

The Daily Bulletin: 2023-04-18

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 38 (2023-2024) ENTRY FEES FOR HS INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS. Filed Jan 31 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE ACCEPTANCE OF CASH FOR ADMISSION TO HIGH SCHOOL INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Deletes provision of GS 115C-407.55, governing State Board of Education rules for high school interscholastic activities, that required individuals presenting a Tar Heel Card for senior citizens issued by the Department of Health and Human Services obtain free admission to such events. Makes conforming changes to act's title.

Intro. by Pyrtle, Saine, Moss, Miller. GS 115C

View summary Elementary and Secondary Education

H 186 (2023-2024) DIV. OF JUVENILE JUSTICE MODS.-AB Filed Feb 22 2023, AN ACT TO MODIFY THE SERVICE OF SUMMONS FOR JUVENILE PETITIONS, TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS FOR COURT-ORDERED EVALUATIONS FOR JUVENILES, TO MODIFY THE DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC CONCERNING JUVENILES, TO CLARIFY MINORITY SENSITIVITY TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL, TO CLARIFY JUVENILE DETENTION TRANSFER, AND TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING CHANGES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, 9 DIVISION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE.

House committee substitute makes the following changes to the 3rd edition.

Amends new GS 7B-3103 (pertaining to disclosure of information about juveniles for public safety reasons) to create an exception for exigent circumstances to permit release of certain information relating to a juvenile without obtaining a court order first by the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety (Division) or any law enforcement agency within the State. Requires releasing party to seek a court order as soon as reasonably practicable but by no later than the first available session of a court in the county after the release of information. Specifies that if the court does not authorize the release of information, then it must be removed from any website or social media account controlled by the law enforcement agency or the Division.

Intro. by Davis, Pyrtle, Carson Smith, A. Jones. GS 7B, GS 114, GS 153A

View summary

State Agencies, Department of Public Safety, Local
Government, Health and Human Services, Health

H 301 (2023-2024) (2023-2024) MODIFY FILM GRANT. Filed Mar 7 2023, AN ACT TO EXPAND THE FILM GRANT FUND.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Amends GS 143B-437.02A to allow the funds in the Film and Entertainment Grant Fund to be used for a production on which the production company has qualifying expenses of at least \$1 million for a feature-length film (was, \$500,000). Changes the amount of the grant caps as follows: (1) prohibits using the funds to provide a grant in excess of an amount more than 35% of the qualifying expenses for the production if at least 75% of (i) the filming of the production and (ii) where crew, cast, and offices of the production are both located in tier

one and tier two areas, or more than 30% of the qualifying expenses for any other production (was, more than 25%); and (2) changes the grant cap from \$7 million to \$20 million for a feature-length film. Amends the definition of highly compensated individual to mean an individual who directly or indirectly receives \$5 million (was, \$1 million) in compensation for personal services with respect to a single production and makes conforming change to qualifying expense to account for higher amount.

Intro. by Faircloth, Hardister, Lambeth, K. Hall. **GS 143B**

View summary

Business and Commerce, Development, Land Use and Housing, Community and Economic Development

H 314 (2023-2024) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TRAINING/LEAS. (NEW) Filed Mar 8 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TRAINING FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOL EMPLOYEES.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Amends proposed GS 115C-335.15 to require conflicts of interest training instead of ethics training for employees involved in the making or administering of contracts. Makes conforming changes to the act's long and short titles. Makes technical changes.

Intro. by Penny, Wheatley, White, Pike. **GS 115C**

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, View summary

Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies,

UNC System

H 378 (2023-2024) FIREFIGHTERS CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS. Filed Mar 15 2023, AN ACT PROVIDING THAT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS MAY BE CONDUCTED THROUGH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY OR A THIRD-PARTY VENDOR FOR FIREFIGHTER APPLICANTS AND CURRENT MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS OF THE STATE FOR FIVE OR MORE YEARS, PROVIDING THAT THE FIREFIGHTER CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECK REQUIREMENT SHALL NOT APPLY TO JUNIOR MEMBER APPLICANTS AND CURRENT MEMBERS UNDER EIGHTEEN, AND CLARIFYING THAT CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS ARE REQUIRED FOR FIREFIGHTERS PRIOR TO OFFERING THE POSITION.

House committee substitute to the 2nd edition adds the following.

Amends GS 153A-233 to require counties to ensure that any local government or nonprofit volunteer fire department with whom they contract for fire-fighting or prevention services obtains a criminal history record check for an applicant prior to offering that applicant a paid or volunteer position providing those services (previously, required record checks of persons who apply for the positions; previously, referred to incorporated volunteer fire departments). Makes changes throughout to refer to "nonprofit volunteer fire departments" rather than "incorporated volunteer fire departments" with regard to fire departments counties may provide financial assistance to and contract with.

Amends GS 153A-234 and GS 160A-292 to require fire marshals and fire chiefs to obtain criminal history checks for applicants prior to offering a paid or volunteer position for their respective fire departments (previously, required record checks for persons who apply for the positions).

Makes conforming changes to the act's long title.

Intro. by Blackwell, Saine, Torbett, Riddell. GS 143B, GS 153A, GS 160A

View summary Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management H 384 (2023-2024) CITIES/USE OF PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUNDS. Filed Mar 15 2023, AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES FOR WHICH CITIES MAY USE PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUNDS WHEN THE TRUST FUND WAS CREATED SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCEPTING A CEMETERY AND PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUNDS FROM A CEMETERY COMPANY.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Amends GS 160A-347, governing a city's creation of a perpetual care trust fund for cemeteries it owns or controls. Adds that when a city creates such a fund with the sole purpose of accepting perpetual care trust funds from a cemetery company regulated by the North Carolina Cemetery Commission that has elected to or is required to transfer a cemetery and perpetual care trust funds to the city, the city may only use the trust funds for the purpose of perpetually caring for, beautifying, and expanding that cemetery (was, city may either: (1) transfer the principal and income from the perpetual care trust fund to the city's general fund for establishing, operating, and maintaining cemeteries or (2) use the principal and income from the perpetual care trust fund for perpetually caring for, beautifying, and expanding the city's cemeteries).

Intro. by Tyson. GS 160A

View summary

Government, Local Government, Health and Human Services,
Health, Public Health

H 455 (2023-2024) EXPEDITE WATER/WASTEWATER FRANCHISE TRANSFER. Filed Mar 22 2023, AN ACT TO EXPEDITE TRANSFER OF WATER OR WASTEWATER PUBLIC UTILITIES.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Changes GS 62-111(f) to specify that the requirements apply to any applications for grants or transfers of water or wastewater systems sought as a result of a proposed sale of a privately owned water or wastewater system to a public or private entity, except with respect to those applications governed by subdivision (2) of GS 62-111(f) (was, applied to (i) to any applications for grants or transfers of water or wastewater systems, except with respect to those governed by subdivision (2) of GS 62-111(f) and (ii) only to grants or transfers sought as a result of a proposed sale of a privately owned water or wastewater system to a public or private entity).

Intro. by Arp, Johnson, Winslow, Strickland. GS 62

View summary Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 535 (2023-2024) SOLAR CAPACITY LIMIT INCREASE. (NEW) Filed Mar 29 2023, AN ACT TO INCREASE THE CAPS ON ROOFTOP SOLAR LEASING AND ON NET METERING.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Deletes amendments to GS 62-126.5 that remove the cap on the total installed capacity of all solar energy facilities on an offering utility's system that are leased. Instead increases that cap from 1% to 10% of the previous five-year average of the NC retail contribution to the offering utility's coincident retail peak demand. Further specifies that a solar energy facility leased to an individual customer generator lessee pursuant to GS 62-126.5 cannot have a capacity greater than 1 MW (megawatt) or the customer's contract demand which must approximate the customer's maximum expected demand, whichever is less. Effective July 1, 2023, and applies to solar facility leases executed on or after that date.

Deletes proposed amendment to GS 62-126.4 that required the North Carolina Utilities Commission (Commission) to continue to allow net metering for any customer owning and operating a renewable energy facility that generates electricity with a capacity up to 1 MW at the applicable net metering rate in place at the time of interconnection. Requires Commission to expand net metering at the applicable net metering rate to customers that own and operate a renewable energy facility with a capacity of not more than 5 MW or the customer's contract demand which must approximate the customer's maximum expected demand, whichever is less. Specifies that to comply with the terms of the section, a participating customer's meter may be served only by a renewable energy facility that serves only one premises. (Was, a requirement that the Commission expand net metering at the applicable net metering rate in place at the time of interconnection to customers owning and

operating a renewable energy facility with a capacity over 1 MW that is intended primarily to offset the customer's annual usage.)

Amends changes to GS 62-133.8 by now requiring that the Commission adopt rules electric public utilities for net metering of renewable energy facilities with a generation capacity of 5 MW or the customer's contract demand which must approximate the customer's maximum expected demand, whichever is less. (Was, a generation capacity intended primarily to offset the customer's annual usage.)

Makes organizational changes and conforming changes to the effective date and titles.

Intro. by K. Hall, McNeely, Paré, Carney.

GS 62

View summary

Environment, Energy, Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 571 (2023-2024) DISCHARGE OF HIGHLY TREATED WASTEWATER. Filed Apr 4 2023, AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE DISCHARGES FROM WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS THAT MEET SPECIFIED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS TO CERTAIN SURFACE WATERS.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Makes a technical correction to the definition of *highly treated domestic wastewater* set forth in subdivision (3) of new GS 143-215.1(c8), to refer to flows from sources of domestic wastewater that meet the effluent limitations (was, standards) listed in subdivision (1).

Intro. by Arp, Brody, D. Hall, Crutchfield.

GS 143

View summary

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

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

Part I.

Amends GS 7A-304 concerning costs and fees in criminal actions, as follows. Requires in every criminal case where the defendant is convicted or enters a plea of guilty or nolo contendere, or when costs are assessed against the prosecuting witness, that the court determine the defendant's ability to pay any costs assessed and weigh that determination when assessing and collecting the costs listed in the statute (previously, the costs were assessed automatically without considering ability to pay). Removes the prohibition on the court waiving or remitting all or part of any court fines or costs without providing notice and opportunity to be heard by all government entities directly affected; makes conforming deletions. Decreases from \$200 to \$100 the cost assessed for support of the General Court of Justice by a defendant who fails to appear to answer the charge as scheduled, unless within 20 days after the scheduled appearance, the person either appears in court to answer the charge or disposes of the charge under GS 7A-146. Amends the costs for the following services that are charged under specified circumstances by specifying that instead of charging \$600, the amount charged must reflect the costs actually incurred for the services, not to exceed \$600: (1) services of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory facilities; (2) services of any crime laboratory facility; (3) services of any private hospital performing toxicological testing under contract with a prosecutorial district; (4) services of the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory facilities; (5) services of any crime laboratory facility; (6) services of an expert witness employed by the North Carolina State Crime Laboratory who completes a chemical analysis, a forensic analysis, or a digital forensics analysis and provides testimony about that analysis in a defendant's trial; (7) services of an expert witness employed by a crime laboratory who completes a chemical analysis, a forensic analysis, or a digital forensics analysis and provides testimony about that analysis in a defendant's trial; and (8) services of an expert witness

employed by a private hospital performing toxicological testing under contract with a prosecutorial district who completes a chemical analysis and provides testimony about that analysis in a defendant's trial. Deletes an outdated reporting requirement. No longer requires defendants paying costs using an installment plan to pay a \$20 setup fee. Adds that the court must consider the following minimum factors when determining whether a defendant can use an installment plan to pay court costs: (1) defendant's monthly income in relation to the relevant federal poverty guidelines for the defendant's household size; (2) whether the defendant receives public assistance; (3) the defendant's living arrangements and ability to afford or procure housing; (4) whether the defendant resides in a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility; and (5) any limits on the defendant's ability to secure employment.

Repeals GS 7A-350, which required the Administrative Office of the Courts to keep records of and report on criminal court cost waivers to the specified NCGA committees.

Part II.

Amends GS 15A-1364(a), which provides that when a defendant who has been required to pay a fine or costs defaults in payment or in any installment, the court may require the defendant to appear and show cause why he should not be imprisoned or may rely upon a conditional show cause order. Adds that the court must consider the following minimum factors: (1) defendant's monthly income in relation to the relevant federal poverty guidelines for the defendant's household size; (2) whether the defendant receives public assistance; (3) the defendant's living arrangements and ability to afford or procure housing; (4) whether the defendant resides in a mental health or substance abuse treatment facility; and (5) any limits on the defendant's ability to secure employment. Adds that (a) does not apply to a defendant who has received an active sentence in the same case in which the defendant has defaulted on the payment.

Amends GS 15A-1365, which allows the judge to order that the judgment be docketed when a defendant has defaulted in payment of a fine or costs. Provides that the clerk may not issue an execution on the docketed judgement if the fine or costs were imposed for an offense other than trafficking in controlled substances or conspiring to traffic in controlled substances and the defendant is serving an active sentence (was, the defendant elects to serve the suspended sentence, if any, or serve a term of 30 days, if no suspended sentence was imposed).

Part III.

Enacts new GS 20-24.3, prohibiting the Division of Motor Vehicles (Division) from revoking the drivers license of a person charged with an infraction, misdemeanor, or felony if revocation is solely due to failure to appear after proper notice when the case was called for a trial or hearing, and/or failure to pay a fine, penalty, or court costs ordered by the court.

Makes conforming repeals of (1) GS 20-24.1, which requires the Division to revoke the driver's license of a person upon receipt of notice from a court that the person was charged with a motor vehicle offense and either failed to appear after proper notice when the case was called for a trial or hearing; or failed to pay a court-ordered fine, penalty, or court costs, and (2) GS 20-24.2, which requires a court to report to the Division the name of any person charged with a motor vehicle offense under the Chapter who fails to appear to answer the charge as scheduled or fails to pay a fine, penalty, or costs within 40 days of the date specified in the court's judgment. Makes conforming changes to GS 15A-1116; GS 20-13.2; GS 20-19(k); GS 20-28.1; GS 20-217(g2); GS 50-13.12; and GS 110-142.2(f).

Further amends GS 20-217(g2), regarding the required withholding of the registration renewal of a motor vehicle registered to a person who fails to pay any fine or costs imposed pursuant to the statute for failing to stop for properly marked and designated school buses in certain instances. Directs the Division to continue to withhold the registration renewal until the clerk of superior court notifies the Division that the person has satisfied each of the four specified conditions applicable to the person's case, including (1) disposing of the charge in which the person failed to appear when the case was last called for trial or hearing; (2) demonstrating to the court that the person is not the person charged with the offense; (3) paying the penalty, fine, or costs ordered by the court; and/or (4) demonstrating to the court that the person's failure to pay the penalty, fine, or costs was not willful and that the person is making a good-faith effort to pay or that the penalty, fine, or costs should be remitted.

Further amends GS 50-13.12, which governs forfeiture of licensing privileges for failure to pay child support or for failure to comply with a subpoena issued pursuant to child support or paternity establishment proceedings. Clarifies that reinstatement of a drivers license under the statute is conditioned upon payment of the applicable restoration fees in addition to the specified requirements.

Similarly, further amends GS 110-142.2, which governs suspension and revocation of occupational, professional, or business licenses of obligors who are delinquent in court-ordered child support, or who are not in compliance with subpoenas issued pursuant to child support or paternity establishment proceedings. Clarifies that reinstatement of a drivers license under the statute is conditioned upon payment of the applicable restoration fees in addition to the specified requirements.

Effective October 1, 2023.

Part IV.

Amends GS 143B-1483 to explicitly provide that a judge can waive the \$250 fee required for participation in the community service program for good cause.

Part V.

Eliminates the court costs set forth for seat belt infractions in GS 20-135.2A; maintains the civil penalty for the infraction. Applies to costs and fees assessed on or after October 1, 2023.

Part VI.

Amends GS 15A-1343 to require a court to exempt a person from paying the \$40 per month fee for supervised probation when probation is extended for the sole purpose of complying with monetary obligations. Makes conforming changes. Applies to supervision fees incurred in the calendar month of the date the act becomes law and all subsequent supervision fees incurred in the same term of supervised probation.

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

GS 7A, GS 15A, GS 20, GS 50, GS 110, GS 143B

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Court System, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

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.

Amends GS 58-50-61 the definition of *utilization review* (a set of formal techniques designed to monitor the use of or evaluate the clinical necessity, appropriateness, efficacy or efficiency of health care services, procedures, providers, or facilities) so that the techniques also include prior authorization. Also amends utilization review technique *concurrent review* so that it now means a utilization review conducted during a patient's hospital stay or course of treatment and payment will be made for that service (currently, no reference to payment). Defines *closely related service*, *course of treatment*, *prior authorization*, and *urgent health care service*. Amends *emergency services* to include ambulance and other transportation services.

Requires insurers or utilization review organizations (URO) to evaluate clinical review at least annually (currently, just periodically). Sets forth five required criteria for the insurer's clinical review, including that it be based on nationally recognized medical standards, clinically appropriate, and that it be flexible to allow deviations from the norm when justified on an individual basis to ensure access to care. Establishes qualifications medical doctor performing a noncertification (i.e., that a proposed course of treatment is not medically necessary) must meet, including that they be in the same specialty as the physician who manages the condition at issue and also has experience with treatment of that condition. Requires medical doctors to issue noncertifications under the clinical direction of one of the insurer's medical doctors who are responsible for the provisions of health care services to covered persons (i.e., a person covered by a health plan or one acting on their behalf). Requires that notice be given to a covered person if an insurer is questioning medical necessity and that the person's provider given an opportunity to speak with the doctor performing the utilization review determination. Adds a requirement that an insurer maintain a complete list of health care services for which utilization review is required, including all health care services where utilization review is to be performed by a contracting entity.

Changes the insurer's deadline for communicating its decision on a utilization review to a provider from a general three business days after receiving the necessary information to deadlines ranging from 48 hours after receiving all necessary information for non-urgent to health care services to within 60 minutes of receiving a request for emergency services that

requires immediate post-evaluation or post-stabilization services. Requires insurer to provide coverage necessary to screen and stabilize a person for an emergency service before any evaluation of medical necessity occurs. Sets forth presumption of medical necessity if a provider attests in writing to an insurer within 72 hours of a covered person's admission that the covered person's condition required emergency services. Requires an insurer to make a concurrent review determination within 24 hours of obtaining all necessary information. Specifies that an insurer failing to make a determination within the time frames set forth in GS 58-50-61 is deemed to have approved the request.

Specifies information that the insurer must communicate to a provider in requesting additional information for a utilization review. Requires an insurer to adjudicate these claims promptly and in line with the deadlines set forth in GS 58-3-225 (prompt claim payments under health benefit plans). Bars retrospective limitation, denial, or restriction of care provided pursuant to a utilization review within 45 business days of the review unless any of six enumerated exceptions apply, including fraud by the provider, the health care service was not a covered benefit on the date care was provided, or the provider failed to meet the insurer's timely filing requirements.

Requires that additional information be provided in notice provisions of noncertification. Sets forth four qualifications that a medical doctor reviewing appeals must possess, including a license to practice medicine in the State, currently in active practice for at least five years in the same or similar specialty as the physician who typically manages the covered person's medical care, and who has not been actively involved in making the adverse determination.

Requires insurers to post on its website (1) utilization review requirements described in detail in easily understood language and (2) certain statistics related to its utilization review. Establishes notice and posting requirements for when an insurer changes its utilization review requirements.

Specifies that a utilization review determination is valid for the entire duration of the approved course of treatment and effective regardless of any change in dosage in medication.

Sets forth five requirements to ensure continuity of care: (1) On receipt, from a covered person or the covered person's provider, of information documenting a prior utilization review determination, requires an insurer to honor a utilization review determination granted to the covered person from a previous insurer for at least 90 calendar days of a covered person's coverage under a new health benefit plan. Permits, during this 90-day time period, for an insurer to perform its own utilization review; (2) if a change in coverage or approval criteria for a previously authorized healthcare service then that change will affect a covered person who received a utilization review determination before the effective date of the change for the remainder of the covered person's health benefit plan year; (3) requires coverage of a service previously granted under a utilization review if a covered person changes plans provided that the medically necessary services subject to the determination don't change; (4) if a provider performs a health care service closely related to the service for which approval has already been granted, an insurer may not deny a claim for the closely related service for failure of the provider to seek or obtain a utilization review if the provider had notified the insurer of the performance of the closely related service no later than three business days following the completion of the closely related service, but prior to the submission of the claim for payment for that service; (5) bars insurer from restricting certain benefits related to childbirth.

