

## The Daily Bulletin: 2025-02-12

### PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 107 (2025-2026) [ADOPT SUDEP AWARENESS WEEK](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SECOND WEEK IN NOVEMBER AS SUDEP AWARENESS WEEK IN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND TO RECOMMEND AWARENESS TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL RESPONSIBLE FOR STUDENTS WITH EPILEPSY OR OTHERWISE PREDISPOSED TO SEIZURES.*

Includes whereas clauses. Enacts new GS 103-19 (SUDEP Awareness Week), as title indicates.

Enacts GS 115C-375.7, cited as the "Shannon Leigh Adcock, Steven Anthony Christos, and Samantha Davis Memorial Act." Establishes a legislative goal to encourage local boards of education to develop and provide seizure awareness training for all teachers and school personnel who may be responsible for students with epilepsy or students that are otherwise predisposed to seizures.

**Intro. by Riddell, Cunningham, Moss, Kidwell.**

[GS 103, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Cultural Resources and Museums, Health and Human Services, Health](#)

H 108 (2025-2026) [THE SOBER OPERATOR ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW ONLY SOBER DRIVERS TO OPERATE VEHICLES AND VESSELS AND SAVE LIVES OF OPERATORS, PASSENGERS, AND PEDESTRIANS BY LOWERING THE ALCOHOL CONCENTRATION LEGAL LIMIT FOR OPERATING A VEHICLE OR VESSEL FROM 0.08 TO 0.05; TO INCREASE EFFICIENCY IN THE IMMEDIATE CIVIL PRETRIAL REVOCATION OF DRIVERS LICENSES; TO REQUIRE IMPAIRED DRIVERS TO PAY THEIR FAIR SHARE OF THE COSTS OF THEIR PROCESSING; TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY MOTIONS BY ADMITTING ALCOHOL AND DRUG SCREENING TESTS TO PROVE THE ARRESTING OFFICER HAD PROBABLE CAUSE; TO ASSURE TRANSPARENCY IN THE COURTS SO THAT ALL OPERATORS ARE TREATED EQUALLY AND ALL USERS OF THE STREETS AND WATERWAYS THROUGHOUT THE STATE HAVE EQUAL PROTECTION FROM IMPAIRED DRIVERS BY REQUIRING VIDEO RECORDING OF DISTRICT COURT PROCEEDINGS AND PUBLISHING REPORTS OF HOW IMPAIRED DRIVING CASES ARE RESOLVED; TO ALLOW REPEAT OFFENDERS A METHOD TO PROVE THEIR SOBRIETY AND OBTAIN A LEGAL METHOD TO OPERATE A VEHICLE; AND TO REVISE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED ON A PERSON OVER LAWFUL AGE WHO AIDS AND ABETS A PERSON UNDER LAWFUL AGE IN THE SALE OR PURCHASE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IF SERIOUS BODILY INJURY RESULTS.*

#### Section 1

Titles the act "The Sober Operator Act of 2025."

#### Section 2

Under current law, driving while impaired and several related criminal offenses involving the consumption of alcohol or other impairing substances are categorized under North Carolina law as implied-consent offenses. When a person is charged with or arrested for an implied-consent offense, the officer may require the person to undergo chemical testing for purposes of detecting the presence of alcohol and other impairing substances and measuring their concentration. If a person refuses to submit to such testing, the person's license may be administratively revoked and the refusal may be considered as substantive evidence of his or her guilt of the underlying criminal charges.

Amends the immediate civil license administrative revocation process for persons charged with implied-consent offenses under GS 20-16.5 as follows. Now requires a *judicial officer* (defined) to determine if there is probable cause for the implied-consent offense charge that the person is charged with or has request a pre-charge chemical analysis for the offense and the other requirements of GS 20-16.5(b) or (b1) have been met. This replaces the requirement that a person must willfully refuse to submit to chemical analysis in order for their license to be immediately revoked upon being charged with an implied-consent offense. (Currently revocation for when a person is charged with an implied-consent offense includes the requirement that the person willfully refused to submit to the chemical analysis and has certain alcohol concentration levels at specified times after driving. Revocation for pre-charge request requires alcohol concentration levels at specified times after driving.) Now has hearings go before the Clerk of Court when a driver contests the validity of the revocation of their license (was, clerk or designated magistrate, or district court judge upon request). Provides for the driver to request for a member of the clerk's office other than the clerk to hold the hearing if the clerk's office issued the revocation. Provides for video appearance at the clerk hearing. Allows the clerk to consider relevant information concerning the driver in files or records from the DMV or the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Directs that failure of the charging officer or chemical analyst to testify is not grounds to rescind the revocation. Changes deadline for completion of hearing to ten days following the request (was, three or five working days depending on whether the hearing was before a magistrate or judge). Makes technical and conforming changes. Makes language gender-neutral.

