

## The Daily Bulletin: 2025-03-17

### PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 409 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR CASWELL COUNTY VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO CASWELL COUNTY FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF THE CASVILLE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FACILITY*.

Appropriates \$1.7 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for a directed grant to Caswell County for the replacement of the Casville Volunteer fire Department's facility. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Price.**

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and  
Emergency Management, State Agencies, Office of State  
Budget and Management](#)

H 410 (2025-2026) [NCIOM STUDY/MEDICAL AID IN DYING](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT DIRECTING THE NORTH CAROLINA INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE TO STUDY THE LEGALIZATION OF MEDICAL AID IN DYING IN NORTH CAROLINA; AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THIS PURPOSE*.

Includes whereas clauses. Directs the NC Institute of Medicine to study legalizing "medical aid in dying" (MAID). The study will include evaluating 17 specified issues, including evaluation of the 11 US jurisdictions that have legalized MAID, including the processes required of patients to apply for and get approved to use MAID, contributing factors for patients to seek the use of MAID, patient demographics, social and emotional impacts on family members, types of MAID medications, opt-out options for physicians, current NC options for end of life care, MAID legislation since Oregon's 1997 Death with Dignity Act, estimation of NC individuals who would use MAID, evidence of coercion, effect on healthcare operations, impact on awareness of hospice and palliative care as an alternative, motivations to use the MAID program but not opt to take the life-ending medication, and other topics as appropriate.

Directs the NC Institute of Medicine to hold a public meeting prior to submitting the study report with prior 15 days notice. All interested individuals will be heard at the meeting. By April 1, 2027, the NC Institute of Medicine will provide its report, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Effective July 1, 2025, appropriates \$150,000 in nonrecurring funds for fiscal year 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services for the funding of the NC Institute of Medicine study.

**Intro. by Harrison, Lambeth, Howard, Prather.**

[APPROP, STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 411 (2025-2026) [REDUCE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR PRIMARIES](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REDUCE THE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR ALL ELECTIONS OTHER THAN THE GENERAL ELECTION FROM SEVENTEEN DAYS TO SIX DAYS*.

Currently, under GS 163-166.40, early voting for all elections begins no earlier than the third Thursday before an election in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than 3:00 P.M. on the last Saturday before that election, with early voting on that last Saturday to run from 8 am to 3 pm.

Shortens early voting periods for a primary election, a second primary, or a runoff election conducted by county boards of elections under GS 163-166.40 to now begin not earlier than the second Monday before a primary election, a second primary, or a runoff election in which a voter seeks to vote and not later than 3:00 pm on the last Saturday before that primary or runoff. Specifies that early voting on that last Saturday runs from 8 am to 3 pm. Makes conforming changes.

Allows the Governor to fix the early voting period for special elections and for special first primaries to fill vacancies in the US House of Representatives under GS 163-13 so long as the period does not exceed six days. Limits the early voting periods to six consecutive days under GS 163-287 for special municipal elections that are held at a different time than general State or county elections, primary elections, municipal general elections if the election is within the jurisdiction of the municipality only, or at the same time as any other election requiring all precincts in the county to be open.

No longer refers to mail in absentee voting, just absentee voting, in municipal elections under GS 163-302. Limits early voting in such elections to six days.

Makes technical changes.

Applies to elections held on or after January 1, 2026.

**Intro. by N. Jackson, Tyson, Gable, Biggs.**

[GS 163](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Elections](#)

H 412 (2025-2026) [CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO DECOUPLE THE CHILD CARE RATED LICENSE SYSTEM AND SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE SUBSIDY REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND TO MAKE OTHER CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS*.

Section 1.

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), to develop a plan to separate the quality rating improvement system (QRIS) from the requirements and payments for participation in the State subsidized child care program using the market rate study submitted in 2026 by May 1, 2026. Allows for the continuation of the star-rating system, but specifies that the ratings cannot impact the rate of reimbursement for licensed childcare centers or homes. Directs the Division to ensure that the next market rate study also includes recommended rates that are not segmented by star-rating and prevents it from implementing the rates until authorized to do so by the General Assembly.

Amends Section 9D.3 of SL 2023-134 (concerning child care subsidy rates) as follows. Removes provisions (1) generally requiring religious sponsored child care facilities to be paid at the one start rate and (2) generally requiring licensed childcare facilities with two or more stars to receive the market rate for the license level. Instead, now requires licensed childcare centers and homes, including religious sponsored child care facilities, that meet the State's minimum licensing standards, that are participating in the subsidized childcare program to be paid the applicable market rate or the rate they charge privately paying parents. Makes conforming changes. Removes provisions requiring the Division to continue implementing policies based on the star rating system, as described. Amends GS 110-90 to specify that a rated license has no impact on the rate at which a child care facility is reimbursed for subsidized child care. Instructs that Section 1 of the act should not be construed as impacting the NC Prekindergarten program. Requires the NC Child Care Commission (Commission) to adopt, amend, or repeal any rules regarding separating the star-rating system from requirements and payments for reimbursement for subsidized child care. Requires the Division to submit a progress report on developing the plan to the specified NCGA committees by April 1, 2026, with a final report due two months from the date the new rates are implemented.

Section 2.

Changes the definition of *lead teacher* in GS 110-86 (definitions pertaining to childcare facilities) to a person responsible for the described activities for no more than two (was, one) groups of children in a childcare facility.

#### Section 3.

Expands the types of materials DHHS must consider in evaluating the education levels of in conjunction with issuing a rated license to a child care facility in GS 110-90 to include the NC Early Childhood Credential, based on experience.

#### Section 4.

Expands the schools covered by the Division's policy on school facilities used by out-of-school childcare governed by GS 110-91(6) to include middle schools. Makes conforming change.

#### Section 5.

Instructs, in new GS 110-91(6a) that any building and grounds which are currently approved for school occupancy and which house a public or private elementary or middle school are deemed to have met the sanitation, fire, and building code requirements for a licensed child care facility when the building and grounds are serving the same, or a subset of the same, school-age children in an out-of-school child care program. Directs the Commission to adopt or amend any rules to ensure uniformity and consistency in application of the exemptions for school-age children in out-of-school childcare programs.

#### Section 6.

Amends GS 110-91(7)a (staff/child ratios for childcare centers), as follows. Increases the minimum group size for children aged 0 to 24 months from 10 to 15 children and from 12 to 18 for children aged 12 to 24 months. Specifies that if a childcare center is operating under voluntary enhanced requirements, the maximum group size for toddlers aged 2 to 3 years may be increased from 18 to 20 children when the child care center maintains a 1:9 staff-child ratio. Sets forth maximum group sizes for infants and toddlers ranging from groups of 12 with a child/staff ratio of 1:4 for children aged 0 to 12 months to groups of 20 with a child/staff ratio of 1:8 for children 2-3 years if the childcare center is operating under the highest voluntary enhanced requirements. Provides that for groups of children 1 year of age or older, the staff/child ratio during nap time complies with the requirements of rules adopted by the Commission if (1) at least one person remains in the room, (2) all children are visible to that person, and (3) the total number of required staff are on the premises and within calling distance of the rooms occupied by children. Makes conforming change.

#### Section 7.

Adds the following to the required qualifications for child care staff listed in GS 110-91(8). Allows five years of documented experience teaching in a licensed child care facility in the State to be equivalent to the NC Early Childhood Credential (Credential). Specifies that only administrators and lead teachers are required to have the Credential. Other staff must meet the standards developed by DHHS that do not include the Credential or its equivalent.

#### Section 8.

Makes conforming change to Section 8 of SL 2024-34 (QRIS modifications) to account for the new five-year work experience alternative to the Credential added to GS 110-91(8), above.

#### Section 9.

Specifies that the Weikart Youth Program Quality Assessment ("Weikart Program") will be added as an assessment tool for evaluating out-of-school childcare programs and awarding of a star-rating. Requires the Division to take the described steps and have the Weikart Program available for applicants not later than six months after the act becomes law.

#### Section 10.

Requires the Division to assign credit for continuing education courses to community college courses on the same basis as those offered by the Commission.

#### Section 11.

Requires the Division to do the following: (1) by December 1, 2025, in consultation with the NC Community Colleges System, create a School Age/Out-of-School Care Credential that aligns with a new curriculum course and continuing education course

entitled "Introduction to School Age Care and Education and (2) award the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or the North Carolina Family Child Care Credential to individuals who have successfully completed continuing education courses that are equivalent to child care curriculum courses, as determined by the Community Colleges System, as described.

Section 12.

Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to establish a workgroup to examine the potential for developing group liability insurance plan opportunities for all childcare providers consisting of the specified stakeholders. Requires the workgroup to submit its findings and recommendations, as described to the specified NCGA committees and the Fiscal Research Division by January 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Arp, Lambeth, Paré, Rhyne.**

GS 110

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Insurance, Occupational Licensing, Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Department of Health and Human Services**

H 413 (2025-2026) **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO LEGALIZE AND REGULATE THE SALE, POSSESSION, AND USE OF CANNABIS IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Part I.

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

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

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

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

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

Requires the Department to adopt necessary implementing rules within 180 days of January 1, 2028, as specified, and include 27 specified regulations.

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

Effective January 1, 2028, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

#### Part II.

Enacts GS 15A-145.8B, mandating the automatic expunction of convictions for offenses involving marijuana or hashish that is legal under new GS Chapter 18D by July 1, 2028. Charges the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) with determining eligible offenses, creating an electronic list of offenses, and providing the list to clerks of superior court by October 1, 2027, to prepare and complete orders of expungement. Provides for expungement of related government records, except DNA records and samples stored, and reversal of administration actions taken as a result from the charges or convictions expunged. Provides for the effect of the expunction. Effective January 1, 2026.

#### Part III.

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

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

Effective January 1, 2028.

#### Part IV.

Includes a severability clause.

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

[View summary](#)

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

H 414 (2025-2026) **1-TO-1 CREDIT FOR CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO GIVE EQUAL CREDIT TO COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND HIGH SCHOOL COURSES TAKEN BY CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE STUDENTS.*

Section 1.

Requires, in GS 115D-5 (concerning the administration of community colleges), the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to coordinate with the State Board of Education (Board) to develop a series of courses to be offered at community colleges that align with the English, science, social studies, and mathematics graduation requirements developed by the Board to be attended by high school students dually enrolled in a community college and other community college students. Directs the courses to be organized so that one community college course completion grants one full high school credit to fulfill a corresponding graduation requirement while continuing to align with Career and College Promise. Specifies that completion of the courses developed pursuant to the act does not constitute a completion of any end-of-course tests required to graduate.

Section 2.

Requires SBCC in collaboration with the Board to report the results of the course development described above to the specified NCGA committee by January 15, 2026.

Section 3.

Lists six categories of community college courses and the corresponding high school requirements they fulfill until the SBCC and Board fulfill the course development requirements described in Section 1. Specifies that completion of these courses does not constitute the completion of any end-of-course tests required to graduate. Instructs that if the SBCC and the Board develop those courses by January 15 of an academic year, the courses will be offered starting the next academic year. Expires upon the development of the courses described in Section 1, above and the reporting requirement described in Section 3.

Section 4.

Requires the Board to adopt a rule to modify the high school graduation requirements to require completion of NC Math 1 and 2 and two additional math courses that align with the student's postsecondary plans and to require that NC Math 3 and all other existing math courses continue to be offered by all high schools to the extent that there is sufficient student interest. Allows the Board to adopt emergency rules to implement the act prior to the start of the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Willis, Cotham, Biggs, Pickett.**

**GS 115C, GS 115D**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, State Board of Education**

H 415 (2025-2026) **SPLIT MATH COURSES AND CHANGE MATH GRAD. REQS**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT RULES MODIFYING HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS AND TO PROVIDE FOR A MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION PATHWAY TO PROVIDE MATHEMATICS INSTRUCTION OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT EMERGENCY RULES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.*

Requires the State Board of Education (Board) to adopt a rule to modify the high school graduation requirements to require completion of NC Math 1 and 2 or equivalent courses and two additional math courses that align with the student's postsecondary plans and to require that NC Math and all other existing math courses continue to be offered by all high schools to the extent that there is sufficient student interest. Requires the Board to adopt a rule to require completion of an end-of-course test for NC Math 2 but not require completion of an end-of-course test for NC Math 3.

Enacts new GS 115C-81.37 requiring the Board to develop a course of study for high school mathematics courses that spreads the content standards of NC Math 1 and NC Math 2 into four separate courses, as described (including any end-of-course test requirements). Specifies that the standards must not change the existing standards for NC Math 1 or 2. Sets out the following enrollment schedule: (1) students scoring below proficient on the eighth grade mathematics end-of-course test must be enrolled in Extended Math 1 and 2 to satisfy the NC Math 1 graduation requirement, (2) students scoring below proficient on the NC Math 1 end-of-course test given at the end of Extended Math must be enrolled in Extended Math 3 and 4 to satisfy their NC Math 2 graduation requirement, and (3) students scoring at or above proficient on the NC Math 1 end-of-course test given at the end of Extended Math may choose to enroll in Extended Math 3 and 4 or NC Math 2 to satisfy their NC Math 2 graduation requirement. Requires courses to be offered under new GS 115C-81.37 beginning with the fall semester of the 2025-26 school year.

Requires students who completed NC Math 1 with a grade of C or lower or who scored below proficient on the NC Math 1 end-of-course exam before the 2025-26 school to take Extended Math 2 as a condition of meeting their NC Math 1 graduation requirement. Requires students who completed NC Math 2 with a grade of C or lower before the 2025-26 school year to take Extended Math 4 as a condition of meeting their NC Math 2 graduation requirement.

Allows the Board to adopt emergency rules to implement the provisions of this act before the start of the 2025-26 school year.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Willis, Biggs, Cotham, Rhyne.**

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 416 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF DURHAM AND ORANGE COUNTIES*.

Appropriates \$30,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for a directed grant to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Durham and Orange Counties to be used to offer area boys and girls its comprehensive six-part curriculum, as described. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Buansi, Jeffers, Price, Hawkins.**

[APPROP, Durham, Orange](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Budget and Management](#)

H 417 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR HOKE COUNTY PARK](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO HOKE COUNTY FOR UPGRADES AT THE ROCKFISH PARK IN THE TOWN OF RAEFORD*.

Appropriates \$50,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for a directed grant to Hoke County for upgrades to Rockfish Park in Raeford. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by G. Pierce.**

[APPROP, Hoke](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 418 (2025-2026) **K-5 PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS REQUIREMENT**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO SPECIFY INSTRUCTION ON MUSIC AND VISUAL ARTS IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS*.

Enacts new GS 115C-81.95 requiring local school administrative units to provide students in grades K-5 with instruction in music, dance, or theatre that aligns with the Standard Course of Study. Enacts new GS 115C-81.96, requiring local school administrative units to provide students in grades K-5 with instruction in the visual arts that aligns with the Standard Course of Study. Under both statutes, requires the instruction to: (1) occur during at least one instructional day out of every five; (2) be taught by at least one licensed music, dance, or theatre arts education/visual arts education instructor (as appropriate); (3) last at least 30 consecutive minutes; and (4) be given to classes no larger than the maximum classroom size per instructional session for each grade. Applies beginning with the 2026-27 school year.