Specifies that an insurer may not require a provider to request a utilization review for a health care service in order for the covered person to whom the health care service is being provided to receive coverage if, within the most recent 12-month period, the insurer has issued certifications, or would have issued certifications, for not less than 80% of the utilization review requests submitted by the provider for that health care service. Specifies that this does not apply to utilization review requests that are pending review by an insurer. Permits an insurer to evaluate whether a provider continues to qualify for this exemption not more than once every 12 months. Clarifies that a provider is not required to request an exemption in order to qualify for an exemption. Specifies that a provider who does not receive an exemption may request from the insurer at any time, but not more than once per year per service, evidence to support the insurer's decision. Permits a health care provider to appeal an insurer's decision to deny an exemption.

Only allows an insurer to revoke an exemption at the end of the 12-month period if the insurer does all of the following: (1) makes a determination that the provider would not have met the 80% approval criteria based on a retrospective review of the claims for the particular service for which the exemption applies for the previous three months or for a longer period if needed to reach a minimum of 10 claims for review; (2) provides the provider with the information the insurer relied upon in making the determination to revoke the exemption; and (3) provides the provider a plain language explanation of how to appeal the decision.

Specifies time frames for how long an exemption remains in place past an insurer's decision to revoke the exemption. Requires that decisions on exemptions be made by providers licensed in the State with the same or similar specialty as the provider being considered for the exemption and with experience in providing the services for which the potential exception applies.

Provides for notice to providers that receive an exemption.

Prevents an insurer from denying or reducing payment for a health care service exempted from a utilization review requirement, including a health care service performed or supervised by another provider when the provider who ordered the service received an exemption, unless the rendering provider (1) knowingly and materially misrepresented the health care service in request for payment submitted to the insurer with the specific intent to deceive and obtain an unlawful payment from the insurer or (2) failed to substantially perform the health care service.

Specifies that an insurer is not required to evaluate an existing exemption or prevents an insurer from establishing a longer exemption period.

Specifies that any failure by an insurer to comply with the deadlines and other requirements specified in GS 58-50-61 will result in any health care services subject to review to be automatically deemed authorized by the insurer.

Makes technical and conforming changes. Makes language gender neutral.

Effective January 1, 2024, and applies to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

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

GS 58

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.

Section 1.1

Recodifies GS 113-168(1) as GS 116-168(1a) and GS 113-168(3a) as GS 113-168(3b).

Amends GS 113-168, containing the definitions for Article 14A concerning coastal and estuarine commercial fishing licenses, defining CFCL to mean Commercial Fishing Crew License, HSCFL to mean Heritage Standard Commercial Fishing License, and VCFE to mean a Vessel Commercial Fishing Endorsement. Also adds and defines controlling interest and person. Makes other clarifying changes.

Amends GS 113-168.1, by adding the following. Makes it unlawful to use commercial gear to harvest fish for personal consumption, donation, bartering, or any non-sale purposes, except: (1) a Standard Commercial Fishing License or Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License holder who has obtained a Pre-Harvest Donation permit may donate no more than 500 pounds of fish on an annual basis to one or more charitable organizations recognized under the laws of the State; and (2) A SCFL, RSCFL, or shellfish license holder may harvest the maximum individual daily harvest limit prescribed by law for personal consumption. Makes it illegal to harvest and land fish taken from coastal waters using commercial gear to fail to report that harvest to the Division of Marine Fisheries (Division), except that SCFL, RSCFL, CFCL, or shellfish license holders are not required to report maximum individual daily harvest limits taken under their licenses for personal use. Requires fish dealers to report to the Divisions landings of fish that are sold. Sets out requirements for reporting landings of fish donated to a charity by a SCFL, RSCFL, or shellfish license holders. Requires the organizer of a public angler fishing tournament to (1) notify the Division of the dates of the tournament at least 90 days before the tournament is to be held and (2) keep a record of all fish harvested during the tournament and report those landings to the Division on a non-sale reporting form. Allows the Division, instead of a paper non-sale reporting form, to make available a downloadable software application to allow electronic transmittal of the reporting forms for the above reports. Makes it unlawful for any person to hold more than one type of each commercial fishing license issued under this statute. Any corporation or other legal entity in which a person holds a controlling

interest will count towards the limit imposed by this subsection. Makes a person who held more than one SCFL on January 1, 2024, and who is also the owner of more than one vessel used in a commercial fishing operation in the State's coastal fishing waters, registered with the Division, eligible to purchase a VCFE for each additional vessel, subject to the following conditions. Limits the number of VCFEs for which a SCFL holder is eligible at any time to no more than the total number of SCFLs held by a person holding multiple SCFLs on January 1, 2024. Requires each VCFE to be permanently associated by the Division with the vessel registration number of the vessel for which it is held and with the SCFL number of the VCFE holder. Requires the Marine Fisheries Commission to adopt rules providing for transfer of an existing VCFE to a new vessel upon proof that an endorsed vessel has been sold and replaced with a similar vessel. Requires that the VCFE be assignable by the SCFL holder to a vessel captain other than the SCFL holder for the purpose of carrying on a commercial fishing operation. Makes all landings from the vessel on which the VCFE is held subject to specified reporting requirements. Sets the cost of each VCFE at \$750.

Amends GS 113-168.2 as follows. Sets out requirements that must be met in order to renew a SCFL. Increases the annual fee for a SCFL for a resident of this state from \$400 to \$800. The fee may not be less than \$800 for nonresidents. Restricts the transfer of an SCFL only to a member of a holder's immediate family or to a corporation or other legal entity in which the SCFL holder and their immediate family hold a controlling interest. Makes SCFL assignments subject to reporting requirements regardless of the assignee's residency or where the fish are landed. Makes conforming changes. Removes provision for a surviving member of a deceased licensee's immediate family to request transfer of an SCFL to a third-party purchaser of the deceased licensee's fishing vessel. Removes provision for a person retiring from commercial fishing to transfer their SCFL to a third-party purchaser of their fishing vessel. Adds new subsection (j), allowing a person holding an SCFL or an administrator or executor holding a transferred SCFL to request that the SCFL be converted to a Heritage Standard Commercial Fishing License (HSCFL). Directs the Division to classify the HSCFL as a separate class of inactive SCFL. Makes it illegal to harvest fish under an HSCFL. Sets the annual fee for an HSCFL at \$100. Directs the Division to terminate the HSCFL if it is not timely renewed or 10 years after the original issuance of the HSCFL if it has not been reconverted. Adds new subsection (k), providing that the HSCFL may be reconverted as an SCFL by a member of the immediate family of the person holding the SCFL at the time it was converted. The reconverted SCFL will not be subject to the procedures adopted by the Commission and the Division for issuance of SCFLs from the pool of inactive licenses, and will not be subject to any eligibility requirements for renewal other than payment of the renewal fee for a period of five years following reconversion.

Amends GS 113-168.3, increasing the annual fee for the Retired Standard Commercial Fishing License to \$400 for residents of the state and \$520 for non-residents. Enacts new GS 113-168.3A, creating a Commercial Fishing Crew License (CFCL). Allows for application for a CFCL by any person who serves on the crew of a commercial fishing vessel under the direction of a person who holds a valid SCFL. Sets the annual fee for the CFCL at \$100 for residents of the state and \$200 for non-residents. Allows a person holding a CFCL for three consecutive years to be eligible to apply for a SCFL after submitting tax documentation from actual participation in a commercial fishery during each of the three years; exempts an applicant from other eligibility requirements. Makes insurance of a SCFL subject to availability of a SCFL from the Availability Pool.

Amends GS 113-168.4, regarding the sale of fish, to require a recreational fishing tournament license holder to comply with the reporting requirements of new GS 113-168.1(b3).

Amends GS 113-169.1 by allowing the Division to issue a Pre-Harvest Donation Permit to any SCFL, RSCFL, or shellfish license holder allowing the use of commercial gears to take limited quantities of fish intended for charitable donation. Limits the donation to 500 pounds of fish annually by any license holder. Sets out conditions that must be met in order for the donation to be lawful, including obtaining the Pre-Harvest Donation Permit before the harvest that results in the donation. Sets out reporting requirements.

Requires the Commission to adopt temporary and permanent rules to implement these requirements.

Effective October 1, 2023.

Section 2.1

Codifies SL 1997-400, Section 5.2, as amended, as GS 113-168.7 and makes the following changes. Modifies the temporary cap provision in subsection (c) to make it a permanent cap, set at the number of SCFLs active on June 30, 2023, plus 100 additional SCFLs. Removes provision for issuance of licenses in 1999-2000. Creates an Inactive Pool for SCFLs that have not been renewed, and an Active Pool for SCFLs that are available to be issued. A license in the Inactive Pool may be reactivated by the holder until it has been in the pool for two years after nonrenewal and transfer to the Inactive Pool by the person that

held the SCFL before it became inactive. Transfer a SCFl that has not be reactivated within two years to the Availability Pool. Grants the Commission the authority to determine how many licenses from the Availability Pool to issue, and the procedure for doing so, up to the cap set by subsection (c). Requires the Commission to set aside 100 licenses from the Availability Pool for an apprenticeship program for students completing a commercial fishing program offered by an NC community college or an equivalent program from another state. Removes outdated language. Makes other clarifying changes. Effective June 30, 2024.

Section 3.1

Repeals GS 113-173, GS 113-168(6), GS 113-173.1(a)(6), and GS 113-174(4)c., all concerning the Recreational Commercial Gear License. Makes conforming change to GS 113-168.1(a). Effective June 30, 2024.

Section 3.2

Amends GS 113-174.2, adding new subsection (e), directing the Commission to adopt rules allowing persons holding a Coastal Recreational Fishing License (CRFL) to use (1) up to five crab pots to take crab for personal use; (2) up to five shrimp pots, or a channel net, to take shrimp for personal use; and (3) seines to take fish for bait. Allows the Commission to adopt temporary rules.

Section 4.1

Amends GS 113-174.2(c), increasing the fees for CRFLs to the following: \$20 for annual residents, \$36 for annual nonresidents, \$7 for ten-day residents, and \$18 for ten-day nonresidents.

Effective October 1, 2024.

Section 5.1

Appropriates \$750,000 in recurring funds for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Division to be used for: (1) to offset any loss of revenue from licensing fees that result from the adoption of this act; (2) for the extension and expansion of programs to remove crab pots and other derelict fishing gear from northeastern, eastern, and southeastern North Carolina waters, with preference for program participants granted to transitioning commercial license holders; and (3) for the expansion of aquaculture and shellfish leasing programs, including training and start-up funding for new participants in those programs, with preference given to commercial license holders that may be affected by the adoption of this act.

Appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the NC Collaboratory to study the design and implementation of a fisheries license buyback and retirement program for commercial license holders impacted by this act.

Section 6.1

Reenacts GS 113-174.3(e), which required each individual who obtains a for-hire license to submit to the Division logbooks summarizing catch and effort statistical data to the Division.

Section 7.1

Contains a severability clause.

Intro. by Ross, Bell, Adams, Wray.

APPROP, STUDY, GS 113

View summary

Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR)

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.

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

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

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

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

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

Part II.

Expands the water pollution control measures set out in GS 143-215.1 as follows. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to require applicants for a new or renewed individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to disclose each pollutant in the person's discharge reasonably expected to be at or above the pollutant's practical quantitation limit (PQL), including concentration discharged and either the chemical abstracts service (CAS) number or a detailed characteristic description. Additionally, mandates that when any person is required to obtain a NPDES permit that receives waste from an industrial user: (1) the industrial user must disclose in the user's application for a new or renewed pretreatment permit each pollutant in the user's discharge that is at or above the pollutant's PQL and (2) must eliminate, either by the permittee or the industrial user, any perfluoroalkyl or its substances (PFAS) prior to discharge into State waters, as specified.

Part III.

Amends GS 130A-309 to require public water systems subject to drinking water sampling requirements under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule to give public notice, including written notice to each customer and post sampling results online, within 30 days of receiving them. Makes conforming and organizational changes.

Requires by June 30, 2023, that public water systems that have received prior sampling results demonstrating the presence of PFAS in finished drinking water provide public notice of the sampling results, including written notice to each customer and posting sampling results online. Defines *PFAS* to mean any fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom, including any precursors of such substances.

Part IV.

Directs DEQ to begin identifying technology-based limits for detectable PFAS, as defined, in new and renewed NPDES permits, with treatment sufficient to reduce detectable PFAS in effluent to *non-detect levels*, as defined. Requires DEQ to begin this action by June 1, 2024.

Directs DEQ to study the presence of PFAS in land-applied biosolids, including identification of the most common PFAS, likely categories of sources, the propensity for migration off-site, and accumulation and persistence in soil and water downgradient from land application sites. Requires DEQ to report to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by September 1, 2024. Directs the EMC to adopt rules to prevent PFAS migration or accumulation off-site from land application sites if DEQ finds PFAS are likely to migrate and accumulate at detectable levels in soil and water that are downgradient from sites in its study.

Directs DEQ to study the presence of PFAS in leachate collected and disposed of from municipal solid waste landfills and construction and demolition debris landfills, including identification of the most common PFAS and the effectiveness of treatment technologies. Requires DEQ to report to the EMC and ERC by September 1, 2024. Directs the EMC to adopt rules to prohibit the disposal of leachate containing detectable PFAS, as defined, at wastewater treatment plants if DEQ finds practical removal from wastewater prior to discharge impracticable.

Requires DEQ to approve a US EPA-validated lab method by January 1, 2024, if the US EPA has not certified a lab method for the identification and measurement of PFAS in wastewater.

Requires DEQ to create an inventory of all ongoing direct and indirect discharges of PFAS to the air and surface waters, and known and likely instances of PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater. Sets out data that must be included in the inventory. Allows coordinating with specified entities to assemble the inventory of PFAS discharges and contamination. Requires a report to the Environmental Review Commission by September 1, 2024, and requires quarterly updates on new discharges or contamination thereafter.

Requires the Secretaries' Science Advisory Board of the DEQ and the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a risk assessment, based on the best available scientific information, of the risks to human health presented by exposures to PFAS present in North Carolina in various media, including air, water, and soil, both as individual toxic substances and as a class of toxic substances. Requires a report to the specified NCGA committees by September 1, 2024.

Part V.

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement a program to study the estimated human exposure to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Cape Fear River Basin, and to conduct an epidemiological study of populations of the Cape Fear River Basin to identify disparities in disease prevalence consistent with long-term exposures to PFAS. Requires consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Requires DHHS to report to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by December 31, 2024, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2024.

Directs the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to study the estimated ecological exposures and impacts from PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River Basin. Requires WRC to report to the ERC by December 31, 2024, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2024.

Directs the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to study the estimated costs to the State, local governments, businesses, and individuals in response to human and ecological exposure to PFAS. Requires consultation with DEQ and the Attorney General to estimate costs attributable to each source of PFAS identified in the state. Requires OSBM to report to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by December 31, 2024, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2024.

Directs the NC Policy Collaboratory to study the ongoing and anticipated future costs of the aggregate impact of the discharge, emission, and contamination of PFAS in North Carolina, as specified, and to report to the specified NCGA committees by September 1, 202

Directs the ERC to study all statutory and regulatory requirements for disclosing the discharge or release of PFAS or other emerging contaminants to DEQ and the public, and report to the 2024 Regular Session of the NCGA.

Directs the ERC to study actions taken by other states to promote the practice of green chemistry to reduce the generation and use of hazardous chemicals and to drive sustainable alternatives to the use and manufacture of PFAS and other emerging contaminants. Requires the ERC to also study relevant tax incentives, regulatory changes, and other approaches other states have adopted. Requires the ERC to report to the 2024 Regular Session of the NCGA.

Part VI.

Appropriates the following nonrecurring funds from the General Fund for the 2023-24 fiscal year for the studies in Part V: \$200,000 to DEQ; \$100,000 to DHHS; \$100,000 to WRC; \$100,000 to OSBM; and \$100,000 to the Collaboratory. Effective July 1, 2023.

Part VII.

Appropriates \$5 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2023-24 fiscal year for the Bernard Allen Drinking Water Fund to fund drinking water treatment systems for *covered wells*, as defined.

Appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ to expand DEQ's ambient water quality monitoring activities to identify emerging and other pollutants in State waters at locations upstream from surface drinking water intakes.

Appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2023-24 fiscal year to develop a strategy to address persistent toxic chemicals in the State's environment. Requires development of a PFAS Chemical Action Plan pursuant to criteria provided, and consultation with stakeholders with opportunities for public comment. Requires the Final PFAS Chemical Action Plan to identify recommendations for legislative and administrative action. Requires finalization of the Plan by January 1, 2025, with implementation by April 1, 2025.

Appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2023-24 fiscal year to study PFAS destruction and disposal techniques to identify a *safe* (as defined), effective, and scalable technology, including an analysis of current technologies. Allows for coordination of research with other entities. Requires DEQ to report to the EMC and ERC by September 1, 2024.

Appropriates \$80 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the State Water Infrastructure Authority for the 2023-24 fiscal year to issue matching grants to water systems to build or improve drinking water treatment systems to substantially reduce public exposure to detectable PFAS.

Directs the Attorney General to develop and maintain a record of cumulative expenses of State agencies and local governments relating to the grants for drinking water treatment systems for covered wells, the study of PFAS destruction and disposal techniques, and the grants to water systems to build or improve drinking water treatment systems to reduce public exposure of detectable PFAS, as required by the act.

Defines detectable PFAS for purposes of the appropriations provisions of the act.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Part VIII.

Contains a severability clause.

Intro. by Harrison, Butler, Belk, Longest.

View summary

APPROP, STUDY, GS 130A, GS 143

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Department of Health and Human Services, Office of State Budget and Management, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health

H 670 (2023-2024) PRESERVE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT DECLARING AN UNLIMITED RIGHT TO USE CONTRACEPTION TO PREVENT PREGNANCY; REQUIRING CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTIVE PILLS IN AT LEAST ONE VENDING MACHINE ON EACH CAMPUS; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO NONPROFIT COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS FOR THE PURCHASE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LONG-ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIVES.

Enacts new Article 44 (Right to Use Contraception) in GS Chapter 90. Includes new GS 90-751.2, declaring that it is the policy of the State that there is no legitimate governmental interest in limiting the freedom to use contraception to prevent pregnancy.

Creates new GS 116-43.25 (Provide emergency contraceptive pills on each campus), requiring higher education institutions of the University of North Carolina to provide access to emergency contraceptive pills through at least one vending machine on

each main campus. Establishes requirements for the storage, cost, inspections, and labeling of the vending machines. The new section is effective when it becomes law and applies to the 2023-2024 academic year.

Appropriates \$300,000 for 2023-24 to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, from the General Fund for grants to nonprofit community health centers for providing access to long-acting reversible contraceptives to underserved and uninsured patients. Establishes criteria for long-acting reversible contraceptives.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by von Haefen, Butler, Prather, Budd.