Makes conforming changes to reflect the new probable cause requirement in the required advisory and notice under GS 20-16.2. Removes references to alcohol concentration levels in GS 20-17(a)(2)b (mandatory revocation of driver's license by the DMV)

Reduces the required alcohol concentration to incur liability after certain driving times under GS 20-138.1 for impaired driving and GS 20-12.1 (impaired supervision or instruction) from .08 or more to .05 or more. Make technical and conforming changes. Makes language gender-neutral. Amends GS 75A-10 to prohibit operating any vessel on the State's waters after having consumed sufficient alcohol that the person has, at any relevant time after the boating, an alcohol concentration of 0.05 (was, 0.08) or more. Makes conforming changes to the relevant blood alcohol content in GS 20-139.1, providing that if a breath sample shows an alcohol concentration of 0.05 (was, 0.08) or more, then requesting a blood sample is in the law enforcement officer's discretion. Makes additional technical changes.

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

### Section 3

Amends GS 20-7(i1) of the Uniform Drivers License Act (governing restoration of license fees) as follows. Expands the conditions that trigger an increased driver's license restoration fee from when a license is mandatorily revoked under GS 20-17(a)(2) (mandatory revocation for misdemeanor impaired driving or impaired driving of a commercial vehicle under GS 20-138.1 or GS 20-138.2) to also include when a license is revoked under the following statutory offenses: (1) GS 20-17(a)(12) [second or subsequent convictions of driving with an open container barred under misdemeanor open container laws (GS 20-138.7)]; (2) GS 20-17(a)(13) (second or subsequent conviction of driving a commercial motor vehicle after consuming alcohol under GS 20-138.2A (misdemeanor offense for consuming alcohol and driving a commercial vehicle) if the underlying offense was committed within seven years of the date of the prior offense and that offense resulted in conviction); or (3) GS 20-17(a) (14) (a conviction of driving a school bus, school activity bus, or child care vehicle after consuming alcohol under GS 20-138.2B).

Increases the enhanced restoration fee from \$140.25 to \$250 and changes the distribution of the fee as follows:(1) \$120 to the Highway Fund (currently, \$105); (2) \$65 for a statewide chemical alcohol testing program administered by the Department of Health and Human Services (currently, \$25); and (3) \$65 to the county for reimbursing the county for jail expenses incurred due to enforcement of impaired driving laws.

Makes conforming changes to GS 20-16.5(j) to account for new costs and clerk's new role in rescinding revocations. Changes reference to agency receiving costs for the statewide chemical alcohol testing from DHHS's Injury Control Section to its Forensic Tests for Alcohol Branch of the Chronic Disease and Injury Section.

Repeals GS 20-16.5(n) (exceptions for revoked licenses by judicial officers).

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

### Section 4

Authorizes drug screening tests, in addition to alcohol screening tests already authorized under GS 20-16.3 when the driver has been involved in either a moving traffic violation or an accident or collision and the officer has reasonable grounds to believe the person is impaired by alcohol, a substance other than alcohol, or both. Directs DHHS to examine and approve oral fluid drug screening devices suitable for use by law-enforcement officers to test drivers for the presence of impairing substances other than alcohol in oral fluids. For each device or class of devices approved, requires DHHS to adopt regulations governing the manner of use of the device and the level of training required for officers who are authorized to use the device, including the shortest feasible minimum waiting period that does not produce an unacceptably high number of false positive test results. Allows negative or low (was, just negative) results on the alcohol screening test to be used in appropriate cases in determining whether the driver's impairment is caused by an impairing substance other than alcohol. Makes conforming changes.

Changes references from testing methods approved by the Commission for Public Health to DHHS in GS 15A-534.2(d)(2) (alcohol testing for detained impaired drivers).

Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

#### Section 5

Amends GS 7A-191.1 as follows. Modifies the recording requirements for district court proceedings so that instead of required recording of all proceedings where a defendant pleads guilty or no contest to a Class H or I felony, a record is made for the following proceedings instead: (1) any hearing on an infraction conducted pursuant to Article 66 of GS Chapter 15A (procedure for hearing and disposition of infractions) and (2) any criminal trial proceeding, including pretrial motions, pleas, plea bargains, an explanation required under GS 20-138.4, taking of evidence, sentencing hearings, posttrial motions, and requests for limited driving privileges. Requires video and audio recordings, using devices approved by AOC. Designates clerk of superior court or their designee as the officer to operate the recording device, to preserve the recordings, and to share the recording online in a way that allows the person to view and download the recording in compliance with public records law. Allows for deletion of the proceeding recording in compliance with AOC's records retention schedule.

