

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021**

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**SENATE BILL 323  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 6/9/21**

Short Title: Joint Municipal Power Agencies/Investments.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 22, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE MONEYS DEPOSITED IN CERTAIN DECOMMISSIONING  
3 FUNDS ESTABLISHED BY NORTH CAROLINA MUNICIPAL POWER AGENCY  
4 NUMBER 1 TO BE INVESTED THROUGH THE STATE TREASURER'S ANCILLARY  
5 GOVERNMENTAL PARTICIPANT INVESTMENT PROGRAM AND TO ADDRESS  
6 THE INVESTMENT OF FUNDS DEPOSITED IN THE SWAIN COUNTY  
7 SETTLEMENT TRUST FUND.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 159B-18 reads as rewritten:

10 "**§ 159B-18. Trust funds; investment authority.**

11 (a) Notwithstanding any other provisions of law to the contrary, all moneys received  
12 pursuant to the authority of this Chapter, whether as proceeds from the sale of bonds or as  
13 revenues, shall be deemed to be trust funds to be held and applied solely as provided in this  
14 Chapter. The resolution authorizing the bonds of any issue or the trust agreement securing such  
15 bonds may provide that any of such moneys may be temporarily invested and reinvested pending  
16 the disbursements thereof in such securities and other investments as shall be provided in such  
17 resolution or trust agreement, and shall provide that any officer with whom, or any bank or trust  
18 company with which, such moneys shall be deposited shall hold and apply the same for the  
19 purposes hereof, subject to such regulation as this Chapter and such resolution or trust agreement  
20 may provide.

21 (b) Any moneys received pursuant to the authority of this Chapter and any other moneys  
22 available to a joint agency for investment may be invested:

23 ...

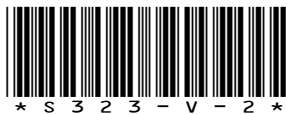
24 (6) As provided in G.S. 147-69.2(b6), only with respect to funds deposited in the  
25 Catawba Unit No. 1 Decommissioning Trust Fund and the Catawba Unit No.  
26 2 Decommissioning Trust Fund, each established pursuant to a  
27 Decommissioning Trust Agreement executed by North Carolina Municipal  
28 Power Agency Number 1 on June 28, 1990, in accordance with regulations  
29 promulgated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Title 10, Chapter 1 of  
30 the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 50, as amended from time to time."

31 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 147-69.2 reads as rewritten:

32 "**§ 147-69.2. Investments authorized for special funds held by State Treasurer.**

33 (a) This section applies to funds held by the State Treasurer to the credit of each of the  
34 following:

35 ...



1           (23) The Catawba Unit No. 1 Decommissioning Trust Fund and the Catawba Unit  
2           No. 2 Decommissioning Trust Fund established by North Carolina Municipal  
3           Power Agency Number 1, as described in G.S. 159B-18(b)(6).

4           ...

5           (b6) In addition to the investments authorized under subdivisions (b)(1) through (6) of this  
6           section, the State Treasurer may invest funds deposited in the Catawba Unit No. 1  
7           Decommissioning Trust Fund and the Catawba Unit No. 2 Decommissioning Trust Fund in any  
8           of the investments authorized under subdivisions (b)(6c) and (b)(8) of this section,  
9           notwithstanding the percentage limitations imposed on the Retirement Systems' investments  
10           therein. For investments from the Funds made under subdivisions (b)(6c) and (b)(8) of this  
11           section, the State Treasurer may require a minimum deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars  
12           (\$100,000) and may assess reasonable fees of up to 15 basis points per annum as a condition of  
13           making the investment. The fee may be used to defray the costs of administering the Fund and  
14           expenditures authorized under this section.

15           ...."

16           **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 147-69.2, as amended by Section 1(b) of this act, is further  
17 amended by adding a new subsection to read:

18           "(b7) In addition to the investments authorized under subdivisions (b)(1) through (6) of this  
19           section, the State Treasurer may invest funds deposited in the Swain County Settlement Trust  
20           Fund in any of the investments authorized under subdivision (b)(8) of this section,  
21           notwithstanding the percentage limitations imposed on the Retirement Systems' investments  
22           therein. For investments from that Fund made under subdivision (b)(8) of this section, the State  
23           Treasurer may require a minimum deposit of up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) and  
24           may assess reasonable fees of up to 15 basis points per annum as a condition of making the  
25           investment. The fee may be used to defray the costs of administering the Fund and expenditures  
26           authorized under this section."

27           **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 147-69.6 reads as rewritten:

28           "**§ 147-69.6. Swain County Settlement Trust Fund.**

29           (a) The Swain County Settlement Trust Fund is established as a special fund in the Office  
30 of the State Treasurer under the management of the Treasurer. The Treasurer may invest the  
31 assets of the Fund in any of the investments authorized under subdivisions (b)(1) through (6) and  
32 subdivision (b)(8) of G.S. 147-69.2. The Fund shall consist of the proceeds of any payments  
33 made by the United States in settlement of the 1943 agreement between Swain County and the  
34 United States Department of Interior, such other contributions as Swain County or other entities  
35 may choose to make to the Fund, and the interest and other investment income earned by the  
36 Fund. For the purposes of this section, the initial balance of the Fund shall be defined as fifty-two  
37 million dollars (\$52,000,000).

38           (a1) Contributions to the Fund are irrevocable. Assets in the Fund may be disbursed only  
39 to Swain County.

40           (b) The State Treasurer shall disburse to Swain County amounts requested by the Swain  
41 County Board of Commissioners pursuant to a majority vote of that body, provided that  
42 disbursements to Swain County under this subsection shall not be made from the initial balance  
43 of the Fund. Disbursements made pursuant to this subsection shall occur no more frequently than  
44 once per quarter.

45           (c) No portion of the initial balance of the Fund may be disbursed to Swain County absent  
46 a request by the Swain County Board of Commissioners accompanied by a certification by the  
47 Swain County Board of Elections that two-thirds of the registered voters of Swain County voted  
48 in favor of the disbursement and subsequent expenditure of the amount requested in a referendum  
49 conducted under subsection (f) of this section.

1 (d) Funds disbursed to Swain County under subsections (b) or (c) of this section shall be  
2 managed by the county in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Budget  
3 and Fiscal Control Act, as amended.

4 (e) No part of the initial balance of the Swain County Settlement Trust Fund or of any  
5 interest or other income earned on that initial balance may be paid to or received by any agent or  
6 attorney on account of services rendered in connection with negotiating the settlement agreement  
7 between Swain County and the United States Department of Interior or obtaining the monetary  
8 settlement from the United States.

9 (f) The Board of Commissioners of Swain County may direct the Swain County Board  
10 of Elections to conduct an advisory referendum on the question of whether any portion of the  
11 initial balance of the Fund should be disbursed to and expended by the county for a particular  
12 purpose. The election shall be held in accordance with the procedures of G.S. 163-287. The  
13 question to be presented on the ballot shall disclose the specific purpose proposed for expenditure  
14 of the initial balance of the Trust Fund and the amount proposed for expenditure.

15 (g) The Swain County Settlement Trust Fund is subject to the oversight of the State  
16 Auditor pursuant to Article 5A of Chapter 147 of the General Statutes.

17 (h) The Swain County Settlement Trust Fund and the income therefrom shall not take the  
18 place of or be counted against any other State appropriations or program providing funds or  
19 disbursements to Swain County."

20 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.