APPROP, GS 90, GS 116

View summary

Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health

H 671 (2023-2024) PROTECT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE IT A CLASS F FELONY TO WILLFULLY OR MALICIOUSLY DESTROY, INJURE, OR OTHERWISE DAMAGE A PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE OR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM; TO ESTABLISH THE CYBER SECURITY FUND WITHIN THE STATE TREASURY TO BE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY WITH INPUT FROM CRITICAL GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THEIR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INFRASTRUCTURE TO STRENGTHEN THE STATE AND LOCALITIES AGAINST CYBERATTACKS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE; AND TO ESTABLISH THE UTILITY SECURITIZATION TRUST FUND WITHIN THE STATE TREASURY TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES, THE STATE, AND LOCALITIES AGAINST ATTACKS ON UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Enacts new GS 14-150.2 (Attack on public infrastructure) making it a Class F felony to willfully or maliciously destroy or damage, or attempt to destroy or damage, a public infrastructure or public transportation system. Defines public infrastructure to include publicly or privately owned facilities, systems, functions, or assets, both physical and virtual, that provide or distribute services for the benefit of the public, like energy, fuel, water, and communications systems. Similarly defines public transportation system to include publicly or privately owned facilities and conveyances used for public transportation of individuals or cargo. Imposes civil liability on any person who violates the section or acts as an accessory or aids in the violation of the section. Effective and applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Creates new GS 143C-9-10 (Cyber Security Fund), which creates the North Carolina Cybersecurity Commission (Commission) to make grant awards from the Cyber Security Fund to state and local agencies for cybersecurity upgrades, risk responsiveness, and personnel training. Makes the State Treasurer the custodian of the Cyber Security Fund. Requires the Department of Information Technology to administer expenditures and the program of grants awarded by the Commission with input from the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation, and counties and cities. Establishes the members of the Commission as one representative from each of the following entities: the Department of Information Technology, the Division of Emergency Management in the Department of Public Safety, the North Carolina National Guard, and the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association. Provides for the Commission's duties, including developing a cybersecurity strategy to make North Carolina governments secure, and to advise state and local officials on cybersecurity. Amends GS 143B-1322 to add administration of the Cyber Security Fund to the list of State CIO duties.

Effective July 1, 2023, appropriates \$25 million for 2023-24 and \$25 million for 2024-25 from the General Fund to the Cyber Security Fund. Directs federal funds received in the 2023-25 biennium to implement the State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program to be credited to the Cyber Security Fund.

Adds new GS 143C-9-11 (Utility Securitization Trust Fund), which creates a fund administered by the State Treasurer to make awards to public utilities for upgrading and hardening the security of public utility infrastructure, for risk responsiveness, and personnel training. Directs the State Treasurer to manage the fund with input from the Department of Public Safety, State Bureau of Investigation, counties and cities, and the Public Utilities Commission.

Effective July 1, 2023, appropriates \$25 million for 2023-24 and \$25 million for 2024-25 from the General Fund to the Utility Securitization Trust Fund.

Intro. by Reives, Charles Smith, F. Jackson, Pierce.

APPROP, GS 14, GS 143B, GS 143C

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Information Technology, Department of State Treasurer, Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 672 (2023-2024) RESTORE STATE EMP/TEACHER RETIREE MED BENEFIT. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO PREVENT THE ELIMINATION OF RETIREE MEDICAL BENEFITS FOR MEMBERS FIRST EARNING SERVICE UNDER THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE CONSOLIDATED JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, OR THE OPTIONAL RETIREMENT PROGRAMS, ESTABLISHED UNDER G.S. 135-5.1 AND G.S. 135-5.4, ON OR AFTER JANUARY 1, 2021.

Substantively identical to H 333, filed 3/9/23.

Includes whereas clauses.

Repeals subsections (c) and (d) of Section 35.21 of SL 2017-57, as title indicates. Effective retroactively to December 31, 2020.

Intro. by F. Jackson, von Haefen, Jeffers, Charles Smith.

UNCODIFIED

View summary

Employment and Retirement, Government, State Government, State Personnel

H 673 (2023-2024) CLARIFY REGULATIONS ON ADULT ENTERTAINMENT. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE REGULATIONS ON ADULT LIVE ENTERTAINMENT.

Enacts new GS 14-190.15A. Defines "adult live entertainment" as a performance featuring topless dancers, exotic dancers, strippers, or male or female impersonators whose performance appeals to a prurient interest, with or without consideration. Declares it illegal to engage in "adult live entertainment" on public property or in the presence of a person under the age of 18.

Sets criminal penalties for violations. A person committing a first time offense in violation of 14-190.15A(b) is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor. A person committing a second or subsequent offense in violation of 14-190.15A(b) is guilty of a Class 1 felony.

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Intro. by Zenger, Pless, Loftis, Lambeth.

GS 14

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Law and Procedure

OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS AND MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS, AND TO ESTABLISH CERTAIN IMMUNITY FOR CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS.

Enacts new Article 3A, Child Advocacy Centers in GS Chapter 108A, providing the following. Defines *Children's Advocacy Center* as a child-focused, trauma-informed, facility-based program in good standing with Children's Advocacy Centers of NC Inc. or its successor, that assists in the coordination of the investigation of child maltreatment by promoting a coordinated, multidisciplinary response to cases of child maltreatment in which representatives from law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, mental health, forensic interviewing, medical, or victim advocacy groups or disciplines collaborate regarding the investigation, prosecution, safety, treatment, and support services, including forensic interviews, medical examinations, mental health services, advocacy, consultation, and training, to be provided, directly or by formalized agreements, for children suspected to be victims of child maltreatment and their appropriate caregivers.

Defines *child* as any individual under age 18, or for referrals made by law enforcement, any individual who has a developmental disability, as defined in GS 122C-3(12a), that severely impacts conceptual, social, and practical areas of living to the extent the individual cannot live in an independent environment. Also defines the following terms: *caregiver, child maltreatment, child medical evaluation, Children's Advocacy Center of NC, Inc., department, forensic interview, law enforcement child medical evaluation, multidisciplinary team, National Children's Alliance, national standards, and state standards.*

Requires a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) to meet all of the following in order to receive State funds or federal funds administered or distributed by a State agency or any other funds appropriated or allocated by the NCGA: (1) found to be in good standing with State standards set forth by Children's Advocacy Centers of NC Inc. (CACNC) or its successor (with provisions that CACNC will inform State partners when a CAC is no longer in good standing); (2) is an independent agency, which may be affiliated with an umbrella organization or a part of a governmental entity, with sound administrative policies and procedures designed to ensure quality of services and sustainability including specified standards; (3) provides a childfriendly, trauma-informed space for children suspected to be victims of child maltreatment and their appropriate caregivers; (4) conducts on-site interviews of children by a forensic interviewer in appropriate cases of suspected child maltreatment; (5) maintains a multidisciplinary team (MDT) that meets regularly and are routinely involved in investigations and multidisciplinary team interventions; (6) has a written interagency agreement signed by authorized representatives of all MDT participants that commits the signed parties to the multidisciplinary model for the investigation of child maltreatment, with the agreement reviewed and signed annually; (7) provides a space for MDT meetings; (8) establishes and maintains written protocols that comply with State and federal laws governing the specified topics; (9) has a designated staff that is supervised and approved by the CAC's Board of Directors or other governing entity; (10) provides case tracking of child abuse cases served through the CAC, according to written protocols and sets out additional items the CAC must track; (11) provides or refers child medical evaluations and law enforcement child medical evaluations, as requested by a department or a law enforcement agency; (12) provides mental health services or referrals for those mental health services, which will be provided by licensed mental health professionals who deliver trauma-focused, evidence-supported treatment and who meet State standards; (13) provides training for various disciplines in the community that deal with child maltreatment; (14) provides victim support and advocacy that meets State and national standards; (15) maintains diversity, equity, and inclusion by completing a community assessment every three years, which does at least the listed items; (16) provides annual trainings or educational opportunities for multidisciplinary team members' professional development; (17) ensures that CAC employees and volunteers are properly screened and trained in accordance with State and national standards; and (18) provides all services to a child client regardless of the child's or child's family's ability to pay for those services. Makes the CACNC, or its successor, responsible for tracking and documenting compliance and any funds it administers to an eligible CAC.

Enacts GS 108A-75.3, pertaining to sharing of information. Authorizes a department to share information relevant to the protection of a child with the MDT, subject to state and federal laws and rules. Authorizes other MDT members to share information relevant to the protection of a child with the MDT, subject to state and federal statutes and rules. Authorizes the chief district court judge of the judicial district in which the MDT sits to enter an administrative order designating certain local agencies located within the jurisdiction as authorized to share information concerning a case of suspected child maltreatment in which the county department of social services (department) is not involved, with designated agencies required to share information in their possession upon request and to the extent permitted by federal law and regulations, for so long as the child's case is being investigated by law enforcement or the child is receiving services at the Center. Deems shared information confidential except for disclosures required by law and limits use to the extent necessary for the agency to perform its required duties. Specifies that the provisions do not require disclosure or release of information in the possession of a district attorney. Specifies that information shared between MDT members must comply with federal law or regulation and remain confidential,

except to the extent necessary for the protection of a child. Provides an MDT member limited liability for state civil and criminal law violations for good faith participation in team discussions by providing information about a child being reviewed by the MDT.

Enacts GS 108A-75.4 relating to access to CAC records, which provides the following. Creates distinct confidentiality provisions for child medical evaluations, forensic interviews, and information received from a CAC based on whether a referral to the CAC is by a department or law enforcement, with disclosure of information and records in cases referred by a department also governed by various statutes of GS Chapter 7B identified. Designates the following records in cases referred by law enforcement as confidential and only released in accordance with GS 108A-75.4: a law enforcement child medical evaluation, forensic interview, or any other information received by law enforcement from a CAC, including electronic records. Permits release only to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and county departments, law enforcement agencies, a prosecuting DA, or the Attorney General, certain health care entities and providers providing medical or psychiatric care to the child (in the case of medical or mental health records), the NC Child Fatality Task Force or a permitted by GS 7B-3100, which governs the disclosure of juvenile records.

Otherwise, requires a court order to release records created, compiled, maintained, or received by a CAC, which requires finding that the records are necessary for the determination of a criminal, civil, or administrative matter and the information cannot be obtained from DHHS, a law enforcement agency, the prosecuting attorney, a department, or the Attorney General. Requires inclusion of an order for an in camera inspection and protective order. Provides further limitations for such orders. Provides for information sharing between employees and designated agents of CAC's, between CAC's and the CACNC. or other contract services providers, and a CAC and other CAC's or an MDT, as specified. Exempts DHHS, a department, law enforcement agencies, the prosecuting attorney, a court of competent jurisdiction and the Attorney General from the authorized limited disclosure described above, regarding sharing information with the CACNC or other contract service providers when necessary for the child, caregiver, or a CAC to receive essential support or services, with necessary confidentiality provisions in place, consistent with state and federal law. Provides for continued confidentiality of disclosed information. Deems records created under the Article to not be public records.

Enacts GS 108A-75.5 (child medical evaluation requirement) which permits a department to use a CAC for the provision of a child medical evaluation but specifies that the provisions of the Article do not bind a department to use a CAC for the provision of services related to a child medical evaluation. Enacts GS 108A-75.6 which provides limited immunity from liability for a board member, staff member or volunteer of a CAC or CACNC arising from performance of acts within their duties or participation in a judicial proceeding if they act in good faith. Specifies that immunity does not extend to acts of gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

GS 7B-505.1, which requires a health care provider to disclose confidential information about a juvenile to a director of a department with custody of the juvenile and a parent, guardian, or custodian. Adds to the provisions, deeming a child medical evaluation performed by a health care provider rostered with the NC Child Medical Evaluation Program to be governed by new GS 108A-75.4.

Effective July 1, 2024.

Intro. by Saine, Riddell, Crawford, Potts.

GS 7B, GS 108A

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Government, Public Records and Open Meetings, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

H 675 (2023-2024) HEALTHY AND HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT OF 2023.

Enacts new Article 17A (Healthy Schools) in GS Chapter 115C, including legislative findings regarding the hazards of indoor air pollutants such as cleaners and deodorizers. Under new GS 115C-267.2, all public schools are required to establish a green

cleaning policy and use environmentally sensitive cleaning products under the guidelines from new GS 115C-267.3 if it is economically feasible, meaning that it does not result in an increase in the cleaning costs for the school. Provides a procedure where a school must notify the Department of Public Instruction if it is not economically feasible to adopt a green cleaning policy. New GS 115C-267.3 requires the Department of Public Instruction to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services and stakeholders to produce guidelines and specifications for environmentally sensitive cleaning products for use in schools, and to update the guidelines and specifications annually. Requires the Department of Public Instruction to distribute a copy of the guidelines and specifications to each public school and non-public schools with 50 or more students.

Makes Article 17A applicable to various public school units by amending GS 115C-47 to make it applicable to local school boards, GS 115C-218.75 to charter schools, GS 115C-238.66 to regional schools, and GS 116-11 to the North Carolina School of Science and Math. Adopts new GS 115C-566.5, encouraging non-public schools with 50 or more students to adopt a green cleaning policy consistent with Article 17A.

Permits schools to deplete their existing cleaning and maintenance supply stocks before implementing the requirements of Article 17A.

Requires the Department of Public Instruction to establish initial guidelines and specifications based on existing research within 180 days of the effective date of the act.

Does not appropriate funds and specifies that no State funds are required to implement Article 17A.

Effective when it becomes law and applicable to the 2023-24 school year.

Intro. by Harrison, Hawkins, Carney, Prather.

GS 115C, GS 116

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, UNC System, Health and Human Services, Health

H 676 (2023-2024) HYDRAULIC FRACTURING/STATEWIDE BAN. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO BAN THE DANGEROUS, POLLUTING, AND UNNECESSARY PRACTICE OF HYDRAULIC FRACTURING THROUGHOUT THE STATE.

Prohibits any agency of the State, including the specified entities, from issuing a permit for oil or gas exploration or development activities using horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing treatments. Makes conforming changes and deletions in GS 113-391, GS 113-391.1, GS 113-393, GS 143-214.2, and GS 113-395.

Repeals GS 113-415.1, which invalidated local ordinances regulating oil and gas exploration, development, and production activities.

Applies to any application for a permit for oil and gas exploration and development activities received by any agency of the state on or after that date.

Intro. by Autry, Morey, Harrison, von Haefen. GS 113, GS 143

View summary

Environment, Energy, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Local Government, Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 677 (2023-2024) IMPROVED DATA ON INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT ESTABLISHING INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENT DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR AREA FACILITIES AND HOSPITALS

WHERE FIRST EXAMINATIONS FOR INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS ARE PERFORMED AND FOR LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITIES/MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS.

Amends GS 122C-255, establishing a new biannual reporting requirement for licensed area facilities and acute care or general hospitals that perform first examinations for commitment required under Parts 7 and 8 of Article to submit a written report on involuntary commitments to the LME/MCO that serves the facility or hospital's county, providing data for the six-month periods beginning January 1 and ending June 30, and beginning July 1, and ending December 31.

Details the required content of the report as follows. Requires inclusion of the number of individuals presented to the area facility or hospital for a first commitment examination under a custody and transportation order, the number of those individuals found to meet the criteria for inpatient commitment upon first examination and of those individuals, the number recommended for outpatient commitment and the average and median length of stay for such individuals. Requires inclusion of the number of respondents who initially presented voluntarily and for whom commitment examiners submitted petitions for commitment to the magistrate or clerk of court, and the number of custody orders issued for transport to a 24-hour facility based on a finding of inpatient commitment, with the number of those individuals ultimately transported to a 24-hour facility for a second examination and the average and median length of stay before transport, the number discharged and their proceedings terminated at the site of first examination as specified and the median and average length of stay before discharge, and the number of individuals released based on a petition to the clerk or magistrate for outpatient commitment and the median and average length of stay. For individuals transported to the area facility or hospital and presented for first commitment examination under custody and transportation orders, requires inclusion of whether the transporting person used force or physical restraint, the type of restraint used and the person's proffered reasoning, whether resulting bodily injury required medical care, and whether the officer or designated person remained with the respondent and continued to maintain custody at the facility or left the facility's premises based on an assessment that appropriate supervision was available at the facility. Deems this data confidential and not public record.

Directs LME/MCOs to aggregate all the data received from area facilities and hospitals by local area or county, and related data from the Administrative Office of the Courts, without reference to the specific facility or hospital, and report the data to each of the facilities and hospitals within its service area that is participating in the collection and reporting of data as now required, and the specified Division of the Department of Health and Human Services. Deems the aggregated data public records so long as the data does not identify specific facilities or hospitals by reference to their own reported data.

Effective January 1, 2024.

Intro. by Autry, Lambeth, Sasser, Harrison.

GS 122C

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Mental Health

H 678 (2023-2024) EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE EXCUSED ABSENCES FROM PUBLIC SCHOOL FOR PARTICIPATION IN 4-H ACTIVITIES OR PROGRAMS.

Amends GS 115C-379(b) to allow excused absences from elementary and secondary schools for participation in 4-H club programs approved by the county 4-H educator, as long as the absence is not on the day of a statewide or end-of-grade test or on a day when the student is subject to disciplinary action and not otherwise allowed to attend, and the verification requirements are met. Makes clarifying changes to the text of the section to allow rules that require the parent or legal guardian to give written notice a reasonable time before the excused absence. Adds new language mandating that a student's grade will not be adversely affected due to an excused absence authorized by the subsection.

Effective when it becomes law and applies to the 2024-25 school year.

H 679 (2023-2024) CUSTOMER OPT-IN FOR SINGLE-USE FOODWARE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE FOODWARE IN TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY OF PREPARED MEALS.

Contains whereas clauses. Enacts Part 2J, pertaining to single-use foodware and condiments, to Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A. Contains definitions. Bars food establishments from: (1) providing defined term single-use foodware or defined term standard condiments to consumers unless the consumer requests them and (2) bundling or packaging single-use foodware or condiments in a manner that prevents consumers from taking only the type of each that they need. Requires third-party delivery platforms to provide an option to request single-use foodware and condiments. Provides exceptions for accessories to prevent spills and to otherwise deliver food and beverages safely. Clarifies that Part 2J should not be construed to (1) prevent a food establishment from making standard condiments available to consumers using refillable single item dispensers and (2) limit the authority of any local government to adopt ordinances that restrict the provision of single-use foodware by food establishments or third-party food delivery platforms. Provides for enforcement mechanisms for both food establishments and third-party delivery platforms by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to include notice of noncompliance and administrative penalties. Makes conforming changes to GS 130A-22 (administrative penalties) to provide for an administrative penalty for violation of Part 2J, not to exceed \$100 per day. Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

Intro. by von Haefen, Harrison, Autry.

GS 130A

View summary

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services

H 680 (2023-2024) IMPROVED ACCESS TO SMI PRESCRIPTION DRUGS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS USED IN THE TREATMENT AND PREVENTION OF SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE BETTER OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Amends GS 58-3-221(Access to nonformulary and restricted access prescription drugs) to prohibit insurers from requiring prior authorization or the use of other drugs not prescribed by the provider when a patient age 18 or older is prescribed a drug by a health care provider for the prevention or treatment of a *serious mental illness*, as defined. Also applies the requirements of the statute to a pharmacy benefits manager under contract with an insurer. Makes clarifying changes to the definitions for the section and to language used throughout the section. Effective and applicable to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after October 1, 2023.

Amends GS 108A-68.1 (Certain prescription drugs exempt from prior authorization requirements) to ensure a Medicaid beneficiary does not have to try a different prescription medication prior to the approval of the prescribed drug for the treatment of severe mental illness, if certain conditions are met. Requires that the medication be prescribed to the beneficiary by a licensed health care provider for the treatment of specific severe mental illnesses, as identified. Also requires that, during the preceding calendar year, even if not receiving Medicaid benefits, either the beneficiary was prescribed and unsuccessfully treated with a preferred prescription drug from a Medicaid drug formulary, or the beneficiary was prescribed and had prior authorization for the specific medication prescribed. Provides that beneficiaries will not be required to try a different prescription medication prior to the approval of coverage for injectable antipsychotic drugs for the treatment of schizophrenia.

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

GS 58, GS 108A

View summary

Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance, Mental Health, Social Services, Public Assistance H 681 (2023-2024) INTERSTATE MED. LIC. COMPACT/MIL. LICENSURE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE LICENSURE OF THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE AND A MILITARY RELOCATION LICENSURE PROCESS.

Enacts new Article 1M, Interstate Medical Licensure Compact, to GS Chapter 90. States the purpose and objectives of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (Compact) and sets forth 15 defined terms. Grants licensed physicians the opportunity to apply for issuance of an expedited license to practice in Compact states, subject to the requirements and restrictions provided in the Compact. Requires designation of a state of principal licensure where the physician has a full and unrestricted license to practice medicine which is the physician's principal residence, where the physician conducts at least 25% of their practice, and is the location of the physician's employer, or if no state applies, the state designated for federal income tax purposes; allows for re-designation of the principal state at any time.