Requires the clerk of court to also include the disposition of the charge in its compilation of electronic records related to impaired driving under GS 7A-109.2 (concerning the impaired driving integrated data system). For defendants sentenced pursuant to GS 20-179, directs clerk to also include in the electronic records (1) each grossly aggravating factor, aggravating factor, and mitigating factor found by the court and (2) the level of punishment imposed by the court. Requires AOC to publish an annual report by September 1 each year on its website that includes the information required by GS 7A-109.2 for the fiscal year immediately preceding the date of the report along with statewide and countywide summaries of the number of charges, dispositions, sentencing factors, and sentencing level. For each county, requires the report to include each type of charge filed and all of the information required by GS 7A-109.2 for each charge.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to any hearing, trial, or disposition of charges occurring on or after that date.

Directs that the first report required under GS 7A-109.2(d), as enacted by the act, will include information from December 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and will be published no later than September 1, 2026. Makes conforming changes to the effective date of Section 6 of SL 2006-253 (concerning recording requirements under GS 20-138.4) so that it is also effective December 1, 2025.

#### Section 6

Amends GS 20-19 (suspension or revocation of driver's license and conditions of restoration) by enacting new subsection (d1) as follows. Permits the DMV, when a person has been convicted of an impaired driving offense and was sentenced under GS 20-179, to conditionally restore a person's license after the license has been revoked for at least one year if the person provides the DMV all of the following: (1) a certificate of graduation from a Drug Treatment or Driving While Impaired (DWI) Treatment Court Program established pursuant to Article 62 of GS Chapter 7A; (2) a letter of recommendation from the presiding judge of the Drug Treatment or DWI Treatment Court, and (3) a fee of \$25 in addition to other fees, with the \$25 to be deposited in the Highway Fund.

If a license is restored, specifies that the DMV will impose the following requirements and restrictions on the person's license for the duration of the original revocation period: (1) a requirement that all registered vehicles owned by that person be equipped with a functioning ignition interlock system in line with the requirements of state law set forth in GS 20-17.8(c1), (2) a restriction that the person may operate only a motor vehicle equipped with a functioning ignition interlock system of a type approved by the Commissioner that is set to prohibit driving with an alcohol concentration of greater than 0.02, and (3) a

requirement that the person personally activate the ignition interlock system before driving the motor vehicle. Allows the DMV to impose a requirement that the person prove abstinence from the consumption of alcohol by use of a continuous alcohol monitoring system approved under GS 15A-1343.3 in lieu of an ignition interlock system. Provides for reports by the monitoring program to the DMV if that option is used. Permits the DMV to impose other reasonable requirements, restrictions, and conditions on the person in addition to the three specified above.

Effective December 1, 2025.

#### Section 7

Amends GS 18B-302 (sale to or purchase of alcohol by underage persons) to make it a Class F felony if a person of age who aided and abetted a person under lawful drinking age if the underage person consumed the alcoholic beverage involved in the violation and *serious bodily injury* (defined) to the person under lawful age or another that was proximately caused by the consumption of the alcoholic beverage. Makes conforming changes. Makes conforming changes to GS 18B-302.1. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

#### Section 8

Contains severability clause. 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 Clampitt, Ager, Kidwell.**

[GS 7A](#), [GS 15A](#), [GS 18B](#), [GS 20](#), [GS 75A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary](#), [Motor Vehicle](#), [Court System](#),  
[Administrative Office of the Courts](#), [Criminal Justice](#),  
[Criminal Law and Procedure](#), [Government](#), [State Agencies](#),  
[Department of Health and Human Services](#), [Department of Transportation](#)

H 109 (2025-2026) [STRANGULATION/INCREASE PUNISHMENT](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING ASSAULT BY STRANGULATION*.

Amends GS 14-32.4 as follows. Increases the punishment for assaulting another person and inflicting serious bodily injury from a Class F felony to a Class E felony (unless the conduct is covered under some other provision providing greater punishment). Increases the punishment for assaulting another person and inflicting physical injury by strangulation from a Class H felony to a Class G felony (unless the conduct is covered under some other provision providing greater punishment). Adds a new Class H felony for assaulting another person by strangulation (unless the conduct is covered under some other provision providing greater punishment). Adds a definition of strangulation as, impeding the normal breathing or circulation of blood of another person by applying pressure to the throat or neck of the person or by obstructing the nose and mouth of the person. Makes organizational changes. Applies to offenses committed on or after June 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Logan, White, Morey, T. Brown.**

[GS 14](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 110 (2025-2026) [NAT.L GUARD STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE THE NATIONAL GUARD STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS*.