**Intro. by Carney, K. Hall, Paré.**

**GS 115C**

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education**

H 419 (2025-2026) **SCHOOL OF THE ARTS BUILDING PURCHASE**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF A BUILDING IN WINSTON-SALEM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOL OF THE ARTS*.

Appropriates \$4.5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Trustees, for the purchase of the specified property in Winston-Salem and improvements to the property. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by K. Hall, Lambeth.**

**APPROP**

[View summary](#)

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

H 420 (2025-2026) **SOUND BASIC EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A SOUND BASIC EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Part I.

Appropriates \$200,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for 2025-26 for two additional positions for the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission to increase the Commission's capacity to coordinate efforts to recruit, prepare, retain, and support the State's teaching workforce.

Requires the State Board of Education (State Board) to develop a plan for implementing a teacher licensure and compensation reform model designed to meet the specified objectives. Requires the plan to, at least: (1) offer early, inclusive, and clear pathways into the profession; (2) reward excellence and advancement among teachers; and (3) encourage retention in the profession. Requires the State Board to provide plan details and recommended legislative changes to the specified NCGA committee and division and the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) by March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$50,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to develop the plan.

Requires the State Board, in consultation with UNC System Office, to identify the resources and structures that educator preparation programs at UNC constituent institutions need in order to increase capacity in educator preparation programs to recruit, prepare, support, and graduate annually (1) at least 5,000 in-State trained teachers annually; and (2) more educators of color. Requires the State Board to report on the findings to the specified NCGA committee, division, and the OSBM by March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$25,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to conduct this study.



Appropriates \$4.3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to support the Grow-Your-Own and 2+2 teacher recruitment education programs. Appropriates \$1 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to establish new Grow-Your-Own and 2+2 teacher recruitment education programs in high-need public school units.

Requires the State Board to develop a plan to implement and fund a statewide system or entity to coordinate, enhance, and evaluate efforts to recruit, place, and retain teacher candidates and beginning teachers between institutions of higher education and local school administrative units. Sets out issues the study is to focus on. Requires the State Board to submit plan details and recommended legislation to the specified NCGA committee and division and the OSBM by March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$25,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to support the development of the plan.

Removes the terms qualifying licensure area and STEM from the definitions under GS 116-209.60, which defines terms for use in Part 3 of Article 23 of GS Chapter 116, which governs the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program (Program). No longer limits the Program to providing loans to individuals interested in preparing to teach in the State's public schools in those previously specified qualifying licensure areas, instead opening it more broadly to those preparing to teach in the State's public schools; makes conforming changes to the definition of *qualifying teacher*. Makes changes throughout the Part by removing references to "STEM" and "qualifying licensure area." Requires Program recruitment efforts to include identifying and encouraging students of color and students who may not otherwise consider a teaching career to enter the program. Requires the recruitment activities to include a strategy that attracts a diverse pool of applicants. Removes the cap on the number of participating institutions and specifies that the diverse selection of participating programs is to include minority-serving institutions. Adds the requirement that the Program provide planning, training, and ongoing support for Program leaders and recipients, including training on culturally responsive teaching, teaching students with disabilities, and trauma-informed teaching. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 academic year. Appropriates \$29.9 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund to revise and expand the Program in accordance with the above.

Requires the State Board to establish a grant program to assist local school administrative units in providing multiyear recruitment bonuses to certified teachers who commit to teach multiple years in a low-performing or high-need school. Requires bonuses to include at least: (1) awards over multiple years with a requirement that teachers remain in the school over multiple years to receive the bonus; (2) awards to licensed teachers who commit to teach in a school identified as low-performing, a school identified as continually low-performing, or a school where 75% or more of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Requires the State Board annually, by September 1, 2025, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the grant program. Requires local boards of education to submit their proposals by December 1, 2025. Requires that the RFP require proposals to include specified information, including plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available. Requires the State Board, by February 15, 2026, to review the proposal and select up to 10 local school administrative units for grants. Allows making grant awards for up to three years. Caps the grant amount to a local school administrative unit at \$500,000 in a single fiscal year. Allows the State Board to use up to \$300,000 to contract with an independent research organization to evaluate the impact of this grant program and then report to the specified NCGA committee and division and the OSBM by September 1, 2028. Requires DPI to report annually on program implementation, beginning March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$12 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for the grant program; allows unexpended funds to remain available for these purposes instead of reverting back to the General Fund.

Requires the State Board to establish a grant program to assist local school administrative units in the development of teacher preparation residency pilot programs. Requires teacher preparation residency programs eligible to receive grant funding through this program to include at least: (1) coursework in the candidate's area of licensure; (2) tuition and stipends; (3) faculty advising; (4) clinical training experiences; and (5) ongoing induction support. Allows programs to include partnerships between local school administrative units, educator preparation programs, local community colleges or universities, and other community organizations. Requires grant funds to be matched by the local school administrative units on the basis of \$1 in nongrant funds for every \$1 in grant funds. Requires the State Board, by October 1, 2025, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the grant program and requires local boards of education to submit their proposals by January 15, 2026. Requires the RFP to require that proposals include specified information, including plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available. Requires the State board to review proposals and select up 10 local school administrative units as grant recipients by April 15, 2026. Allows making grant awards for up to three years. Caps the grant amount to a local school administrative unit at \$500,000 in a single fiscal year. Allows the State Board to use up to \$300,000 to contract with an independent research organization to evaluate the impact of this grant program and then report to the specified NCGA committee and division and the OSBM by September 1, 2029. Requires DPI to report annually on program implementation, beginning March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$20 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$25 million in recurring funds for

2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to implement the grant program; allows unexpended funds to remain available for these purposes instead of reverting back to the General Fund.

Appropriates \$200,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors (BOG) to expand Partnership Teach to up to two additional hub sites.

Requires the State Board, in consultation with the Office of the Governor, The University of North Carolina System Office, and the Community College System Office, to establish a grant program to support strategic partnerships committed to increasing the pipeline of educators of color across the State. Requires the grants to be provided to local school administrative units, institutions of higher education, and community organizations to implement innovative initiatives that support the recruitment, preparation, support, and retention of racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse educators. Sets out the purpose of the program. Requires grant applicants to demonstrate at least: (1) a partnership between at least two of the following: local school administrative units, Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Historically Minority-Serving Institutions, educator preparation programs, alternative certification programs, public and private colleges and universities, community colleges, and community or nonprofit organizations; (2) proposals for strategies that address one or more of the specified components of the educator development continuum as highlighted by the DRIVE Task Force's 2021 Report to the Governor. Allows grant funds to be used for: (1) strengthening existing high school dual enrollment programs to offer education-based college credit or honors courses as streamlined pathways for future careers in education; (2) implementing targeted school system-level and community-based recruitment programs for aspiring educators of color interested in traditional and alternative educator preparation programs; (3) using and leveraging existing financial aid programs that reduce the disproportionate financial burden incurred by aspiring candidates of color; (4) increasing preparation and supporting preservice educators of color through paid clinical learning experiences, with a commitment to teaching in North Carolina public schools; (5) offering support for job placement and licensure for candidates of color after completing their educator preparation program; (6) providing induction and mentoring programs that address the needs of educators of color that include sustaining networking and professional learning communities or affinity groups; and (7) encouraging and financially supporting educators of color interested in joining national professional organizations or attending national conferences. Requires the State Board, by October 1, 2025, to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the grant program and for applicants to submit proposals by December 1, 2025. Requires that the RFP require proposals to include specified information, including plans for financial sustainability once grant money is no longer available. Requires a selection committee, by February 1, 2026, to select up to five grantees. Allows grants to be spent over a five-year period. Requires grant recipients to report annually to the State Board on the implementation of the program. Allows the State Board to use up to \$300,000 to contract with an independent research organization to evaluate the impact of this grant program and then report to the specified NCGA committee and division and the OSBM by September 1, 2027. Requires DPI to report annually on program implementation, beginning January 1, 2027. Appropriates \$2 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the DPI to implement the grant program. Allows unexpended funds to remain available instead of reverting to the General Fund.

Enacts new GS 115C-299.7, providing as follows. Requires education entities (public school units and educator preparation programs) to annually, beginning July 30, 2025, report to DPI on the following regarding diversity of educators and future educators in the entity from the previous school year: (1) total number of educators and future educators; (2) the number of persons who apply to work in or attend the education entity as an educator or future educator; (3) the number of educators and future educators who are employed by or enrolled in an education entity; (4) retention rates of educators; (5) mobility rates of educators between schools in a public school unit; (6) the number of future educators who complete an educator preparation program, become licensed in North Carolina, and become employed in a public school unit; (7) qualitative data from educators and future educators on the diversity and inclusiveness of the education entity; and (8) recommendations from the entity to improve diversity of educators and future educators. Requires DPI to report annually, beginning October 15, 2025, on the information collected above to the specified NCGA committee, including the specified information. Requires DPI to include the collected information in the statistical profile of public schools on its website. Specifies that this statute does not require an education entity or DPI to report any data that reveals confidential or personally identifiable information about an educator or future educator. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-12 by requiring the State Board to compile a report on the diversity of educators as provided in GS 115C-299.7; makes conforming changes.

Enacts new Article 6E, Office of Equity Affairs in GS Chapter 115C, providing as follows. Establishes the Office of Equity Affairs (Office) within DPI to provide internal oversight within DPI and the State Board specific to compliance with the State's constitutional role to provide each child the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and to direct the recruitment and retention of a diverse educator workforce. Requires the Office to review educational policies, programs, and initiatives and to provide an independent, objective source of information to be used in evaluating substantial compliance with sound basic

education standards and the goal of recruiting and retaining a diverse educator workforce, with special attention and consideration to outcomes for at-risk students. Allows the Office to suggest adjustments to the content and delivery of educational policies, programs, and initiatives. Gives the Office authority to obtain full and unrestricted access to all records, information, and data available to DPI or the State Board. Requires a semi-annual report, beginning no later than January 15, 2026, to the specified NCGA committee on the implementation of the Article, DPI's and the State Board's progress in effectively providing each child the opportunity to receive a sound basic education, and the diversity of the educator workforce. Requires giving DPI and the State Board notice before the reporting of deficiencies and an opportunity to correct or improve them; requires reporting any efforts to do so. Creates the Deputy Superintendent of Equity Affairs to serve as the chief officer of the Office. Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to recommend the individual to be appointed as the Deputy with the recommended appointee appointed upon approval by the State Board. Sets out who the Deputy reports to and provides the process for removal. Appropriates \$400,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to permit the Deputy Superintendent of Equity Affairs to appoint up to four full-time staff to assist in the administration of the Deputy Superintendent's duties. Requires one of the positions to be an administrative assistant position and at least one to be an attorney position.

Appropriates \$37.3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$48.5 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the UNC BOG for the New Teacher Support Program to provide mentoring and coaching support to beginning teachers employed in low-performing or high-poverty public schools at no cost to the local school administrative units.

Amends GS 115C-310.7 to allow, with the State Board's approval, Advanced Teaching Roles schools to exceed the maximum class size requirements for grades K-3 (exceeding the limit was previously limited to up to three years in which State funds are awarded to the local school administrative unit where the school is located, with class size flexibility expiring at the conclusion of the term). Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Establishes the Educator Professional Development Allotment in the State Public School Fund, effective July 1, 2025. Requires the State Board to establish the purposes for which the funds may be used, including at least: (1) educator professional development for targeted public school units and school requiring multitiered support for Pre-K through 3rd grade; (2) implementation of literacy training; and (3) mentoring programs for beginning educators. Appropriates \$101,150,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$128,450,000 in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to fund the Educator Professional Development Allotment.

Requires DPI to report to the specified NCGA committee and division and OSBM by March 1, 2026, on the findings of its study on alternative teacher compensation models and advanced teaching rules using funds awarded by OSBM for the NC Evaluation Fund.

Sets a monthly teacher salary schedule for "A" teachers for 2025-26 for licensed public school personnel classified as teachers, based on years of experience, ranging from \$4,600 for teachers with 0 years of experience to \$6,370 for 29 or more years of experience. Provides for a 12% salary supplement for licensed teachers who have National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; a 10% salary supplement for licensed teachers classified as "M" teachers; a \$126 salary supplement for licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the six-year degree level, in addition to the "M" teachers salary supplement; a \$253 salary supplement for licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the doctoral degree level, in addition to the "M" teachers salary supplement; a 10% salary supplement for certified school nurses; and monthly salary supplement of \$100 for school counselors licensed at the master's degree level or higher. Requires that the first step of the salary schedule for school psychologists, school speech pathologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher, and school audiologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher, must be equivalent to the sixth step of the "A" salary schedule. Provides for a salary supplement of the higher of \$500 or 10%. Deems these employees eligible to receive salary supplements equivalent to those of teachers for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or the doctoral degree level. Requires that the twenty-sixth step of the salary schedule for school psychologists, school speech pathologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher, and school audiologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher must be 7.5% higher than the salary received by these same employees on the twenty-fifth step of the salary schedule. Provides that in lieu of the amounts of annual longevity payments to teachers paid on the teacher salary schedule, beginning with the 2014-15 fiscal year, the amounts of those longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts under the teacher salary schedule. Details teacher compensation for the 2025-26 school year based on either (1) the applicable salary schedule; (2) the sum of the salary the teacher received in 2013-14, longevity pay for the 2013-14 school year, and annual bonus provided in SL 2014-100; or (3) the sum of the salary and annual bonus the teacher received in the 2014-15 school year, with the compensation amount determined to be equal to the greater of those amounts. Provides that teacher includes instructional support personnel.

Appropriates \$872,642,336 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for the teacher raises. States the NCGA's intent to adjust compensation for teachers in 2026-27 and subsequent fiscal years according to information provided by DPI in March 2026 under the compensation study.

Appropriates \$900,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to provide additional grants for reimbursement of the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification.

## Part II.

Appropriates \$13.2 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to the North Carolina Principal Fellows Trust Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year to provide forgivable loans to an additional 189 new principal candidates through principal preparation program provided grants under the North Carolina Principal Fellows and Transforming Principal Preparation Program (Program) (see GS Chapter 116, Article 5C). Provides unexpended funds do not revert, but remain available for this purpose.

Directs the State Board to develop a plan for the creation of a School Leadership Academy that supports local school administrative units and school leaders that includes: (1) equity training for all local school administrative units and school leaders; (2) training and ongoing support for local board of education members focused on the needs of successful and turn-around schools; (3) mentorship and support for novice principals and for experienced principals in high needs schools focused on dismantling impediments to student success; (4) peer support networks such as facilitated partnership networks and rapid response hotlines to provide immediate assistance; and (5) aligned, ongoing, research-driven professional learning. Requires considering existing school administrator leadership training opportunities in creating the plan. Directs the State Board to report to the specified NCGA committee and division and the OSBM by February 15, 2026, on its proposal for the School Leadership Academy, including the plan for implementation and estimated costs. Requires DPI, beginning with the 2026-27 school year, to operate and support the Academy according to the plan developed by the State Board.