Details application procedures for a physician seeking licensure through the Compact, including (1) applying to the member board of the selected state of principal license conducting a criminal background check prior to the issuance of a letter of qualification either verifying or denying the physician's eligibility to the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (Commission), (3) completion of the registration process established by the Commission to receive a license in the member state selected as the principal license state, including payment of applicable fees, and (4) issuance of an expedited license by any member board authorizing the physician to practice medicine in the issuing state consistent with the medical practice act and application laws and regulations of the issuing member board and member state, subject to issuance or renewal fees. Provides for eligibility appeals to be made to the member state where the application is filed. Provides for the expedited license to be valid for a period consistent with the licensure period of the member state and in the same manner as required for other physicians holding a full and unrestricted license within the member state, and terminated for failure to maintain a license in the state of principal licensure for nondisciplinary reasons without redesignating a new state. Details expedited license renewal requirements and procedures.

Requires the Commission to establish a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and investigative information on all licensed individuals and applicants in members states. Provides for reporting and access by member states. Provides for joint investigations by member states and related authorities. Deems any disciplinary action taken by any member board against a physician licensed through the Compact to be unprofessional conduct subject to discipline by other boards in addition to violation of the medical practice act or regulations in the state. Provides for licensure status following disciplinary action to be automatically mirrored by member states who have issued licenses to the physician, with each member state maintaining individual reinstatement procedures following reinstatement of the principal state of licensure. Provides for a 90-day automatic suspension of licenses issued by member states when one member state revokes, surrenders, or suspends a license.

Establishes the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission (Commission) as a joint public agency created by member states. Provides for Commission membership, voting, meetings, powers and duties, executive committee, financing, recordkeeping, and member qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification. Among the 21 powers and duties charged of the Committee, includes prosecuting legal proceedings and actions, and the acquisition and disposal of property. Provides for Commission rulemaking procedures and effect, as well as member state rejection of a Commission rule.

Details dispute resolution procedures between member states and Compact enforcement. Provides for member state default grounds and procedures, member withdrawal procedures and dissolution. Provides for the Compact to become effective upon enactment in the seventh member state. Details initial Commission powers, effect of Commission rules on joining states, and Compact amendment parameters.

Deems the provisions of the Compact severable and advises on its construction and effect on other laws.

Enacts GS 90-12.02 authorizing the issuance of military relocation licenses to a physician or physician assistant who is not actively licensed by the NC Board of Medicine (Board) to practice as a physician or physician assistant if six listed requirements are met including that they are a servicemember or the spouse of a service member in the US Armed Forces, resides in the State pursuant to military orders for military service, and holds a license in another jurisdiction that has licensing requirements substantially similar to or exceeds the licensure requirements of the State. Specifies that the military relocation license will remain active for the duration of military orders for military service in the State and upon completion of annual registration. Specifies that the license becomes inactive when the license holder relocates pursuant to military orders (1) to

reside in another state or (2) expiring for military service in this State, or the servicemember separates from military service. Provides for notification to the Board upon events that render a license inactive. Allows for a military license to become a full license by completing an application for licensure under Article 1M. Allows the Board to waive the application fee if the application is submitted within one year of the issuance of the military relocation license. Permits the Board to impose additional requirements by rule.

Makes conforming changes to the following statutes: GS 90-5.1 (authorizing the Board of Medical Examiners to appoint Commissioners to the Commission); GS 90-11 (authorizing background checks for Compact applicants); GS 90-13.1 (regarding licensing fees of the Board of Medical Examiners and the Commission for Compact applicants); GS 90-13.2 (regarding Compact licensing renewals); GS 90-14 (authorizing the Board of Medical Examiners to take disciplinary action for violations of the Compact); and GS 90-14.2 (regarding automatic disciplinary action upon Compact licensees).

Effective October 1, 2023.

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

GS 90

View summary

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

H 682 (2023-2024) STRENGTHEN DO NOT CALL/TEXT REGISTRY. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE DO NOT CALL/DO NOT TEXT REGISTRY.

Amends GS 75-101 to include creating a lead or referral for compensation in the definition of *telephone solicitation*. Amends the definition of *telephone solicitor* to include subagents, contractors, or other third-party vendors, and to include any party that receives a sales lead or incoming call that was generated by a telephone call to a telephone subscriber.

Amends GS 75-102 to require that a telephone solicitor must stop contacting a telephone subscriber who is on the Do Not Call list and who indicates they do not want to be contacted further within 30 business days. Previously the section provided for 60 business days.

Amends GS 75-104 subsection (a) to provide that no person, directly or through a salesperson, agent, subagent, contractor, or other third party vendor, may use automatic dialing and recorded messages to make unsolicited calls. Previously this subsection did not reference other third parties. Creates new subsection (c), which makes jointly liable any party that knows the sales leads or incoming calls it receives were generated by calls placed by another party in violation of subsection (a).

Intro. by Harrison, Belk, Morey, Autry.

GS 75

View summary

Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection

H 683 (2023-2024) SUPPORT DV VICTIMS/OFFENDER REHABILITATION. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL FOR WOMEN AND YOUTH INVOLVEMENT AND OTHER ENTITIES THAT SERVE POPULATIONS AFFECTED BY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

Appropriates \$80,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Administration, NC Council for Women and Youth Development (Council) for 2023-24 to hire one permanent, full-time position at the Council to carry out five specified duties, including serving as a liaison between the Council and the court system, and seeking funding and other assistance to make domestic violence intervention programs available statewide.

Appropriates the following additional funds from the General Fund to the Council for 2023-24: \$100,000 to provide grants statewide for the purpose of developing, maintaining, or expanding domestic violence intervention programs; \$100,000 for grants to domestic violence intervention programs statewide for pay for language interpreters, sign language interpreters, or

other services benefiting uniquely vulnerable populations; and \$100,000 to provide grants to domestic violence intervention programs statewide to train staff to include new and best practices in the programs.

Directs the Council to establish procedures and criteria for awarding grants consistent with the State Budget Act. Requires timely and public announcement of awards. Directs the Council to annually report on fund distribution to the specified NCGA committee chairs and division. Specifies required content of the reports.

Specifies that funds remain available to implement the act.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Autry, Morey, Logan, T. Brown.

APPROP

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Government,

Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of

Administration

H 684 (2023-2024) PRESCRIPTION EYE DROP EARLY REFILL COVERAGE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE HEALTH BENEFIT PLANS THAT PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR PRESCRIPTION EYE DROPS TO ALSO PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR EARLY REFILLS.

Enacts new GS 58-3-295. Requires every health benefit insurance plan that provides coverage for prescription eye drops to not deny coverage for a refill of an eye drop prescription if both of the following two conditions apply:

- (1) Applies to 30-day supplies. The patient requested the refill after (a) an amount of time after which the patient should have used 70% of the prescription eye drop dosage units according to a health care provider's instructions; or (b) 21 days from (i) the original date the insured patient was given the prescription; or (ii) the date of the most recent refill to the insured patient.
- (2) The prescribing health care provider indicates on the original prescription that the patient needs additional quantities of eye drops, and the insured patient's request for a refill of eye drops does not exceed the number of additional quantities needed.

Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after October 1, 2023.

Intro. by K. Baker, Reeder, Crawford, White. GS 58

View summary Health, Health Insurance

H 685 (2023-2024) LETTERS OF CHARACTER REF AND STUDY. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO CLARIFY WHEN A COVERED PERSON MAY USE THE PUBLIC POSITION WITH RESPECT TO LETTERS OF CHARACTER REFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUALS SEEKING UNPAID WORK AND FOR INDIVIDUALS BEING NOMINATED FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AWARDS FROM THE STATE AND TO REQUIRE THE LEGISLATIVE ETHICS COMMITTEE AND THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION TO CONDUCT A STUDY OF ETHICAL STANDARDS AND THEIR POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS.

Amends GS 138A-31(b)(7) (Use of public office for private gain) by adding sub-subdivisions (e) and (f) permitting public officials subject to the State Ethics Act to use their public position in letters of character reference for: (1) an individual pursuing an unpaid volunteer work program where requested by the individual or in response to an inquiry from the hiring organization as to the individual's qualifications or character, and (2) an individual being nominated for an award recognizing service to the State or one of its political subdivisions. This provision is effective upon becoming law and applies to letters written on or after that date.

Directs the Legislative Ethics Committee (Committee) to study the ethical standards for legislators and the powers, duties, and functions of the Committee to examine whether revisions are needed to provide more effective advice to legislators and enhance public trust. Directs the Committee to specifically study whether revisions are needed to Article 14 of GS Chapter 120

(Legislative Ethics Act), GS Chapter 138A (State Government Ethics Act), or GS Chapter 120C (lobbying laws). Directs the Committee to report its findings and recommendations to the 2024 regular session of the 2023 General Assembly no later than January 15, 2024.

Directs the State Ethics Commission (Commission) to study the ethical standards for legislators and public servants and the powers, duties, and functions of the Commission to examine whether revisions are needed to provide more effective advice to legislators and public servants and enhance public trust. Directs the Commission to specifically study whether revisions to GS Chapter 138A (State Government Ethics Act) are needed. Directs the Commission to report its findings and recommendations to the 2024 regular session of the 2023 General Assembly no later than January 15, 2024.

Intro. by Harrison, Mills.

GS 138A

View summary

Government, Elections, General Assembly

H 686 (2023-2024) CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION TO EVERY STUDENT IN THE STATE.

Enacts new GS 115C-81.58 requiring coverage of the civil rights movement (1954-1968) in the standard course of study for students in elementary through high school. Includes list of topics required to be covered: the natural law and natural rights principles that informed the leadership of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the tactics and strategies of nonviolent resistance that Dr. King championed in response to the Jim Crow laws of that era; the repeal of the Jim Crow laws of that era and the passage of civil rights legislation in the United States; the philosophy that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics leads to profound injustice; and instruction on other acts of discriminatory injustice, such as genocide, elsewhere around the globe to reinforce the lesson that hatred on the basis of immutable characteristics can overtake any society. Gives examples of acts of discriminatory injustice, including the Armenian Genocide, Holocaust, Chinese Collie labor in Cuba, Uighurs in China, and Rohingya in Myanmar.

Appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2023-24 to implement this act.

Effective July 1, 2023. Applies to courses taught beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Intro. by Hardister, Blackwell, Quick.

APPROP, GS 115C

View summary

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

H 687 (2023-2024) CLARIFY VACANCY FILLING PARTISAN BD. OF ED. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE PROCESS TO FILL A VACANCY ON A LOCAL BOARD OF EDUCATION ELECTED USING THE PARTISAN METHOD OF ELECTION.

Replaces the procedure set forth for filling vacancies for local boards of education elected on a partisan basis in GS 115C-37.1. Requires all vacancies of elected members to be filled pursuant to the statute's provisions, with the statute's provisions superseding state or local law. For vacating members elected as the nominee of a political party, requires the individual recommended by the county executive committee of that party to be sworn in at the next regular board meeting so long as the recommendation is of a qualified voter of the board and made within 30 days of the vacancy occurring. Requires the executive committee to restrict voting to committee members who represent precincts all or part of which were within the territory of the vacating member if less than the entire county were eligible to vote for that member's seat. Requires the remaining members of the board to vote to fill the vacancy if the executive committee fails to make a recommendation as required. Directs the clerk of superior court to fill vacancies upon request of a board member or upon petition of any five qualified votes of the board if the number of vacancies precludes a quorum of the board. Requires the superintendent to report any vacancy beyond 60 days

of occurrence to the clerk of superior court, who must fill the vacancy within 10 days of reporting. Maintains the listed counties to which the statute's provisions apply, and specifies that the provisions apply to the school administrative systems in the listed counties, as applicable. Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to vacancies occurring on or after that date.

Intro. by Hardister.

GS 115C

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Elections, Local Government

H 688 (2023-2024) INCREASE ACCESS FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS/INSURANCE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT INCREASING SMALL EMPLOYER ACCESS TO STOP LOSS, CATASTROPHIC, AND REINSURANCE COVERAGE.

Identical to S 297, filed 3/13/23.

Amends GS 58-50-130 (required health care provisions of the Small Employer Group Health Insurance Reform Act) to allow providing stop loss, catastrophic, or reinsurance coverage to small employers who employ more than five eligible (was, small employers with twenty or more employees.) Effective October 1, 2023, and applies to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

Intro. by Paré, Humphrey, White.

GS 58

View summary

Business and Commerce, Insurance

H 689 (2023-2024) ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NORTH CAROLINA. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT RELATING TO ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

Sets forth nine NCGA findings, including (1) establishing that Black, Indigenous, and Persons of Color (BIPOC) and individuals with low income are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards and unsafe housing, facing higher levels of air and water pollution, mold, lead, and pests and the harm that that causes, (2) pointing to federal antidiscrimination laws and State constitutional guarantees of equal rights, (3) emphasizing that lack of a clear environmental justice policy has resulted in a piecemeal approach to understanding and addressing environmental justice in North Carolina and creates a barrier to establishing clear definitions, metrics, and strategies to ensure meaningful engagement and more equitable distribution of environmental benefits and burdens, and (4) concluding that it's the State's responsibility to pursue environmental justice for its residents and to ensure that its agencies do not contribute to unfair distribution of environmental benefits to or environmental burdens on low-income, limited-English proficient, and BIPOC communities.

Enacts new Article 21D, pertaining to environmental justice, in GS Chapter 143 to identify, reduce, and eliminate environmental health disparities to improve the health and well-being of all State residents. Defines *environmental benefits*, *environmental burdens*, *environmental justice*, *environmental justice focus population*, *limited English proficiency*, *meaningful participation*, and *Program* (i.e., the Environmental Justice Program of the Department of Environmental Quality).

Establishes the State's policy as that no segment of the population of the State should, because of its racial, cultural, or economic makeup, bear a disproportionate share of environmental burdens or be denied an equitable share of environmental benefits. It is further the policy of the State to provide the opportunity for the meaningful participation of all individuals, with particular attention to environmental justice focus populations, in the development, implementation, or enforcement of any law, regulation, or policy. Creates an Environmental Justice Advisory Council (Advisory Council) to provide independent advice and recommendations to State agencies and the General Assembly on matters relating to environmental justice, including the integration of environmental justice principles into State programs, policies, regulations, legislation, and activities. Also creates an Interagency Environmental Justice Committee (Interagency Committee) to guide and coordinate State agency implementation the Environmental Justice State Policy and provide recommendations to the General Assembly for amending the definitions and protections set forth in Article 21D. Provides for appointment process, membership, specific duties, co-chairs, terms, appointment of vacancies, and meeting requirements for both bodies. Specifies the duties of both

bodies. Requires both bodies to consider and incorporate the Equitable Access & Just Transition to Clean Energy provisions of the North Carolina Clean Energy Plan in their work.

Requires covered agencies (Departments of Environmental Quality [DEQ], Health and Human Services [DHHS], Transportation [DOT], Commerce [DOC], Public Safety [DPS], Agriculture and Consumer Services [DCAS], Public Instruction [DPI] and the Utilities Commission [Commission]) to do the following: (1) consider cumulative environmental burdens and access to environmental benefits when making decisions about the environment, energy, climate, and public health projects; facilities and infrastructure; and associated funding; (2) adopt a community engagement plan on or before July 1, 2025; (3) submit specified information to the Advisory Council annually beginning January 15, 2024; (4) generate baseline spending reports in line with the guidance discussed below starting July 1, 2024; and (5) issue and publicly post an annual report summarizing all actions taken to incorporate environmental justice into its policies or determinations, rulemaking, permit proceedings, or project review by January 15, 2025.

Requires the Program in consultation with the Interagency Committee and Advisory Counsel to: (1) review the definitions listed above at least every 5 years and recommend revisions to the NCGA to ensure the definitions achieve the environmental justice policy; (2) issue guidance on how the covered agencies will determine which investments provide environmental benefits to environmental justice focus populations on or before September 15, 2023, with a draft provided for a 40-day comment period before the final version is released.

Requires DEQ, in consultation with the Advisory Council and the Interagency Committee to adopt rules to: (1) define cumulative environmental burdens; (2) implement consideration of cumulative environmental burdens within the Program; (3) inform how the public and the covered agencies implement the consideration of cumulative environmental burdens and use the environmental justice mapping tool developed by the Program, on or before July 1, 2025. Requires covered agencies to adopt policies to implement Article 21D by July 1, 2026, and to amend those policies as appropriate. Requires the covered agencies to consult with the Advisory Council prior to engaging in rulemaking and for the Advisory Council to vote on the proposed rule with those in support and in objection of the proposed rule recorded and part of the rulemaking record.

Requires, on or before December 15, 2025, for the Program to submit a report to the General Assembly describing whether the baseline spending reports completed pursuant to GS 143-215.133(g), as enacted by the act, indicate if any municipalities or portions of municipalities are routinely underserved with respect to environmental benefits, taking into consideration whether those areas receive, averaged across three years, a significantly lower percentage of environmental benefits from State investments as compared to other municipalities or portions of municipalities in the State. Specifies that the report must include a recommendation as to whether a statutory definition of underserved community and any other revisions to Article 21D of GS Chapter 143, as enacted by the act, are necessary to best carry out the policies described in Article 21D.

Effective July 1, 2023, appropriates \$500,000 in nonrecurring funds and \$250,000 in recurring funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year from the General Fund to DEQ to be allocated for the following purposes:

- (1) \$500,000 nonrecurring for the cost of conducting community outreach associated with the work of the Advisory Council.
- (2) \$250,000 recurring to establish the following positions: one full-time Civil Rights Compliance Director and two new full-time positions to assist in the implementation of the Environmental Justice State Policy and support the Advisory Council, one to be hired after July 1, 2023, and one to be hired after December 31, 2023.

Intro. by Crawford, Alston, Buansi, T. Brown.

APPROP, GS 143

View summary

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR) Enacts new section GS 147-86.19 to prohibit state agencies from accepting cryptocurrency. Defines cryptocurrency as "digital or virtual currency that relies on cryptography to effect transfers and a decentralized network to record transactions." Defines state agency as "any institution, bureau, board, commission, officer, or political subdivision of the State."

GS 147

Intro. by Warren, Brody.

View summary Government, State Agencies, State Government

H 691 (2023-2024) NEW RESIDENT/TEMPORARY CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF A TEMPORARY CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT TO NEW RESIDENTS OF NORTH CAROLINA WHO MEET CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

Amends GS 14-415.15 to create new subsection (b1) (Temporary New Resident Permit), allowing a new resident with an out-of-state concealed handgun permit to receive a temporary new resident permit from the sheriff if within 120 days of establishing residency their permit will expire and they have also applied for a concealed handgun permit from North Carolina. The temporary permit remains valid until the sheriff grants or denies the application for a permit from North Carolina. Also amends the title of the statute and provides subsection headings.

Effective October 1, 2023.

Intro. by Cleveland, Adams. GS 14

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and
Procedure

H 692 (2023-2024) RESTAURANTS & BARS/BUY FROM DISTILLER. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW RESTAURANTS AND BARS HOLDING A MIXED BEVERAGES PERMIT TO PURCHASE SPIRITUOUS LIQUOR FROM A DISTILLERY PERMIT HOLDER FOR RESALE AS MIXED BEVERAGES.

Amends GS 18B-1105(a)(2) to allow the holder of a distillery permit to directly sell spirituous liquor to restaurants and bars that hold a mixed beverages permit. Adds new subsection (e) to GS 18B-1105, providing for collection of a mixed beverages surcharge from a distillery permit holder for sales made directly to a restaurant or bar. Makes corresponding changes to GS 18B-804(b1) to outline procedures for sales by distillery permit holders directly to restaurants and bars according to the uniform state price set under that section. Amends GS 18B-1007(a) to permit a restaurant or bar holding a mixed beverage permit to purchase spirituous liquor for resale as a mixed beverage from a distillery, from an ABC store designated by a local board, or from both.

Directs the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission to develop and implement a process for allowing a distillery permit holder to affix a mixed beverages tax stamp to spirituous liquor sold directly to a restaurant or bar, and to adopt rules as necessary to implement the process.

Effective and applicable to sales made on or after July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Pickett, Saine. GS 18B

View summary Alcoholic Beverage Control

H 693 (2023-2024) REPOSSESSION OF MANUFACTURED SIGN. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW A SELLER OF A MANUFACTURED SIGN TO REPOSSESS THE SIGN IF THE BUYER FAILS TO PAY.