Adds new Article 19, National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program, to GS Chapter 127A, providing as follows. Establishes the National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program (Program) to provide student loan repayment awards to active members of the North Carolina National Guard. Gives the North Carolina National Guard Adjutant General supervision and administration of the Program, and sets out Program duties they, or their designee, must carry out. Sets out minimum

Program guidelines, which must include the following: (1) prohibits an award recipient from receiving an award in excess of the amount of their student loan debt at the time of the award; (2) caps awards at \$50,000 for a term of service (defined as no shorter than three years), except allows recipients serving a term of service exceeding three years to receive up to an additional \$10,000 for each additional year of service beyond the first three years; (3) requires recipients, before receiving an award, to submit a signed and notarized agreement to repay to the National Guard Student Loan Repayment Program Fund (Fund) award monies for every month of the term of service the award recipient failed to serve as an active member of the North Carolina National Guard (only applies to an award recipient whose term of service was terminated voluntarily). Sets out provisions for calculating the repayment amount.

Establishes the Fund as a non-reverting special revenue fund consisting of General Fund appropriations, gifts, donations, grants, devises, fees, and monies contributed by State and non-State entities for the operation, maintenance, and expansion of the Program, and any other revenues specifically allocated to the Fund by an act of the NCGA. Limits the use of Fund revenue to costs associated with the operations, maintenance, and expansion of the Program.

Appropriates \$25,540,900 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Fund. Appropriates \$180,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the North Carolina National Guard to hire at least two full-time communications professionals.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Reives, Loftis, Goodwin, Pittman.**

[APPROP, GS 127A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)

H 112 (2025-2026) [INCREASE PERMISSIBLE INTERSTATE SPEED LIMIT](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE SPEED LIMIT ON INTERSTATE HIGHWAYS AND TO MAKE VARIOUS CONFORMING CHANGES.*

Amends GS 20-141(d) to authorize the Department of Transportation (DOT) to increase the speed limit to 75 miles per hour upon any part of a highway designated as part of the Interstate Highway System or any part of a controlled-access highway (either inside or outside the corporate limits of a municipality) where it is reasonable and safe to do so. (Currently, DOT may only increase the speed limit to 70 miles per hour.)

Makes conforming changes to GS 20-141(j1) to also make it a Class 3 misdemeanor when a person drives over 85 miles per hour where the maximum speed is 75 miles per hour. Makes conforming changes to GS 20-16 (authority of division to suspend driver's license upon specified convictions) and GS 20-16.1 (mandatory suspension of a driver's license without a preliminary hearing on receiving record of specified convictions) to account for the new speed limit. Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Specifies 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 Lowery, Biggs, Chesser.**

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation](#)

H 113 (2025-2026) [CREATE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID SUSTAINABILITY](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE A JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID SUSTAINABILITY.*

Creates the 12-member Joint Legislative Committee on Medicaid Sustainability (Committee), consisting of six senators and six representatives, to consider ways that the North Carolina Medicaid program could be modified to respond to any decreases in federal support in order to maintain current State funding levels. Sets out six modifications that might be included, including the reduction or elimination of optional services or eligibility groups, reduction of reimbursement rates, and strategies for

achieving managed care efficiencies. Requires a final report on the results of the study to be submitted to the NCGA by April 30, 2026. Terminates the Committee upon the earlier of April 30, 2026, or the submission of the final report.

**Intro. by Lambeth, Potts, Reeder, White.**

STUDY

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**Government, General Assembly, Health and Human Services,  
Health, Health Insurance, Social Services, Public Assistance**

H 114 (2025-2026) **EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT REVISING THE EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL TO ELIMINATE REQUIREMENTS RELATED TO PERIOD OF WAR AND TO INCLUDE PERSONS SERVING ON ACTIVE DUTY, MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES RESERVE, AND THEIR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENTS.*

Expands the persons eligible for hiring preferences in State agencies, departments, and institutions under GS 128-15 (employment preference for military veterans and other related persons) to also include:

- A person serving on active duty as long as the person complies with federal law and regulations regarding off-duty employment and their spouse, and spouse or dependent if they are disabled or were killed in active duty.
- A member of the United States Armed Forces Reserve and their spouse, and spouse or dependent if they are disabled or were killed in active duty.
- A member of the National Guard and their spouses, and spouses or dependents of members who are disabled or who were killed in active duty.
- All spouses of veterans (as now defined).

Removes requirements that qualifying persons must have (1) served their country during a period of war or (2) if the benefit flows to a spouse or a dependent of a servicemember or National Guard member, that the person had been disabled or killed for service-related reasons during peacetime. Modifies definition of veteran so that the person's discharge is under honorable conditions (was, discharge had to have been under other than dishonorable conditions).

Makes organizational and conforming changes, including to section title. Removes defined terms *period of war*, *eligible veteran*, and *eligible member of the national guard*. Applies to applications and other employment events occurring on or after the act becomes law.