Sets an annual principal salary schedule, applicable to the 2025-26 fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. Sets out the schedule based on average daily membership (ADM) with amounts increasing from the base amount for meeting and then for exceeding growth; sets out provisions for determining which category to use. Amounts range from \$84,676 for an ADM of 0-200 base salary to \$127,013 for an ADM of 1,601 or more that exceeds growth. Sets out provisions governing placement on the salary scale. States the NCGA's intent, beginning in the 2025-26 fiscal year, to include in the calculation of the average daily membership of the principal's school the average daily membership of any prekindergarten students at the school. Provides that in lieu of the amounts of annual longevity payments, beginning with the 2017-18 fiscal year, the amounts of those longevity payments are included in the salary. Details principal compensation for the applicable school year based on (1) the applicable salary schedule, (2) the sum of the salary received in 2016-17 and longevity pay for the 2016-17 school year, or (3) the salary received in 2016-17 if not eligible for longevity at that time. Appropriates \$26,436,180 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for the salary increases. States the NCGA's intent to adjust compensation for principals in 2025-26 and subsequent fiscal years according to the DPI's wage compensation study.

Provides that for 2025-26, beginning July 1, 2025, assistant principals are to receive a monthly salary based on the "A" teacher salary schedule plus 19%, with placement based on total years the assistant principal has spent as a certified employee. Requires assistant principals with certification based on academic preparation at the six-year degree level to be paid a salary supplement of \$126 per month, and at the doctoral degree level to be paid a salary supplement of \$253 per month. Provides for a 10-month stipend for participants in an approved full-time master's in-school administration program. Details limitations and required certification. Provides that in lieu of the amounts of annual longevity payments to assistant principals paid on the assistant principal salary schedule, beginning with the 2017-18 fiscal year, the amounts of those longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts provided to assistant principals pursuant to the act. Requires assistant principals paid under the salary schedule provided for the 2025-26 fiscal year to receive the greater amount of (1) the applicable amount provided in the salary schedule by the act, (2) the salary the assistant principal received in the 2016-17 school year under Sections 9.1 or 9.2 of SL 2016-94 plus the longevity that would have been received, or (3) the salary received in 2016-17 if not eligible for longevity at that time. Appropriates \$22,862,984 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for the salary increases. States the NCGA's intent to adjust compensation for assistant principals in 2026-27 and subsequent fiscal years according to DPI's compensation study.

Requires the State Board, by March 15, 2026, to develop and report to the specified NCGA committee and division on a plan to implement and evaluate the effectiveness of incentive programs to encourage well-qualified principals and assistant principals to work in high-need schools. Sets out components that may be included in the plan. States the NCGA's intent to implement advisable components of the plan.

Requires DPI, by November 15, 2026, to survey local school administrative units on recommendations to increase autonomy and resources for principals and superintendents and report responses by February 15, 2027, to the specified NCGA committee and division. States the NCGA's intent to implement advisable recommendations in the 2027-28 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years.

### Part III.

Amends GS 115C-105.25 to no longer prohibit local boards of education from transferring funds out of the: (1) children with disabilities allotment, (2) out of the academically or intellectually gifted child allotment category, or (3) limited English proficiency allotment category. No longer prohibits positions from being transferred out of the allocation for classroom teachers for K-12 grades; makes conforming changes. No longer prohibits positions from being transferred out of the allocation for program enhancement teachers for kindergarten through fifth grade. No longer limits the use of funds allotted for textbooks and digital resources to being used to purchase textbook and digital resources and no longer prohibits transferring those funds out of the allotment for other purposes. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Amends GS 115C-111.05 by requiring the State Board, to the extent funds are available for this purpose, to allocate funds for child with disabilities to each local school administrative unit on the basis of reported cost of the services provided instead of on a per child basis. Appropriates \$351,924,273 in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$450,324,273 in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to implement the plan for weighted funding for children with disabilities on the basis of the reported cost of service. Requires that DPI begin distributing funds based on this model beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Amends GS 115C-472.22 concerning funds for local school administrative units located in whole or in part in counties in which the county wealth as a percentage of the State average wealth is less than 100%. Provides that the amount received per average daily membership for a county will be the difference between 110% of the State average current expense appropriations per student and the current expense appropriations per student that the county could provide given the county's wealth and an average effort to fund public schools. Removes the provisions stating that the formula for distributing supplemental funding is not intended to reflect (1) any measure of the adequacy of the educational program or funding for public schools and (2) any commitment by the NCGA to appropriate any additional supplemental funds for low-wealth counties. Adds instead that it is the NCGA's intent to incrementally increase appropriations for the low-wealth allotment to provide eligible counties supplemental funding equal to 110% of the statewide local revenue per student by fiscal year 2027-28. Requires the State Board to adjust the formula to ensure each local school administrative unit receives a pro rata share of the additional funds appropriated for the low-wealth allotment. Appropriates for 2025-26 \$125.6 million in recurring funds and \$165.1 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to implement the changes to the low-wealth allotment.

Requires the State Board to allocate additional funds for services to students with limited English language proficiency to local school administrative units and charter schools based on the three-year weighted headcount of students with limited English proficiency. Requires the adoption of a formula to compute the allotments that does not put a cap on the funds. Appropriates \$140.7 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$181 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to DPI to implement this section.

Repeals Section 8.47(b) of SL 2015-241, which provided local school administrative units the dollar equivalent of teacher assistant positions based on specified ratios. Enacts new GS 115C-316.6 to require the State Board to establish a funding allotment for teacher assistant positions. Requires funds to be distributed based on: (1) an estimated statewide average salary and benefits per teacher assistant position and (2) the requirements of (d) of the statute, which requires funds to be allocated to increase positions for teacher assistants according to the specified schedule setting out the ratio of teacher assistant to students in grades K-3 for fiscal years 2025-26 through 2027-28 and thereafter.

Amends GS 115C-316.5 by appropriating specified amounts from fiscal year 2025-26 through fiscal year 2027-28 and subsequent years from the General Fund to DPI for the funding allotment for school health personnel positions. Requires local school administrative units to increase school health personnel positions each fiscal year until 2028-29 at the specified position-to-student ratios for nurses, counselors, social workers, and psychologists. Makes conforming changes.

Enacts new GS 115C-316.7 appropriating specified amounts from fiscal year 2025-26 through fiscal year 2027-28 and subsequent years from the General Fund to DPI to increase instruction support personnel positions. Requires these positions to be increased each fiscal year until the 2028-29 fiscal year at the specified position-to-student ratios for media coordinators.

Requires DPI to report no later than February 15, 2026, to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on a method to combine all dollar allotments distributed on the basis of ADM into a single allotment.

Appropriates \$18.6 million for 2025-26 in recurring funds and \$24.8 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 to DPI from the General Fund to increase the school building administration allotment and to increase the ratio of assistant principals to students in all local school administrative units.

Appropriates \$21,702,061 for 2025-26 in recurring funds and \$29,355,355 in recurring funds for 2026-27 to DPI from the General Fund to support additional personnel and services provided by central office staff in local school administrative units.

Sets out the monthly salary maximums for assistant superintendents, associate superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, and finance officers for 2025-26, beginning July 1, 2025. Set the monthly salary maximums for superintendents for 2025-26, beginning July 1, 2025. Specifies that longevity pay for superintendents and central office administrators is as provided for state employees under the North Carolina Human Resources Act. Provides a salary supplement of \$126 for central office administrators and superintendents who have certification based on a six-year degree level. Provides a salary supplement of \$253 per month to central office administrators and superintendents with certification based on a doctoral degree. Directs the State Board of Education to prevent local school administrative units from transferring state funds from other funding categories to salaries for central office administrators.

Requires the DPI to include budget adjustments for inflation and other rising costs of providing a Sound Basic Education when submitting budget adjustment requests to the NCGA.

Amends GS 115C-218.105 (State and local funds for a charter school) as follows. Specifies that counties may provide direct capital funds (was, provide funds) to charter school by direct appropriation and makes conforming changes. Requires that for each child attending a charter school, the county in which the child resides must allocated to the charter school an amount equal to the average per pupil allocation for average daily membership. Requires counties to allocate funds to charter schools under GS 115C-437(Allocation of revenues to the local school administrative unit by the county). Eliminates the previous language requiring transfers from the local school administrative unit to the charter school for every student that attends the charter school and the previous system of allocating finances to charter schools in subsections (c) through (e). Defines local schools as it is used under Article 31, The School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, as all local school administrative units located in a county, plus any charter schools that are attended by children residing in the county. Amends GS 115C-430 by requiring all appropriations by the county to the local schools to be apportioned to the average daily membership; specified that county appropriations are properly apportioned when the dollar amount obtained by dividing the amount appropriated to each unit and each charter school a resident child is attending by the total membership of the unit or number of resident charter school attendees is the same. Amends GS 115C-431 to require a joint meeting of the tow boards when the governing body of a local school determines that the amount of money appropriated to a local school administrative unit or charters school is not sufficient to support a system of free public schools. Makes conforming changes. Makes changes to the amount that is to be appropriated for a budget year in dispute when an agreement is not reached in mediation, by specifying provisions that related to calculations of a charter school's amount. Amends GS 115C-437 by making conforming changes. Amends GS 115C-448(d) by prohibiting special funds of individual schools from being included in determining the per pupil amount to be appropriated from the county to a charter school. Amends GS 153A-461, as amended, to require each county to appropriate to a charter school the average per pupil allocation for each child that resides in the county and attends that charter school. Authorizes each count to appropriate direct capital funds and lease real property to charter schools; makes conforming changes.

Provides for the issuance of \$2 billion in general obligation bonds for public school facilities through grants to counties for public school capital outlay projects, repairs, and renovations, subject to a vote of the majority of qualified voters in the state at the election in 2028 for the presidential primary. Outlines applicable definitions for the section regarding the capital bonds. Authorizes the State Treasurer, with consent of the Council of State, to issue and sell State of North Carolina Education Bonds if approved by the voters in the election held on the issue. Specifies restrictions on the use of funds from the bonds, and permits the combination of funds received from the federal government with the funds received from the sale of bonds in the Education Bonds Fund. Directs the State Board of Education to require counties to report annually on the impact of the funds on the property tax rate for that year, and makes the reports public records. Directs the State Treasurer to establish a system for tracking bond proceeds to properly account for the use of the proceeds for compliance with applicable requirements of the federal tax law or otherwise, and requires all recipients to comply with the tracking system. Provides for a statewide election to approve the \$2 billion of education bonds during the statewide presidential election in 2028. Makes the election subject to the general election laws of the state, and provides required ballot language. Provides for the manner of issuing the education

bonds, and limits maturity to 40 years or less. Outlines requirements for signatures, manner of sale, notes in anticipation of the bond sale, refunding procedures, exemption from state and local taxation, investment eligibility, and full faith and credit support for the bonds. Allows the State Treasurer to provide that any bonds have variable interest rates, and provides other flexibilities in issuance to the State Treasurer based around the redemption and requirements for credit facilities. Includes an interpretation section, specifying that the language in the section regarding the sale of bonds is in addition and alternative to any other applicable method of providing for the sale of the bonds under applicable law. Outlines statutory reference provisions, construction of the section regarding bond sales, makes the provisions of the act regarding the sale of bonds controlling over any inconsistent provisions in general law, and contains a severability clause. Permits the State Treasurer to enter into other agreements around the sale of the bonds as the Treasurer deems desirable. Establishes requirements for each entity receiving funds from the sale of bonds. Requires each local school administrative unit and corresponding board of county commissioners to jointly submit a plan to the State Board of Education outlining a plan for the use of funds in accordance with the requirements of the act. Allows the State Board of Education to disburse funds after determining the plans comply with the requirements of the act. Requires quarterly reports from each entity receiving funds beginning on January 1, 2029. Requires the State Board of Education to combine the reports and submit them to the Joint Legislative Capital Improvement Oversight Committee, the House Appropriations Committee, and the Senate Committee on Appropriations/Base Budget. Establishes requirements for the OSBM to retain a portion of the funds for escalation of costs, and to release funds for unforeseen contingencies and inflation costs. Requires the OSBM to report on any funds retained after a project's completion. Directs any funds from the education bonds spent on school technology for public schools to be credited against the judgment in *N.C. Sch. Bds. Ass'n. v. Moore*.

Requires beginning with the 2025-26 fiscal year that State Board transfer the At-Risk Student Services/Alternative school allotment into the DSSF allotment and allocated the funds to local school administrative units under a formula the provides that no local school administrative until receives a decrease in combined funding. Amends GS 115-472.24 to allow supplemental funds appropriated to both disadvantaged or at risk students (was, disadvantaged students only) to be used for the specified purposes and expands upon those purposes to include providing funds for alternative learning and at-risk student programs. Appropriates \$725,800,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$944.3 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to implement this provision.

Appropriates \$61.7 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$96.7 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to increase the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment Allotment.

Requires the Department of Instruction to study methods of implementing a weighted student funding formula that retains existing guaranteed position allotments; allows contracting with a third party to conduct the study. Requires a report to the specified NCGA committee by March 15, 2026. Appropriates \$500,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to perform the study.

#### Part IV.

Amends GS 115C-83.15(d), which sets out guidelines to calculate overall school performance scores and grades, by requiring that the school achievement score account for 51% (was, 80%) and the school growth score account for 49% (was, 20%) of the total sum. Requires DPI to amend the State plan to reflect this change. Applies beginning with school performance scores issued based on data from the 2025-26 school year.

Requires the State Board, in consultation with DPI, to study methods of adding to the State school accountability system indicators that provide information on the opportunity of students to access a sound basic education. Requires a report with recommended changes to the specified NCGA committee by June 15, 2026.

#### Part V.

Appropriates \$19 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to continue to implement the District and Regional Support Model developed by the State Board to support the improvement of low-performing and high-poverty schools. Sets out further requirements for implementation.

Requires the State Board, by March 15, 2026, to review, update, and strengthen the state-level process for reviewing and adopting core curriculum resources. Requires providing support, resources, and professional learning opportunities to assist schools and districts in selecting and employing the specified types of resources and practices to assist educators in applying innovative practices promoting continuous improvement. Requires DPI, by June 30, 2026, to provide a model implementation plan.

Enacts new GS 115C-209.2 requiring DPI to establish a program to support high-poverty schools that adopt a community school model or other evidence-based models to address out-of-school barriers to learning. Sets out deadlines for distributing an application form, for schools that use a community school model or other evidence based model, to address out-of-school barriers to learning to apply to participate, and for selecting participants. Gives priority to schools with high rates of student poverty. Requires each participating local school administrative unit to hire one full-time school-based coordinator per participating school. Sets out assessments the coordinator must make and requires the coordinator to submit to DPI a funding request for goods or services beneficial to meeting the goals of the community school model or other evidence-based model. Sets out the deadline by which DPI must evaluate the request and allocate funds. Requires DPI, in consultation with the coordinators, to report annually to the specified NCGA committee on six specified items, including the amount of funds allocated to each school and the use of those funds, and any effects of the model on school outcomes. Appropriates \$58,763,733 in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$65,513,621 in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to implement the program. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Appropriates \$900,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to provide free school breakfasts and lunches for all grade levels that qualify for reduced-price meals under the National School Lunch Program. Enacts new GS 115C-264.6 requiring the State Board to report annually, beginning in 2025, to the specified NCGA committee on unpaid meal charges in local school administrative units; sets out what must be included in the report.

