



## The Daily Bulletin: 2021-04-07

### PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 564 (2021-2022) **NC PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE ACT*.

Enacts new GS Chapter 96A, to be cited as the "North Carolina Paid Family Leave Insurance Act." Sets forth 15 defined terms applicable to the Chapter. Deems family and medical leave benefits provided under the terms of the Chapter payable beginning January 1, 2023, to *covered individuals*, defined as any person who submits an application and meets the monetary eligibility criteria set forth in GS 96-14.1(b) (regarding unemployment benefit claims) or is self-employed, elects coverage, and meets the requirements of new GS 96A-13, and meets the administrative requirements of the new Chapter and rules adopted thereunder, who meet one of five requirements, including: (1) is caring for a new child during the first year after birth, adoption, or child placement; (2) is caring for a family member with a serious health condition; (3) has a serious health condition; (4) is caring for a covered service member, as defined, who is the covered individual's next of kin or other family member; and (5) because of any *qualifying exigency leave* (as defined) arising out of the fact that the family member of the covered individual is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the Armed Forces. Defines family member, next of kin, and serious health condition. Specifies maximum duration of benefits based on eligibility requirement, ranging from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. Provides for payment within two weeks of filing a claim and every two weeks thereafter. Details parameters regarding the determination of payment amounts, with the maximum benefit permitted to be 100% of the statewide average weekly wage, and the minimum benefit set at \$100 per week, unless the covered individual's average weekly wage is less than the amount of that full wage. Bars payment for less than eight hours of leave taken in one work week.

Beginning on January 1, 2022, requires an employer to remit contributions to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Fund (Fund), at a rate annually fixed by the Assistant Secretary of the Division of Employment Security (DES). Provides for the setting of contribution rates for 2022 and 2023, and 2024 and subsequent years. Defines *employer* to include individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives, any organized group, the State, political subdivisions of the State and any State or local agency or government instrumentality; excludes the federal government. Requires self-employed individual electing coverage to make employer contributions as specified. Bars deducting more than 50% of the contribution required from that employee's wages.

Authorizes the covered individual to opt to take paid family and medical leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule with prorated benefits, subject to total leave permitted by the Chapter, employer operations, and notice requirements.

Provides for the covered individual's restoration by the employer to the position held by the covered individual upon expiration of family and medical leave as when the leave commenced, or a position with equivalent seniority, status, employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. Requires employers to maintain health benefits the covered individual had prior to leave for the leave duration, with the covered individual required to continue required applicable contributions. Details employer liability for violation of these protection provisions, including damages for compensation denied or lost with interest and liquidated damages, or actual monetary losses sustained up to a sum of 12 weeks of wages or salary of the employee, and equitable relief. Allows for an action for damages to be brought in any federal or State court by one or more employees against an employer for or on behalf of the employees or the employees and others similarly situated. Provides for the award of costs of the action, such as reasonable attorneys' fees and expert witness fees. Establishes a two year statute of limitations, with a three year statute of limitations for willful violations.

Bars prohibiting the exercise of or interfering with the exercise of rights protected by the Chapter. Prohibits retaliatory personnel actions or otherwise discriminating against a person for exercising protected rights under the Chapter. Includes a non-exhaustive list of rights protected under the Chapter to which the anti-retaliation provisions apply. Prohibits employers from counting leave taken under the Chapter as an absence that can lead to or result in an adverse employment action. Makes these provisions applicable to persons who allege violations in good faith. Provides for the liability provisions regarding employment protections to apply to the anti-retaliation provisions.

Provides for concurrent leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Provides for concurrent or coordinated payments and leave for disability or family care leave under a collective bargaining agreement or employer policy subject to written notice. Provides for the effect of such agreements and policy on an individual's rights and an employer's duties under the Chapter.

Provides for notice by the employer upon hiring and annually thereafter and when leave under the Chapter is requested or anticipated, stating rights and terms under the Chapter, benefit amounts, benefit procedures, Chapter protections, and rights to bring an action or file a complaint. Also requires posting of the notice in languages specified. Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to adopt rules establishing additional notice requirements. Requires employees to provide notice to their employer as soon as practicable of their intention to take leave under the Chapter.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to establish a system for appeal of denied leave under the Chapter. Provides for judicial review of leave benefits after an aggrieved party has exhausted administrative remedies established by the Assistant Secretary. Directs the Assistant Secretary to implement confidentiality procedures for claims filed and appeals taken.

Mandates disqualification from benefits for a period of one year for willfully falsifying or misrepresenting material facts or willfully failing to report a material fact to obtain Chapter benefits. Provides for DES to seek repayment of benefits resulting from material misrepresentation or claim rejection following benefit payment. Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to waive all or some of the amount where recovery would be against equity or good conscience.

Requires self-employed persons electing coverage to do so for an initial period of at least three years, effective upon filing written notice with the Assistant Secretary and agreeing to supply necessary income information. Provides for coverage withdrawal by self-employed persons.

Directs DES to establish and administer a family and medical leave insurance program and collect employer contributions under the Chapter. Requires DES to begin receiving and paying Chapter claims by January 1, 2023. Provides for application content and procedures. Requires DES to notify an employer within five business days of a claim filed under the Chapter. Provides for information sharing subject to the individual's consent. Deems files and records of individuals under the Chapter confidential, with the individual or authorized representative authorized to review the records or receive information from the records upon presentation of the individual's signed authorization. Directs the Department of Commerce to adopt necessary implementing rules for the Chapter.

Provides for notice upon filing a claim if the IRS determined benefits to be subject to federal income tax.

Creates the Fund within the custody of DES solely to pay Chapter benefits, with expenditure authority restricted to the Assistant Secretary or a designee. Authorizes investment actions with excess funds by DES.

Establishes an annual reporting requirement for DES to report to the NCGA, beginning January 1, 2024, on projected and actual program participation by leave purpose, gender of the beneficiary, premium rates, fund balances, outreach efforts, and family members for whom leave was taken to provide care, as applicable.

Directs DES to conduct a public education campaign, with outreach information available in specified languages.

Encourages DES to use State data collection and technology to the extent possible and to integrate the program with existing State policies.

Includes a severability clause.

Requires implementing rules to be adopted by October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Batch, Salvador, Crawford.**

[GS 96A](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Business and Commerce](#), [Courts/Judiciary](#), [Civil](#), [Civil Law](#), [Employment and Retirement](#), [Government](#), [State Agencies](#), [Department of Commerce](#), [State Government](#), [Local Government](#), [Health and Human Services](#), [Health](#), [Social Services](#), [Public Assistance](#), [Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)**

S 565 (2021-2022) **SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND STANDARDS SURROUNDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*.

Part I.

Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to alert law enforcement agencies to available grant funds and assist law enforcement agencies with drafting and submitting grant proposals and applications.

Appropriates \$200,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to DOJ to hire two full-time grant writers.

Effective July 1, 2021.

Part II.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to DOJ to award grants to law enforcement agencies for initiatives supporting community policing. Effective July 1, 2021.

Part III.

Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to DOJ to be used for grants: (1) provided to law enforcement agencies to be awarded to law enforcement officers exhibiting exemplary service and (2) awarded to law enforcement agencies for meeting racial or gender diversity benchmarks. Caps grant awards at \$10,000. Effective July 1, 2022.

Part IV.

Enacts new GS 17C-17 to require the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to develop and maintain a statewide database that contains all revocations and suspensions of law enforcement officer certifications by the Commission, to be accessible to DOJ and law enforcement agencies for hiring purposes. Requires use of the database by all law enforcement agencies in the state before making a hiring decision. Enacts new GS 17E-14 setting out identical requirements for the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission to develop and maintain a statewide database that contains all revocations and suspensions of justice officer certifications by the Commission. Effective October 1, 2021.

Part V.

Amends GS 15A-401(d)(2), which sets out when a law-enforcement officer is justified in using deadly physical force, by making the following changes. Adds that the use of deadly force includes strangleholds, lateral vascular neck restraints, carotid restraints, or any other tactics that restrict oxygen or blood flow to the head or neck. Adds that a law-enforcement officer who witnesses another law-enforcement officer using excessive force that is not justified or is otherwise abusing a suspect or arrestee has a duty to intervene and to report the use of excessive force or the abuse. Requires in all circumstances in which a law-enforcement officer uses force of any kind, that a law-enforcement officer use the minimum amount of force reasonably necessary to accomplish the law-enforcement action and attempt to use de-escalation tactics.

Enacts GS 114-2.8 requiring the DOJ, in consultation with the Training Commissions, to develop and maintain a statewide database to be used by law enforcement agencies that tracks all critical incident data of law enforcement officers in North Carolina. Defines critical incident as an incident involving any use of force by a law enforcement officer that results in a person's death or serious bodily injury. Makes information in the database confidential. Enacts the following statutes requiring the specified entities to provide DOJ with information for this database: (1) GS 20-196.6, requiring the State Highway Patrol to provide information on the use of force by State Troopers; (2) GS 74E-10.1, requiring company police agencies to provide information on use of force by its law enforcement officers; (3) GS 74G-10.1, requiring campus police agencies to provide information on the use of force by its law enforcement officers; (4) GS 143B-927.1, requiring the SBI to provide information on the use of force by its law enforcement officers; (5) GS 153A-213, requiring counties to provide information on the use of force by its law enforcement officers; and (6) GS 160A-290, requiring cities to provide information on the use of force by its law enforcement officers.

The above provisions are effective October 1, 2021.

Requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop uniform use-of-force policies that may be adopted by all law enforcement agencies in the state. Requires the policies to be submitted to the specified NCGA committee by December 1, 2022, published on DOJ's website, and distributed digitally to all law enforcement agencies in the state.

#### Part VI.

Amends GS 17C-6 to also give the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission the power to establish minimum: (1) age requirement of 21 for qualification for entry level employment as a criminal justice officer; (2) mental health screening protocols that must be met to qualify for entry level employment and retention as a criminal justice officer, to include a psychological screening within one year prior to certification; and (3) annual mental health screening protocols for criminal justice officers.

Amends GS 17E-12 to allow the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission access to a person's misdemeanor conviction records and allow the Commission to deny, suspend, or revoke a person's certification based solely on that person's conviction of four or more misdemeanors.

The above provisions are effective January 1, 2022.

#### Part VII.

Appropriates \$1 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 fiscal biennium from the General Fund to DOJ for grants to law enforcement agencies to temporarily provide funding for detective or other investigative law enforcement positions in order to aid in the investigation of person crimes that would constitute a charge of a Class D felony or higher. Effective July 1, 2021.

#### Part VIII.

Includes a severability clause.

**Intro. by Batch, Crawford, Garrett.**

[APPROP, GS 15A, GS 17C, GS 17E, GS 20, GS 74E, GS 74G, GS 114, GS 143B, GS 153A, GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management](#)**

S 566 (2021-2022) [INVESTING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND STANDARDS SURROUNDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS*.

#### Part I.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to the NC Justice Academy (Academy) by providing more opportunities for law enforcement agencies to attend courses and trainings.

Appropriates \$250,000 for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to the Academy to expand the ability to offer online courses.

Effective July 1, 2021.

#### Part II.

Requires the Academy and the Community College System to develop a memorandum of understanding to allow community colleges to provide training and education to those individuals trained and educated by the Academy. Requires the MOU to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety by October 1, 2021.

#### Part III.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Justice (DOJ) to further develop, maintain, and staff the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Effective

July 1, 2021.

Part IV.

Amends GS 17C-20 to open up eligibility for the Criminal Justice Fellows Program (Program) to all counties (was, tier one counties with a population of less than 125,000).

Amends GS 17C-22 to expand upon the Program's purpose to also include forgivable loans for obtaining a Bachelor's Degree or a NC Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion. Sets out requirements for recipients of loans for these degrees and certificates, including employment requirements post graduation. Makes conforming changes. Amends GS 17C-23 by making conforming changes to loan terms and disbursement of funds. Gives recipients up to 120 months to repay all funds distributed, including interest, received in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree and 60 months for those in pursuit of a Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion.

Part V.

Amends GS 15A-401 to require the State's law enforcement agencies to designate specially trained law enforcement officers to be a part of an agency Crisis Intervention Team that is trained in determining whether a person is experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis and what methods are available to de-escalate or otherwise safely engage in interactions with the person. Requires the establishment of the team by December 1, 2023, in order to remain eligible for Governor's Crime Commission grants.

Appropriates \$250 million from the Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund to DOJ for grants for the Crisis Intervention Team training. Effective July 1, 2021.

Part VI.

Includes a severability clause.

**Intro. by Batch, Garrett, deViere.**

[APPROP, GS 15A, GS 17C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Department of Justice](#)

S 569 (2021-2022) [CONSUMER PRIVACY ACT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROTECT CONSUMERS BY ENACTING THE CONSUMER PRIVACY ACT OF NORTH CAROLINA*.

Titles the act as the "Consumer Privacy Act of North Carolina."

Enacts Article 2B, *Consumer Privacy Act*, to GS Chapter 75. Sets forth 31 defined terms. Defines the scope of the act include persons that conduct business in the State or produce products or services that are targeted to residents and that either (1) during a calendar year, control or process personal data of at least 100,000 consumers or (2) control or process personal data of at least 25,000 consumers and derive over 50% of gross revenue from the *sale of personal data*, as defined. Defines *personal data* to mean any information that is linked or reasonably linkable to an identified or identifiable natural person; excludes de-identified data, as defined, or publicly available information. Enumerates seven exemptions from the scope of the Article, including political subdivisions of the State, nonprofits, public school units and institutions of higher education. Lists 14 data categories exempt from the scope of the Article, including protected health information under the federal HIPPA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act), information used only for public health activities and purposed authorized by HIPPA, personal data regulated by the federal FERPA (Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act), and personal data collected, processed, sold, or disclosed in compliance with the federal Farm Credit Act.

Mandates *controllers*, defined as natural or legal persons that either alone or jointly determine the purpose and means of processing personal data, to comply with an *authenticated* (as defined) consumer request to exercise any of the five specified consumer rights, which include the right (1) to confirm whether or not a controller is processing the consumer's personal data and to access such personal data, (2) to correct inaccuracies in the consumer's personal data, (3) to delete personal data

provided by or obtained about the consumer, (4) to obtain a copy of the consumer's personal data that the consumer previously provided to the controller in a portable and, to the extent technically feasible, readily usable format that allows the consumer to transmit the data to another controller without hindrance, where the processing is carried out by automated means, and (5) to opt out of the processing of the personal data for purposes of *targeted advertising* (as defined), the sale of personal data, or *profiling* (as defined) in furtherance of decisions that produce legal or similarly significant effects concerning the consumer. Defines *consumer* to mean a natural person who is a resident of the State acting only in an individual or household context; excludes a natural person acting in a commercial or employment context. Authorizes consumers to invoke the stated rights at any time by submitting a request to a controller; allows the parent or legal guardian of a child (defined to mean a natural person under 13 years old) to invoke the rights on behalf of the child regarding processing personal data belonging to the child. Details the procedure and duties of controller upon receipt of a consumer's request to exercise the consumer's rights, including responding within 45 days subject to a 45-day extension as specified, with justification for declining to take action and instruction for appeal; provision of requested information at no cost up to twice annually per consumer, with unfounded, excessive, or repetitive requests subject to administrative costs or denial; and request additional information for authentication of the request. Does not require the controller to comply with a consumer request that cannot be authenticated. Requires controllers to establish an appeals process, with a 60 day response period required for appeals determinations and an online mechanism for consumers to file complaints regarding denied appeals to the Attorney General.

