

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 955

Short Title: NC Junk Fee Prevention Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Longest.

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 14, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA JUNK FEE PREVENTION ACT.
3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Chapter 66 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article
5 to read:

6 "Article 52.

7 "North Carolina Junk Fee Prevention Act.

8 **"§ 66-511. Short title.**

9 This Article may be cited as the North Carolina Junk Fee Prevention Act.

10 **"§ 66-512. Definitions.**

11 Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Article:

12 (1) Consumer. – An individual residing or traveling in this State.

13 (2) Covered entity. – Either of the following:

14 a. A provider of short-term lodging or an entity that advertises rates or
15 the purchase of short-term lodging.

16 b. Any other entity determined appropriate by the Attorney General.

17 (3) Covered service. – Any of the following:

18 a. Internet service.

19 b. Voice service (as defined in section 227(e)(8) of the Communications
20 Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. § 227(e)(8))).

21 c. Commercial mobile service (as defined in section 332(d) of the
22 Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. § 332(d))).

23 d. Commercial mobile data service (as defined in section 6001 of the
24 Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (47 U.S.C. §
25 1401)).

26 e. A service provided by a multichannel video programming distributor
27 (as defined in section 602 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47
28 U.S.C. § 522)), to the extent that the distributor is acting as a
29 multichannel video programming distributor.

30 f. Any other service offered or provided as part of a bundle or package
31 with any service described in sub-subdivisions a. through e. of this
32 subdivision.

33 (4) Mandatory fee. – Includes any of the following:

34 a. Any fee or surcharge that a consumer is required to pay to purchase a
35 good or service being advertised.



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- 1 b. A fee or surcharge that is not reasonably avoidable.
2 c. A fee or surcharge for a good or service that a reasonable consumer
3 would not expect to be included with the purchase of the good or
4 service being advertised.
5 d. Any other fee or surcharge determined appropriate by the Attorney
6 General.

7 (5) Short-term lodging. – Any lodging that is offered for an occupancy of less
8 than six months.

9 **"§ 66-513. Requirements for covered entities.**

10 (a) Hidden Fees. – A covered entity shall clearly and conspicuously display, in each
11 advertisement and whenever a price is first shown to a consumer, the total price of the good or
12 service provided by the covered entity, including any mandatory fees a consumer would incur
13 during the transaction; the amount of these fees shall not increase during the purchase process.

14 (b) Excessive or Deceptive Fees. – A covered entity shall not impose on a consumer or
15 advertise any mandatory fees that are excessive or deceptive for any good or service offered by
16 the covered entity.

17 (c) Protecting Refunds. – A covered entity shall clearly and conspicuously disclose any
18 guarantee or refund policy prior to the completion of a transaction by a consumer and, in the
19 event of a refund, shall provide a refund in the amount of the total cost of the ticket, including
20 any mandatory fees.

21 **"§ 66-514. Requirements for covered services.**

22 A provider of a covered service shall not charge a fee for, or impose a requirement that is
23 excessive or unreasonable on, a consumer for the early termination of a covered service. This
24 section does not prevent a provider of a covered service from charging a consumer for either of
25 the following:

- 26 (1) The cost of rental or loan equipment that is not returned to the provider within
27 a reasonable period of time.
28 (2) The outstanding cost of a purchased device.

29 **"§ 66-515. Rulemaking; enforcement.**

30 (a) The Attorney General may adopt rules to implement this Article.

31 (b) The Attorney General may assess a civil penalty against a person that violates this
32 Article, not to exceed five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for each violation. The clear proceeds of
33 civil penalties imposed pursuant to this subsection shall be remitted to the Civil Penalty and
34 Forfeiture Fund in accordance with G.S. 115C-457.2. The Attorney General may also take other
35 appropriate enforcement action, including ordering a person to cease and desist from violating
36 this Article.

37 (c) In determining whether a fee is excessive under G.S. 66-513(b), the Attorney General
38 shall consider all of the following factors:

- 39 (1) Whether the fee is reasonable and proportional to the cost of the good or
40 service provided by the covered entity.
41 (2) The reason for which the covered entity charges the fee.
42 (3) Any other factor determined appropriate by the Attorney General.