Amends Section 7.59 of SL 2023-134, concerning the CEP Meal Program Incentive, as follows. Extends the duration of the program, which is currently only for the 2024-25 school year, for four additional years; makes conforming changes. Appropriates \$102 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to implement this provision.

#### Part VI.

Appropriates \$258.3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$333.4 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), to expand the NC Prekindergarten (NC Pre-K) program for eligible children who are 4 years old by allocating funds to: (1) begin incrementally increasing State funding for each NC Pre-K slot with the goal of paying 100% of the actual cost by the end of the 2027-28 fiscal year; (2) gradually increasing the number of eligible children with the goal of reaching at least 75% of eligible children in each county by the end of the 2027-28 fiscal year; (3) raising the rate for the county administrator to provide oversight, monitoring, enrollment, and support by 10% by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year; and (4) phasing-in extension of the NC Pre-K program year from 10 to 12 months in accordance with this section. Amends Section 9D.1 of SL 2023-134 requiring the Division to develop and implement a plan that includes a pilot program to extend the NC Pre-K program year from 10 to 12 months and is based on county capacity to implement the extension. Sets out requirements for selecting three counties to participate in the pilot. Requires a report to the specified NCGA committee and division by December 31, 2026, and sets out required report content. Appropriates \$300,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, to increase State-level NC Pre-K staffing to manage the planned expansion of the NC Pre-K program, provide policy development and program oversight, ensure program quality, and manage any new, required studies. Appropriates \$32.3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$48.4 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, for transportation to all participants enrolled in the NC Pre-K program.

Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Division to increase funds for the child care subsidy program and provide for program improvements. Appropriates \$78.7 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, to expand the Family Connects universal home visiting model to local agencies statewide that choose to implement the program for their community through local health departments or local Smart Start partnerships. Appropriates \$43.9 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$40 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education for a pilot program of a State model for high-quality early learning programs for eligible children from birth to 3 years of age, for 1,000 children each year, with the intent to expand the program to additional locations. Requires the program to focus on high-poverty school districts across the State.

Appropriates \$20 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division of Child Family Well-Being, Early Intervention Section, for the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program to take steps toward: (1)



increasing State and local staffing in the provision of services to families with infants and toddlers with developmental delays and established medical conditions who are eligible for the NC Infant-Toddler Program, (2) expanding funding for interpreter services, (3) establishing a centralized provider network system, (4) providing professional development focused on early childhood mental health, and (5) addressing salary inequities affecting provider retention and recruitment. Appropriates \$250,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Division of Public Health to be allocated in the specified amounts to: (1) conduct a feasibility study to examine eligibility criteria and cost implications for expansion of the NC Infant-Toddler Program and (2) conduct a system and infrastructure readiness assessment to determine areas of need and system challenges that need to be addressed before expanding the NC Infant-Toddler Program. Appropriates \$108.3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$162.5 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division of Child Family Well-Being, Early Intervention Section, for high-quality early intervention services and supports for up to an additional 10,000 children from birth to 3 years of age, who meet expanded eligibility criteria for the Infant and Toddler Program implemented as a result of the study. Allows 5% of the funds to be used for a public awareness campaign regarding expansion of eligibility for the NC Infant and Toddler Program, increase efforts to identify children eligible to receive services under the expanded program, and to create partnerships with family support agencies.

Appropriates \$30.5 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$419.6 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education to gradually increase funding for the North Carolina Partnership for Children Inc. (Smart Start), with the goal of full funding by the end of the 2027-28 fiscal year. Sets out provisions governing the allocation of the funds.

Appropriates \$317.2 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$32 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education to increase funding for and expand participation in the Child Care WAGES program and the Infant-Toddler education AWARD\$ program. Appropriates \$5.8 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$7.3 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division to implement strategies to recruit early childhood educators and provide ongoing professional development.

Appropriates \$500,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education to develop and implement a real-time workforce data system that supports building a pipeline of early childhood educators. Requires the Division, to use \$500,000, to expand and improve the North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS) and the North Carolina Early Childhood Action plan data dashboards to track child outcomes and provide access to State data for users and researchers with the goal of connecting this data to the NC Longitudinal Data System (NCLDS). Appropriates \$150,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Division for collaboration with the Divisions of Social Services and Public Health in developing and implementing a plan to provide technical assistance to build local capacity to use quality early childhood data across child health, child welfare, and early childhood education for local planning. Appropriates \$500,000 for 2025-26 and \$250,000 in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education to develop and implement a real-time data collection and sharing process to identify children eligible for early childhood programs, that allows for: (1) the disaggregation along multiple variables, such as race, ethnicity, and geography; and (2) helps identify the children most vulnerable to build a more equitable early learning system.

Appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education to scale up the Pre-K to K Transitions Program.

Appropriates \$320,00 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Division of Child Development and Early Education for ongoing support and technical assistance for local collaborative family engagement plans for birth to third grade.

Requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education, to implement by July 1, 2026, a policy requiring all NC Pre-K lead teachers to hold an appropriate state teaching license as specified the NC Pre-K policy; requires that these teachers be paid according to the public school salary schedule by the 2026-27 fiscal year.

#### Part VII.

Appropriates \$13.3 million for 2025-26 and \$16.7 million for 2026-27 from the General Fund to DPI to offset the costs for local administrative units and charter schools to remove barriers to student participation in North Carolina Virtual Public Schools. Gives priority to covering the costs of courses for students enrolled in public schools in low-wealth counties.

Amends GS 115C-84.2 by allowing a local board of education to align the calendar of schools in the local school administrative unit with the calendar of a community college serving the city or county where the unit is located. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Requires that from the funds appropriated in this section, that the UNC Board of Governors make funds available to the National College Advising Corps Inc. (CAC) to support an expansion of the placement of college advisers in North Carolina public schools through its program over a three-year period. Provides more information about CAC. Appropriates \$3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the UNC BOG to be provided to CAC to expand the placement of college advisers. Requires CAC to focus the first two years of the expansion by placing college advisers in counties designated as tier one and tier two. For the third year of the expansion, requires CAC to use the funds provided to it to place college advisers in the remaining counties designated as tier three. Also requires CAC to select at least three additional postsecondary institutions to partner with in order to increase the number of recent graduates working as near-peer college advisers to meet the needs of the program expansion. Requires CAC to report in each year in which CAC spends State funds made available to it under this section to the specified NCGA committee and division on the progress of expanding the placement of college advisers, data on the effectiveness of the program in increasing access for students to postsecondary education, and the use of State funds.

Appropriates \$100,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for a Career and Postsecondary Planning Director position to focus on career planning in grades 5-12 and \$68 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$87 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 to increase the number of school-based career development coordinators for grades 6-12.

Appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI for additional costs for all economically disadvantaged students enrolled in the Career and College Promise Transfer Pathway Program in each year, including at least the full costs of textbooks, transportation, meals on college campuses, fees, and technology. Allows, if these funds are insufficient, DPI to use additional unspent funds in the State Public School Fund for this purpose.

Part VIII.

Reenacts the provisions of the State Budget Act, GS Chapter 143C, and incorporates them into this act by reference.

Explains the effect of the act's headings.

Includes a severability clause.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by von Haefen, Ball, Hawkins, Prather.**

[APPROP, STUDY, GS 115C, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government](#)

H 421 (2025-2026) [MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS*.

Amends GS 20-295 by extending the grace period for the renewal of a motor vehicle dealer, motor vehicle sales representative, manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, distributor representative, or wholesaler license so that when an application for renewal has been timely submitted, the license remains valid for up to 60 days (was, 30 days) after the expiration date until the application is granted or denied.

Amends GS 20-79 by extending the duration of the issuance of a dealer license plate from one year to two years. Requires that the expiration dates of these plates vary so that an approximately equal number expires at the end of each month, quarter, or other period consisting of one or more months to coincide with GS 20-288(c) (expiration of licenses for motor vehicle dealer,

motor vehicle sales representative, manufacturer, factory branch, factory representative, distributor, distributor branch, distributor representative, or wholesaler). Requires dealer plates to be replaced every four (was, three) years.

Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by B. Jones, Tyson, Ross.**

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

H 422 (2025-2026) [BEYOND THE CHOICE ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING THAT VETERANS, THEIR DEPENDENTS, AND OTHER COVERED INDIVIDUALS UNDER THE VETERANS ACCESS, CHOICE, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT WHO QUALIFY FOR ADMISSION TO AN INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION ARE ELIGIBLE TO BE CHARGED IN-STATE TUITION WITHOUT REGARD TO THE NUMBER OF YEARS THAT HAVE ELAPSED SINCE THEIR DISCHARGE FROM A PERIOD OF ACTIVE DUTY SERVICE OF NINETY DAYS OR MORE.*

Expands the waiver of the 12-month residency requirement under GS 116-143.3.A (waiver of residency requirement for certain veterans and others for in-State college tuition) to include covered individuals under 38 US 3679 (The Choice Act, pertaining to veterans benefits). Applies beginning in the 2025-26 academic year.

**Intro. by Charles Smith, Goodwin, Loftis, Campbell.**

[GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)

H 423 (2025-2026) [SKIP THE STUFF ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REDUCE SINGLE-USE FOODWARE IN TAKE-OUT AND DELIVERY OF PREPARED MEALS.*

Contains whereas clauses. Enacts Part 2J, pertaining to single-use foodware and condiments, to Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A. Contains definitions. Bars food establishments from: (1) providing defined term single-use foodware or defined term standard condiments to consumers unless the consumer requests them and (2) bundling or packaging single-use foodware or condiments in a manner that prevents consumers from taking only the type of each that they need. Requires third-party delivery platforms to provide an option to request single-use foodware and condiments. Provides exceptions for accessories to prevent spills and to otherwise deliver food and beverages safely. Clarifies that Part 2J should not be construed to (1) prevent a food establishment from making standard condiments available to consumers using refillable single item dispensers and (2) limit the authority of any local government to adopt ordinances that restrict the provision of single-use foodware by food establishments or third-party food delivery platforms. Provides for enforcement mechanisms for both food establishments and third-party delivery platforms by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to include notice of noncompliance and administrative penalties. Makes conforming changes to GS 130A-22 (administrative penalties) to provide for an administrative penalty for violation of Part 2J, not to exceed \$100 per day. Effective July 1, 2025, and applies to violations committed on or after that date.

**Intro. by von Haefen, Butler, Roberson, Harrison.**

[GS 130A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services](#)

H 424 (2025-2026) [GAMING LAWS/ALLOW CERTAIN SOCIAL GAMES](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT THE LAWS REGULATING GAMING DO NOT APPLY TO CERTAIN SOCIAL GAMES PLAYED IN A PRIVATE RESIDENCE, HOME, OR COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE.*

Creates new GS 14-309.4, which makes an exception to the prohibitions on lotteries and gambling in GS Chapter 14, Part 1 of Article 37, for the playing of board games and games of tiles, cards, or dice, in private residences, homes, and clubhouses, if all of the following requirements are met: (1) no mechanical or electronic devices may be used or incorporated into the game, (2) no player receives an economic or monetary benefit beyond personal winnings, (3) the host or owner of the location receives no economic or monetary benefits of any kind, and (4) the odds of winning or losing in the game are the same for all parties. Effective and applicable to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Willis, Johnson, Hawkins, Tyson.**

GS 14

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Lottery and Gaming**

H 425 (2025-2026) **PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & NICOTINE**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT THE YOUTH FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING AND NICOTINE ADDICTION BY RAISING THE LEGAL SALES AGE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO AGE 21 AND TO REQUIRE A TOBACCO RETAIL SALES PERMIT.*

Part I.

Enacts Chapter GS 18D, pertaining to Tobacco Products Retail Sales.

Defines thirty terms used in the Chapter. Specifies in GS 18D-101 the powers of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (Commission) under new Chapter GS 18D as the following: (1) administer tobacco retail sales under the chapter; (2) provide for enforcement of those laws in conjunction with the ALE Division and (3) issue permits and impose sanctions against permittees. Specifies that the Commission has all other powers which may be reasonably implied from those powers or which are incidental to or convenient for performing the Commission's duties. Authorizes, in GS 18D-102, the Commission's employees and licensed alcohol enforcement agents to investigate the operation of each licensed premises for which a tobacco retail sales permit has been issued as described. Specifies that refusal to allow inspection is grounds for discipline under GS 18D-103. Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to resist or obstruct an officer attempting to make a lawful inspection.

Lists the administrative penalties that may be imposed by the Commission for violations of GS Chapter 18D, including revocation of the permittee's permit, suspension of a permit, and/or fines ranging from up to \$500 for a first violation to up to \$1,000 for a third violation within three years of the first violation in GS 18D-103. Authorizes a compromise of not more than \$5,000 in those instances where the Commission is authorized to suspend or revoke a permit. Allows the Commission to accept a compromise and suspend a permit in the same case but prevents it from revoking a permit if a compromise is accepted. Directs that the clear proceeds of any civil penalty be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund (Fund). Specifies that suspension or revocation of a permit is grounds for suspension or revocation of any related State or local revenue license. Instructs that unless the Commission provides otherwise, suspension of or revocation of a permit, does not include automatic revocation or suspension, respectively, of any ABC permit held by the same permittee for the same establishment.

Allows the Commission to adopt, amend, and repeal rules to carry out the provisions of GS Chapter 18D. Provides for the applicability of the administrative procedures act (APA), as specified.

Makes it unlawful under GS 18D-200 for a person, that is not a delivery service making deliveries on behalf of a permit holder, to sell a tobacco product to a consumer in the State without a permit.

Provides for the disposition of tobacco products by law enforcement officers who seize those products as evidence of a tobacco retail sales violation under GS 18D-201, including: (1) storage of the seized goods until the end of the applicable hearing; (2) disposition of the seized goods by court order as described upon notice to a defendant, to other known owners, and the Commission; and (3) disposition by court order as described after the criminal charge is resolved. Prevents the court from ordering disposition of the seized goods if they are also needed at an administrative hearing. Authorizes the Commission to take any of the actions a court may have taken under prongs 1 and 2, above after an administrative hearing. Prevents Commission from destroying any seized products if no criminal proceedings have commenced until notice has been given to the district attorney for the district where the goods were seized. Specifies that any sales will be by public auction. Provides for segregation and disposition of sales as described. Authorizes four listed categories of persons to bring a superior court action in

the county where the tobacco products were seized, including, a persons claiming to be the owner of wrongfully held tobacco products, persons claiming to be entitled to sale proceeds of the tobacco products seized, and persons claiming to be entitled to restitution for tobacco products wrongfully destroyed.

