

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

S

1

SENATE BILL 1203

Short Title: Charlotte Stormwater Fees.

(Local)

Sponsors: Senators Winner; Dannelly and Odom.

Referred to: Finance.

May 21, 1998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW THE CITY OF CHARLOTTE TO CONTINUE TO LEVY
2 STORMWATER FEES IF REVENUE BONDS HAVE BEEN ISSUED AND ARE
3 OUTSTANDING.
4

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. G.S. 160A-314 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 160A-314. Authority to fix and enforce rates.**

8 (a) A city may establish and revise from time to time schedules of rents, rates,
9 fees, charges, and penalties for the use of or the services furnished by any public
10 enterprise. Schedules of rents, rates, fees, charges, and penalties may vary according to
11 classes of service, and different schedules may be adopted for services provided outside
12 the corporate limits of the city.

13 (a1) Before it establishes or revises a schedule of rates, fees, charges, or penalties
14 for structural and natural stormwater and drainage systems under this section, the city
15 council shall hold a public hearing on the matter. A notice of the hearing shall be given at
16 least once in a newspaper having general circulation in the area, not less than seven days
17 before the public hearing. The hearing may be held concurrently with the public hearing
18 on the proposed budget ordinance.

19 The fees established under this subsection must be made applicable throughout the
20 area of the city. Schedules of rates, fees, charges, and penalties for providing structural

1 and natural stormwater and drainage system service may vary according to whether the
2 property served is residential, commercial, or industrial property, the property's use, the
3 size of the property, the area of impervious surfaces on the property, the quantity and
4 quality of the runoff from the property, the characteristics of the watershed into which
5 stormwater from the property drains, and other factors that affect the stormwater drainage
6 system. Rates, fees, and charges imposed under this subsection may not exceed the city's
7 cost of providing a stormwater and drainage system.

8 No stormwater utility fee may be levied under this subsection whenever two or more
9 units of local government operate separate structural and natural stormwater and drainage
10 system services in the same area within a ~~county~~ county, except that a unit of local
11 government that has issued revenue bonds, including revenue bonds issued to refund
12 prior revenue bonds, for which stormwater utility fees have been pledged under Article 5
13 of Chapter 159 of the General Statutes may continue to levy a stormwater utility fee
14 under this subsection for the sole purpose of (i) paying principal, interest, or redemption
15 premiums in accordance with the terms of the revenue bonds, (ii) funding any reserve
16 requirements or similar obligations imposed by any documents, instruments, or
17 agreements pursuant to which the revenue bonds are authorized or issued or securing the
18 same or any related credit facility, liquidity facility, derivative agreement, or any other
19 similar agreement, and (iii) paying any related cost, fees, and expenses until the revenue
20 bonds have been retired. However, two or more units of local government may allocate
21 among themselves the functions, duties, powers, and responsibilities for jointly operating
22 a single structural and natural stormwater and drainage system service in the same area
23 within a county, provided that only one unit may levy a fee for the service within the joint
24 service area. For purposes of this subsection, a unit of local government shall include a
25 regional authority providing structural and natural stormwater and drainage system
26 services.

27 (a2) A fee for the use of a disposal facility provided by the city may vary based on
28 the amount, characteristics, and form of recyclable materials present in solid waste
29 brought to the facility for disposal. This section does not prohibit a city from providing
30 aid to low-income persons to pay all or part of the cost of solid waste management
31 services for those persons.

32 (b) A city shall have power to collect delinquent accounts by any remedy provided
33 by law for collecting and enforcing private debts, and may specify by ordinance the order
34 in which partial payments are to be applied among the various enterprise services covered
35 by a bill for the services. A city may also discontinue service to any customer whose
36 account remains delinquent for more than 10 days. When service is discontinued for
37 delinquency, it shall be unlawful for any person other than a duly authorized agent or
38 employee of the city to do any act that results in a resumption of services. If a delinquent
39 customer is not the owner of the premises to which the services are delivered, the
40 payment of the delinquent account may not be required before providing services at the
41 request of a new and different tenant or occupant of the premises, but this restriction shall
42 not apply when the premises are occupied by two or more tenants whose services are
43 measured by the same meter.

1 (c) Except as provided in subsection (d) and G.S. 160A-314.1, rents, rates, fees,
2 charges, and penalties for enterprisory services shall be legal obligations of the person
3 contracting for them, and shall in no case be a lien upon the property or premises served,
4 provided that no contract shall be necessary in the case of structural and natural
5 stormwater and drainage systems.

6 (d) Rents, rates, fees, charges, and penalties for enterprisory services shall be legal
7 obligations of the owner of the premises served when:

8 (1) The property or premises is leased or rented to more than one tenant and
9 services rendered to more than one tenant are measured by the same
10 meter.

11 (2) Charges made for use of a sewage system are billed separately from
12 charges made for the use of a water distribution system.

13 (e) Nothing in this section shall repeal any portion of any city charter inconsistent
14 herewith."

15 Section 2. This act applies to the City of Charlotte only.

16 Section 3. This act is effective when it becomes law.