Establishes requirements and limitations of controllers, including limiting the collection of personal data to what is adequate, relevant, and reasonably necessary in relation to the processing purpose disclosed to the consumer; establishing and maintaining reasonable data security practices; and prohibiting processing sensitive data concerning a consumer without obtaining the consumer's consent (with distinct federal requirements regarding the sensitive data of a child). Defines *sensitive data* as personal data revealing racial or ethnic origin, religious beliefs, mental or physical diagnosis, sexual orientation, or citizenship or immigrations status; the processing of genetic or *biometric data* (as defined) for the purpose of uniquely identifying a natural person; the personal data collected from a known child; and *precise geolocation data* (as defined). Bars discrimination against consumers who exercise their consumer rights. Voids any provision of a contract or agreement that waives or limits consumer rights established in the Article. Details privacy notice requirements controllers must provide to consumers, including notice of the categories of personal data processed by the controller and the purpose for processing personal data. Requires disclosure of a controller of the sale of personal data to third parties or processing of personal data for targeted advertising, with directions on how to opt-out of such processing. Requires controllers to establish and describe in the privacy notice how consumers can submit a request to exercise their rights, as specified.

Details the responsibilities and restrictions for processors in assisting controllers to meet the Article's requirements. Requires controllers and processors to contract, and details contract requirements. Provides for the effect of a processing relationship upon liability, and determination of actions as a controller versus a processor.

Directs controllers to annually conduct and document a data protection assessment of five activities involving personal data, detailing five components and analysis of each, such as benefits from the processing to the controller, consumer and other stakeholders, the potential risks of the consumer associated with the processing, and a cybersecurity analysis, as specified. Authorizes the Attorney General to request a controller to disclose any data protection assessment relevant to an investigation, with assessments provided deemed confidential and exempt from GS Chapter 132. Provides further parameters regarding assessments. Makes the data protection assessment requirements applicable to processing activities created or generated after January 1, 2023; specifies that the requirements are not retroactive.

Lists the duties of a controller with regard to de-identified data, including public commitment to maintaining and using de-identified data without attempting to re-identify the data. Provides for three criteria which do not require a controller or processor to comply with an authenticated consumer rights request. Excludes certain *pseudonymous data*, defined as personal data that cannot be attributed to a specified natural person without the use of additional information that is kept separately and not attributable to an identified or identifiable natural person, from the consumer rights. Provides for the controller's responsibilities regarding pseudonymous data or de-identified data disclosed through contractual commitments with *third parties*, as defined.

Details the limitations of the Article, describing abilities of a controller or processor that are not restricted by the Article, interaction of the Article's requirements with evidentiary privileges, pass-through liability of controllers and third parties in violation of the Article, application of the Article to legally protected rights, authorized personal data processing purposes, and duties for exemption qualification.

Deems violations of the Article an unfair and deceptive trade practice. Places enforcement authority with the Attorney General, except for violations resulting in personal injuries that provide for a private right of action. Allows for 30 days' notice to violators to cure violations as specified, prohibiting further action given a written statement that alleged violations have been cured and no further violations will occur. Authorizes the Attorney General to seek an injunction and impose a civil penalty of up to \$5,000 for each violation following the cure period or breach of an express written statement provided by the violator. Allows recovery of reasonably expenses incurred in investigating and preparing the case. Provides for an injured person seeking damages to bring a civil action for injunction, and permits the award of reasonably attorneys' fees to the prevailing party. Grants an estate the right to recover damages. Provides for venue and establishes a three year statute of limitations.

Creates the Consumer Privacy Fund (Fund) to support the work of the Attorney General's enforcement of the Article, subject to legislative appropriation. Directs the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology to create a work group to review the Article and its implementation, and annually report to the Committee by October 1, beginning in 2021. Lists ex officio members of the work group and permits inclusion of industry representatives and the public.

Makes conforming changes to the power and duties of the Attorney General under GS 114-2.

Effective January 1, 2023.

**Intro. by Salvador, Clark, Waddell.**

**STUDY, GS 75, GS 114**

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Education, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of Justice**

**S 571 (2021-2022) CODIFY/EXPAND RENEWAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.** Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO CODIFY AND EXPAND THE RENEWAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OPTIONAL PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.*

Repeals Section 6 of SL 2018-32, as amended, which authorizes local school administrative units to submit renewal school system plans to the State Board of Education (State Board) that, upon approval, permits the local board to decide all matters related to the operation of the schools under its control within the local school administrative unit, including use of State funds, curriculum, and operating procedures. Replaces the uncodified provisions with the following statutory provisions. Effective July 1, 2021.

Enacts Part 12, *Renewal School Systems*, to Article 16, GS Chapter 115C, with provisions similar to those of Section 6, SL 2018-32, as repealed. Authorizes an eligible local board of education to submit a renewal school system plan to the State Board to permit the eligible local board to decide all matters related to the operation of the schools under its control within the administrative unit, including the use of State funds, curriculum, and operating procedures, for the purpose of designing and creating a comprehensive, innovative strategic vision for sustainable school improvement and student achievement through the delivery of instruction and resources tailored to the needs of the students and the community. Defines *eligible local board of education* to be a local board that either (1) for data applicable to the 2017-18 school year, the administrative unit is the greatest percentage of restart model schools in the State approved by the State Board, eligible for low-wealth supplemental funding with an average daily membership of more than 10,000 students, or (2) for data applicable to the 2021-22 school year, the administrative unit is designated as located in a development tier two area, not eligible for low-wealth supplemental funding, and less than 50 schools located in the unit governed by the local board.

Requires for application submission prior to July 1 to begin operation of the renewal school system plan (plan) for the next school year. Details required plan components, including a resolution adopted by the eligible local board to implement the plan in the administrative unit. Provides for approval by the State Board within 30 days upon recommendation by the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Allows the State Board to establish a proposed initial term of operation for the plan with a schedule for extensions. Exempts renewal school systems from statutes and rules applicable to other administrative units, but deems a renewal school system an administrative unit for purposes of federal law and administration of State law. Lists 31 specified Articles and sections of GS Chapter 115C which are applicable to renewal school systems, including Parts 1A and 1B of Article 8 (NC Read to Achieve Program and School Performance) and Article 31 (School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, except for disbursement of State money and related reporting and violation provisions).

Requires renewal school systems to require, at least, (1) instruction each year for at least 185 days or 1,025 hours over nine calendar months, (2) design to meet student performance standards adopted by the State Board and the student performance goals contained in the plan, and (3) conduct student assessments required by State law. Directs the State Board to identify low-performing and continually low-performing schools in the renewal school system on an annual basis, as specified. Requires the renewal school system to provide a system of transportation for students in the administrative unit. Encourages the adoption of an anti-bullying or harassing behavior policy consistent with Article 29C, with provision of the policy to staff, students, and parents at the beginning of each year. Requires reporting to comply with the Uniform Education Reporting System requirements established by the State Board. Requires annual reporting to the State Board. Provides for renewal school system principal responsibilities with regard to driving eligibility certificates. Provides for renewal school system employment, requiring at least 50% of the teachers to hold teacher licenses and all core subject teachers to be college graduates. Authorizes employment of necessary support employees and contracting for services.

Directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to calculate and distribute State funds to be allocated to a renewal school system in the same manner as other administrative units, subject to State Board policy regarding guaranteed positions conversion. Establishes that the funds are unrestricted except as to restrictions imposed by federal law, federal or State conditions for grants, or State Board rules providing for federal compliance. Provides for disbursement. Allows withholding when reporting is more than 30 days overdue, or to cover delinquent contributions due to the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System. Allows the State Board to require financial reporting. Directs the State Board to issue a warning for violations of applicable laws and regulations of the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, and authorizes the State Board to assume control of financial affairs and appointment of an administrator upon persistent willful or negligent noncompliance after the warning. Deems the adoption of a resolution to divest the financial powers conferred.

Requires the State Board to conduct a review of the operation and student performance of a renewal school system at least every three years during the operation of the plan. Authorizes termination of a plan after review for failure to meet the requirements for student performance contained in the plan, or if the majority of schools in the system have been identified as low-performing in the two school years immediately preceding the review. Also authorizes termination upon failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management or violation of State or federal law, with termination allowed prior to any established term of operation in the plan. Requires the State Board to develop transition plans upon termination. Establishes annual reporting requirements for renewal school system to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, including reporting on student assessments and staffing. Authorizes the Superintendent to recommend termination upon finding that satisfactory progress is not being made after reviewing the reports.

Provides for continued operation of administrative units operating under an approved renewal school system plan pursuant to Section 6, of SL 2018-32, since repealed, as of the date the act becomes law, subject to new Part 12, Article 16, GS Chapter 115C, as enacted, beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Applies beginning with the 2021-22 school year.

Appropriates \$500,000 for 2021-22 and 2022-23 from the General Fund to DPI to be allocated to administrative units operating under an approved renewal school system plan pursuant to Section 6 of SL 2018-32 as of the date the act becomes law for operating expenses. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Lee.**

**APPROP, UNCODIFIED, GS 115C**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,  
Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,  
Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education**

**S 572 (2021-2022) COAL ASH/STRUCTURAL FILL MODIFICATIONS.** Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE USE OF COAL COMBUSTION PRODUCTS AS STRUCTURAL FILL AND TO CONFORM THE STATE'S COAL ASH MANAGEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR USE AS STRUCTURAL FILL TO FEDERAL STANDARDS PROMULGATED BY THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.*

Makes the following revisions to Subpart 3, Part 2I, Article 9, GS Chapter 130A, which governs the use of coal combustion products in structural fill.

Amends GS 130A-309.219 to provide that projects using coal combustion products as structural fill involving placement of less than 12,400 tons of coal combustion products per project are deemed permitted, subject to the permit requirements of the statute (previously, deemed permitted projects involving the placement of less than 8,000 tons of coal combustion products per acre or less than 80,000 tons total per project), with application to the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) and application content requirements met as provided in existing law. Adds that such applications must include a site plan detailing where the fill will be placed, including reference to project siting requirements set forth in State law. Similarly changes the threshold for required individual permitting to now require persons commencing or operating a project using coal combustion residuals as structural fill involving the placement of 12,400 or more tons of coal combustion products per project (was, commencement or operation of a project using coal combustion residuals as structural fill involving the placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products total per project) to first receive an individual permits from the Department. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 130A-309.220 to require projects involving the placement of 12,400 or more tons of coal combustion products per project to have an encapsulation liner system that meets the existing system requirements set forth in subsection (b) (previously, required for projects involving the placement of 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project).

Enacts GS 130A-309.220A to establish requirements for projects that use coal combustion products for structural fill in open pit mines, without regard to the amount of coal combustion products to be used in the projects. Requires a five-foot separation between the base of coal combustion products used and the uppermost aquifer, or the applicant must demonstrate that there will not be an intermittent, recurring, or sustained hydraulic connection between any portion of the base of the coal combustion products used and the uppermost aquifer due to normal fluctuations in groundwater elevations, with all coal combustion products required to have a four-foot separation between the seasonal high groundwater table. Makes design and construction standards set forth in GS 130A-220(b) that require a liner, leachate collection system, cap, and groundwater monitoring system apply. Makes conforming changes to GS 130A-309.220(c) regarding siting for structural fill facilities.

Amends GS 130A-309.221, making the financial assurance requirements for permit applicants apply for projects involving placement of 12,400 or more tons of coal combustion projects per project, rather than 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project.

Amends GS 130A-309.222, now requiring a constructor or operator to conduct post-closure care for projects involving placement of 12,400 or more tons of coal combustion projects per project, rather than 8,000 or more tons of coal combustion products per acre or 80,000 or more tons of coal combustion products in total per project.

**Intro. by Marcus.**

[GS 130A](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Environment, Energy, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\), Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health](#)**

**S 575 (2021-2022) PHARMACISTS IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS.** Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CLINICAL PHARMACIST PRACTITIONERS AND IMMUNIZING PHARMACISTS TO PRESCRIBE, DISPENSE, AND ADMINISTER CERTAIN TREATMENT AND MEDICATIONS.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Adds an immunizing pharmacist and a clinical pharmacist practitioner to individuals who are authorized to prescribe an opioid antagonist (defined by the statute to require FDA approval) under GS 90-12.7, subject to manner prescribed by the statute.

Adds to the authorities granted to immunizing pharmacists under GS 90-85.15B as follows. Authorizes the administration of vaccinations approved by the FDA in accordance with the protocols established by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices to persons at least six years old pursuant to a specific prescription order initiated by a prescriber following a physical exam of the patient by the prescriber (currently limited to administration of flu vaccines). Enacts new subsection (c2), listing

ten categories of medications an immunizing pharmacist can prescribe and dispense, including naloxone or other opioid antagonist and their associated drug delivery paraphernalia, FDA approved tobacco cessation medications, epinephrine or other anaphylaxis management medication, hormonal contraceptives after the patient completes an assessment consistent with CDC eligibility criteria, and controlled substances for the prevention of human immunodeficiency virus. Enacts new subsection (f), conditioning the immunizing pharmacist's authority under new subsection (c2) upon the NC Medical Board and the NC Board of Pharmacy (Boards) having adopted jointly developed rules governing the approval of the individual immunizing pharmacist to administer, prescribe, and dispense the medications with limitation determined by the Boards to be in the best interest of patient health and safety; the immunizing pharmacist's current approval from both Boards; and the immunizing pharmacist's assignment of an identification number by the NC Medical Board shown on written prescriptions written by the immunizing pharmacist.

Further amends GS 90-85.15B as follows. Makes the requirements for immunizing pharmacists applicable to the administration of vaccines or immunizations under subsection (d) applicable to prescribing and dispensing medications listed in new subsection (c2). Revises the recordkeeping requirement for vaccines and immunizations to now require the record be maintained for a period of five years. Regarding the requirement to provide a patient who does not identify a primary care provider (PCP) with information on the benefits of having a PCP, adds information about federally qualified health centers, free clinics, and local health departments prepared by the specified entities to the requirement. Adds new requirements including furnishing patient records to the patient upon request; furnishing patient records to the PCP identified by the patient upon request; and counseling the patient about contraceptive care upon administering or dispensing a hormonal contraceptive. Adds a new subsection (e), authorizing an immunizing pharmacist to test or screen for and treat minor, nonchronic health conditions, as specified. Requires maintaining a record of any vaccine or immunization administered to the patient for a period of five years; furnishing patient records to the patient upon request; and furnishing patient records to the PCP identified by the patient upon request.

Enacts new subsection (b1) and (b2) to GS 90-18.4, providing substantively identical provisions for clinical pharmacists' authority to prescribe and dispense 10 identified categories of medications as those provided for immunizing pharmacists in new subsection (c1) and (e) of GS 90-85.15B, as enacted.

Effective October 1, 2022.

Directs the Boards' joint subcommittee to develop statewide written protocols and amend existing rules and protocols to: (1) provide certification for clinical pharmacist practitioners and immunizing pharmacists that encompass the new authorized treatments and practices; (2) develop specified training related to minor, nonchronic health conditions; (3) create a list of minor, nonchronic health conditions eligible for screening, testing, and treatment by a clinical pharmacist practitioner or immunizing pharmacists; and (4) create a formulary of FDA approved medications to treat specific minor, nonchronic health conditions, excluding Schedule I-IV controlled substances identified by the NC Controlled Substances Act. Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Burgin, Krawiec, Perry.**

GS 90

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Public Health**

S 583 (2021-2022) **STANDARD DEDUCTION; LATE PENALTIES; SALT CAP.** Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE STANDARD DEDUCTION TO THE FEDERAL STANDARD DEDUCTION AMOUNT, TO GRADUATE LATE PAYMENT PENALTIES, AND TO ALLOW CERTAIN PASS-THROUGH ENTITIES TO ELECT TO PAY TAX AT THE ENTITY LEVEL.*

Increases the standard deductions provided for eligible individual income tax under GS 105-153.5(a)(1) to \$25,500 for married, filing jointly/surviving spouse (was \$21,500); \$19,125 for head of household (was \$16,125); and \$12,750 for single or married, filing separately (was \$10,750). Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

Further amends GS 105-153.5(a)(1), as amended, to eliminate the statutory standard deduction amounts and instead provide for a standard deduction in the amount allowed as the basic standard deduction for taxable income under section 63 of the Internal Revenue Code (Code). Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2023.