43 (d) A violation of this Article is an unfair or deceptive trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1."

44 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 75-44 reads as rewritten:

45 **"§ 75-44. Ticket price transparency.**

46 (a) As used in this section the following definitions apply:

- 47 (1) Entertainment event. – A sporting game or contest, concert, or other
48 entertainment performance with a live presentation element in this State for
49 which attendance is available to the public through the purchase of ticket.
50 (2) Mandatory fee. – Any fee or surcharge that a consumer must pay in order to
51 purchase a ticket to an entertainment event.

- 1 (3) Resale. – The second or subsequent sale of a ticket through a website or other
2 electronic means.
- 3 (4) Reseller. – A person engaged in the resale of tickets.
- 4 (5) Secondary ticket exchange. – An electronic marketplace that enables persons
5 to sell, purchase, and resell tickets.
- 6 (6) Ticket issuer. – The person that is the first seller of tickets for an entertainment
7 event, including a musician or musical group, an operator of a venue, sponsor
8 or a promoter of an entertainment event, a sports team participating in an
9 entertainment event, a sports league whose teams are participating in an
10 entertainment event, a theater company, a marketplace or service operated for
11 consumers to make an initial purchase of tickets, or an agent of any of the
12 persons listed in this subdivision.
- 13 (7) Ticketing session. – The period of time beginning when the price of a ticket
14 to an entertainment event is first displayed to a person through a website or
15 application and ending when the person has not purchased the ticket within
16 the time period prescribed by the secondary ticket exchange, ticket issuer, or
17 reseller.
- 18 (b) A secondary ticket exchange, ticket issuer, or reseller shall meet the following
19 requirements when listing a ticket for sale or resale:
- 20 (1) At any time the price of the ticket is displayed to the purchaser, the listing
21 shall clearly and conspicuously disclose the total price of the ticket, including
22 all mandatory fees and the maximum order processing fee, if any.
- 23 (2) The total price of the ticket initially displayed at the beginning of a ticketing
24 session shall not be increased during that ticketing session, except by the
25 addition of the charges permitted under subdivision (4) of this subsection.
- 26 (3) The listing shall clearly and conspicuously disclose to the consumer the
27 existence and actual dollar amount of each mandatory fee, if any, prior to the
28 completion of the transaction. The descriptor used to identify each mandatory
29 fee shall not be deceptive or misleading.
- 30 (4) The following charges are not mandatory fees and may be added to the ticket
31 price and shall be disclosed to the purchaser prior to purchase of the ticket:
- 32 a. Actual charges required to deliver a non-electronic ticket to the
33 address specified by the purchaser by the delivery method designated
34 by the purchaser.
- 35 b. Taxes or fees imposed on the transaction by any government.
- 36 c. A reasonable fee for processing the order. In no event shall the order
37 processing fee exceed the charge that the secondary ticket exchange,
38 ticket issuer, or reseller pays to a payment card entity to facilitate or
39 process the payment.
- 40 (5) Not less than 72 hours prior to the first public sale or presale of a ticket, the
41 secondary ticket exchange, ticket issuer, or reseller shall clearly and
42 conspicuously disclose to the public, including at the point of sale, the total
43 number of tickets offered for sale by it for the given event.
- 44 (6) If the secondary ticket exchange, ticket issuer, or reseller does not possess a
45 ticket at the time of the sale, it shall provide to the consumer both of the
46 following:
- 47 a. A clear and conspicuous notice that the secondary ticket exchange,
48 ticket issuer, or reseller does not possess the ticket.
- 49 b. A full refund if the secondary ticket exchange, ticket issuer, or reseller
50 cannot provide the ticket advertised to the consumer in a timely
51 manner prior to the event.

1 (c) A violation of this section is an unfair trade practice under G.S. 75-1.1 and is subject
2 to all of the investigative, enforcement, and penalty provisions of an unfair trade practice under
3 this Article."

4 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 14-344 is repealed.

5 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective October 1, 2025.