

The Daily Bulletin: 2023-04-17

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 622 (2023-2024) [MENSTRUAL EQUITY FOR ALL ACT](#). Filed Apr 13 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE MENSTRUAL EQUITY FOR ALL ACT*.

Amends GS 105-164.13 to exclude from sales tax feminine hygiene products, as now defined under GS 105-164.3; excludes from the term grooming and hygiene products, as defined. Effective October 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$500,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to be used for the Feminine Hygiene Products Grant Program, effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by von Haefen, Dahle, Belk, Staton-Williams.

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction, Health and Human Services, Health](#)

H 623 (2023-2024) [THE KELLY SPANGLER STUDY BILL](#). Filed Apr 13 2023, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND OTHER ENTITIES TO STUDY THE EXEMPTION OF ALLOWING THE USE OF THE SOCIAL WORKER TITLE FOR LOCAL AND STATE EMPLOYEES*.

The NC Social Work Certification and Licensure Act (Act) currently allows for individuals employed by an agency of a local or State governmental entity holding the title "social worker" or any variation thereof, to be exempt from the Act (the Exemption).

Contains whereas clauses. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) in conjunction with certain specified State agencies and nonprofits, to coordinate a study to examine and evaluate the efficacy and use of the exemption under GS 90B-10(c) to allow any individual who is employed by an agency of a local or State government entity to use the title "social worker" without having a degree in social work and any modifications to the current provision that should be considered by the NCGA. Requires the Department to submit a report with any recommendations and findings to the specified NCGA committees and the Fiscal Research Division by April 1, 2024.

Intro. by Crawford, Sasser, Reeder, Staton-Williams.

[STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Social Services](#)

H 624 (2023-2024) [RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL*.

Amends GS 20-158 by adding subsections concerning the use of traffic control photographic systems (photo systems) by the Department of Transportation and local authorities to enforce regulations related to vehicle control at intersections with traffic signals. Defines a statutory violation detected by a photo system as when a vehicle enters and proceeds into the intersection after the onset of the signal display of a steady circular red or steady red arrow controlling traffic approaching the intersection

and the applicable red clearance interval has expired. Mandates that all photo systems be designed with an appropriate red clearance interval. Requires that the duration of the yellow light change interval and the red clearance interval at intersections where photo systems are in use be no less than the yellow light change interval and the red clearance interval durations specified on the traffic signal plan of record, signed and sealed by a licensed professional engineer, and comply with the most recently adopted Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. Effective 60 days after the date the act becomes law. Applies to any enforcement of GS 20-158 by a photo system, including by any municipality authorized to use traffic control photographic systems to enforce GS 20-158 under GS 160A-300.1, as amended.

Intro. by Paré.

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

Motor Vehicle, Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Local Government, Transportation

H 625 (2023-2024) [THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT OF 2023*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 143-460, which includes the definitions for use in Article 52, Pesticide Board, of GS Chapter 143. Adds and defines the term neonicotinoid pesticide as any pesticide containing a chemical belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals, including, but not limited to, imidacloprid, nithiazine, acetamiprid, clothianidin, dinotefuran, thiacloprid, thiamethoxam, and any other chemical designated by the North Carolina Pesticide Board (Board) as belonging to the neonicotinoid class of chemicals. Excludes from the term pet care products used to mitigate fleas, mites, ticks, heartworms, or other animals harmful to the health of a domesticated animal, personal care products used to mitigate lice or bedbugs, or any product regulated under the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Act.

Amends GS 143-443 to make it illegal to distribute, sell, or offer for sale within this state or deliver for transportation or transport in intrastate commerce or between points within this state through any point outside this state any neonicotinoid pesticide to the public at retail, unless the seller is authorized to sell a restricted use pesticide. Also makes it unlawful to use a neonicotinoid pesticide, unless the person is: (1) a licensed pesticide applicator, or a person working under the direct supervision of a licensed pesticide applicator; (2) a farmer, or person working under the direct supervision of a farmer, who uses the pesticide for agricultural purposes; or (3) a veterinarian using the pesticide in the practice of veterinary medicine.

The above provisions are effective October 1, 2023.

Requires the Board, with the assistance and input of the Pesticide Advisory Committee, to monitor the final pollinator risk assessments undertaken by the US Environmental Protection Agency and report on any legislative or regulatory changes necessary to protect pollinators within the state, taking into account findings and any recommendations of the risk assessment. Requires the Board to forward its report and recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes to the Commissioner and the Environmental Review Commission within six months of the completion of the final pollinator risk assessments for neonicotinoid pesticides.

Requires the Board to study whether the State should have the authority to regulate the use and sale of seeds treated with systemic insecticides, and report study results to the Environmental Review Commission no later than November 1, 2023.

Intro. by Harrison, Setzer, Prather, Ager.

[GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

Agriculture, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources

H 626 (2023-2024) [CANNABIS LEGALIZATION & AMP REGULATION](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO LEGALIZE AND REGULATE THE SALE, POSSESSION, AND USE OF CANNABIS IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Part I.

Enacts new GS Chapter 18D, establishing registration and licensure requirements and procedures governing the operation of cannabis establishments, and making possession and use of cannabis for personal use by persons at least 21 years of age lawful within the statutory possession limit. States legislative findings. Excludes Article 43 of GS Chapter 90, as enacted and governing medical cannabis, from the scope of the new Chapter. Creates the Office of Social Equity (Office) within the Department of Public Safety, and provides for the Office's executive director, funding, and powers and duties, which include defining social equity applicant, advising the Department of Public Safety, providing reporting, investigating establishments, and administering three funds established by the act: the Community Reinvestment and Repair Fund, the Social Equity Fund, and the Cannabis Education and Technical Assistance Fund.

Charges the Department of Public Safety (Department) with cannabis establishment registration issuance and annual renewal. Provides for conditional approval for applicants that have not yet purchased or leased the establishment location. Subjects registered establishments to Department inspection. Requires establishments operating with on-site consumption to be issued a permit, license, or registration that expressly allows such operation by the local regulatory authority of the locality. Authorizes local prohibition of establishments by ordinance, so long as transportation through or delivery within the locality is permitted. Authorizes localities to govern the time, place, manner, and number of operations consistent with the Chapter. Bars host community agreements whereby establishments or applicants provide anything of value to the locality.

Makes possession, transfer, and use of cannabis by persons at least 21 years of age lawful within the statutory possession limit, defined as: (1) two ounces of cannabis, excluding concentrated cannabis or cannabis products; (2) 15 grams of concentrated cannabis; (3) cannabis products containing no more than 2,000 mg of tetrahydrocannabinol; (4) six cannabis plants; or (5) any additional cannabis produced by the person's cannabis plants provided that possession exceeding these limits is limited to the same property of cultivation. Establishes restrictions for cultivating cannabis plants, including requiring cultivation out of public view and taking reasonable precautions to secure the plants from unauthorized access by minors, with violations constituting infractions punishable by up to \$750 or up to 75 hours of community service. Makes it an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$50 or up to five hours of community service, to smoke cannabis in a public place or in an area of an on-site consumption establishment where smoking is prohibited. Makes it an infraction to operate a motor vehicle or motorized device used for transportation, punishable by a fine of up to \$250, up to 25 hours of community service, and/or license suspension for up to six months. Provides increased penalties for subsequent offenses.

Makes it an infraction, punishable by a fine of up to \$150 or up to 15 hours of community service, for a person under 21 to present false identification in procuring or attempting to procure cannabis, or gaining access to a cannabis establishment. Makes specified extractions from cannabis a Class E felony, punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000. Makes possession, use, distribution, or manufacture of cannabis accessories by persons 21 or older lawful, subject to Department rules. For violations, makes a first offense an infraction punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 and forfeiture, and a second offense a Class A1 misdemeanor punishable by a fine of up to \$5,000 and/or up to 180 days in jail and forfeiture. Establishes penalties and court-ordered entry into substance abuse treatment and/or education programs for juveniles and persons over 18 for possessing, using, or purchasing cannabis or cannabis accessories. Prohibits discrimination in employment and professional licensure and public assistance benefits, and prohibits arresting, prosecuting, or assessing a penalty solely for conduct permitted by the Chapter. Provides other protections relating to child custody or visitation, State or local government benefits and entitlement, medical care, and conditions of pretrial release.

The Chapter does not prevent government employers from disciplining employees or contractors for consumption in the workplace or working while impaired, nor prevent penalization of conduct under the influence which would constitute negligence or professional malpractice. Provides for the Chapter to not apply when it conflicts with the governmental employers' federal obligations or federal monetary or licensing-related benefits. Deems operation of a registered establishment lawful, subject to the Chapter, Department rules, and local authorities. Details requirements for establishments to verify that consumers are 21 or older and provides for an affirmative defense to prosecutions for violations. Provides protections from discrimination for the provision of services to or previous employment at a cannabis establishment. Provides for the rights of property owners and protections for tenants with prior cannabis-related convictions. Deems contracts related to establishment operation enforceable. Details restrictions of law enforcement and State and local governments with respect to conduct permitted under the Chapter.

Requires the Department to adopt necessary implementing rules within 180 days of January 1, 2022, as specified, and include 27 specified regulations.

Establishes a 30% cannabis excise tax for sales of cannabis and cannabis products, excluding sales of medical cannabis pursuant to applicable law. Details tax collection and administration. Allows municipalities to levy a local excise tax of 2%, excluding sales of medical cannabis. Details local tax collection and administration. Provides for apportionment of the cannabis excise tax for specified funds and purposes.

Effective January 1, 2026, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Part II.

Enacts GS 15A-145.8B, mandating the automatic expunction of convictions for offenses involving marijuana or hashish that is legal under new GS Chapter 18D by July 1, 2026. Charges the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with determining eligible offenses, creating an electronic list of offenses, and providing the list to clerks of superior court by October 1, 2025, to prepare and complete orders of expungement. Provides for expungement of related government records, except DNA records and samples stored, and reversal of administration actions taken as a result from the charges or convictions expunged. Provides for the effect of the expunction. Effective January 1, 2024.

Part III.

Makes conforming repeals in the following statutory sections to reflect the new enactments: GS 90-87, GS 90-94, GS 90-95, GS 90-113.22A, GS 90-113.21, GS 105-113.106, GS 105-113.107, GS 105-113-107A, GS 105-113.108, GS 106-134, GS 148-64.1, and GS 90-94.1.

Makes conforming changes to GS 105-113.106, defining dealer to exclude possession of marijuana.

Effective January 1, 2026.

Part IV.

Includes a severability clause.

Provides a savings clause for prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of the act.

Intro. by Autry, Alexander, Harrison, Hawkins.

[GS 15A](#), [GS 18D](#), [GS 90](#), [GS 105](#), [GS 148](#)

[View summary](#)

[Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections \(Sentencing/Probation\), Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies, Department of Public Safety, Tax, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Public Assistance](#)

H 627 (2023-2024) [ON-SITE WASTEWATER RULES IMPLEMENTATION](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO IMPLEMENT ITS ON-SITE WASTEWATER RULES DIFFERENTLY AND READOPT ITS RULES CONSISTENT WITH THAT IMPLEMENTATION*.

Sets forth 20 wastewater rules and requires the Commission for Public Health (Commission) to implement those rules as discussed below. Requires the Commission to enact permanent rules so that they are consistent with how the act requires that each rule to be implemented. Exempts each of the new rules from the review by the Rules Review Commission under the APA. Applies the delayed effective date provisions of the APA (GS 153B-21.3) to each of the new rules. Sunsets each section of the act when permanent rules consistent with each of its provisions become effective.