Changes the penalties for failure to pay taxes due under GS 105-236 to require a 2% assessment of the amount of the tax if failure is for no more than one month, with an additional 2% for each additional month, or fraction thereof, during which the failure continues, with a 10% aggregate maximum assessment permitted (was a flat 10% assessment for failure to pay taxes when due). Applies to penalties assessed on or after January 1, 2022.

#### Section 4

Makes the following changes to Part 1A, Article 4, which governs S Corporation income tax.

Adds and defines a *taxed S Corporation* under GS 105-131 to mean an S Corporation for which a valid election for taxation under GS 105-131.1A, as enacted, is in effect.

Enacts GS 105-131.1A, authorizing an S Corporation to elect on its timely filed annual tax return to have income tax imposed on the S Corporation at the rate for individual income tax under GS 105-153.7 (currently set at 5.25% for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019) for any taxable period covered by the return. Bars revocation of the election after the due date of the return including extensions. Provides for the tax to be levied, collected, and paid annually. Establishes parameters for determining taxable income of a taxed S Corporation attributable to the State. Provides for a taxed S Corporation that qualifies for a credit to apply each shareholder's pro rata share of the credits against the shareholder's pro rata share of the income tax imposed. Requires the S Corporation to pass through to its shareholders any credit required to be taken in installments if the first installment was taken in a taxable period that the election under the statute was not in effect. Prohibits passing through credits allowed for any taxable period the S Corporation makes the election (including the carryforward of unused portions of such credit), or any subsequent installment of a credit required to be taken in installments after election is made (including the carryforward of unused portions of such installments). Provides for credit against income taxes imposed for income taxes imposed by and paid to another state or country, as specified. Provides for shareholders to deduct their pro rata share of income from the taxed S Corporation as provided under GS 105-153.5(c3)(1), as enacted, subject to the S Corporation's full payment of taxes due within the time allowed for filing the return. and requires shareholders to make an addition for their pro rata share of loss from the taxed S Corporation as provided under GS 105-153.5(c3)(2), to the extent of inclusion in the taxed S Corporation's taxable income and the taxpayer's adjusted gross income. Details requirements for the taxed S Corporation to pay the full amount shown on the return within the time allowed for filing the return. Allows the S Corporation to request a refund for overpayment. Provides for collection of tax debt following proper notice by the Secretary of Revenue. Provides for the basis of shareholders of taxed S Corporations in their stock and indebtedness of the S Corporation to be determined as if the election had not been made.

Makes conforming changes to GS 105-131.1, which exempts S Corporations from the income tax imposed on C Corporations under GS 105-130.3 and provides for income tax of S Corporation shareholders.

Amends GS 105-131.7 to make the general provisions for S Corporations regarding shareholder agreements and mandatory withholdings set forth in subsections (b) through (f) not applicable to taxed S Corporations.

Adds *taxed partnership* and *taxed S Corporation* to the defined terms under GS 105-153.3, applicable to individual income tax provisions of Part 2 of Article 4. Adds and defines *taxed pass-through entity* to mean a taxed S Corporation or a taxed partnership.

Amends GS 105-153.5, enacting new subsection (c3) to specify four adjustments that taxpayers must make to the taxpayer's adjusted gross income, providing for deduction for a taxpayer who is either a shareholder or partner of a taxed pass-through entity for the pro rata or distributive share of income from the respective entity to the extent it was included in the taxed entity's NC taxable income and the taxpayer's adjusted gross income; and an addition of the amount of the same described taxpayer's pro rata or distributive share of loss from the taxed pass-through entity to the extent it was included in the taxed entity's NC taxable income and the taxpayer's adjusted gross income.

Amends GS 105-153.9 to disallow shareholders of taxed S Corporations or partners of a taxed partnership a credit for taxes paid by the taxed S Corporation or taxed partnership to another state or country on income that is taxed to the taxed S Corporation or taxed partnership. Deems the shareholder's pro rata share or the partner's distributive share of the income of the taxed pass-through entity to be treated as income taxed to the shareholder or partner under the Individual Income Tax Act, and a shareholder's pro rata share or partner's distributive share of the tax imposed on the taxed pass-through entity by election under new GS 105-131.1A or new GS 105-154.1 to be treated as tax imposed on the shareholder or partner under the Individual Income Tax Act (Part 2 of Article 4), for purposes of allowing the credit for taxes paid to another state or country by a taxed S Corporation's shareholders or a taxed partnership's partners. Entitles a taxed partnership to a credit for all such taxes

paid. Makes conforming changes to GS 105-131.8 regarding shareholder income tax by a state that does not measure the income of S Corporation shareholders by the income of the S Corporation.

Enacts GS 105-154.1, authorizing a partnership to elect on its timely filed annual tax return to have income tax imposed on the partnership at the rate for individual income tax under GS 105-153.7 (currently set at 5.25% for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2019) for any taxable period covered by the return. Excludes publicly traded partnerships or partnerships that have at any time in the taxable year had a partner that is not an individual, an estate, a trust, or an organization described in section 1361(c)(6) of the Code (concerning qualified trusts for employer bonus, pension, and profit-sharing plans). Enacts substantively identical provisions to those enacted in new GS 105-131.1A for taxed S Corporations, made applicable for taxed partnerships, except as follows. Provides distinguished parameters for the determination of taxable income of taxed partnerships attributable to the State. Does not provide a provision comparable to that of the basis for S Corporation shareholder's stock and the S Corporation's indebtedness.

Amends GS 105-160.4 to disallow fiduciaries and beneficiaries of estates and trusts who are shareholders of a taxed S Corporation a credit for income taxes paid by the estates and trusts or by the taxed S Corporation to another state or country on income that is taxed to the taxed S Corporation; entitles the S Corporation to a credit under GS 105-153.9, as amended, for all such taxes paid. Establishes identical provisions regarding taxed partnerships; entitles the taxed partnership to a credit for all such taxes paid.

Makes the requirements of Article 4C, which requires declarations of estimated corporate income tax and installment payments of estimated income tax, apply to taxed pass-through entities in the same manner as a taxed corporation under Article 4, except GS 105-163.41(d)(5) (regarding underpayment interest) does not apply to a taxable year of a taxed pass-through entity if it was not a taxed pass-through entity during the preceding year.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Burgin, Edwards.**

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Corporation and Partnerships, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Government, State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Tax](#)

S 596 (2021-2022) [REMOVE DRIVERS LIC. REVOCATION/FEES/PENALTIES](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO REVISE THE LAWS GOVERNING THE REVOCATION OF DRIVERS LICENSES FOR FAILURE TO PAY A FINE, PENALTY, OR COURT COSTS AND TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF VARIOUS RELATED MATTERS*.

Amends GS 20-24.1 to no longer require the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to revoke a person's drivers license when a person charged with a motor vehicle offense fails to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs. Makes conforming changes. Amends GS 20-24.2 to no longer require the court to report to the DMV when a person charged with a motor vehicle offense fails to pay a fine, penalty, or costs within 40 days of the date specified in the court's judgment.

Enacts GS 20-24.3 requiring a civil judgment to be entered when a person has failed to pay a fine, penalty, or costs within 40 days of the date specified in the court's judgment. Sets the judgment amount as the total money value of outstanding fines, penalties, or costs; cancels the judgement when full payment is made.

The above provisions are effective July 1, 2021.

Requires DMV and the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts to study (1) whether any legislative changes are needed to ensure that licenses previously suspended for failure to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs are returned or restored and (2) whether Section 3 (enacting new GS 20-24.3) should be retroactive and made applicable to all unpaid fines, penalties, or costs. Requires a report to the specified NCGA committees by December 1, 2021.

**Intro. by J. Jackson.**

[STUDY, GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Court System, Government,](#)

**State Agencies, Department of Transportation**

S 600 (2021-2022) **STUDY AUTOMATION AND THE WORKFORCE**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE STUDY COMMITTEE ON AUTOMATION AND THE WORKFORCE*.

Includes NCGA findings.

Establishes the 11-member Study Committee on Automation and the Workforce (Committee) to serve as a study and advisory committee on the effects of automation on the State's workforce, with a special emphasis on low-income and minority workers. Sets out specific issues the Committee must study. Sets out provisions for the appointment of the members by the Governor, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives; names ex officio members.

Requires appointments to be made to the Committee by October 1, 2021, and with membership terms commencing on October 1, 2021. Member terms are for two years; allows voting members to be reappointed to successive terms. Requires the election of members to be conducted during the initial organizational meeting with elected members' terms deemed to begin on October 1, 2021. Provides for the appointment of co-chairs, removal of members, per diem and travel and subsistence expenses, establishing a quorum and assignment of staff. Requires the Committee to report to the Governor and specified NC commission before the 2023 convening of the NCGA, with reports due biennially after that.

**Intro. by Salvador, Lowe, Foushee.**

**STUDY**

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Employment and Retirement**

S 602 (2021-2022) **FLOOD RESILIENCY AND PREVENTION ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR STREAM DEBRIS REMOVAL*.

Requires the State to develop, implement, and maintain a collaborative for statewide flood mitigation, resiliency, and prevention. Appropriates \$20 million for 2021-22 from the General Fund for the development and implementation of a statewide flood mitigation, resiliency, and prevention plan.

Appropriates \$5 million for 2021-22 from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Division of Soil and Water Conservation (Division), for stream debris removal in storm affected counties, defined as any county impacted by a named storm, as determined by the Office of Recovery and Resiliency. Exempts such stream debris removal projects from Articles 1, 4 and 7 of GS Chapter 113 (possibly intends GS Chapter 113A) and from requirements for stormwater or water quality permits. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality to waive any right of certification under Section 401 of the federal Clean Water Act with respect to projects funded by this act. Requires the Division to report within 30 days of the end of each fiscal quarter to the specified NCGA committee and division on the use of the funds, including the specified types of information.

Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Britt, Perry.**

**APPROP, UNCODIFIED**

[View summary](#)

**Agriculture, Environment, Government, State Agencies,  
Department of Administration, Department of Environmental  
Quality (formerly DENR)**

S 603 (2021-2022) **INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES RECOVERY ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC RECOVERY FOR INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Includes whereas clauses.

States the NCGA's intent to use American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 funds for the Department of Revenue (DOR) to provide economic support to low-income families and families with employment interruptions resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Creates the Individual and Family Relief Grant Program (Program) to be administered by DOR, to provide one-time grants to eligible individuals. Defines an *eligible individual* as one whose application is postmarked on or before July 1, 2021, and meets all of the following: (1) the applicant has either a filing status of single and an adjusted gross income of less than \$35,000 or any other filing status and an adjusted gross income of \$53,000 and (2) the applicant provides a name, mailing address, and any other required information. Sets the grant amount at \$1,000 for an eligible individual who received benefits from the Division of Employment Security for unemployment for at least three months during the 2020 taxable year, and \$250 for any other eligible individual. Requires grants to be awarded by October 1, 2021. Sets out the process for distributing the grant funds.

The above provisions are effective when an act appropriating funds for implementation becomes effective.

Enacts new GS 105-153.11 giving a credit to a taxpayer who has one or more qualifying relatives, as determined according to Table 5 of Publication 501 of the Internal Revenue Service, in the amount of \$250. Requires a nonresident or part-year resident claiming the credit to reduce the credit amount as specified. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021. Repeals the credit, effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

Amends GS 105-153.5 to allow a taxpayer to deduct from the taxpayer's adjusted gross income the amount of a grant from the Program paid to the taxpayer during the taxable year. This is effective when the act becomes law and is repealed for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022.

**Intro. by Crawford, Garrett, Batch.**

UNCODIFIED, GS 105

**Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management,  
State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Tax, Health and  
Human Services, Social Services, Public Assistance**

[View summary](#)

S 604 (2021-2022) [ADDRESSING NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO SUCCESS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO SUCCESS GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE COMMUNITY COLLEGES GRANTS TO SUPPORT STUDENT ACADEMIC SUCCESS AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Requires the State Board of Community Colleges (State Board) to develop and administer a grant program to improve student academic success by addressing nonacademic barriers impacting students, to be known as the Community College Support Student Academic Success Program (Grant Program). Defines nonacademic barriers as including the lack or insufficient availability and accessibility of: (1) mental health and other behavioral health services, (2) affordable and stable housing, (3) sufficient and healthy nutrition, (4) affordable health care services and health insurance, or (5) legal and other support services. Grants to community colleges are in an amount of up to \$150,000. Requires the funds to be used to improve existing services or to provide new services to students to address these nonacademic barriers; sets out three allowable uses of the funds. Sets out information that must be included in the grant application. Sets out six things the State Board must consider when awarding grants, including the demonstrated need for services for students enrolled in the community college with priority given to colleges located in catchment areas where fewer mental and behavioral health services are available, the extent to which the proposal targets underserved and at-risk populations, and the extent to which the proposal demonstrates the greatest potential for replication and dissemination. Requires grant awards to be made by March 31, 2022. Prohibits a community college from receiving more than one grant in the 2021-23 fiscal biennium. Grant funds remain expendable for two years and at least 80% of the funds must be used for personnel and allows up to 20% of the funds to be used for professional development and to acquire technology and other equipment and supplies to implement the grant. Requires grant recipients to report on the use of the funds to the State Board. Allows the State Board to award up to \$80,000 in additional funds to each community college that meets its benchmarks after one year and requests additional funding.

Appropriates \$1.6 million for 2021-22 from the General Fund to the Community College System to establish the Grant Program; sets out how these funds are to be allocated. Appropriates \$1.1 million for 2022-23 from the General Fund to the Community College System with specified amounts to be used to extend successful grant programs, and to evaluate the Grant Program.

Requires the State Board to report annually beginning October 1, 2022, and ending in 2025 to the specified NCGA committee; sets out items to be included in the report.

Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Crawford.**

APPROP, UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

**Education, Higher Education, Government,  
Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges  
System Office**

S 605 (2021-2022) [NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2021](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LAWS CONCERNING AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY.*

#### Section 1

Amends the requirements that must be met under GS 106-737 in order for farmland to qualify for inclusion in a voluntary agricultural district, as follows: (1) requires it to be real property used for *bona fide farm purposes* (was, engaged in agriculture), defined as the term is defined under two existing statutes, including the production and activities relating or incidental to the production of crops, grains, fruits, vegetables, ornamental and flowering plants, dairy, livestock, poultry, and all other forms of agriculture; (2) requires it to be real property subject to a conservation easement agreement and adds that the agreement must be between the local government administering the voluntary agricultural district program (was, the county) and the land owner, and adds the requirement that the form of the agreement be approved by the agricultural advisory board; and (3) retains other existing requirements.

Amends the process for revoking a conservation easement under GS 106-737.1 to require the landowner to give written notice to the local government administering the voluntary agricultural district program instead of the county.