**Intro. by Charles Smith, Ager, Goodwin, K. Hall.**

GS 128

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, State  
Government, State Personnel, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

H 115 (2025-2026) **CHILD CARE FACILITY TAX EXEMPTION**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO EXEMPT QUALIFYING CHILD CARE FACILITIES FROM PROPERTY TAX.*

Adds new GS 105-278.6B designating buildings, the land they actually occupy, and additional adjacent land reasonably necessary for the convenient use of the buildings owned by a *qualifying child care facility* (defined) and used in the operation of that facility as a special class of property under Article V, Section 2(2) of the NC Constitution and excluding them from property taxation, as follows. Provides for a total exclusion from property taxation for qualifying child care facilities that are actually and exclusively used to provide child care. Directs that, if only part of a qualifying child care facility is actually and exclusively used to provide child care, the valuation of the part so used will be exempted from taxation. Prevents child care facilities from receiving the exclusion during any period in which the facility is placed on probation or has its license suspended or revoked by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Provides for notice to the Department of Revenue by DHHS in those instances. Provides for an application for the exclusion. Effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Cohn, Crawford, Clark, K. Brown.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Tax, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare**

## **PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS**

S 24 (2025-2026) **GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS**. Filed Jan 29 2025, *AN ACT TO DISCLOSE THE COST OF STATE GOVERNMENT HEALTH INSURANCE MANDATES ON NORTH CAROLINA'S EMPLOYERS AND TAXPAYERS*.

Senate amendment to the 1st edition makes the following changes.

Amends the definition of *health benefit mandate* in GS 120-272 to include a regulation impacting a health benefit plan or the State Health Plan that requires a health benefit plan or State Health Plan include coverage for any healthcare service or treatment by a provider or group of providers other than an individual licensed under GS Chapter 90, Article 1 (practice of medicine), Article 4A (NC Pharmacy Practice Act), or Article 9A (Nursing Practice Act) (was, other than a licensed physician). Also amends the statute by adding that if an actuarial note required for the bill under GS 120-114 indicates that there would be a decrease in cost because of the health benefit mandates in a piece of legislation, then the portions of the statute concerning the required repeal of health benefit mandates and the appropriation of recurring funds for the health benefit mandates do not apply.

**Intro. by Burgin, Galey, Sawrey.**

GS 58

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**Business and Commerce, Insurance, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer, State Government, State Personnel, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance**

S 85 (2025-2026) **REGULATE BODY PIERCING IN NORTH CAROLINA**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PERMIT REQUIREMENT FOR BODY PIERCING AND REQUIRING THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO ADOPT RULES ESTABLISHING REQUIREMENTS FOR OBTAINING INITIAL AND RENEWAL BODY PIERCING PERMITS*.

Adds new Part 11A, Body Piercing Regulated, to Article 8 of GS Chapter 130A, providing as follows. Enacts new GS 130A-283.10 requiring a body piercing permit from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) before engaging in body piercing. Requires the permit to be displayed at the body piercing establishment. Defines body piercing as the act of piercing of any part of the body of another person, other than their ears, for the purpose of allowing the insertion of earrings, jewelry, or similar objects into the body, through puncturing by use of a needle or any other method. Exempts specified medical professionals. Sets out the process for obtaining a permit, including requiring DHHS, through the local health department, to inspect the premises, instruments, utensils, equipment, and procedures of the applicant to determine if the applicant meets the requirements for a permit. Permits are valid for a year and may be renewed annually. Allows denying an application if the applicant does not meet the requirements; also allows DHHS to suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a permit if body piercing is being performed in violation of this Part. Effective on the date that the rules, required to be adopted below, become effective.

Amends GS 130A-29 by requiring the Commission for Public Health to adopt rules establishing requirements to obtain and renew a body piercing permit, including requirements for the sanitation of the premises, utensils, equipment, and procedures to be used by a person engaged in body piercings. Requires the Codifier of Rules to notify the Revisor of Statutes of the effective date of these rules.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

GS 130A

S 86 (2025-2026) [ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS & REPRESENTATION](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ENHANCE BENEFITS AND REPRESENTATION FOR NORTH CAROLINA FIREFIGHTERS AND RESCUE SQUAD WORKERS*.

Identical to [H 37](#), filed 2/3/25.

#### Part I

Increases the monthly pension benefit for eligible firefighters or rescue squad workers under GS 58-86-55 from \$175 per month to \$180 per month. Changes the pension eligibility for members serving 20 years and who are 55 and older to those who are eligible firefighters or eligible rescue squad workers in the State, as provided in GS Chapter 58, Article 86 (currently, eligibility extends to eligible firefighters and eligible rescue squad workers in the State as provided in GS 58-86-25 and G.S. 58-86-30, respectively). Makes technical and conforming changes.