Requires the Commission to implement 15A NCAC 18E.0102 (pertaining to applicability of certain wastewater rules), the Applicability Rule, as follows. Specifies that the rules of 15A NCAC 18E do not apply to any wastewater system for which an Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, Operation Permit, Notice of Intent to Construct, Authorization to Operate, Certificate of Completion, or an equivalent approval (collectively, the Approvals) has been issued prior to January 1, 2024, unless the design daily flow or wastewater strength is increased. Sets forth how to determine whether wastewater strength has

increased. Requires wastewater systems permitted prior to January 1, 2024, to comply with the setback requirements in place at the time the relevant permit or authorization was issued. Specifies that wastewater systems that were installed prior to July 1, 1977, and existing wastewater systems with permits that cannot be found are not considered to meet certain conditions set forth in Rule 18E .0302(c)(5) or (c)(6) of Subchapter E of Chapter 18 of Title 15A of the North Carolina Administrative Code. Requires all wastewater systems to comply with 15A NCAC 18E.1303(a)(1).

Requires the Commission to implement the following definitions for 15A NCAC 18E .0105 (the definitions rule). Accessory dwelling unit means a secondary dwelling unit established in conjunction with and clearly subordinate to a primary dwelling unit, whether a part of the same structure as the primary dwelling unit or a detached dwelling unit on the same lot; requires the design daily flow for an accessory dwelling unit to be based on 120 gallons per day per bedroom, or 60 gallons per day per person when occupancy exceeds two persons per bedroom. Applicant means the individual who submits an application to the local health department for an Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, Operating Permit, Notice of Intent to Construct, Authorization to Operate, or existing system authorization. Serial distribution means a distribution method in which effluent is loaded into one trench and fills it to a predetermined level before passing through a pipe to the succeeding trench at the same or a lower elevation.

Sets forth places where applications for an Improvement Permit and Construction Authorization must be submitted under 15A NCAC 18E.0202.

Requires that 15A NCAC 18e .0203, Improvement Permit Rule, be implemented so that an improvement permit includes the usable depth to a limiting condition for a long term acceptance rate for initial and repair systems and percent slope.

Requires an Existing System Approvals for Reconnections and Property Additions Rule (15A NCAC 18E.0206) to be implemented as follows. Permits the local health department, an Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator, or a certified inspector to issue an approval for an existing system reconnection when the new or improved facility is within the same footprint of the previous existing facility and when there is no increase in design daily flow or wastewater strength. Requires an applicant to obtain additional authorizations and certifications when there is an increase in design daily flow or wastewater strength, if the location of the facility is not positioned in the same footprint of the previous existing facility, or prior to the relocation of a structure or the expansion of an existing facility's footprint that requires the issuance of a building permit but does not increase design daily flow or wastewater strength. Specifies required content of written documentation necessary for such additional approvals. Applies this rule to the issuance of the existing system approvals for modifications or expansions.

Requires an Alternative Wastewater System Permitting Options Rule (15A NCAC 18E .0207) to be implemented to provide for two methods to obtain wastewater system approval, either by using a professional engineer or an authorized on-site wastewater evaluator. Specifies requirements related to technologies employed in the preparation of an engineering report. Bars certain changes to the applicant site and requires engineer or wastewater evaluator approval for other modifications. Allows for certain permits to be obtained. Requires that alternate wastewater systems issued under GS 130A-336.2 (pertaining to alternate wastewater system approvals for nonengineered systems) follow rules established by the NC On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0301, Owners Rules, by specifying that an entire initial wastewater system and repair area is not required to be on property owned or controlled by the wastewater system owner.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0303, Licensed or Certified Professionals, to bar a local health department from requiring any system other than those specifically identified in the rule to be designed by a professional engineer, regardless of system complexity or the local health department's experience with the proposed system type.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0401, Design Daily Flow, as follows. Establishes the minimum design daily flow for a single-bedroom dwelling unit as 120 gallons per day per bedroom or 60 gallons per day per person when occupancy exceeds two persons per bedroom, whichever is greater.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0402, Septic Tank Effluent characteristics Rule, to require the maximum nitrogen concentration for domestic strength effluent to not exceed 100 mg/L of Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0504, Soil Wetness Conditions, to require in determining soil wetness conditions, requires that color value will be determined based on a chroma 2 or less using the Munsell Soil Color Book.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0506, Saprolite Rule, as follows. Requires that saprolite must be evaluated for suitability by the local health department using pits at locations approved by the authorized agent. For saprolite sites evaluated for suitability by a licensed soil scientist, other than a licensed soil scientist employed as an authorized agent, permits the evaluation to be made using borings or pits to evaluate saprolite.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0508, Available Space Rule, as follows. In determining available space, specifies that a wastewater system certified in accordance with NSF International Standard 350 or that has data from a two-year field demonstration documenting that the wastewater system meets NSF International Standard 350 or better may eliminate the requirement for repair area when installed in Group I soils. Specifies total nitrogen effluent standards and limits on treatment.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0805, Tank Leak Testing and Installation Requirements Rule as follows. Requires for a hydrostatic test the tank be filled to the specified location and allows the tank manufacturer to among specified negative pressures for vacuum tests,

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0903, Bed Systems Rule, to require bed system sites have a soil texture of Group I, II, or III to a depth of 48 inches below the naturally occurring soil surface or to a depth of 12 inches below the infiltrative surface, whichever is deeper.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0905, Prefabricated Permeable Block Panel Systems Rule, to specify the minimum location of prefabricated permeable block panel system trenches.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .0906, Sand Lined Trench Systems Rule, to specify when sand lined trench systems can be used and for calculating trench length.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .1101, General Dosing System Requirements Rule, to allow dosing system tests to be conducted by the installer of the on-site wastewater system and does not require testing to be witnessed by the local health department. Sets out entities that must be given the option to witness the test and sets out documentation requirements.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .1303, Owner Responsibilities for Wastewater System Operation and Maintenance Rule as follows. Requires owners of malfunctioning wastewater systems to contact the local health department, regardless of how the system was permitted.

Implements 15A NCAC 18E .1306, System Malfunction and Repair Rules as follows. Allows for alternative methods of repair using the local health department's, professional engineer's or authorized onsite wastewater evaluator's best professional judgment when it is not possible to repair a wastewater system in compliance with Subchapter 18E of NCAC Chapter 15A. Requires documentation of the rules being altered to complete the repair. Specifies that the owner of the wastewater system is liable for any damages caused by a system repair and requires them to agree to all terms and conditions set forth by the local health department, professional engineer, or authorized onsite wastewater evaluator that developed the repair, including operation and maintenance requirements. Specifies that the best professional judgment alternative may not be used when: (1) the Improvement Permit, Construction Authorization, Notice of Intent to Construct, or Authorization to Operate indicates the repair area and system type, however, this does not preclude the owner from applying for a different wastewater system than the one specified on the permit as a repair; (2) there are reductions in setback to drinking water wells less than what is required in 15A NCAC 18E.0601 (3) there are reductions in setbacks to surface water bodies greater than 50% of the allowed setback as indicated in 15A NCAC 18E.0601 or (4) there is no reasonable expectation that the repaired wastewater system will function to eliminate public health hazards.

Effective January 1, 2024.

Intro. by Brody, Dahle, N. Jackson, Cairns.

UNCODIFIED

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Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Environment, Government, APA/Rule Making, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Local Government, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health, Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 628 (2023-2024) [AMEND ON-SITE WASTEWATER/ENVIRONMENT STATUTES](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTES GOVERNING ON-SITE WASTEWATER SYSTEMS, TO MAKE CERTAIN NC ON-SITE WASTEWATER CONTRACTORS AND INSPECTORS CERTIFICATION BOARD CHANGES, TO CREATE AN ADVISORY WASTEWATER CODE COUNCIL, TO MAKE CERTAIN WASTEWATER PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL CHANGES, TO CLARIFY FEE CALCULATION FOR EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PLAN REVIEWS, TO DIRECT DEQ TO SEEK APPROVAL FROM USEPA TO STREAMLINE IMPLEMENTATION OF REQUIREMENTS OF THE SEDIMENTATION POLLUTION CONTROL ACT AND FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR STORMWATER DISCHARGES FROM CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES, TO PROHIBIT FORCED SEWER CONNECTIONS IN CERTAIN SITUATIONS, TO PROHIBIT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FROM REQUIRING PAYMENTS FROM OWNERS OF STORMWATER CONTROL SYSTEMS FOR FUTURE MAINTENANCE OR REPLACEMENT COSTS OF A SYSTEM, AND TO DIRECT THE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO CREATE AN ON-SITE WASTEWATER EXISTING SYSTEM AFFIDAVIT.*

To be summarized.

Intro. by Brody, Dahle, N. Jackson, Cairns.

[View summary](#)

H 629 (2023-2024) [MATTHEW'S BILL FOR CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO PROMOTE GREATER ACCESS TO CLUBHOUSE MODEL PSYCHOSOCIAL REHABILITATION DAY PROGRAMS FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH SEVERE AND PERSISTENT MENTAL ILLNESS IN NORTH CAROLINA.*

Directs the Division of Health Benefits of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHB, DHHS) to develop and implement, to the extent authorized under GS 180A-54.1A, a plan for a statewide reimbursement methodology for behavioral health services provided to adult Medicaid beneficiaries with severe and persistent mental illness who are served by a clubhouse psychosocial rehab day program. Sets three required components of the plan, including incentives for clubhouses to become accredited by Clubhouse International, and consistent rate application throughout regions served by LME/MCOs. Directs DHB to report to the specified NCGA committee by December 1, 2023, on the proposed reimbursement methodology, implementation timeline, costs, and education and training required for LME/MCOs and DHHS staff.

Appropriates \$2.5 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to the NC Clubhouse Coalition, Inc. for 2023-24 to be used to fund member clubhouses for current programs, expansion of services or locations served, accreditation of a clubhouse, or staff training and professional development. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by White, Blackwell, Potts, Crawford.

APPROP

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

[View summary](#)

H 630 (2023-2024) [ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT.*

Titles the act as the Economic Stability Act. Enacts GS 95-31.1, requiring a call center employer that employs at least 200 employees for the purpose of customer service or back-office operations to notify both their employees and the Commissioner of Labor at least 15 days prior to relocating its call center, or relocating one or more facilities or operating units comprising of 70% or more of the center or unit's total volume. Excludes part-time employees from the threshold that brings call center employers within the scope of the act. Applies to relocations occurring on or after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Everitt.

GS 95

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Employment and Retirement,
Government, State Agencies, Department of Labor**

H 631 (2023-2024) **UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STATUS ENHANCEMENT FUND**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STATUS ENHANCEMENT FUND TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA*.

Enacts GS 116-29.6, establishing the University Research Status Enhancement Fund (Fund) as a nonreverting special fund to be administered by the UNC Board of Governors (BOG). Directs the BOG to allocate Fund moneys at their discretion to assist high research activity institutions in diversifying their degree-awarding programs and attracting additional research faculty. Further details the purpose of the Fund, including upgrading "high research activity institutions" into "very high research activity institutions," defined by classification as R2 or R1, respectively, by the most recent report of the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education.

Appropriates \$40 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Fund for 2023-24 to be used for the limited purposes described in GS 116-29.6, as enacted.

Intro. by Reives, Quick, Clemmons, T. Brown.

[APPROP, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 632 (2023-2024) **RURAL BROADBAND TRANSFORMATION ACT**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO BROADBAND BY MODERNIZING BROADBAND SPEED BENCHMARKS, PERMITTING NON-DEPLOYMENT ACCESS TO CERTAIN AREAS RECEIVING BROADBAND GRANTS, AND FACILITATING THE INSTALLATION OF BROADBAND INFRASTRUCTURE*.