Provides for forfeiture of tobacco products possessed or sold in violation of the tobacco retail sales laws in GS 18D-202. Clarifies that tobacco products which may be possessed lawfully are not subject to forfeiture when they were used unlawfully by someone other than the owner of the tobacco products and the owner did not consent to the unlawful use. Authorizes application to judge for an order authorizing seizure of the products if they have not already been seized. Directs that such an order can only be issued after criminal process has been issued for tobacco retail sales violation in connection with the product. Provides for safe storage until trial. Allows the presiding judge in a criminal proceeding to take any of five described actions after resolution of a charge against the owner or possessor of the tobacco product subject to forfeiture. If the judge orders forfeiture, authorizes the judge to also order any of the following dispositions: (1) sale at public auctions to a tobacco manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer sales permittee or (2) destruction if possession of the product would be unlawful or sale or other disposition is impracticable. Provides for distribution of sale proceeds, including to persons who hold a security interest in the seized tobacco but who did not consent to the unlawful use of the tobacco. Provides for an in rem action when the owner is unknown and forfeiture is sought. Allows any owner of a seized tobacco product seized for forfeiture to apply to a judge to have the product returned if no criminal charge has been made in connection within a reasonable time after seizure. Prevents return of the seized goods if it would be unlawful.

Specifies seven requirements for a tobacco retail sales permit under GS 18D-300 including (1) that the person be at least 21 years of age; (2) not have been convicted (defined) of certain crimes or tobacco retail offenses within certain time periods; (3) be current in all applicable State tax returns and in payment of all taxes, interest, and penalties that are collectible under GS 105-241.22. Allows the Commission to decline to take action against a permittee who may have incurred any of the convictions or violations described in prong 2, above. If the permittee is a business, specifies that each of the eight classes of listed persons must qualify for a retail sales permit, including the owner of a sole proprietorship, each member of a firm, association, or general partnership, each general partner in an limited partnership, each manager and any member with a 25% or greater interest in an LLC, and each officer, director, and owner of 25% or more of the stock of a corporation except that those persons don't have to be 21 unless they are a manager or is otherwise responsible for the daily operations of the business.

Requires the Department of Revenue (DOR) to provide information to the Commission to confirm current tax status. Allows the Commission to take disciplinary action against a permittee if DOR informs it that the person is not current on their taxes as detailed above. Specifies that disciplinary action can only last until the Commission receives notice from DOR that the person is now current. Allows the requirement to pay all taxes, interest, and penalties to be satisfied by an operative agreement under covering any amounts that are collectible under GS 105-241.22. Specifies that GS Chapter 150B (the APA) does not apply to a Commission action on issuance, suspension, or revocation of a tobacco retail sales permit for taxes.

Specifies that the Commission is the only entity authorized to issue a tobacco retail sales permits in GS 18D-301. Requires the Commission to consider three factors, as described, of the applicant and business location, including the reputation, character, and criminal record of the applicant and whether the retail seller's operation would be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood. Allows the Commission to determine the suitability and qualifications of an applicant for a permit along with the suitability of the location to which the permit may be issued.

Requires, in GS 18D-302, the Commission to investigate the applicant (and the premises for a retail seller permit) with the assistance of the ALE Division as described, before issuing a permit. Provides for an application form, fingerprinting, and a criminal record check. Requires such information to be kept confidential and specifies that the information is not a public record. Allows the State Bureau of Investigation to charge a fee to the applicant for the criminal records check. Makes knowingly making false statements on applications unlawful and grounds for discipline including, denial, suspension or revocation of a permit. Provides for nonrefundable \$400 application fee for each type of permit (retail seller, delivery seller, and remote seller). Requires all application fees to be remitted to the State Treasurer for the General Fund.

Specifies in GS 18D-303 that once issued, permits are valid for up to one year (May 1 to April 30). Sets nonrefundable renewal fees in the same amount as those provided for in GS 18D-302. Prevents the Commission from revoking a permit for failure to pay a renewal fee until June 1 of the year the payment is unpaid. Provides for notice to permittees with unpaid renewal fees. Requires the Commission to impose a 25% late fee.

Prevents permits from being transferred from one person to another or one location to another, except as described below. Provides for automatic expiration of the permit and surrender of the permit to the Commission if there is a change in ownership

of the permittee as described. Allows a person, who, through contract, lease, management agreement, or change of ownership or transfer of business becomes lawfully entitled to use and control of the premises of an establishment that holds permits immediately prior to such change of ownership may continue to operate the establishment, as successor to the prior permittee, to the same extent as the predecessor permittee until the person receives a temporary or new permit, including purchasing malt beverages, unfortified wine, or fortified wine to be resold for on-premises or off-premises consumption, or spirituous liquor for use in mixed beverages sold by the establishment, as applicable under the permit, subject to the five listed limitations. Specifies conditions under which transfer to a trust would not constitute change in ownership. Requires corporations to submit an application for a substitute manager if there is a change in managers of any person who is required to qualify as an applicant within the time and under the conditions specified. Provides for duplicate permits if they are lost, stolen, or if the permittee's name or business name is changed, subject to a \$10 fee.

Enacts GS 18D-304, containing miscellaneous provisions, including the following. Instructs that a retail seller permit authorizes the sale of tobacco products only in the physical presence of the consumer on the fixed premises of the establishment located in the State and named in the permit. Directs that a delivery seller permit authorizes a delivery sale only, originating either inside or outside of the State. Requires a remote seller permit to authorize a remote sale only, originating either inside or outside of the State. Provides for prominent posting of the permit on the premises. Prevents a tobacco retail sales permit from being issued to a business on the campus or property of a public school, college or university. Requires the Commission to send notice of the issuance of a permit with the name and address of the permittee and establishment to the three listed agencies.

Provides for temporary permits as described in GS 18D-305. Allows for electronic submission of payments and forms in GS 18D-306. Authorizes applications for permits under GS Chapter 18D to be filed simultaneously or in conjunction with applications for ABC permits under GS Chapter 18B in GS 18D-307.

Specifies in GS 18D-400 that a permittee is responsible for the entire premises where a permit is issued as well as the actions of all of their employees, as described. Prevents permittees from knowingly employing any person whose license under GS Chapter 18D has been revoked in the past 18 months. Requires employees and agents of permit holder to demand proof of age from prospective purchasers if they have reasonable grounds to believe the person is under 30 years of age. Requires delivery sellers and remote sellers to (1) perform an age verification through an independent, third-party age verification service that compares information available from public records to the personal information entered by the individual during the ordering process to establish that the individual ordering the tobacco products is 21 years of age or older and (2) use a method of shipping, mailing or delivery that requires a signature of a person at least 21 years of age before the product is delivered. Provides for required training of employees or agents of retail sellers by the employer. Provides for display of a consumer statement as described.

Prevents four types of conduct from occurring on licensed premises in GS 18D-401, including fighting or disorderly conduct, violations of GS Chapter 18D, or violations of the controlled substances, gambling, or prostitution statutes, or any other unlawful acts. Directs that it is unlawful for a permittee to fail to superintend in person or through a manager the business for which a permit is issued.

Enacts GS 18D-402, containing miscellaneous tobacco sales provisions preventing six described courses of conduct, including selling tobacco products through displays accessible to the public without the assistance of a permittee's employee or agent other than in an establishment open only to persons 21 years of age and older.

Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to sell, aid, assist, or abet any other person in selling tobacco products to any person under the age of 21 years, or for any person shall purchase tobacco products on behalf of a person under the age of 21 years in GS 18D-500. Exempts sales of tobacco products to an employee or agent of a tobacco retail sales permittee under the age of 21 years when possession of the tobacco product is required pursuant to a tobacco retail sales permit in the performance of that person's duties of employment or contract.

Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person under the age of 21 to present or offer false, fraudulent, or the identification of another to purchase or receive tobacco products in GS 18D-501. Makes all other purchases or attempts at purchase of tobacco purchase by those persons an infraction which may require completion of a tobacco education program as described. Provides that it is not unlawful for an employee or agent of a tobacco retail sales permittee under the age of 21 years to accept receipt of, sell, transport, possess, or dispense tobacco products when required pursuant to a tobacco retail sales permit in the performance of that person's duties of employment or contract, if the employment of the person for that purpose is lawful under

applicable youth employment statutes and Commission rules. Provides for aiding and abetting liability in GS 18D-502 in the punishment classes as described.

Provides for persons under age 21 to be lawfully enlisted by any of the following and under the described conditions in GS 18D-503:(1) law enforcement, including the Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement, to test compliance if the testing is under the direct supervision of that law enforcement department and written parental consent is provided; (2) DHHS pursuant to a written plan to use persons under age 21 in annual, random, unannounced inspections, so long as parental consent is given; and (3) a research program affiliated with an accredited community college, college, or university located in this State to test compliance as part of a scientific research study to further efforts in underage tobacco use prevention, provided that prior written parental consent is given for persons under 18 years of age.

Specifies three defenses to violations of GS 18D-500 under circumstances where the seller: (1) demonstrates the purchaser produced identification showing the person's age to be the required age and bearing a physical description of the person named on the identification reasonably describing the purchaser; (2) produces evidences of other facts that reasonably indicated at the time of sale that the purchaser was at least the required age; and (3) evidence that at the time of sale the purchaser utilized a biometric identification system that demonstrated their age to be at least 21 and that they had registered an official federal or State ID with the seller or the seller's agent showing them to be the legal age for purchase. Allows for deferred prosecution or conditional discharge under GS 18D-505 under the conditions described.

Provides for restitution as specified in GS 18D-600. Specifies that unless otherwise specified, any violation of GS Chapter 18D is a Class 1 misdemeanor, and authorizes the Court to impose the provisions GS 18D-201 (seizure), GS 18D-202 (forfeiture) and GS 18D-600 (restitution), in GS 18D-601.

Enacts GS 18D-700, concerning certification and directory of vapor products and consumable products, as follows. Requires the Secretary of DOR to certify vapor products and consumable products eligible for retail sale in the State and list them on a directory as required by Part 3 of Article 4 of GS Chapter 143B. Sets forth the following penalties for violations of the above:

1. A retailer, distributor, or wholesaler who offer for sale a consumable product or vapor product intended for ultimate retail sale in this State that is not included in the directory is subject to a warning with a mandatory reinspection of the retailer within 30 days of the violation.
  - For a second violation of this type within a 12-month period, the fine will be at least \$500 but not more than \$750.00 and, if licensed, the licensee's license will be suspended for 30 days.
  - For a third or subsequent violation of this type within a 12-month period, the fine will be at \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500 and, if licensed, the licensee's license will be revoked.

Provides for seizure, forfeiture, or destruction upon a second or subsequent violation of the above, as described.

1. A manufacturer whose consumable products or vapor products are not listed in the directory and who causes the products that are not listed to be sold for retail sale in North Carolina, whether directly or through an importer, distributor, wholesaler, retailer, or similar intermediary or intermediaries, is subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each individual product offered for sale in until the offending product is removed from the market or until the offending product is properly listed on the directory. In addition, any manufacturer that falsely represents any information required by a certification form is guilty of a misdemeanor for each false representation.

Authorizes the State to recoup costs, including the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorneys' fees. Specifies that repeated violations of Part 3, Article 4 of GS Chapter 143B is an unfair and deceptive trade practice.

Part II.

Repeals GS 14-313, which concerned access to tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, vapor products, and cigarette wrapping papers by persons under age 18. Makes conforming changes in GS 7B-2508.1; GS 14-50.16A, GS 15A-150, GS 75D-3, and GS 105-113.4F. Replaces references to GS 14-313 with the appropriate new statutory references in GS 143B-245.10, GS 143B-245.11, GS 143B-245.14, GS 105-113.4F, and GS 143B-245.16.

Amends GS 15A-145, to allow a person who has not been previously convicted of any felony, or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, who pleads guilty to or is guilty of the offense of the sale of a tobacco product to a person under age 21 to file a petition for expunction. Allows the petition to be restored in such cases when the court fines that the petitioner has remained

of good behavior and been free of any felony or misdemeanor, other than a traffic violation, for two years from the date of conviction, and the petitioner has no outstanding restitution orders or civil judgments representing amounts ordered for restitution entered against him. Makes language gender neutral.

Expands upon the duties of the ABC Commission (Commission) under GS 18B-203 to include: (1) providing for the enforcement of the tobacco retail sales laws in GS Chapter 18D, in conjunction with the ALE Division, and issuing tobacco retail sales permits and imposing sanctions against permittees as set forth in GS Chapter 18D. Makes technical changes.

Amends GS 18B-500 to alcohol law-enforcement agents authority to arrest and take investigatory and enforcement actions for criminal offenses while investigating or enforcing GS Chapter 18D; specifies that their primary responsibilities include enforcement of the Chapter.

Enacts new GS 18B-908 allowing applications for permits under GS Chapter 18D to be filed simultaneously or in conjunction with applications for tobacco retail sales permits, including allowing the Commission to combine them into a single application. Allows the Commission to use, rely upon, or incorporate by reference any information an application for a permit under GS Chapter 18B has submitted in conjunction with a tobacco retail sales permit.

Amends GS 143B-245.10 by updating the definition of timely filed premarket tobacco product application; makes other conforming and technical changes, including updating statutory cross-references.

Part III.

Specifies that prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

Allows the ABC Commission, effective March 1, 2026, to issue tobacco retail sales permits as authorized by Section 1 of this act effective for the period of May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027.

Makes GS 18D-100, GS 18D-101, GS 18D-104, GS 18D-300 through 18D-302, and GS 18D-304 through 18D-307, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, effective when this act becomes law and applicable to permits effective on or after May 1, 2026.

Makes the remainder of Sections 1 through 3 of this act effective May 1, 2026, applicable to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

**Intro. by Loftis, Campbell, Ross, Willis.**

[GS 7B](#), [GS 14](#), [GS 15A](#), [GS 18B](#), [GS 18D](#), [GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

**[Alcoholic Beverage Control](#), [Business and Commerce](#), [Occupational Licensing](#), [Courts/Judiciary](#), [Criminal Justice](#), [Criminal Law and Procedure](#), [Government](#), [State Agencies](#), [Department of Revenue](#), [Health and Human Services](#), [Health](#)**

H 426 (2025-2026) [WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE*.

Requires the Community Colleges System Office (Office) to establish the Workforce Diploma Program (Program) for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 fiscal years to assist eligible students to obtain a high school diploma and develop employability and career and technical skills. Requires the Office to contract with each qualifying third-party entity to separately administer a statewide version of the Program. Sets out applicable definitions including the following: (1) *eligible student* means any adult 21 or older, is a resident of this state, who has not earned a high school diploma or its equivalent; (2) *employability skills certification* means a certificate earned by demonstrating professional nontechnical skills through assessment, including the program standards of the US Department of Labor's "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success"; and (3) *qualifying third-party entity* as an entity that meets all of the following requirements: (a) in the past five years: administered at least three statewide adult high school diploma programs outside of the State and maintained a graduation rate of at least 50% in the described program based on a two-year cohort beginning with the second cohort of the program; (b) is accredited by an external, regional accrediting agency; and (c) offers a course catalog that aligns with curriculum requirements for a high school diploma in this state. Requires that the Program: (1) provide one or more courses that help participants obtain a high



school diploma and enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster, where course completion is competency-based; (2) assist participants in obtaining employment, including resume development and mock interviews; and (3) include at least the 11 specified components, including a plan for courses and credits needed for each participant that integrates graduation requirements and career goals, mentoring services, milestone tracking, remediation opportunities in literacy and numeracy, employability skills certifications, and career advising services.