Amends GS 106-738, which sets out the requirements for adopting an ordinance to establish a voluntary agricultural district, as follows. Deletes all of the existing requirements and instead requires the ordinance to provide: (1) for the establishment of voluntary agricultural districts upon the execution of a conservation agreement and (2) the minimum size, including specified measurements. Amends the stated purpose of these districts by replacing increasing protection from nuisance suits with decreasing the likelihood of legal disputes, such as nuisance actions between farm owners and their neighbors.

Amends GS 106-739 by amending the requirements for the agricultural advisory board (board), as follows. Requires the board to be organized and appointed by the board of county commissioners or the city council adopting the ordinance (was, organized and adopted as the county or city adopting the ordinance deems appropriate). Amends the board's authority as follows: (1) allows the board of county commissioners or city council to delegate the authority to make decisions on the establishment and modification of voluntary agricultural districts to the board; makes the board's decisions appealable to the county commissioners or city council and (2) gives the board authority to execute agreements with landowners for enrollment of land in a voluntary agricultural district. Adds requirements for board membership including broad geographical representation and representation of all segments of agricultural production; requires all members to be actively engaged in agriculture. Allows the board, at the discretion of the county commissioners or city council, to use an existing local government agency for administration, recordkeeping, and related tasks.

Amends GS 106-741 to require land records to include notice reasonably calculated to alert a person doing title research that the tract is located within one-half mile of the property line of any tract of land enrolled in a voluntary agricultural district (previously also included within one-half mile of a poultry, swine, or dairy farm or 600 feet of any other qualifying farm). Removes the provision prohibiting a cause of action when a person doing the research fails to report to any person on the proximity of the tract to a qualifying farm or voluntary agricultural district. Removes the provision prohibiting a cause of

action due to the failure of a person licensed under GS Chapters 93A (real estate license laws) or 93E (North Carolina Appraisers Act) to report to any person the proximity of the tract to a qualifying farm or voluntary agricultural district.

Amends GS 106-743 to require the city or county annual report to the Commissioner of Agriculture to also include the number of enrolled farms and acres. Makes language gender-neutral.

Amends GS 106-743.1, concerning the adoption of ordinances to establish an enhanced voluntary agricultural district, to no longer require the ordinance to provide that each enhanced voluntary agricultural district have a representative on the agricultural advisory board.

#### Section 2

Amends GS 7A-273 to give magistrates the power, in misdemeanor and infraction cases involving State forest rule offenses under Articles 74 (Acquisition and Control of State Forests and State Recreational Forests) and 75 (Protection and Development of Forests; Fire Control) of GS Chapter 106, to accept written appearances, waivers of trial or hearing, and pleas of guilty or admissions of responsibility, and to enter judgment and collect the fines or penalties and costs. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

#### Section 3

Amends GS 106-950 to exempt from Article 78 (Regulation of Open Fires) of GS Chapter 106, fires started, or caused to be started, for cooking, warming, or ceremonial events, if the fire is confined (1) within an enclosure from which burning material may not escape or (2) within a protected area that is being watched and is provided with adequate fire protection equipment. This does not apply when all open burning has been prohibited during periods of hazardous forest fire conditions or during air pollution episodes. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

#### Section 4

Amends GS 106-903 to require NC Forest Service employees who are exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act and are fighting forest fires to be compensated for overtime either monetarily or with compensatory leave at the rate of an hour-for-hour. Sets out additional requirements for when compensatory leave is provided.

#### Section 5

Amends GS 14-135 by removing the current provisions concerning the cutting, injuring, or removing of another's timber, and replaces it with the following concerning the larceny of timber. Establishes the offense of larceny of timber when any person: (1) knowingly and willfully cuts down, injures, or removes any timber owned by another, without the land owner's or timber owner's consent, or without a lawful easement running with the land or (2) buys timber directly from a timber owner but does not make payment in full by the date specified in the written sales agreement or when there is no agreement, 60 days from the date that the buyer removes the timber from the property. Sets out exceptions to the offense, including one for electric power supplier employers and agents. Sets out what is considered to be prima facie evidence of a timber buyer's intent to commit an offense by failure to pay. Makes violations a Class G felony and requires restitution in the specified amounts.

Amends GS 1-539.1 to make anyone who without consent, cuts or removes any valuable wood, timber, shrubs, or tree, liable for triple (was, double) the value of the wood, timber, shrubs, or trees. Makes the same changes applicable to someone who sets fire to any valuable wood, timber, or trees on another's land.

Amends GS 1-539.2B to make anyone who injures or destroys any other person's agricultural commodities or production system liable for triple (was, double) the value.

Effective December 1, 2021.

#### Section 6

Enacts new GS 14-135.1 to require, when a timber buyer or operator buys wood product by the load from a grower or seller and it is sold by weight, cord, or measure of board feed, that the buyer or operator give the grower or seller a wood load ticket for each load of wood product removed from the grower or seller's property; requires the ticket to be provided within 30 days. Requires the wood load ticket to include specified information including the amount of wood product severed. Sets out items excluded from these requirements. Makes violations a Class 2 misdemeanor. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

## Section 7

Amends GS 106-897 to include GS 14-135 (cutting, injuring, or removing another's timber) within the scope of forest laws. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

## Section 8

Amends GS 106-92.8 to require that when records of the tonnage of liming material that an individual sells in the state are available electronically, they must be made available to the Commissioner of Agriculture or the Commissioner's representative. Makes the same changes in the following statutes: (1) GS 106-277.12 concerning records of seeds transported or delivered for transportation, or sold, (2) GS 106-284.40 concerning records of tonnage of commercial feed distributed in this state, and (3) GS 106-671 concerning records of the tonnage of commercial fertilizer sold in the state. Makes language gender-neutral.

## Section 9

Increases the amount from the Tobacco Trust Fund that may be used for administrative and operating expenses from \$350,000 to \$375,000.

## Section 10

Amends GS 143-135.26, concerning the State Building Commission's powers, to make the Board of Agriculture, instead of the Commission, responsible for the final selection of the designer, consultant, or the construction manager at risk, when the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) is the funded agency. Makes additional clarifying changes.

Enacts new GS 106-22.8 setting out four specified actions the Board of Agriculture must take with respect to the design, construction, or renovation of buildings, utilities, and other property developments of DACS requiring the estimated expenditure of public funds of \$2 million or less, including conducting the fee negotiations for all design contracts and supervising the letting of all construction and design contracts. Prohibits dividing a contract to evade the monetary limit. Requires the Board of Agriculture to report annually to the State Building Commission on four related items.

Effective July 1, 2021.

## Section 11

Amends GS 143-215.10C to require the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to develop a general permit for animal operations that includes authorizing the permittee to construct and operate a farm digester system. Defines *farm digester system* under GS 143-213 as a system, including all associated equipment, by which gases are collected and processed from an animal waste management system for the digestion of animal biomass for use as a renewable energy resource; sets out items that may also be included in the term and specifies that the system is considered to be an agricultural feedlot activity within the meaning of "animal operation." Also adds and defines the terms *animal biomass gas facility*, *animal waste and animal waste management system*, *lagoon cover*, and *renewable animal biomass energy resource*.

Requires the EMC to immediately initiate the process of developing and issuing the permit. Requires the permit to include, in addition to conditions required to describe and authorize the construction of farm digester systems, the same conditions that are included in the currently existing general permits for animal operations, with specified exceptions. Requires the general permit to become effective no later than six months after this section's effective date. Allows, until the general permit becomes effective, any animal operation that holds a general or individual permit that (1) is in effect on the effective date of this section and (2) authorizes the construction and operation of a farm digester system, to construct and continue to operate the farm digester system. Allows the operator of any animal operation that holds a general or individual permit that does not authorize the construction and operation of a farm digester system to submit a notice of intent to be covered under the general permit; sets out the requirements for the EMC to then either issue a certificate of coverage allowing the construction or notifying the operator of the denial. Allows the EMC to solicit public comment when acting on the notice of intent, but prohibits holding a public hearing.

Amends GS 106-806, concerning the construction or renovation of swine houses at preexisting swine farms, as follows. Allows the construction or renovation of a farm digester system that is a component of a preexisting swine farm so long as the following requirements are met: there is not an increase in the permitted capacity of the swine farm; there is not an increase in the total permitted capacity of the animal waste management system or systems located at the swine farm; with exceptions, the portion of the constructed or renovated farm digester system is not located any closer to the building, property, or well that

is the object of the siting requirement that the farm digester system fails to meet for a lagoon siting. Also prohibits such renovation or construction in the 100-year floodplain.

Amends GS 150B-34 by adding that in any contested case involving a permitting action for a general permit for animal operations that includes authorization for the permittee to construct and operate a farm digester system, unless otherwise agreed upon, the hearing must be conducted and final decision made no later than 90 days after the commencement of the contested case. Allows for extending this deadline no more than two times and no more than 30 days each time.

Amends GS 150B-44 by specifying that an agency's failure to make a final permitting decision on a general permit for animal operations that includes authorization for the permittee to construct and operate a farm digester system within 90 days of the agency's receipt of a notice of intent is justification for a person affected by the delay to seek a court order compelling agency action. Gives such claims expedited review.

Amends GS 105-275 to no longer limit the animal waste management systems that are excluded from tax to those that accomplish specified objectives.

#### Section 12

Amends GS 20-7 by making driver's licenses issued to H-2A workers expire three years after the date of issuance of the H-2A worker's visa. Provides that if during those three years the worker's visa is not extended, the license expires on the date the H-2A worker's visa expires. Defines *H-2A worker* as a foreign worker holding a valid H-2A visa who is legally residing in this state.

#### Section 13

Includes a severability clause.

**Intro. by B. Jackson, Sanderson, Edwards.**

GS 1, GS 7A, GS 14, GS 20, GS 105, GS 106, GS 143, GS 150B

**Agriculture, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Motor Vehicle, Court System, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Employment and Retirement, Environment, Government, APA/Rule Making, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Transportation, Tax, Immigration**

[View summary](#)

S 606 (2021-2022) **PUBLIC SCHOOLS PPA ELIGIBILITY**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE CERTAIN PURCHASED POWER RATES AND TERMS FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION THAT INSTALL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS AT SCHOOL FACILITIES IN ORDER TO ENHANCE THE ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF SUCH PROJECTS AND TO FACILITATE COMPLIANCE WITH G.S. 15C-521(C), WHICH REQUIRES THAT A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION ADOPT LOCAL ENERGY-USE GOALS FOR BUILDING DESIGN AND OPERATION TO REDUCE THE IMPACT OF OPERATION COSTS ON LOCAL AND STATE BUDGETS.*

Makes a local board of education that installs a solar energy system in a school facility that qualifies as a small power producer, eligible for purchased power rates and terms. Applies to any local board of education that installs a solar energy system on a school facility on or before the date this act becomes law, that has also by that date: (1) filed a report of proposed construction (ROPC) or Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) application for construction of the facility, as applicable; (2) submitted a completed interconnection request to the North Carolina Interconnection Procedures (NCIP); (3) certified as a Qualifying Facility with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), if greater than 1 MW; and (4) made a commitment to sell its output to an electric public utility in the State using the approved Notice of Commitment Form.

**Intro. by Lazzara.**

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Environment, Energy, Public Enterprises and Utilities**

S 607 (2021-2022) [SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SAFETY ACT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AND PROVIDING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY WITH RESPECT TO NEEDLE AND HYPODERMIC SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAMS*.

Amends GS 90-113.27 to add the requirement that needle and hypodermic syringe exchange programs be located in a facility that offers professional counseling or rehabilitation services for people with drug use disorders. Amends the objectives of such a program to now include requiring, instead of encouraging, people who use drugs illicitly to enroll in evidence-based treatment. Adds the requirement that the host of a needle and hypodermic syringe exchange program engrave or mark all program supplies with a symbol or logo identifying the program. Adds that the limited immunity provided under the act does not apply when an individual possesses any program supplies in a school zone. Amends the information that must be included in the report each program provides to the Division of Public Health to also require: (1) the legal name of the organization or agency operating the program, and its owners or operators, as well as each licensed practitioner who provides on-site professional counseling or substance use disorder rehabilitation services; (2) the number of individuals enrolled in professional counseling or substance use disorder rehabilitation services offered by the program and their attendance record; (3) a log demonstrating that written verification was requested during operating hours to confirm the participant's identity; and (4) proof of required insurance. Requires the program operator, before starting a new program and in order to continue an existing program, to: (1) locate or relocate the program to a place that is outside a 3-mile radius of a school zone; (2) operate the program at a fixed location; (3) if a residential neighborhood is located within 800 yards of the program site, require a new program to obtain the affirmative vote of a majority of the residents in attendance at a meeting in which at least 50% of the neighbors participate, or and for new or existing programs, comply with all ordinances and homeowners' association rules; (4) demonstrate that all owners, board members, officers, and registered agents of the program have passed a background check; and (5) for programs located in noncommercial areas, ask program participants for an identification card and require participating sex offenders to be logged on to a publicly accessible website. Requires a program operator to maintain general liability and professional liability insurance in the amount of \$1 million each; lapse in coverage is immediate cause for program termination.

Requires no later than 180 days after October 1, 2021, that each needle exchange program in operation take the actions needed to be in full compliance with GS 90-113.27, as amended.

Effective October 1, 2021, and applies to needle and hypodermic syringe exchange programs operating in the state on or after that date.

**Intro. by Edwards, Krawiec.**

GS 90

[View summary](#)

[Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health](#)

S 608 (2021-2022) [STATE IT/PROCUREMENT PROTEST PROCEDURES](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT ENACTING PROTEST PROCEDURES FOR THE AWARD OF STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CONTRACTS*.

Enacts new GS 143B-1363, providing as follows. Sets out separate procedures and requirements that apply when an offeror protests (1) an information technology contract that is awarded by an agency if the contract value is \$25,000 or more; (2) an information technology contract awarded by the State CIO if the contract value is \$25,000 or more; and (3) a statewide term or convenience contract, or master agreement, established by the State CIO. Sets out the process for when a party wants additional administrative review after the protest meeting and decision under any of these processes. Makes the State CIO's failure to adhere to the time line and notice requirements for a protest render null and void the State CIO's objections or decision related to that protest. Makes the agency a party in the further review processes when the further administrative review involves a contract awarded by an agency that is \$25,000 or more in value. Requires the agency to establish procedures to address protests by offerors where the award value is less than \$25,000. Makes an agency decision final and subject to review under Article 3A of GS Chapter 150B. Allows imposing sanctions when a protest is determined to be frivolous or to have been filed without any substantial basis or reasonable expectation to believe that the protest was meritorious.

Amends GS 150B-38 to provide that the provisions of GS 143B-1363(e) (specifying that the State CIO's failure to adhere to the time line and notice requirements for a protest render null and void the State CIO's objections or decision related to that

protest) apply if the State CIO does not adhere to the time line and notice requirements of Article 3A, Other Administrative Hearings.

**Intro. by Ballard, Hise.**

[GS 143B, GS 150B](#)

[View summary](#)

**Government, APA/Rule Making, State Agencies, Department of Information Technology**

S 609 (2021-2022) [INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT/COVID-19](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) PANDEMIC*.

Establishes the following for the 2021-22 school year. Prohibits the State Board of Education (State Board) from identifying any additional schools as qualifying schools (defined by statutory cross-reference) for the Innovative School District based on data from the 2020-21 school year. Requires schools identified as qualifying schools for the 2019-20 school year based on data from the 2018-19 school year to remain on the qualifying list, with State law provisions regarding comprehensive support and improvement of selected qualifying schools, and public notice of identification of schools on the three ISD lists, still applicable.

Repeals Section 1(c) of SL 2019-248, as amended, which requires the State Board to select the lowest scoring qualifying school in the State identified based on the school performance score calculated from data for the 2020-21 school year to become an innovative school in the 2022-23 school year.