Part I

Adds defined terms *broadband service* (Internet access service of at least 25 megabits per second download and at least 3 megabits per second upload, regardless of the technology or medium used to provide the service), *served area* (a designated geographic area that presently has access to broadband service; may also include individual homes and businesses), *underserved area* (a designated geographic area that (1) presently does not have broadband service and (2) has transmission speeds of less than 25 megabits per second download and 3 megabits per second upload; may also include individual homes and businesses), and *unserved area* (a designated geographic area that presently does not have broadband service; may also include individual homes and businesses) to definitions provision of GS 143B-1320 (pertaining to the Department of Information Technology). Makes conforming changes to definitions in the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program (GS 143B-1373), the Satellite-Based Broadband Grant Program (GS 143B-1374), county broadband acceleration (GS 153A-459), GS 160A-340 (definitions provision of statute pertaining to communication services by cities), and GS 146-29.2 (pertaining to lease or interests in real property for communication purposes of state land).

Effective July 1, 2024, further amends the definitions in GS 143B-1320 as amended by the act. Defines broadband service to mean internet access service of at least 100 megabits per second download and at least 20 megabits per second upload. Defines underserved area as a designated geographic area that (1) presently does not have broadband service and (2) has transmission speeds of less than 100 megabits per second download and 20 megabits per second upload. Defines unserved area as a designated geographic area that presently does not have broadband service or presently has transmission speeds of 25 megabits per second download and 3 megabits per second upload, or less, but does not have transmission speeds meeting the definition of broadband service.

Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Information Technology (Department) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year to update requirements of broadband programs administered by the Department that are impacted by the increased broadband speed benchmarks established in the act and other administrative costs associated with broadband grant programs. Effective July 1, 2023.

Part II

Enacts new GS 153A-461 giving counties the authority to install or maintain broadband infrastructure to be leased to a private provider if: (1) the lessee is a person operating for profit in this state to provide broadband services to customers and (2) the county has at least one of the following: more than 4.75% of the county is without a provider of broadband infrastructure, or a major military installation. Enacts new GS 160A-499.6 giving cities the authority to install or maintain broadband infrastructure to be leased to a private provider if: (1) the city has at least 60% of its population lying in one of the counties in GS 153A-461(a)(2) (has more than four 4.75% of the county without a provider of broadband infrastructure, or a major military installation) and (2) the lessee is a person operating for profit in this state to provide broadband services to customers. Both statutes contain the following provisions. Defines broadband infrastructure as wireline or wireless infrastructure capable of providing terrestrially deployed Internet access service with transmission speeds of at least 25 megabits per second (Mbps) download and at least three megabits per second upload (25:3) or as defined by the Federal Communications Commission, whichever speeds are faster. Allows using ad valorem taxes or any other unencumbered funds in exercising the authority granted under these statutes. Requires holding a public hearing before adopting any resolution at a regular meeting stating intent to install broadband infrastructure for the purpose of leasing in accordance with the specified statute. Sets out requirements for the notice of the hearing, including requiring that it be published at least once, no less than one week before the hearing date. Requires the county/city to prepare a report before beginning installation of broadband infrastructure, to be available in the clerk's office for at least 90 days before the public hearing, that contains: (1) a business plan for providing broadband infrastructure; (2) results of a feasibility study to determine needs and available resources and information specified in the statute. Specifies that the statutes do not grant authority, and must not be construed to do so, to a county/city to use broadband infrastructure constructed under these statutes to provide communications services as defined in under the specified statute or in accordance with Article 16A of GS Chapter 160A (Provision of Communications Service by Cities).

Amends GS 153A-149 and GS 160A-209 to allow levying property taxes to construct wireline and wireless infrastructure. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2023.

Amends GS 159-81 to allow broadband infrastructure for the purpose of leasing under new GS 160A-272.5 to be revenue bond projects.

Enacts new GS 160A-272.5 governing the lease of broadband infrastructure installed or maintained in accordance with GS 153A-461 or GS 160A-499.6 to a private provider for delivery of service to customers. Allows the lease to be for up to 25 years. Requires property to be leased under a resolution of the governing board that authorizes the execution of the lease agreement adopted at a regular governing board meeting; requires 30 days' notice. Requires all leases to meet the following requirements: (1) the lease must be entered into on a technology neutral basis, (2) the lease must be open to similarly situated private providers on comparable terms and conditions, and (3) requests for proposals must be solicited by the governing board before adopting the resolution authorizing the execution of the lease--sets out additional requirements for the requests for proposals and the related advertisements. Specifies that in determining the term of a proposed lease, periods that may be added to the original term by options to renew or extend must be included. Applies to leases entered into on or after October 1, 2023.

Amends GS 160A-321 to provide that as to transfers to another governmental entity, a city-owned public enterprise must not be discontinued in its entirety (was, discontinued), unless the proposal to discontinue in its entirety is first submitted to a vote and approved by a majority of voters.

Amends GS 160A-340.2 by prohibiting broadband infrastructure constructed by a city for the purpose of leasing under new GS 160A-272.5 from being used to provide communication services under Article 16A (Provision of Communications Service by Cities) of GS Chapter 160A.

Effective October 1, 2023, except as otherwise provided.

Part III

Amends GS 136-18 to give the Department of Transportation (DOT) authority to construct conduits for telecommunications cables within the State right-of-way, with construction borne through the leasing of the conduit to private telecommunications companies, provided that the construction and leasing is not otherwise prohibited by any other federal or State law. Creates the Conduit Installation Account in the Information Technology Fund to receive revenues from conduit leasing with funds in the Account used to fund the installation and maintenance of telecommunications conduit within the State right-of-way and to support the administration of this new subdivision. Requires excess revenues in the fund to remain in the fund to advance additional projects across the state.

Enacts GS 136-44.18 to require DOT, in collaboration with the Department, to include in its planning for roads with a minimum length of 2,500 feet the installation of conduit for telecommunications cables when: (1) less than 90% of households in the county where the road project is located have access to high-speed data or telecommunications services and (2) before advertising the project, a provider of high-speed data Internet provides DOT with a letter indicating its interest in leasing the conduit and enters into a lease agreement or provides a bond in the amount of the anticipated construction costs.

Requires DOT, in collaboration with the Department, to report annually beginning by May 1, 2024, to the specified NCGA committee on its progress in implementing the program to install telecommunications conduit authorized by this act. Specifies information that is to be included in the initial and subsequent reports.

Part IV

Amends GS 143B-1373 (the GREAT Program) to require private providers proposing broadband projects with a completion time line of greater than two years to disclose written documentation justifying the time line. Amends the time period that protected project area remains protected under the program from just until project completion to until project completion, or three years, whichever is lesser. Specifies that the project protection will not prohibit another eligible project from deploying broadband infrastructure in a protected project area if that broadband infrastructure deployment is necessary to provide broadband service to the unserved area identified in a grant application submitted under this section. Bars protests of applications proposing deployment of broadband infrastructure in a protected project area. Adds further specifications to the Broadband Infrastructure Office's required scoring system of project applicants. Permits that office to prioritize applications that don't exceed the two-year timeline set forth in GS 143B-1373(c). Makes conforming changes to Section 38.4(a) of SL 2021-180 (base budget appropriations pertaining to the GREAT Program).

Permits the Office of State Budget and Management (OMB), in consultation with the Director of the Budget, to reallocate State Fiscal Recovery Fund funds appropriated by an act of the General Assembly under all of the following conditions only: (1) the appropriated funds were recouped or unallocated and are otherwise unexpended as of the effective date of the act; (2) the reallocation is made to support broadband infrastructure project grants and the use of funds are otherwise allowable under applicable federal regulations. Bars reallocation from being used for any new activity, purpose, or program; (3) to the extent that funds reallocated pursuant to the act are unappropriated, including interest accrual exceeding what is anticipated in the act, specifies that those funds are appropriated and available for use pursuant to the act; and (4) requires OMB to report to the Fiscal Research Division on reallocations made pursuant to the act. Sets forth the General Assembly's intent regarding the use of the funds received by the State from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (P.L. 117-58) intended for broadband.

Part V

Requires the North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory) to study the impacts of lack of broadband service on access to emergency services in rural areas of the State and focus specifically on impacts to elderly and disabled residents in those affected areas. Local governments and the Department must assist the Collaboratory with any data needed to assist in the study. Requires the Collaboratory to report the results of the study to the specified NCGA committees on or before February 1, 2024. Appropriates \$1 million from the General Fund to the Collaboratory in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year to be used to conduct the study. Specifies that the funds will revert in accordance with State law. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Reives, Crawford, Charles Smith, Jeffers.

[APPROP, STUDY, GS 136, GS 143B, GS 146, GS 153A, GS 159, GS 160A](#)

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[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Information Technology, Department of Transportation, Office of State Budget and Management, Public Enterprises and Utilities](#)

Identical to [S 731](#), filed 4/6/23.

Names the Act the “Shine Like Hailey Parade Safety Act.” Enacts new GS 20-157.2, pertaining to parade vehicles. Requires persons managing, conducting, or sponsoring a parade in a municipality with a population of 35,000 or more to obtain a permit that meets the following requirements: (1) that, no earlier than seven days before the date of the parade, the police department or fire department inspects each motor vehicle for safety and verifies that the vehicle is registered and insured; and (2) the operator of the motor vehicle is at least 25 years of age and has a valid drivers license. Permits municipalities with a population of less than 35,000 to include the same requirements for a parade permit. Makes conforming changes to GS 20-169 (powers of local authorities).

Intro. by Sossamon, Winslow.

GS 20

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, Local Government, Transportation

H 634 (2023-2024) [FED PREEMPTION OF STATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY FEDERAL PREEMPTION OF STATE LAW GOVERNING OPERATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS*.

Enacts GS 63-94.1, explicitly providing that the the provisions of Article 10 regulating the operation of unmanned aircraft systems are preempted by the federal government's exclusive sovereignty of airspace pursuant to federal law, and any contradictory interpretation or application of Article 10 is void.

Intro. by Torbett.

GS 63

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Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation

H 635 (2023-2024) [TRANSFER RECOGNITION PROCESS OF INDIAN TRIBES](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO TRANSFER OFFICIAL STATE RECOGNITION FOR INDIAN TRIBES IN NORTH CAROLINA FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY*.

Includes whereas clauses. Amends GS 143B-406, removing the following statutory duties of the NC State Commission of Indian Affairs (Commission): subpoena of any information or documents deemed necessary in conducting public hearings on matters relating to Indian Affairs; establishment of appropriate procedures to provide for legal recognition by the State of presently unrecognized groups; provision of official State recognition by the Commission for those groups; and initiation of procedures for recognition of those groups by the federal government. Repeals nine administrative rules adopted by the Commission of Indian Affairs set forth in Title 01, Chapter 15, of the NC Administrative Code.

Intro. by Goodwin.

GS 143B

[View summary](#)

Government, Native Americans

H 636 (2023-2024) [ENACT CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT REFORM](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO PROMOTE CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT REFORM*.

To be summarized.

Intro. by Alston, Charles Smith, Buansi, John.

[View summary](#)

H 637 (2023-2024) **EXPAND PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO EXPAND THE PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER BY REMOVING THE AGE AND DISABILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR QUALIFYING OWNERS UNDER THE CIRCUIT BREAKER AND TO REIMBURSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR THEIR RESULTING REVENUE LOSS.*

Amends GS 105-277.1B by making the following change to the property tax homestead circuit breaker. Amends the definitions that apply to the statute by defining *hold harmless amount* as the tax deferred under subsection (f) of this statute and defining *total hold harmless amount* as the sum of the hold harmless amount for all permanent residences in the county and the hold harmless amount for all permanent residences in cities located within the county. Makes additional clarifying changes to the definitions.

