H 125 (2023-2024) NC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WORKFORCE ACT (NEW). Filed Feb 15 2023, AN ACT TO ALLOW MILITARY RELOCATION LICENSES FOR PHYSICIAN AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT SERVICE MEMBERS AND SPOUSES; TO ALLOW THE GRANTING OF AN INTERNATIONALLY-TRAINED HOSPITAL PHYSICIAN EMPLOYEE LICENSE; TO MODIFY THE LAW FOR OVER-THE-COUNTER HEARING AIDS; TO MODIFY THE CREDENTIALING OF BEHAVIOR ANALYSTS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA BEHAVIOR ANALYST BOARD; TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE LAWS OF OPTOMETRY; TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO TRANSITION THE NURSE AIDE I EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM TO THE BOARD OF NURSING; AND TO PROTECT HEALTHCARE WORKERS FROM VIOLENCE BY REQUIRING CERTAIN HOSPITALS TO HAVE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENTS, TO ADDRESS THE VIOLATION OF A PROTECTIVE ORDER ISSUED UPON THE REQUEST OF A HOSPITAL, AND TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR ASSAULT AGAINST CERTAIN PERSONNEL.

Senate committee substitute to the 2nd edition makes the following changes. Deletes the content of the previous edition and replaces it with the following.

Part I.

Enacts GS 90-12.02 (establishing a physician and physician assistant military relocation license for military service members and spouses) 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 five 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 any of the following occur: (1) the license holder relocates pursuant to military orders to reside in another state; (2) the military orders for service in this State expire; or (3) 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 full licensure. Requires 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 GS 90-13.1 (license fees) to account for new GS 90-12.02 and GS 90-12.03 (discussed below).

Effective October 1, 2023.

Part II.

Enacts GS 90-12.03 (internationally-trained hospital physician employee license [International License]) authorizing the Board to issue an International License to a physician if eight listed requirements are met, including: (1) the applicant has been offered employment as a physician in a full-time capacity at (i) a hospital that is located in North Carolina, licensed by the State of North Carolina, and accredited by the Joint Commission or (ii) a medical practice located in a rural county with a population of 500 people per square mile, in North Carolina, and will be supervised by a physician licensed by the State of North Carolina; (2) the applicant is presently licensed to practice medicine in a foreign country or had such license expire no more than five years prior to submission of an application to the Board; (3) the applicant previously completed medical school and postgraduate training substantially similar to the State’s requirements for licensure; (4) the applicant is not subject to disciplinary order or other action by any medical licensing agency in any state or other jurisdiction.

Prevents a holder of the International License from practicing medicine or surgery outside the confines of the North Carolina hospital or its affiliates; establishes a Class 3 misdemeanor if the holder breaks that rule. Specifies upon conviction, the holder will be fined not more than $500 for each offense. The Board, at its discretion, may revoke the International License after due
notice is given to the holder. Specifies that an International License becomes inactive at the time the holder does one of the following: (1) ceases to be employed in a full-time capacity by a North Carolina hospital or (2) obtains any other license to practice medicine issued by the Board. Specifies that the Board will retain jurisdiction over the holder of the inactive license.

Effective October 1, 2023.

Authorizes the Board to adopt rules necessary to issue an International License. Permits the Board to adopt a rule establishing a time limit for the term of an International License.

Part III.

Amends GS 93D-1 (definitions pertaining to the NC Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board [HADF Board]) as follows. Expands the scope of fitting and selling hearing aids to include sales, rentals, prescriptions or orders for use of hearing aids. Defines over-the-counter hearing aid by cross reference to 21 CFR 800.30(b) (FDA regulations on medical devices). Makes technical changes. Expands the scope of practice of a hearing aid specialist to include prescribing or ordering the use of hearing aids, in addition to other acts related to hearing aids. Specifies that the provisions of the article do not apply to over-the-counter hearing aids.

Part IV.

Amends the definition of certifying entity in GS 90-732(4) as it applies in Article 43 (Behavior Analyst Licensure) to include the Qualified Applied Behavior Analysis Credentialing Board, in addition to the already-existing Behavior Analyst Certification Board, Inc. Includes the successors for both of these certifying entities.

Part V.

Amends GS 90-118.10 by amending the State's policy related to renewal of optometry licenses, so that all licenses, primary and branch (was, licenses), issued by the NC State Board of Examiners in Optometry (Board) are subject to annual renewal and the exercise of any privilege granted by the license is subject to the issuance of a certificate of renewal of license. Changes the date of the issuance of the renewal to on or before December 31 (was first day of January of each year). Makes conforming changes. Requires applicants for renewal to include their practice's street address in their renewal application. Changes the date of the application deadline from January 31 to January 1; changes the date by which a person who fails to apply for renewal is considered to be guilty of unauthorized practice of optometry from March 31 to January 31. Adds that if the inactive license is not renewed by December 31 of that year, then the license expires and is not eligible for renewal.

Amends GS 90-123 as follows. Increases the following fees: application for general optometry license (was, exam), general optometry license renewal, and duplicate application for a branch office license or renewal (was, duplicate license or renewal) for each branch office. Adds fees for provisional license and renewal of a provisional license. Removes fees for certificate of license to a resident optometrist desiring to change to another state or territory, license to a practitioner of another state or territory to practice in North Carolina, and license to resume practice issued to an optometrist who has retired or who has left and returned to the state.

Amends GS 90-121.2 as follows. Amends the conditions under which the Board may take disciplinary action by: (1) removing instances when the licensee is mentally, emotionally, or physically unfit to practice optometry or is afflicted with such a physical or mental disability as to be deemed dangerous to the health and welfare of their patients and (2) adding instances when a licensee is unable to practice optometry with reasonable skill and safety by reason of abuse of alcohol, drugs, chemicals, or any other type of substance, or by reason of any physical or mental illness, abnormality, or other limiting condition. Adds that the Board may order an applicant or licensee to submit to a mental or physical examination while a licensing application is pending, or before or after charges may be presented against the applicant or licensee. Allows results of the exam to be admissible in evidence in a hearing before the Board. Makes conforming changes. Makes failure to comply unprofessional conduct.

Amends GS 90-121.6 by adding that reports licensed optometrists or those applying for licensure must make to the Board concerning medical malpractice must be made within 30 days of occurrence. Adds a provision setting out allowable methods for submitting these reports to the Board. Adds that failure to make these required reports is unprofessional conduct and grounds for discipline.

Enacts new GS 90-121.7 imposing on licensees a duty to report within 30 days any incidents the licensee reasonably believes to have occurred involving: (1) sexual misconduct of any person licensed by the Board with a patient and (2) fraudulent
prescribing, drug diversion, or theft of any controlled substances by another person licensed by the Board. Failure to report is unprofessional conduct and grounds for discipline. Provides immunity from civil liability for those reporting in good faith and without fraud or malice. Reports made in bad faith, fraudulently, or maliciously are unprofessional conduct and grounds for discipline. Sets out the methods by which the reports can be submitted to the Board.

Amends GS 90-127.3 to require when giving patients that have received an eye exam a copy of their spectacle prescription that it be consistent with Federal Trade Commission rules and guidelines.

Enacts new GS 90-127.4 allowing an optometrist to register with the NC Board of Pharmacy to dispense drugs, limited to drugs for the diagnosis and treatment of abnormal conditions of the eye and its adnexa. Limits such dispensing to legend or prescription drugs to their own patients. Requires paying the dispensing fee and complying with the dispensing registration process. Requires registration with the NC Board of Pharmacy and the Board as well as compliance with all rules governing dispensing of drugs under this statute.

Enacts new GS 90-85.26B requiring dispensing optometrists dispensing prescription drugs to register annually with the Board and with the licensing board with jurisdiction over the dispensing optometrist. Requires dispensing to comply with laws and regulations applicable to pharmacists governing the distribution of drugs, including packaging, labeling, and record keeping. Discipline authority is vested in the licensing board having jurisdiction over the dispensing optometrist.

Amends GS 90-85.25 to allow the NC Board of Pharmacy to charge dispensing optometrists an annual registration fee and a reinstatement of registration fee, both set at $75.

Effective October 1, 2023.

Requires the Board and NC Board of Pharmacy to adopt rules to implement the changes set forth above.

Part VII.

