

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

**SESSION LAW 2001-473  
SENATE BILL 774**

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRIVACY OF BILLING INFORMATION OF  
CUSTOMERS OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 132-1.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 132-1.1. Confidential communications by legal counsel to public board or agency; State tax ~~information~~ information; public enterprise billing information.**

(a) **Confidential Communications.** – Public records, as defined in G.S. 132-1, shall not include written communications (and copies thereof) to any public board, council, commission or other governmental body of the State or of any county, municipality or other political subdivision or unit of government, made within the scope of the attorney-client relationship by any attorney-at-law serving any such governmental body, concerning any claim against or on behalf of the governmental body or the governmental entity for which such body acts, or concerning the prosecution, defense, settlement or litigation of any judicial action, or any administrative or other type of proceeding to which the governmental body is a party or by which it is or may be directly affected. Such written communication and copies thereof shall not be open to public inspection, examination or copying unless specifically made public by the governmental body receiving such written communications; provided, however, that such written communications and copies thereof shall become public records as defined in G.S. 132-1 three years from the date such communication was received by such public board, council, commission or other governmental body.

(b) **State and Local Tax Information.** – Tax information may not be disclosed except as provided in G.S. 105-259. As used in this subsection, "tax information" has the same meaning as in G.S. 105-259. Local tax records that contain information about a taxpayer's income or receipts may not be disclosed except as provided in G.S. 153A-148.1 and G.S. 160A-208.1.

(c) **Public Enterprise Billing Information.** – Billing information compiled and maintained by a city or county or other public entity providing utility services in connection with the ownership or operation of a public enterprise is not a public record as defined in G.S. 132-1. Nothing contained herein is intended to limit public disclosure by a city or county of billing information:

- (i) that the city or county determines will be useful or necessary to assist bond counsel, bond underwriters, underwriters' counsel, rating agencies or investors or potential investors in making informed decisions regarding bonds or other obligations incurred or to be incurred with respect to the public enterprise;
- (ii) that is necessary to assist the city, county, State, or public enterprise to maintain the integrity and quality of services it provides; or
- (iii) that is necessary to assist law enforcement, public safety, fire protection, rescue, emergency management, or judicial officers in the performance of their duties.

As used herein, "billing information" means any record or information, in whatever form, compiled or maintained with respect to individual customers by any owner or

operator of a public enterprise, as defined in G.S. 160A-311 and G.S. 153A-274, or other public entity providing utility services, relating to services it provides or will provide to the customer."

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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 20<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2001.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved 10:05 p.m. this 29<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2001