

The Daily Bulletin: 2025-02-11

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 40 (2025-2026) [GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2025 PART 1](#). Filed Feb 3 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE GENERAL STATUTES AND SESSION LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Codifies SL 1969-1089, as amended, creating the Lake Norman Marine Commission (Commission), as new Article 6B of GS Chapter 77 (GS 77-89.1 through GS 77-89.9) as new Section 8 of the act. Amends new Article 6B, as enacted by the act, as follows. Removes provision that the Commission's definitions apply unless context clearly require otherwise so that the definitions simply apply to new Article 6B. Modifies the definition of *Wildlife Resources Commission* so that it refers to the Wildlife Resources Commission established under Article 24 of GS Chapter 143. Removes reference to the governing board of the Commission in the term defining the Commission. Makes technical changes to other definitions.

Amends the powers and duties of the Commission under new GS 77-89.6 as follows. Removes power of the Commission to generally contract with persons, firms, and corporations as to all matters over which it as a proper concern. Modifies the Commission's power to lease, purchase or otherwise obtain other supplies and equipment other than those listed so that these purchases no longer have to be necessary or desirable for carrying out the duties of the Commission. Removes limitation that any contribution in kind by one of the four member counties of the Commission be substantial in order to qualify as a substitute for that county's financial contribution upon agreement of the other three counties. Makes technical and organizational changes.

Removes requirement that regulations promulgated by the Commission under new GS 77-89.8 (regulatory authority) not supersede provisions of State law, so regulations are only required to not conflict with State law. Changes reference from fine to civil penalty imposed for violations of the Commission's regulations.

Deletes obsolete language, makes language gender neutral, makes technical, conforming, clarifying, and organizational changes throughout new Article 6B.

Section 21 (was, Section 20).

Clarifies that the reference in to an underground storage tank in GS 143-215.94E(e)(concerning rights and obligations for owners or operators of commercial underground storage tanks) is a commercial underground storage tank.

Section 28 (was, Section 27).

Corrects reference in Section 9A.3A of SL 2021-180 so the agency is correctly referred to as the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Makes organizational changes to the act to account for new Section 8.

Intro. by Davis.

GS 1, GS 7B, GS 14, GS 15A, GS 29, GS 50, GS 52, GS 58, GS 77, GS 89E, GS 90A, GS 104E, GS 108A, GS 108B, GS 110, GS 115C, GS 116, GS 121, GS 122C, GS 126, GS 128, GS 131D, GS 131E, GS 135, GS 140, GS 140A, GS 143, GS 143A, GS 143B, GS 144, GS 147, GS 150B, GS 153A, GS 160A, GS 160D, GS 168

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Insurance, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Family Law, Juvenile Law,

Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Property and Housing, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Employment and Retirement, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, APA/Rule Making, General Assembly, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Insurance, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

H 47 (2025-2026) **DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2025 - PART I**. Filed Feb 4 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2025 – PART I*.

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

Part I

Section 1.4

Adds defined terms CDBG-DR (Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery), FEMA, NCEM (Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety), and OSBM (Office of State Budget and Management).

Part II

Makes organizational changes.

Section 2.1

Now directs the State Controller to transfer \$275 million (was, \$500 million) from SERDF to the Helene Fund.

Section 2.2

Appropriates \$500 million from the Helene Fund as follows:

1. Notwithstanding GS 143B-1040(c), \$140 million to the Department of Commerce (DOC), Division of Community Revitalization, for the Home Reconstruction and Repair Program (Home Program) with certain directives to ensure maximum reimbursement from federal funds when available.
2. \$75 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS), Division of Soil & Water Conservation for (1) natural restoration projects that enable farmers in the affected area to resume production and protect communities against additional flood damage (specifies what is considered an eligible project) and (2) cost-share, engineering, and technical assistance for eligible projects. Allows using the funds across programs to maximize impact and federal funding.
- 2A. \$75 million to DACS for the Hurricane Helene Agricultural Crop Loss Program, described below.
3. \$100 million to NCEM for the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement as set forth in Section 2.3 of the act, described below.
4. \$55 million for the Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program (SBIGF), as set forth in Section 2.4 of the act, described below.
5. \$20 million to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to distribute to State agencies and units of local government for debris removal unmet needs. Directs the Governor's Recovery Office for Western North Carolina (GROW-NC) and NCEM to assist OSBM in coordinating the debris removal with relevant State agencies and local stakeholders. Requires OSBM to prioritize using the funds to address gaps in debris cleanup not met by other federal and State programs.
6. \$10 million to NCEM to provide grants to Volunteers Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) assisting with disaster response and recovery efforts in the affected area.
7. \$10 million to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) to provide funds for repairs of damage to fire stations and to

buildings or vehicles used by rescue squads or EMS providers. Requires OSFM to disburse any remaining funds in equal amounts to all fire departments in the affected area to purchase equipment or make capital improvements to assist with readiness for future emergency response. Authorizes OSFM to use up to \$250,000 for administrative costs related to grant disbursement.

8. \$10 million to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Social Services (DSS) to supplemental rental assistance payments in line with Section 4B.7 of SL 2024-53.

9. \$5 million to DOC for the nonprofit corporation with which DOC contracts pursuant to GS143B-431.01(b) for targeted media campaigns to encourage both in-state and out-of-state tourists to return to areas impacted by Hurricane Helene in 2025, and for grants to local tourism offices in the affected area for the activities of those offices and for development of a coordinated market strategy.

Section 2.3

Establishes the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program (Program) within NCEM to disburse grants for the repair and replacement of private roads and bridges damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene. Requires NCEM to consult with the Department of Transportation (DOT) in administering the Program and develop criteria and an application process to select private roads and bridges eligible for repair or replacement. Prioritizes applications for the repair and replacement of private roads or bridges that provide the sole option for ingress and egress for (1) emergency services to a residential property that is occupied by the owner for more than six months of the calendar year, (2) multiple residential homes, or (3) recreation or commercial facilities. Allows the funds to be used to provide technical support and assistance for individuals and local governments to comply with no-rise certification requirements required by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Program. Directs NCEM to not duplicate efforts if federal assistance or alternate funds are available. Starting on June 20, 2025, and ending on June 30, 2029, requires NCEM to submit annual reports on five specified matters pertaining to the Program to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division.

Section 2.4

Establishes the Hurricane Helene Agricultural Crop Loss Program within DACS to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by Hurricane Helene. Requires the following in order to be eligible for financial assistance for losses of agricultural commodities: (1) the person experienced a verifiable loss of agricultural commodities or farm infrastructure as a result of Hurricane Helene, and the person's farm is located in an affected area; and (2) the agricultural commodity was planted but not harvested on or before September 24, 2024, or for aquaculture commodities, the commodities were being raised on or before that date. Defines agricultural commodity as any crop, flowering plant, freshwater aquaculture species, fruit, grain, native grass, ornamental plant, sod, tree, or vegetable (excludes stored grain). Defines farm infrastructure as fencing, greenhouses, barns, equipment, and farm roads or other structures or site improvements used for farming purposes. Sets out requirements for documenting the loss. Requires that a person first qualify for and receive payment through the USDA Livestock Indemnity Program and be a participant in a livestock or poultry indemnity program administered by the USDA Farm Service Agency. Sets out requirements for submitting documentation of loss and indemnity from the USDA Livestock Indemnity Program. Requires a person receiving assistance to provide a signed affidavit, under penalty of perjury, certifying that each fact of the loss presented is accurate. Sets out five criteria that DACS must follow in administering the program, including setting parameters for calculating payments. Allows DACS to audit the recipient's financial and other records to ensure that the funds are used according to the program's requirements; sets out further regulations governing these audits. Requires awarded funds to be used for agricultural production expenses and recovery of losses due to the impacts of Hurricane Helene; specifies that funds are subject to State and federal income tax. Requires a person to refund funds if they provided inaccurate information. Requires DACS to report to the specified NCGA division no later than the first day of the month six months after this section becomes effective, and every six months thereafter until all funds are expended or the program expires. Sets out information that must be included in the reports. Sets this program to expire 30 months after this section becomes effective; any funds that are not expended or encumbered at that point revert to the Helene Fund.

