

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 344  
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/29/21

Short Title: System Development Fees Update.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 23, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS WITH WHICH A LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL UNIT  
3 MAY IMPOSE AND COLLECT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT FEES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 162A-201 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 162A-201. Definitions.

7 The following definitions apply in this Article:

8 ...

9 (4) Facility. – A water supply, treatment, storage, or distribution facility, or a  
10 wastewater collection, treatment, or disposal ~~facility, including for reuse or~~  
11 ~~reclamation of water, facility providing a general benefit to the area that~~  
12 facility serves and is owned or operated, or to be owned or operated, by a local  
13 governmental unit and land associated with such facility. ~~unit. This shall~~  
14 include facilities for the reuse or reclamation of water and any land associated  
15 with the facility.

16 ...

17 (7) Service. – Water or sewer service, or water and sewer service, provided by a  
18 local governmental ~~unit.~~ unit, including water or sewer service provided  
19 pursuant to a wholesale arrangement between a water and sewer authority  
20 organized under Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the General Statutes and a local  
21 governmental unit.

22 ...

23 (9) System development fee. – A charge or assessment for ~~service~~ service,  
24 including service provided pursuant to a wholesale arrangement between a  
25 water and sewer authority organized under Article 1 of Chapter 162A of the  
26 General Statutes and a local governmental unit, imposed with respect to new  
27 development to fund costs of capital improvements necessitated by and  
28 attributable to such new development, to recoup costs of existing facilities  
29 which serve such new development, or a combination of those costs, as  
30 provided in this Article. The term includes amortized charges, lump-sum  
31 charges, and any other fee that functions as described by this definition  
32 regardless of terminology. The term does not include any of the following:

33 a. A charge or fee to pay the administrative, plan review, or inspection  
34 costs associated with permits required for development.



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- 1                   b.     Tap or hookup charges for the purpose of reimbursing the local  
2                   governmental unit for the actual cost of connecting the service unit to  
3                   the system.  
4                   c.     Availability charges.  
5                   d.     Dedication of capital improvements on-site, adjacent, or ancillary to a  
6                   development absent a written agreement providing for credit or  
7                   reimbursement to the developer pursuant to G.S. 153A-280,  
8                   153A-451, 160A-320, 160A-499 or Part 3A of Article 18, Chapter  
9                   153A or Part 3D of Article 19, Chapter 160A of the General Statutes.  
10                  e.     Reimbursement to the local governmental unit for its expenses in  
11                  constructing or providing for water or sewer utility capital  
12                  improvements adjacent or ancillary to the development if the owner or  
13                  developer has agreed to be financially responsible for such expenses;  
14                  however, such reimbursement shall be credited to any system  
15                  development fee charged as set forth in G.S. 162A-207(c).

16                  ...."

17                  **SECTION 2.** G.S. 162A-205 reads as rewritten:

18       **"§ 162A-205. Supporting analysis.**

19       A system development fee shall be calculated based on a written analysis, which may  
20       constitute or be included in a capital improvements plan, that:

- 21                  (1)     Is prepared by a financial professional or a licensed professional engineer  
22                  qualified by experience and training or education to employ generally  
23                  accepted accounting, engineering, and planning methodologies to calculate  
24                  system development fees for public water and sewer systems.  
25                  (2)     Documents in reasonable detail the facts and data used in the analysis and their  
26                  sufficiency and reliability.  
27                  (3)     Employs generally accepted accounting, engineering, and planning  
28                  methodologies, including the buy-in, incremental cost or marginal cost, and  
29                  combined cost methods for each service, setting forth appropriate analysis as  
30                  to the consideration and selection of a method appropriate to the  
31                  circumstances and adapted as necessary to satisfy all requirements of this  
32                  Article.  
33                  (4)     Documents and demonstrates the reliable application of the methodologies to  
34                  the facts and data, including all reasoning, analysis, and interim calculations  
35                  underlying each identifiable component of the system development fee and  
36                  the aggregate thereof.  
37                  (5)     Identifies all assumptions and limiting conditions affecting the analysis and  
38                  demonstrates that they do not materially undermine the reliability of  
39                  conclusions reached.  
40                  (6)     Calculates a final system development fee per service unit of new  
41                  development and includes an equivalency or conversion table for use in  
42                  determining the fees applicable for various categories of demand.  
43                  (7)     Covers a planning horizon of not less than five years nor more than 20 years.  
44                  (8)     Is adopted by resolution or ordinance of the local governmental unit in  
45                  accordance with G.S. 162A-209.  
46                  (9)     Uses the gallons per day per service unit that the local governmental unit  
47                  applies to its water or sewer system engineering or planning purposes for  
48                  water or sewer, as appropriate, in calculating the system development fee."

49                  **SECTION 3.** G.S. 162A-207 reads as rewritten:

50       **"§ 162A-207. Minimum requirements.**

1 (a) Maximum. – A system development fee shall not exceed that calculated based on the  
2 system development fee analysis.

3 (b) Revenue Credit. – In applying the incremental cost or marginal cost, or the combined  
4 cost, method to calculate a system development fee with respect to ~~water or sewer~~ capital  
5 improvements, the system development fee analysis must include as part of that methodology a  
6 credit against the projected aggregate cost of ~~water or sewer~~ capital improvements. That credit  
7 shall be determined based upon generally accepted calculations and shall reflect a deduction of  
8 either the outstanding debt principal or the present value of projected water and sewer revenues  
9 received by the local governmental unit for the capital improvements necessitated by and  
10 attributable to such new development, anticipated over the course of the planning horizon. In no  
11 case shall the credit be less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the aggregate cost of capital  
12 improvements.

13 (c) Construction or Contributions Credit. – In calculating the system development fee  
14 with respect to new development, the local governmental unit shall credit the value of costs in  
15 excess of the development's proportionate share of connecting facilities required to be oversized  
16 for use of others outside of the development. No credit shall be applied, however, for ~~water or~~  
17 ~~sewer~~ capital improvements on-site or to connect new development to ~~water or sewer~~ facilities."

18 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and clarifies existing law  
19 with minimum standards employed by all generally accepted accounting, engineering, and  
20 planning methodologies used to calculate system development fees for public water and sewer  
21 systems.