Adds new GS 58-86-41 (concerning amount due for membership and payments credited to separate member accounts). Reorganizes \$15 monthly Fund membership fee requirement into this new statute along with requirement that such payments cannot exceed a period of twenty years. Further reorganizes the following into new GS 58-86-41: (1) the March 31 payment deadline for all monthly fees for the prior calendar year; (2) directives to the Fund prohibiting it from fully crediting service based on payments received after March 31 unless the payment is applied; and (3) requirement that the Fund credit the monthly payments to the member's separate account and be retained by the custodian. Makes conforming deletions in GS 58-86-35 and GS 58-86-40. Makes organizational, clarifying, technical, and conforming changes. Directs the Revisor of Statutes to make conforming changes to GS 58-86-2 (definitions for Article 86) to account for new GS 58-86-41.

Effective January 1, 2026. Applies to pension benefit amounts payable from the Fund due to a member or beneficiary on or after January 1, 2026. Specifies that if a member or beneficiary becomes eligible to receive a pension benefit from the Fund on or before December 31, 2025, but the pension benefit amount is paid from the Fund on or after January 1, 2026, then the pension benefit amount due to the member or beneficiary will be the amount applicable to the pension benefit amount that was effective for each respective month to which the benefit applies.

#### Part II

Changes the composition of the NC Emergency Services Advisory Council (Council) under GS 143-510 so that its twenty-one specified members include a representative of the NC State Firefighters Association and only five members (was, six members) that represent the general public, credentialed and practicing EMS personnel, EMS educators, local public health officials, and other EMS interest groups in North Carolina (the "public, public health, and EMS appointees"). Makes technical changes. Directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to not appoint a successor to the public, public health, and EMS appointee member of the Council whose term expires on December 31, 2025, and to instead replace that member with a representative of the NC State Firefighters' Association to succeed them.

**Intro. by Moffitt, Daniel, Burgin.**

GS 58, GS 143

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**Employment and Retirement, Government, Public Safety and  
Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of  
Health and Human Services**

S 89 (2025-2026) [AEDS AND CPR IN SCHOOLS](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PLACEMENT OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) IN SCHOOLS AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON THE USE OF AEDS AND CPR*.

Enacts GS 115C-12(50) to require the State Board of Education (State Board) to adopt rules for the installation, use, and maintenance of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public school units. Lists five required components of the rules,



including placement of at least two AEDs in each school and implementation of an appropriate training course for school personnel in the use of AEDs, as specified.

Amends GS 115C-47, GS 115C-150.12C, GS 115C-218.75, GS 115C-238.66, GS 116-11, and GS 115C-562.5 requiring local boards of education, schools for deaf and blind students, charter schools, regional schools, the UNC Board of Governors for all public secondary schools under their instruction, and nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants who have facilities where students attend in-person classes, to develop policies for the installation, maintenance, and use of AEDs pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board under the new GS 115C-12(50).

Appropriates \$9.2 million from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2025-26 to be allocated by the Superintendent to governing bodies of public school units in the amount of \$4,000 per school for the purchase and installation of two AEDs per school and to train personnel on their proper use.

Appropriates \$2.8 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to be allocated by the State Education Assistance Authority to all nonpublic schools that accept eligible students receiving scholarship grants in the amount of \$4,000 per school for the purchase and installation of two AEDs per school and to train personnel on their proper use.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Hanig.**

**APPROP, GS 115C, GS 116**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Public Instruction, Health and Human Services, Health**

S 91 (2025-2026) **NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICES**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICE INSTALLATION IN QUALIFIED ESTABLISHMENTS*.

Adds new GS 7B-521A allowing a qualified establishment (a physical building of an emergency department, a law enforcement agency, or a fire department that is staffed 24 hours per day by employees) to install a newborn safety device that has a temperature-controlled interior, is properly ventilated to ensure the safety of infants, and physically attached to the exterior of the qualified establishment in an area that is conspicuous and visible to employees. Requires the establishment to comply with five listed criteria, including installing an adequate dual alarm system connected to the physical location of the newborn safety device, weekly testing, visual inspection of the device at least twice per day, and development of an emergency plan for rendering of emergency care to an infant. Allows the qualified establishments to take custody of a surrendered infant under GS 7B-521 through placement in a newborn safety device. Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Social Services, to annually inspect each newborn safety device installed in accordance with this statute. DHHS must also perform an initial inspection prior to the newborn safety device becoming operational.

Modifies the immunity of a parent surrendering an infant under GS 7B-527 to clarify that the immunity does not create an affirmative defense to any prosecution arising from any other acts taken by the surrendering parent.

Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hanig, Ford, Alexander.**

**GS 7B**

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency**

S 92 (2025-2026) **RELEASED TIME EDUCATION ACT**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS TO BE RELEASED DURING THE INSTRUCTIONAL DAY TO ATTEND COURSES IN RELIGIOUS MORAL INSTRUCTION*.