Expands upon who is eligible for the property tax homestead circuit breaker by removing the requirement that the owner be at least 65 years old or totally and permanently disabled. Makes conforming changes.

Adds that the deferred taxes paid by the taxpayer, minus the penalties and interest owed on deferred taxes, must be remitted to the Department of Revenue to be credited to the General Fund. Also requires each county tax collector to annually notify the Secretary of Revenue (Secretary) by September 1 of the county's total hold harmless amount. Bars a county that fails to make this notification from receiving a reimbursement for that taxable year. Requires the Secretary to distribute to each county its respective total hold harmless amount annually by December 31. Requires funds attributable to a city within the county that received funds to be distributed to that city. Requires any funds received by a county or city because that county or city was collecting taxes for another unit of government or special district to be credited to the funds of that other unit or district according to regulations issued by the Local Government Commission. Requires the Secretary to draw from the collections received under Part 2 (Individual Income Tax) an amount equal to reimbursement of the cost to the Department of Revenue of administering the reimbursement.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2024.

Intro. by Alston, von Haefen, Autry, Rudow.

GS 105

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Tax, Local Government

[View summary](#)

H 638 (2023-2024) **REPEAL DEATH PENALTY**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO REPEAL THE DEATH PENALTY AND TO PROVIDE THAT ALL CURRENT PRISONERS SENTENCED TO DEATH SHALL BE RESENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT THE POSSIBILITY OF PAROLE.*

Substantively identical to [S 109](#), filed 2/15/23, except includes whereas clauses.

Enacts new GS 15A-1340.13A, which provides that no crime shall be punishable by death. Makes conforming changes to criminal laws and procedures in GS Chapters 7A, 14, 15, and 15A by removing all reference to punishment by death. Repeals GS Chapter 15, Subchapter XV, related to capital punishment.

Amends GS Chapter 90 to remove language in the practice acts referencing the role of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists participating in an execution.

Directs the Attorney General to petition courts to vacate every death sentence and resentence the person to life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

Effective when the act becomes law and applies to any person sentenced to death before, on, or after that date.

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**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections
(Sentencing/Probation), Government, State Agencies,
Department of Justice, Health and Human Services, Health,
Health Care Facilities and Providers**

H 639 (2023-2024) **RAILROAD SAFETY OMNIBUS ACT**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO INCREASE RAILROAD SAFETY BY REQUIRING DRIVER INSTRUCTION ON THE RAILROAD EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM, TO CREATE A CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR MISUSE OF THAT SYSTEM, TO REQUIRE ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND SAFETY MEASURES RELATED TO SCHOOL BUSES AND RAILROAD TRACKS FOR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS, TO REGULATE THE MAXIMUM LENGTH OF FREIGHT TRAINS AND THE MINIMUM SIZE OF RAILROAD CREWS, AND TO ENACT OTHER MEASURES TO IMPROVE AND INCENTIVIZE RAILROAD SAFETY.*

Effective January 1, 2024, amends GS 20-88.1(d) to require the NC Division of Motor Vehicles to include in the driver license handbook information about the Emergency Notification System (ENS) for telephonic reporting of unsafe conditions at railroad and pathway grade crossings. Specifies certain information to be included in the handbook. Amends GS 115C-215 to also require the driver's education curriculum in public high schools to include that same information, applies beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

Adds new GS 14-111.5 to make it unlawful to misuse the ENS. Knowingly violating this statute is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Adds new GS 20-142.3A to require a school bus driver who is stalled on railroad tracks to report the bus location to the ENS and to the bus transportation system owner, after evacuating passengers to a safe location. Amends GS 20-218 to require the Division of Motor Vehicles to prepare and then update a school bus driver handbook explaining rules and laws governing bus drivers, including instruction on GS 20-142.3 (Certain vehicles must stop at railroad grade crossing) and new GS 20-142.3A.

Adds new GS 136-208 to limit the length of a train to 8,500 feet and makes violation of the limit a Class 1 misdemeanor with specified fines. Excludes railroads operating only tourist, scenic, or historic excursions.

Adds new GS 136-209 to require railroad trains or light engines (as defined) used in a Class 1 railroad, as defined by the Federal Surface Transportation Board, in the connection with movement of freight to have a crew of at least two persons and makes violation of the requirement a Class 1 misdemeanor with specified fines. Sets out exemptions.

Recodifies GS 136-190 through GS 136-198 as Part I of Article 15 of GS Chapter 136. Adds new Part 2 to Article 15 of GS Chapter 136, to be cited as the North Carolina Rail Safety Improvement Act (NCRSIA), as follows. Sets out definitions in new GS 136-201. Adds new GS 136-202 to require railroads operating in the state to have wayside detector systems (electronic device or connected devices that scan passing trains for defects) on every main line at specified intervals. Sets out actions that the train crew must take upon receiving a defect message, including based on the inspection, and a determination by the crew of the train that it is safe for movement, proceed along the line at a speed not exceeding 10 miles per hour if the train includes hazardous, explosive, or flammable materials or not exceeding 30 miles per hour otherwise. Adds new GS 136-203 to make it unlawful for a train, railroad care, or engine to obstruct public traffic at a grade crossing for more than ten minutes unless the train meets certain conditions for continuous movement or events outside the train's control. Adds new GS 163-204 to require railroads operating in the state to provide walkways with specified characteristics adjacent to portions of yard tracks, main line switching tracks, siding, or industrial access tracks maintained by a railroad. Adds new GS 136-205 to require railroads to give access to their property to union representatives to investigate any complaint, violation, incident, injury, or fatality reported by a crew member. Adds new GS 136-206 to set civil penalties for violations of NCRSIA.

Effective January 1, 2024.

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation

H 640 (2023-2024) **CAREER PATH OPTIONS TRANSPARENCY ACT**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE CAREER PATH OPTIONS TRANSPARENCY ACT*.

Amends GS 116-209.16A, which requires the State Education Authority to provide information on a website under the "Know Before You Go" section to assist students and parents in selecting major and career options. Requires information on the website to assist in selection of major and career options in the State as well as each of the State's prosperity zones. Sets out definitions that apply in the statute. Amends the information that must be provided for career options to also include highest demand career areas and information on projected needs in the labor economy in the State and each prosperity zone. Amends the information that must be provided for major options to include information based on aggregate data for outcomes of public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools (was, public and private institutions of higher education only) in North Carolina. Expands upon the outcome information that is to be included as follows: (1) adds average tuition for public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools; (2) requires average and median amounts of loan debt upon graduation to also be listed among graduates for four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; (3) adds average monthly student loan payments from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; (4) requires average and median salary to also be listed among graduates from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; and (5) requires the percentage of graduates employed within six months of graduation to be listed among graduates from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools. Effective January 1, 2024.

Amends GS 115C-12 to add to the State Board of Education's (State Board) duties the requirement for the State Board and Department of Public Instruction to collaborate with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor in collecting data for local boards of education to provide to sophomores to enable them to make informed decisions about postsecondary education choices and their professional futures through the "Know Before You Go" programs. Effective January 1, 2024, amends GS 115C-47 by requiring local boards of education to provide a program for high school sophomores with the information contained on the "Know Before You Go" website and the information compiled by the Department of Public Instruction to allow students to make informed decisions about postsecondary education choices and their professional futures.

Requires, through the longitudinal data system, that the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Public Instruction annually collect and compile data for the "Know Before You Go" website and for the programs operated by local boards of education under amended GS 115C-47, including at least the 10 stated elements, including: (1) the most in-demand jobs in the state and each prosperity zone, including the starting salary and education level required for those jobs; (2) the average three-year student loan default rate for all public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools in the state; (3) the average graduation rate for all public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools in the state; (4) the share of college graduates working in an occupation that does not require a college degree for each major; and (5) average starting salaries for graduates from various types of programs.

Requires, from funds appropriated in this section, that the Department of Public Instruction establish the Career Path Options Grant Program for the 2023-24 school year for local boards of education to apply for funds to provide students with the information required under amended GS 115C-47. Requires grant funds to be used to promote and distribute program materials, including printing and distribution costs, and allows using funds to hire or pay supplemental compensation to career coaches or career development coordinators to support students through the program. Appropriates \$500,000 for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the grant program. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Johnson, Winslow, Tyson, Paré.

APPROP, GS 115C, GS 116

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

H 641 (2023-2024) **NO SOLICITING CERTAIN FUNDS/ELECTIONS BOARDS**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE PRIVATE FUNDING OF ELECTIONS*.

Enacts new GS 163-29 making it a Class I felony for the State Board of Elections to solicit, take, or otherwise accept from any person any contribution, donation, or anything else of value for purposes of conducting State or local elections (defined as each election held to nominate or elect a candidate to any public office) in this state. Defines person as any individual, proprietorship, firm, partnership, joint venture, syndicate, labor union, business trust, company, association, committee, corporation, whether or not operated for profit, or any other organization or group of persons acting in concert. Requires costs and expenses relating to elections to be paid for with public funds, defined as funds derived from taxes, fees, and other sources of public revenue lawfully appropriated by the NCGA.

Enacts new GS 163-37.2 making it a Class I felony for a county board of commissioners, elected municipal officials, or county board of elections to solicit, take, or otherwise accept from any person any contribution, donation, or anything else of value for purposes of conducting State or local elections in this state. Requires costs and expenses relating to elections to be paid for with public funds. Defines elections, person, and public funds as they are defined above in new GS 163-29.

Intro. by Johnson, Davis, Pike, Crutchfield.

GS 163

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Elections, Local Government

H 642 (2023-2024) **MARKETABLE TITLE ACT-RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE EFFECT OF MARKETABLE RECORD TITLE UPON RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS IN THE MARKETABLE TITLE ACT*.

Amends GS 47B-3 to provide that marketable record title does not affect or extinguish restrictive covenants applicable to a general or uniform scheme of single-family or multifamily residential development (was, covenants applicable to a general or uniform scheme of development that restrict the property to residential use only) if the covenants are otherwise enforceable. Makes a conforming deletion of the provision that allowed the excepted covenant to restrict the property to multi-family or single family residential use or simply to residential use. Makes additional conforming and clarifying changes.

Intro. by Stevens.

GS 47B

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing

H 643 (2023-2024) **PASSENGER RAIL CAPITAL AND SERVICE GRANT FUND**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PASSENGER RAIL CAPITAL AND SERVICE GRANT FUND*.

Enacts new Article 14D, the Passenger Rail Capital and Service Grant Fund (Fund) to GS Chapter 136. Creates the Fund within the Department of Transportation (Department) to enable passenger rail projects to leverage federal funding or other public or private sourced funding by providing technical and financial assistance to sponsors for the development costs of the passenger rail project, to sunset June 30, 2043. Defines *passenger rail project* and *sponsor*. Specifies that the minimum amount of funds in the Fund at the start of each year will be \$25 million. Requires the Department to transfer \$25 million from the Highway Fund to the Fund by July 30 of each year. Specifies that the Funds will not revert except that when Article 14D sunsets, the remaining balance in the Fund will be transferred to the Highway Fund. Allows the Funds' funds to be used to pay for passenger rail project costs, including crossing safety upgrades, infrastructure, feasibility and environmental studies, project

engineering, project vehicles, and recurring operating and maintenance costs. Sets forth cost-sharing percentages for passenger rail projects. Requires the Secretary of Transportation (Secretary) to develop procedures, criteria, and rules for allocating funds from the Funds to passenger rail projects on a competitive basis. Specifies that the following criteria must be met in awarding funds: (1) there is a reasonable likelihood the passenger rail project will qualify for federal funding, or other public or private sourced funding; (2) for projects of not more than 70 miles in system length or that serve three or fewer counties, the total State financial assistance cannot exceed the local portion of the nonfederal share of the capital cost of the passenger rail project; and (3) the passenger rail project will achieve substantial reductions in greenhouse gases as measured by the projected number of motor vehicles taken off of the State highway system by the passenger service offered by the project. Provides for multiyear award allotments not to exceed a period of ten years. Requires the Department to partner with individual sponsors on the development and implementation of new passenger rail projects.