**Intro. by Ballard.**

[UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, State Board of Education**

S 610 (2021-2022) [ADDRESS DIRECT SUP. STAFFING CRISIS/MEDICAID](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE STAFFING CRISIS IMPACTING INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB) to adjust the per member per month (PMPM) capitation amount paid to LME/MCOs operating capitated contracts for mental health, intellectual and other development disabilities, and substance abuse services to include amounts sufficient to increase wages paid to direct support personnel working in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities to align the wages paid to these direct support personnel with the current wages paid to State employees in State-owned developmental centers. Requires the PMPM capitation amount adjustments to be consistent with the Medicaid State Plan requirements, with validation by DHB of actual amounts necessary to align the wages as specified. Deems the adjustments directed payments made to LME/MCOs under specified federal law in order to assure the increased amounts are used for wage increases. Requires providers receiving any increase in funds from LME/MCOs for wage increases to attest and provide verification that the funds are being used for that purpose, with LME/MCOs authorized to require verifiable methods of accounting. Directs DHB, after the implementation of the above directive, to continue to work with stakeholders and service providers to develop an appropriate methodology for tracking progress towards increasing direct support personnel wages and to determine additional resources needed to achieve the described wage alignment, if any.

Appropriates \$17.5 million in recurring funds for 2021-22 and \$21.8 million in recurring funds for 2022-23 from the General Fund to DHB to be used to adjust the PMPM capitation amount paid to LME/MCOs as directed. Specifies that these funds are a State match to the following recurring federal funds: \$59.4 million for 2021-22, and \$55.6 million for 2022-23. Appropriates the federal funds to DHB to be used for the same purpose. Additionally directs DHB to maximize the intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities and use proceeds for the purpose of implementing the act.

Recommends DHB take into account, for future capitation rate cycles, cost-of-living adjustments and wage and hour cost-of-living adjustments for direct support personnel working in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities in an amount equal to those adjustments made for similar personnel working in State-operated development centers.

Directs DHB to use information from the Office of State Human Resources job classification and wage and hour data for specified employees in comparable job classifications as those direct support personnel working in intermediate care facilities for individuals with intellectual disabilities, in order to establish a baseline methodology for determining the appropriate wages to be paid in accordance with the act. Requires DHB to also account for market-based wage comparisons with private sector employees as specified. Authorizes DHB to accept specified competitive wage and hour and cost data from non-State entities in order to calculate forward looking wage analysis formulas and finalize the exact rates needed to implement the act.

Requires DHB to provide the funds necessary to sustain a rate increase or adjustment made by a LME/MCO in accordance with the act at a time other than the beginning of a rate cycle, for the next rate cycle.

Makes the above provisions effective upon approval by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) approval, as required below.

Directs DHB to seek approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid prior to implementing the rate increase, and directs implementation of the rate increase upon CMS approval to the extent allowed by CMS. Requires the DHHS Secretary to notify and provide verification to the Office of State Budget and Management and the specified NCGA division upon receipt of CMS approval. Effective July 1, 2021. Sunsets the act on June 30, 2023, if the required approval of CMS is not granted by that date.

**Intro. by Burgin, Krawiec, Perry.**

**APPROP, UNCODIFIED**

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers**

S 611 (2021-2022) **SEDIMENT/EROSION CONTROL STOP-WORK ORDERS**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAWS GOVERNING STOP-WORK ORDERS ISSUED UNDER THE SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL ACT*.

Amends GS 113A-65.1 to allow a stop-work order to be issued for a land-disturbing activity that is in violation of the Article or rules adopted under the Article, when the violation is knowing and willful, and off-site sedimentation has eliminated or severely degraded a use or violated a water quality standard (was, limited to eliminated or severely degraded a use) in a lake or natural watercourse or that such degradation or violation is imminent. No longer requires a stop-work order to be served by the sheriff or another person legally authorized to serve process, now requiring only that it be delivered to the person at the site of the activity who is in operational control of the activity; also makes that person responsible for posting the order at the site. Removes the provision making the issuance of a stop-work order a final agency decision. Also removes the provision allowing the Attorney General to file a cause of action to abate the violation that resulted in the stop-work order. Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Mayfield.**

**GS 113A**

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources**

S 612 (2021-2022) **STATE APPROVING AGENCY/VETERANS & MILITARY ED**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE APPROVING AGENCY FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY EDUCATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TO COMPLY WITH RECENT FEDERAL LEGISLATION PROHIBITING THE AGENCY FROM*

*BEING COLLOCATED WITH A UNIVERSITY SYSTEM WHOSE COURSES OR PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION WOULD BE SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE AGENCY.*

Transfers the North Carolina State Approving Agency (SAA) for veterans and military education from the UNC System to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (DMVA) as a Type II transfer, except that the management functions of the SAA are to be performed under the direction and supervision of the Executive Director of the SAA.

**Intro. by Rabon.**

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 613 (2021-2022) **NORTH CAROLINA ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT CREATING THE NORTH CAROLINA ANIMAL ABUSER REGISTRY AND RELATING TO FORFEITING OWNERSHIP OF AN ANIMAL TREATED CRUELLY, SO AS TO PROHIBIT A PERSON CONVICTED OF A REPEAT VIOLATION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS FROM OWNING AN ANIMAL FOR A PERIOD NOT TO EXCEED FIVE YEARS.*

Enacts Article 47A, Animal Abuser Registry, to GS Chapter 14. Defines abuser or animal abuser, animal abuse offense, conviction, and Department. Requires the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to post on its website a publicly accessible list of any persons convicted of an animal abuse offense, defined as any violation of animal cruelty laws set out in Article 47 of GS Chapter 14, beginning January 1, 2022, for offenses committed on or after that date. Requires the list to include the abuser's intake photo, full name, and other identifying data. Prohibits inclusion of personally identifying information, as specified. Requires clerks of court to forward to the Department copies of judgment and the date of birth of all persons convicted of an animal abuse offense within 60 calendar days of the judgment. Requires the Department to maintain the convicted abuser's information for two years following the date of the person's first conviction, and remove the information after two years unless the person has subsequently been convicted of another animal abuse offense during that period. Requires the Department to maintain the information for five years for a person's subsequent conviction for animal abuse, as specified, and remove the information after the five years unless there is a subsequent conviction in those five years. Requires the Department to remove a person's information from the registry if the sole offense requiring the person to be included on the registry is expunged.

Enumerates six activities excepted from Article 47A, including lawful activities conducted for purposes of biomedical research or training, or production of livestock, poultry, or aquatic species.

Amends GS 14-363.2, concerning confiscation of cruelly treated animals. Adds to the statute to provide that any person who is subsequently convicted of any violation of Article 47, GS Chapter 14, after a first conviction forfeits ownership, charge, or custody of all animals and is prohibited from owning an animal for up to five years from the date of conviction. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Marcus, Mayfield.**

GS 14

[View summary](#)

**Animals, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure**

S 614 (2021-2022) **FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT SALES TAX EXEMPTION**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO EXEMPT FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS FROM SALES TAX.*

Amends GS 105-164.13 to exclude from sale tax feminine hygiene products, as now defined under GS 105-164.3. Applies to sales made on or after October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Marcus, Murdock, Mayfield.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)**Government, Tax, Health and Human Services, Health**

S 615 (2021-2022) **DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGE PASSTHROUGH/MEDICAID**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE WAGES OF DIRECT CARE PROFESSIONALS SERVING CERTAIN MEDICAID BENEFICIARIES*.

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Benefits (DHB), to provide a 15% rate increase option for personal care services reimbursed under three specified Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policies that cover State Plan Personal Care Services, the Community Alternatives Program for Children, and the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults. Requires, to be eligible for the 15% rate increase option, that a provider attest and verify it will be used to increase the wages of all direct care professionals it employs no less than fifteen dollars \$15/hour and agree to, at a minimum, provide any data required to be collected under this act.

Requires DHB, upon implementing the rate increase option, to adjust the per member per month (PMPM) capitation amount paid to local management entity/managed care organizations (LME/MCOs) that operate capitated contracts for mental health, intellectual and developmental disabilities, and substance abuse services and to prepaid health plans (PHPs).

Requires LME/MCOs and PHPs to require a provider electing this option to attest and provide verification that the rate increase will be used to increase the wages of all direct care professionals it employs to at least \$15/hour and agree to, at a minimum, provide any data required to be collected under this act.

Makes the rate increase option and the capitation rate adjustments effective only upon both of the following: (1) termination of the rate increases totaling 15% total for providers of personal care services implemented as a result of the nationwide public health emergency as a result of the 2019 novel coronavirus; and (2) Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval of the increase.

Appropriates \$9.3 million in recurring funds for 2021-22 and \$21,850,000 in recurring funds for 2022-23 from the General Fund to DHB to implement the rate increase. Specifies that these funds are to provide the State match of the specified amounts of federal funds; appropriates those federal funds to DHB. Effective July 1, 2021.

Requires each provider receiving the rate increase option to track and report to DHB, using a tool developed by DHB, how that provider used the rate increase to increase the wages of all direct care professionals, beginning within 60 days of receiving the increase and annually thereafter. Specifies information that must be provided to DHB. Specifies provider record keeping requirements and allows DHB to conduct audits at the provider's expense.

Sets out requirements for the notice that providers must give to the direct care professionals they employ on the wage increase.

Requires DHB to create a mechanism by which direct care professionals may report an employer who has failed to pay the required wages and requires DHB to investigate such reports.

Allows DHB to recoup funds when a provider fails to comply with the wage or reporting requirements.

**Intro. by Murdock, Nickel, Mayfield.**

**APPROP, UNCODIFIED**

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,  
Department of Health and Human Services, Health and  
Human Services, Health, Health Insurance, Social Services,  
Public Assistance**

S 616 (2021-2022) **PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER TO PROVIDE AID TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER UPON REQUEST OF THE OFFICER AND TO CLARIFY THAT THE OFFENSE OF RESISTING A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER INCLUDES INTERFERING WITH THE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER*.

Enacts GS 14-223.1, making it a Class 1 misdemeanor for any person 18 or older, upon request of a federal, State, county or municipal law enforcement officer identifiable or identified to the person as such, to unreasonably fail or refuse to aid the officer in effecting an arrest of another person or preventing the commission by another person of a criminal offense. Grants immunity for persons rendering aid pursuant to the act for any injury to or for the death of any person, or loss or damage to property.

Expands GS 14-223 to include interfering with a public officer in the discharge or attempt to discharge the officer's official duty in the Class 2 misdemeanor offense stated therein (currently applies to resisting, delaying, or obstructing the officer in discharging or attempting to discharge an official duty).

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2021.

**Intro. by McInnis, Britt.**

GS 14

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**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management**

S 617 (2021-2022) [SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILDREN OF WAR VETERANS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS WHO ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE AWARDED SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER CLASSES II AND III*.

Increases the caps for higher education scholarship awards for children of wartime veterans under Class II and Class III, as set forth in GS 143B-1226, from 100 to 125 children yearly (Class II is reserved for students whose veteran parent either is or was receiving a specified percentage of compensation for a wartime service-connected disability, was awarded a Purple Heart, as specified; Class III is reserved for students whose veteran parent either is deceased, is or was drawing pension for permanent and total disability, nonservice-connected, or served in a combat zone or engagement for which the Department of Defense authorizes a campaign badge or medal). Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Davis, Daniel, Burgin.**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Higher Education, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 618 (2021-2022) [DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT FUNDS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR DRAINAGE DITCH CLEARING ACTIVITIES IN CERTAIN COUNTIES*.

Appropriates \$12 million in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to be used to clear drainage ditches in Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland and Wayne counties. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by McInnis, Rabon, Britt.**

APPROP, Bladen, Brunswick, Columbus, Duplin, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, Scotland, Wayne

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health**

S 619 (2021-2022) [PROTECT OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ACT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO GIVE PREFERENCE TO APPLICATIONS FOR STATE GRANTS IF THE GRANT WILL DIRECTLY BENEFIT TIER ONE OR TIER TWO COUNTIES THAT ALSO HAVE MILITARY INSTALLATIONS LOCATED IN THAT COUNTY*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 143B-10 to require the heads of principal State departments to give additional scoring weight or preference to grant applicants if: (1) the grant would directly benefit the communities located in a county that is a development tier one or two county; and (2) one of the following military installations is located in whole or in part in the county identified in (1): Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune; Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point; United States Army Fort Bragg; Marine Corps Air Station New River; Seymour Johnson Air Force Base; United States Coast Guard Base Elizabeth City; or Military Ocean Terminal Sunny Point.

**Intro. by Davis, Perry, Steinburg.**

GS 143B

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**Government, State Agencies, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 620 (2021-2022) **MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT DESIGNATING MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Includes whereas clauses. Enacts GS 103-116, as the title indicates.

**Intro. by Davis, Daniel, Burgin.**

GS 103

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**Government, Cultural Resources and Museums, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 621 (2021-2022) **NC MILITARY BUSINESS CENTER FUNDS**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT A DEDICATED NORTH CAROLINA DEFENSE CYBER OFFICE IN THE NC MILITARY BUSINESS CENTER*.

Includes whereas clauses. Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Community College System Office for 2021-22 as additional State funds to support a dedicated NC Defense Cyber Office in the NC Military Business Center. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Davis.**

APPROP

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

S 622 (2021-2022) **2021 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO MAKE BASE BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT OPERATIONS OF STATE DEPARTMENTS, INSTITUTIONS, AND AGENCIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES*.

Due to the fact that Governor Cooper's proposed budget was released on March 24, 2021, and has been available to the public in advance of the filing of S 622, we will not be including a summary of the bill version of his budget. For the content of the bill, please follow the link to the bill on the General Assembly's site above. Further information on the Governor's proposed budget can also be found on the Office of State Budget and Management's website at [https://files.nc.gov/ncosbm/documents/files/BudgetBook\\_web\\_2021-2023.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/ncosbm/documents/files/BudgetBook_web_2021-2023.pdf).

**Intro. by B. Jackson, Harrington, Hise.**

APPROP

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**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Government, Executive**

S 624 (2021-2022) [AMEND NC CONST./RIGHT TO WORK](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO GUARANTEE A PERSON'S RIGHT TO WORK*.

Subject to voter approval on November 8, 2022, adds Section 39 to Article I of the NC Constitution, establishing that the right to live includes the right to work free from undue restraints and coercion. Provides that State policy prohibits the denial or abridging of an individual's right to work on account of membership or nonmembership in a *labor organization*, defined to mean any trade union, labor union, or other labor association. Bars employers from conditioning employment or continued employment upon becoming or remaining a member, or abstaining or refraining from becoming a member, of any labor organization. Applies to contracts entered into, renewed, or extended on or after the date of certification of the amendment. Effective upon certification.

**Intro. by Ford, Burgin.**

CONST

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[Constitution, Employment and Retirement](#)

S 625 (2021-2022) [A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ENACT A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY*.

Revises the individual income tax rate set forth in GS 105-153.7, which currently sets a flat rate at 5.25%, as follows. Sets individual income tax rates based on taxpayer status and income, with tax rates set at 5.15%, 6.5,% and 7% within each taxpayer status, with the rate determined by the taxpayer's income within the ranges provided.