Requires the Board of Nursing (Nursing Board) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Service Regulation (Division), to develop a plan to relocate the Nurse Aide I education and training program to the Nursing Board. Requires the relocation plan to ensure a seamless transition and ensure the program continues to meet federal requirements. Requires DHHS to continue to maintain the registries required by Article 15 of GS Chapter 131E. On or before February 1, 2024, requires DHHS and the Nursing Board to provide a report to the specified NCGA committee that must contain a relocation plan, a transition time line, and recommendations for statutory changes necessary to transition the Nurse Aide I education and training program from DHHS to the Nursing Board.

Part VIII.

Adds new Part 3A, Hospital Violence Prevention Act, in Article 5 of GS Chapter 131E, providing as follows. Defines law enforcement officer as a sworn law enforcement officer, a special police officer, or a campus police officer authorized to carry a firearm, or an armed security guard with a valid firearm registration permit. Requires licensed hospitals that have an emergency department to conduct a security risk assessment and to implement a security plan. Exempts hospitals that are not an academic medical center teaching hospital that are located in a county with less than 300,000 residents based on the 2020 census, upon the hospital’s good faith determination that a different level of security is necessary and appropriate for any of its emergency departments based on its security risk assessment from the requirement to have at least one law enforcement present at all times in the emergency department or on the same campus as the emergency department. Requires those hospitals to develop a security risk plan and allow DHHS access to the security risk assessment and plan along with the county emergency management director, county sheriff, and municipal police chief, if applicable. Provides for notice.

Requires all other hospital to use the results of the security assessment to develop a security plan with protocols to ensure at least one law enforcement officer is always present in the emergency department or on the same campus as the emergency department. Requires those hospitals to allow DHHS access to the security risk assessment and plan. Lists five requirements for the security plan, including: (1) training for law enforcement officers employed by the hospital that is appropriate for the populations served by the emergency department; (2) training for law enforcement officers employed by the hospital that is based on a trauma-informed approach to identifying and safely addressing situations involving patients, family members, or other persons who pose a risk of harm to themselves or others due to mental illness or substance use disorder or who are experiencing a mental health crisis; (3) safety protocols based on national standards and evaluated risks; (4) safety protocols that include the presence of at least one law enforcement officer in the emergency department or on the same campus as the
emergency department at all times; and (5) training requirements for law enforcement officers employed by the hospital in the 
potential use of and response to weapons, defensive tactics, de-escalation techniques, appropriate physical restraint and 
seclusion techniques, crisis intervention, and trauma-informed approaches.

Requires DHHS to have access to all security plans for hospitals with an emergency department and to maintain a list of those 
hospitals with a security plan. Requires every hospital with an emergency department to provide appropriate hospital 
workplace violence prevention program training, education, and resources to staff, practitioners, and non-law enforcement 
officer security personnel. Specifies that a hospital security risk assessment and security plan are not public records under State 
public records law.

Enacts GS 131E-88.2, as follows. Requires the Division to annually collect the following data from hospitals for the preceding 
calendar year: (1) the number of assaults occurring in the hospital or on hospital grounds that required the involvement of law 
enforcement, whether the assaults involved hospital personnel, and how those assaults were pursued by the hospital and 
processed by the judicial system, (2) the number and impact of incidences where patient behavioral health and substance use 
issues resulted in violence in the hospital and the number that occurred specifically in the emergency department, and (3) the 
number of workplace violence incidences occurring at the hospital that were reported as required by accrediting agencies, the 
Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and other entities, by September 1 of each year. Requires DHHS to examine 
data from those hospitals with emergency departments that developed the security plans discussed above. Specifies that the 
first reports on these matters are due on or before September 1, 2025. Requires DHHS to compile the report information 
required by GS 131E-88.2, including any recommendations to decrease the incidents of violence in hospitals and to decrease 
assaults on hospital personal, and to report this information to the specified NCGA committee by December 1 of each year. 
Specifies that the first of these reports is due on or before December 1, 2025.

Enacts GS 131E-88.3 which requires the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to report annually by September 1, to the 
Division on the number of persons charged or convicted in the previous year under GS 14-34.6 (assault or affray on a 
firefighter, emergency medical technician, medical responder, and hospital personnel). Effective October 1, 2024, with the 
first report due October 1, 2025. Sunsets October 30, 2030.

Effective October 1, 2024.

Requires DHHS, by October 1, 2023, to notify all licensed hospitals of these requirements, including reporting requirements.

Amends the definitions in GS 95-260 pertaining to workplace violence prevention to include hospital. Enacts new GS 95-269A 
(violation of order issued upon request of hospital) establishing that a person who knowingly violates a valid protective order 
issued upon the request of a hospital pursuant is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor for a first offense. Specifies that, unless 
covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who knowingly violates a valid 
protective order, after having been previously convicted of two offenses under Article 23 of GS Chapter 95, is guilty of a Class 
H felony. Provides that unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who, 
while in possession of a deadly weapon on or about his or her person or within close proximity to his or her person, knowingly 
violates a valid protective order by failing to stay away from a place, or a person, as so directed under the terms of the order, is guilty 
of a Class H felony. Requires law enforcement to arrest and take a person into custody if they have probable cause to believe 
that the person knowingly has violated a valid protective order issued upon the request of a hospital.

Unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, specifies that a person who commits a felony 
at a time when the person knows the behavior is prohibited by a valid protective order is guilty of a felony one class higher 
than the principal felony described in the charging document. Exempts convictions of a Class A or B1 felony or to repeat 
offender/deadly weapon convictions of the offenses set forth above. Sets forth pleading rules for indictments and required 
findings. Specifies that valid protective orders include emergency or ex parte orders. Provides that it is not a violation of a 
protective order issued upon the request of a hospital for any person subject to the protective order to enter that hospital 
seeking treatment for an emergency medical condition. Makes conforming changes. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies 
to offenses committed on or after that date.

Expands the type of hospital workers covered under GS 14-34.6 (assault or affray on a firefighter, an emergency medical 
technician, medical responder, and hospital personnel) to include hospital employees, licensed healthcare providers, or 
individuals under contract to provide services at a hospital (currently, hospital personnel and licensed healthcare providers 
providing or attempting to provide services to a patient). Upgrades the felony to a Class D felony if the person uses a firearm 
(currently, Class E felony) and to a Class F felony if they inflict bodily injury or use a deadly weapon other than a firearm.
Amends GS 14-16.6 (assault on executive, legislative or court officer) to upgrade the felony to a Class E (was, Class F) felony if the person inflicts serious bodily injury. Amends the definition of court officer under GS 14-16.10 to include individuals contracted by a county department of county services and no longer requires the listed individuals to be performing service in proceedings under Subchapter I of GS Chapter 7B. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Amends GS 15A-1340.16 (aggravated and mitigating sentences) to expand list of aggravating factors to include if the offense was committed on the property of a hospital. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

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

Intro. by White, Bradford, Riddell.

GS 14, GS 15A, GS 90, GS 93D, GS 95, GS 131E


H 190 (2023-2024) DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REVISIONS.-AB Filed Feb 23 2023, AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL, CONFORMING, AND OTHER MODIFICATIONS TO LAWS PERTAINING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Senate committee substitute to the 3rd edition adds the following content.

Part X.

Amends GS 122C-3, which defines terms as they are used in GS Chapter 122C (Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Act of 1985), as follows. Adds and defines the terms mobile unit, opioid treatment program, opioid treatment program medication unit, and opioid treatment program mobile unit. Amends the definition of facility to include an opioid treatment program facility licensed to operate an opioid treatment program medication unit, and an opioid treatment program mobile unit.