Enacts new GS 25-2-703.1 providing that if a buyer of a manufactured sign fails to pay under the terms of the contract with the seller of the sign, the seller may repossess the sign. States that the seller may not breach the peace in the repossession. Allows for the seller to also exercise any other lawful remedy. Applies even if the manufactured sign is fixed to real property. Effective October 1, 2023.

Intro. by Crutchfield, Lowery, Tyson, Balkcom. GS 25

View summary Business and Commerce

H 694 (2023-2024) LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE LATE REPORTS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE COUNTY BOARDS OF ELECTION DIRECTORS TO NOTIFY THE STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS OF FAILURES TO FILE REQUIRED CAMPAIGN FINANCE REPORTS.

Enacts new GS 163-278.23A directing that it is the duty and power of county board of elections directors to notify the State Board of Elections of all failures to file reports, statements, or other required documents under Article 22A (Regulating Contributions and Expenditures in Political Campaigns). Applies to reports due on or after July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Setzer. GS 163

View summary Government, Elections, Local Government

H 695 (2023-2024) STUDY COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR ADAS/APDS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO STUDY A COST-OF-LIVING PAY STRUCTURE FOR ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS.

Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the NC Conference of District Attorneys and the Office of Indigent Defense Services, to study the pay structure for NC assistant district attorneys and assistant public defenders, the manner in which cost-of-living increases could be allotted for them throughout the state, the costs and feasibility of adopting such a pay structure, and the current pay structure of federal employees including a base salary and a cost-of-living increase based upon the cost of living of the area where the job is located. Requires a report to be filed no later than April 1, 2024, with the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, including any recommendations for proposed legislation.

Intro. by T. Brown, John. STUDY

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Administrative Office of the
Courts

H 696 (2023-2024) VIOLENT OFFENSE/NO CONTACT ORDER. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW A JUDGE TO ISSUE A PERMANENT NO CONTACT ORDER AGAINST A DEFENDANT CONVICTED OF CERTAIN VIOLENT OFFENSES.

Amends GS 15A-1340.50 to change the statute's references from "sex offender" to "violent offender" in the title and throughout the section, which governs permanent no contact orders granted to victims against violent offenders. Defines *violent offense* for purposes of the section to include offenses requiring registration as a sex offender under Article 27A of GS Chapter 14, other Class A through G felonies, assaults inflicting physical injury by strangulation, and Class A1 misdemeanors including assault as an essential element of the offense. Deletes the term "sex offense" from the statute.

Effective and applicable to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

View summary

H 697 (2023-2024) MODIFY VARIOUS COURTROOM PROCEDURES. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO MODIFY LAWS AFFECTING VARIOUS COURTROOM PROCEDURES.

Enacts new GS 7A-166 (District court criminal docketing), outlining the responsibility of the district attorney to arrange and supervise the calendaring of criminal matters based on a docketing plan developed by the district attorney for each district court. Requires the district attorney to consult with district court judges, the clerk of court, and public comment from the local bar. Permits the docketing plan to include delegation of the calendaring authority to district court judges or the clerk of court if they consent to the delegation. Effective and applicable to criminal matters calendared on or after October 1, 2023.

Amends GS 7A-191.1 to add new subsection (b), requiring all criminal proceedings in district court to be recorded by stenographic notes, or by electronic or mechanical means. Specifies that the record will be reduced to a written transcript only when notice of appeal is given or when either party requests it and provides for the cost of transcription. Effective and applicable to criminal proceedings occurring on or after October 1, 2023.

Amends GS 7A-272(c) to remove the requirement that the presiding district court judge consent to grant a district court judge jurisdiction to accept a defendant's plea of guilty to a Class H or I felony under that statute. Effective and applicable to pleas accepted on or after October 1, 2023.

Amends GS 15A-952(g) to provide that a judge must give written findings and issue an order explaining the judge's decision whenever they grant a third or subsequent continuance in a case, unless the continuance is granted with the consent of both parties. The number of continuances is cumulative and does not depend on which party requested the continuances previously granted. Effective and applicable to continuances granted on or after October 1, 2023.

ntro. by Stevens.	GS 7A,	GS	15A
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View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Criminal Justice, Criminal

Law and Procedure

H 698 (2023-2024) CODIFY/REPLACE COMM. LAW OBSTRUCT. OF JUSTICE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REPLACE THE CRIME OF FELONY COMMON LAW OBSTRUCTION OF JUSTICE WITH A CODIFIED VERSION OF THAT SAME CRIME.

Enacts new GS 14-222.1 providing that if any person, with deceit and an intent defraud, unlawfully obstructs justice, the person is guilty of a Class I felony. This replaces the crime of common law felony obstruction of justice. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Intro. by Stevens. GS 14

View summary Criminal Law and Procedure

H 699 (2023-2024) STATE RECOGNITION FOR THE TUSCARORA. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO GRANT STATE RECOGNITION TO THE TUSCARORA INDIANS AND TO PROVIDE REPRESENTATION OF THE TUSCARORA ON THE STATE COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Includes whereas clauses. Enacts new GS 71A-7.3 officially recognizing as The Tuscaora, as of July 1, 2023, the Indians comprising the Tuscarora Indian Nation of North Carolina Prospect Longhouse, Tuscarora Nation of North Carolina, and the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina, whose ancestors, in 1718, entered a treaty with the NC government and were granted

Indian Woods in Bertie County and who are of the same linguistic stock as the other tribes of the Iroquois Confederacy of New York and Canada. Provides that they will continue to enjoy all their rights, privileges, and immunities as an American Indian Tribe with a recognized tribal governing body carrying out and exercising substantial governmental duties and powers similar to the State, being recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status. Requires the Tuscarora to (1) maintain individual enrollment criteria, giving an opportunity for unenrolled Tuscarora descendants to enroll and (2) govern themselves in a way that benefits unifies all Tuscarora that come under their governance.

Amends GS 143B-407 by increasing by three the number of representatives of the Indian community on the State Commission of Indian Affairs, by adding three members of the Tuscarora.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Goodwin.

GS 71A, GS 143B

View summary

Government, State Government, Native Americans

H 700 (2023-2024) SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES/DISMISSALS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT PROVIDING THAT A SHERIFF SHALL NOT DISCHARGE A DEPUTY SHERIFF OR OTHER EMPLOYEE IN THE OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF FOR FAILING TO MAKE A CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTION TO THE SHERIFF OR THE SHERIFF'S CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE.

Amends GS 153A-103 as the title indicates.

Intro. by A. Jones.

View summary

H 701 (2023-2024) READ THE CONSTITUTION MANDATE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO READ THE STATE AND FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONS PRIOR TO TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE.

Amends GS 11-7 requiring every member of the General Assembly and persons elected or appointed to hold an office of trust or profit in NC to read or affirm having read the US Constitution and the NC Constitution within the past 12 months, in addition to taking the already required oath.

Intro. by Riddell, Brody, Ward, Cleveland.

GS 11

View summary

Government, General Assembly

H 702 (2023-2024) DOT TAKINGS NOTICE TO ANY POTENTIAL CLAIMANT. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO AMEND THE TRANSPORTATION LAWS OF THE STATE TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO SERVE NOTICE OF TAKING TO ANY POTENTIAL CLAIMANT, INCLUDING A TENANT OR LEASEHOLDER.

Amends GS 136-103, which authorizes the Department of Transportation (DOT) to institute a condemnation action to take any land, easement, or interest for DOT use, to require the summons, complaint, declaration of taking, and notice of just compensation deposited to be served upon any owner, lienholder, tenant, leaseholder, and any person who reasonably appears to be a potential claimant (previously, required service upon the person named in the complaint only). Applies to condemnation actions filed on or after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Winslow.

View summary

H 703 (2023-2024) PROVIDE RAPE KIT STATUS UPDATES TO VICTIMS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO GIVE RIGHTS OF INFORMATION AND NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS REGARDING SEXUAL ASSAULT EXAMINATION KITS.

Enacts new GS 15A-266.5B, providing as follows. Provides that a victim for whom a sexual assault examination kit is submitted to the State Crime Lab, or an approved lab, has a right to know the status of the testing of the examination kit. Requires the State Crime Lab to develop a procedure for victims to exercise this right. Gives these victims a right to be notified when a: (1) determination is made that the examination kit is unable to be tested; (2) decision is made not to test the examination kit for a reason other than that it was unable to be tested; and (3) decision is made to destroy the examination kit. Requires the State Crime lab to develop procedures for these notifications. Makes it the victim's responsibility to ensure that the lab has the victim's required and current contact information. Applies to sexual examination kits submitted before, on, or after October 1, 2023.

Intro. by von Haefen, John, Charles Smith, A. Jones. GS 15A

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

H 705 (2023-2024) BUILD SAFER COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS ACT. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN POLICIES AND STANDARDS SURROUNDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO CREATE THE N.C. STAR PILOT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS TO CITY AND TOWN POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO CREATE LOCAL SUPPORT TEAM ASSISTED RESPONSE (STAR) PILOT PROGRAMS; TO REINSTATE THE PISTOL PURCHASE PERMIT REQUIREMENT TO PURCHASE A PISTOL FOR PRIVATE SALES AND MAKE THE STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION RESPONSIBLE FOR PERMITS; TO REQUIRE UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS; TO STRENGTHEN SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS LAWS; TO PROVIDE A SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR EQUIPMENT DESIGNED TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS FROM ACCESSING FIREARMS; TO AUTHORIZE THE ISSUANCE OF AN EXTREME RISK PROTECTION ORDER TO RESTRICT TEMPORARILY A PERSON'S ACCESS TO FIREARMS IF THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT THE PERSON POSES A DANGER OF PHYSICAL HARM TO SELF OR OTHERS; TO ALLOW SCHOOLS TO CONTRACT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST SERVICES; AND TO CODIFY SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS.

Identical to S 713, filed 4/6/23.

Part I.

Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to assist law enforcement agencies seeking grant funds by alerting law enforcement agencies to available grant funds and assisting law enforcement agencies with drafting and submitting grant proposals and applications. Appropriates \$200,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium from the General Fund to DOJ to hire two full-time grant writers. Effective July 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 fiscal biennium from the General Fund to DOJ to award grants to law enforcement agencies for initiatives supporting community policing. Effective July 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for 2024-25 from the General Fund to DOJ to be used for grants: (1) provided to law enforcement agencies to be awarded to law enforcement officers exhibiting exemplary service and (2) awarded to law enforcement agencies for meeting racial or gender diversity benchmarks. Caps grant awards at \$10,000. Effective July 1, 2024.

Amends GS 15A-401(d), which sets out when a law-enforcement officer is justified in using deadly physical force, by making requiring in all circumstances in which a law enforcement officer uses force of any kind, that the law-enforcement officer use the minimum amount of force reasonably necessary to accomplish the law-enforcement action and attempt to use de-escalation tactics. Effective October 1, 2023.

Requires the Attorney General, in consultation with the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop uniform use-of-force policies that may be adopted by all law enforcement agencies in the state. Requires the policies to be submitted to the specified NCGA committee by December 1, 2024, published on DOJ's website, and distributed digitally to all law enforcement agencies in the state.

Amends GS 17C-6 to also give the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission the power to (1) establish the minimum age requirement for qualification for entry level employment as a criminal justice officer, which must not be less than age 21; (2) establish minimum mental health screening protocols that must be met in order to qualify for entry level employment and retention as a criminal justice officer in temporary or probationary status or in a permanent position--requires standards for entry level employment to include a psychological screening within one year prior to certification; and (3) establish minimum annual mental health screening protocols for criminal justice officers, including additional screenings following a traumatic event.

Amends GS 17C-13 to allow the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission access to a person's misdemeanor conviction records and allow the Commission to deny, suspend, or revoke a person's certification based solely on that person's conviction of four or more misdemeanors.

Amends GS 17E-4 to also give the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission the power to (1) establish the minimum age requirement for qualification for entry level employment as an officer, which must not be less than age 21; (2) establish minimum mental health screening protocols that must be met in order to qualify for entry level employment and retention as an officer in temporary or probationary status or in a permanent position--requires standards for entry level employment to include a psychological screening within one year prior to certification; and (3) establish minimum annual mental health screening protocols for officers, including additional screenings following a traumatic event.

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

The above provisions are effective January 1, 2024.

Appropriates \$1 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium from the General Fund to the DOJ for grants to law enforcement agencies to pay for the required mental health screenings. Effective July 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$1 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium from the General Fund to DOJ for grants to law enforcement agencies to temporarily provide funding for detectives or other investigative law enforcement positions in order to aid in the investigation of person crimes that would constitute a charge of a Class D felony or higher. Effective July 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the North Carolina Justice Academy for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to expand its ability to serve law enforcement agencies of the state by providing more opportunities to attend courses and trainings. Appropriates \$250,000 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the North Carolina Justice Academy for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to expand its ability to offer online courses for law enforcement agencies to allow for greater statewide participation in Academy courses and training. Effective July 1, 2023.

Requires the North Carolina Justice Academy and the North Carolina Community College System to develop a memorandum of understanding to allow community colleges to provide training and education to those trained and educated by the Academy to alleviate travel time and related costs. Requires the MOU to be submitted to the specified NCGA committee by October 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$250,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the DOJ for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to further develop, maintain, and staff the North Carolina Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Effective July 1, 2023.

Amends GS 17C-20 to open up eligibility for the Criminal Justice Fellows Program (Program) to all counties (was, counties with a population of less than 200,000).

Amends GS 17C-22 to expand upon the Program's purpose to also include forgivable loans for obtaining a Bachelor's Degree or an NC Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion. Expands term of eligibility to allow loans to be provided for up to four years (was, up to two years). Sets out requirements for recipients of loans for these degrees and certificates, including employment requirements post graduation. Makes conforming changes. Amends GS 17C-23 by making

conforming changes to loan terms and disbursement of funds. Gives recipients up to 120 months to repay all funds distributed, including interest, received in pursuit of a Bachelor's Degree and 60 months for those in pursuit of an applied associate degree in Criminal Justice or Committee-approved field of study or Basic Law Enforcement Training Program certificate of completion.

Appropriates \$63,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2023-25 biennium from the General Fund to the NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program to hire a full-time loan administrator. Effective July 1, 2023.

Amends GS 15A-401 to require the State's law enforcement agencies to designate specially trained law enforcement officers to be a part of an agency Crisis Intervention Team trained in determining whether a person is experiencing a mental or behavioral health crisis and what methods are available to de-escalate or otherwise safely engage in interactions with the person. Requires the establishment of the team by December 1, 2025, in order to remain eligible for Governor's Crime Commission grants.

Appropriates \$250 million from the General Fund to DOJ for 2023-24 for grants for the Crisis Intervention Team training. Effective July 1, 2023.

Appropriates \$500,000 for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to implement the NC STAR Pilot Program. Specifies that the funds do not revert until June 30, 2025. Requires the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to manage the NC STAR Pilot Program and develop guidelines and procedures to administer the program and distribute grants. Sets the purpose of the Program as helping city and town police departments provide alternative responses to citizens in crisis. Requires each local Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) program receiving a grant under the Program to allow for the response of behavioral and medical health personnel to nonviolent situations deemed appropriate by the city or town police department. Requires, at least, that those responding to citizens on behalf of each local STAR program be equipped to provide individuals with information regarding shelter, food aid, counseling, and medication. Makes all city and town police departments in the State are eligible for grants. Sets out required grant application information and criteria to be used when awarding grants. Caps grant amounts at \$50,000 per eligible grant recipient. Sets out the amount that may be used for Program administration. Requires the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, in consultation with each police department receiving N.C. STAR Pilot Program funds, to report to the specified NCGA committee in 2024, 2025, and 2026 on the specified items related to local STAR programs. Effective July 1, 2023.

Part II.

Reenacts GS 14-402 and makes the following changes. Makes it illegal for any private person (was, person, firm, or corporation) to sell, give away, or transfer, or to purchase or receive a pistol from a person other than a federally licensed firearm dealer (was, any pistol, without indicating the source), without a pistol purchase permit from the State Bureau of Investigation (was, sheriff of the county where the purchaser resides) or a valid concealed handgun permit. Defines private person as a person, firm, or corporation who is not a federally licensed firearm dealer acting in accordance with federal law. Makes an exception to the prohibition on receiving a pistol through the mail for a person with documentation demonstrating that they are a federally licensed firearm dealer.

Amends GS 14-403 to make the State Bureau of Investigation, instead of the sheriff, responsible for issuing pistol purchase permits. Makes conforming changes to GS 14-404 and no longer requires consultation with the North Carolina Sheriff's Association in developing the permit application form. Makes conforming changes to GS 14-405 and 14-407.1. Makes conforming changes to GS 14-408.1 and also replaces references to "licensed dealers" with "federally licensed firearm dealers."

Reenacts GS 14-315(b1)(1), which includes as a defense to the prohibition on selling or giving a firearm to a minor that the person shows that the minor produced an apparently valid permit to receive the weapon.

Reenacts GS 122C-54(d2) to give the State Bureau of Investigation access to records of involuntary commitment for mental health or substance abuse treatment for background checks under GS 14-404.

If H 50 (Pistol Purchase Permit Repeal) or substantially similar legislation becomes law, adds new Article 53D, Universal Background Check, to GS Chapter 14, providing as follows. Prohibits a federally licensed firearm dealer from selling, transferring, or delivering a firearm to a private person without conducting a background check that includes verifying the private person's identity by examining a government-issued identification card and conducting a check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Makes it illegal for the following person to possess a firearm: (1) under an

indictment or information for, or has been convicted in any state or in any court of the United States of, a felony (other than an offense pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, or restraints of trade); (2) fugitive from justice; (3) unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug; (4) adjudicated mentally incompetent or has been committed to any mental institution; (5) alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States; (6) discharged from the US Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions; (7) has renounced his or her US citizenship; (8) subject to a court order that was issued after a hearing of which the person received actual notice, and at which the person had an opportunity to participate, that restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner or child of the intimate partner, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child, and that includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child, or by its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury. Makes it illegal for a federally licensed firearm dealer to sell, transfer, or deliver a firearm to another person if the background check reveals that possession by the person would violate the law or if the dealer knows or has reason to know that the person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Specifies that a transferor is not prevented from removing a firearm from the licensed dealer's premises if the background check indicates that the transferee is prohibited from possessing or receiving firearms. Makes it a Class F felony for a federally licensed firearm dealer to sell, transfer, or deliver a firearm to a person in violation of this Article, or any person to provide materially false information to the dealer with the intent of illegally obtaining a firearm.

Makes it illegal for a private person to transfer a firearm to another without conducting a background check through a federally licensed firearm dealer and the firearm dealer verifying that the transfer is not illegal. Defines transfer. Sets out exceptions for transactions involving specified family members and guardians. Violations are a Class F felony. Applies to transfers of firearms occurring on or after December 1, 2023.

Amends GS 14-315.1 by increasing the penalty for a person who resides with a minor to leave a firearm in a condition that it can be discharged and in a manner that the person knew or should have known that an unsupervised minor would be able to gain access to the firearm, from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class D felony. Adds a Class D felony for a person residing with an unauthorized person to own or posses a firearm and store or leave it without securely locking it or rendering it incapable of being fired, if the unauthorized person accesses the firearm and: (1) possesses it in violation of the specified law; (2) exhibits it in a public place in a careless, angry, or threatening manner; (3) causes personal injury or death that is not in self-defense; or (4) uses the firearm in the commission of a crime. Defines unauthorized person as one who is not authorized to purchase a firearm under State or federal law. Makes conforming changes. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Amends GS 105-164.13 by exempting from sales tax equipment designed to prevent unauthorized access to firearms, including a device designed to prevent the firearm from being operated without first deactivating the device, or a gun safe, case, lock box, or other device designed to prevent access to a firearm by any means other than a key, a combination, biometric data, or similar means. Applies to sales made on or after October 1, 2023.

Enacts new GS Chapter 50E, the Extreme Risk Protection Orders Act, providing a court procedure for concerned citizens and law enforcement to obtain an order temporarily restricting a person's access to firearms in situations where a person poses a significant danger of harming themselves or others by possessing a firearm. Includes related legislative findings. Sets out defined terms applicable to the Chapter.