Adds new Part 8, "Courses and Credits," to Article 7B to GS Chapter 115C, consisting of new GS 115C-78.3 (released time courses), as follows. Defines *released time course* as a course in religious moral instruction taught by a sponsoring entity (defined) that a student attends during the instructional day. Allows the governing body of a public school unit to adopt a policy to allow students to attend a released time course for at least one but no more than five hours per week. Requires the policy to contain a minimum of six listed components, including a parental consent requirement for the student to attend the released time courses, that transportation to the location of the released time course is the responsibility of the sponsoring entity, the student, or their parent or guardian, that students assume responsibility for any missed schoolwork, that released time courses are not to be held on school property unless permitted under a neutral policy of equal access opening school property for use by community groups, and that no federal, State or local funds, other than minimal administrative costs incurred by facilitating the released time course policy can be spent in providing the released time course. Allows for awarding up to two elective course credits for a student successfully completing a released time course in line with the listed requirements. Sets out provisions governing the calculation of how much credit to award. Requires an organization that provides a released time course to do the following: (1) maintain attendance records and make the records available to the public school unit the students enrolled in the course attend; (2) upon request of a governing body of a public school unit that has students taking or seeking to take a released time course from that organization, provide a copy of the syllabus for the course; (3) make provisions for and assume liability for students while they are under supervision of the sponsoring organization.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Hanig, Alexander, Ford.**

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

S 93 (2025-2026) [PORTABILITY OF LEAVE/CHARTER SCHOOLS](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW SICK LEAVE AND VACATION LEAVE TO BE TRANSFERRED BETWEEN A CHARTER SCHOOL AND A LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT*.

Enacts new GS 115C-336.2 requiring the State Board of Education (Board) to adopt rules and regulations allowing sick leave and vacation leave to be transferred between a charter school and a local school administrative unit. Specifies that leave accepted by the local school administrative unit must not result in accruing leave at a greater rate than the rate set by the Board. Amends GS 115C-218.90 by making conforming changes.

**Intro. by Hanig, Ford.**

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies, State Board of Education](#)

## LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 111 (2025-2026) [SCHCALFLEX/CHATHAM/AUG 10 & ASSMNTS](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS IN ADOPTING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR*.

Amends GS 115C-84.2(d) as title indicates. Requires Chatham County Schools to open no earlier than August 10 (currently, prohibited from opening earlier than the Monday closest to August 26), excluding year-round schools. Deletes the provisions of subsection (d) concerning waiver of the opening date requirements upon a showing of good cause. Amends GS 115C-174.12 allowing Chatham County Schools, if the school calendar concludes the fall semester before December 31, to administer assessments before the conclusion of that semester. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Reives.**

Chatham, GS 115C

H 116 (2025-2026) **MAKE COLUMBUS CO. BD. OF ED. PARTISAN**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR PARTISAN ELECTIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP ON THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AND TO REPEAL ANY CONFLICTING STATUTES.*

Directs that, notwithstanding any provision of law to the Contrary, the Columbus County Board of Education (Board) consists of five members elected to staggered four-year terms. Directs for members to be elected from five single-member residency districts on a partisan basis at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire. Requires that one member be elected from each residency district, excluding the area encompassing the Whiteville School Administrative Unit. Requires candidates to be qualified voters and residents of the district where they seek election. Directs that Board members are to be nominated at the same time and in the same manner as other county officers. Directs members to serve until their successors are elected and qualified. Specifies that all members take office on the first Monday in December after the election.

Specifies that the act does not affect the term of any person elected in 2022 or 2024 to the Board. Provides that vacancies of these persons will be filled by the remaining members of the Board until the next election. Specifies that any person appointed to fill a vacancy has to be a resident of the district where the vacancy occurs. Directs that each member of the Board 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.

Requires vacancies to be filled using the process set forth in GS 115C-37.1. Makes conforming change to GS 115C-37.1 to reflect its applicability to Columbus County. Applies to elections held on or after December 1, 2026.

Repeals the following conflicting session law chapters and provisions:

1. Section 1 of SL 1953-717.
2. SL 1961-114.
3. SL 1961-216.
4. SL 1961-327.
5. SL 1963-295.
6. SL 1969-1.
7. Section 2 of SL 1969-1053.
8. SL 1973-836.
9. Sections 1, 2, and 3 of SL 1981-192.

**Intro. by B. Jones.**

Columbus, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 117 (2025-2026) **OCEAN ISLE BEACH/SUNSET BEACH/PARKING FEES**. Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT ALLOWING THE TOWNS OF OCEAN ISLE BEACH AND SUNSET BEACH TO USE PROCEEDS FROM ON-STREET PARKING IN THE SAME MANNER IN WHICH PROCEEDS FROM OFF-STREET PARKING FACILITIES ARE USED.*

Amends Section 2 of SL 2021-46, as amended, to authorize the towns of Ocean Isle Beach and Sunset Beach to use proceeds from on-street parking meters in the same manner in which proceeds from off-street parking facilities are permitted under GS 160A-301(b).