Section 2.5

Establishes the SBIGF, administered by DOC to assist small businesses by providing grants to local governments to expedite infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the affected area. Sets forth five defined terms. Sets the maximum amount of a grant award as the lesser of the cost of the qualifying infrastructure needs or \$ 1 million per project. Directs local governments to use the grants under the SBIGF for qualifying infrastructure needs that DOC determines adversely affect access to or operations of identified small businesses. Provides for an application process and

requirements by an eligible local government with qualifying infrastructure needs or a small business therein. Specifies that grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis to the eligible local government in which the qualifying infrastructure needs are located, and the eligible local government will be responsible for using the grant amount for repairing the needs identified in the application. Allows DOC to retain up to 3% of the appropriated funds or administrative expenses. Starting on December 15, 2025, and continuing every six months thereafter, requires DOC to submit report to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division (FRD) on the grants awarded under the SBIGF, including information on the four listed matters in the act. Terminates reporting requirement after award of the final grant by DOC.

Part III

Section 3.1

Further extends the statewide declaration of emergency initially issued by the Governor in Executive Order No. 315 and extended by Section 3.1 of SL 2024-51 until June 1, 2025. Directs this has no effect on the Governor's Executive Order 322 (October 16, 2024).

Part IV

Section 4.1

Specifies that funds appropriated under Part II of the act revert to the Savings Reserve if not expended or encumbered by June 30, 2030, except as otherwise provided by the act. Requires recipients of State funds under the act to use best efforts and take all reasonable steps to obtain alternative funds to cover losses or needs for which State funds are provided, including insurance funds. Requires institutions of higher education or non-State entities to seek private donations to help cover the losses or needs for which State funds are provided. Provides for notice to State aid recipients of this requirement. Requires recipients of alternative funds to remit the funds to the State agency from which the State funds were received not exceeding the amount of State funds provided to the recipient. Directs that any contract or other instrument entered into for the receipt of funds to include the alternate funds requirements set out above

Prevents the Governor from using the funds described in the act to make budget adjustments or reallocations. Direct the Governor to ensure that funds allocated in the act are expended in such a manner that does not adversely affect any person's or entity's eligibility for federal funds that are made available, or are anticipated to be made available, as a result of natural disasters and to avoid using State funds to cover costs that will, or likely will, be covered by federal funds.

Requires OSBM to report to the chairs of specified NCGA committees and to the Fiscal Research Division on the implementation of the act on a quarterly basis until the end of the quarter in which all funds are expended. Requires the reports to include six listed categories of information including (1) the current, year-to-date, and total cumulative funds appropriated, received from non-State sources, expended, encumbered, and obligated by program and by source of funds; (2) purpose of the program, responsible department or agency and summary of activities; (3) total program spending by county, where practicable; and (4) funds returned to the Savings Reserve, where appropriate. Requires non-State entity fund recipients to fully cooperate with OSBM so that it can meet its reporting requirements. Directs that if this reporting requirement conflicts the reporting requirements set forth in other Helene recovery bills (Section 7.1(h) of SL 2024-51, as amended by Section 5.6 of SL 2024-53, and Section 3.1(g) of SL 2024-53), then this new requirement supersedes those requirements.

Part V

Section 5.1

Extends the expiration date of the following provisions of SL 2024-51 (Helene I), SL 2024-53 (Helene II), and SL 2024-57 (Helene III) providing regulatory flexibility that are (i) expiring, ending, or otherwise limited in applicability, on any day of March 2025 or (ii) for which no expiration date is specified to the date of expiration of the statewide declaration of emergency issued by the Governor in Executive Order No. 315, concurred to by the Council of State, and extended pursuant to SL 2024-51, this act, or any other enactment of a general law:

1. Helene I:

- a. Section 10.1 ("Funding Flexibility for Drinking Water and Wastewater 50 Infrastructure Projects").
- b. Section 10.3 ("Storm Debris Open Burning Regulatory Relief").
- c. Section 16.1 ("Extend Grace Period for Corporations, Nonprofits, and LLCs in FEMA-designated Counties to Correct Grounds for Administrative Dissolution").

d. Helene II:

- i. Section 4E.1 ("Authorize State Agencies to Exercise Regulatory Flexibility for Employment-Related Certifications").
- ii. Section 4E.3 ("Flexibility for Building Permit Issuance/Inspections in Disaster Area").

iii. Helene III:

- i. Section 1D.6 ("Temporary Pump and Haul Wastewater Permits").
- ii. Section 1D.7 ("Authorize Waiver of Submission and Approval of Sedimentation Pollution Control Plan Prior to Initiation of Land-Disturbing Activities in Certain Circumstances").
- iii. Section 1D.8 ("Tree Ordinance Restriction in Disaster Declared Counties").
- iv. Section 1E.1 ("Extend Certain Concealed Handgun Permits").
- v. Section 1F.4 ("Authorize the Office of the State Fire Marshal to Promulgate Rules for Temporary Manufactured and Modular Dwellings").

Section 5.2

Extends the time by which the Board of Funeral Service (BFS) may suspend the requirements governing funeral establishment preparation rooms which is strictly private, of suitable size for the embalming of dead bodies from 180 days to two years after a triggering event, including a weather event under GS 90-210.27A (funeral establishments). Now requires a funeral establishment to comply with the licensee requirements and permitting requirements under GS 90-210.25 (licensing) during that time (was, establishment had to comply with certain embalming requirements during that time). Removes requirement for establishment to comply with requirements and regulations of the Division of Health Services (DHS) during that time. Requires an establishment seeking an extension beyond the two-year period to petition a court of competent jurisdiction who, upon finding that granting the requested extension would not negatively affect the public health, safety, and welfare, may grant an additional extension not to exceed three years from the date of loss or one year from the date of the court's order, whichever is greater (was, applies to the Board for an extension up to 90 days). Authorizes the BFS to adopt rules to implement these changes.

Section 5.3

Requires the following to facilitate permanent installation of broadband infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene:

- For roadway constructors repairing roads or related roadway infrastructure located within an affected county that is one quarter of a mile or longer in total length, then the roadway constructor must collaborate and cooperate with any broadband provider that is repairing or rebuilding the broadband infrastructure that is or was located in or along the original road right-of-way as specified in the act.
- In instances where a roadway constructor has allowed the installation of a temporary backbone broadband service or repair within a roadway right-of-way as an immediate means of restoring the backbone broadband service after damage by Hurricane Helene, requires that constructor to cooperate with the broadband service provider to convert the temporary solution to the permanent solution if the broadband service provider provides evidence that the temporary solution is the most cost effective and efficient means of achieving a permanent solution.
- For the Department of Transportation (DOT) and local governments to allow the underground installation of broadband infrastructure within rights-of-way as needed for repair of broadband infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene in affected counties.