Enacts new GS 122C-35 requiring a licensed opioid treatment program facility intending to establish, maintain, or operate an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit to apply to the Division of Health Service Regulation for certified services provided from an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit to be added to its license. Requires the Medical Care Commission (Commission) to adopt rules establishing the requirements for obtaining licensure, including requiring that each opioid treatment program medication unit and each opioid treatment program mobile unit seeking to operate in this State prove that it has obtained approval from the State Opioid Treatment Authority, and registered with the Drug Control Unit and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency. Allows for the issuance of a license to an opioid treatment program facility to provide certified services at an opioid treatment program medication unit or an opioid treatment program mobile unit if the program is in compliance with all rules adopted by the Commission regarding opioid treatment programs. Sets out issues that must be considered when approving or denying an application. Prohibits an opioid treatment program facility from establishing, maintaining, or operating an opioid treatment program medication unit or opioid treatment program mobile unit without a current license that includes and covers that specific unit and without first obtaining certification from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Deems a unit that is added to an opioid treatment program facility license as part of the opioid treatment program facility license and allows it to be subject to inspections that the Department of Health and Human Services (DDHHS) deems necessary, applicable rules, and all applicable federal laws and regulations. Substantial failure to comply may result in an adverse action on a license and administrative penalties. Specifies that any required services not provided in an opioid treatment program
mobile unit or opioid treatment program medication unit must be conducted at the opioid treatment program facility, including medical, counseling, vocational, educational, and other assessment and treatment services. Requires licenses to provide services at an opioid treatment program mobile unit or an opioid treatment program medication unit to be renewed annually; sets out requirements for license renewal. Allows DHHS to charge a nonrefundable annual license fee plus a nonrefundable annual per-unit fee of $265 for each medication or mobile unit. Makes an opioid treatment program facility with no previous violations subject to inspection once every other year; those with medication or mobile units may be subject to annual inspections. Requires the Commission to adopt emergency, temporary, or permanent rules for the licensure, inspection, and operation of opioid treatment program medication units and opioid treatment program mobile units, including rules concerning 10 specified issues, including maintenance and location of records, emergency staffing requirements, and number of clients allowed per medication unit and mobile unit. These provisions become effective on the effective date of the emergency rules adopted by the Medical Care Commission.

Requires the Commission to adopt emergency rules for the implementation of new GS 122C-35 without prior notice or hearing or upon any abbreviated notice or hearing that the agency finds practical because adhering to the notice and hearing requirements would be contrary to the public interest and the immediate adoption of the rule is required by a serious and unforeseen threat to the public health or safety. Also authorizes the Commission to adopt temporary or permanent rules for licensure, inspection, and operation of opioid treatment medication units and opioid treatment program mobile units.

Part XI.

Amends GS 90-113.73 to also require a dispenser to report when a prescription is for gabapentin, whether the dispenser has a DEA number. Also requires for a prescriber prescribing gabapentin to report if the prescriber has a DEA number and the number is known by the dispenser. Makes additional technical and clarifying changes. Provides that a dispenser is not required to report instances in which gabapentin is provided directly to the ultimate user and the quantity does not exceed a 48-hour supply. Effective January 1, 2024.

Further amends GS 90-113.73, effective January 1, 2025, by specifying that for the purposes of the statute, a dispenser includes a person licensed to practice veterinary medicine when that person dispenses gabapentin.

Part XII.

Amends GS 90-106 to require a practitioner to electronically prescribe all controlled substances in GS 90-93(a)(1)a (not more than 200 milligrams of codeine or any of its salts per 100 milliliters or per 100 grams). Makes conforming changes. Effective January 1, 2024.

Part XIII.

Amends GS 90-12.7 to allow a governmental or nongovernmental organization to distribute an opioid antagonist obtained over the counter to a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose or to a family member, friend, or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an opiate-related overdose. Allows a person who receives an opioid antagonist over the counter to administer the antagonist to another person if the person has a good faith belief that the other person is experiencing a drug-related overdose and the person exercises reasonable care in administering the drug.

Intro. by Potts.
Senate amendment to the 5th edition makes the following changes.

Broadens the tax-based ground for revocation or denial of a license renewal by the NC Lottery Commission (Commission) under GS 18C-908(c)(3) (pertaining to renewals of licenses) by changing the listed ground to a violation of Article 2E of Chapter 105 (was, failure to pay tax under Article 2E of GS Chapter 105).

Amends GS 18C-909 (use of proceeds) by allowing the Commission to retain an amount of remaining proceeds reasonably necessary to cover future expenses related to administering new Articles 9 and 10 of GS Chapter 18C. Specifies that the total amount retained, including the percentage of Advance Deposit Account Wager/Wagering (ADW) licensee fees permitted to be retained under GS 18C-1010, cannot exceed the total expenses of the Commission related to administering provisions of Articles 9 and 10 during the previous quarter of the fiscal year.

Amends the marketing duties set forth in GS 18C-910(e) to specify that the interactive sports wagering operator and their agents (was, the interactive sports wagering operator, or those acting on its behalf) must ensure all advertisements and marketing of sports wagers, the sports wagering platform, and other sports wager related commercial offerings meet the listed requirements.

Amends GS 18C-928 by amending the conditions that must be met for a tribal gaming enterprise to be deemed a licensed interactive sports wagering operator, to include agreement to the adherence to the requirements of (was, collection and payment of all taxes imposed under) Article 2E of GS Chapter 105.

Amends GS 18C-1010 to provide that the total amount of he ADW licensing fee retained by the Commission for future administrative expenses may not exceed the total expenses of the Commission related to administering the provisions of Article 10 and 9 during the previous quarter.

Amends GS 18C-1015 by adding the requirement that an ADW licensee and their agents ensure that advertisements and marketing of advance deposit wagering: (1) does not target those under age 21; (2) discloses the identity of the ADW licensee; (3) provides information about or links to resources related to gambling addiction and prevention; (4) is not misleading to reasonable persons; and (5) satisfies the rules and requirements promulgated by the Commission.

Amends GS 105-113.126 by providing that the 18% tax is imposed on each interactive sports wagering operator for the privilege of being licensed.

Enacts new GS 105-113.126A requiring interactive sports wagering operators to register with the Secretary of Revenue and requires the Secretary of notify the Lottery Commission of failures to register. Requires an operator who changes ownership or stops engaging in the licensed activities to notify the Secretary of the change in writing. Requires the operator to maintain a bond or irrevocable letter of credit and for submitting all returns and for the payment of taxes.

Amends GS 105-113.128 to allow the Secretary of Revenue to retain the cost of administering the Article (was, cost of collection by the Department). Also requires the Lottery Commission, no later than 20 days after the end of the month, to notify the Department of Revenue of its unreimbursed expenses (was, expenses) from administering Articles 9 and 10 from the previous month.

Makes Section 5.1 of the act (changing the name of the North Carolina Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council in GS 105-113.128) effective January 8, 2024, instead of when the act becomes law.
H 557 (2023-2024) NORTH CAROLINA HEALING ARTS COMMISSION. Filed Apr 3 2023, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA HEALING ARTS COMMISSION AND TO CREATE LICENSURE PROCESSES FOR REFLEXOLOGISTS, NATUROPATHIC DOCTORS, AND MUSIC THERAPISTS.

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

Changes the numbers of the statutes throughout Parts 1, 2, and 3 of Article 44; makes conforming changes throughout by correcting the numbers of internal cross-references.

Amends definitions used in Article 44 under GS 90-750.2, as follows. Amends the definition of advisory committee to require that it screen applicants for licensure and conduct investigations necessary to give recommendations (was, give directions) to the North Carolina Healing Arts Commission (Commission). Amends the definition of hearing arts to also include the use of allopathic, complementary, or alternative approaches to the art and science of medicine for the identification of physical or mental conditions, diseases, ailments, illnesses, infirmities, pain, defect, or injuries.

Amends GS 90-750.3 to require after initial membership appointments to the Commission that the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate alternate recommendations for subsequent terms (was, limited to subsequent terms of the member of the public). Adds the requirement that the initial naturopathic doctor appointed to the Commission have been a resident of this State for at least two years prior to appointment, be certified by a national entity, and eligible for licensure; requires the appointee to immediately seek to obtain a North Carolina Healing Arts License in naturopathic medicine and remain in good standing with the Commission during their term. Make additional clarifying changes.

Amends GS 90-750.4 by making organizational changes to the statute. Also amends the Commissions powers to no longer require that it be directed by an advisory committee before issuing, renewing, denying, suspending, or revoking Healing Arts Licenses. Makes conforming changes to the powers of the North Carolina Reflexology Advisory Committee, the North Carolina Music Therapy Advisory Committee, and North Carolina Naturopathic Medicine Advisory Committee (collectively referred to herein as advisory committees) to include making recommendations to the Commission instead of directing the Commission to take those and other disciplinary actions.