**Intro. by Iler.**

UNCODIFIED, Brunswick

[View summary](#)

**Transportation**

## LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 87 (2025-2026) [37TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 37TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Sawyer.**

[Iredell, Mecklenburg](#)

[View summary](#)

S 88 (2025-2026) [17TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 17TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Batch.**

[Wake](#)

[View summary](#)

S 90 (2025-2026) [19TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1](#). Filed Feb 12 2025, *AN ACT RELATING TO THE 19TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT*.

Blank bill.

**Intro. by Applewhite.**

[Cumberland](#)

[View summary](#)

## ACTIONS ON BILLS

### PUBLIC BILLS

#### **H 13: CHARGES FOR PAYMENTS BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD.**

*House: Serial Referral To Judiciary 1 Stricken*

*House: Serial Referral To Finance Stricken*

*House: Withdrawn From Com*

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

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

*House: Reptd Fav*

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

#### **H 53: INCREASE ACCIDENT THRESHOLDS/SAFE DRIVER PLAN.**

*House: Serial Referral To Judiciary 1 Stricken*

*House: Serial Referral To Finance Stricken*

*House: Withdrawn From Com*

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

**H 91: DEFINE ARMED FORCES/CONFORMING CHANGES.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 92: NC DIGITAL ASSETS INVESTMENTS ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 93: CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT/REPEAL LITERACY TEST.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 94: DIS. VETERAN HOMESTEAD EXCL. PREQUALIFICATION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Homeland Security and Military and Veterans Affairs, if favorable, Finance, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 95: THREATEN ELECTED OFFICIAL/INCREASE PUNISHMENT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 96: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 97: SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS FIGHTING CANCER.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 98: PATRIOTISM EXPRESSION ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 99: REFLEXOLOGISTS RIGHT TO WORK 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 100: EXPAND RELIGIOUS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 101: PROP. TAX APPEAL PROCESS TRANSPARENCY.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 102: REAL PROPERTY APPRAISAL - OWNER NOTIFICATION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

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

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

*House: Ref to the Com on Federal Relations and American Indian Affairs, if favorable, State and Local Government, if favorable, Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Wildlife Resources, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 107: ADOPT SUDEP AWARENESS WEEK.**

*House: Filed*

**H 108: THE SOBER OPERATOR ACT OF 2025.**

*House: Filed*

**H 109: STRANGULATION/INCREASE PUNISHMENT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 110: NAT'L GUARD STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

*House: Filed*

**H 112: INCREASE PERMISSIBLE INTERSTATE SPEED LIMIT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 113: CREATE COMMITTEE ON MEDICAID SUSTAINABILITY.**

*House: Filed*

**H 114: EMPLOYMENT PREFERENCE FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL.**

*House: Filed*

**H 115: CHILD CARE FACILITY TAX EXEMPTION.**

*House: Filed*

**S 13: CLARIFY INSURANCE FEE REFERRAL CAP.**

*Senate: Passed 2nd Reading*

*Senate: Passed 3rd Reading*

**S 24: GOVT MANDATES INCREASE HEALTHCARE COSTS.**

*Senate: Amend Adopted A1*

*Senate: Amend Failed A2*

*Senate: Passed 2nd Reading*

*Senate: Passed 3rd Reading*

*Senate: Engrossed*

**S 37: HERTFORD COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.**

*Senate: Passed 2nd Reading*

*Senate: Passed 3rd Reading*

**S 71: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 76: FUNDS FOR THE FRANKLINTON CENTER.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 77: SCHOOL CONTRACTED HEALTH SERVICES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref to Education/Higher Education. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate*

**S 78: OFFICIAL FRIED APPLE PIE FESTIVAL.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

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

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 82: COMPACT TO AWARD PRIZES FOR CURING DISEASE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 83: EXTEND PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 85: REGULATE BODY PIERCING IN NORTH CAROLINA.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 86: ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS & REPRESENTATION.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 89: AEDS AND CPR IN SCHOOLS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 91: NEWBORN SAFETY DEVICES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 92: RELEASED TIME EDUCATION ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 93: PORTABILITY OF LEAVE/CHARTER SCHOOLS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**LOCAL BILLS**

**H 111: SCHCALFLEX/CHATHAM/AUG 10 & AMP ASSMNTS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 116: MAKE COLUMBUS CO. BD. OF ED. PARTISAN.**

*House: Filed*

**H 117: OCEAN ISLE BEACH/SUNSET BEACH/PARKING FEES.**

*House: Filed*

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

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 73: RICHLANDS OCCUPANCY TAX AUTHORIZATION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

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

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 75: TOWN OF GARNER/SETTLEMENT OF CLAIMS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

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

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 80: BROADEN ELECTRONIC NOTICE AUTHORIZATION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

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

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 87: 37TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 88: 17TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 90: 19TH SENATORIAL DISTRICT LOCAL ACT-1.**

*Senate: Filed*

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