Requires that funds be provided to each qualifying third-party entity on a per-participant basis, capped at \$7,500 per participant, based on the completion of the six listed milestones.

Requires the State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with each qualifying third-party entity, to submit an interim report by August 15, 2026, and a final report by August 15, 2027, to the specified NCGA committee and division on the impact of the Program, including the listed information.

Appropriates \$5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Office to establish and implement the Program; specifies that these funds remain available until the end of the 2026-27 fiscal year. Requires the Office to use up to \$100,000 of these funds to hire one full-time equivalent position to administer the Program.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Cotham, Stevens.**

[APPROP, UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office](#)

## PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 296 (2025-2026) [BUY AMERICAN STEEL](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS SHALL USE AMERICAN IRON AND STEEL IN PUBLIC WORKS PROJECTS.*

Enacts GS 143-128.5, concerning the required use of American-produced iron and steel products. Requires a governmental entity awarding a contract for a public works project or for the purchase of materials for a public works project to mandate that any iron or steel product permanently incorporated in the project be produced in the United States. Exempts:

- Public works project for which the governmental entity administering the funds for the project or the purchase of materials for the project finds that any of the following apply: (1) US iron or steel is not available in sufficient quantity or of sufficient quality; (2) the total cost of the materials will increase the project by more than 20%; or (3) compliance is not in the public interest.
- Public works projects that make minimal use of foreign iron or steel under the described conditions.
- Electrical components, equipment, systems, and appurtenances, including supports, covers, shielding, and other appurtenances related to an electrical system, necessary for operation or concealment, except transmission and distribution poles.
- Contracts awarded by the Department of Transportation subject to the Buy America requirements of 23 C.F.R. § 635.410.

Defines *public works project* as an activity paid for with any State-appropriated funds or State funds administered by a governmental entity which consists of the construction, maintenance, repair, renovation, remodeling, or improvement of a building, road, street, sewer, storm drain, water system, site development, irrigation system, reclamation project, gas or electrical distribution system, gas or electrical substation, or other facility, project, or portion thereof owned in whole or in part by any governmental entity. Instructs that GS 143-128.5 must be applied in a manner consistent with, and may not be construed to impair, the State's obligations under any international agreement. Defines *governmental entity*, *iron or steel project*, *manufacturing process*, and *produced in the United States*. Applies to contracts awarded on or after July 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Craven, Overcash, Johnson.**

[GS 143](#)

S 297 (2025-2026) **NURSING FELLOWS & CURRIC. SUPPORT FUNDS/WSSU**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NURSING FELLOWS PROGRAM AT WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CURRICULUM SUPPORT FOR NURSING STUDENTS AT WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY.*

Identical to [H 396](#), filed 3/13/25.

Adds new Part 3A, North Carolina Nursing Fellows Program, under Article 23 of GS Chapter 116, as follows. Defines twelve terms, including qualifying nurse (an eligible nurse who holds a B.S. in Nursing from Winston-Salem State University and who is employed as a nurse in the state); qualified nursing instructor (an eligible nurse who holds a B.S. in Nursing and an M.S. in Nursing Education from Winston-Salem State University and is employed as an instructor in a qualified nursing program in the state); and qualifying nursing program (a nursing program at a community college, university, or private postsecondary institution that prepares students to earn a degree in nursing and become a licensed practical nurse in the state).

Establishes the North Carolina Nursing Fellows Program (Fellows Program) in GS 116-209.65 with the purpose of recruiting, preparing, and supporting students enrolled in an eligible nursing program at Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) for preparation as highly effective nurses and instructors by providing forgivable loans to those nursing students interested in preparing to become nurses in the state or instructors in qualifying nursing programs. Provides for administration of the Fellows Program by the State Educational Assistance Authority (Authority) in cooperation with the Dean of the School of Health Sciences at WSSU, with the Dean to determine selection criteria (including those set forth in the act) and engage in recruitment. Provides for staff and office space by WSSU.

Establishes the North Carolina Nursing Fellows Program Trust Fund (Fund) to provide the financial assistance to be administered by the Authority and the Dean. Allows money in the Trust Fund to be used only for forgivable loans under the Fellows Program, administrative costs of the Fellows Program, mentoring and coaching support for loan recipients, and extracurricular enhancement activities as described. Sets out provisions governing the administration of the loans and establishes reporting requirements, with annual reports due to the specified NCGA committee starting January 1, 2027. Establishes the amount of the forgivable loans as \$5,000 per semester/\$2,500 per summer session with the number of eligible semesters dependent upon whether the recipient is either a student pursuing a career as a qualifying nurse or a student pursuing a career as a qualifying nurse instructor. Lists permitted uses of loan funds, including tuition, fees, and books. Requires an annual report, beginning January 1, 2027, to the specified NCGA committee on the Trust Fund and related information on the Fellows Program.

Sets out the terms of the forgivable loans including interest caps in GS 116-209.66. Provides rules for forgiveness as follows. For every year a qualifying nurse remains a qualifying nurse or a qualifying nurse instructor, directs the Authority to forgive one-third of the total loan amount received over the course of enrollment in the applicable degree program and any interest accrued on that amount. Directs the Authority to also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to work for up to three years, within ten years after completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program for persons pursuing forgiveness as qualifying nurses or of the Master of Science in Nursing Education degree program for persons pursuing forgiveness as qualifying nurse instructors, because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient. Requires completion of indebtedness within 10 years after completion of the latest applicable degree program supported by the forgivable loan if the recipient pays in cash. Allows for extension of the repayment program under extenuating circumstances for no more than a total of 12 years.

Makes conforming changes to GS 116-204.

Requires applications to be available by December 31, 2025, and for recipients to be selected and initial awards made by April 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$1.4 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Fund to establish the Fellows Program.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with applications for enrollment in the Fellows Program in the 2026-27 academic year.

Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors in recurring funds for 2025-26 to be allocated to WSSU to provide mentoring, coaching, and other curriculum-support services for students enrolled in a nursing degree program at WSSU. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Lowe, Blue, Adcock.**

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Higher Education, Government,  
Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System](#)

S 298 (2025-2026) [INEXPERIENCED OPERATOR CONTINUOUS COVERAGE](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT REQUIRING DRIVERS SUBJECT TO THE INEXPERIENCED DRIVER PREMIUM SURCHARGE TO MAINTAIN OR BENEFIT FROM CONTINUOUS LIABILITY COVERAGE*.

Prevents, in GS 20-309, a person subject to an inexperienced operator premium surcharge from operating a motor vehicle unless the liability insurance policy benefiting that person includes any required premium surcharge. Exempts persons who demonstrate financial responsibility in an authorized manner other than a liability insurance policy. Makes conforming change to GS 20-16 (authority of Division of Motor Vehicles to suspend license) and GS 20-309.2 (required notice to the Division of Motor Vehicles by insurers). Effective October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Johnson.**

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Insurance, Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

S 299 (2025-2026) [GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING ACCESSIBILITY TO CERTAIN PUBLIC PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE AND DISMISSAL RECORDS*.

Amends GS 126-23 regarding required State personnel recordkeeping by each department, agency, institution, commission and bureau of the State, to require records to show the date and general description of the reasons for each promotion, demotion, dismissal, transfer, suspension, or separation (dismissals, suspensions, and demotions were previously separated and required stated disciplinary reasoning). No longer requires keeping records for suspension or demotion for disciplinary reasons of a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the head of the department setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal. Adds that nothing in the statute authorizes the disclosure of any confidential information protected by HIPAA, the Americans with Disabilities Act, or other applicable law. Requires that for the general descriptions of the reason for each promotion, demotion, dismissal, transfer, suspension, or separation: (1) no general description can disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law; and (2) the general description must become part of the record upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process. Amends GS 126-22 by amending the term employee to mean any current State employee, former State employee, or application for State employment subject to Article 7, The Privacy of State Employee Personnel Records. Amends the term employer, defined as any State department, university, divisions, bureau, commission, council or other agency subject to Article 7, by specifying that university includes the Board, the Board of Trustees, Chancellor, constituent institutions, and the President.

Makes identical changes to the personnel recordkeeping requirements by local boards of education, community colleges: GS 115C-320 and GS 115D-28.

Makes identical changes to that information that is considered public record for LME/MCOs, local governments, and water and sewer authorities, pursuant to the following governing statutes: GS 122C-158; GS 153A-98; GS 160A-168; and GS 162A-6.1. Further amends GS 122C-158 to make a public record the station to which an LME/MCO employee is currently assigned. Further amends GS 153A-98 to also make the statute applicable to employees subject to GS 153A-103 (number of employees

in offices of sheriff and register of deeds); makes a conforming clarifying change to GS 153A-99. Amends GS 130A-45.9 by making those same changes to the public health authority employee information that is public record and also (1) requires the type of promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification to be public record; (2) includes as public record the office or station to which the employee is currently assigned; and (3) makes organizational changes. Amends GS 131E-257.2 by making those same changes to the public hospital employee information that is public record and also requires the type of the promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification to be public record.

Requires, by November 30, 2025, each employer affected by this act to adopt personnel policies to effectuate the act to allow its employees to challenge the wording of the general description of any promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal occurring on or after December 1, 2025. This provision is effective when the act becomes law.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to promotions, demotions, transfers, suspensions, separations, and dismissals occurring on or after that date.

**Intro. by Sanderson, B. Newton.**

[GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 122C, GS 126, GS 130A, GS 131E, GS 153A, GS 160A, GS 162A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, Public Records and Open Meetings, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government](#)

S 300 (2025-2026) [NC REACH ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE AT LEAST THREE CREDIT HOURS OF INSTRUCTION IN AMERICAN HISTORY OR AMERICAN GOVERNMENT IN ORDER TO GRADUATE FROM A CONSTITUENT INSTITUTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA WITH A BACCALAUREATE DEGREE OR A COMMUNITY COLLEGE WITH AN ASSOCIATE DEGREE.*

Identical to [H 7](#), filed 1/29/25.

Titles the act as the "North Carolina Reclaiming College Education on America's Constitutional Heritage (REACH) Act."

Enacts GS 116-11.5 relating to UNC constituent institutions, and GS 115D-11 relating to community colleges, to require students to complete at least three credit hours of instruction in American history or American government that provide a comprehensive overview of the major events and turning points of American history and government, as a condition of graduation with a baccalaureate or associate degree, respectively. Requires reading the following seven documents in their entirety and taking a final exam that focuses on the specified topics, accounting for at least 20% of a student's grade: the US Constitution; the Declaration of Independence; the Emancipation Proclamation; at least five essays from the Federalist Papers; Dr. Martin Luther King's Jr.'s letter from Birmingham Jail; the Gettysburg Address; and the State Constitution. Allows for satisfying the requirement in postsecondary-level courses outside of these institutions including through passing scores on three listed college credit tests or by a passing grade in a dual enrollment course. Requires the Board of Governors (BOG), the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), and the board of trustees of each institution to ensure incorporation of these requirements into degree requirements without adding to the total number of credit hours required for a degree or conflicting with the accreditation process for each institution. Charges the BOG and the SBCC with ensuring compliance. Requires the BOG and SBCC to annually report to the specified NCGA committee on compliance, beginning November 15, 2026, with required content. Grants the BOG and SBCC discretionary authority to remove the chancellor of a constituent institution for willful neglect or noncompliance over more than one academic year.

Adds GS 116-11(15) and GS 115D-5(z) requiring the BOG and SBCC to adopt policies requiring each constituent institution and community college to require the instruction mandated under new GS 116-11.5 and GS 115D-10, respectively, as a condition of graduation.

Makes conforming changes.

Applies beginning with the 2026-27 academic year to students accepted for initial enrollment in a bachelor's or associate degree program.

**Intro. by Sanderson, Hanig, Galey.**

[GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

**Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies,  
Community Colleges System Office, UNC System**

S 301 (2025-2026) [FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT GRANT FUND MODS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT GRANT FUND*.

Amends the use of the Film and Entertainment Grant Fund (Fund), under GS 143B-437.02A, as follows. Expands upon the allowable uses of the Fund to also include a production on which the production company has qualifying expenses of at least \$200,000 for independent films (in addition to the already allowed feature-length films, TV series, and commercials for theatrical or TV viewing or on-line distribution). Changes the cap on the funding to the following: (1) no more than 35% of the qualifying expenses of the production for productions occurring primarily in development tier one or tier two areas, or an amount more than 25% of the qualifying expenses for productions occurring primarily in development tier three areas (was, an amount of no more than 25% of the qualifying expenses, no matter where); (2) no more than \$12 million (was, \$7 million) for a feature-length film, \$20 million (was, \$15 million) for a single season of a TV series, or \$450,000 (was, \$250,000) for a commercial for theatrical or TV viewing or on-line distribution, or \$2 million for an independent film. Amends the factor that is to be considered when giving funding priority to productions related to the extent to which the production features identifiable attractions or locales in a way that would induce people to visit to add especially those emphasizing the state's diverse geographical landscapes and historical landmarks. Amends the definition of *production* as it is used in this statute by defining an *independent film* as a motion picture with a maximum budget of \$2.5 million produced by a company not publicly traded and publicly traded companies do not own, directly or indirectly, more than 25% of the production company.

**Intro. by Lowe, Robinson.**

[GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Community and  
Economic Development**

S 302 (2025-2026) [THE SERGEANT MICKY HUTCHENS ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW LAW ENFORCEMENT, PROBATION/PAROLE, AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS WHO HOLD AN ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT OR CORRECTIONS CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION OR THE ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT CERTIFICATE ISSUED BY THE NORTH CAROLINA SHERIFFS' EDUCATION AND TRAINING STANDARDS COMMISSION TO PURCHASE, AT FULL COST, UP TO FOUR YEARS' CREDITABLE SERVICE IN THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM OR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM*.

Identical to [H 272](#), filed 3/4/25.

Subject to the five listed conditions, authorizes purchases of up to four years of creditable service under new GS 135-4.5(h) (Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees [TSERS]) and new GS 128-26.5(h) (Local Government Employees Retirement System [LGERS]) for a member in service with five or more years of membership service after the member has been awarded either: (1) an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate issued by either the NC Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission or the NC Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission or (2) the Advanced Corrections Certificate issued by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission (under GS 135-4.5 only). Authorizes the member's employer to pay all or a part of the cost of a purchase of service. Makes conforming changes to GS 135-4 and GS 128-6.5. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Hanig, Jones, Hise.**

[GS 128, GS 135](#)

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections  
(Sentencing/Probation), Employment and Retirement,**

S 303 (2025-2026) **REPEAL SERVICE TAX**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REPEAL THE SERVICE TAX AND TO MAKE VARIOUS CONFORMING CHANGES NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE THE REPEAL.*

Part I.

Amends GS 105-164.4, which imposes a 4.75% privilege tax on retailers by no longer applying the tax to the sales price of or gross receipts derived from (1) repair, maintenance, and installation services to tangible personal property or digital property; (2) service contracts; and (3) repair, maintenance, and installation services for real property.

