



North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

SENATOR RALPH E. HISE, JR.
47TH DISTRICT

December 2, 2015

VIA U.S. MAIL & ELECTRONIC MAIL

Dr. Linda Morrison Combs
State Controller
1410 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1410

Dear Dr. Combs:

I write to request your assistance on an important administrative matter. As you know, Chapter 143B of the General Statutes permits employee-directed payroll deductions by State and local employers for the benefit of employee associations meeting certain membership thresholds.

In 2014, to reduce the potential for duplication of effort given modern-day electronic banking, the General Assembly modified G.S. 143B-426A.40A(g) to require the State Auditor to verify and certify the membership rolls of employee associations to ensure continued eligibility for this program. *See* S.L. 2014-115, §62(b). I understand from consulting the State Auditor that she has not received the necessary data from the relevant associations to perform her verification.

This reality is troubling in two respects. First, I am concerned that at least some of the relevant employee associations may not have sufficient membership to qualify for State-administered payroll deduction. If they do not, continued employee-directed payroll deduction for their benefit no longer complies with the law. Second, the failure to complete the required verification itself violates the law. Therefore, I request that your office cease such deductions unless and until the State Auditor completes the required verification. I can see no alternative to ensure that the State Auditor has access to the data she requires to see to it that the law is followed.

I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I am happy to discuss it further with you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ralph E. Hise, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sen. Ralph E. Hise, Jr.