Allows either a family or household member or a law enforcement officer or agency to file a verified petition in district court for an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) in any county authorized by the venue provisions set out in GS 1-82 (most commonly where the plaintiff or defendant resides). Defines family or household member to be (1) a person related by blood, marriage, or adoption to the respondent; (2) a dating partner of the respondent; (3) a person who has a child in common with the respondent; (4) a domestic partner of the respondent; (5) a person who has a biological or legal parent-child relationship with the respondent, including stepparents, stepchildren, grandparents, and grandchildren; and (6) a person who is acting or has acted as the respondent's legal guardian. Sets out information required in the petition, including: (1) a factual allegation that the respondent poses a danger of physical harm to self or others (and in the case of an ex parte ERPO, poses an imminent danger of physical harm to self or others) by having in his or her care, custody, possession, ownership, or control a firearm; (2) an identification of the number, types, and locations of firearms under the respondent's custody or control; (3) an identification of any existing protection order governing the respondent; and (4) an identification of any pending legal action between the petitioner and the respondent. Requires an ERPO petition to be accompanied by a written statement made by a witness that states specific facts supporting the allegation in the petitioner is using as the basis for the ERPO.

Clarifies that a petition for an ERPO can be granted without delay regardless of whether there is pending action between the petitioner and the respondent. Provides for a petitioner to use the substitute address designated by the Address Confidentiality Program when filing documents required by new Chapter 50E. Prohibits the assessment of court costs or attorneys' fees for filing or service of an ERPO petition or service of any ERPOs, except for sanctions for violations regarding signing and verification of the pleadings under GS 1A-1, Rule 11. Authorizes electronic filing of all documents filed, issued, registered, or served in an action under new Chapter 50E.

Requires a summons be issued and served no later than five days prior to the date set for the full ERPO hearing, with the ERPO petition, any ex parte ERPO that has been issued and the notice of hearing on the ex parte ERPO, and a description of an ERPO attached. Directs the clerk of court to effect service through the appropriate law enforcement agency.

Sets forth the required information that must be included in an ERPO, including (1) a statement of the grounds supporting its issuance; (2) the date and time the ERPO was issued and when it expires; (3) whether a mental health or chemical dependency evaluation of the respondent is required; (4) the court's address where a responsive pleading can be filed; (5) a description of the relinquishment and retrieval requirements for firearms, ammunition, and related permits of the respondent; (6) a description of the process for seeking termination of the ERPO; and (7) a statement that violation of the ERPO is a Class A1 misdemeanor.

Details the parameters of issuing an ex parte ERPO without service or notice. Requires the court to find by clear, cogent, and convincing evidence that the respondent poses an imminent danger of causing physical injury to self or others by having in his or her custody a firearm before a judge or magistrate can issue an ex parte ERPO. Provides that the chief district court judge can designate for each county at least one judge or magistrate to be reasonably available to issue ex parte ERPOs when the court is not in session. Authorizes hearings to consider ex parte relief to be held by video conference.

Details the parameters of issuing a full ERPO, including a hearing on the petition no later than 10 days from either the date an ex parte ERPO was issued, if applicable, or the date the petition was filed. Allows for one continuance of no more than 10 days unless all parties consent or good cause is shown. Permits issuance of a full ERPO when (1) the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the respondent poses a danger of causing physical injury to self or others by having in his or her custody a firearm, (2) process was proper, and (3) notice of hearing was proper.

Requires the respondent to immediately surrender to the sheriff possession of all firearms, ammunition, and permits in the custody or control of the respondent upon service of an ERPO, or within 24 hours of service at a time and place specified by the sheriff in the event weapons cannot be surrendered at the time the ERPO is served. Requires the sheriff to issue receipt at the time of surrender or seizure, and file receipt with the court within 48 hours after issuing the receipt. Provides for a warrant to be issued for failure to surrender firearms. Allows the sheriff to charge the respondent a reasonable fee for the storage of any firearms and ammunition taken pursuant to an ERPO. Provides for retrieval if the ex parte ERPO expires and the court does not enter a full ERPO. Otherwise, requires the respondent to file a motion for retrieval within 90 days after an ERPO expires, whereby surrendered firearms, ammunition, and permits must be returned to the respondent within 30 days of the motion unless the court finds the respondent is otherwise precluded from owning or possessing a firearm pursuant to state or federal law. Provides for motion for return by a third party. Authorizes disposal of surrendered firearms that have not been or cannot be returned as specified.

Sets the duration of an ex parte ERPO to be from its effective date to the date the hearing is held, or if a hearing is not held or a continuance not granted, no more than 10 days from its issuance. Requires a full ERPO to be effective for a fixed period of time not to exceed one year. Provides for renewal of any ERPO by the petitioner one or more times prior to its expiration, providing the initial requirements are satisfied and there has been no material change in the circumstances since its issuance. Limits the granting of renewals to open court.

Details the process of terminating an ERPO, with the respondent limited to submitting one motion for termination for every 12-month period the full ERPO is in effect. Requires the court to set a hearing no sooner than 14 days and no later than 30 days from the date of service upon the petitioner. Requires the respondent to prove by a preponderance of the evidence that he or she does not pose a danger of causing physical injury to self or others by having a firearm in his or her custody or care.

Requires the clerk to provide same day notice of ERPO issuance to the sheriff. Requires the sheriff to promptly enter the ERPO into the National Crime Information Center registry; update the orders in the registry upon modification, termination, renewal, or dismissal; and provide 24/7 access to the orders to the courts. Also requires a copy of the ERPO be issued promptly

to and retained by the municipal police department. Provides for notice to the respondent if he or she was not present when the ERPO was issued, and for notice to third parties where applicable.

Makes it a Class A1 misdemeanor for any person to possess, purchase, or receive, or attempt to possess, purchase, or receive, a firearm, ammunition, or permits to purchase or carry concealed firearms for so long as an effective ERPO is entered against that person.

Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to knowingly make a false statement when petitioning for an ERPO, and for any person to knowingly make a false statement to law enforcement that an ERPO remains in effect.

Clarifies that the remedies provided in new GS Chapter 50E are not exclusive, and that the Chapter does not affect the ability of law enforcement to remove a firearm or permit from any person, or conduct any search and seizure for firearms, pursuant to other lawful authority.

Specifies that Chapter 50E does not impose any criminal or civil liability on any person or entity for acts or omissions related to obtaining an ERPO.

Amends GS Chapter 15C, providing for the inclusion of petitioners for an ERPO in the Address Confidentiality Program. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 14-415.4 to require a court to deny a petition to restore the petitioner's firearm rights if the court finds an ex parte or full ERPO has been issued pursuant to GS Chapter 50E or a similar out-of-state or federal order has been issued against the petitioner and the court order is still in effect.

Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to develop the appropriate forms to implement the processes set out in new GS Chapter 50E.

Effective December 1, 2023.

Part III.

Amends GS 115C-47 by amending the local boards of education duties related to school psychologists to now require that each local school administrative unit staff at least one full time (was, employs at least one full time, permanent) school psychologist. Adds that if the board is unable to find a qualified school psychologist to hire full-time, then the position allocation for the psychologist may be converted to a dollar equivalent for the board to contract with a third party to provide school psychologist services for an amount of hours equivalent to a full-time school psychologist employee.

Enacts new GS 115C-105.62, providing as follows. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish the School Safety Grants Program (Program) to improve safety in public school units by providing grants for services for students in crisis, school safety training, and safety equipment in schools. Sets out what is to be included in a grant application and allows a public school unit to apply for one or more grants. Sets out items to be considered when awarding grants. Sets out the following categories of grants. Requires awarding grants to public school units in contract with community partners (as defined) to provide or pay for the provision of the specified crisis services. Requires awarding grants to public school units in contract with community partners (as defined) to address school safety by providing training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress, including the specified services. Requires awarding grants to public school units (and charter schools) for (1) the purchase of safety equipment for school buildings and (2) training associated with the use of this safety equipment, with priority given to the purchase of specified types of safety equipment. Specifies that these grants supplement and not supplant funds already provided for these purposes. Allows the Superintendent to retain up to \$100,000 per fiscal year for administrative costs. Requires the Superintendent to report annually on the Program to the specified NCGA committees and division; specifies what is to be included in the report. Requires applications for the Program to be available by August 1, 2023. Appropriates \$20 million from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for each year of the 2023-25 biennium to fund the Program and states the NCGA's intent to fund the Program with recurring funds beginning with the 2025-27 biennium. Effective July 1, 2023.

Part IV.

Includes a severability clause.

Intro. by Alston, F. Jackson, Logan, Budd.

APPROP, GS 14, GS 15A, GS 15C, GS 17C, GS 17E, GS 50E, GS 105, GS 115C, GS 122C

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Administrative Office of the Courts, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Public Records and Open Meetings, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Justice, Department of Public Instruction, Tax, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

View summary

H 707 (2023-2024) ASSAULTS ON FIRST RESPONDERS & AMP SOCIAL WORKERS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT WITH A FIREARM AGAINST CERTAIN EMERGENCY, MEDICAL, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL; TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT AGAINST AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER, A LEGISLATIVE OFFICER, OR A COURT OFFICER AND INFLICTING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY; AND TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT OR MAKING A THREAT AGAINST AN INDIVIDUAL EMPLOYED BY OR ACTING ON BEHALF OF A COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.

Amends GS 14-34.5 by increasing the penalty for assaulting with a firearm any of the following who are in the performance of their duties, to a Class B1 felony: (1) a law enforcement officer, probation officer, or parole officer (was, Class D); (2) member of the NC National Guard (was, Class E felony); (3) an employee of a detention facility operated under the jurisdiction of the State or a local government (was, Class D); and (4) an emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider, a medical responder or a firefighter (previously not included). Amends GS 14-34.6 by making conforming changes.

Amends GS 14-16.6 by increasing from a Class F to Class E felony the punishment for assaulting and inflicting serious bodily injury on a legislative officer, executive officer, or court officer.

Amends GS 14-16.10 by amending the definition of court officer as it applies to the crimes in Article 5A related to endangering executive, legislative, and court officers, to include those employed by or acting on behalf of a county department of social services (was, department of social services in abuse, neglect, dependency proceedings).

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Intro. by Pyrtle, Miller, Carson Smith, Greene.

GS 14

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, General Assembly, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Government, Executive, Health and Human Services, Social Services

H 708 (2023-2024) CLARIFY FELONY/VOTING WITHOUT RIGHTS RESTORED. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO REQUIRE A KNOWING VIOLATION OF THE LAW TO DECLARE IT A FELONY WHEN A PERSON CONVICTED OF A CRIME VOTES IN AN ELECTION WITHOUT HAVING BEEN RESTORED THE RIGHTS OF CITIZENSHIP.

Amends GS 163-275, as the title indicates.

Intro. by Everitt, T. Brown.

GS 163

View summary

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

H 710 (2023-2024) FT. FISHER AQUARIUM/FUNDS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE RENOVATION OF THE FORT FISHER AQUARIUM IN NEW HANOVER COUNTY.

Includes whereas clauses.

Appropriates \$10.5 million for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Davis.

APPROP, New Hanover

View summary

Government, Budget/Appropriations, Cultural Resources and Museums, State Agencies, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (formerly Dept. of Cultural Resources)

H 711 (2023-2024) REVISE MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION LAWS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT PROHIBITING MODIFICATIONS ENABLING ILLEGAL EMISSIONS ON DIESEL-POWERED MOTOR VEHICLES, DEFINING AND CRIMINALIZING "COAL ROLLING," AND REQUIRING LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO UNDERGO TRAINING TO DEVELOP THE ABILITY TO PROPERLY IDENTIFY ILLEGAL MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSIONS.

Identical to S 387, filed 3/28/23.

Amends GS 20-128, enacting a new subsection to prohibit persons from modifying a diesel-powered motor vehicle with a device that temporarily or permanently enables emission of visible air contaminants that exceeds the limits of state law, or coal rolling. Regarding the required safety inspection of a vehicle's exhaust and emissions control devices pursuant to GS 20-183.3, requires inspections of diesel-powered vehicles to include a determination that the vehicle is not in violation of new GS 20-128(e). Applies to vehicles inspected or due to be inspected on or after October 1, 2023.

Enacts GS 20-128.1A, making it a Class A1 misdemeanor to commit coal rolling. Defines coal rolling as operating a diesel-powered motor vehicle, causing an emission of visible air contaminants with the intent to (1) cause a reasonable person to feel harassed, annoyed, or alarmed; (2) obstruct or obscure another person's view of the roadway or a traffic control device; or (3) create a hazard to a vehicle operator, bicyclist, or pedestrian. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.

Amends GS 17C-6 relating to the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and GS 17E-4 relating to the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission, to require that the minimum training standards established by the Commissions for criminal justice officers and justice offers include training to develop the ability to identify violations of GS 20-128 and GS 20-128.1A, as enacted, with eight hours of such training required annually. Applies to applications for law enforcement certification filed on or after January 1, 2024.

Intro. by Autry, Gill, Ager, Majeed.

GS 17C, GS 17E, GS 20

View summary

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation

H 712 (2023-2024) PREP ACT/PHARMACISTS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW IMMUNIZING PHARMACISTS TO ADMINISTER CERTAIN AUTHORIZED VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNIZATIONS.

Amends GS 90-85.15B (pertaining to immunizing pharmacists) as follows. Deletes requirement that an immunizing pharmacist only administer vaccines if they are recommended by the CDC, for persons at least 18 years of age, so that the only

requirement is that there is a specific prescription order if an exception does not apply. Deletes the seven listed vaccines that can be administered by immunizing pharmacists under written protocols and instead refers to vaccines or immunizations recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (Committee).

In provisions authorizing an immunizing pharmacist to administer an influenza or COVID-19 vaccine recommended by the FDA to persons seven years of age or older (was, ten), deletes reference to recommendations by FDA and instead refers to the Committee. For COVID-19 vaccines authorized under an emergency use authorization by the FDS, requires recommendation by the Committee before it can be administered. Allows immunizing pharmacist to administer a combination of a COVID-19 and influenza vaccine authorized by the Committee.

Allows pharmacy technicians and interns to administer vaccines or immunizations when supervised by an immunizing pharmacist and only if they satisfy certain training and certification requirements.

Prior to the administration of a vaccine or immunization administered to a patient under 18 years of age, requires an immunizing pharmacist to obtain parental consent from the parent or legal guardian of the patient. An immunizing pharmacist, a pharmacy technician, or a pharmacy intern must, if the patient is under 18 years of age, inform the patient and legal guardian accompanying the patient of the importance of a well-child visit with a pediatrician or other licensed primary care provider.

Requires the NC Medical Board and Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to govern the administration of vaccines by pharmacy technicians authorized in the act. Specifies that until such rules are enacted, pharmacy technicians may administer vaccines and immunizations in line with requirements of the federal COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act even upon the expiration of the federal COVID-19 Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act. Specifies that for any new vaccination or immunization recommended by the Committee after the effective date of the act, the NC Medical Board and Board of Pharmacy joint subcommittee must review and update written protocols as needed. Authorizes pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, and pharmacy interns to administer a new vaccination or immunization in accordance with the recommendations of the Committee until such rules are enacted.

Intro. by Sasser, Cunningham, Lambeth.

GS 90

View summary

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

H 713 (2023-2024) MAKE ELECTION DAY A STATE HOLIDAY/FUNDS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE THE STATEWIDE GENERAL ELECTION DAY AN OFFICIAL STATE HOLIDAY, TO AMEND THE STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ACT TO MAKE THAT DAY A PAID HOLIDAY FOR STATE EMPLOYEES, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.

Amends GS 103-4 by making each statewide general election day a legal public holiday. Amends GS 126-4, requiring the State Human Resources Commission to count each statewide general election day as a paid holiday. Makes conforming changes.

Effective July 1, 2023, appropriates \$50,000 for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Office of State Human Resources to implement the provisions of the act.

Intro. by Longest.

APPROP, GS 103, GS 126

View summary

Government, Budget/Appropriations, Elections, State Agencies, Office of State Human Resources (formerly Office of State Personnel), State Government, State Personnel

H 716 (2023-2024) CAREER COURSE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ADD A CAREER PATHWAYS COURSE TO THE STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY AND TO REQUIRE THE COMPLETION OF CAREER PLANS IN SCHOOLS.

Enacts new GS 115C-81.12 requiring the State Board of Education (Board) to develop standards for a middle school course in which seventh grade students investigate and learn about career pathways to align with new GS 115C-158.10, and complete a career development plan, as discussed below.

Enacts new GS 115C-158.10 providing as follows. Requires all middle school and high school students enrolled in local school administrative units to complete a career development plan. Encourages charter schools to participate. Specifies that a career development plan must contain at least the following main prongs of assessment: (1) self-assessment of the student's aptitudes, skills, values, personality, and career interests; (2) exploration and identification of pathways for careers aligned with the student's self-assessment that include specified information for each career; (3) alignment of academic courses and extracurricular activities with the student's identified career interests, including specified inventory of courses and recordkeeping; and (4) creation of a career portfolio. Requires the Board to develop rules regarding career development plans. Requires local boards of education to: provide parents written notice of the initial career development plan along with instructions on how to access it, ensure that career development plans are easily accessible to students and parents, and provide access to all career development plans through a designated electronic app.

Specifies that students will not be promoted from seventh grade until the plan is created, and cannot be promoted from tenth grade until the career development plan is revised.

Amends GS 115C-218.75 (pertaining to general operating requirements for charter schools) to encourage charter schools to develop career development plans.

Effective beginning with the 2024-25 school year.

Requires the Board to establish a pilot of at least 20 local school administrative units during the 2023-24 school year to develop the plan requirements and professional development necessary for successful statewide implementation of career development plans in the 2024-25 school year. Requires Board to direct the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop an electronic app for the career development plan as discussed above, with the additional specification that the app integrate with career information available through other state agencies, and to provide that app to local boards of education and participating charter schools by no later than the 2024-25 school year. Requires DPI and local boards of education, as appropriate, to provide or cause to be provided, prior to the start of the 2024-25 school year the content curriculum and professional development needed for the above.

Intro. by Willis, D. Hall, Johnson, Gillespie.

GS 115C

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education

H 717 (2023-2024) STUDY MPOS. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO STUDY PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND OUTREACH IN TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AND TRANSPARENCY, ORGANIZATION, AND OVERSIGHT OF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS.

Establishes the 10-member Study Committee on Metropolitan Planning Organizations (Committee). Provides for appointment of members, designation of cochairs, filling of vacancies, resignation or removal of members, meetings, member expenses, and Committee staffing. Lists four subjects the Committee must study relating to public involvement, transparency, and oversight of metropolitan planning organizations. Grants specified powers of legislative committees pursuant to identified sections of GS Chapter 120, and authorizes the Committee to contract for professional services. Requires the Committee to report to the Speaker and President Pro Tempore within two years of the date the act becomes law. Terminates the Committee upon the earlier of either the submission of the report or two years after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Paré.

STUDY

Government, General Assembly, Local Government, Transportation

H 718 (2023-2024) PURVIS FARMS BANKRUPTCY RELIEF. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE RELIEF TO THOSE FINANCIALLY HARMED BY THE BANKRUPTCY FILING OF N. G. PURVIS FARMS, INC.

Appropriates \$5,150,000 for 2023-24 from the General Fund to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (Department) for grants to farmers and farming entities with invoices for sales of crops or livestock, or both, to N.G. Purvis Farms, Inc. (Purvis), that remain unpaid because of Purvis filing for bankruptcy. Limits the amount of the grants to the amount of the unpaid invoice minus other remuneration received to discharge the unpaid invoice. Requires the development of an application process and criteria for determining grant amounts within three months of the act's effective date. Requires applicants to submit an application and supporting documentation by January 1, 2024. Allows the Department to retain 3% of the funds for administrative costs. Remaining funds after the awarding of grants revert to the General Fund. Requires the Department to report to the specified NCGA committee and division by April 1, 2024. Effective July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Reives, Ager, Jeffers, F. Jackson.