Amends GS 105-164.4B by removing references to services; specifies that the gross receipts derived from the renewal of a service contract for prewritten software is generally sourced where the purchaser can potentially first make use of the prewritten software.

Amend GS 105-164.4D, concerning bundled transactions, by removing provisions related to bundles that include a service.

Amends GS 105-164.4H, applicable when the consumer is a real property contractor, by removing provisions related to services; removes the provision for the taxation of a mixed transaction contract.

Repeals GS 105-164.4I, concerning taxation of service contracts.

Amends GS 105-164.4J, concerning marketplace-facilitated sales, by removing references to "service contracts facilitators."

Amends GS 105-164.4K by removing the provisions governing the taxation of services under a property management contract. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 105-164.6, complementary use tax, by no longer applying the tax to services.

Amends GS 105-164.11A, by removing references to "cancelled service," to now allow a retailer a refund of sales tax on a rescinded sale only. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 105-164.12B, concerning tangible personal property sold below cost as part of a conditional contract, by removing provisions related to service contracts.

Repeals GS 105-164.13A, concerning when a portion of a service charge imposed on food, beverages, or prepared food is exempt from taxation.

Amends GS 105-164.14 by removing provisions related to refunds of taxes paid on service contracts and repair, maintenance, and installation services.

Amends GS 105-164.20 by removing reporting requirements for gross receipts from a retailer selling a service contract.

Amends GS 105-164.26 by removing the presumption related to the evasion of taxes for services.

Amends GS 105-164.27A by removing triggers for the payment of tax under a general direct pay permit related to services, including repair, maintenance, and installation services. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 105-187.5 concerning the taxation of the portion of a limited possession commitment billing or payment that represents an amount applicable to the price of a service contract.

Amends GS 105-237.1, concerning when the Secretary of Revenue may compromise a taxpayer's liability, by removing provisions related to service contracts and repair, maintenance, and installation services.

Amends GS 105-467 by removing the provision related to a refund of sales tax on a rescinded service contract.

Part II.

Amends GS 105-164.13, by removing provisions that exempted the following from sales tax: computer software or digital property service; interior design services; motor vehicle service contracts; repair, maintenance, and installation services and 17 specified types of service contracts; installation charges separately stated on an invoice related to installation charges part of

the sales price of tangible personal property purchased by a real property contractor to fulfill a real property contract; installation charges that are part of the sales price of the repair, maintenance, and installation services or installation charges only purchased by a real property contractor to fulfill a real property contract; an item purchased or used to fulfill a service contract if the purchaser is not charged for the item; specified services for a boat, aircraft, or jet engine; towing services; and sales of digital audio work or digital audiovisual work consisting of nontaxable service content.

Amends GS 105-164.13E, concerning farmer exemptions, by removing provisions related to repair, maintenance, and installation services, as well as specified services.

Amends GS 105-164.13F, concerning wildlife manager exemptions, by removing provisions related to repair, maintenance, and installation services, as well as specified services.

Part III.

Amends definitions in GS 105-164.3 applicable to Article 5, Sales and Use Tax, by removing references to services or to repair, maintenance, and installation services in the terms bundled transaction, capital improvement, facilitator, gross sales, item, nonresident retail or wholesale merchant, real property management services, remodeling, remote sale, and sale or selling. Removes the terms mixed transaction contract; repair, maintenance, and installation services; service contract; and service contract facilitator.

Part IV.

Applies to services provided on or after July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Smith, Grafstein, Bradley.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Government, State Agencies,  
Department of Revenue, Tax**

S 304 (2025-2026) [REENACT EITC](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REENACT THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT*.

Reenacts GS 105-151.31, the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) as it existed immediately before its expiration, but recodifies it as GS 105-153.12. Increases the State EITC to 10% (from 5%) of the amount the individual qualifies for under the federal earned income tax credit. Removes outdated language. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Smith, Grafstein, Bradley.**

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Government, Tax**

S 305 (2025-2026) [COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, FOR THE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM*.

Appropriates \$3 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, to expand and promote the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program and training. Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Smith, Bradley, Grafstein.**

APPROP

[View summary](#)

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



S 306 (2025-2026) [WC/SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT AMENDING LAWS CONCERNING THE NORTH CAROLINA SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION*.

Requires, in new GS 97-144, a workers' compensation claim to be filed against the North Carolina Self-Insurance Security Association (Association) within five years after the claims bar date established by a court of competent jurisdiction in the insolvency proceeding of a former member self-insurer. Instructs that any claim not filed within the five-year period is forever barred as a claim against the Association.

Authorizes the Association under GS 97-133 to require collateral as a condition of participation based on the member's financial condition.

Makes technical and conforming changes to definition of *covered claim* in GS 97-130 (definitions pertaining to the Association). Modifies term *Association Aggregate Security System* (System) so that it now refers to those worker's compensation liabilities incurred while the self-insurer was a member of the Association under the described conditions. Adds new term *collateral*. Makes technical changes.

Makes technical and conforming changes to GS 97-165 (definitions pertaining to individual employers). Adds the *Association*, *collateral*, and *member self-insurer or member* as a defined term. Makes conforming changes to GS 97-185 (pertaining to the System).

**Intro. by Johnson.**

GS 97

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Insurance, Employment and Retirement**

S 307 (2025-2026) [INFO. RIGHTS OF ESTATE/DEATH OF LLC MEMBER](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE SPECIAL ECONOMIC INTEREST OWNERS OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANIES AND TO GRANT THEM INFORMATION RIGHTS AND STANDING TO SEEK JUDICIAL DISSOLUTION*.

Adds new term *special economic interest owner* (a person who owns an economic interest and has rights to information and to seek dissolution but is not a member) to GS 57D-1-03 (definitions under the NC LLC Act). Modifies terms *economic interest owner* and *interest owner* to include *special economic interest owners*. Instructs that, when an individual ceases to be an LLC member under GS 57D-3-02 because of their death or adjudication of incompetence, the member's estate or the member through the member's designated agent or court-appointed guardian will automatically become a *special economic interest owner* entitled to (1) the economic interest attributable to the member's ownership interest, (2) the member's information rights as described in GS 57D-3-04, and (3) the member's standing to seek judicial dissolution under GS 57D-6-02(2) or under an alternative remedy, if applicable, in the operating agreement. Makes organizational changes. Applies to requests for information and actions for dissolution commenced on or after October 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Sawrey.**

GS 57D

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Corporation and Partnerships**

S 308 (2025-2026) [PERMANENT PLATES FOR WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE PERMANENT PLATES FOR WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY*.

Amends GS 20-84, as the title indicates.

**Intro. by Sawrey.**

GS 20



S 309 (2025-2026) **CHANGES TO ESTATES AND TRUSTS STATUTES**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA UNIFORM ELECTRONIC WILLS ACT; TO MAKE UPDATES TO THE ELECTIVE SHARE STATUTES; TO UPDATE STATUTES RELATING TO TRUST ADMINISTRATION; AND TO MAKE REVISIONS TO THE YEAR'S ALLOWANCE STATUTES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE ESTATE PLANNING AND FIDUCIARY LAW SECTION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION.*

Identical to [H 377](#), filed 3/11/25.

#### Part I

Enacts Article 11 to GS Chapter 31, named the “North Carolina Electronic Uniform Electronic Wills Act (Act).” Establishes that an electronic will is a valid will in the State subject to State laws and principles of equity applicable to wills. Makes conforming change to GS 31-3.2 (kinds of wills) to list electronic wills. Requires an electronic will to be recorded in electronic form and readable as text at the time of signing, be signed by the testator, and be attested to by at least two competent witnesses. Specifies rules for revoking an electronic will. Sets out requirements under which an electronic will may be self-proved. Permits creating certified paper copies of an electronic will by a sworn certification attached to the will or by attaching the affidavits of self-proof at the time of the execution of the will. Specifies that the certified paper copy of an electronic will, but not the electronic will itself, may be probated. Provides for conversion of an attested written will to an electronic will. Amends GS 28A-2A-8 (pertaining to probate of wills) to establish a procedure for probate of an electronic will. Makes conforming changes to refer to certified paper copies of an electronic will in GS 28A-2B-1 (pertaining to establishment before death the validity of a will or codicil), GS 28A-2B-3 (pertaining to the contents of a petition for will validity), and GS 31-11 (pertaining to depositories in offices of the clerk of superior court). Makes other conforming and technical changes to those statutes. Makes conforming changes to GS 31-3.1.

Requires that uniformity amongst the states must be given consideration in applying and construing the Act. Sets forth the following definitions: electronic, electronic will, record, sign, and state. Requires the Revisor of Statutes to print as annotations to the statute all relevant portions of the official comments to the Uniform Electronic Wills Act and all explanatory comments of the drafters of this act as the Revisor may deem appropriate.

Effective January 1, 2026, and applies to electronic wills executed on or after that date and to attested written wills converted to electronic wills on or after that date, regardless of the date of execution of the attested written will.

#### Part II

Amends GS 30-3.3A (valuation of partial and contingent interests in property passing to a surviving spouse) as follows. Requires the terms of a trust to substantially meet the listed requirements in form and content (currently, just requires the trust terms to meet the listed requirements). Expands the types of trustees that control the trust during the surviving spouse’s lifetime. Allows the trust to authorize or require the trustee to also take assets (currently, just income and other means of support) into account. Specifies required language that the trust must contain pertaining to distribution of the income and principal. Makes clarifying and technical changes.

Amends GS 30-3.4 (procedure for determining the elective share), as follows. Removes the requirement that surviving spouse must mail or deliver a copy of the petition to the estate as a requirement for asserting a claim for elective share. Requires petition to be verified. Directs that an elective share proceeding is an estate proceeding to be conducted in line with Article 2 of GS Chapter 28A, except as modified or supplemented as described.

Applies to claims for elective share filed on or after January 1, 2026.

#### Part III

Amends GS 36C-6-604 (limitation on action contesting validity of revocable trust, distribution of trust property), as follows. Makes technical changes. Directs trustee to not distribute trust property to any beneficiary in contravention of the rights of any person who may be affected by the outcome of a pending or possible judicial proceeding if, at the time the distribution is made: (1) the trustee knows of a pending judicial proceeding pertaining to the validity of the trust or contesting he identity of

beneficiaries, or (2) a potential contestant has notified the trustee in writing of a possible judicial proceeding to contest the validity of terms of the trust or to contest the identity of the beneficiaries eligible to receive distribution therefrom, and a judicial proceeding is commenced within 60 days after the contestant sent the notification. Expands those matters that prevent the trustee from distributing trust property to judicial proceedings or contestants challenging the identity of the beneficiaries eligible to receive distributions from the trust. Specifies that the trustee's failure to comply with the above constitutes breach of trust. Provides for distribution of assets to beneficiaries upon motion, with notice to the interested parties upon court order. Expands the conditions upon which a beneficiary must return trust property to include when their interest in a trust has been determined to be invalid (currently, just when the trust has been determined to be invalid). Specifies that if the beneficiary refuses to return the distribution after being ordered by the court, the beneficiary is liable for all costs incurred for recovery of the distribution, including attorneys' fees. Applies to settlors dying on or after January 1, 2026.

#### Part IV

Amends GS 30-15 (spousal allowances) as follows. Creates an exception for when the spousal allowance takes priority over a child's allowance that occurs if a surviving spouse entitled to an allowance fails to file a petition for an allowance within six months after the date of death of the decedent and an eligible person files a petition for a child's allowance before the spouse files a petition for an allowance. Specifies that a proceeding for a spouse's allowance will be an estate proceeding governed by Article 2 of GS Chapter 28A. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 30-17 (child's allowance) by amending the order of priority for the person entitled to file a petition on behalf of the child for a child's allowance, so that first priority is given to the child, if the child is at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor at the time the petition is filed. Specifies that a proceeding for a child's allowance will be an estate proceeding governed by Article 2 of GS Chapter 28A. Removes the clerk's discretion under GS 30-20(c) to on its own motion, determine that a hearing is necessary to determine whether a year's allowance should be awarded to the children of an estate under GS 30-20 (procedure for assignment).

Removes references to "GS 30-20(c)" and replaces those references with references to "contested case proceedings commenced by the petitioner or by order of the clerk joining respondents to the proceeding" in standing provisions in GS 30-23.1 (contested case proceedings regarding allowance). Makes conforming and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 28A-25-6 (payment to clerk of money owed decedent) as follows. Provides in (f) that if no administrator has been appointed, the clerk of superior court must upon motion of the clerk or application of an interested party, disburse the money received under this statute for the following purposes and in the following order: (1) to pay the surviving spouse's year's allowance and children's year's allowance assigned in accordance with law, except that if (1) it has been greater than six months since the date of death of the decedent and (2) there has been no petition filed and assignment of a spouse's or child's year's allowance, the clerk may disburse the money in accordance with the other provisions of (f) (which requires all other claims to be disbursed according to the order set out in GS 28A-19-6). Clarifies that after the death of a the decedent (currently, spouse who died intestate) and after the disbursements have been made, the balance in the clerk's hands belonging to the estate of the decedent will be paid to the surviving spouse, and if there is no surviving spouse, the clerk will pay it to the heirs or beneficiaries (currently, just heirs) in proportion to their respective interests. Makes technical changes. Applies to petitions filed on or after January 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Galey, Daniel, Lazzara.**

[GS 30, GS 31, GS 36C](#)

[View summary](#)

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

S 310 (2025-2026) [RELIGIOUS PROPERTY - TAX EXEMPTION](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO EXTEND THE LOOKBACK PERIOD FOR CERTAIN LATE APPLICATIONS FOR PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION AND TO ALLOW THE RELEASE OF TAXES LEVIED AGAINST CERTAIN PROPERTY.*

Allows an owner of property claiming an exemption from taxation under GS 105-278.3 (tax exemption for real and personal property used for religious purposes) to file a late application that may apply to property taxes levied by the county or municipality during the three calendar years immediately preceding this act's effective date. Provides that if the late application

is approved, the taxes levied against the property covered by that application for up to the three calendar years immediately preceding the effective date of this act will be released provided, however, that no taxpayer may receive a refund of taxes previously paid under this provision.

**Intro. by Britt, B. Newton, Daniel.**

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Tax](#)

S 311 (2025-2026) [UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT AGAINST A UTILITY OR COMMUNICATIONS WORKER.*

Amends GS 14-33 to make it a Class 1 misdemeanor to assault a utility or communications worker while the worker is (1) readily identifiable as a worker (as defined) and (2) discharging or attempting to discharge his or her duties. Defines *utility or communications worker* as an employee of, agent of, or under contract with an organization, entity, or company, whether State created or privately, municipally, county, or cooperatively owned, that provides electricity, natural gas, telecommunications services, or internet access services. Makes other technical and clarifying changes.

Specifies that prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

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

**Intro. by Britt, Craven, Blue.**

[GS 14](#)

[View summary](#)

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

S 312 (2025-2026) [THE STARS AND STRIPES COMMITMENT ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO SCHEDULE RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL DAY AND TO REQUIRE RECITATION OF THE PLEDGE AT STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND GOVERNING BODY MEETINGS.*

Identical to [H 186](#), filed 2/24/25.