Amends provisions related to the advisory committees to prohibit members from serving for more than two consecutive full terms (was, two consecutive terms). Makes additional clarifying changes. Also amends the powers and duties of the advisory committees to include making recommendations to the Commission, instead of directing the Commission to: (1) adopt, amend, or repeal rules to administer and enforce the relevant Part; and (2) seek civil and criminal penalties against nonlicensed individuals. Makes conforming changes throughout to refer to advisory committees making recommendations to the Commission instead of directing the Commission. Also amends the powers and duties of the advisory committees to include maintaining a list of the relevant professionals (reflexologist, music therapist, or naturopathic doctors) holding a North Carolina Healing Arts License in the relevant field (was, those holding a national certification). Amends the compensation provisions for the relevant professions to specify that compensation may be received for services only when perform by an individual holding a North Carolina Healing Arts License in the relevant filed (was, by an individual holding a national certification); makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 90-750.17 by requiring business offering compensated reflexology services to have a valid and up-to-date license (previously required the license to be issued by the certifying entity) for all individuals offering services that must be displayed in a prominent place. Requires advertising designed to attract reflexology service clients to identify that the services will be performed by an individual holding a North Carolina Healing Arts License in reflexology (was, holding a national certification). Deletes the requirement that a reflexologist with a national certification who performs services for compensation at a location outside of his main place of business have on his person a valid, up-to-date certification card issued by certifying entity at the time that services are performed. Amends GS 90-750.19 by amending the exemption from reflexology licensure to include individual licensed in this State as a massage and bodywork therapist (was, as a massage therapist).

Makes organizational changes to Part 4, concerning naturopathic doctors, by moving and renumbering statutes within the Part. Makes additional clarifying and technical changes. Amends GS 90-750.39 to give limited criminal and civil immunity to both the Commission and the North Carolina Naturopathic Medicine Advisory Committee (previously did not include the Commission) and their officers, employees, and staff.
House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Removes the following content from the bill: (1) Section 3, concerning local erosion and sedimentation control programs and NCG01 permits; (2) Section 4, which enacted new GS 143B-279.4A concerning administration of federally delegated environmental programs, including addressing memorandums of agreement between the US EPA and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) or other state commissions and boards that implement environmental law; (3) Section 5, which made changes to the membership of the Sedimentation Control Commission; (4) Section 6, which enacted new Article 37 of GS Chapter 120, establishing the Environmental Policy Council; and (5) Section 7, which required DEQ to initiate discussion with the US EPA to revise memorandums of agreement concerning sedimentation requirements. Makes conforming changes by renumbering the remaining sections of the act.

Amends Sections 1 and 2 of the act as follows. Amends GS 113-60, concerning local erosion and sedimentation control programs, by requiring the requirements of local sedimentation control programs to meet, but not exceed, the requirements for stormwater discharges from construction activities set forth under the 2022 Clean Water Act National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities. Makes conforming changes. Specifies that approved local programs are required to issue an NPDES General Permit No. NCG01000 (NCG01) to persons initiating land-disturbing activities in their jurisdiction that are required to obtain coverage under the NCG01, instead of a land disturbance permit or other permit or certification, issued for the purposes of compliance with Article 4 (Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973) and rules adopted under the Article. Caps the fee for issuing an NCG01 at $200 and prohibits charging any other fee under this statute. Requires that 50% of the fee be retained by the local program and 50% be remitted to DEQ.

Deletes the provision requiring the Sedimentation Control Commission to adopt temporary rules for the implementation of requirements for (1) ground cover established in amended GS 113A-57(3) and (2) the implementation of requirements of GS 113A-54(c)(4), concerning permitting of grading to be adopted by a local government operating an approved erosion and sedimentation control program. Deletes the requirement that a local government operating an approved erosion and sedimentation control program submit to the Commission for its approval standards, policies, and procedures for permitting of grading. Adds the requirement that DEQ, by September 1, 2023, prepare and submit to the US EPA, for its approval, any proposed changes to the State’s Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (Act) and its implementation of the NCG01 permit, to: (1) eliminate the Act’s requirement that a for the submission of a draft erosion and sedimentation control plan for the DEQ’s approval, for persons otherwise required to obtain an NCG01 permit; (2) authorize local governments, which have delegated authority from the Commission to administer an erosion and sedimentation control program within their jurisdiction, to issue NCG01 permits; and (3) limit local governments administering approved erosion and sedimentation control programs within their jurisdiction to implementation and enforcement of requirements for land-disturbing activities that meet, but do not exceed, requirements for stormwater discharges from construction activities as established by 40 CFR 122.26 and under the most recent NPDES general permit for stormwater discharges from construction activities (Construction Permit) issued by the US EPA. Amends the effective dates to now make the changes to GS 113A-57, GS 113A-60, and GS 113A-54 effective on the later of the following and applicable to permits to conduct land-disturbing activities submitted on or after that date: (1) July 1, 2024, or (2) the first day of the month that is 60 days after the DEQ Secretary certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that the US EPA has approved an amendment to the Sedimentation Pollution Control Act, as required by this act; requires the Secretary to provide this notice and the effective date on its website. Adds the requirement that DEQ report to the Environmental Review Commission on the status of its activities related to its submission to the US EPA of changes to the State Sedimentation Pollution Control Act and its implementation of the NCG01 permit on a quarterly basis beginning October 1, 2023, until the NCGA repeals this reporting requirement.
Amends the recipient of DEQ’s report on its request to consult with the US EPA on any proposed changes to federal regulations impacting the State’s administration of federal environmental programs before the notice of the changes in the Federal Register so that the report now goes to the Environmental Review Commission instead of the Environmental Policy Council. Changes the start date of those quarterly reports to August 1, 2023 (was, 2024).

Amends the act’s titles.

Intro. by Brody, Saine, Zenger, N. Jackson.

View summary

Intro. by Warren, Lofton, Howard, Reives.

View summary

H 741 (2023-2024) MODIFY/NONPROFITS & CHARITABLE SOLICITATION. Filed Apr 18 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE NORTH CAROLINA NONPROFIT CORPORATIONS ACT AND TO MODIFY CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS GOVERNING CHARITABLE SOLICITATION.

The House committee substitute to the 1st edition is to be summarized.

H 834 (2023-2024) JUV CAPACITY/TRANSFER/INTERROG/CONFIDENTIAL. (NEW) Filed Apr 19 2023, AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE TO EVALUATE WHETHER A JUVENILE HAS THE CAPACITY TO PROCEED, TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS, TO MODIFY THE TRANSFER PROCESS FOR JUVENILES WHO ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED CERTAIN FELONIES, TO MODIFY THE CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION CONCERNING JUVENILES UNDER INVESTIGATION, AND TO MODIFY THE INTERROGATION PROCEDURES FOR CERTAIN JUVENILES.

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

Part I.

Amends GS 7B-2401, pertaining to determinations of incapacity in juvenile proceedings, to include instances where a juvenile is unable to assist in their own defense in a rational or reasonable manner (currently, just reasonable manner). Exempts juveniles subject to transfer by indictment under GS 7B-2200.5(a)(1) (juveniles subject to transfer because they are 16 or older and charged with certain felonies) and GS 7B-2200 (concerning transfer of jurisdiction of a juvenile under age 16 to superior court) from the incapacity provisions set forth in GS 7B-2401. Makes technical change.

Specifies effective date of January 1, 2025, for the act’s statutory changes under Part I, Section 1, and effective date of July 1, 2023, for act’s appropriations. Provides that prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of Section 1 of Part I of the act are not abated or affected by Section 1 of the act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for Section 1 of this act remain applicable to those prosecutions. Specifies that changes apply to offenses committed on or after January 1, 2025.

Changes references from juvenile “charged with an offense” to “juvenile that allegedly committed an offense” throughout the act.

Adds the following new content to the act.

Part II.
Amends one of the notice options under GS 7B-2200.5(a) (transfer of jurisdiction of a juvenile at least 16 years of age to superior court) to require a return of a true bill of indictment from the grand jury as provided in GS 15A-630 instead of a finding of a court on a bill of indictment. Makes conforming change to GS 7B-2200. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Part III.

Enacts GS 7B-3103 authorizing courts to order the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety (Division) or any law enforcement agency within the State to release to the public specified information about a juvenile upon making three written findings in the order: (1) that a petition has been filed alleging the juvenile committed at least one offense that would subject the juvenile to transfer to superior court under GS 7B-2200 or GS 7B-2200.5, (2) the court determines that the juvenile presents a danger to self or others based on their record or the nature of the offense(s), and (3) the court determines good cause exists. Enumerates information about the juvenile that may be disclosed, including a photograph, first name and last name, the offense alleged, whether a secure custody order was issued, and a statement of the juvenile's threat to self or others. Prohibits disclosure if the juvenile is taken into custody prior to release of the information. Requires the disclosing entity to make a reasonable effort to notify a parent, legal guardian, or custodian of the juvenile before disclosure. Requires that the information released be removed when the juvenile is taken into custody. Creates an exception 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 if exigent circumstances exist. 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. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Part IV.