Section 5.4

Requires the Department of Adult Correction to coordinate with the Department of Transportation to for the use of inmates to clean up debris resulting from Hurricane Helene on public roads and roadsides in the affected areas. Requires this coordination to be in accordance with GS 148-26(b) (setting out parameters for the employment of minimum and medium custody prisoners in the maintenance and construction of public roads of the State), except for the requirement that the number and location of prisoners be agreed to far enough in advance of each budget.

Section 5.5

Adds new GS 143-49.2 (purchases by volunteer organizations active in disasters) allowing any VOAD member organization in the State to purchase heavy construction equipment and motor vehicles under State contract through the Department of Administration (DOA) if the purchases are used to aid disaster recovery in the State. Instructs DOA to use the same laws

applicable to nonprofit organizations under GS 143-49(6) (powers and duties of the Secretary of Administration). Directs that any proceeds or benefits from the disposition or sale of the purchased goods can only be used for a public purpose.

Adds new GS 143-64.8 (distribution of surplus property for disaster recovery) requiring DOA to regularly publish on its website a list of heavy construction equipment and motor vehicles in its possession and control for review and consideration by units of local government and VOAD member organizations as to the useability of such equipment/vehicles for disaster recovery in the State. Directs DOA to lend out that equipment to local government units and VOAD member organizations on a first-come, first-served basis for five years without assessing or collecting any service charge or fee so long as property distributed that was originally obtained from the United States of America complies with federal guidelines for the distribution of federal property and State law. Prohibits transfer of loaned property. Provides for ownership of the property by the loanee after the five-year period expires. Directs that any proceeds or benefits from the disposition or sale of the property can only be used for a public purpose. Requires DOA to maintain records of each piece of construction equipment and motor vehicle distributed, including the recipient and the value of the thing distributed. Requires DOA to submit an annual report by February 1 of each year to the specified NCGA committees and the FRD.

Part VI

Section 6.1

Specifies that the headings to the parts and sections of the act are a convenience do not expand, limit, or define the text of the act, except for effective dates referring to a part or section.

Section 6.2

Contains severability clause.

Makes technical, organizational, and clarifying changes.

Intro. by Greene, Bell.

APPROP, GS 90, GS 143

Agriculture, Business and Commerce, Corporation and Partnerships, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Community and Economic Development, Property and Housing, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Administration, Department of Adult Correction, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of State Budget and Management, Office of State Controller, State Government, Executive, State Property, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health, Nonprofits, Transportation

[View summary](#)

H 48 (2025-2026) **INCREASE UI MAX BENEFIT/2025 UI TAX CREDIT**. Filed Feb 4 2025, *AN ACT TO RATIFY THE GOVERNOR'S ACTION TO EXPAND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS DURING THE HELENE DISASTER, TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM BENEFIT UNDER THE UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAWS, AND TO PROVIDE EMPLOYERS A TAX CREDIT FOR UNEMPLOYMENT TAX ON WAGES PAID IN 2025.*

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

Removes the provision specifying that the ratification of Sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Executive Order No. 322 (concerning unemployment insurance related to Hurricane Helene beginning for weeks of unemployment starting on or after September 29,

2024) and termination of those provisions on March 1, 2025, is as required by Section 3.1 of SL 2024-51 (extending the termination date of the statewide declaration of emergency issued by the Governor to March 1, 2025).

Changes the increase in the unemployment weekly benefit cap under GS 96-14.2 from the proposed \$400 (\$350 in current law) to \$450 for claims filed on or after March 2, 2025.

Intro. by Howard, Brody, Warren, Setzer.

GS 96

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, State
Government, Executive**

H 96 (2025-2026) **EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS**. Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY FOR THE EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY*.

Adds new Article 8, “Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons from Residential Property” to GS Chapter 42. Defines *unauthorized person* as a person or persons occupying residential property who has no legal claim to the property, is not entitled to occupy it under a valid rental agreement or contract for deed signed by the property owner or the property owner’s authorized representative, has not paid any rent or other form of payment to the property owner or an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the property, and is not otherwise authorized to occupy the property. Excludes a tenant who holds over after the lease term has expired under GS 42-26 from the definition. Also defines *authorized representative, contract for deed, law enforcement agency, real estate broker, residential property, and tenant*. Sets forth the following requirements in GS 42-80 to be met for a property owner or authorized representative of the property to request removal of an unauthorized person unlawfully occupying the property from a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the property:

- The property that is being unlawfully occupied is residential property or property used in connection with or appurtenant to residential property.
- An unauthorized person has entered the property after the property owner acquired the property and is remaining or residing unlawfully on the residential property of the property owner.
- The property was not offered or intended as an accommodation for the general public at the time the unauthorized person entered.
- The property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner has directed the unauthorized person to leave the residential property.
- The unauthorized person is not a tenant of the property being unlawfully occupied.
- There is no pending litigation between the property owner and the unauthorized person related to the residential property.
- No other valid rental agreement or contract for deed has been entered into or formed by the property owner or a former property owner and the unauthorized person permitting the unauthorized person to occupy the residential property.
- No rent or other form of payment has ever been demanded of or paid by the unauthorized person to the property owner or to an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the residential property.

Provides for request for immediate removal of the person from residential property by an affidavit of removal in GS 42-81. Requires the property owner or authorized representative to appear before the clerk of superior court in the county where the property is located and complete a sworn affidavit on a statutory form. Allows such proceedings to go before a magistrate if the clerk’s office is closed. Directs the clerk of superior court or the magistrate to sign the affidavit verifying that the property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner appeared before him or her and swore under oath or affirmation to the information contained therein. Imposes a \$25 fee for the affidavit. Provides for a statutory form which must include the statutory requirements listed above, the property address, and a clear warning that false information or statements on the affidavit is perjury, which is punishable as a Class F felony as well as grounds by legal action against the affiant by the person removed. Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop the form affidavit by no later than September 30, 2025.

Sets forth a process for removal of the unauthorized person by law enforcement with 24 hours of receiving the affidavit from the property owner or authorized representative in GS 42-82, including the power to arrest for trespass, outstanding warrants,

or any other legal cause. Provides for immunity for law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers, clerks of superior court, and magistrates in GS 42-83. Allows requesting law enforcement to stay while the owner or authorized representative changes the locks and moves the person's personal property to the property line.

Creates a civil remedy for wrongful removal in GS 42-84 by persons harmed by a wrongful remover, with remedies including recovering possession of the property, actual costs and damages incurred, statutory damages equal to triple the fair market rent of the residence, a civil penalty of not less than \$400 nor more than \$4,000 as determined by a court, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees. Clarifies that new Article 8 does not limit the rights of a property owner or limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to arrest an unauthorized person for trespassing, vandalism, theft, or other crimes.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Requires that all leases and contracts for lease of land under GS 22-2 be put in writing (was, written requirement only applies to such leases and contracts that exceed three years in duration). Applies to rental agreements and leases entered into on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Tyson, Biggs, K. Hall, Howard.

GS 22, GS 42

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Court System,
Administrative Office of the Courts, Development, Land Use
and Housing, Property and Housing**

H 97 (2025-2026) **SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS FIGHTING CANCER**. Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT INCLUDING DEATH DUE TO STOMACH CANCER IN THE LIST OF FIREFIGHTER DEATHS MEETING THE DEFINITION OF KILLED IN THE LINE OF DUTY UNDER THE PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES' DEATH BENEFITS ACT*.

Expands the definition of *killed in the line of duty* under GS 143-166.2, as it applies under the Public Safety Employees' Death Benefits Act, to also include a presumption that a firefighter was killed in the line of duty when their death occurs as a direct and proximate result of cancer of the stomach (gastric cancer).

Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of State Treasurer for benefits payable under the Public Safety Employees' Death Benefits Act related to this act.

Applies to qualifying deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Scott, Howard, Tyson, Huneycutt.

APPROP, GS 143

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government,
Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency
Management, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer**

H 98 (2025-2026) **PATRIOTISM EXPRESSION ACT**. Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO PERMIT THE SALE, POSSESSION, AND USE OF CERTAIN CONSUMER FIREWORKS*.

Amends GS 14-410 to establish that it is permissible for pyrotechnics that are consumer fireworks to be possessed, advertised, sold, used, transported, handled, or discharged within the State, so long as compliant with Part 2 of Article 82A of GS Chapter 58 ("Consumer Fireworks"), enacted below. Modifies subsection (b) to change the age to which it is unlawful to sell pyrotechnics, establishing that it is unlawful for any individual, firm, partnership, or corporation to sell consumer fireworks, as defined in GS 58-82A-80, or pyrotechnics as defined in GS 14-414(2), (3), (4)c., (5), or (6) (currently does not include sale of consumer fireworks) to persons under the age of 18 (currently, under the age of 16). Makes conforming changes to the statute's title. Amends GS 14-414 (products excluded from Article 54, governing the sale of pyrotechnics of GS Chapter 14) to now exclude from Article 54 the sale, use, or possession of (1) explosive caps designed to be fired in toy pistols as long as the explosive mixture of the caps does not exceed .25 of a gram for each cap, and (2) novelties, and sparkling devices, as those

terms are now defined in new GS 58-82A-80; removes the five other specified categories that were excluded from the Article. Defines *novelties* as snaps, party poppers, snakes, glow worms, toy smoke devices, and certain wire sparklers and dipped sticks containing 5 grams or less of pyrotechnic composition (requires the specification of novelties to substantially follow the definition of these devices under Standard 87-1 of the American Pyrotechnics Association) and *sparkling devices* as consumer fireworks and novelties that do not rise into the air, do not fire inserts or projectiles into the air, and do not explode or produce a report (requires the specification of sparkling devices to substantially follow the definition of "ground and handheld sparkling devices" under Standard 87-1 of the American Pyrotechnics Association). Amends GS 14-415 to make a violation of GS 14-410(b), as amended, a Class 1 misdemeanor rather than a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Recodifies GS 58-82A-1 through GS 58-82A-55 as Part 1 of Article 82A of GS Chapter 58, and names it Display Pyrotechnics Training Permitting, and enacts new Part 2, Consumer Fireworks, as follows.

Defines *consumer fireworks* to mean any small fireworks device designed primarily to produce visible effects by combustion or deflagration that (1) is categorized as a 1.4G firework device under Standard 87-1 of the American Pyrotechnics Association and (2) complies with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the US Consumer Product Safety Commission, as set forth in the CFR, volumes 16 and 49. Defines 13 other terms applicable to new Part 2.

Enacts new GS 58-82A-85, which prohibits the use and sale of consumer fireworks within a county or city unless that local government has adopted an ordinance to allow the use and sale of consumer fireworks in accordance with new GS 160A-190.1 and GS 153A-130.1. Places the following conditions on the possession and use of consumer fireworks: (1) the person possessing or using the consumer fireworks must be at least 18 years old; (2) the use of consumer fireworks may occur only between the hours of 10 am and 10 pm except for other specified times on July 4th, December 31st, and January 1st; (3) the use of consumer fireworks is prohibited in or on the premises of a public or private primary or secondary school unless the person has received written authorization from the school; on the campus of a college or university unless the person has received written authorization from the college or university; and within 1,500 feet of a hospital, veterinary hospital, animal care facility, licensed child care facility, fireworks retailer, fireworks distributor, gas station, or bulk storage facility for petroleum products or other explosive or flammable substances; and (4) the possession or use of consumer fireworks is prohibited in or on the premises of any public park or public space, except as otherwise permitted by the person, State agency, or unit of local government owning or otherwise controlling the public park, or public space. Prohibits counties and cities from restricting or prohibiting the transportation of consumer fireworks across or through the county or city. Makes further clarifications as to transportation-related restrictions.

Prohibits selling consumer fireworks, sparkling devices, or novelties without a permit issued from the Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner) in new GS 58-82A-90. Directs the Commissioner to issue rules to implement the statute. Requires permits of a fireworks retailer to be posted in a location visible to the public. Sets out seven conditions that must be met for permits to be issued to a person to operate a fireworks retailer including maintaining public liability and product liability insurance with minimum coverage limits of \$5 million. Sets out requirements that must be satisfied by all permittees, and the additional conditions that must be contained in any permit issued for a consumer fireworks permanent retailer or a consumer fireworks temporary retailer. Establishes that the fire code supersedes less stringent requirements of this Part.

Establishes four permit fees in new GS 58-82A-95 ranging from \$100 for an incidental sparkling device retailer permit to \$5,000 for an initial consumer fireworks permanent retailer permit, a consumer fireworks temporary retailer permit, or a consumer fireworks distributor permit.

Permits the Commissioner, through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and in consultation with the State Fire and Rescue Commission to issue evidence-based rules under GS 58-82A-100 excluding certain types or categories of pyrotechnics otherwise meeting the definition of "consumer fireworks" or "sparkling devices" from the provisions of Part 2 upon a finding that the type or category of pyrotechnic presents a significant and widespread risk of death, serious bodily injury, or substantial damage to public or private property. Grants the Commissioner authority, in consultation with the NC Forest Service, to prohibit the use of consumer fireworks during period of declared hazardous forest fire conditions subject to specified press release requirements for affected areas in new GS 58-82A-105.

Establishes in GS 58-82A-110 that GS 14-415 (violations of the prohibition on the manufacture, sale, and use of pyrotechnics) and GS 58-2-70 (Civil penalties or restitution for violations; administrative procedure) apply to violations of Part 2. Authorizes the Commissioner, a State law enforcement officer, a municipal law enforcement officer, a code enforcement officer, or a fire safety official to petition the district court to seize or remove, at the expense of the permit holder, fireworks sold, offered for sale, stored, possessed, or used in violation of Part 2. Authorizes the Commissioner to assess a civil penalty in addition to or

instead of suspending a permit pursuant to GS 52-82A-115, as enacted. Makes any violation of GS 58-82A-120 (prohibition on retail stand and tent sales) a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Under GS 58-82A-115, authorizes the Commissioner to suspend the permit of a person authorized to sell consumer fireworks or sparkling devices, or order the payment of a civil penalty, or both, for engaging in: (1) selling fireworks or explosives not authorized under Part 2; (2) selling consumer fireworks or sparkling devices within the state without a valid permit; (3) selling consumer fireworks or sparkling devices to a person who appears to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs; (4) knowingly aiding or assisting in procuring, furnishing, giving, selling, or delivering consumer fireworks or sparkling devices to a person under the age of 18; or (5) selling consumer fireworks, sparkling devices, or novelties at a fireworks retail stand in violation of GS 58-82A-115, as enacted. Provides that it is an affirmative defense to any disciplinary action taken pursuant to this provision that the permit holder procured, furnished, gave, sold, or delivered consumer fireworks or sparkling devices to a person under the age of 18 in reasonable reliance upon fraudulent proof of age presented to the permit holder. Establishes that the civil penalty must be at least \$1,000 but cannot exceed \$10,000, and requires the Commissioner to consider specified factors in determining the amount issued. Sets forth that a person whose permit has been suspended or has been issued a civil penalty under this provision must receive a hearing before the applicable body within 10 days of the suspension, and if the decision is upheld, the person can seek judicial review in superior court.

