



HOUSE BILL 593: Various General Local Laws.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:		Date:	July 15, 2024
Introduced by:		Prepared by:	Erika Churchill Staff Attorney
Analysis of:	S.L. 2024-38		

OVERVIEW: *S.L. 2024-38 does the following:*

- *Provides an additional civil penalty for violating motor vehicle restrictions on a designated road segment in Macon County, effective December 1, 2024.*
- *Amends certain regulations applicable to sanitary districts, effective July 8, 2024.*
- *Clarifies funds allocated to certain localities, effective July 8, 2024.*
- *Requires the State, effective July 8, 2024, to transfer certain real property to the City of Monroe.*

CURRENT LAW and BILL ANALYSIS:

Civil Penalty for Violation of Motor Vehicle Laws on Cullasaja Gorge

G.S. 20-115.1 provides length limitations for motor vehicle combinations consisting of truck tractors and tandem trailers or semitrailers. It further authorizes the Department of Transportation to provide for additional prohibitions on portions of any route on the State highway system if operation of a motor vehicle combination on the route cannot be safely accommodated.

The Department of Transportation has adopted a rule prohibiting truck tractors with trailers longer than 30 feet on a segment of US Route 64 between State Road 1533 and NC Highway 106 in Macon County. Violations are punishable under G.S. 20-115.1 as an infraction for the owner and a Class 3 misdemeanor for the driver with only a monetary penalty of \$100 if the semitrailer is less than 50 feet long and \$200 if the semitrailer is 50 feet or longer.

Section 1 makes a violation of the motor vehicle combination length restrictions on the segment of US 64 between SR 1533 and NC 106 in Macon County subject to an additional civil penalty.

The additional civil penalty is assessed under G.S. 20-118(e), which provides monetary penalties for violations of vehicle weight limits and is calculated based on the amount by which the vehicle combination's gross vehicle weight rating exceeds 20,000 pounds. Penalties are assessed against an owner or registrant of a vehicle in violation of vehicle weight ratings as follows: (i) four cents per pound for the first 1,000 pounds, (ii) six cents per pound for the next 1,000 pounds, and (iii) ten cents per pound for each additional pound thereafter.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2024, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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Sanitary District Changes

Elections G.S. 130A-50 provides for the composition, manner of election and terms of office for sanitary district boards. Under G.S. 130A-50, a sanitary district board must be comprised of either three or five members who must be residents of the sanitary district and must serve two- or four-year terms which may be staggered or unstaggered as determined by the county board of commissioners.

Section 2 amends G.S. 130A-50 to require the following for sanitary districts lying wholly within a county with more than 17 municipalities lying wholly within that county:

- The sanitary district board must adopt single-member residency districts in which only a person residing in the district is eligible to run as a candidate for the seat apportioned to that district, but all candidates are elected at-large by the qualified voters of the entire sanitary district. The single-member residency district boundaries must be adopted by resolution following a public hearing. The most recent federal decennial census data is to be used as the basis of population for establishing the single-member residency districts and any revision of the single-member residency districts after each census.
- Sanitary district board members shall serve staggered terms.

Boundaries Under G.S. 130A-69, 130A-70, and 130A-71.1, a sanitary district may be expanded (i) on petition of property owners contiguous to and adjoining the sanitary district and after successful referendum; (ii) simultaneously with corporate limits of a city or town on petition of property owners within the area proposed for annexation and after successful referendum; and (iii) by satellite annexation when a municipality which lies within a sanitary district receives a petition for annexation and the municipality petitions the sanitary district to annex the same area. Sanitary districts are authorized to levy taxes on property within the district in order to carry out the powers and duties conferred and imposed on the district by law, and to pay the principal of and interest on bonds and notes of the district.

Section 4 adds a new statutory provision, G.S. 130A-70.2, to allow a sanitary district board to extend the boundaries of the sanitary district to include all of the contiguous corporate areas of any municipality requesting inclusion into the sanitary district by resolution.

The sanitary district board is required to hold a public hearing as soon as practicable after receiving the municipality's resolution, and is required to make the boundary change effective date to coincide with the start of a fiscal or calendar year.

This section became effective July 8, 2024, and applies to any resolution from a municipality received by a sanitary district board on or after January 1, 2024.

City of Saluda and Towns of Columbus and Tryon Funds

Under S.L. 2023-13, the City of Saluda received an allocation of \$2,304,878 for the repayment of debt incurred by the City of Saluda for the construction of a water or wastewater project. S.L. 2024-1 requires funds allocated to the City of Saluda to be transferred to the Office of State Budget and Management for a grant to the city for repayment of debt incurred for construction of a water or wastewater project.

Section 3 amended S.L. 2023-13 by adding the Towns of Columbus and Tryon as recipients of the allocation for a grant to the Towns for repayment of debt incurred for construction of a water or wastewater project.

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Duplin County Funds

Section 5 reallocated funds from an Emergency Management Facility to a Senior Resource Center and Veterans' Services and to a co-located Sheriff's office and detention facility, all in Duplin County.

City of Monroe Transfer

The State Highway Commission currently owns an old quarry in Monroe.

Section 6 requires the State to transfer title to 61.95 acres of the quarry, as is, to the City of Monroe for \$1.00.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 8, 2024.

Wendy Ray, Nicholas Giddings, Jessica Sammons, Brad Krehely, and Ike McRee, Staff Attorneys for the Legislative Analysis Division, contributed substantially to this summary.