Amends GS 7B-2101 regarding juvenile interrogation procedures as follows. Requires juveniles who are at least 16 and in custody to be advised, prior to questioning, that the juvenile has a right to have a caretaker present during questioning (in addition to current law that includes the rights to: have a parent, guardian, or custodian present for questioning, applicable to all juveniles; to remain silent; to consult with an attorney; and to be informed that any statement can and may be used against them). Defines caretaker as any person other than a parent, guardian, or custodian who has responsibility for the health and welfare of the juvenile in a residential setting; includes stepparent; foster parent; adult member of the household; adult entrusted with the juvenile's care; potential adoptive parent during a visit or trial placement with a juvenile in custody of the county department; house or cottage parent who has primary responsibility for supervising a juvenile's health and welfare in a residential child care facility or residential educational facility; or employee or volunteer of a division, institution, or school operated by the Department of Health and Human Services. Specifies that if a juvenile age 16 or older requests that a parent, guardian, or custodian be present during questioning, then law enforcement must make a reasonable effort to contact the parent, guardian, or custodian; allows a caretaker to be present during questioning if one of those individuals is not available. Effective December 1, 2023, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.


Intro. by Davis, N. Jackson.
S 364 (2023-2024) NONDISCRIMIN & DIGNITY IN STATE WORK. (NEW) Filed Mar 23 2023, AN ACT TO AMEND THE STATE HUMAN RESOURCES ACT TO PROHIBIT COMPELLED SPEECH WHEN AN INDIVIDUAL SEEKS STATE GOVERNMENT OR COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPLOYMENT, TO DEMONSTRATE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INTENT THAT STATE AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZE THE EQUALITY AND RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS, AND TO PROHIBIT STATE GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE WORKPLACES FROM PROMOTING CERTAIN CONCEPTS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THAT INTENT.

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

Amends GS 126-5 by providing that GS 126-14.5 (compelled speech prohibited) applies to community college employees, as well as the already listed nonexempt State employees in the executive branch, which is amended to specifically include nonexempt employees of UNC and the Community Colleges System Office. Also amends GS 126-5 by providing that GS 126-14.6 (ensuring dignity and nondiscrimination in State government workplaces) applies to community college employees, as well as the already listed nonexempt State employees in the executive branch, which is amended to specifically include nonexempt employees of UNC and the Community Colleges System Office. Makes additional technical and organizational changes.

Changes the act's effective date from July 1, 2023, to December 1, 2023. Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Daniel, Johnson, Overcash.

GS 126

View summary

Employment and Retirement, Government, State Government, Executive, State Personnel

S 552 (2023-2024) MODIFICATIONS TO NOTARY PUBLIC ACT. Filed Apr 4 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE NOTARY PUBLIC ACT.

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

Part I.

Extends sunset date on the power of a notary to perform an emergency video notarization under GS 10B-25 from June 30, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Makes conforming changes to the sunset date set forth in GS 10B-200 (pertaining to video witnessing during a state of emergency). Changes the title to GS 10B-10 from “Commission; oath of office; emergency extension” to “Commission; oath of office.” Changes the effective date of SL 2022-54 (pertaining to remote electronic notarization) from July 1, 2023 to July 1, 2024. Makes conforming to changes to when rulemaking can begin and become effective to account for new effective date.

Part II.

Amends GS 10B-20 (powers and limitation of a notary) to specify that a notary must maintain the confidentiality of a principal’s documents and information at all times. Specifies that journal entries or communication technology recordings (defined terms) created by a notary in the course of performing a notarial act are not public records under State public records law.

Repeals GS 10B-36(d) (directing that as soon as is reasonably practicable after resignation, revocation, or expiration of a notary commission, or death of the notary, the seal shall be delivered to the Secretary for disposal).

Amends GS 10B-36 (official notarial seal) to bar a vendor or manufacturer from providing a notary seal to a purchaser claiming to be a notary unless the purchaser presents a notary commission issued by the Secretary of State (Secretary) and one of two conditions are met: (1) if the purchase is in person, the vendor or manufacturer is able to personally identify the purchaser based on personal knowledge or satisfactory evidence of identity or (2) if the purchase is by mail or delivery service, the vendor or manufacturer confirms the notary’s standing as a commissioned notary as established by rules issued by the Secretary. Such rules may include the establishment of an internet site or other means maintained by the Secretary for this purpose.
Requires notaries to maintain a journal of all notarial acts performed in the manner required for that type of notarial act and in accordance with the rules adopted by the Secretary.

Permits notary to send change of contact information/name or notices of resignation to the Secretary by online notification (if available), in addition to other means of notification listed in GS 10B-50 (change of address), GS 10B-51 (change of name), GS 10B-54 (resignation). Expands means by which notaries who no longer reside in or maintain a place of work in the State or who become permanently unable to perform their notarial duties can hand in their seals to include hand delivery and other means offered by the post office that allows confirmation of delivery by signature, in addition to other means of delivery listed in GS 10B-54. Amends GS 10B-55 (disposition of seal) to include when a notary commission has expired as a triggering condition of the disposition requirements of the statute. Expands means of delivery of seal to include hand delivery and other means offered by the post office that allows confirmation of delivery by signature, in addition to other means of delivery listed in GS 10B-55. Makes conforming change. Specifies that information provided pursuant to GS 10B-50 should be treated as if submitted in an application under GS 10B-7 (statements of personal qualification) or GS 10B-106 (registration with the Secretary).

Expands scope of grounds for enforcement and penalties under GS 10B-60 to include violation of rules adopted pursuant to GS Chapter 10B and any ground or which a registration, certification, approval, or license may be denied. Makes conforming changes. Expands powers of law enforcement agents of the Department of the Secretary (Department) to include conducting any investigation within or outside of this State as the Secretary deems necessary to determine whether any person has violated or is about to violate any provision of GS Chapter 10B or the rules adopted pursuant to GS Chapter 10B. Specifies that files and records of the Secretary related to criminal investigations and enforcement proceedings are subject to the provisions of GS 132-1.4 (criminal investigations public records law). Specifies that the files and records of the Secretary relating to noncriminal investigations and enforcement proceedings are not be subject to inspection and examination pursuant to state public records law while the investigations or proceedings are pending, subject to certain statutory exceptions.

Provides that any information obtained by the Secretary from any law enforcement agency, administrative agency, or regulatory organization on a confidential or otherwise restricted basis in the course of an investigation or enforcement proceeding undertaken pursuant to this Chapter is confidential and exempt from GS 132-6 to the same extent that it is confidential in the possession of the providing agency or organization. Specifies that a vendor or manufacturer who fails to comply with these requirements will be subject to a fine of $1,000 for each violation. Provides that the civil violation will not preclude the civil liability of the vendor or manufacturer to parties injured by failure to comply with the statute. Creates Class G felony for a person to knowingly create, manufacture, or distribute a notary seal for the purpose of allowing a person to act as a notary without being commissioned and registered in accordance with GS Chapter 10B.Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 10B-5 to allow the Secretary to permit applications for commissions to be submitted electronically, in the format prescribed by the Secretary. Requires the Secretary to establish a process for submission of the signature of the applicant prior to commissioning, which may include electronic submission.

Makes clarifying changes to GS 10B-31 (notarial fees). Specifies that notaries may reimbursed actual mileage for travel at the federal business rate (was, just business rate). Allows a notary to charge $15 per person for an electronic oath or affirmation without a signature, except for an oath or affirmation administered to a credible witness to vouch for the identity of a principal or subscribing witness. Effective when the act becomes law.

Effective July 1, 2023.

Part III.

Amends the following defined terms in GS 10B-101 as follows: (1) electronic notarial act and electronic notarization to specify that it includes personal appearance of the principal; (2) electronic notary public and electronic notary to specify that it includes a notary capable of performing electronic notarial acts and (3) remote electronic notarial act to cross reference GS 10B-134.1 in the definition. Specifies that the act's changes to GS 10B-105 (qualifications) are to the statute effective July 1, 2023.

