

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

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**SENATE BILL 452**

Short Title: Utilities/User Responsible for Utility Bill. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Johnson (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 5, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A PUBLIC UTILITY, ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP  
3 CORPORATION, AND TELEPHONE MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION SHALL NOT IN  
4 ITS DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES BILL ANY PERSON OR COMPANY FOR  
5 SERVICE PROVIDED TO A HOUSEHOLD OR BUSINESS LOCATION THAT THE  
6 PERSON OR COMPANY DOES NOT OWN, LEASE, OR OCCUPY.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 62-159.1 reads as rewritten:

9 "**§ 62-159.1. Debt collection practices.**

10 (a) A public utility, electric membership corporation, and telephone membership  
11 corporation shall not do any of the following in its debt collection practices:

12 ...

13 (3) Bill any person or company for service provided to a household or business  
14 location that the person or company does not own, lease, or occupy. The  
15 provisions of this subdivision shall apply notwithstanding any agreement  
16 between the person or company and the public utility, electric membership  
17 corporation, or telephone membership corporation to reconnect service to the  
18 household or business location during the time the person or company owned,  
19 occupied, or leased the property.

20 ...."

21 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

