



HOUSE BILL 659: Local Government Spending Transparency.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	House State and Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	April 29, 2025
Introduced by:	Reps. Echevarria, Loftis, Almond, Lowery	Prepared by:	Ike McRee
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H659-CSCO-11		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *The proposed committee substitute (PCS) for House Bill 659 would do the following:*

- *Require all local government invoices to be itemized with minimum required disclosures.*
- *Require local government websites to provide a link to view quarterly invoices.*
- *Clarify that the bill applies to all units of local government (cities and counties) and that local governments without a website would be required to keep copies of invoices for public viewing in a publicly accessible place at the local government's administrative offices.*
- *Require local government websites to provide a link to the top three bids on every project, service, or goods purchased with tax dollars and with quarterly updates.*
- *Provide that the bill would apply to invoices paid on or after July 1, 2025.*

CURRENT LAW: Under current law, local governments can provide a link on a local government website for the public to view invoices or bids received on projects, services or goods purchased with tax dollars. Unless there is a statutory exception, all records made or received in connection with the transaction of public business are subject to public inspection and copying under the State's public records law. (G.S. 132-1).

BILL ANALYSIS:

The PCS for House Bill 659 would enact G.S. 159-33.3 to require local governments to do the following:

- Itemize all invoices and disclose the payee, amount paid, items or services purchased, and performance dates.
- Provide a website link to view all quarterly invoices. Unless otherwise provided by law, the invoices must be unredacted. A local government without a website must keep copies of the quarterly paid invoices for public viewing in a publicly accessible place at the local government's administrative offices.
- Provide a website link to the top three bids on every project, service, or any goods purchased with tax dollars with quarterly updates. Unless otherwise provided by law, the bids must not be redacted.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The act would become effective July 1, 2025 and apply to invoices paid on or after that date.

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