Makes it unlawful under GS 58-82A-122 to sell, transfer, or distribute consumer fireworks, sparkling devices, or novelties at a fireworks retail stand or tent unless the fireworks retailer obtains written authorization to conduct business from the owner or custodian of the property wherein the stand or tent is located, if applicable, and there is adequate parking to accommodate customers of the fireworks retail stand and, if applicable, any other businesses that are on the premises.

Requires certain safety labels on the packages of consumer fireworks, sparkling devices, or novelties authorized to be sold under Part 2, and requires fireworks retailers to provide a safety pamphlet created by the Office of the State Fire Marshall to the purchaser that outlines safe handling and best practices in GS 58-82A-125.

Directs the Commissioner in GS 58-82A-130 to create a training course or identify an existing training course to train individuals on the function, safe handling, and best practices for the safe use of all categories of consumer fireworks. Also requires the Commissioner to create and maintain a list of persons who have completed the training. Allows the Department of Insurance to issue rules to implement this section, including reasonable requirements for verification or certification that persons have met the training requirements of this section and to charge a fee to cover the costs of implementing new GS 58-82A-130.

Enacts new GS 153A-130.1 (counties) and GS 160A-190.1 (cities), allowing cities and counties to, by ordinance, regulate the use and sales of consumer fireworks, sparkling devices, and novelties to the public, effective October 1 following adoption and until its repeal, with any repeal effective October 1 following the repeal. Provides that a city or county can enact an ordinance at any time, but ordinances adopted prior to December 1, 2025, become effective December 1, 2025.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. Directs that prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of the act are not abated or affected by the act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for the act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

Intro. by Gable, Kidwell, Eddins, Campbell.

[GS 14](#), [GS 58](#), [GS 153B](#), [GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce](#), [Courts/Judiciary](#), [Criminal Justice](#), [Criminal Law and Procedure](#), [Government](#), [State Agencies](#), [Department of Insurance](#), [Local Government](#)

H 99 (2025-2026) [REFLEXOLOGISTS RIGHT TO WORK ACT](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO EXEMPT CERTIFIED REFLEXOLOGISTS FROM OVERSIGHT FROM THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF MASSAGE AND BODYWORK THERAPY.*

Amends GS 90-624 (activities not requiring a license to practice Massage and Bodywork Therapy) to include a nationally certified reflexologist engaged in the practice of reflexology who has a current certification from the American Reflexology Certification Board (ARCB) or its successor entity, or an individual who is a reflexology student working to obtain certification

from the ARCB or its successor entity under the supervision of an ARCB-certified reflexologist who obtains certification within 12 months of beginning the certification process. Defines reflexology. Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Riddell, Warren, Belk, Brody.

GS 90

[View summary](#)

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

H 100 (2025-2026) **EXPAND RELIGIOUS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.** Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO EXPAND THE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR REAL PROPERTY USED FOR RELIGIOUS PURPOSES.*

Adds an additional 5-year exception to the exclusive use for religious purposes requirement under GS 105-278.3 (exemption from property tax or real and personal property used for religious purposes), for undeveloped land acquired by one of the religious entities listed in the statute with contiguous land already exempt under the statute if (1) the undeveloped land does not exceed 200% of the currently exempt contiguous land and (2) the religious entity certifies that within five years of acquiring the undeveloped land it will either begin to use the land wholly and exclusively for religious purposes or begin to develop the land in a manner which is intended to be wholly and exclusively used by the entity for religious purposes upon completion. Permits discovery of the land under GS 105-312 if the certification requirements are not met. Effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

Intro. by Pyrtle, Sauls, N. Jackson, Scott.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Tax

H 101 (2025-2026) **PROP. TAX APPEAL PROCESS TRANSPARENCY.** Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE A NOTIFICATION PROCESS REGARDING PROPERTY OWNERS' RIGHT TO APPEAL PROPERTY APPRAISALS AND TO REQUIRE AUTOMATIC REVIEW BY BOARDS OF EQUALIZATION AND REVIEW IN CERTAIN INSTANCES.*

Amends GS 105-322 to require a county board of equalization and review (board), in fulfilling its duty to review property tax lists, either upon its own motion or on sufficient cause shown by any person, to examine for accuracy and compliance every property listed and appraised at a figure equal to or greater than 30% of its most recent prior listing and appraisal. Also adds a requirement that the board give written notice of the appeals process under the statute in easily understood language. The notice must be given to property owners within a time frame that gives the owners a reasonable opportunity to exercise their right to appeal.

Amends GS 105-328 as follows. Amends the conditions that are in place when the governing body of a city or town situated in two or more counties does not adopt the procedure under the specified statutory authority, so that in addition to the governing body being vested with the powers and duties vested in the boards of county commissioners and board of equalization and review, the municipal boards of equalization and review must also (1) examine for accuracy and compliance every property listed and appraised at a figure equal to or greater than 30% of its previous listing and appraisal and (2) give written notice of the appeals process under the statute in easily understood language. The notice must be given to property owners within a time frame that gives the owners a reasonable opportunity to exercise their right to appeal.

Intro. by Cohn.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Tax, Local Government

H 102 (2025-2026) [REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL - OWNER NOTIFICATION](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE ASSESSORS TO INTELLIGIBLY NOTIFY PROPERTY OWNERS OF PERTINENT APPRAISAL AND TAX INFORMATION DURING A REVALUATION*.

Amends GS 105-317 to require a tax assessor in preparation for each revaluation of real property, to see to it that written notice, in plain, easily understood language is given to the property owner. Sets out information that must be included in the notice, including the projected increase or decrease in the appraised value of the property and the projected increase or decrease in the property's tax liability.

Amends GS 105-328 by setting out the same requirements applicable to property subject to taxation by cities and towns located in more than one county that have not adopted the specified statutory procedures.

Intro. by Cohn.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Tax, Local Government

H 103 (2025-2026) [NC AM. INDIAN HUNTING/FISHING RIGHTS](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE AN EXEMPTION FROM HUNTING, TRAPPING, AND FISHING LICENSE REQUIREMENTS FOR NORTH CAROLINA TRIBAL MEMBERS*.

Amends GS 113-276 by excluding from the licensing provisions of Article 21 (containing hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses and permits Issued by the Wildlife Resources Commission) of GS Chapter 113, a State resident who is a member of a recognized Indian tribe or who has an ID card from a Native nation for purposes of hunting, trapping, or fishing in the State off tribal land. Requires the person to possess and produce proper identification confirming their tribal membership upon request by a wildlife enforcement officer. Requires a person meeting this exemption to comply with (1) all reporting requirements prescribed by statute or Wildlife Resources Commission rule, (2) the statutory hunter education requirements, (3) the requirements for purchase of federal migratory waterfowl stamps, and (5) any other requirements of law or rule to which other North Carolina hunting and fishing license holders are subject. Specifies that this exemption from licensing does not apply to licenses issued under Article 14A (Coastal and Estuarine Commercial Fishing Licenses), 14B (Coastal Recreational Fishing Licenses), or 25A (Unified Licenses) of GS Chapter 113. Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by R. Pierce, Clampitt, Lowery, Ward.

GS 113

[View summary](#)

Animals, Government, Native Americans

H 106 (2025-2026) [REVIVE HIGH-NEED RETIRED TEACHERS PROGRAM](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO REVIVE AND EXPAND THE PROGRAM TO ALLOW RETIRED EDUCATORS TO RETURN TO WORK IN HIGH-NEED SCHOOLS*.