Intro. by Loftis, Reives, Tyson, Carney.

GS 136

[View summary](#)

Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation

H 644 (2023-2024) **SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMIC CONTROL IN IT ACT**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO COMBAT SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION BY REQUIRING THAT ONLINE PLATFORMS WITH MORE THAN ONE MILLION USERS IN NORTH CAROLINA RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF ALL USERS' DATA AND NOT USE A MINOR'S DATA FOR ADVERTISING OR ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS AND TO MAKE WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF DATA USER PRIVACY AN UNFAIR PRACTICE UNDER G.S. 75-1.1.*

Enacts new Article 2B, the Social Media Algorithmic Control in Information Technology Act, to GS Chapter 75, effective October 1, 2024. Sets forth defined terms. Defines algorithmic recommendation system as a fully or partially automated system used to suggest, promote, or rank information. Makes findings related to the harm unhealthy social media use can impose on minors. Finds that exploitation of user data can result in users being targeted in ways that increase unhealthy social media use. States that the State's policy is that user data must be respected by platform operators and that users who are minors warrant special protections. Requires operators of social media platforms to comply with all of the following five requirements: (1) the platform's privacy policy must be accessible on the platform's website with the disclosure of how user data will be used by the platform stated in a succinct and easy to understand statement that communicates the true intent of the use in less than 250 words; (2) user data may be used in algorithmic recommendations only when the user has been notified and consents to the use of the data in such manner; (3) requests for data access that will be used to inform algorithmic recommendations must require full disclosure of the use of the data, including third-party use (requires this to be separate and distinct from the platform's terms of service notification); (4) the platform must be fully functional for a user without the user having to give consent for their user data to be used to inform algorithmic recommendations; and (5) the platform must use an age verification system that requires a user to self-attest to their age.

Starting on October 1, 2024, and then annually thereafter, requires social media platforms to provide the Consumer Protection Division of the North Carolina Department of Justice (Division) with a digital copy of the platform's privacy policy and certification that the platform has complied with the requirements of the act. Requires platforms to provide notice of substantive privacy policy changes to the registry. Requires the Division to maintain a registry of the policies and certifications on its internet website.

Requires social media platforms to control algorithmic recommendation systems so that no minor's user data is used to: (1) inform algorithmic recommendations and (2) inform what advertisements or promotions are shown to minors that are not shown to the minor based on their explicit actions (e.g., searching for the product). Specifies that the operator of a social media platform may be held liable if the operator of the social media platform knew or had reason to know that the user was a minor. Clarifies that the operator of a social media platform that has made an estimation of a user's age based upon the user's self-attestation is not liable if the user was a minor who falsely attested to not being a minor.

Specifies that, effective January 1, 2025, violations of the act constitute an unfair or deceptive act or practice under State consumer protection law. Requires the Attorney General to monitor platforms for compliance. Authorizes individuals to bring a private right of action if the individual is harmed by a violation of the act. Creates the NC Data Privacy Task Force (Task

Force) to consist of 21 specified members. Establishes appointment and vacancy processes. Requires the Task Force to report annually on its work, with a special focus on mental health issues related to social media, along with findings, recommendations, and any legislative proposals to the NCGA starting March 15, 2024.

Effective July 1, 2023, appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Department for the 2023-24 fiscal year to develop the registry created enacted by the act.

Intro. by McNeely, K. Hall, Humphrey, Pickett.

[GS 75](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection](#)

H 645 (2023-2024) [INCLUSIONARY ZONING/WORKFORCE HOUSING FUNDS](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO SUPPLEMENT THE AVAILABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE FOR INCLUSIONARY ZONING AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR THE WORKFORCE HOUSING LOAN PROGRAM.*

Amends GS 160D-702 to allow local government zoning regulations to provide for inclusionary zoning in order to supplement the availability of affordable housing.

Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Housing Financing Agency for the Workforce Housing Loan Program.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Everitt, Butler.

[APPROP, GS 160D](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Property and Housing, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Local Government](#)

H 646 (2023-2024) [FINES AND FORFEITURE/PAYMENT TO SCHOOLS](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO DIRECT EXCESS RECEIPTS IN THE CIVIL PENALTY AND FORFEITURE FUND TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY FUND IN THE SAME FISCAL YEAR AND ANY CAPITAL FUNDS FOR SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TO BE USED TOWARD PAYMENT OF THE 2019 COURT JUDGMENT ON CIVIL PENALTIES, FINES, AND FORFEITURES AND TO DIRECT THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY WAYS TO SATISFY THE REMAINDER OF THE JUDGMENT.*

Identical to [S 107](#), filed 2/14/23.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 115C-457.3, adding a new subsection to direct any amount of funds in excess of legislative appropriations for a fiscal year in the Current Operations Appropriations Act for the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund to be transferred to the School Technology Fund in the same fiscal year in which the excess funds are collected.

Directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to allocate these funds to local school administrative units on a per pupil basis to be credited toward the remaining judgement in the specified case until the judgement is satisfied. Requires DPI to send written notice to the NC School Boards Association (a party in the specified case) upon the transfer of excess funds as provided in GS 115C-457.3, as amended.

Directs that in any fiscal year funds are legislatively appropriated from a source other than the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund for capital improvements for school technology for local school administrative units, the funds must be credited toward the same identified judgement until the judgement is satisfied. Directs DPI to send written notice to the NC School Boards Association within 60 days after the end of each fiscal year of any funds credited toward the remaining judgement.

Directs the Legislative Research Commission to study the ways the State must satisfy the remainder of the judgement in the identified case, including sources of funding to satisfy the judgement and the time line for payments to be made within a 10-year period. Directs the LRC to report to the 2023 NCGA by March 15, 2024.

Intro. by Everitt, Gill.

STUDY, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, General Assembly**

H 647 (2023-2024) [EXPEDITE CHILD PERMANENCY](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY LAWS TO EXPEDITE PERMANENCY*.

Amends GS 7B-100 by amending the purpose of Subchapter I, Abuse Neglect Dependency, of Article 1 of GS Chapter 7B so that it includes providing standards for ensuring that the best interests of the juvenile are of paramount consideration by the court and that when it is not in the juvenile's best interest to be returned home, the juvenile will be placed in a safe, permanent home within one year from the date of the initial order removing custody (was, within a reasonable amount of time).

Amends GS 7B-101, which sets out the terms used in Subchapter I. Expands the definition of a *neglected juvenile* to include a juvenile less than 18 whose parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker uses an illegal controlled substance or abuses alcohol or a controlled substance and is unable to care for and provide a safe and appropriate home for the juvenile.

Amends GS 7B-503 by extending the conditions under which an order for nonsecure custody is to be made when there is a reasonable factual basis to believe the allegations in the petition are true, to also include when the juvenile is an infant who was born drug-exposed to alcohol, unlawful controlled substances, or controlled substances used in violation of the law; specifies that the alcohol or substance use cannot be the sole grounds for ordering nonsecure custody if the parent is enrolled in and meeting or exceeding the benchmarks of a substance abuse treatment program. Adds the requirement that the developmental and attachment needs of the juvenile be considered in making nonsecure custody determinations.

Amends GS 7B-505 to require the department of social services to use due diligence to identify and notify next of kin, in addition to adult relatives and other persons with legal custody of a sibling of the juvenile, within 30 days after the initial order removing custody. Adds the juvenile's developmental and attachment needs to the issues to be considering when considering whether to order a juvenile in nonsecure custody to be placed with a relative.

Amends GS 7B-901 to provide that when a juvenile is placed in the custody of a county department of social services, the court is to direct that reasonable efforts for reunification are not required if the court determines that aggravated circumstances exist because the parent has exposed the juvenile to unlawful controlled substances in utero or controlled substances were used in violation of the law in utero. In these instances or where there is chronic or toxic exposure to alcohol or controlled substances that causes impairment or addiction in the juvenile, requires the court to consider whether a parent is enrolled in and meeting or exceeding the benchmarks of a substance abuse treatment program.

Amends GS 7B-903 to require the court to also consider the juvenile's developmental and attachment needs when deciding whether to place a juvenile in out-of-home care with a relative. Adds that once a juvenile who is not a member of a State-recognized tribe has resided in a foster parent's home continuously for at least nine months, the foster parent is deemed to be nonrelative kin for purposes of out-of-home placement under the statute.

Amends GS 7B-906.1, concerning review and permanency planning hearings. Subsection (d) requires the court to consider listed criteria and make written findings at each hearing regarding those that are relevant, including on whether efforts to reunite the juvenile with either parent clearly would be unsuccessful or inconsistent with the juvenile's health or safety and need for a safe, permanent home within a reasonable period of time. Adds that this criteria includes whether a parent has engaged in any of the factors described under GS 7B-901(c), which identifies conditions under which the court is to direct that reasonable efforts for reunification not be required.

Amends GS 7B-1103 by amending who can file a petition or motion to terminate the parental rights of either or both parents, to include any person with whom the juvenile has resided continuously for 15 months (was, 18 months) or more next preceding the filing of the petition or motion.

Applies to actions filed or pending on or after October 1, 2023.

Intro. by Stevens.

GS 7B

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and
Dependency, Government, Native Americans**

H 648 (2023-2024) [FAITHFUL ARTICLE V COMMISSIONER ACT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE FAITHFUL ARTICLE V COMMISSIONER ACT*.

Enacts new Article 31A to GS Chapter 120, pertaining to faithful Article V commissioners. Makes findings related to interstate conventions authorized by Article V of the US Constitution. Sets forth defined terms. Specifies that the article's purposes are to (1) clarify the scope of authority of commissioners and committees representing the legislature of the State at interstate conventions, (2) provide for enforcing limits on such authority, (3) provide methods of selecting and replacing commissioners to conventions, and (4) prescribe an oath to be taken by interstate convention commissioners. Sets forth processes to establish the number, selection, and removal of commissioners. Provides for filling of vacancies. Specifies that the authority granted to the commissioners in the case of a convention for proposing amendments cannot exceed the narrowest of (1) the scope of the congressional call, (2) the scope of the narrowest application among those cited by Congress as mandating the convention call, or (3) the actual terms of the application. Specifies that a person exceeds the scope of authority at an interstate convention if, while serving as a delegate at an interstate convention, he or she votes for, votes to consider, or otherwise promotes any action of the convention not within the scope defined in the act; provided, however, that a delegate may vote for or otherwise support a measure clearly identified as a nonbinding recommendation rather than as a formal proposal. Sets out the oath that commissioners must take. Specifies that a person exceeding the scope of authority under the act is guilty of a Class I felony.

Intro. by Riddell, Bell, Saine, Hardister.

GS 120

[View summary](#)

Constitution

H 649 (2023-2024) [ENSURE TIMELY/CLINICALLY SOUND UTILIZ. REVIEW](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENSURE TIMELY AND CLINICALLY SOUND UTILIZATION REVIEWS AND THAT MEDICAL DECISIONS ARE MADE BY HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS*.

To be summarized.

Intro. by K. Baker, Reeder, Potts, Sasser.

[View summary](#)

H 650 (2023-2024) [SMOKE-FREE OPERATING ROOMS](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR SURGICAL SMOKE EVACUATION IN HOSPITALS AND AMBULATORY SURGICAL FACILITIES*.