Amends GS 10B-106 (registration with the Secretary), which is effective July 1, 2023. Specifies that a notary must register with the Secretary in accordance with the Secretary’s rules before performing notarial acts. Removes reference to registration as a remote electronic notary. Specifies that registration now includes authorization to perform remote electronic notarial acts if the electronic notary complies with all requirements of Article 2, GS Chapter 10B and the rules related to remote electronic notarial acts. Specifies that before performing electronic notarial acts, an electronic notary must register the capability to
notarize electronically by notifying the Secretary of all technology the electronic notary will use to create an electronic signature and also all licensed platforms, if any, that the electronic notary will use to perform remote electronic notarizations. Permits a notary to renew an electronic notary registration at the same time that the notary applies for recommissioning under the requirements of Article 1 of GS Chapter 10B. Provides that the term of registration as an electronic notary shall coincide with the term of the notary's commission under Article 1 of GS Chapter 10B. Makes conforming changes. Expands the type of changes of registration information that must be reported to the Secretary to include any changes involving a licensed platform and instead of an electronic signature now requires the notary to sign in the official name in which the electronic notary was commissioned.

Expands the type of notarial acts requiring a course of instruction under GS 10B-107 to include remote electronic notarial acts. Increases the course time from three to four hours. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Amends GS 10B-126 (security measures) to include instances when a notary’s electronic seal or signature has been compromised, in addition to other acts triggering notice requirements of statute. Changes the time limit for a notary to respond to records request by the Department from 10 days to the time period set out by the Department.

Amends GS 10B-127 (maintenance of electronic devices) to specify that if an electronic notary contracts with an approved provider of an electronic seal and electronic signature or licensed platform for a device (current, just registration) used to create electronic signatures or for electronic notarization or remote electronic notarization services, and the contract either expires (currently, just registration of a device used to create electronic signature) or is changed during the electronic notary's term of office, the notary must cease performing electronic and remote electronic services until, a new contract is executed, in addition to other conditions listed in the statute.

Amends GS 10B-128 (disposition of records) to require a notary to notify the Secretary within 45 days after disposition of records under the statute. Now requires a notary to use the same licensed platform (if applicable) in addition to other statutory requirements, in order to be exempt from the disposition of records requirements.

Adds defined terms geolocation, remotely located principal, and self-attestation to GS 10B-134.1.

Expands circumstances barring an electronic notary from performing a remote electronic notarial act under GS 10B-134.3 to include when the notarial act would be a verification of proof. Removes death beneficiary forms that require an acknowledgment from the enumerated list of documents that an electronic notary is barred from performing remote notarial acts upon.

Makes clarifying change to GS 10B-134.5(a)(4).

Requires remote electronic notaries to evaluate whether a remotely located principal is incompetent, lacking in understanding of the nature and consequences of the transaction requiring the notarial act, or acting involuntarily, under duress, or undue influence, in addition to other requirements of GS 10B-134.9 before performing a remote notarial act. Requires electronic notaries to refuse to perform a notarial act if they have reasonable grounds to believe that any of the above are present. (Currently, just reasonable belief that remotely located principal is acting under duress or coercion). If the remotely located principal is a member of the US Armed Forces or the spouse or dependent of such a member, the electronic notary may rely upon that remotely located principal’s written, verbal, or electronic declaration and confirmation under penalty of perjury as to the remotely located principal’s location and military or familial status. Also requires the location of the remotely located principal to be verified by geolocation via communication technology or by self-attestation. Clarifies that an electronic notary’s notarial certificate and seal cannot be attached an electronic document using an electronic technology that renders any subsequent change or modification to the document evidence unless an oath not associated with a document is being administered (currently, exception is just an oath being administered). Changes ground for aggrieved person to challenge a remote notarial act from incapacity to incompetence. Makes conforming and technical changes.

Amends GS 10B-134.15(b) to require the rules adopted by the Secretary for the content and storage of an electronic journal to authorize a third-party vendor, including a licensed platform, to act as a depository or custodian of the electronic journals and makes other conforming changes. Specifies that an electronic notary may only surrender an electronic journal to an employer if it consists of remote electronic notarizations made in the conduct of the employer’s business (currently, just authorizes surrender of the journal upon termination of employment).

Makes conforming changes and updates outdated language is GS 10B-134.17 (security measures by notary). Changes time period for an electronic period to produce a response to the Secretary’s request from 30 calendar days to the time period set out.
in the request.

Adds a rule on the contents and security of the electronic journal as one of the required provisions to the Secretary’s rules on electronic notarial acts. Amends the required rule provision on the security standards, features, qualifications, measures, storage, and any other matter related to communication technology, credential analysis, and identity proofing to include depository and custodial services.

Amends GS 10B-134.23(d) (standards for services provided to electronic notaries) to add instances where a licensee’s or third-party vendor whose technology is discontinued or not renewed for any reasons as grounds to prohibit those individuals from denying electronic notary customers access and to require those individuals to work with electronic notaries to ensure access or ease transition to a different licensee or third-party vendor.

Makes Part 9 of the act effective July 1, 2024.

Changes the general effective date to when the act becomes law.

Makes organizational changes.

Intro. by Daniel, Craven.

GS 10B

View summary

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law

S 582 (2023-2024) NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2023. Filed Apr 4 2023, AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE AGRICULTURAL AND WASTEWATER LAWS OF THIS STATE.

House committee substitute to the 4th edition makes the following changes.

Organizes the act's content into Parts.

Further amends the definition of agriculture, agricultural, and farming in GS 106-581.1 to provide that when performed on the farm, those terms also include biofuel production for commercial sale.

Amends GS 20-158 to also make the listed defense to the violation of entering an intersection when the traffic light is red applicable to operators of farm equipment or machinery in addition to motorcycle operators. The elements of the defense include that the intersection is controlled by a vehicle actuated traffic signal using an inductive loop to activate the traffic signal.

Amends GS 19A-37 by exempting from Article 3, Animal Welfare Act, a boarding kennel as defined in GS 90-181.1 (was, a boarding kennel operating under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian). Amends the definition of boarding kennel in GS 90-181.1 so that it is now a facility operating under a veterinary facility permit (was, a facility or establishment under the supervision of a veterinarian) and which regularly offers to the public the service of boarding dogs or cats or both for a fee. Makes conforming changes to the provision requiring the adoption of rules. Amends GS 90-186 by specifying that the $75 boarding kennel permit fee is to be added to the veterinary facility permit fee.

Deletes proposed changes to GS 14-399. Amends proposed GS 14-399.3, duty to stop in event of certain spills from vehicles, by excluding livestock or poultry excreta generated by live animals being transported on the vehicle, and feathers from live birds being transported on the vehicle.

Amends GS 106-65.105D to increase from a Class 1 misdemeanor to a Class A1 misdemeanor the punishment for a person who willfully resists, opposes, impedes, intimidates, or interferes with any duly authorized agent while engaged in or on account of the performance of the duly authorized agent’s official duties under Article 4H, Bedding, when a deadly weapon is used in the commission of the act. Also amends GS 106-549.34 by increasing the punishment from a Class 1 to Class A1 misdemeanor when a person willfully assaults, resists, opposes, impedes, intimidates, or interferes with any person while engaged in or on account of the performance of their official duties under Article 49C (Federal and State Cooperation as to Meat Inspection; Implementation of Inspection) or Article 48B (Meat Inspection Requirements; Adulteration and Misbranding) when a deadly weapon is used in the commission of the act. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2023.
Amends GS 106-22 to require the Commissioner of Agriculture, by and with the consent and advice of the Board of Agriculture, to (1) adopt rules and make policies related to markets operated by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), and provides that specified rules remain in full force and effect unless repealed or amended by the Commissioner and (2) set reasonable fees for calibration services and adjustments performed by the Metrology Laboratory Section of the Standards Division.

Amends GS 136-129 by correcting a cross-reference.

Enacts GS 103-17, which includes findings and designates the second Wednesday in November as North Carolina Farms Appreciation Day, beginning in 2024. Designates the North Carolina Grange the lead organization for the recognition of North Carolina Farmers Appreciation Day and requires the development of a plan, in consultation with specified entities, to raise awareness of and promote the first annual Appreciation Day. Requires the North Carolina Grange to report on the plan to the specified NCGA committee by June 30, 2024.

Amends proposed new GS 15A-300.4 (use of unmanned aircraft system near a forest fire prohibited) by amending the listed exceptions to only require a person operating an unmanned aircraft system to have the consent (was, written consent) of the official in charge of managing the forest fire.

Amends GS 106-899 to clarify that during a drought, the Commissioner of Agriculture or his or her designee may establish a fire patrol in any district. Requires in the case of fire in or threatening any forest or woodland, the forest ranger or deputy ranger must attend forthwith and use all necessary means to confine and extinguish the fire.