Reenacts GS 115C-302.4 (high-need retired teachers), as it existed immediately prior to its expiration. Amends the *definition of high-need retired teacher* so that the retirement trigger date is at least two months prior to the date on which the retirement beneficiary is scheduled to be reemployed under the statute. Amends GS 135-3, concerning membership in the Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees (TSERS), to provide that the computation of postretirement earnings of a beneficiary who is a high-need retired teacher does not include earnings while the beneficiary is employed as a high-need retired teacher, and the beneficiary must not be restored to service as a teacher or employee. Requires a local board of education to annually inform the Retirement System, by September 15, if it will not employ high-need retired teachers for that school year. Specifies that the retirement allowance of a beneficiary who retired on an early or service retirement does not cease due to reemployment as a high-need retired teacher. Provides that a beneficiary reemployed as a high-need retired teacher is not entitled to any benefits otherwise provided under GS Chapter 135 as a result of this period of employment. Makes conforming changes.

Extends employer reporting requirements under GS 135-3(a)(8)c1 to high-need retired teachers.

Includes high-need retired teachers in definition of *employee* in GS 135-1. Sets the required period of separation for a high-need retired teacher at months under the definition of *retirement*. Amends GS 135-48.40 to include high-need retired teachers

in those who are eligible for coverage under the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees on a partially contributory basis.

Requires the State Treasurer to seek a private letter ruling from the IRS to determine if the provisions of this section relating to the computation of postretirement earnings of retired teachers jeopardize TSERS's status. Provides that if the IRS determines that any provision of the act jeopardizes TSERS's, then the section is repealed on the last day of the month following the month of receipt of that determination by the State Treasurer. Provides for notice by the Treasurer to the Revisor of Statutes, local school administrative units, and on its website. Requires all local school administrative units to notify all high-need retired teachers employed by its local board of education of any repeal.

Allows the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer to increase receipts from the retirement assets of the System or pay costs associated with the administration directly from the retirement assets.

Provides that any beneficiary that is employed by a local board of education as a high-need retired teacher, is not eligible to elect into a position that would lead the beneficiary to be eligible to accrue any additional benefits. Requires any failure of a local board of education or a beneficiary to comply with the foregoing to be corrected by the Executive Director of the Retirement System as he or she determines may be appropriate; costs of the correction are the sole responsibility of the local board of education and must be transferred to the Pension Accumulation Fund.

Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to Department of the State Treasurer for 2025-26 to be used to obtain the private letter ruling described above, effective July 1, 2025.

Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to Department of the State Treasurer for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to be used to address the increased cost to TSERS due to the act.

Directs that GS 115C-302.4, as reenacted by the act, applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year. Directs that the act does not expire except by subsequent enactment of the General Assembly.

Intro. by Carver.

[APPROP, GS 115C, GS 135](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer](#)

PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 71 (2025-2026) [EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE AN ALTERNATIVE REMEDY FOR THE EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS FROM PRIVATE PROPERTY BY A LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.*

Identical to [H 96](#), filed 2/11/25.

Adds new Article 8, "Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons from Residential Property" to GS Chapter 42. Defines unauthorized person as a person or persons occupying residential property who has no legal claim to the property, is not entitled to occupy it under a valid rental agreement or contract for deed signed by the property owner or the property owner's authorized representative, has not paid any rent or other form of payment to the property owner or an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the property, and is not otherwise authorized to occupy the property. Excludes a tenant who holds over after the lease term has expired under GS 42-26 from the definition. Also defines authorized representative, contract for deed, law enforcement agency, real estate broker, residential property, and tenant. Sets forth the following requirements in GS 42-80 to be met for a property owner or authorized representative of the property to request removal of an unauthorized person unlawfully occupying the property from a law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the property:

- The property that is being unlawfully occupied is residential property or property used in connection with or appurtenant to residential property.
- An unauthorized person has entered the property after the property owner acquired the property and is remaining or residing unlawfully on the residential property of the property owner.
- The property was not offered or intended as an accommodation for the general public at the time the unauthorized person entered.
- The property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner has directed the unauthorized person to leave the residential property.
- The unauthorized person is not a tenant of the property being unlawfully occupied.
- There is no pending litigation between the property owner and the unauthorized person related to the residential property.
- No other valid rental agreement or contract for deed has been entered into or formed by the property owner or a former property owner and the unauthorized person permitting the unauthorized person to occupy the residential property.
- No rent or other form of payment has ever been demanded of or paid by the unauthorized person to the property owner or to an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the residential property.

Provides for request for immediate removal of the person from residential property by an affidavit of removal in GS 42-81. Requires the property owner or authorized representative to appear before the clerk of superior court in the county where the property is located and complete a sworn affidavit on a statutory form. Allows such proceedings to go before a magistrate if the clerk's office is closed. Directs the clerk of superior court or the magistrate to sign the affidavit verifying that the property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner appeared before him or her and swore under oath or affirmation to the information contained therein. Imposes a \$25 fee for the affidavit. Provides for a statutory form which must include the statutory requirements listed above, the property address, and a clear warning that false information or statements on the affidavit is perjury, which is punishable as a Class F felony as well as grounds by legal action against the affiant by the person removed. Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop the form affidavit by no later than September 30, 2025.

Sets forth a process for removal of the unauthorized person by law enforcement with 24 hours of receiving the affidavit from the property owner or authorized representative in GS 42-82, including the power to arrest for trespass, outstanding warrants, or any other legal cause. Provides for immunity for law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers, clerks of superior court, and magistrates in GS 42-83. Allows requesting law enforcement to stay while the owner or authorized representative changes the locks and moves the person's personal property to the property line.

Creates a civil remedy for wrongful removal in GS 42-84 by persons harmed by a wrongful remover, with remedies including recovering possession of the property, actual costs and damages incurred, statutory damages equal to triple the fair market rent of the residence, a civil penalty of not less than \$400 nor more than \$4,000 as determined by a court, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees. Clarifies that new Article 8 does not limit the rights of a property owner or limit the authority of a law enforcement officer to arrest an unauthorized person for trespassing, vandalism, theft, or other crimes.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Requires that all leases and contracts for lease of land under GS 22-2 be put in writing (was, written requirement only applies to such leases and contracts that exceed three years in duration). Applies to rental agreements and leases entered into on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Moffitt, Settle, Lazzara.

[GS 22, GS 42](#)

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Court System,
Administrative Office of the Courts, Development, Land Use
and Housing, Property and Housing**

S 76 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR THE FRANKLINTON CENTER](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE FRANKLINTON CENTER AT BRICKS, INC.*

Appropriates \$300,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management, as a directed grant to the Franklinton Center at Bricks, Inc. for operating expenses and capital improvements. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Smith.

APPROP

[View summary](#)

Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Budget and Management

S 77 (2025-2026) [SCHOOL CONTRACTED HEALTH SERVICES](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW PARENT CHOICE IN NURSING SERVICE PROVIDERS REQUIRED BY AN INDIVIDUALIZED EDUCATION PROGRAM.*

Deletes the limitation in GS 115C-111.2 (contract with private service providers) which directed that the local educational agencies are only able to contract with private special education facilities or providers when the local entity is unable to provide the service, so that local educational agencies may contract with private providers for any service. Defines *nursing services*. Adds new GS 115C-111.2(b) specifying the following conditions that must be met before a local education agency must make available a parent's choice of nurse when providing nursing services under an Individualized Education Plan (IEP): (1) the IEP requires nursing services; (2) the child received nursing services from the nurse (i) prior to the nursing services being required by the child's IEP or (ii) prior to the child enrolling in his or her current school; (3) the parent's choice of nurse is employed by a nursing agency and willing to provide the nursing services required by the child's IEP; (4) the nursing agency employing the parent's choice of nurse meets all standard contract terms required for any other nursing agency contracted by the local educational agency, including licensing and liability requirements; and (5) the contracted rate is equal to or less than the contracted rate of other nurses contracted by the local educational agency. Specifies that GS 115C-111.2 should not be construed to limit the local education agency's responsibility to provide a free public education. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Sawyer, Overcash.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education

S 78 (2025-2026) [OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT DESIGNATING SPARTA'S FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL AS THE OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA.*

Includes whereas clauses. Enacts GS 145-52 as title indicates.