Establishes standards for surgical smoke evacuation in hospitals (new GS 131E-78.4) and ambulatory surgical facilities (new GS 131E-147.2). Requires licensed hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities to adopt and implement policies that require the use of smoke evacuation systems during any surgical procedure likely to generate surgical smoke. Defines *smoke evacuation system* and *surgical smoke*. Authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to take adverse action for violations. Effective January 1, 2024.

Intro. by White.

GS 131E

[View summary](#)

**Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities
and Providers**

H 651 (2023-2024) **SOUTH PIEDMONT REGIONAL AUTOPSY CENTER/FUNDS**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR OPERATIONAL COSTS AND EQUIPMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COUNTY-OPERATED REGIONAL AUTOPSY CENTER IN UNION COUNTY SERVING THE SOUTH PIEDMONT REGION OF THE STATE*.

Appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds for the 2023-24 fiscal year and \$2 million in recurring funds for the 2024-25 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Public Health, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), allocated to Union County, for operational costs and equipment associated with the establishment of a county-operated regional autopsy center serving Anson, Cabarrus, Montgomery, Richmond, Stanly, and Union counties. Requires Union County to notify DHHS, the Fiscal Research Division, and the specified NCGA committees when the regional autopsy center funded by this section becomes operational. Upon receiving this notification, requires OCME to enter into a contract with Union County pursuant to which (1) the regional autopsy center agrees to provide independent forensic pathology services in the specified counties and (2) OCME agrees to reimburse Union County for each autopsy performed by the regional autopsy center in an amount equivalent to the fee authorized by GS 130A-389 (specifying autopsy fees).

Requires Union County to submit a progress report to the specified NCGA committees by December 1, 2023, and December 1, 2024.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Willis, K. Baker, Carson Smith, Moss.

APPROP, Union

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

H 652 (2023-2024) **HONOR ANNIE BROWN KENNEDY**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *A JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF ANNIE BROWN KENNEDY, FORMER MEMBER OF THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*.

Includes whereas clauses.

As title indicates.

Intro. by A. Baker, K. Brown.

JOINT RES

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Government, General Assembly

H 653 (2023-2024) **PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTIONS**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO OFFER A PLANT-BASED MEAL OPTION AT EACH SCHOOL MEAL*.

Enacts GS 115C-264.6 requiring school food authorities to offer at least one plant-based meal entrée option at every breakfast and lunch served. Defines *plant-based meal* as a meal that is free of all animal products, including meat, poultry, fish, dairy, and eggs. Requires the meal option to meet the nutritional guidelines issued by the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service. Requires the State Board of Education to publish guidance and recommendations for the local boards of education as to how to best implement the act by August 15, 2023. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-263 (pertaining to school nutrition services). Applies beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

[View summary](#)**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education**

H 654 (2023-2024) **PHARMACISTS/VACCINE ADMIN./TEST AND TREAT**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE SCOPE OF PRACTICE OF IMMUNIZING PHARMACISTS, TO ALLOW PHARMACISTS TO TEST AND TREAT FOR CERTAIN ILLNESSES WITH CERTAIN MEDICATIONS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF PHARMACY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR FAIR AND EQUITABLE REIMBURSEMENT OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES OR PROCEDURES THAT ARE PERFORMED BY A PHARMACIST WITHIN THAT PHARMACIST'S SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND THAT ARE EQUIVALENT TO SERVICES PERFORMED BY OTHER HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.*

Amends GS 90-85.3A to allow a pharmacist to order and perform a CLIA-waived test to: (1) assist with clinical decision making related to the use and monitoring of medications and (2) treat influenza, COVID-19, pharyngitis caused by streptococcus, and other health conditions screened by using a CLIA-waived test in accordance with rules and protocols adopted by the Board of Pharmacy in consultation with the State Health Director and the North Carolina Medical Board. Prohibits a pharmacist from treating a health condition under GS 90-85.3A with any controlled Schedule I-IV controlled substance. Defines *CLIA-waived test* as a lab test approved by the FDA and determined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to qualify for a waiver under the federal Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 and safe for use in non-laboratory settings. Also defines *FDA* and *ACIP* (CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices).

Amends GS 90-85.15B to authorize an immunizing pharmacist to administer vaccines either authorized by the FDA, or licensed by the FDA and recommended by the ACIP to persons at least three years of age or older, according to the standard immunization schedules of the ACIP. Allows pharmacy interns and technicians to administer those same vaccines to persons three years of age or older so long as the vaccines are administered under written protocols and the vaccination is ordered by the supervising immunizing physician. Deletes provisions of section limiting administration of vaccines by pharmacists to persons aged 18 and older unless certain exceptions apply. Specifies that if the patient is 18 years of age or younger, the immunizing pharmacist must notify any pediatrician or primary care provider identified by the patient's parent or guardian within 72 hours after administration of the vaccine or immunization. If the patient's parent or guardian does not identify a pediatrician or primary care provider, specifies that the immunizing pharmacist must direct the patient to information describing the benefits to a patient of having a pediatrician or primary care physician, prepared by any of the following entities: North Carolina Medical Board, North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians, North Carolina Medical Society, North Carolina Pediatric Society, or Community Care of North Carolina. Makes conforming and technical changes. Effective October 1, 2023.

Enacts GS 58-50-296, pertaining to reimbursement and coverage of services provided by pharmacists. Requires that health care benefit plans offered by insurers in this State reimburse a pharmacist at the same rate that other advanced practice or mid-level health care providers, such as nurse practitioners or physician assistants, are reimbursed when providing the same or equivalent health care services or procedures if all of the following are met: (1) the service or procedure was performed within the pharmacist's licensed lawful scope of practice; (2) the health benefit plan would have provided reimbursement if the service or procedure had been performed by another health care provider; and (3) the pharmacist provided the service or procedure in compliance with any requirements of the insurer related to the service or procedure. Requires same insurers to accept credentialing for pharmacists employed or contracted with facilities that the insurers have delegated credentialing agreements to. Requires reimbursement to contracted health care facility or contracted pharmacist directly for services provided by a pharmacist within their scope of practice regardless of whether the pharmacist is a participating provider in the insurer's network. Specifies that the participation of a pharmacy in a drug benefit provider network of an insurer offering a health benefit plan in this State does not satisfy any requirement that insurers offering health benefit plans include pharmacists in medical benefit provider networks. Specifies that GS 58-50-296 also applies to agents of an insurer offering a health benefit plan in this State and third-party administrators. Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to contracts entered into, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

Permits the NC Board of Pharmacy to adopt temporary rules to implement the act.

[View summary](#)

**Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities
and Providers, Health Insurance**

H 655 (2023-2024) **COASTAL FISHERIES LICENSING REFORMS**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATUTES PERTAINING TO COASTAL FISHING TO EASE REGULATORY BURDENS AND ENHANCE ACCESS TO FISHERIES FOR BONA FIDE COMMERCIAL FISHERMEN.*

To be summarized.

Intro. by Ross, Bell, Adams, Wray.

[View summary](#)

H 656 (2023-2024) **REG. PUBLIC TRANS. AUTHORITY SERVICE AREA**. Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ALLOW A REGIONAL PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY TO OPERATE A BUSPOOL MORE THAN TEN MILES BEYOND ITS TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.*

Amends GS 160A-601(4), pertaining to the Regional Public Transportation Authority (Authority), to define *public transportation* to include a buspool. Changes the description of geographic boundaries of the mode of transportation from territorial jurisdiction to service area. Amends GS 160A-610 (powers of the Authority) to specify that buspools are not subject to the limitation that service cannot be provided more than ten miles outside of the territorial jurisdiction of the authority. Makes technical and conforming changes, including referring to the Authority's service area instead of territorial jurisdiction. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Reives, White, Penny, Price.

[GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

Transportation

H 657 (2023-2024) **AMEND 1-YR SEP/REPEAL ALIEN. OF AFF/CRIM. CON.** Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO REDUCE THE REQUIRED PERIOD OF SEPARATION FOR ABSOLUTE DIVORCE FROM ONE YEAR TO SIX MONTHS, TO ALLOW PARTIES TO COHABITATE FOR FINANCIAL REASONS, TO WAIVE THE PERIOD OF SEPARATION FOR UNCONTESTED DIVORCES IN WHICH NO MINOR CHILDREN ARE INVOLVED, AND TO ABOLISH THE COMMON-LAW CIVIL ACTIONS OF ALIENATION OF AFFECTION AND CRIMINAL CONVERSATION.*

Identical to [S 703](#), filed 4/6/23.

Decreases the required period of separation prior to divorce under GS 50-6 from one year to six months. Adds a new provision permitting the parties to waive the separation period requirement if the divorce is uncontested and does not involve minor children. Provides that the statutory period for separation is not tolled for cohabitation of the parties for financial reasons. Makes conforming changes. Makes conforming changes to required content of a complaint for divorce under GS 50-8 where separation is the cause.

Enacts GS 52-14 to abolish common-law causes of action for alienation of affection and criminal conversation. Provides a savings clause for cases pending when the act becomes law. Makes a conforming repeal of GS 52-13, which sets forth procedures for causes of action for alienation of affection and criminal conversation.

Intro. by Harris, Price, K. Brown, Prather.

[GS 50, GS 52](#)

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Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law

H 658 (2023-2024) [TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS AMENDMENT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE DESIGNATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS.*

Adds a new section GS 62-30.1 authorizing the state Utilities Commission to, upon petition, designate a petitioning provider or reseller of mobile radio communications services that are equipped with “Lifeline” service to be eligible telecommunications carriers for federal universal service funds under federal regulatory law (47 CFR 54.201). Provides that such authority does not otherwise confer regulatory jurisdiction. Authorizes the state Utilities Commission to adopt related rules.

Intro. by Saine, Johnson.

[GS 62](#)

[View summary](#)

[Public Enterprises and Utilities](#)

H 659 (2023-2024) [HOG LAGOON PHASEOUT/DATE CERTAIN](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO PHASE OUT TRADITIONAL ANIMAL WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS THAT SERVE SWINE FARMS; TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM HUMANE STANDARDS FOR THE TREATMENT OF COWS, POULTRY, AND SWINE; AND TO STUDY THE POTENTIAL REPORTING OF ANTIBIOTIC DRUG USE IN LIVESTOCK RAISED IN NORTH CAROLINA.*

Amends Section 1(b) of SL 2007-523 to phase out permits for swine waste management systems currently operated under the moratorium for swine farms enacted in 2007. Allows operation until September 1, 2027. Requires the owner or operator of an animal waste management system that uses a lagoon and sprayfield system phased out under this act to close all of the components of the waste management system in compliance with all applicable federal and state laws, regulations, and rules. Excludes animal waste management systems that are a part of a waste-to-energy facility producing energy from the waste from the phaseout.

Creates a new Article 49I, Minimum Humane Standards for Certain Farm Animals, in GS Chapter 106 that requires the Board of Agriculture, in consultation with the state veterinarian, to set minimum humane standards for cows, poultry, and swine, including restrictions on tethering and confinement, kill methods, and transfer of sick cows. Makes violations by any farm owner or operator of the minimum humane standards a Class 2 misdemeanor. Effective January 1, 2024.

Directs the Division of Public Health of the Department of Health and Human Services (Division), with the cooperation of the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department), to study the use of antibiotic drugs in livestock production in North Carolina. Specifies the content and focus of the study and requires the Division and the Department to jointly report their findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on or before January 1, 2024.

Intro. by Harrison, Autry, Butler, Crawford.