Increases the corporate income tax rate under GS 105-130.3 for C Corporations from 2.5% to 5.25%.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Nickel, Murdock.**

GS 105

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[Business and Commerce, Government, Tax](#)

S 626 (2021-2022) [CONCUSSION PROTOCOL/COUNTY RECREATION](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT A COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL RECREATION PROGRAM TAKE PRECAUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELL-BEING OF ACTIVITY PARTICIPANTS, INCLUDING PROVIDING CONCUSSION AWARENESS INFORMATION AND A RESPONSE PROTOCOL FOR CERTAIN ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 160A-353 to give counties and cities the authority to require precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of county and municipal recreation program participants, including concussion awareness information and a response protocol in case of a suspected concussion. Each county and municipal recreation program with a sports program must adopt a plan to provide participants with concussion awareness information and implement concussion response protocols. Provides immunity from civil damages to any program director, employee, or volunteer of a county or municipal recreation program for any act authorized above or for any related omission unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing. Makes additional technical changes. Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Davis, Hise.**

GS 160A

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[Government, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Health](#)

S 627 (2021-2022) [STATE SURPLUS PROP. COMPUTERS FOR NONPROFITS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ENABLE NONPROFIT ENTITIES THAT DONATE REFURBISHED COMPUTERS TO LOW-INCOME STUDENTS IN THIS STATE TO OBTAIN SURPLUS COMPUTER EQUIPMENT AT LOW OR NO COST FROM THE STATE SURPLUS PROPERTY AGENCY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA.*

Amends GS 143-64.03 by adding that when the State Surplus Property Agency distributes computer equipment to nonprofits that refurbish computers and donate them to low-income students or households, the equipment must be distributed at no cost or the lowest possible cost to the nonprofit.

Adds that nothing in this Article (governing surplus property), or the rules made under the Article, prohibits UNC from conveying surplus computer equipment for free to nonprofits that refurbish computers to donate to low-income students or households. Requires that any such conveyance to a nonprofit be conditioned upon, and in consideration of, the nonprofit's promise to refurbish the computer equipment and its donation to low-income students or households in the State, and the nonprofit's reporting of required information. Prohibits UNC, after an initial conveyance, from conveying additional surplus computer equipment to a nonprofit, unless that nonprofit has met reporting requirements for the prior conveyances. Sets out record keeping requirements. Requires nonprofits to report to the UNC Board of Governors annually by August 1, starting in 2021. Requires the Board of Governors to report the collected information to the specified NCGA committee annually by October 1, beginning in 2021.

**Intro. by Marcus.**

GS 143

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**Government, State Agencies, UNC System, State Government, State Property, Nonprofits**

S 628 (2021-2022) [NATIVE PLANTS RIGHT TO WORK ACT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE USE OF NATIVE NORTH CAROLINA PLANTS AND SEEDS ON STATE PROPERTY AND HIGHWAYS AND ON LOCAL PROJECTS THAT USE STATE FUNDS FOR LANDSCAPING.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 143-341 to require the Department of Administration, in consultation with university system and community college horticulture programs and the North Carolina Forestry Association, to use seeds and plants classified as native to the state on all land owned or leased by the State or a State agency. Exempts (1) nonnative seeds and plants used in landscaping for locations where the primary purpose is crop cultivation, crop and horticulture research, science, botanical gardens, and zoos and (2) nonnative turf grass.

Amends GS 136-18 to require the Department of Transportation, in consultation with university system and community college horticulture programs and the North Carolina Forestry Association, to use seeds and plants classified as native to the state in highway rights-of-way. Makes conforming deletions.

Amends GS 136-41.3 to require cities and towns to use (was, to strongly prefer) seeds and plants classified as native to North Carolina when the use of Powell Bill funds includes landscaping.

Amends GS 143B-135.56 to require the NC Parks and Recreation Authority to require projects awarded matching funds from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for local park and recreation purposes, to use seeds and plants classified as native to the state. Exempts (1) nonnative seeds and plants used in landscaping for locations where the primary purpose is crop cultivation, crop and horticulture research, science, botanical gardens, and zoos and (2) nonnative turf grass.

**Intro. by Rabon, McInnis.**

GS 136, GS 143, GS 143B

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**Agriculture, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Administration,**

**Department of Transportation, State Government, State  
Property, Local Government, Transportation**

S 630 (2021-2022) **IMPROVE BOATING SAFETY**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO IMPROVE BOATING SAFETY IN NORTH CAROLINA BY AMENDING THE BOATING WHILE INTOXICATED LAWS.*

Amends GS 75A-10, which makes unlawful the operation of a vessel or manipulation of water skis or like devices in a reckless manner, manipulation of water skis or similar devices under the influence of an impaired substance, and operation of a vessel while under the influence of an impairing substance or after having consumed sufficient alcohol that the person has an alcohol concentration of 0.08 or more. Adds the following. Allows result(s) of an alcohol screening test or an operator's refusal to submit to be used by a law enforcement officer in determining, is admissible in a court to determine if there is probable cause for believing, or may be used by an administrative agency to determine, if there is reasonable grounds for believing: that the driver committed a violation of the statute, GS 75A-10.3 (death or serious injury by impaired boating) or GS 75A-10.4 (operation of vessel, water skis and personal watercraft by person less than 21 after consuming alcohol or drugs, as enacted); and that the driver consumed alcohol and that the driver had in his or her body previously consumed alcohol, but not to prove particular concentration. Permits negative or law results to be used by the officer, a court, or an administrative agency in determining a person's alleged impairment is caused by an impairing substances other than alcohol in appropriate cases. Conditions alcohol screening test validity upon approval of the Department of Health and Human Services and being conducted pursuant to the Department's regulations regarding its manner and use.

Enacts GS 75A-10.4, making it a Class 2 misdemeanor for a person less than 21 year old to operate a vessel, water skis, or personal watercraft while consuming alcohol or at any time while the person has remaining in his or her body any previously consumed alcohol or controlled substance, excluding lawfully obtained controlled substances taken in therapeutically appropriate amounts. Deems odor of alcohol on the operator's breath insufficient evidence by itself to provide beyond a reasonable doubt that alcohol was remaining in the operator's body in violation of the statutes, unless the operator was offered an alcohol screening test or chemical analysis and refused to provide all required samples. Authorizes the administration of an alcohol screening test to an operator suspected of violation of the statute. Permits the results or refusal to submit to be used by a law enforcement officer, a court, or an administrative agency in determining if alcohol was present in the operator's body. Conditions alcohol screening test validity upon approval of the Department of Health and Human Services and being conducted pursuant to the Department's regulations regarding its manner and use. Deems this offense not a lesser included offense under GS 75A-10. Limits punishment for conviction under the statute and an offense involving impaired driving arising out of the same transaction to the maximum applicable to the offense involving impaired boating, with minimum punishment applicable imposed. Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Edwards.**

**GS 75A**

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and  
Procedure, Government, Public Safety and Emergency  
Management**

S 631 (2021-2022) **CLARIFY VEHICLE REPAIR/DEALERS/INSPECTION**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY PROVISIONS GOVERNING MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR, DEALERS, AND INSPECTIONS.*

Amends GS 20-354.2 as follows. Amends the definition of *motor vehicle repair* to include software updates. Amends the definition of *motor vehicle repair shop* to include companies offering virtual, digital, or Internet-enabled repairs, updates, or software updates.

Amends GS 20-305.2 to make it unlawful for any motor vehicle manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, distributor branch, or subsidiary to own any ownership interest in, operate, or control any motor vehicle dealer in this state or any entity in this state that provides updates at retail, whether performed physically, virtually, or digitally, to file a motor vehicle dealer application. Also includes as an unfair method of competition software updates that are made or provided directly by a

manufacturer or distributor to any motor vehicle located within this state requiring the direct participation of a dealer franchised by the manufacturer or distributor and without the dealer receiving reasonable compensation.

Amends GS 20-305 to make it unlawful for any manufacturer, factory branch, distributor, or distributor branch, or any field representative, officer, agent, or any representative whatsoever of any of them, to prohibit or unreasonably limit or restrict a dealer from using electronic signature technology to facilitate or execute loaner, demonstrator, rental, and test drive agreements and forms.

Amends GS 20-183.4C, concerning vehicle inspections of new vehicles (which must be inspected before being delivered to a purchaser at retail) and used vehicles (which must be inspected before they are offered for sale at retail), by adding that inspection is not required if the vehicle was previously inspected by an affiliated dealership, or between dealerships having common or interrelated ownership, and the inspection occurred either within 180 days from the date of sale or within 300 miles from the mileage recorded at the date of sale.

Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Krawiec, Lowe.**

GS 20

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

S 633 (2021-2022) [NC HEALTHY PREGNANCY ACT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT ADDRESSING PREGNANCY-RELATED DISCRIMINATION AND REASONABLE ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE WORKPLACE.*

Enacts GS Chapter 168B, The North Carolina Healthy Pregnancy Act.

Establishes the public policy of the State to protect and safeguard the right and opportunity of all persons to seek, obtain, and hold employment without discrimination or abridgment by employers. Specifies that the policy includes the right to seek, obtain, and hold employment without discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical condition. Sets forth nine defined terms applicable to the Chapter.

Requires an employer, employment agency, labor organization, place of public accommodation, or covered governmental entity to investigate whether there are reasonable accommodations that can be made, and make reasonable accommodations, once a qualified pregnant person has requested an accommodation or a potential accommodation is obvious in the circumstances. Defines employer to mean any person employing 15 or more employees within the State. Defines covered governmental entity to mean any State department, institution, agency or any political subdivision of the State or any person that contracts with any of those entities for the delivery of public services, including education, health, social services, recreation, and rehabilitation. Defines reasonable accommodation to mean, with regard to employment, making reasonable physical changes in the workplace, including 17 enumerated accommodations, ranging from making existing facilities used by employees readily accessible to providing closer access to parking. Enumerates six actions that the term does not require of any employer, including hiring one or more employees for the purpose of enabling the pregnant person to be employed, or making any changes that would impose an undue hardship, as defined, on the employer.

Requires a qualified pregnant person requesting a reasonable accommodation to apprise the employer, employment agency, labor organization, place of public accommodation, or covered governmental entity of her pregnancy. Also requires the qualified pregnant person requesting a reasonable accommodation to submit any necessary medical documentation, make suggestions for possible accommodations known to the person, and cooperate in any discussion and evaluation aimed at determining possible or feasible accommodations.

Requires persons affected by pregnancy to be treated the same for all employment-related purposes as other persons not affected but similar in their ability or inability to work. Establishes the following five actions by an employer which are unlawful, discriminatory practices: (1) to discriminate against a pregnant person with respect to compensation or the terms, conditions, or privileges of employment on the bases of a condition related to pregnancy, including failing to hire or consider for employment or promotion, or to discharge from employment; (2) for an employment agency to fail or refuse to refer for employment or otherwise discriminate against a pregnant person on the basis of a condition related to pregnancy; (3) for a person controlling a training or retraining program to discriminate against a pregnant person with respect to admission into or

employment in the training or retraining program on the basis of a condition related to pregnancy; (4) for an employer, labor organization, or employment agency to fail to meet the duties under the Chapter; and (5) for an employer to fail or refuse to make reasonable accommodations for limitations arising from pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions for an applicant or employee if so requested by the applicant or employee, unless the employer demonstrates that it would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the business of the employer.

Prohibits employers, employment agencies, or labor organizations from taking retaliatory action, as specified, against any person, applicant, or member because the person has opposed any practice made a discriminatory practice by the Chapter or because the person has testified, assisted, or participated in any manner in proceedings under the Chapter. Provides examples of retaliation under the statute, including requiring an employee to take leave if another reasonable accommodation can be provided. Further, prohibits any entity or person covered under the Chapter from retaliating against, or coercing, intimidating, threatening, or interfering with a person who exercises rights under the Chapter or assist a person in exercising the person's rights under the Chapter.

Requires employers to post notices of the rights under the Chapter in the employer's place of business, as specified. Also requires individual notice (1) in writing to new employees, (2) orally or in writing to existing employees within 120 days after the effective date of the Chapter, and (3) orally or in writing within 10 days to any employee who notifies the employer of her pregnancy.

Establishes a civil action for enforcement of rights under the Chapter. Authorizes the court to award declaratory or injunctive relief and back pay of no more than three years prior to the date the action was filed. Also authorizes the court to award attorneys' fees to the substantially prevailing party. Establishes a three year statute of limitations, as specified.

Sets forth provisions regarding construction of the Chapter.

Applies to acts or omissions occurring on or after October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Murdock, Batch, Marcus.**

GS 168B

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Employment and Retirement, Government, Health and Human Services, Health**

S 634 (2021-2022) [FUNDS FOR EQUITY BEFORE BIRTH](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO EQUITY BEFORE BIRTH*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 from the General Fund to Equity Before Birth to supplement the income of mothers in the absence of paid parental leave and to cover the costs of essential services and support.

Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Murdock, Waddell, Foushee.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Health and Human Services, Health**

S 635 (2021-2022) [FUNDS FOR MAAME](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO MOBILIZING AFRICAN AMERICAN MOTHERS THROUGH EMPOWERMENT*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 from the General Fund to Mobilizing African American Mothers through Empowerment Inc. to be used to provide services to mothers who are not eligible for public services and support and unable to afford these resources privately.

Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Murdock, Foushee.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Health and Human Services, Health, Social Services, Public Assistance**

S 636 (2021-2022) [DONOR PRIVACY](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PRIVACY OF CHARITABLE DONORS*.

Amends GS 55A-16-05 to prohibit the disclosure of the identity of any person giving monies or other tangible goods to a nonprofit corporation for furthering a charitable purpose of the nonprofit without the consent of the nonprofit's board of directors. Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Adds to the public records laws of GS Chapter 132, enacting GS 132-1.1(i) to deem the identity of any person giving monies or other tangible goods to a nonprofit corporation for furthering a charitable purpose of the nonprofit confidential, except as specifically required by State or federal law. Amends GS 55A-16-24 to make new GS 132-1.1(i) applicable to any attachments or other information submitted in association with specified required IRS forms of nonprofit corporations that identify donors. Amends GS 58-3-6 to make new GS 132-1.1(i) applicable to any any attachments or other information submitted in association with specified required IRS forms of nonprofit corporations who issue charitable annuities that identify donors. Amends GS 131E-214.14 to make new GS 132-1.1(i) applicable to any attachments or other information submitted in association with specified required IRS forms of nonprofit corporations regarding patient data that identify donors. Amends GS 131F-6 to make new GS 132-1.1(i) applicable to any attachments or other information submitted in association with specified required IRS forms of nonprofit corporations regarding licensure to solicit contributions that identify donors.

Amends GS 163-278.5 to make new GS 132-1.1(i) not applicable to required donor disclosures under Article 22A (Regulating Contributions and Expenditures in Political Campaigns) or Article 22M (Legal Expense Funds).

Amends GS 138A-34 to prohibit public servants from using or disclosing information gained in the course of their official duties or by reason of the public servant's official position in violation of new GS 132-1.1(i).

Amends GS 120-87 to prohibit legislators from using or disclosing confidential information gained in the course of their official activities or by reason of the legislator's official position in violation of new GS 132-1.1(i).

Amends GS 14-234.1, making it a Class 1 misdemeanor for officers or employees of the State or political subdivisions of the State to use or disclose confidential information gained in the course of their official capacity in violation of GS 132-1.1(i).

Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Sanderson, Steinburg, Krawiec.**

[GS 55A](#), [GS 58](#), [GS 120](#), [GS 131E](#), [GS 131F](#), [GS 132](#), [GS 138](#), [GS 163](#)

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Elections, General Assembly, Public Records and Open Meetings, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Health, Nonprofits**

S 637 (2021-2022) [GUILFORD COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY/FUNDS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF MENTAL HEALTH, DEVELOPMENTAL*

*DISABILITIES, AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES, FOR A GRANT-IN-AID TO GUILFORD COUNTY FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FACILITY-BASED MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS CENTER FOR ADULTS.*

Appropriates \$3.85 million in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 and \$3.85 million in nonrecurring funds for 2022-23 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services, to be used as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Garrett, Robinson.**

[APPROP, Guilford](#)

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Mental Health**

S 638 (2021-2022) [PFAS MANUFACTURE/USE/SALE BAN](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO BAN THE MANUFACTURE, USE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PFAS AND PFAS-CONTAINING PRODUCTS WITHIN THE STATE IN ORDER TO PROTECT PUBLIC HEALTH.*

Enacts Part 8, Ban Manufacture, Use, and Distribution of Certain Toxic Chemicals, of Article 21A, GS Chapter 143.

Makes it unlawful to knowingly manufacture, use, process or distribute polyfluoroalkyl and its substances (PFAS). Excludes the use and distribution of products specifically authorized or required to contain PFAS by federal law.

Permits the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ, Secretary) to assess penalties up to \$5,000 for a violation of a requirement of Part 8, or up to \$25,000 if the violation involved a hazardous waste, and up to \$10,000 for repeat offenses, with penalties for multiple occurrences capped at \$200,000 for any month. Provides for considerations to be considered in determining penalty amounts, and procedures for civil penalties, including notice. Allows for contested case petitions within 30 days following the receipt of notice of the assessment.

Provides for remission requests within 30 days of receipt of the notice assessment, which must be accompanied by a waiver of the right to a contested case hearing and a stipulation to the facts on which the assessment is based. Allows for remission requests to be resolved by the Secretary and the violator, and if they are unable to resolve the request, then the Secretary must deliver the request and recommended action to the Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions of the Environmental Management Commission.

Requires the Secretary to request the Attorney General to begin a civil action in specified superior court for penalties not paid within 30 days of notice of the assessment, or 30 days after a final agency decision or order has been served if the violator contests the case or requests remission. Sets a three year statute of limitations on civil actions from the date of the final agency decision or court order service.

Appropriates \$100,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2021-22 fiscal year to fund additional monitoring and enforcement activities to address PFAS contamination.

Includes a severability clause.

**Intro. by Garrett, Woodard, Mayfield.**

[APPROP, GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

**Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR)**

S 639 (2021-2022) [COMMUTER RAIL STUDY/PIEDMONT TRIAD](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO STUDY THE COST AND FEASIBILITY OF A COMMUTER RAIL SERVICE LINKING DENSE POPULATION CENTERS IN THE NORTH CAROLINA PIEDMONT TRIAD.*

Requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to study the cost and potential economic benefits of a commuter rail service linking dense population centers in the North Carolina Piedmont Triad; requires the study to incorporate population and development growth projections through the year 2050. Sets out six issues that must be considered as a part of the study, including daily ridership estimates and projected annual operation costs.

Requires DOT to report to the specified NCGA committee and division by December 29, 2023, on the study and any recommendations for planning and construction of a commuter rail service in the Piedmont Triad.

Allows \$100,000 of the funds appropriated from the Highway Fund to DOT for 2021-22 to be used for the study.

Effective July 1, 2021, and expires December 29, 2023.

**Intro. by Garrett, Lowe.**

[APPROP, STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation](#)

S 640 (2021-2022) [POST-COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT FUNDING](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE POST-COVID-19 APPROPRIATION FUNDING TO CREATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY AND THE WINSTON-SALEM COMMUNITY AT-LARGE THROUGH THE RENOVATION OF THE K.R. WILLIAMS AUDITORIUM.*

Transfers \$57 million in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 from the General Fund to the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (Fund). Appropriates that amount in nonrecurring funds for 2021-22 from the Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to be used as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Lowe, Krawiec.**

[APPROP, Forsyth](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System](#)

S 641 (2021-2022) [REMOVE MH/IDD/ODD FACILITIES FROM CON REVIEW](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT ELIMINATING FROM CERTIFICATE OF NEED REVIEW PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS, INTERMEDIATE CARE FACILITIES FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITIES, AND OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT CENTERS LOCATED IN TIER ONE AND TIER TWO COUNTIES.*

Amends GS 131E-176 which defines terms as they are used in Article 9, Certificate of Need, by: (1) excluding from the term chemical dependence treatment facility a opioid use disorder treatment center located in a Tier 1 or 2 county; (2) excluding psychiatric facilities from the term health service facility; (3) removing psychiatric beds from the definition of the term health service facility bed; (4) removing the term intermediate care facility for individuals with intellectual disabilities; and (5) removing the term psychiatric facility. Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Burgin, Krawiec, Perry.**

[GS 131E](#)

[View summary](#)

[Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

S 642 (2021-2022) [TECHNOLOGY AND DATA INSTITUTE FUNDS/PILOT](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE TECHNOLOGY AND DATA INSTITUTE TO OPERATE A PILOT PROGRAM TO EXPAND HIGH-SPEED INTERNET ACCESS TO STUDENTS OF LOW-INCOME FAMILIES IN CENTRAL NORTH CAROLINA.*

Appropriates \$1 million for 2021-22 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management to be allocated to the Technology and Data Institute, a public service consortium of public entities, for a pilot program to expand high-speed internet access to students of low-income families in central North Carolina, beginning with the 2021-22 school year. Gives priority to students without sufficient broadband access for online learning and focuses on developing a sustainable model for the design, building, and operation of the technology infrastructure and services required for high-quality and easy-to-use internet access for all Pre-K through postdoctoral students in the 12-county Piedmont region. Effective July 1, 2021

**Intro. by Garrett.**

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

**Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Human Resources (formerly Office of State Personnel), Public Enterprises and Utilities**

S 645 (2021-2022) **SBI EMERGENCY PEN REGISTER/TRAP AND TRACE**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ALLOW THE SBI TO USE A PEN REGISTER OR TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS*.

Identical to [H 148](#), filed 2/24/21.

Makes multiple amendments to GS Chapter 15A, Article 12 (Pen Registers; Trap and Trace Devices), by modifying existing sections GS 15A-260, 261, and 263 and adding new GS 15A-265 allowing the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to conduct warrantless use of a pen register or trap and trace device in emergency situations.

Reworks GS 15A-260 (definitions) by putting existing definitions into separate subdivisions and adding definitions for law enforcement officer and location data.

Amends GS 15A-261 (prohibition and exceptions) by allowing for any one of the listed exceptions to be sufficient for overcoming the general prohibition on the installation or use of a pen register or trap and trace device, and by adding a new exception in subdivision (b)(4) for emergency circumstances as provided in GS 15A-265.

Amends GS 15A-263 (issuance of order for pen register or trap and trace device) by reordering subsection (a) regarding what a judge must find before entering an ex parte order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or trap and trace device. Changes the standard for situations involving the commission of a felony, Class A1 or Class 1 misdemeanor offense from reasonable suspicion to probable cause. Adds additional ground which consists of finding that there exists an emergency situation as provided in GS 15A-263(a)(1)a. and that the information gained from the use of the device will be of material aid in locating an individual at risk of death or serious physical harm.

Enacts new GS 15A-265 authorizing an SBI agent, with permission from the agent's supervisor, to install without a warrant on an emergency basis a pen register or trap and trace device, but requiring the agent to seek an order approving the installation or use within 48 hours; without the order, the installation or use must immediately terminate when the information is sought, the request for an order is denied, or 48 hours has passed, whichever occurs first. Requires the agent to determine either (1) there exists immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury to any person and there are grounds upon which an order could be entered pursuant to GS 15A-263(a)(1) to authorize the installation and use of a pen register or trap and trace device or (2) an individual has disappeared, a child has run away, or a person is missing for which no criminal charge per GS 15A-263(a)(1)a. is readily apparent, but where there may be an immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury based wholly or partly on the individual's age, physical condition, or circumstances surrounding his or her disappearance. Makes an agent who violates the provisions regarding seeking an order or termination of the use of a pen register or trap and trace device guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Requires a person who provides assistance to be reasonably compensated for expenses incurred. Requires any information gained from the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices under this statute that is not required to be retained for discovery purposes in a criminal prosecution to be destroyed as soon as practicable upon the resolution of the emergency situation.

Effective December 1, 2021, and applies to installations occurring on or after that date, and any criminal penalties created by this act apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

**Intro. by Britt, Daniel, Sanderson.**

GS 15A

[View summary](#)**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure**

S 647 (2021-2022) **END RACIAL PROFILING IN TRAFFIC STOPS ACT**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES TO DEVELOP POLICIES PROHIBITING THE USE OF RACIAL PROFILING IN TRAFFIC STOPS AND SEARCHES, TO REQUIRE THE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL TO GATHER AND STUDY DATA REGARDING TRAFFIC STOPS, AND TO CREATE A TRAFFIC STOP ADVISORY BOARD.*

Enacts Article 2E, End Racial Profiling in Traffic Stops Act, to GS Chapter 20. Declares racial profiling to stop and search motorists against public policy and a violation of civil rights. Defines *racial profiling* as the detention, interdiction, or other disparate treatment of an individual on the basis, in whole or in part, of the perceived racial or ethnic status of the individual; excludes when the status is used in combination with other identifying factors in seeking to apprehend a specific suspect whose racial or ethnic status is part of the suspect's description. States the purpose of the act.

Directs all law enforcement agencies in the State to adopt a written policy that prohibits the stopping, detention, interdiction, or search of any person when the action is motivated in whole or in part by considerations of race, color, ethnicity, age, gender, or sexual orientation (protected status); excludes when when the status is used in combination with other identifying factors in seeking to apprehend a specific suspect whose protected status is part of the suspect's description.

Directs the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government (SOG) to conduct an annual study of routine traffic stops made by NC State troopers, municipal police officers, and county sheriffs and deputies, including an analysis of data received from the entities upon request by SOG with 14 data points for each traffic stop conducted, at minimum. Directs SOG to perform an in-depth analysis of data from at least eight municipal police departments per year, prioritizing those that have the highest racial disparity in traffic stops. Requires SOG to develop and implement guidelines that can be used by law enforcement agencies to avoid the use of racial profiling in stops and searches based on the results of the required studies.

Establishes the 11-member Traffic Stop Advisory Board (Board) within the Office of Attorney General, using available resources, to advise SOG with respect to the annual reports and creation of standardized methods and guidelines for law enforcement agencies to avoid use of racial profiling in stops and searches. Provides for membership, with appointment by the NCGA, the Governor, and the Attorney General, as specified, and includes the President of the NC Association of Chiefs of Police.

Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Chaudhuri, Mohammed, Murdock.**

STUDY, GS 20

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Justice, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government**

S 648 (2021-2022) **STATE EMPLOYEES/PAID PARENTAL LEAVE**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE EIGHT WEEKS OF PAID PARENTAL LEAVE TO ALL STATE EMPLOYEES.*

Enacts GS 126-8.6, requiring eligible State employees, defined to mean employees employed full-time in a permanent, probationary or time-limited position having been continuously employed by the State agency for at least 12 months immediately preceding their first request for paid parental leave, to be granted eight weeks or 320 hours of fully paid parental leave. Requires each State agency head to adopt and implement the State employee paid parental leave program as follows. Requires parental leave to be granted upon verification of a qualifying event so long as the employee provides 10 weeks' notice of the intention to use parental leave unless good cause exists for not giving timely notice. Requires parental leave to be granted on a prorated and equitable basis for part-time State employees who work at least half-time. Mandates that parental leave be in addition to shared leave or other leave authorized by federal or state law, and requires the leave to be available

without exhaustion of the employee's sick and vacation leave. Allows agency discretion in granting parental leave subject to public safety concerns. Bars using parental leave for retirement purposes and provides that parental leave has no cash value upon termination of employment. Specifies that the statute does not grant a private right of action.

Enacts GS 126-5(c17), making new GS 126-8.6 applicable to all State employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.

**Intro. by Chaudhuri, Batch, Britt.**

GS 126

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies, State Government, State Personnel**

S 650 (2021-2022) **CLARIFY AUTO DEALER LAWS GOVERN RV SALES**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THAT THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS LICENSING LAW GOVERNS RECREATIONAL VEHICLE DEALERS AND MANUFACTURERS*.

Amends GS 20-305.5 to no longer exclude from the scope of the identified statutory provisions governing motor vehicle dealers and manufacturer licensing, manufacturers or dealers who sell or distribute only nonmotorized recreational trailers. Eliminates the provision explicitly providing for the applicability of the identified statutory provisions for all recreational vehicle manufacturers, factory branches, distributors, and distributor branches who sell or distribute any motorized recreational vehicle in the State unless specifically exempted. Makes conforming changes.

Enacts GS 20-305.8, explicitly establishing that the motor vehicle dealer and licensing laws set forth in Article 12 are applicable to all dealers, wholesalers, sales representatives, manufacturers, factory branches, distributors, and distributory branches or other persons who sell or distribute, any recreational vehicle.

Effective October 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Burgin.**

GS 20

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle**

S 652 (2021-2022) **EXPAND FIRE GRANT FUND**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT FUND FOR TARGETED RELIEF TO FIRE DEPARTMENTS LOCATED IN ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED AREAS*.

Appropriates \$5 million for 2020-21 from the General Fund to the Department of Insurance to be allocated to the Volunteer Fire Department Fund. Makes grants made using these funds subject to GS 58-87-1 (governing the use of funds in the Volunteer Fire Department Fund), with the following changes: (1) limits grants to counties designated as tier one; (2) sets out specified match requirements based on the fire department's annual budget; and (3) caps grant amounts at \$50,000.

Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by deViere, Woodard, Lowe.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Insurance**

S 655 (2021-2022) **STATE IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING INITIATIVE**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES*.

Amends GS 120-32 to require the Legislative Services Commission to implement a mandatory annual training program on implicit bias for legislators and legislative employees to help them recognize implicit bias, understand the root of implicit biases, and become skilled in ways to counter implicit bias that impacts interactions, activities, and decision making in the workplace. Requires the training to include both in-person training and remote on-demand components. Amends GS 126-4 to require the State Human Resources Commission to adopt policies and rules to implement the same training for all State employees. Amends GS 126-5 to make the State Human Resources Commission's annual implicit bias training requirements applicable to all State employees, including employees of the judicial branch, Council of State agencies, and UNC.

**Intro. by Waddell.**

GS 120, GS 126

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, UNC System**

S 657 (2021-2022) [SNAP ELIGIBILITY/DRUG FELONY CONVICTIONS](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE FELONY OFFENSES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP)*.

Amends GS 108A-25.2 to distinguish eligibility under the Work First Program and food and nutrition services program for individuals convicted of drug offenses. Expands food and nutrition services program eligibility to include individuals convicted of any controlled substance felony offenses. Eliminates the current six month waiting periods and required treatment for individuals convicted of Class H or I controlled substance felony offenses to be eligible to participate in the food and nutrition services program. Instead, allows for immediate participation if the individual has been released from custody or is satisfactorily serving a probation sentence and the individual is enrolled in a substance abuse treatment program, with services beginning upon proof of enrollment in a substance abuse treatment program. Also requires the individual to show proof of completion to maintain benefits, with failure to show proof of completion resulting in suspension or discontinuation of the benefits until proof of successful completion can be provided, consistent with federal law. Applies to felony offenses committed on or after January 1, 2022.

**Intro. by Waddell, Bazemore.**

GS 108A

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Public Assistance**

S 658 (2021-2022) [REVISE SNAP ELIGIBILITY/DRUG FELONY OFFENSES](#). Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO ALLOW INDIVIDUALS CONVICTED OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE FELONY OFFENSES WHO HAVE COMPLETED THEIR SENTENCES TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) BENEFITS*.