Deletes proposed changes to GS 87-98.4 which allowed an employee to drill an irrigation well on the property of the business without a well contractor certification. Amends GS 87-98.6 by exempting from the exam requirement a person who is 70 or older who (1) has engaged in well contractor activity for more than 20 years, (2) has no record of having committed any violations of the relevant rules and laws in the previous 10 years, and (3) meets all other requirements for certification.

Amends GS 90A-47.4 by increasing the fee for certification as an animal waste management system operator from $25 to $85. Increases the certificate renewal fee from $10 to $25. No longer requires a certificate holder who fails to pay the renewal fee within 30 days of expiration to pass the certification exam and instead requires paying the renewal fee and a late fee equal to twice the annual renewal fee. Effective July 1, 2023.

Amends the definition of farm digester system in GS 143-213 so that it includes all animal waste management (was, manure management) equipment. Requires the gases collected by the system to be used as a renewable energy resource as quickly as feasible, but within six months of the collection of the gases, and during that period the gas must be flared instead of vented.

Requires the Environmental Management Commission and DEQ to modify the Aquaculture Permit (the specified NPDS permit for discharges from seafood packing and rinsing, aquatic animal operations, and similarly designated wastewater that took effect on December 1, 2021) to be substantively identical to the Prior Aquaculture Permit (the specified NPDS permit for those same discharges that expired on March 30, 2021). Requires the Aquaculture Permit to be reopened and modified as described above no later than 180 days after the effective date of this act.

Amends GS 130A-343 to no longer prohibit the Commission for Public Health from including more restrictive conditions and limitations established in the approval of a wastewater system as Accepted that are not included in the approval of the wastewater system as Innovative or as otherwise approved by rule.

Intro. by Jackson, Sanderson, B. Newton.
H 31 (2023-2024) ROWAN-SALISBURY BOARD OF EDUC. FILING PERIOD. Filed Jan 30 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE ROWAN-SALISBURY BOARD OF EDUCATION.

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

Deletes the content of the previous edition and replaces it with the following.

Repeals Sections C and D of Article V of “A Plan for Merger of the Rowan County School and the Salisbury City Schools,” as amended by Section 2 of SL 1987-890.

Requires that the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education consist of seven members elected on a partisan basis at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year with members serving staggered four-year terms. Requires one member to be elected from each of seven single-member residency districts, as described, by the qualified voters of the entire county. Specifies that only a person residing in a residency district is eligible as a candidate in the election to that district's seat. Requires candidates to be nominated at the same time and manner as county officers. Requires the election to be conducted in accordance with the applicable provisions of GS Chapters 115C and 163. Requires vacancies to be filled according to GS 115C-37.1 (makes conforming changes to that statute, effective December 1, 2024). Requires that a person reside in the resident district where a vacancy exists to be eligible for appointment to fill the vacancy.

Allows the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education to revise the residency districts if an adjustment is required for a change in the attendance zones to accommodate a new school, school closure, or consolidation of schools; specifies that a change in the boundaries of attendance zones does not affect the ability of a person to complete a term of office. Establishes staggered terms, setting out which members are to be elected in 2024 and in 2026.

Specifies that the act does not affect the term of members elected in 2020 or 2022 and sets out requirements for filling vacancies in offices of those elected to the Rowan-Salisbury Board of Education in 2020 and 2022.

Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Warren. UNCODIFIED, Rowan

View summary Education, Government, Elections

H 66 (2023-2024) BOARDS OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS (NEW) Filed Feb 7 2023, AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, HICKORY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, NEWTON-CONOVER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND POLK COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION; AND TO REQUIRE THE BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH ELECTORAL DISTRICTS FOR ELECTING MEMBERS BEGINNING IN 2024; AND TO PROVIDE THAT MEMBERS OF THE BUNCOMBE BOARD OF EDUCATION ARE ELECTED IN A NONPARTISAN PRIMARY AND ELECTION BEGINNING IN 2026.

Senate committee substitute to the 4th edition makes the following changes.
Deletes Section 4 of the act, related to the Pamlico County Board of Education. Makes conforming deletion of proposed addition of Pamlico County to GS 115C-37.1.

Adds the following new content.

Requires the Polk County Board of Education to consist of seven members, elected on a partisan basis for staggered four-year terms at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire. Requires candidates to be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers. Requires elections to be conducted in accordance with GS Chapters 115C and 163. Requires vacancies to be filled according to GS 115C-37.1 and makes a conforming change to that statute. Requires any person appointed to fill a vacancy to be a resident of the district in which the vacancy occurs. Divides the county into six districts, as specified, for the purpose of conducting elections to the Polk County Board of Education. Requires a person to be a qualified voter and resident of the district in which the person seeks to be elected. Requires candidates to be voted on by all eligible voters in the county. Specifies that Tryon is a two-member district, and all others are single-member districts. Repeals SL 1965-230 (concerning the nomination of members of the Polk County Board of Education) and SL 1973-845 (concerning nonpartisan election of Polk County Board of Education), as amended. Specifies that this does not affect the terms of any person elected in 2020 and 2022 and sets out requirements for filling vacancies for members elected in 2020 or 2022. Sets out provisions establishing staggered membership terms for members elected in 2024 and 2026. Applies to elections held in 2024 and thereafter.

Amends Section 1 of SL 1975-532 as follows. Requires the members of the Buncombe County Board of Education to serve staggered four-year terms. Requires six members to be elected from six single-member electoral districts and one elected at-large. Requires for the district seats that qualified voters of each district nominate candidates and elect members who reside in the district; for the at-large seat, the qualified voters of the entire Buncombe County School Administrative Unit must nominate candidates and elect a member who resides within the Unit. Deletes description of the seven existing districts. Amends Section 1.1, effective the first Monday in December 2026, to require that members of the Buncombe County Board of Education be elected in each even-numbered year. Requires the nonpartisan primary and election method be used (was, the nonpartisan plurality election method). Sets out time for the date of the primary and for filing notices of candidacy. Amends Section 4, effective the first Monday in December 2026, by deleting existing requirements related to residency of candidates, timing of filing, ballot requirements, and that required members be voted on on an at-large basis by residents of the Unit. Makes additional clarifying and technical changes. Sets out requirements that must be followed by the Buncombe County Board of Education in establishing or revising electoral districts concerning equal population, contiguity, racial data, compactness, municipal boundaries, election data, member residence, current districts, and community consideration. Requires, by February 1, 2024, that the boundaries of the six electoral districts be established to be used in the 2024 elections and until they are revised again. Specifies that if the Buncombe County Board of Education fails to complete this redistricting, then the NCGA must establish the districts.

Amends the act’s titles.

**Intro. by Adams, Setzer.**

Buncombe, Catawba, Pamlico, Polk

View summary

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Elections

H 308 (2023-2024) ALEXANDER CO. BD. OF ED. REFERENDUM. Filed Mar 8 2023, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE A REFERENDUM ON WHETHER TO CHANGE THE ELECTION METHOD FOR THE ALEXANDER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION FROM NONPARTISAN TO PARTISAN.*

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

Amends Section 3 of SL 1969-774 by adding the requirement that candidates for election to the Alexander County Board of Education be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers.

Specifies that the repeal of Section 8, concerning candidates for re-election, of SL 1969-774, is as it was amended by Section 9 of SL 2015-103; removes the repeal of Section 9(a) of SL 2015-103.
Amends the effective date provision to clarify that Section 2 of the act, amending GS 115C-37.1, is effective December 1, 2026, not Section 3, which sets out the ballot question for Sections 1 and 2 of the act.

Intro. by Elmore.

View summary

LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 248 (2023-2024) NASH BD. OF EDUC/NO. OF MEMBERS/DISTRICTS. (NEW) Filed Mar 8 2023, AN ACT TO DECREASE THE SIZE OF THE NASH BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SEVEN MEMBERS; TO ALIGN THE DISTRICTS FOR THE NASH BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH THE DISTRICTS OF NASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; TO PROVIDE FOR THE BOUNDARIES OF THE NASH SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT TO BE IDENTICAL TO THE BOUNDARIES OF NASH COUNTY EFFECTIVE 7 JULY 1, 2024; AND TO PROVIDE FOR PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE CATAWBA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION, HICKORY CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION, AND NEWTON-CONOVER CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION JULY 1, 2024.

House committee substitute to the 3rd edition adds the following new content.