[GS 106](#)

[View summary](#)

[Agriculture, Animals, Environment, Energy, Government, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health](#)

H 660 (2023-2024) [PFAS FREE NC](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO BAN THE MANUFACTURE, USE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PFAS AND PFAS-CONTAINING PRODUCTS WITHIN THE STATE, TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS CONTAMINATION FROM THE DISCHARGE OF PFAS IN THE STATE, AND TO DIRECT VARIOUS AGENCIES TO STUDY MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH PFAS CONTAMINATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH.*

To be summarized.

Intro. by Harrison, Butler, Belk, Longest.

[View summary](#)

H 661 (2023-2024) [EMERGENCY SERVICES PEER COUNSELING PRIVILEGE](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO EXPAND THE SCOPE OF VARIOUS PEER SUPPORT GROUP COUNSELOR PROVISIONS*.

Amends the definition of *peer counselor* set forth in GS 8-53.10 (pertaining to peer support group counselors) to include certain employees of both law enforcement agencies and emergency agencies (currently just law enforcement agency) who, in addition to existing requirements, is designated to provide counseling to client law enforcement employees and emergency personnel officers (currently just hired to counsel law enforcement employees). Makes conforming changes to definition of *privileged communication*. Clarifies that nothing in GS 8-53.10 will be construed to require either of the following for the privilege established here to apply: (1) that the peer counselor be specifically assigned to counsel the client law enforcement employee, emergency personnel officer, or member of the client law enforcement employee's or emergency personnel officer's immediate family receiving the counseling or (2) that the designation of peer counselor be made by the head of the same agency that employs the client law enforcement employee or emergency personnel officer. Applies retroactively to communications made on or after July 8, 2022.

Intro. by Winslow, Crutchfield, N. Jackson, Pike.

GS 8

[View summary](#)

Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management

H 662 (2023-2024) [SMALL BUSINESS TRUTH IN FINANCING](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE SMALL BUSINESS TRUTH IN FINANCING ACT*.

Enacts Article 26 to GS Chapter 53 to be cited as the "Small Business Truth in Financing Act." Sets forth 13 defined terms. Excludes from the scope of the Article: financial institutions (including its holding company, subsidiaries, and affiliates under common ownership, direction, or control); lenders regulated under Chapter 23 (Farm Credit System) of Title 12 of the US Code; persons that make no more than five commercial financing transactions in the State in a 12-month period; a motor vehicle dealer or any affiliate, employee, or agent of a dealer or any person or entity providing financing for the purchase of a motor vehicle or a recreation vehicle; any officer or employee of an entity above when acting within the scope of their employment; and a person that is presenting a financing offer on behalf of an exempt person. Extends the exemption to persons providing technology services for commercial financing to a person exempt to the extent the person is acting only in that capacity and has no interest in the commercial financing extended by the exempt entity. Exempts the following transactions from the scope of the Article: commercial financing transactions secured by real property; commercial financing transactions over \$500,000; leases of goods, as defined by the Uniform Commercial Code; and the sale, lease, rental, or subscription of a motor vehicle by a licensed motor vehicle dealer. Also exempts consumer finance companies licensed and doing business under Article 15 (North Carolina Consumer Finance Act) of GS Chapter 53 or doing business pursuant to GS Chapter 25A (Retail Installment Sales Act). Establishes required disclosures by providers to recipients based on types of financing as follows. Defines a provider as a person that extends a specific offer (as defined) of commercial financing to a recipient, including that made on behalf of a third party.

Mandates that a provider give 10 described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer of sales-based financing, defined as a type of financing in which the recipient's repayment is based on the recipient's volume of sales or revenue, including (1) the total amount of the commercial financing; (2) the finance charge; (3) the estimated annual percentage rate; and (4) the total repayment amount, or the disbursement amount plus the finance charge. Details two methods, the historical method and the opt-in method, for the provider to calculate the recipient's projected sales volume, of which the provider must elect one to use for all of its sales-based financing and notify the Commissioner of Banks (Commissioner) of its election.

Mandates that a provider give 10 described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer of closed-end financing, defined as a type of commercial financing consisting of a closed-end extension of credit, secured or unsecured,

including equipment financing. Required disclosures include: (1) the total amount of the commercial financing; (2) the finance charge; (3) the annual percentage rate; (4) the total repayment amount, or the disbursement amount plus the finance charge; and (5) a description of any collateral requirements or security interests.

Mandates that a provider give 10 described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer of open-end financing, defined as a type of commercial financing consisting of an agreement for one or more extensions of open-end credit, secured or unsecured, as described. Required disclosures include: (1) the maximum amount of credit available to the recipient, (2) the amount scheduled to be drawn by the recipient, (3) the finance charge, (4) the annual percentage rate, and (5) the total repayment amount or the draw amount plus the finance charge. Details two methods, the total credit method and the comparable method, for the calculation of the finance charge, the annual percentage rate, the total repayment amount, and the payment amount, and requires notifying the Commissioner of Banks of its election. Sets out factors to be considered by the Commissioner when determining whether the deviations between disclosed estimates are too great.

Mandates that a provider give seven described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer for a factoring transaction, defined as a type of commercial financing that includes an agreement to purchase, transfer, or sell a legally enforceable claim for payment held by a recipient for goods the recipient has supplied, or services the recipient has rendered, that have been ordered but for which payment has not yet been made. Required disclosures include: (1) the purchase amount or the amount of accounts receivable purchased from the recipient, (2) the finance charge, (3) the estimated annual percentage rate, (4) the total repayment amount or the purchase amount plus the finance charge, and (5) a description of the receivables purchased and any additional collateral requirements or security interests.

Mandates that a provider give 10 described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer of commercial financing other than sales-based financing, open-end financing, closed-end financing, or a factoring transaction. Required disclosures include: (1) the total amount of the commercial financing; (2) the finance charge; (3) the annual percentage rate; (4) the total repayment amount, or the disbursement amount plus the finance charge; and (5) a description of any collateral requirements or security interests.

Mandates that a provider give two described disclosures to a recipient at the time of extending a specific offer of new commercial financing, where the provider requires the recipient to pay off some or all of the balance of an existing commercial financing from the same provider as a condition of obtaining new commercial financing. Required disclosures include: (1) the amount of the new commercial financing that will be used to pay off any prepayment charge or unpaid interest and (2) the amount by which the disbursement amount will be reduced if that amount will be reduced to pay off a portion of the balance.

Requires all mandated disclosures under the Article to be presented to the recipient as a separate document from all other information to be signed by the recipient, and requires the provider to obtain the recipient's signature before proceeding with the transaction. Prohibits providers from using the term "rate" in describing a metric other than the APR or estimated APR in additional information presented to the recipient. Sets out when the term "interest" can be used and provides for the appropriate use of the term "annual percentage rate/APR." Allows, when the Commissioner determines that the laws of another state require commercial financing disclosures that meet or exceed the Article's requirements, the use of any commercial financing disclosure form that the other state approves.

Requires providers to register with the Commissioner of Banks. Details requirements for registration. Sets the application and renewal fee at \$1,000; requires renewal every five years. Charges covered entities with filing correcting amendments to material registration information.

Requires filing a correcting amendment to information in documents filed with the Commissioner any time information becomes inaccurate or incomplete.

Allows recipients to file complaints with the Commissioner and allows the Commissioner to investigate providers.

Makes confidential information obtained by the Commissioner under the Article but allows the Commissioner to enter into agreements with specified entities to share otherwise confidential information. Privacy and confidentiality requirements continue to apply to disclosed information.

Empowers the Commissioner to adopt rules to enforce the Article, with a right for an aggrieved person to appeal to the State Banking Commission for review within 20 days of adoption or issuance. Authorizes the Commissioner to take the following enforcement actions for violations of the Article, subject to notice and opportunity for hearing: (1) order a provider to cease

and desist from violations of the Article and (2) assess a civil penalty of up to \$2,000 per violation or \$10,000 for each willful violation. Specifies that these powers are in addition to other enforcement powers of the Commissioner.

Applies to transactions occurring beginning 60 days after the act becomes law.

Intro. by Balkcom, Ross, Cairns.

GS 53

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Banking and Finance

H 663 (2023-2024) [STUDY TO REPLACE GAS TAX WITH FLAT TAX](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO STUDY REPLACING THE CURRENT GAS TAX WITH A YEARLY FLAT TAX*.

Requires the Department of Transportation (DOT), in consultation with the Department of Revenue and the Department of State Treasurer, to study replacing the motor fuels tax with a yearly flat tax based on vehicle size class and fuel economy. On or before March 1, 2024, requires DOT to submit a written report with its findings, including any recommendations for legislation, to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division.

Intro. by Everitt.

STUDY

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Agencies, Department of Revenue,
Department of State Treasurer, Department of Transportation,
Tax, Transportation**

H 664 (2023-2024) [MOBILE BAR SERVICES PERMIT](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MOBILE BAR SERVICES PERMIT*.

Amends GS 18B-1001 (listing kinds of ABC permits) to allow for a mobile bar service permit to be issued to a business that provides bartending services for events to allow the permittee to bring malt beverages, unfortified wine, fortified wine, and spirituous liquor onto the premises of a business that is not an ABC permittee and to serve the alcoholic beverages to guests at the event, regardless of whether there is a charge or fee for guests to attend the event. Clarifies that the permit does not allow the retail sale of individual alcoholic beverages to guests at the event. Bars the permittee from serving the above specified alcohol at any location owned or possessed by the permittee. Specifies that a limited special occasion permit is not required for an event at which alcoholic beverages are exclusively provided by the holder of a mobile bar services permit. Sets forth requirements for notice, servers, transportation of alcohol to an event, and removal of alcohol. Establishes a \$500 fee for the permit.

Intro. by Pickett.

GS 18B

[View summary](#)

Alcoholic Beverage Control

H 665 (2023-2024) [FOSTER PARENT OMBUDSMAN](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE FOSTER PARENT OMBUDSMAN OFFICE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES*.

Enacts GS 143B-157.1, establishing the office of the Foster Parent Ombudsman (FPO) within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Specifies that the FPO will report directly to the Secretary of DHHS (Secretary). Empowers the FPO to assist foster parents with issues and resolve conflicts related to the licensing of family and therapeutic foster homes, the placement of children in foster care, adoption procedures, and other related matters. Specifies that the FPO will advocate on behalf of foster parents in this State and support their rights to ensure their voices are heard and concerns are addressed. Requires the Secretary to select a person who is qualified with unique experience in foster care State and federal laws to serve as the Ombuds. Requires the FPO to coordinate with certain State and federal agencies. Sets forth seven other specified duties

of the FPO, which must be conducted in a neutral manner. Specifies that communications between the FPO and prospective foster parents are considered confidential under State public records law. Requires the FPO to compile data and submit it to DHHS by October 1 of each year detailing the number of inquiries and complaints handled and trends in recurring issues for foster parents and local county departments of social services. Requires that any information in the report be such that it cannot be used to identify a single foster parent or other individual. Requires that DHHS use the data to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee by November 1 of each year. Appropriates the recurring sum of \$137,000 for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and \$145,000 for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to DHHS to establish the FPO and hire one full-time equivalent employee. Effective July 1, 2023.

Requires that DHHS have the FPO operational by January 1, 2024, and engage in appropriate rulemaking to implement the act.

Intro. by Torbett.

[GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency](#)

H 666 (2023-2024) [EXPAND INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IN NC](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM AT NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO EXPAND INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IN THE STATE AND TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO THE UNITED WAY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO EXPAND ITS VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.*

Identical to [S 736](#), filed 4/6/23.

Includes whereas clauses. Requires the State Board of Community Colleges, within funds appropriated under the act, to establish a grant program for community college campuses to offer courses to students to become tax preparers as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program and to facilitate providing VITA services to students and community members. Sets out VITA's work. States that the goal of the grant program is for community colleges to provide work-based opportunities to students while facilitating access to the VITA program in local communities.

