penalty by the district shall be notified of the assessment by registered or certified mail, and the notice shall specify the reasons for the assessment. If the person assessed fails to pay the amount of the assessment to the district within 30 days after receipt of notice, or such longer period, not to exceed 180 days, as the district may specify, the district may institute a civil action in the General Court of Justice of the county in which the violation occurred or, in the discretion of the district, in the General Court of Justice of the county in which the person assessed has his or its principal place of business, to recover the amount of the assessment. The validity of the district's action may be appealed directly to General Court of Justice in the county in which the violation occurred, or may be raised at any time in the action to recover the assessment. Neither failure to contest the district's action directly nor failure to raise the issue of validity in the action to recover an assessment precludes the other.

(c) An ordinance may provide that it may be enforced by an appropriate equitable remedy issuing from court of competent jurisdiction. In such case, the General Court of Justice shall have jurisdiction to issue such orders as may be appropriate and it shall not be a defense to the application of the district for equitable relief that there is an adequate remedy at law.

(d) Subject to the express terms of an ordinance, a district ordinance may be enforced by any one, all, or a combination of the remedies authorized and prescribed by this section.

(e) An ordinance may provide, when appropriate, that each day's continuing violation shall be a separate and distinct offense."

Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified, this the 20th day of May, 1983.