

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 659
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/22/13

Short Title: County and City Ethics.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 10, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ADDITIONAL ETHICS STANDARDS IN COUNTIES AND
3 CITIES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 5 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 160A-88. Additional ethics requirements for governing boards.**

8 (a) All members of governing boards of cities, counties, local boards of education,
9 unified governments, sanitary districts, and consolidated city-counties shall complete a
10 statement of economic interest as if that member were a public servant as defined in
11 G.S. 138A-3. That statement of economic interest shall be filed with the clerk to the board of
12 the governing board on or before April 15 of each year.

13 (b) All members of governing boards of cities, counties, local boards of education,
14 unified governments, sanitary districts, and consolidated city-counties shall not mention or
15 permit another person to mention the member's public position in nongovernmental advertising
16 that advances the private interest of the member or others.

17 (c) A member shall not use or permit the use of public funds for any advertisement or
18 public service announcement in a newspaper, on radio, television, magazines, or billboards that
19 contains that member's name, picture, or voice, except in the case of local, State, or national
20 emergency, and only if the announcement is reasonably necessary to the member's official
21 function. This subsection shall not apply to fund-raising on behalf of and aired on public radio
22 or public television.

23 (d) A member shall not use or disclose nonpublic information gained in the course of,
24 or by reason of, the member's official responsibilities in a way that would affect a personal
25 financial interest of the member or any other person."

26 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 153A-53 reads as rewritten:

27 "**§ 153A-53. Ethics.**

28 (a) The board of commissioners shall adopt a resolution or policy containing a code of
29 ethics, as required by G.S. 160A-86.

30 (b) All members of the board of commissioners, whether elected or appointed, shall
31 receive the ethics education required by G.S. 160A-87.

32 (c) All members of the board of commissioners shall comply with G.S. 160A-88."

33 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013. The statement of interest
34 required by G.S. 160A-88(a), as enacted by this act, shall be filed with the clerk to the board on
35 or before October 1, 2013.



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