Amends GS 108A-25.2 to distinguish eligibility under the Work First Program and food and nutrition services program for individuals convicted of drug offenses. Expands food and nutrition services program eligibility to include individuals convicted of any controlled substance felony offenses. Eliminates the current six month waiting periods and required treatment for individuals convicted of Class H or I controlled substance felony offenses to be eligible to participate in the food and nutrition services program. Instead, allows for immediate participation if the individual has been released from custody, or, if not in custody, after the date of conviction. Requires the individual to successfully complete or continuously and actively participate in a substance abuse treatment program. Applies to felony offenses committed on or after January 1, 2022.

**Intro. by Waddell, Bazemore.**

GS 108A

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Criminal Law and Procedure, Health**

**and Human Services, Social Services, Public Assistance**

S 659 (2021-2022) **FUNDS/ELIMINATE NC PRE-K WAITLIST STATEWIDE**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO ELIMINATE THE WAITLIST FOR THE NC PREKINDERGARTEN (NC PRE-K) PROGRAM STATEWIDE*.

Appropriates \$12.5 million recurring each year of the 2021-23 biennium, from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, to eliminate the waitlist for the NC Prekindergarten program. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Waddell, Bazemore.**

**APPROP**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Preschool, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services**

S 661 (2021-2022) **NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS**. Filed Apr 6 2021, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FUNDS FOR THE NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS ATTENDING PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION*.

Appropriates \$11 million in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2021-23 biennium from the General Fund to UNC Board of Governors to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority to be used as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Davis.**

**APPROP**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System**

S 675 (2021-2022) **ADD PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO DEFENDER DISTRICT 16B**. Filed Apr 7 2021, *AN ACT TO ADD TWO ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO THE ROBESON COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE IN PUBLIC DEFENDER DISTRICT 16B*.

Identical to [H 369](#), filed 3/23/21.

Appropriates \$120,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Office of Indigent Defense Services for each year of the 2021-23 biennium to create and fund two new full-time assistant public defender positions in the Robeson County Public Defender's Office in Public Defender District 16B, increasing the number of assistant public defender positions in the Robeson County Office from nine to 11. Effective July 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Britt.**

**APPROP, Robeson**

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Criminal Justice, Government, Budget/Appropriations**

S 710 (2021-2022) **A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY**. Filed Apr 7 2021, *AN ACT TO ENACT A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY*.

Revises the individual income tax rate set forth in GS 105-153.7, which currently sets a flat rate at 5.25%, as follows. Sets individual income tax rates based on taxpayer status and income, with tax rates set at 5.25%, 6.5,% and 7% within each taxpayer status, with the rate determined by the taxpayer's income within the ranges provided.

Increases the corporate income tax rate under GS 105-130.3 for C Corporations from 2.5% to 5%.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

**Intro. by Nickel, Murdock.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Government, Tax**

S 712 (2021-2022) [STATE IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING INITIATIVE](#). Filed Apr 7 2021, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ANNUAL IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR STATE OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.*

Identical to [S 655](#), filed 4/6/21.

Amends GS 120-32 to require the Legislative Services Commission to implement a mandatory annual training program on implicit bias for legislators and legislative employees to help them recognize implicit bias, understand the root of implicit biases, and become skilled in ways to counter implicit bias that impacts interactions, activities, and decision making in the workplace. Requires the training to include both in-person training and remote on-demand components. Amends GS 126-4 to require the State Human Resources Commission to adopt policies and rules to implement the same training for all State employees. Amends GS 126-5 to make the State Human Resources Commission's annual implicit bias training requirements applicable to all State employees, including employees of the judicial branch, Council of State agencies, and UNC.

**Intro. by Waddell.**

GS 120, GS 126

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, UNC System**

## ACTIONS ON BILLS

## PUBLIC BILLS

### **S 419: CAPITAL & CAMPUS PROJECTS-NCCU.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

### **S 430: REGIONAL FIRE TRAINING CENTER FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

### **S 434: FUNDS FOR NC TROOPERS ASSOC. CAISSON UNIT.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

### **S 442: FUNDS FOR VETERANS/HBOT.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

### **S 456: CHILD DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE APPRENTICE PILOT.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 461: FUND HEALTH CTR. PROGRAMS/HEALTH DISPARITIES.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 463: DEPLOY CHILD WELFARE & AGING COMPONENT/NCFAS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 464: SMART START FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 492: ESTABLISH NC TEXTILE MUSEUM.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 500: FUNDS/AIRBORNE & SPECIAL OPERATIONS MUSEUM.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 502: INTERDISCIPLINARY HEALTH ED TEACHING PILOT.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 521: RAISE THE ROOF.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 523: BROADBAND AFFORDABILITY PROG./DIGITAL EQUITY.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 524: SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 525: NC STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 526: A TIME FOR SCIENCE FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 527: LOST SHEEP RESOURCE FOUNDATION FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 528: FUNDS FOR VARIOUS GREENE CO. ORGANIZATIONS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 533: REQUIRE ELIMINATION OF VACANT POSITIONS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 537: EXPAND NC INFANT SAFE SLEEP PROGRAM/FUNDS.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 544: 2021 WATER SAFETY ACT.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 558: VETERANS BUSINESS PARTICIPATION/TRACKING.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 559: FUNDS/ORANGE ST SCHOOL/UMOJA GROUP.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 560: ELECTRIC VEHICLE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 561: INCREASE FUNDING FOR RAPE VICTIM ASSISTANCE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 562: HVAC IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUB. SCHOOLS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 563: RENEWABLE ENERGY TAX CREDIT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 564: NC PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 565: SUPPORTING LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 566: INVESTING IN LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 567: ACC BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT HOLIDAY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 568: EXPAND MINORITY BUSINESS CAPACITY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 569: CONSUMER PRIVACY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 570: HOLD HARMLESS STAR RATINGS/ERS ASSESS. RESUME.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 571: CODIFY/EXPAND RENEWAL SCHOOL SYSTEM.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 572: COAL ASH/STRUCTURAL FILL MODIFICATIONS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 573: EQUAL PAY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 574: LIFE INSURANCE BENEFICIARY CHANGES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 575: PHARMACISTS IMPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH NEEDS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 576: RECOVERY REBATE FOR WORKING FAMILIES ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 577: FUNDS/EST. BLACK WOMEN & GIRLS TASK FORCE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 578: STUDY ON FIXED IN-STATE TUITION PLAN FOR UNC.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 579: EXPAND INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IN NC.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 580: TITLE V PERMIT FEES/EFFECTIVE DATE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 581: REDISTRICTING CRITERIA FOR 2021.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 582: HIGH SCHOOL ADJUNCT INSTRUCTORS/CC PREP.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 583: STANDARD DEDUCTION; LATE PENALTIES; SALT CAP.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 584: REINSTATE MERCHANT'S DISCOUNT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 585: FUNDS/ELIMINATE NC PRE-K WAITLIST STATEWIDE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 586: STUDY LIPEDEMA.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 587: CURB UNDERWRITING ABUSES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 588: LOW-INCOME HOUSING TAX CREDITS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 589: SMALL BUSINESS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT ACCOUNT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 590: EASTERN TRIAD WORKFORCE DEV. FUNDS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 591: BUSINESS INCOME TAX DEDUCTION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 592: PLUG-IN ELECTRIC VEHICLE TAX CREDIT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 593: SPECIAL EDUCATION DUE PROCESS HEARINGS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 594: MEDICAID ADMIN. CHANGES & AMP TECH. CORRECTIONS.-AB**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 595: TASK FORCE ON ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 596: REMOVE DRIVERS LIC. REVOCATION/FEEES/PENALTIES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 597: FUNDS/WATER AND SEWER BONDS FOR PRISON.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 598: REQUIRE 20-MINUTE PAID WORK BREAKS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 599: CLARIFY TERMINAL GROIN DEFINITION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 600: STUDY AUTOMATION AND THE WORKFORCE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 601: FUNDS & AMP AUTHORITY/APPOINT NC SURGEON GENERAL.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 602: FLOOD RESILIENCY AND PREVENTION ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 603: INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES RECOVERY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 604: ADDRESSING NONACADEMIC BARRIERS TO SUCCESS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 605: NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2021.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 606: PUBLIC SCHOOLS PPA ELIGIBILITY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 607: SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER SAFETY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 608: STATE IT/PROCUREMENT PROTEST PROCEDURES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 609: INNOVATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT/COVID-19.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 610: ADDRESS DIRECT SUP. STAFFING CRISIS/MEDICAID.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 611: SEDIMENT/EROSION CONTROL STOP-WORK ORDERS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 612: STATE APPROVING AGENCY/VETERANS & AMP MILITARY ED.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 613: NORTH CAROLINA ANIMAL ABUSE REGISTRY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 614: FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCT SALES TAX EXEMPTION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 615: DIRECT CARE WORKER WAGE PASSTHROUGH/MEDICAID.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 616: PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 617: SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILDREN OF WAR VETERANS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 618: DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT FUNDS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 619: PROTECT OUR MILITARY INSTALLATIONS ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 620: MILITARY SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 621: NC MILITARY BUSINESS CENTER FUNDS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 622: 2021 GOVERNOR'S BUDGET.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 623: RENT MY RIDE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 624: AMEND NC CONST./RIGHT TO WORK.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 625: A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY.**

*Senate: Held As Filed*

**S 626: CONCUSSION PROTOCOL/COUNTY RECREATION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 627: STATE SURPLUS PROP. COMPUTERS FOR NONPROFITS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 628: NATIVE PLANTS RIGHT TO WORK ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 629: NORTH CAROLINA DERBY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 630: IMPROVE BOATING SAFETY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 631: CLARIFY VEHICLE REPAIR/DEALERS/INSPECTION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 632: NORTH CAROLINA MOMNIBUS ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: RefTo Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 633: NC HEALTHY PREGNANCY ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 634: FUNDS FOR EQUITY BEFORE BIRTH.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 635: FUNDS FOR MAAME.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 636: DONOR PRIVACY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 637: GUILFORD COUNTY MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY/FUNDS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 638: PFAS MANUFACTURE/USE/SALE BAN.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 639: COMMUTER RAIL STUDY/PIEDMONT TRIAD.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 640: POST-COVID-19 DEVELOPMENT FUNDING.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 641: REMOVE MH/IDD/ODD FACILITIES FROM CON REVIEW.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 642: TECHNOLOGY AND DATA INSTITUTE FUNDS/PILOT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 643: INVEST NC BOND ACT OF 2021.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 644: LANDLORD/TENANT CHANGES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 645: SBI EMERGENCY PEN REGISTER/TRAP AND TRACE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 646: MARIJUANA JUSTICE AND REINVESTMENT ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 647: END RACIAL PROFILING IN TRAFFIC STOPS ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 648: STATE EMPLOYEES/PAID PARENTAL LEAVE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 649: NORTH CAROLINA VENTURE FUND.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 650: CLARIFY AUTO DEALER LAWS GOVERN RV SALES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 651: AMEND VETERINARY PRACTICE ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 652: EXPAND FIRE GRANT FUND.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 653: UNC/CC FINANCIAL AID PROGRAM CONSOLIDATION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 654: K-12 COVID-19 PROVISIONS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 655: STATE IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING INITIATIVE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 656: EQUITY IN JUSTICE ACT OF 2021.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 657: SNAP ELIGIBILITY/DRUG FELONY CONVICTIONS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 658: REVISE SNAP ELIGIBILITY/DRUG FELONY OFFENSES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 659: FUNDS/ELIMINATE NC PRE-K WAITLIST STATEWIDE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 660: REGULATE DISSEMINATION OF BOOKING PHOTOGRAPH.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 661: NEED-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS/PRIVATE INSTITUTIONS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 662: COVID-19/PARENT-INITIATED PEP.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 663: NC PROMISE FUND RESERVE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 664: HBCU SUCCESS ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Appropriations/Base Budget. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 665: PREVENT UNLICENSED MENTAL HEALTH FACILITIES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

*Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 666: UPDATE REQS./ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 667: AMEND CERTIFICATES OF RELIEF.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 668: ANTI-PENSION SPIKING AMDS & AMP LITIG. MORATORIUM.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 669: ENACT MEDICAL CANNABIS ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 670: ELECTRIC & AMP ZERO EMISSION VEH. CONSUM EDUC.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 671: CHANGES TO THE K-12 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 672: DACA RECIPIENTS/IN-STATE TUITION.***Senate: Filed***S 673: UP MINIMUM WAGES/NO SUBMINIMUM OR EXEMPTIONS.***Senate: Filed***S 674: CARBON TAX.***Senate: Filed***S 675: ADD PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO DEFENDER DISTRICT 16B.***Senate: Filed***S 676: HUNGER-FREE CAMPUS INITIATIVE/COVID-19.***Senate: Filed***S 677: NC HOPE TUITION PROGRAM.***Senate: Filed***S 678: CONFIDENTIALITY/GA INFORMATION REQUESTS.***Senate: Filed***S 679: LET RETIRED MUNICIPAL LEOS WORK FOR SHERIFFS.***Senate: Filed***S 680: REMOTE NOTARIZATION ACT.***Senate: Filed***S 681: MODIFY CHARITABLE SOLICITATION LICENSING LAWS.***Senate: Filed***S 682: CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD.***Senate: Filed***S 683: PREHOSPITAL STROKE PROTOCOLS/EMS PERSONNEL.***Senate: Filed***S 684: MODIFY TEACHING FELLOWS/CC REQUIREMENT.***Senate: Filed***S 685: PERSONAL PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT.***Senate: Filed***S 686: CALL CENTER ECO. DEV. INCENTIVE CLAWBACK.***Senate: Filed***S 687: SECOND AMENDMENT FREEDOMS.***Senate: Filed***S 688: SPORTS WAGERING.***Senate: Filed***S 689: COUNTY BROADBAND AUTHORITY.***Senate: Filed***S 690: MODIFICATION OF MEMBERSHIP OF DOA BDS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 691: ADJUST DRUG EDUCATION SCHOOL ENROLLMENT FEE.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 692: USE OF OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 693: EXPEDITE CHILD SAFETY AND PERMANENCY.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 694: BLACK FARMER RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 695: STATEWIDE MEDICAL ACTION PLAN FOR SCHOOLS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 696: PROTECT NC CITIZENS FROM RADON.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 697: LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER FAIRNESS ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 698: END MENSTRUAL POVERTY ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 699: POLLUTER PAYS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 700: BALANCED POLITICAL DISCUSSION IN CLASSROOMS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 701: RESTORE PUBLIC SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 702: STATE CLEAN ENERGY GOAL FOR 2050.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 703: STRENGTHEN CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION SYSTEM.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 704: PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LEAKING GARBAGE TRUCKS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 705: CREATE DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 706: CAROLINA'S GUARANTEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 707: DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS & AIRPORT AUTHORITIES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 708: ID CARD REQUESTS/JUVENILES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 709: ALLOW CLERKS TO DISMISS CERTAIN IVC CASES.***Senate: Filed***S 710: A TAX PLAN FOR A JUST RECOVERY.***Senate: Filed***S 711: NC COMPASSIONATE CARE ACT.***Senate: Filed***S 712: STATE IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING INITIATIVE.***Senate: Filed***S 713: GO BIG FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION.***Senate: Filed***S 714: HUMAN TRAFFICKING/CHILD EXPLOITATION PREV.ACT.***Senate: Filed***S 715: HOSPITALITY BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.***Senate: Filed***No local actions on bills**

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