APPROP

View summary

Agriculture, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

H 719 (2023-2024) SBI EMERGENCY PEN REGISTER/TRAP AND TRACE. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW THE SBI TO USE A PEN REGISTER OR TRAP AND TRACE DEVICE IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

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

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

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

Amends GS 15A-263 (issuance of order for pen register or trap and trace device) by amending subsection (a) regarding what a judge must find before entering an ex parte order authorizing the installation and use of a pen register or trap and trace device. Adds additional ground which consists of (1) finding there is probable cause to believe that a felony offense or Class A1 or 1 misdemeanor has been committed, probable cause to suspect that the person in the affidavit committed the offense, and that the results of the procedures involving pen registers or trap and trace devices will be of material aid in determining whether the person in the affidavit committed the offense and the applicant is also requesting data location, or (2) finding that there exists an emergency situation involving the disappearance of an individual/runaway child/missing person for which no criminal charges are readily apparent, that involves an imminent risk of death or serious physical harm, and that the information gained from the use of the device will be of material aid in locating an individual at risk of death or serious physical harm. Makes conforming and technical changes.

Enacts new GS 15A-265 authorizing an SBI agent, with permission from the agent's supervisor, to install without a warrant on an emergency basis a pen register or trap and trace device, but requiring the agent to seek an order approving the installation or use within 48 hours; without the order, the installation or use must immediately terminate when the information sought is obtained, the request for an order is denied, or 48 hours has passed, whichever occurs first. Additionally, if an order is not issued any information that is obtained in not admissible as evidence in a criminal prosecution unless the information is otherwise admissible under another law or exception. Requires the agent to determine either (1) there exists immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury to any person and there are grounds upon which an order could be entered pursuant to GS 15A-263(a)(1) or (a)(2) to authorize the installation and use of a pen register or trap and trace device or (2) an individual has disappeared, a child has run away, or a person is missing for which no criminal charge per GS 15A-263(a)(1) or (a)(2) is readily apparent, but where there may be an immediate danger of death or serious bodily injury based wholly or partly on the individual's age, physical condition, or circumstances surrounding his or her disappearance. Makes an agent who violates the

provisions regarding seeking an order or termination of the use of a pen register or trap and trace device guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Requires a person who provides assistance to be reasonably compensated for expenses incurred. Requires any information gained from the use of pen registers or trap and trace devices under this statute that is not required to be retained for discovery purposes in a criminal prosecution to be destroyed as soon as practicable upon the resolution of the emergency situation.

Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to installations occurring on or after that date, and any criminal penalties created by this act apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Intro. by Greene, Carson Smith, Miller, Ward. GS 15A

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and

Procedure

PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 44 (2023-2024) MOBILE SALONS/COSMETIC SERVICES AT WEDDINGS. (NEW) Filed Jan 31 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE LICENSURE OF MOBILE BEAUTY SALONS AND ENSURE THEIR SAFE AND HYGIENIC OPERATION AND TO AUTHORIZE COSMETIC ART SERVICES AT WEDDING VENUES.

Senate committee substitute adds the following to the 1st edition.

Amends GS 88B-15 to allow individuals licensed under the Chapter's provisions to practice makeup application and natural hair care outside of cosmetic art shops for the limited purpose of assisting individuals in preparing for weddings. Makes conforming changes to the act's titles.

Intro. by Krawiec, Mayfield. GS 88B

View summary Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing

S 326 (2023-2024) FIREFIGHTER CANCER INS. & WC PROGRAM FUNDING. Filed Mar 16 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE PERMANENT THE FIREFIGHTERS' HEALTH BENEFITS PILOT PROGRAM AND TO RENAME IT THE FIREFIGHTERS' CANCER INSURANCE PROGRAM, TO MODIFY THE CURRENT PERCENTAGE DISTRIBUTION OF THE GROSS PREMIUMS TAX TO FUND THE PROGRAM, TO SET A MAXIMUM RESERVE FOR THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND, AND TO PROVIDE AN ALTERNATIVE MEANS OF BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR FIREFIGHTING AND PREVENTION SERVICES APPLICANTS LIVING IN NORTH CAROLINA FOR LONGER THAN FIVE YEARSRESERVE FOR THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION FUND.

Senate committee substitute to the 2nd edition makes the following changes.

Adds new section to the act, pertaining to certain background check requirements for firefighters, as follows. Amends GS 153A-233 (counties), GS 153A-234(b) (fire marshal), and GS 160A-292(b) (fire chiefs) to specify that these entities only have to obtain a background check of any person over age 18 (previously no minimum age requirement) who either applies for a paid or volunteer position with their respective departments (fire marshal and fire chiefs) or, in the case of GS 153A-233, is in a paid or volunteer position with a county, city, or other unit of local government, or incorporated fire department (currently, volunteer fire department) with whom the county contracts for fire-fighting or prevention services. Permits the criminal history check to be conducted through the county clerk of court or a third-party vendor if the applicant has been a resident of the State for over five years and reports no charges or convictions on the application. Applies to applications submitted on or after the act becomes law. Makes organizational changes.

Business and Commerce, Insurance, Employment and Retirement, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, Tax

View summary

S 411 (2023-2024) STUDENTS IN HOME SCHOOL TAKE PSAT/AP. Filed Mar 29 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW STUDENTS IN HOME SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS AND THE PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT TEST (PSAT).

Senate committee substitute replaces the content of the 1st edition with the following.

Enacts GS 115C-565.1, establishing eligibility criteria for students enrolled in a home school to participate in the administration of the PSAT/NMSQT or PLAN, or to take any AP course exam, offered by the local administrative unit that the student would be assigned to if the student attended public school. Lists distinct criteria for standardized testing and AP exams, including satisfying specified applicable academic or testing requirements, payment of administration fees, and requiring a parent or responsible adult designated by the parent to serve as proctor if necessary. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-174.18 and GS 115C-174.26 to refer to the eligibility requirements of new GS 115C-565.1.

Intro. by P. Newton, Daniel, Hise.

GS 115C

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

S 515 (2023-2024) WATER AND SEWER AFFORDABILITY ACT. Filed Apr 3 2023, AN ACT TO LENGTHEN THE TIME FOR WHICH THE UTILITIES COMMISSION MAY SUSPEND PROPOSED RATES OF A PUBLIC UTILITY AND WATER AND SEWER INVESTMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PENDING INVESTIGATION, TO REQUIRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER AND SEWER SERVICE PROVIDERS TO DETERMINE IF THE SALE OF A WATER OR SEWER SYSTEM IS IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST, AND TO LIMIT WATER AND SEWER SURCHARGES FOR CUSTOMERS OUTSIDE THE JURISDICTIONAL BOUNDARIES OF THE UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROVIDING THE WATER OR SEWER SERVICE.

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Revises new GS 162A-19.1 to limit the requirement for local government service providers to hold a hearing and determine that the sale of a water and sewer system is in the public interest, to only sales to private companies.

Amends new GS 162A-19.2, revising the limitations set forth for local government service providers establishing an increase in the rates, fees, or charges for water or sewer system customers outside of its jurisdictional boundaries. No longer provides two distinct manners in which local government service providers can establish such an increase that include surcharges and capital fees. Instead generally authorizes the imposition of rates, fees, and charges that exceed the charges to customers inside its boundaries so long as the charges are just and equitable and based on the same factors used in fixing the rates, fees, and charges of customers inside its boundaries. Requires a public hearing when the total of all rates, fees, and charges, excluding tap fees and impact fees, exceeds 25% of those charged to customer inside its boundaries, to demonstrate that the charges are just and equitable and based on the same factors used in fixing that of customers inside its boundaries. Adds that these provisions do not prohibit charging a tap fee or impact fee separately.

Intro. by Sawyer, Perry, Lazzara.

GS 66, GS 153A, GS 160A, GS 162A

View summary

Public Enterprises and Utilities

S 549 (2023-2024) DEVELOPMENT MORATORIA/TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS. Filed Apr 4 2023, AN ACT TO AMEND THE REQUIREMENTS FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT RENEWALS AND EXTENSIONS ON DEVELOPMENT MORATORIA IMPOSED DUE TO PLANNED DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes technical change to GS 160D-107 to update statutory citation to GS 160D-1110 (building permits) instead of GS 160D-1108 (conflicts of interest) so that projects for a valid building permit has been issued is exempt from development moratoria.

Intro. by Sawyer. GS 160D

View summary

Development, Land Use and Housing, Government, State

Agencies, Department of Transportation, Local Government

S 607 (2023-2024) TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM CHANGES. Filed Apr 5 2023, AN ACT RELATING TO THE TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM.

Senate committee substitute makes the following changes to the 1st edition.

Revises the proposed changes to the Temporary Solutions Program for state agency temporary employment in GS 126-63. Regarding the 11-month employment limit for temporary employees, now provides that a temporary employee is only eligible for reinstatement on a job assignment after working 11 consecutive months if the employee is separated for at least 31 consecutive calendar days (was, provided for continuing the assignment after a 31-day break in service). Makes further changes to refer to a 31-day separation rather than break in service. Eliminates the provision specifying that temporary employees are not to be considered career State employees. More specifically requires the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) to prohibit acquiring new temporary employees through the Program (previously, generally all new temporary employees) at any state agency owing an invoice to OSHR that is 90 days or more overdue or in excess of \$200,000.

Regarding exceptions to the statute's requirements, separates the authority granted to the OSHR Director relating creating exceptions to the requirements of subsection (a) and subsection (a1). Now authorizes the OSHR Director to create exceptions to the requirement that Cabinet agencies use the Program, mandated under subsection (a), when the Program cannot meet the agency's needs for a class of temporary job assignments and failure for to recruit that class of temporary job assignments will cause severe harm to the agency's ability to provide vital services to the public. Maintains the previously proposed authority of the OSHR Director to create exceptions to the temporary employment limitations of subsection (a1) when two conditions are met: if the exception would be in the best interest of the State and would not result in extending the temporary employment past 22 months. Makes a conforming change to new subsection (a5), which charges OSHR with monitoring Cabinet and Council of State temporary employees and separating those beyond the limitations of subsection (a1) from BEACON, to except instances where an exception applies. Makes a technical change regarding required content of quarterly reports by OSHR to the specified NCGA committee and division, to no longer note that the listed required content is not exclusive.

Eliminates the directive in the effective date provision to require any employee at the time of the act becoming law who has reached 11 months of temporary employment to take a 31-day break in service or be separated from employment if not covered by a exemption. Instead, adds that the act applies to temporary employees hired on or after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Alexander, Jarvis, Ford. GS 126

View summary (formerly Office of State Personnel), State Government,

Executive, State Personnel

Government, State Agencies, Office of State Human Resources

S 613 (2023-2024) SEDIMENTATION BUFFER FOR TROUT WATERS. Filed Apr 5 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A TWENTY-FIVE-FOOT BUFFER FOR CERTAIN AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES IN PROXIMITY TO STREAMS CLASSIFIED AS TROUT WATERS.

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Revises the provisions of proposed GS 113A-52.01(b), now more specifically requiring waters that have been classified as trout waters by the Environmental Management Commission to have an undisturbed, vegetated buffer zone 25-feet wide where agricultural related land-disturbing activities defined under GS 113A-52.01(a)(1) are prohibited (previously required such activities that are located adjacent to classified trout waters to have an undisturbed, vegetated buffer zone 25 feet wide; did not explicitly prohibit the activities described in subdivision (a)(1) in the buffer zone).

Intro. by Moffitt, B. Newton, Rabon.

GS 113A

View summary

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources

S 626 (2023-2024) MODIFY LAWS RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING. Filed Apr 5 2023, AN ACT TO MODIFY LAWS RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMISSION.

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Deletes provisions of proposed amendments to GS 50D-1 defining a *permanent domestic violence protective order* so that the act only applies to victims of human trafficking offenses. Makes conforming changes to GS 50D-2, -3, and -5 to account for deletion of permanent domestic violence protective order. Deletes proposed changes to GS 50D-6,-7,-9, and -10 in their entirety.

Intro. by Alexander, Hanig, Barnes.

GS 14, GS 15B, GS 50D

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

S 631 (2023-2024) FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT. Filed Apr 5 2023, AN ACT TO PROTECT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS IN ATHLETICS.

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Deletes proposed sub-subdivision to GS 115C-12(23) that would bar students of the female sex from athletic teams or sports designated for males. Deletes requirement that sports designated for women not have members of the male sex, so that the provision only requires that athletic teams designated for women not have members of the mail sex. Amends the retaliation provisions to delete athletic association and instead refer to administering organization (i.e., a nonprofit organization that has entered into and is in compliance with a memorandum of understanding with the State Board of Education to administer and enforce the adopted rules and requirements of Article 29e of GS Chapter 115C) for interscholastic athletic activities at the high school level. Changes causes of action for which there are specified statutory remedies from a cause of action pursuant to subsubdivisions e through h to a cause of action pursuant to sub-subdivisions f through h.

Enacts GS 115C-548.1 (private church or religious schools) to require these schools that are members of an organization that administers interscholastic athletic activities pursuant to Article 29E, and any other of these schools that organize athletic teams at the middle and high school level that plays a team from any school required to comply with GS 115C-12(23), to comply with GS 115C-12(23), as amended.

Makes changes to proposed amendments to provisions related to nonpublic schools to change statute to GS 115-556.1 (was, GS 115C-567) and to clarify that it applies to qualified nonpublic schools (was, just nonpublic schools). Makes technical and organizational changes.

Intro. by Corbin, Krawiec, Sawyer.

GS 115C, GS 116

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, UNC System, Health and Human

LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 334 (2023-2024) ESTABLISH AT-LARGE SEAT/W-S CITY COUNCIL. (NEW) Filed Mar 9 2023, AN ACT TO INCREASE THE SIZE OF THE CITY COUNCIL IN THE CITY OF WINSTON-SALEM TO INCLUDE AN AT-LARGE SEAT.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Modifies the proposed changes to Paragraph 2 of Section 12A of SL 1927-232, as amended, by increasing the number of members on the Winston-Salem City Council by one rather than two at-large members. Maintains the residency requirement for the at-large member to be a resident of Winston-Salem. Maintains the proposed changes to wards from which members are elected. Eliminates the directive requiring the at-large member to be elected during the statewide general election held in November 2024, serving four-year terms. Makes conforming changes and deletions. Makes a technical change to Paragraph 1 of Section 12A of SL 1927-232.

Amends Section 12J of SL 1927-232, requiring regular municipal elections to be held in even-numbered years, with the mayor and city council elected on a partisan basis. Requires the primary and election to be held and conducted pursuant to general law governing county officer elections. Deletes obsolete language. Repeals Section 12B of SL 1927-232, as amended, setting forth parameters for primary elections for mayor and city council candidates.

Adds that the act applies to elections held on or after the date the act becomes law. Makes conforming title changes.

Intro. by Lambeth. Forsyth

View summary Government, Elections

H 454 (2023-2024) CONCORD/DISTRIBUTION OF ABC NET PROFITS. Filed Mar 22 2023, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE DISTRIBUTION OF NET PROFITS FROM THE OPERATION OF THE CITY OF CONCORD ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL BOARD.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following change. Amends Section 5.14 of SL 1985-861 to require the Board of Alcoholic Beverage Control of the City of Concord to distribute the net profits remaining after the payment of all costs and operating expenses as follows: the first 5% for law enforcement, and after retaining working capital, then 25% to Cabarrus County and 75% to Concord (was, required to retain working capital before distributing 5% to law enforcement).

Intro. by K. Baker, Crutchfield, Staton-Williams.

Cabarrus

View summary Alcoholic Beverage Control

H 464 (2023-2024) BEAUFORT COUNTY LOCAL MATTERS. (NEW) Filed Mar 23 2023, AN ACT TO ALTER THE MANNER IN WHICH APPOINTMENTS ARE MADE TO THE WASHINGTON-WARREN AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BEAUFORT COUNTY SCHOOLS TO TEACH THE HILLSDALE COLLEGE CURRICULUM.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Amends Section 2 of SL 2022-34 to require members appointed to the Washington-Warren Airport Authority (Authority) to now file a copy of their oath of office with the clerk to the board of the Beaufort County Commissioners (BCC) and the clerk to the board of the Washington City Council [Council] (currently, just the Council).

Amends the proposed changes Section 2 of SL 2022-34 to change the manner in which appointments are made to the Authority the composition of its members, and the experience requirements, as follows.

Deletes the provisions providing for the appointment of four members by the General Assembly, two upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and two upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House both of whom are registered voters of the County of Beaufort with experience in aviation, drone, or business management but not registered voters of the City of Washington. Deletes provision providing for appointment of one member who is registered voter of the County of Beaufort and not a registered voter of the City of Washington.

Now provides for three members to be appointed by the BCC as follows: one member who is a registered voter in Beaufort County and in the City of Washington with business management and financial expertise and two members who are registered voters in Beaufort County but not the City of Washington with aviation or drone experience. Expands the number of members the Authority can appoint to three and removes requirement that they must be selected from the businesses located at the Washington-Warren Airport. Now, these appointees only need to be registered voters of Beaufort County.

Now directs that the terms of current members of the Authority will expire on October 1, 2023 (was, six months after the act became law). Deletes provisions setting forth staggering of terms, and now provides the following staggering scheme: the member appointed by the City of Washington will serve a two-year term, of the three members appointed by the BCC and the Authority, one member from each of these appointing authorities will serve a two-year term, another will serve a three-year term, and the third with serve a four-year term. Specifies that if an appointing authority fails to make the initial appointment by October 1, 2023, and there are not enough members for a quorum, then the Clerk of the Superior Court of Beaufort County will fill that vacancy upon request of a member of the Authority.

Authorizes the Board of Education of Beaufort County Schools to use the Hillsdale College K-12 Curriculum in lieu of the requirements set forth in GS Chapter 115C (governing elementary and secondary education).

Makes organizational and technical changes. Makes conforming changes to the act's long and short titles.

Intro. by Kidwell. Beaufort

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Local Government, Transportation

H 477 (2023-2024) HALIFAX-NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT AUTHORITY/LEASES. Filed Mar 23 2023, AN ACT TO EXEMPT LEASES OF PROPERTY BY THE HALIFAX-NORTHAMPTON REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FROM GENERAL LAWS REGARDING DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AND TO ALLOW THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN LEASES FOR A TERM OF UP TO FORTY YEARS.

House committee substitute amends the 1st edition as follows.

Modifies and adds to the proposed changes to Section 4 of SL 1997-275, as amended. Adds leasing authority as a distinct power granted to the Halifax-Northampton Airport Authority (Authority). Makes organizational changes; maintains the proposed exemption of the Authority's leasing of real or personal property from the procedures set forth in Article 12 of GS Chapter 160A (pertaining to the sale and disposition of property), and discretion granted to the Authority in determining lease terms and conditions. Additionally grants the Authority the power to (1) erect buildings, hangers, shops, and other improvements and facilities, subject to applicable property agreements and grants; (2) lease the improvements and facilities for terms of up to 40 years; (3) take loans to fund improvements and facilities, secured by their lease agreements; and (4) pledge and assign the leases and lease agreements as security for authorized loans. Adds that the proposed changes apply to contracts entered into or renewed on or after the date the act becomes law. Changes the act's long title.

Intro. by Wray.

UNCODIFIED, Halifax, Northampton

View summary

Transportation

H 477 (2023-2024) HALIFAX-NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT AUTHORITY/LEASES. Filed Mar 23 2023, AN ACT TO EXEMPT LEASES OF PROPERTY BY THE HALIFAX-NORTHAMPTON REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY FROM GENERAL LAWS REGARDING DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY AND TO ALLOW THE AUTHORITY TO ENTER INTO CERTAIN LEASES FOR A TERM OF UP TO FORTY YEARS.

House committee substitute to the 2nd edition makes the following changes. Amends Section 4(a)(12) of SL 1997-275, as amended, to delete provisions allowing the Halifax-Northampton Airport Authority (Authority) to (1) borrow money for use in making and paying for improvements and facilities, secured by and on the credit only of the lease agreements in respect to these improvements and facilities and (2) to pledge and assign the leases and lease agreements as security for the authorized loans.

Intro. by Wray.

UNCODIFIED, Halifax, Northampton

View summary

Transportation

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 38: ENTRY FEES FOR HS INTERSCHOLASTIC EVENTS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 93: ALLOW PRESERVE OPERATORS TO PURCHASE RABBITS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 116: MODIFY LAWS AFFECTING DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.