Amends SL 1969-874, as amended, as follows. Renames the Board of Education of Catawba County as the Catawba County Board of Education. Removes outdated language. Requires members to be elected to staggered four-year terms. Requires membership to be filled by nomination in the primaries and election in the general elections. Changes the timing of the notice of candidacy to now require notice to be filed at the same time as candidates for other county offices. Requires members to be elected on a partisan basis instead of a nonpartisan basis. Requires vacancies to be filled according to GS 115C-37.1. Makes additional conforming, clarifying, and technical changes. Specifies that this act does not affect the term of office of members elected to the Catawba County Board of Education in 2020 or 2022 and sets out provisions governing the filling of vacancies in office for those that were elected in 2020 or 2022. Applies to elections held in 2024 and thereafter.

Amends SL 1971-930 as follows. Renames the Board of Education of the Hickory Administrative School Unit as the Hickory City Board of Education. Removes outdated language. Requires members to be elected to staggered four-year terms. Requires members to be elected on a partisan basis instead of a nonpartisan basis and requires the election to be at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire. Requires candidates to be nominated at the same time and manner as county officers. Requires the election to be conducted in accordance with GS Chapter 115C and 163. No longer requires the expense of the election to be paid by Catawba County. Requires Board candidates in any primary or general election to be qualified voters of Catawba County residing within the boundaries of the Hickory Administrative School Unit, and if filling a seat representing a ward, reside within the ward. Requires vacancies to be filled in accordance with GS 115C-37.1. Makes additional conforming, clarifying, and technical changes. Repeals Sections 5 (requiring a run-off election when there is a tie between two or more) and 6 (outdated language concerning the election of successors for the members from Ward 4 and Ward 6 and the member-at-large) of SL 1971-930. Prohibits elections for the Hickory City Board of Education in 2023, and extends the terms of the three members whose terms are set to expire in 2023 by one year and the terms of the four members with terms set to expire in 2025 by one year. Requires that regular elections for the Board be conducted in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. Requires members elected in 2019 and 2021, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term for one of those members, to serve until a successor has been elected and qualified; sets out provisions governing the filling of vacancies for those members.

Amends SL 1935-200, as amended, as follows. Removes language related to the election of members to the Board of Trustees by voters residing in the Newton-Conover City Administrative Unit. Instead, requires the six member Newton-Conover City Board of Education to consist of three members representing the Newton district and three representing the Conover district, with members serving staggered four-year terms. Updates language to refer to Board members instead of Trustees. Requires members to be elected on a partisan basis at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire. Requires Board candidates to be nominated at the same time and manner as county officers. Requires elections to be conducted according to GS Chapters 115C and 163. Requires candidate to file notice at the same time as candidates for county officers. Requires all candidates in the primary or general election to be qualified voters of Catawba County residing in the Newton-Conover Administrative School Unit who reside in the district for the seat apportioned to that district. Requires members to
take office on the first Monday in December. Requires the election to be held and conducted by the Catawba County Board of Elections. Requires vacancies to be filled in accordance with GS 115C-37.1. Prohibits elections for the Newton-Conover City Board of Education in 2023, and extends the terms of the three members whose terms are set to expire in 2023 by one year and the terms of the four members with terms set to expire in 2025 by one year. Requires that regular elections for the Board be conducted in even-numbered years beginning in 2024. Requires members elected in 2019 and 2021, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy for the remainder of an unexpired term for one of those members, to serve until a successor has been elected and qualified; sets out provisions governing the filling of vacancies for those members.

Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-37.1, effective December 1, 2024.

Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Barnes, B. Newton.

View summary

Education

**ACTIONS ON BILLS**

**PUBLIC BILLS**

**H 87: PROBATION MODIFICATIONS/SHHERIFF AUTHORITY. (NEW)**

*Senate: Regular Message Sent To House*
*House: Regular Message Received For Concurrence in S Com Sub*

**H 103: GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2023.**

*Senate: Regular Message Sent To House*
*House: Regular Message Received For Concurrence in S Com Sub*

**H 116: MODIFY LAWS AFFECTING DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.**

*House: Ratified*

**H 125: NC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES WORKFORCE ACT (NEW).**

*Senate: Sequential Referral To Judiciary Added After Health Care*
*Senate: Sequential Referral To Finance Added After Judiciary*
*Senate: Sequential Referral To Judiciary Added After Health Care*
*Senate: Sequential Referral To Finance Added After Judiciary*
*Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute*
*Senate: Com Substitute Adopted*
*Senate: Re-ref Com On Judiciary*

**H 142: PROTECT OUR STUDENTS ACT.-AB**

*Senate: Reptd Fav*
*Senate: Re-ref Com On Education/Higher Education*

**H 166: AMERICAN INDIANS GRADUATING WITH HONORS ACT.**

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

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

*Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute*
*Senate: Com Substitute Adopted*
*Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate*
H 190: DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REVISIONS.-AB
Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 346: REORGANIZATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACT.
House: Ratified

H 347: SPORTS WAGERING/HORSE RACING WAGERING. (NEW)
Senate: Amend Adopted A1
Senate: Passed 2nd Reading

H 364: 2023 UNC SELF-LIQUIDATING CAPITAL PROJECTS.
Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 412: MODIFY PROPERTY TRANSFER TO PENDER COUNTY.
House: Concurred In S Com Sub
House: Ordered Enrolled

H 557: NORTH CAROLINA HEALING ARTS COMMISSION.
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Serial Referral To Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Stricken
House: Re-ref to the Com on Health, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 579: SEDIMENTATION ACT & OTHER ENV’L. CHANGES. (NEW)
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House
House: Withdrawn From Com
House: Re-ref to the Com on Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 674: CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS/SHARE INFORMATION.
Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Judiciary

H 741: MODIFY/NONPROFITS & AMP CHARITABLE SOLICITATION.
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 834: JUV CAPACITY/TRANSFER/INTERROG/CONFIDENTIAL. (NEW)
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Serial Referral To Appropriations Stricken
House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

S 100: AUTHORIZE HAW RIVER STATE TRAIL.
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading
House: Ordered Enrolled

S 291: QRIS/STAR RATING SYSTEM REFORM.
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading
House: Ordered Enrolled

S 329: RETAIL INSTALLMENT SALES ACT AMENDMENTS.
S 364: NONDISCRIMIN & DIGNITY IN STATE WORK. (NEW)
House: Reptd Fav
House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)
House: Added to Calendar
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading

S 512: GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY FOR BOARDS/COMMISSIONS.
House: Reptd Fav
House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)
House: Added to Calendar
House: Amend Tabled A1
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading

S 552: MODIFICATIONS TO NOTARY PUBLIC ACT.
Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

S 582: NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2023.
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Serial Referral To Judiciary 2 Stricken
House: Re-ref Com On Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

S 746: CONFIRM CHARLOTTE MITCHELL/UTILITIES COMM.
House: Reptd Fav
House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)
House: Added to Calendar
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading
House: Ordered Enrolled

LOCAL BILLS

H 31: ROWAN-SALISBURY BOARD OF EDUC. FILING PERIOD.
Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

H 66: BOARDS OF EDUCATION ELECTIONS (NEW)
Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

H 99: WAKE CO. BD. OF COMM. ELECTIONS. (NEW)
H 135: EVEN-YEAR ELECTIONS/CITY OF TRINITY.
Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 174: W-S/FORSYTH BD. OF ED./RURAL HALL EVEN-YEAR. (NEW)
Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 227: EVEN-YEAR ELECTIONS/TOWN OF VANCEBORO.
Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

H 247: AVERY TOWNS/DEED RECORD./DELINQUENT TAXES. (NEW)
House: Concurred In S Amend SA1
House: Ordered Enrolled

H 308: ALEXANDER CO. BD. OF ED. REFERENDUM.
Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 18: STANLY CTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY/MEMBERS & LEASES.
Senate: Withdrawn From Com
Senate: Placed On Cal For 06/01/2023

S 208: GREATER ASHEVILLE REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY.
Senate: Withdrawn From Com
Senate: Placed On Cal For 06/01/2023

S 248: NASH BD. OF EDUC/NO. OF MEMBERS/DISTRICTS. (NEW)
House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)
House: Added to Calendar
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading

S 379: ALLOW CHANGES/RESIDENT DISTRICTS/JOHNSTON CO.
House: Withdrawn From Cal
House: Added to Calendar
House: Passed 2nd Reading
House: Passed 3rd Reading
House: Ordered Enrolled

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