Intro. by Hise.

Alleghany, GS 145

[View summary](#)

Government, Cultural Resources and Museums

S 81 (2025-2026) [NC TIME ZONE/OBSERVE DST ALL YEAR](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO DESIGNATE THE TIME ZONE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND TO ADOPT DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME YEAR-ROUND IF AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS.*

Enacts Article 8, Standard Time, to GS Chapter 81A. Enacts GS 81A-100, designating the standard time of the State to be the time designated by the US Department of Transportation pursuant to the Uniform Time Act of 1966. Subject to the authorization of Congress, directs the State and its political subdivisions to observe Daylight Saving Time throughout the year.

Directs the Commissioner of Agriculture (Commissioner) to notify the Governor within 60 days of Congressional authorization. Directs the Governor to implement GS 81A-100 by executive order or otherwise upon notification by the Commissioner.

Intro. by Hise, Sawyer.

GS 81A

[View summary](#)

Government, State Government, Local Government

S 82 (2025-2026) [COMPACT TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASE](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT ENACTING A COMPACT TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASES*.

Enacts Article 23B, Compact to Award Prizes for the Cure of Diseases, to GS Chapter 90, as follows. Sets forth defined terms. Establishes the Solemn Covenant of States Commission (Commission) upon the enactment of the Solemn Covenant of the States to Award Prizes for Curing Diseases (Compact) by six states. Provides for each compacting state to be represented by one member whose qualification, selection and service is determined by each compacting state. Establishes the Commission as a body corporate and politic. Enumerates 23 powers of the Commission, including (1) to receive and review treatments and therapeutic protocols for the cure of diseases submitted to the Commission and to award prizes for submission that meet the Commission's standards for a successful cure treatment or therapeutic protocol, (2) to make successful cure treatments and therapeutic protocols widely available upon prizes claimed by transferring intellectual property necessary for the manufacture and distribution of the cure, and setting a selling price for the cure, (3) to collect royalty fees, (4) to acquire and dispose of property, (5) to monitor and enforce compliance of compacting states, and (6) to take on debt obligations.

Provides for Commission meetings; voting; bylaws; rulemaking; financing; recordkeeping; qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification; and compacting state withdrawal, default, expulsion, and reinstatement.

Sets forth extensive rulemaking requirements and parameters. Requires the Commission to establish at least 10 major diseases for which to create prizes, determined based on the severity, survival rate, and public health and treatment expense of the disease. Directs the Commission to establish qualifying criteria for treatments and protocol to be deemed a cure, including approval by the FDA, a significant increase in survival, with treatment term requiring less than a year to cure. Among other rules the Commission is required to adopt, requires adoption of parameters for defining and classifying diseases; treatment and protocol submission and evaluation; prize amounts for each disease; prize distribution procedures; dispute resolution process; and ethical standards. Provides for rulemaking procedure, amendments, and overreach. Allows for awards on a pro rata basis when awarding for a survival rate that is less than what is established in the cure criteria.

Authorizes the Commission to establish a management committee, and sets forth its membership and authorities. Authorizes the Commission to appoint an advisory committee to advise the Commission prior to approving cure criteria, taking action regarding bylaws or rules, adopting the annual budget, or other significant matters.

Sets forth notice and default procedures for noncompliance of compacting states. Establishes venue for proceedings by or against the Commission in the jurisdiction in which the Commission's principal office is located.

Deems the Compact effective upon legislative enactment by two compacting states, provided that the Commission cannot be established until six states have adopted the Compact. Provides for Compact amendment and funding. Details Compact dissolution procedures and effect.

Includes a severability clause. Details the effect of the Compact on compacting states and other laws. Provides that the act is effective upon the enactment of the compact into law by at least two compacting states.

Intro. by Burgin.

[GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

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

S 83 (2025-2026) [EXTEND PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO EXTEND AND CLARIFY THE PRIMARY CARE PAYMENT REFORM TASK FORCE*.

Expands upon the duties of the North Carolina Primary Care Payment Reform Task Force (Task Force), under SL 2023-134, Section 9E.28, to also include collecting and compiling data and other information related to healthcare spending on primary care services in a way that is compliant with HIPAA (requires entities to comply with the request within 30 days of a request for data or information). Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop, and for the Task Force and the DHHS to implement, a detailed data security and safeguarding plan for this requested data. Sets out six criteria that must be included, including (1) guidelines for authorizing access to the data, including guidelines for authentication of

authorized access, (2) breach planning, notification, and procedures, and (3) data retention and disposition policies. Specifies that this data is not considered a public record. Adds an additional date for the reporting to the specified NCGA committees of April 1, 2026. Extends the termination of the Task Force from May 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Effective retroactively to July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Hise.

[STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

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

LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 104 (2025-2026) [SCHCALFLEX/BUNCOMBE/OPEN CAL.](#) Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ADOPTING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR.*

Under current law, GS 115C-84.2(d) sets the parameters within which local boards of education must determine the opening and closing dates of public schools under subdivision (a)(1) of this statute. Amends GS 115C-84.2(d) to provide the local boards of education for the Buncombe County Schools with additional flexibility in adopting their school calendars by removing those specified opening and closing dates. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Prather, Ager, Turner.

[Buncombe, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 105 (2025-2026) [GASTON CO. BD. OF ED. ELECT. PARTISAN.](#) Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTISAN ELECTION OF THE GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION.*

Amends SL 1977-633 (election of members to the Gaston County Board of Education) as follows. Changes the method of election so that seven members of the Gaston County Board of Education are elected from residency districts (was, townships) where they reside and changes the election for all nine members from nonpartisan elections to partisan elections.

Notwithstanding GS 115C-37 (providing for nonpartisan biennial elections of county board members), requires board members to be elected at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire for four-year terms. Directs that all candidates be voted on by all eligible voters of the county. Removes outdated language. Requires candidates to file a notice of candidacy at a time consistent with deadlines for other county officers (currently, notice of candidacy can be filed any time after noon on the Friday preceding the eighteenth Saturday and before noon on the Friday preceding the fourteenth Saturday before the general election). Sets the election to be held at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire. Specifies that candidates for election to the board of education will be nominated at the same time and manner as other county officers. Requires vacancies to be filled using the process set forth in GS 115C-37.1, with the appointee residing in the same district in which the vacating member was elected to serve (currently, vacancies are filled by the remaining members of the Board of Education or by the county commissioners if the Board of Education has not chosen a replacement within 90 days after the vacancy occurs). Makes organizational, technical, and conforming changes. Makes language gender neutral. Effective December 1, 2026.

Specifies that the act does not affect the term of any person elected in 2022 or 2024 to the Board of Education and that each member of the Board of Education elected in 2022 or 2024, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy for a member elected in 2022 or 2024, will serve until a successor has been elected and qualified.

Makes conforming change to GS 115C-37.1 to reflect its applicability to Gaston County. Applies to elections held on or after December 1, 2026.

Intro. by Loftis.