Requires participating community colleges to: (1) offer a specified fall curriculum course and a spring work-based learning course to students interested in becoming certified as tax preparers for the VITA program, (2) designate a faculty champion to facilitate the program, and (3) provide VITA services to be offered to all students on campus and community members. Sets out information that a community college must include in its grant application.

Appropriates the following from the General Fund to the Community Colleges System Office: (1) \$1,304,100 in nonrecurring funds and (2) \$570,100 in recurring funds for 2023-2024 to implement the grant program. Specifies how the funds are to be used and in what amount, including specified faculty bonuses and to hire personnel. Specifies that \$549,000 of the funds remain available until the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year for bonuses of up to \$500 per community college receiving a grant to support a faculty champion, hire personnel, and establish work-based learning opportunities for students.

Appropriates \$50,000 in nonrecurring funds and \$100,000 in recurring funds for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Department of Revenue for community college personnel and student training and technical assistance associated with the grant program; allows the funds to be used to contract with a third-party vendor.

Appropriates \$840,000 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2023-24 for a directed grant to the United Way of North Carolina to expand the VITA program. Specifies the ways in which the funds may be used. Specifies that the funds remain available until the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Crawford, Hardister, Rudow, Bradford.

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Department of Revenue, Office of State Budget and Management, Tax](#)

H 667 (2023-2024) [OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TESTING REQUIREMENTS](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS ACCEPTING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS TO ADMINISTER ONE OF THE FIVE MOST COMMON NATIONALLY STANDARDIZED TESTS AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY TO MAINTAIN A LIST OF THOSE TESTS*.

Amends GS 115C-562.5, pertaining to the obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants to require a nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants to administer one of the five most common national standardized tests or other nationally standardized equivalent measurements (currently, just “a” nationally standardized test or measurement). Requires the State Education Assistance Authority in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction to maintain on its website a current list of the five most common nationally standardized tests or other nationally standardized equivalent measurements that meet the requirements of the act and annually distribute this information to nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants. Applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

Intro. by Crawford, Prather, von Haefen.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 668 (2023-2024) [STUDY ON ELIMINATING UNAUTHORIZED SUBS. TAX](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT REQUIRING THE REVENUE LAWS STUDY COMMITTEE TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND EFFECT OF ELIMINATING THE UNAUTHORIZED SUBSTANCES TAXES*.

Requires the Revenue Laws Study Committee (Committee) to study the costs and benefits reasonably anticipated from eliminating the unauthorized substances taxes by repealing Article 2D of Subchapter I of GS Chapter 105 General Statutes (purpose of which is to levy an excise tax to generate revenue for State and local law enforcement agencies and for the General Fund), including any funding necessary to compensate State or local law enforcement for any resulting revenue losses. Requires the Committee to report its findings, together with any recommended legislation, to the 2024 Regular Session of the 2023 General Assembly upon its convening.

Intro. by Everitt, Morey, Crawford, Autry.

[STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Tax](#)

H 669 (2023-2024) [TASK FORCE/FAIR PUBLISHING OF REVIEWS](#). Filed Apr 17 2023, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON THE FAIR PUBLISHING OF CROWD-SOURCED REVIEWS TO STUDY THE PRACTICES OF PUBLISHING PLATFORMS AND THE IMPACT OF THOSE PRACTICES ON NORTH CAROLINA BUSINESSES AND CONSUMERS*.

Establishes the NC Task Force on the Fair Publishing of Crowd-Sourced Reviews (Task Force). Specifies that the purpose of the Task Force is to (1) study the practices of platforms publishing crowd-sourced reviews, (2) study the relationship between those practices and the public's ability to accurately assess businesses, and (3) recommend initiatives appropriately compliant with federal law but that are tailored to needs and goals of North Carolina consumers and businesses. Sets forth the following five areas that the Task Force is required to examine: (1) the substance and ordering of reviews published by a platform as compared to the substance and ordering of reviews submitted to the publishing platform; (2) the correlation, if any, between revenue received by the platform operator from businesses and the substance and ordering of reviews for those businesses as compared to other businesses reviewed on the platform; (3) the ability of business owners to request and acquire from the platform contact information for reviewers leaving negative reviews; (4) the financial cost to North Carolina businesses and consumers of any publishing practices the Task Force deems unfair and the comparative projected impact of implementing fairer practices. Specifies that the Task Force must give particular attention to the costs and projected impacts for North Carolina small businesses; and (5) feasible steps the State can take to encourage or require fairer publishing practices.

Specifies that the Task Force consists of 13 members, including two cochairs, and details appointment authority. Requires the Legislative Services Commission (LSC) to grant adequate meeting space to the Task Force in either the State Legislative Building or Legislative Office Building. Requires the LSC to assign the Task Force professional staff to assist it in its work as well as to take funds appropriated to the NCGA that are sufficient for the operation of the Task Force. Provides for clerical staff and authorizes the Task Force to contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services. Provides for subsistence and travel expenses for Task Force members. Requires the Task Force to submit a final report on the results of the study and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the NCGA by May 1, 2024. Specifies that the Task Force will terminate on May 1, 2024, or submission of the final report, whichever is earlier.

Intro. by Pike.

STUDY

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 596: HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 597: 25-YEAR RETIREMENT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Pensions and Retirement, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 598: 1% PROPERTY TAX LEVY LIMITATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 599: UNFAIR ADVERTISING/FOOD DELIVERY PLATFORMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Commerce, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 600: REGULATORY REFORM ACT OF 2023.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 601: COMM. COLLEGES FUNDING & ACCOUNTABILITY STUDY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - Community Colleges, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 602: K-3 CLASS SIZE WAIVER.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 603: TEMPORARY EVENT VENUES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Local Government, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 604: CREATE DV EXCEPTIONS TO ONE-YEAR SEPARATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 605: SCHOOL THREAT ASSESSMENT TEAMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 606: VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTER REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 607: PROHIBIT COMPELLED SPEECH/HIGHER ED.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - Universities, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 608: SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELEVATORS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Local Government - Land Use, Planning and Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 609: PHOEBE'S LAW/SPEED MEASURING IN SCHOOL ZONES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Transportation, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 610: 2023 SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Environment, if favorable, State Government, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 611: MODIFY TRAINING/STANDARDS COMMISSIONS POWER.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 612: EXPAND CRIMINAL JUSTICE FELLOWS PROGRAM.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - Community Colleges, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 613: ACCESS TO VOTED BALLOTS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Election Law and Campaign Finance Reform, if favorable, Judiciary 2, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 614: AMEND NC CONST./RIGHT TO WORK.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 615: NC HIGHWAY SAFETY ACT OF 2023.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Transportation, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 616: FIREFIGHTER TRAINING FACILITY FUNDS/HOKE CO.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 617: RIVER HERRING LIMITED HARVEST.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Wildlife Resources, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Finance

H 618: CHARTER SCHOOL REVIEW BOARD.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 619: LEARNING AAPI CONTRIBUTIONS IN SCHOOLS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 620: UP MINIMUM WAGES/NO SUBMINIMUM OR EXEMPTIONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref To Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 621: 3-YEAR FDA APPROVAL FOR NEW CHILDHOOD VAXX.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Health, if favorable, Families, Children, and Aging Policy, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 624: RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL.

House: Filed

H 625: THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 626: CANNABIS LEGALIZATION & AMP REGULATION.

House: Filed

H 627: ON-SITE WASTEWATER RULES IMPLEMENTATION.

House: Filed

H 628: AMEND ON-SITE WASTEWATER/ENVIRONMENT STATUTES.

House: Filed

H 629: MATTHEW'S BILL FOR CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION.

House: Filed

H 630: ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT.

House: Filed

H 631: UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STATUS ENHANCEMENT FUND.

House: Filed

H 632: RURAL BROADBAND TRANSFORMATION ACT.

House: Filed

H 633: SHINE LIKE HAILEY PARADE SAFETY ACT.

House: Filed

H 634: FED PREEMPTION OF STATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

House: Filed

H 635: TRANSFER RECOGNITION PROCESS OF INDIAN TRIBES.

House: Filed

H 636: ENACT CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT REFORM.

House: Filed

H 637: EXPAND PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER.

House: Filed

H 638: REPEAL DEATH PENALTY.

House: Filed

H 639: RAILROAD SAFETY OMNIBUS ACT.

House: Filed

H 640: CAREER PATH OPTIONS TRANSPARENCY ACT.

House: Filed

H 641: NO SOLICITING CERTAIN FUNDS/ELECTIONS BOARDS.

House: Filed

H 642: MARKETABLE TITLE ACT-RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS.

House: Filed

H 643: PASSENGER RAIL CAPITAL AND SERVICE GRANT FUND.

House: Filed

H 644: SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMIC CONTROL IN IT ACT.

House: Filed

H 645: INCLUSIONARY ZONING/WORKFORCE HOUSING FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 646: FINES AND FORFEITURE/PAYMENT TO SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 647: EXPEDITE CHILD PERMANENCY.

House: Filed

H 648: FAITHFUL ARTICLE V COMMISSIONER ACT.

House: Filed

H 649: ENSURE TIMELY/CLINICALLY SOUND UTILIZ. REVIEW.

House: Filed

H 650: SMOKE-FREE OPERATING ROOMS.

House: Filed

H 651: SOUTH PIEDMONT REGIONAL AUTOPSY CENTER/FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 652: HONOR ANNIE BROWN KENNEDY.

House: Filed

H 653: PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTIONS.

House: Filed

H 654: PHARMACISTS/VACCINE ADMIN./TEST AND TREAT.

House: Filed

H 655: COASTAL FISHERIES LICENSING REFORMS.

House: Filed

H 656: REG. PUBLIC TRANS. AUTHORITY SERVICE AREA.

House: Filed

H 657: AMEND 1-YR SEP/REPEAL ALIEN. OF AFF/CRIM. CON.

House: Filed

H 658: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS AMENDMENT.

House: Filed

H 659: HOG LAGOON PHASEOUT/DATE CERTAIN.

House: Filed

H 660: PFAS FREE NC.

House: Filed

H 661: EMERGENCY SERVICES PEER COUNSELING PRIVILEGE.

House: Filed

H 662: SMALL BUSINESS TRUTH IN FINANCING.

House: Filed

H 663: STUDY TO REPLACE GAS TAX WITH FLAT TAX.

House: Filed

H 664: MOBILE BAR SERVICES PERMIT.

House: Filed

H 665: FOSTER PARENT OMBUDSMAN.

House: Filed

H 666: EXPAND INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE IN NC.

House: Filed

H 667: OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP TESTING REQUIREMENTS.

House: Filed

H 668: STUDY ON ELIMINATING UNAUTHORIZED SUBS. TAX.

House: Filed

H 669: TASK FORCE/FAIR PUBLISHING OF REVIEWS.

House: Filed

S 299: REIMBURSE LATE AUDIT COSTS WITH SALES TAX REV.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 332: MODIFY BEACH PLAN POLICY LIMITS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Commerce and Insurance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 507: CHIROPRACTIC PRECEPTORSHIP MODIFICATIONS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Health Care. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 559: TREASURY ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES ACT-AB

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Pensions and Retirement and Aging. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 581: COUNTY AND CITY SALES TAX EXEMPTION.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 608: PROPERTY TAX MODIFICATIONS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 627: CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS TAX EXCLUSION.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Finance. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 742: REVISE RULES/NC PRE-K LICENSURE CREDENTIALS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref to Health Care. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

LOCAL BILLS

S 79: 8TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Sequential Referral To Finance Added After State and Local Government

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