House: Withdrawn From Com

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 155: CERT. OF TITLES FOR CERTAIN OFF-ROAD VEH. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 186: DIV. OF JUVENILE JUSTICE MODS.-AB

House: Reptd Fav Com Sub 3 House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 193: VARIOUS COURT CHANGES 2023.-AB

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 241: UNIFORMED CIVIL SERVICE ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Appropriations

H 301: MODIFY FILM GRANT.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 314: CONFLICTS OF INTEREST TRAINING/LEAS. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 319: VETERAN REGISTRATION PLATE MODIFICATIONS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 338: LIFETIME CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 374: RAFFLES/INCREASE REAL ESTATE PRIZE LIMIT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 378: FIREFIGHTERS CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Sub 2 House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 384: CITIES/USE OF PERPETUAL CARE TRUST FUNDS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 387: MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD FOR FIRST RESPONDERS. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 407: NC SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 455: EXPEDITE WATER/WASTEWATER FRANCHISE TRANSFER.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 469: FORECLOSURES/EXTEND SERVICEMEMBER PROTECTIONS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 473: MODIFY LOW-SPEED VEHICLE DEFINITION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 484: MENTAL HEALTH CONFIDENTIAL INFO. DISCLOSURE.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 500: NCCWBTC/MEDICAID-RELATED RECS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 530: ADVOCACY FOR BONE MARROW EDUC. & AMP REGISTRATION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 535: SOLAR CAPACITY LIMIT INCREASE. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 556: TRANSLITERATOR LICENSING BOARD MODS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 571: DISCHARGE OF HIGHLY TREATED WASTEWATER.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 622: MENSTRUAL EQUITY FOR ALL ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 623: THE KELLY SPANGLER STUDY BILL.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 624: RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 625: THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 626: CANNABIS LEGALIZATION & AMP REGULATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 627: ON-SITE WASTEWATER RULES IMPLEMENTATION.

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 628: AMEND ON-SITE WASTEWATER/ENVIRONMENT STATUTES.

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 629: MATTHEW'S BILL FOR CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 630: ECONOMIC STABILITY ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 631: UNIVERSITY RESEARCH STATUS ENHANCEMENT FUND.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 632: RURAL BROADBAND TRANSFORMATION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 633: SHINE LIKE HAILEY PARADE SAFETY ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 634: FED PREEMPTION OF STATE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 635: TRANSFER RECOGNITION PROCESS OF INDIAN TRIBES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and

Operations of the House

H 636: ENACT CRIMINAL JUSTICE DEBT REFORM.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 637: EXPAND PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 638: REPEAL DEATH PENALTY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 639: RAILROAD SAFETY OMNIBUS ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 640: CAREER PATH OPTIONS TRANSPARENCY ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

House

H 641: NO SOLICITING CERTAIN FUNDS/ELECTIONS BOARDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 642: MARKETABLE TITLE ACT-RESTRICTIVE COVENANTS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 643: PASSENGER RAIL CAPITAL AND SERVICE GRANT FUND.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 644: SOCIAL MEDIA ALGORITHMIC CONTROL IN IT ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 645: INCLUSIONARY ZONING/WORKFORCE HOUSING FUNDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 646: FINES AND FORFEITURE/PAYMENT TO SCHOOLS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 647: EXPEDITE CHILD PERMANENCY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 648: FAITHFUL ARTICLE V COMMISSIONER ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 650: SMOKE-FREE OPERATING ROOMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 651: SOUTH PIEDMONT REGIONAL AUTOPSY CENTER/FUNDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 652: HONOR ANNIE BROWN KENNEDY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 653: PLANT-BASED LUNCH OPTIONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 655: COASTAL FISHERIES LICENSING REFORMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Wildlife Resources, if favorable, Marine Resources and Aquaculture, if favorable, Finance, if favorable,

Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 658: TELECOMMUNICATIONS CARRIERS AMENDMENT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Energy and Public Utilities, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 659: HOG LAGOON PHASEOUT/DATE CERTAIN.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 660: PFAS FREE NC.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 661: EMERGENCY SERVICES PEER COUNSELING PRIVILEGE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 662: SMALL BUSINESS TRUTH IN FINANCING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 670: PRESERVE ACCESS TO CONTRACEPTIVES.

House: Filed

H 671: PROTECT PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

House: Filed

H 672: RESTORE STATE EMP/TEACHER RETIREE MED BENEFIT.

House: Filed

H 673: CLARIFY REGULATIONS ON ADULT ENTERTAINMENT.

House: Filed

H 674: CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS/SHARE INFORMATION.

House: Filed

H 675: HEALTHY AND HIGH PERFORMING SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 676: HYDRAULIC FRACTURING/STATEWIDE BAN.

House: Filed

H 677: IMPROVED DATA ON INVOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS.

House: Filed

H 678: EXCUSED ABSENCES FOR 4-H PARTICIPATION.

House: Filed

H 679: CUSTOMER OPT-IN FOR SINGLE-USE FOODWARE.

House: Filed

H 680: IMPROVED ACCESS TO SMI PRESCRIPTION DRUGS.

House: Filed

H 681: INTERSTATE MED. LIC. COMPACT/MIL. LICENSURE.

House: Filed

H 682: STRENGTHEN DO NOT CALL/TEXT REGISTRY.

House: Filed

H 683: SUPPORT DV VICTIMS/OFFENDER REHABILITATION.

House: Filed

H 684: PRESCRIPTION EYE DROP EARLY REFILL COVERAGE.

House: Filed

H 685: LETTERS OF CHARACTER REF AND STUDY.

House: Filed

H 686: CIVIL RIGHTS EDUCATION.

House: Filed

H 687: CLARIFY VACANCY FILLING PARTISAN BD. OF ED.

House: Filed

H 688: INCREASE ACCESS FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS/INSURANCE.

House: Filed

H 689: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN NORTH CAROLINA.

House: Filed

H 690: NO CRYPTOCURRENCY PAYMENTS TO STATE.

House: Filed

H 691: NEW RESIDENT/TEMPORARY CONCEALED CARRY PERMIT.

House: Filed

H 692: RESTAURANTS & BARS/BUY FROM DISTILLER.

House: Filed

H 693: REPOSSESSION OF MANUFACTURED SIGN.

House: Filed

H 694: LOCAL CAMPAIGN FINANCE LATE REPORTS.

House: Filed

H 695: STUDY COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR ADAS/APDS.

House: Filed

H 696: VIOLENT OFFENSE/NO CONTACT ORDER.

House: Filed

H 697: MODIFY VARIOUS COURTROOM PROCEDURES.

House: Filed

H 698: CODIFY/REPLACE COMM. LAW OBSTRUCT. OF JUSTICE.

House: Filed

H 699: STATE RECOGNITION FOR THE TUSCARORA.

House: Filed

H 700: SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES/DISMISSALS.

House: Filed

H 701: READ THE CONSTITUTION MANDATE.

House: Filed

H 702: DOT TAKINGS NOTICE TO ANY POTENTIAL CLAIMANT.

House: Filed

H 703: PROVIDE RAPE KIT STATUS UPDATES TO VICTIMS.

House: Filed

H 704: RIGHT TO APPEAL GIGLIO NOTIFICATION.

House: Filed

H 705: BUILD SAFER COMMUNITIES AND SCHOOLS ACT.

House: Filed

H 706: ELECTIONEERING/SEI FILING/VOTER PHOTOS.

House: Filed

H 707: ASSAULTS ON FIRST RESPONDERS & AMP SOCIAL WORKERS.

House: Filed

H 708: CLARIFY FELONY/VOTING WITHOUT RIGHTS RESTORED.

House: Filed

H 709: ELECTION DIRECTOR DISMISSAL PROCESS.

House: Filed

H 710: FT. FISHER AQUARIUM/FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 711: REVISE MOTOR VEHICLE EMISSION LAWS.

House: Filed

H 712: PREP ACT/PHARMACISTS.

House: Filed

H 713: MAKE ELECTION DAY A STATE HOLIDAY/FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 714: NC JUNK FEE PREVENTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 715: HIGHER ED. MODERNIZATION & AMP AFFORDABILITY ACT.

House: Filed

H 716: CAREER COURSE FOR MIDDLE SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 717: STUDY MPOS.

House: Filed

H 718: PURVIS FARMS BANKRUPTCY RELIEF.

House: Filed

H 719: SBI EMERGENCY PEN REGISTER/TRAP AND TRACE.

House: Filed

H 720: STATE CLEAN ENERGY GOAL FOR 2050.

House: Filed

H 721: STATE PRECIOUS METALS DEPOSITORY STUDY.

House: Filed

H 722: POULTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT.

House: Filed

H 723: DOA/DOI AUTH. CLAR. FOR STATE-OWNED BUILD.

House: Filed

H 724: CLARIFY SLOW TRAFFIC MOVE RIGHT LAW.

House: Filed

H 725: CREATE ANTI-LITTERING SPECIAL FUND.

House: Filed

H 726: CE CREDIT ACCEPTANCE STUDY.

House: Filed

H 727: BREAKTHROUGH THERAPIES RESEARCH/ADVISORY ACT.

House: Filed

H 728: WEEKLY MAINTENANCE OF VOTER REG. RECORDS.

House: Filed

H 729: ADD SEGREGATION SCORE TO SCHOOL REPORT CARDS.

House: Filed

H 730: FUNDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF NC PRE-K.

House: Filed

H 731: POLICE REFORM FOR 2023.

House: Filed

H 732: MANAGE PFAS FIREFIGHTING FOAM/GEAR.

House: Filed

H 733: ORPHAN ROADS DOT MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.

House: Filed

H 734: VENUS FLYTRAP SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE.

House: Filed

H 735: PRESUMPTION OF SHARED PARENTING.

House: Filed

H 736: JOEL H. CRISP SUDEP AWARENESS LAW.

House: Filed

H 737: PRESERVING COMPETITION IN HEALTH CARE.

House: Filed

H 738: SAFER ROADS AND COMMUNITIES ACT OF 2023.

House: Filed

H 739: UPDATE REQS./ADVANCE HEALTH CARE DIRECTIVES.

House: Filed

H 740: UNFAIR/DECEPTIVE HEALTHCARE ADVERTISING.

House: Filed

H 741: MODIFY/NONPROFITS & AMP CHARITABLE SOLICITATION.

House: Filed

H 742: REQ. IMPLEMENTATION OF TEXT/SMS 911 FOR PSAPS.

House: Filed

H 743: EXTEND EXPIRATION/MAGISTRATE EX PARTE ORDERS.

House: Filed

H 744: EVA'S ACT.

House: Filed

H 745: MANDATE FENTANYL TESTING/HOSPITAL ER PATIENTS.

House: Filed

H 746: OVERSIGHT OF HOME SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 747: NO WORK REQUIREMENT EXEMPTION/FNS BENEFITS.

House: Filed

H 748: FELONY CHILD ABUSE/EXPAND SCOPE.

House: Filed

H 749: STUDY POLYCYSTIC OVARY SYNDROME.

House: Filed

H 750: ADDRESS ESG FACTORS.

House: Filed

H 751: ACCESSING MIDWIVES ACT.

House: Filed

H 752: MEDICAL EQUIPMENT RIGHT TO REPAIR ACT.

House: Filed

H 753: MODIFY LAWS RELATING TO BAIL BONDS/BONDSMEN.

House: Filed

H 754: REQ. CONSENT TO MONETIZE PROTECTED HLTH INFO.

House: Filed

H 755: ENHANCE ACH AND NURSING HOME CLIENTS' RIGHTS.

House: Filed

H 756: STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

House: Filed

H 757: DANGEROUS EXIT RAMP WARNING.

House: Filed

H 758: YOUTH CERT PREPAREDNESS K-12 TRAINING.

House: Filed

H 759: BARBER/ELECTROLYSIS BOARD/DISCIPLINARY COSTS.

House: Filed

H 760: DOT PROJECTS SIGNAGE.

House: Filed

H 761: MINIMUM SPEED LIMIT ON STATE ROADS.

House: Filed

H 762: SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS/MASTER'S PAY.

House: Filed

H 763: LIMIT SCHOOL COUNSELOR RATIOS.

House: Filed

H 764: MONTESSORI LICENSE.

House: Filed

H 765: PUBLIC SCHOOL MEDICAL ASSISTANTS.

House: Filed

H 766: DPI TO CONTROL PRE-K LITERACY CURRICULUM.

House: Filed

H 767: EXPANDING WORKFORCE AND EDUCATION ACT.

House: Filed

H 768: LLEA RETURN TO WORK FROM RETIREMENT.

House: Filed

H 769: DES EMPLOYMENT OUTCOME DATA SHARING.

House: Filed

H 770: ACCESS TO VOTED BALLOTS.

House: Filed

H 771: COMPENSATION FOR ON-PREMISES SIGN UPGRADES.

House: Filed

H 772: POLL OBSERVER APPOINTMENTS, ACCESS & AMP ACTIVITY.

House: Filed

H 773: LET PARENTS CHOOSE/SAMMY'S LAW OF 2023.

House: Filed

H 774: BUSINESS MICROLOAN PROGRAM.

House: Filed

H 775: TRANSFORMATIVE CLIMATE COMMUNITIES.

House: Filed

H 776: FREE LUNCH FOR SOME STUDENTS/STOP LUNCH SHAME.

House: Filed

H 777: UNIVERSAL NO-COST SCHOOL MEALS.

House: Filed

H 778: PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSING BOOKING PHOTOGRAPHS.

House: Filed

H 779: ABC/REVISE MALT BEVERAGE & AMP WINE ELECTIONS.

House: Filed

H 780: STATE ID CARDS FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS.

House: Filed

H 781: FAIR ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES ACT.

House: Filed

H 782: CODE EXEMPTION FOR TEMP. MOVIE SETS.

House: Filed

H 783: REPEAL MONUMENTS & AMP MEMORIALS LAW.

House: Filed

H 784: FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS/ESG FACTORS.

House: Filed

H 785: PROHIBIT FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM REQUIREMENT.

House: Filed

H 786: YOUTH HEALTH PROTECTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 787: DOT ROWS & AMP EASEMENTS/REVISE LAW.

House: Filed

H 788: THE SECOND CHANCES ACT.

House: Filed

H 789: EVICTION RECORD EXPUNCTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 790: INNOCENCE INQUIRY COMMISSION PROVISIONS.

House: Filed

H 791: EVICTION POST-JUDGMENT RELIEF AGREEMENTS.

House: Filed

H 792: UI/ESTABLISH SHORT-TIME COMPENSATION IN NC.

House: Filed

H 793: PUBLIC SCHOOL OPEN ENROLLMENT.

House: Filed

H 794: REFORM THE UNC BOG.

House: Filed

H 795: RIGHTS OF NATURE/HAW RIVER.

House: Filed

H 796: THE PATIENTS' RESTORATION OF RIGHTS ACT.

House: Filed

H 797: PROTECT BURDENED COMMUNITIES/ADVERSE IMPACTS.

House: Filed

H 798: NC ACCOUNTABILITY/SAFETY NET.

House: Filed

H 799: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITS.

House: Filed

H 800: PUBLIC SCHOOL PART-TIME ENROLLMENT.

House: Filed

H 801: REENACT SOLAR ENERGY TAX CREDIT.

House: Filed

H 802: BIANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL SALES TAX HOLIDAY.

House: Filed

H 803: COUNTY SERVICE DISTRICTS/EARLY CHILDHOOD ED.

House: Filed

H 804: BODY-WORN CAMERA RECORDINGS.

House: Filed

H 805: PREVENT ABUSIVE HOA FORECLOSURE PRACTICES.

House: Filed

H 806: PROTECT SCHOOL JOURNALISTS.

House: Filed

H 807: MODIFY FIREARMS RETRIEVAL PROCESS IN DV CASES.

House: Filed

H 808: YOUTH HEALTH PROTECTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 809: HOSPITAL VIOLENCE PROTECTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 810: SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE.

House: Filed

H 811: ABOLISH CONTRIBUTORY NEGLIGENCE.

House: Filed

H 812: UNIFORM RESTRICTIVE EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT ACT.

House: Filed

H 813: THE PRETRIAL INTEGRITY ACT.

House: Filed

H 814: EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT MODS.

House: Filed

H 815: THE LOVING HOMES ACT.

House: Filed

H 816: POLL OBSERVERS.

House: Filed

H 817: HEALTHY FAMILIES & AMP WORKPLACES/PAID SICK DAYS.

House: Filed

H 818: PERFORMANCE BONDS FOR ELECTIONS VENDORS.

House: Filed

H 819: MEDICAL ETHICS DEFENSE (MED) ACT.

House: Filed

H 820: UPDATE STRATEGIC STATE PLAN FOR ALZHEIMER'S.

House: Filed

H 821: EXPAND LIMITED DRIVING PRIVILEGE EXTENSIONS.

House: Filed

H 822: CONST. AMEND. - INVOLUNTARY SERVITUDE.

House: Filed

H 823: CHOOSE YOUR SCHOOL, CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.

House: Filed

H 824: TEACHER LICENSE RECIPROCITY FROM EVERY STATE.

House: Filed

H 825: TEACHING FELLOWS EXPANSION.

House: Filed

H 826: PROTECT LAW ENFORCEMENT/JUDGES PERSONAL INFO.

House: Filed

H 827: RARE DISEASE ADVISORY COUNCIL.

House: Filed

H 828: CONFIDENTIALITY OF ANIMAL SERVICES RECORDS.

House: Filed

H 829: WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH/WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 830: WILMINGTON OPIOID QUICK RESPONSE TEAM.

House: Filed

H 831: FILM SOUNDSTAGE GRANT PROGRAM.

House: Filed

H 832: LOWER CAPE FEAR WATER AND SEWER AUTH'Y/FUNDS.

House: Filed

S 44: MOBILE SALONS/COSMETIC SERVICES AT WEDDINGS. (NEW)

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted Senate: Re-ref Com On Finance

S 157: LIMITED PROVISIONAL LICENSE MODIFICATION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

S 308: GUARDIANSHIP RIGHTS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Placed On Cal For 04/20/2023

S 325: LIMIT ONLINE MARKETPLACE REGULATIONS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 326: FIREFIGHTER CANCER INS. & WC PROGRAM FUNDING.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 339: MODIFY LMTD DRIVING PRIVILEGE/CRIMINAL LAWS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 360: MODIFY VICTIM AND SEX OFFENSE REGISTRY LAWS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 384: CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS/SCHOOL BLDGS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 411: STUDENTS IN HOME SCHOOL TAKE PSAT/AP.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 452: NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE OMNIBUS .- AB

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 465: CITIES/REMOVE & AMP DISPOSE OF ABANDONED VESSELS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 477: AMEND BUS. CORP. ACT/BUS. OPP. DISCLOSURES.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 515: WATER AND SEWER AFFORDABILITY ACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted Senate: Re-ref Com On Finance

S 527: SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ELEVATORS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 531: DAM SAFETY LAW CLARIFICATION.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 542: DOL/OMNIBUS LAW CHANGES AGENCY BILL.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 549: DEVELOPMENT MORATORIA/TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted Senate: Re-ref Com On Transportation

S 607: TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS PROGRAM CHANGES.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 613: SEDIMENTATION BUFFER FOR TROUT WATERS.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 626: MODIFY LAWS RELATING TO HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 631: FAIRNESS IN WOMEN'S SPORTS ACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

LOCAL BILLS

H 334: ESTABLISH AT-LARGE SEAT/W-S CITY COUNCIL. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 438: FRANKLIN/GRANVILLE RECOGNIZED COMMON BOUNDARY.

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 454: CONCORD/DISTRIBUTION OF ABC NET PROFITS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 462: CITY OF WASHINGTON/DEANNEXATION OF AIRPORT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 464: BEAUFORT COUNTY LOCAL MATTERS. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

H 477: HALIFAX-NORTHAMPTON AIRPORT AUTHORITY/LEASES.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

House: Reptd Fav Com Sub 2 House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b) House: Placed On Cal For 04/19/2023

S 203: AUTHORIZE SKATEBOARD RESTRICTIONS/POLK CO.

Senate: Reptd Fav

Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

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