

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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HOUSE BILL 434
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Short Title: Regulatory Mandates Limited.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 17, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE GENERAL STATUTES TO MAKE MANDATORY THE PREPARATION OF FISCAL NOTES FOR PROPOSED REGULATIONS THAT COULD REQUIRE COUNTIES AND CITIES TO SPEND FUNDS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 150B-21.2(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Notice. – Before an agency adopts a permanent rule, it must publish notice of its intent to adopt a permanent rule in the North Carolina Register and as required by any other law. The notice published in the North Carolina Register must include all of the following:

- (1) Either the text of the proposed rule or a statement of the subject matter of the proposed rule making.
- (2) A short explanation of the reason for the proposed action.
- (3) A citation to the law that gives the agency the authority to adopt the proposed rule, if the notice includes the text of the proposed rule, or a citation to the law that gives the agency the authority to adopt a rule on the subject matter of the proposed rule making, if the notice includes only a statement of the subject matter of the proposed rule making.
- (4) The proposed effective date of the proposed rule, if the notice includes the text of the proposed rule, or the proposed effective date of a rule adopted on the subject matter of the proposed rule making, if the

- 1 notice includes only a statement of the subject matter of the proposed
2 rule making.
- 3 (5) The date, time, and place of any public hearing scheduled on the
4 proposed rule or subject matter of the proposed rule making.
- 5 (6) Instructions on how a person may demand a public hearing on a
6 proposed rule if the notice does not schedule a public hearing on the
7 proposed rule and subsection (c) requires the agency to hold a public
8 hearing on the proposed rule when requested to do so.
- 9 (7) The period of time during which and the person to whom written
10 comments may be submitted on the proposed rule or subject matter of
11 the proposed rule making.
- 12 (8) If a fiscal note has been prepared for the proposed rule or will be
13 prepared when a rule is proposed on the subject matter of the proposed
14 rule making, a statement that a copy of the fiscal note can be obtained
15 from the agency.
- 16 (9) If a fiscal note is required by G.S. 150B-21.4 or G.S. 120-30.48, a
17 statement that a copy of the fiscal note has been provided to the Joint
18 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations of the General
19 Assembly, the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly, the
20 North Carolina Association of County Commissioners, and the North
21 Carolina League of Municipalities."

22 Sec. 2. G.S. 150B-21.4 reads as rewritten:

23 "**§ 150B-21.4. Fiscal notes on rules.**

- 24 (a) State Funds. – Before an agency publishes in the North Carolina Register the
25 proposed text of a permanent rule change that would require the expenditure or
26 distribution of funds subject to the Executive Budget Act, Article 1 of Chapter 143, it
27 must submit the text of the proposed rule change and a fiscal note on the proposed rule
28 change to the Director of the Budget and obtain certification from the Director that the
29 funds that would be required by the proposed rule change are available. The fiscal note
30 must state the amount of funds that would be expended or distributed as a result of the
31 proposed rule change and explain how the amount was computed. The Director of the
32 Budget must certify a proposed rule change if funds are available to cover the
33 expenditure or distribution required by the proposed rule change.
- 34 (b) Local Funds. – Before an agency publishes in the North Carolina Register the
35 proposed text of a permanent rule change that ~~would affect the expenditures or revenues of~~
36 ~~a unit of local government, could require a county or municipality to spend funds or affect~~
37 the revenues of local government, it must submit the text of the proposed rule change
38 and a fiscal note on the proposed rule change to the ~~Fiscal Research Division of the~~
39 ~~General Assembly, Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations of the~~
40 General Assembly, the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly, the Office of
41 State Budget and Management, the North Carolina Association of County
42 Commissioners, and the North Carolina League of Municipalities. The fiscal note must
43 state the amount by which the proposed rule change would increase or decrease expenditures or
44 revenues of a unit of local government and must explain how the amount was computed. The

1 fiscal note shall identify and estimate, for the first five fiscal years the proposed rule
2 would be in effect, all costs of the proposed rule. The fiscal note shall indicate whether
3 there has been an appropriation by the General Assembly that will be sufficient to fund,
4 at the time the proposed rule would become effective, any expenditures toward
5 compliance with the proposed rule by counties or municipalities affected by the
6 proposed rule. If, after careful investigation, the agency determines that no dollar
7 estimate is possible, the note shall contain a statement to that effect, setting forth the
8 reasons why no dollar amount can be given. No comment or opinion shall be included
9 in the fiscal note with regard to the merits of the rule for which it is prepared.

10 (c) ~~Errors. – An erroneous fiscal note prepared in good faith does not affect the~~
11 ~~validity of a rule prepared by an agency that was not prepared after careful investigation~~
12 ~~and that is in substantial error shall invalidate the rule for which the erroneous fiscal~~
13 ~~note was prepared. An erroneous fiscal note prepared by an agency in good faith after~~
14 ~~careful investigation shall not affect the validity of the rule for which it was prepared.~~

15 (d) Rules Invalidated. – If the preparation of a fiscal note for a proposed rule is
16 required by G.S. 120-30.48 or by subsection (b) of this section, and a fiscal note is not
17 prepared for the proposed rule, then the failure to prepare the fiscal note shall invalidate
18 the rule."

19 Sec. 3. G.S. 120-30.48 reads as rewritten:

20 "**§ 120-30.48. Fiscal impact of administrative rules.**

21 ~~An agency is required to prepare a fiscal note on a proposed administrative rule that~~
22 ~~affects the expenditures or revenues of a unit of local government as provided in G.S.~~
23 ~~150B-21.4. Any State agency authorized to adopt rules under Article 2A of Chapter~~
24 ~~150B of the General Statutes or any State agency otherwise authorized by statute to~~
25 ~~adopt regulations affecting local governments is required to prepare a fiscal note for~~
26 ~~every proposed administrative rule that could require a county or municipality to spend~~
27 ~~funds. The fiscal note shall be prepared in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.4."~~

28 Sec. 4. This act becomes effective January 1, 1994.