[Gaston, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, Elections**

LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

H 72 (2025-2026) [43RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 43RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

Intro. by Overcash.

[Gaston](#)

[View summary](#)

S 73 (2025-2026) [RICHLANDS OCCUPANCY TAX AUTHORIZATION](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE TOWN OF RICHLANDS TO LEVY AN OCCUPANCY TAX*.

Authorizes the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Richlands to levy a room occupancy tax of up to 3%. Provides that the tax must be levied, administered, collected, and repealed as provided in GS 160A-215 (uniform provisions for room occupancy taxes). Requires the Town of Richlands Tourism Development Authority (TDA) to use at least two-thirds of the occupancy tax proceeds to promote travel and tourism in the town and the remainder for tourism-related expenditures. Mandates that at least one-third of the members of the TDA must be affiliated with businesses that collect the tax in the town and at least one-half must be currently active in the town's travel and tourism promotion. Makes conforming changes.

Intro. by Lazzara.

[Onslow, GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

Government, Tax

S 74 (2025-2026) [40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

Intro. by Waddell.

[Mecklenburg](#)

[View summary](#)

S 75 (2025-2026) [TOWN OF GARNER/SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT AMENDING THE CHARTER OF THE TOWN OF GARNER TO ALLOW THE TOWN COUNCIL TO DELEGATE TO THE TOWN MANAGER THE POWER TO SETTLE CERTAIN CLAIMS AGAINST THE TOWN*.

Amends Section 6.2 of the Town Charter for the Town of Garner (SL 1977-333) so that the town council (was, board of aldermen) can authorize the town manager to also settle (1) eminent domain cases filed by the town when the amount involved does not exceed the amount budgeted for property or easement acquisition for the approved capital improvement program and (2) claims made by the town or debts owed to the town when the amount involved does not exceed \$10,000. Increases the cap on the referral to the town manager for settlement for personal injury or property damages from \$100 to \$10,000. Requires all of these settlements to be reported to the town council in a timely manner. Directs that such settlements constitute a complete

release of the town from any and all damages sustained by the person involved in such settlement in any manner arising out of the incident, occasion, or taking complained of.

Intro. by Grafstein.

Wake

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[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law](#)

S 79 (2025-2026) [44TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 44TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

Intro. by Alexander.

Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln

[View summary](#)

S 80 (2025-2026) [BROADEN ELECTRONIC NOTICE AUTHORIZATION](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT BROADENING THE AUTHORITY TO USE ELECTRONIC MEANS TO PROVIDE REQUIRED NOTICES*.

Amends SL 2007-86, as amended, to also allow the governing bodies of Fuquay-Varina, Holly Springs, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon to use electronic means to provide required notices (in addition to notice of public hearings). Provides that the electronic notice may be in lieu of traditional publication methods.

Intro. by Grafstein.

UNCODIFIED, Wake

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S 84 (2025-2026) [13TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 13TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

Intro. by Grafstein.

Wake

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ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 37: ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS & REPRESENTATION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Pensions and Retirement

H 40: GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2025 PART 1.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 44: GSC ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 45: GSC MORAL TURPITUDE/OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 47: DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2025 - PART I.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Appropriations

H 48: INCREASE UI MAX BENEFIT/2025 UI TAX CREDIT.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Ruled Material

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

H 52: PROTECT THOSE WHO SERVE & PROTECT ACT OF 2025.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 71: RESPIRATORY CARE MODERNIZATION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 72: AG/RESTRICT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL EOS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 73: ENERGY SECURITY ACT OF 2025.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 74: HOUSE BUDGET TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 75: PHARMACEUTICAL FULL DISCLOSURE ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 76: PROTECT ACCESS TO IN VITRO FERTILIZATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 77: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 78: PROHIBIT LEO W/ICE CHURCHES/SCHOOLS/HOSPITALS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 79: NORTH CAROLINA WORK AND SAVE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 80: PROHIBIT LEO W/ICE AT FARM/CONSTRUCT. SITES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 81: RESTRICT USE OF VEHICLE TELEMATICS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

House: Serial Referral To Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Stricken

House: Serial Referral To Finance Added

House: Serial Referral To Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House Added

H 82: STUDY COMMISSION FOR LEA SIZE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 83: REVISE LAWS GOVERNING MINORS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 84: THE POLLINATOR PROTECTION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 85: CERTAIN PROHIBITIONS/WORKING/VOTING PROCESS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 86: CITIZENS' EXPUNGEMENT CLARIFICATION OF 2025.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 87: CELL PHONE-FREE EDUCATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Education - K-12, if favorable, Judiciary 3, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 89: UNIVERSITY VACCINATION FREEDOM ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 90: STATE & LOCAL GOV'T RETIREES COLA.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 96: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

House: Filed

H 97: SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS FIGHTING CANCER.

House: Filed

H 98: PATRIOTISM EXPRESSION ACT.

House: Filed

H 99: REFLEXOLOGISTS RIGHT TO WORK ACT.

House: Filed

H 100: EXPAND RELIGIOUS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.

House: Filed

H 101: PROP. TAX APPEAL PROCESS TRANSPARENCY.

House: Filed

H 102: REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL - OWNER NOTIFICATION.

House: Filed

H 103: NC AM. INDIAN HUNTING/FISHING RIGHTS.

House: Filed

H 106: REVIVE HIGH-NEED RETIRED TEACHERS PROGRAM.

House: Filed

S 13: CLARIFY INSURANCE FEE REFERRAL CAP.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 24: GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 31: THE WELLS ACT.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 37: HERTFORD COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 39: GSC ADD MEMBER FROM HIGH POINT LAW SCHOOL.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 51: MAINTAIN NAIC ACCREDITATION OF DOL-AB

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 59: REVISE VOLUNTARY AG. DISTRICT LAWS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 60: GSC ATTORNEYS' FEES IN DEBT INSTRUMENTS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 69: HENDERSONVILLE PUBLIC ENTERPRISES OPERATION.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 70: FUNDS FOR TOWN OF WENDELL/CARVER SCHOOL.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

Senate: Re-ref Com On Appropriations/Base Budget

S 71: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

Senate: Filed

S 76: FUNDS FOR THE FRANKLINTON CENTER.

Senate: Filed

S 77: SCHOOL CONTRACTED HEALTH SERVICES.

Senate: Filed

S 78: OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL.

Senate: Filed

S 81: NC TIME ZONE/OBSERVE DST ALL YEAR.

Senate: Filed

S 82: COMPACT TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASE.

Senate: Filed

S 83: EXTEND PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE.

Senate: Filed

LOCAL BILLS

H 27: SCHCALFLEX/ALAMANCE/OPEN CAL.

House: Withdrawn From Com

House: Re-ref to the Com on State and Local Government, if favorable, Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 88: SCHCALFLEX/WILSON/OPEN CAL.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 104: SCHCALFLEX/BUNCOMBE/OPEN CAL.

House: Filed

H 105: GASTON CO. BD. OF ED. ELECT. PARTISAN.

House: Filed

S 66: SCHCALFLEX/CUMBERLAND/CC.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 67: 2ND SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 68: SCHCALFLEX/PITT,EDGEcombe/BOARD MTG & REPORT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 72: 43RD SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Filed

S 73: RICHLANDS OCCUPANCY TAX AUTHORIZATION.

Senate: Filed

S 74: 40TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Filed

S 75: TOWN OF GARNER/SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.

Senate: Filed

S 79: 44TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Filed

S 80: BROADEN ELECTRONIC NOTICE AUTHORIZATION.

Senate: Filed

S 84: 13TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.

Senate: Filed

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