Modifies the pledge of allegiance requirements for public schools (GS 115C-47(29a)), schools for the deaf and blind (GS 115C-150.12C (23)), charter schools (GS 115C-218.80), the UNC School of the Arts (GS 116-69.1), and the NC School of Science and Mathematics (GS 116-235) so that the pledge is now required to be scheduled daily in each classroom within one hour of the beginning of the school's instructional day.

Requires regional schools (GS 115C-238.66) and laboratory schools (GS 116-239.8(b)) to adopt same policy on pledge of allegiance as those schools listed above. Specifies that regional schools cannot compel any person to stand, salute the flag, or recite the pledge. Requires pledge of allegiance at the beginning of meetings of the State Board of Education (GS 115C-11) and all local boards (GS 115C-76.10). Specifies the new requirement does not compel any person at these meetings to stand, salute the flag, or recite the pledge. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

**Intro. by Craven, Jones, Britt.**

[GS 115C, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

S 313 (2025-2026) [SUPPORTING SMALL FARMERS FOR NC'S FUTURE ACT](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO SUPPORT SMALL FARMERS IN NORTH CAROLINA BY PROVIDING GRANT FUNDING TO ENSURE THE FUTURE VIABILITY OF NORTH*

CAROLINA'S FAMILY FARMS.

Sets out findings and the purpose of the act related to the loss of land farmed by small farmers and supporting the viability and sustainability of small farmers by providing financial assistance.

Enacts new Article 61B, Small Farmers Grant Program (Grant Program), in GS Chapter 106. Sets out and defines terms used in the Article, including the following. Defines an *eligible individual* as a state resident who is at least 21 years old, is a small farmer, and has an annual income from farming operations for the preceding taxable year of at least \$1,000 or more. Defines a small farmer as one with a gross cash farm income of \$1 million or less.

Establishes the Grant Program within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) which will provide grants from the new Small Farmer Grant Fund (Fund). Grants are for essential inputs, equipment, and operation improvements of the eligible individual's farming operations. Sets out grant restrictions and procedures, with funding priorities and amounts set by the Commissioner of DACS. Allows the Commissioner to retain up to 1% of funds for costs of administering the Grant Program. Requires the establishment of an advisory committee to monitor the Grant Program. Requires DACS to adopt rules to carry out the Article.

Appropriates \$15 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DACS, to be allocated to the Fund to be used for the Grant Program.

Effective July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Smith, Everitt.**

[APPROP, GS 106](#)

[View summary](#)

[Agriculture, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services](#)

S 314 (2025-2026) [ELIMINATE ETJ OVERLAP](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ELIMINATE THE EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTIONS OF CITIES IN COUNTIES WITH ZONING REGULATIONS TO PREVENT REGULATORY OVERLAP AND STREAMLINE LAND USE DECISIONS.*

Amends GS 160D-202 (Municipal extraterritorial jurisdiction) by creating new subsection (a1) that prevents cities from exercising extraterritorial authority in counties that have adopted a zoning or unified development ordinance. Repeals subsection (c), which allows a city to extend its extraterritorial jurisdiction when a county is not enforcing zoning and subdivision regulations in an area or when the county has approved of the city's extension of extraterritorial powers.

**Intro. by Moffitt, Jarvis.**

[GS 160D](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Local Government](#)

S 315 (2025-2026) [MORE TRANSPARENCY/EFFICIENCY IN UTILIZ. REV.](#) Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND EFFICIENCY IN UTILIZATION REVIEWS.*

Amends GS 58-50-61 (concerning utilization reviews), as follows. Defines an *urgent health care service* to mean a service with respect to which the application of the time periods for making an urgent care determination that, in the opinion of a physician with knowledge of the covered person's medical condition, either: (1) could seriously jeopardize the person's life or health or their ability to regain maximum function or (2) would subject the person to severe pain that can't be adequately managed without the care or treatment that is subject to utilization review. Creates two different timelines for prospective and current utilization reviews based on the urgency of the healthcare service. Specifies that the current three-business day deadline is for nonurgent healthcare services. For urgent healthcare services, requires the insurer or its utilization review organization (URO) to conduct the review and make the determination or noncertification by not later than 24 hours after receiving the necessary information to conduct the review, unless the reviewer does not has access to the electronic health

records of the covered person. Extends the notice obligations pertaining to utilization reviews to URO's that conduct utilization reviews.

Sets forth three requirements that apply to an appeals review, including that any appeal not involving a mental health matter be reviewed by a medical doctor meeting the specified criteria, that appeals initiated by a licensed mental health professional be reviewed by either a medical doctor or a licensed mental health professional meeting the prescribed criteria, and the medical doctor or licensed mental health professional to consider all known clinical aspects of the healthcare service under review.

Requires an insurer to make any current utilization review requirements and restrictions available on its website. Specifies that any new utilization review requirements or restrictions amendments thereof are not in effect unless and until the insurer's website has been updated to reflect the new/amended requirements or restrictions. Directs that a claim cannot be denied for failure to obtain a prior authorization if the prior authorization requirement or amended requirement was not in effect on the date of service of the claim.

Sets forth the following requirements that apply to the length of time an approved prior authorization remains valid in certain circumstances:

- If a covered person enrolls in a new health benefit plan offered by the same insurer under which the prior authorization was approved, then the previously approved prior authorization remains valid for the initial days of coverage under the new health benefit plan. Clarifies that this does not require coverage of a service if it is not a covered service under the new health benefit plan.
- If a healthcare service, other than for in-patient care, requires prior authorization and is for the treatment of a covered person's chronic condition, then the prior authorization shall remain valid for no less than six months from the date the healthcare provider receives notification of the prior authorization approval.

Requires, by January 1, 2028, insurers offering a health benefit plan or a utilization review agent acting on behalf of an insurer offering a health benefit plan, to implement and maintain a prior authorization application programming interface meeting the requirements under 45 C.F.R. § 156.223(b) as it existed on January 1, 2025, which is to be in effect on January 1, 2028.

Extends liability for violations of GS 58-50-61 to agents of the insurer. Prevents an insurer from using an artificial intelligence-based algorithm as the sole basis for a utilization review determination to, in whole or in part, deny, delay, or modify any healthcare services for an insured. Requires insurers to verify that all third-party contacts for conducting utilization reviews are not in violation of the act. Emphasizes that only individuals meeting the licensing and qualification requirements for participating in the utilization review process can make a determination regarding the medical necessity or appropriateness of any healthcare service.

Applies to insurance contracts, including contracts with URO's, issued, renewed, or amended on or after October 1, 2026.

Directs the State Treasurer and the Executive Administrator of the State Health Plan to review all practices of the State Health Plan and all contracts with, and practices of, any third party conducting any utilization review on behalf of the State Health Plan to ensure compliance with GS 58-50-61, as amended by the act.

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

[GS 58](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Insurance, Government, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance](#)

S 316 (2025-2026) [LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT LOWERING HEALTHCARE COSTS AND INCREASING PRICE TRANSPARENCY*.

Contains whereas clauses.

Section 1.

Makes the following changes to Article 11B of Chapter 131E. Organizes the Article into two parts, Part I, consisting of the Health Care Cost Reduction Act of 2013 (2013 Act) and Part II, pertaining to Transparency in Healthcare Billing Practices (discussed in Section 2 below). Makes clarifying, technical, and conforming changes.

Makes the following changes to the Act. Requires hospitals to submit quarterly reports (currently annual report) on DRG's (diagnostic related groups), to submit to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as described, and adds new calculation required by the act on how to determine the amount that will be charged to each patient for each DRG. Removes outdated language.

Requires the following quarterly reports (currently, annual reports) to Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) by: (1) certain qualifying hospitals on DRG's (diagnostic related groups) as described, and with new calculation required by the act on how to determine the amount that will be charged to each patient for each DRG; (2) hospitals and ambulatory surgical facilities as described on the total costs for the most common surgical and imaging procedures as described and with the new calculation required by the act. Requires the NC Medical Care Commission (Commission) to adopt rules to accomplish the three listed directives, including to establish and define no fewer than ten quality measures for licensed hospitals and licensed ambulatory surgical facilities and the methodology that hospitals or ambulatory surgical facilities should use to determine the most common DRG's or common surgical and imaging procedures, as appropriate. Enacts new GS 131E-214.18 imposing a civil penalty for failure to comply with the Act, including penalties to be assessed for each violation day in the amounts described. Requires DHHS to remit the clear proceeds of any civil penalty to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund (Fund).

Defines *health benefit plan*, *health service facility*, *healthcare provider*, and *insurer*.

Effective on the later of January 1, 2026, or the date the rules adopted by the Commission take effect. Directs that GS 131E-214.18, as enacted by the act, applies to acts occurring on or after that date.

## Section 2.

Enacts GS 131E-214.30, as follows. Requires at the time a health service facility participating in an insurer's healthcare provider network (1) treats an insured individual for anything other than screening and stabilization; (2) admits an insured individual to receive emergency services; (3) schedules a procedure for nonemergency services for an insured individual; or (4) seeks prior authorization from an insurer for the provision of nonemergency services to an insured individual, to provide the insured individual with a written disclosure pertaining to billing, out-of-network services, and consumer protections, as described. Requires, emergency services facilities to disclose to an insured individual if it does not have a contract for services with the insured's insurer, and to provide information about consumer protections, as described.

Enacts GS 131E-214.31, as follows. Requires at the time a healthcare provider (1) treats an insured individual for anything other than screening and stabilization; (2) schedules a procedure for nonemergency services for an insured individual; or (3) seeks prior authorization from an insurer for the provision of nonemergency services to an insured individual, to provide the insured individual with a written disclosure that warns the insured that the healthcare provider is not in the insured's healthcare provider network and provides consumer protection information, as described.

Designates failure to comply with the above requirements as an unfair trade practice. Clarifies that nothing in Article 11B of GS Chapter 131E forecloses other remedies available under law or equity.

Repeals the definition of *health benefit plan* in GS 58-3-200(a)(1) and *insurer* in GS 58-3-200(a)(2) (definitions section of provisions pertaining to miscellaneous insurance and managed care coverages and networks). Adds terms *clinical laboratory*, *health service facility*, and *healthcare provider*.

Requires an insurer upon request under GS 58-3-200(d) (services outside provider networks), to determine whether a healthcare provider able to meet the needs of the insured is available to the insured without unreasonable delay by reference to the insured's location and the specific medical needs of the insured.

Applies to healthcare services provided on or after October 1, 2026, and to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

## Section 3.

Adds new Article 11C to GS Chapter 131E, entitled "Fair Billing and Collection Practices for Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Facilities," as follows. Recodifies GS 131E-91(fair billing and collections practices for hospitals and ambulatory

surgical facilities) as GS 131E-214.50, and reorganizes that provision into new Article 11C. Requires a hospital or ambulatory surgical facility to first present an itemized list of charges to the patient detailing the specific nature of the charges or expenses incurred by the patient before referring the bill to collection as another required collections practice under new GS 131E-214.50. Enacts new GS 131E-215.52 (patient's right to a good faith estimate) as part of new Article 11C, as follows. Defines *CMS, facility* (licensed hospital or ambulatory surgical facility), *items and services, service package, and shoppable service* (a non-urgent service that can be scheduled by the patient in advance). Requires a facility to provide, upon request, a good faith estimate for a shoppable service as described. Limits a patient's final bill from exceeding more than 5% of the good faith estimate. Requires DHHS to adopt rules to implement the statute.

Effective on the later of January 1, 2026, or the date the rules adopted by DHHS become effect. Applies to acts occurring after the effective date.

#### Section 4.

Adds new GS 131E-214.54 (concerning facility fees) to Article 11C, as follows. Defines *campus, facility fee* (any fee charged or billed by a health care provider for outpatient services provided in a hospital-based facility that is (i) intended to compensate the health care provider for the operational expenses of the health care provider, (ii) separate and distinct from a professional fee, and (iii) charged regardless of the modality through which the health care services were provided), *health care provider, health systems, hospital, hospital-based facility, professional fee, and remote location of a hospital.*

Places the following limits on facility fees: (1) prevents a health care provider from assessing a charge, bill, or collecting a facility fee unless the services are provided on a hospital's main campus, at a remote location of a hospital, or at a facility that includes an emergency department and (2) regardless of where the services are provided, no health care provider from assessing a charge, bill, or collecting a facility fee for outpatient evaluation and management services, or any other outpatient, diagnostic, or imaging services identified by DHHS. Requires DHHS to annually identify those services.

Requires each hospital and health system to submit a report to DHHS by July 1 on the six specified matters. Specifies that all violations of the statute are an unfair trade practice. Subjects health care providers that violate the statute to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per occurrence. Requires DHHS to adopt rules to implement new GS 131E-214.54. Effective on the later of January 1, 2026, or the date DHHS adopts the rules discussed above.

#### Section 5.

Expands the State Auditor's responsibilities under GS 147-64.6 to include a periodic review of health service facilities that receive State funds for information on the prices these facilities charge out-of-network or uninsured patients and their transparency about those prices.

#### Part 6.

Expands the obligations pertaining to expedited appeals under GS 58-50-61(k) to include utilization review organizations (currently just insurers). Makes clarifying and technical changes. Requires an insurer to provide its contact information for the insurer as part of the written information it must provide as part of a first-level grievance review (currently have to provide review contact information for the reviewer), and makes technical changes to GS 58-50-62(e) (concerning first-level grievance reviews). Requires the insurer to provide information on how and where to submit written material for a second-level grievance review (currently, just have to provide its contact information) in GS 58-50-62(f) (second-level grievance reviews).

#### Section 7.

Expands acts that are not considered the "unlawful practice of dentistry" under GS 90-29 to include the mechanism by which a management company (defined), and a licensee establish the fee in a management arrangement (defined). Specifies that a management fee established under this exception is a private business contract and is not evidence of a partnership under GS Chapter 59.

#### Section 8.

Amends GS 131E-176 (the definitions pertaining to certificates of need) so that rehabilitative health services; rehabilitation health service facilities; rehabilitation health service facility beds; rehabilitation facility hospitals for rehabilitation of injured, disabled, or sick persons; nursing provided at an at a non-inpatient rehabilitation facility for the rehabilitation of sick, injured, or disabled individuals are no longer included in the definitions. Amends term *rehabilitation facility* so that it means a facility

that has been classified and designated as an inpatient rehabilitation facility by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (currently, means a public or private inpatient facility which is operated for the primary purpose of assisting in the rehabilitation of individuals with disabilities through an integrated program of medical and other services which are provided under competent, professional supervision).

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

GS 90, GS 131E

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Insurance, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Health Insurance**

S 317 (2025-2026) **UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT.** Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT.*

Adds new Part 4, Uniform Partition of Heirs Property Act, to Article 2 of GS Chapter 46A, providing as follows. Defines heirs property as real property held in tenancy in common that satisfies all of the following as of the filing of a partition proceeding: (1) there is no agreement in a record binding all the cotenants which governs the partition of the property; (2) one or more of the cotenants acquired title from a relative, whether living or deceased; and (3) 20% or more of the interests are held by cotenants who are relatives, 20% or more of the interests are held by an individual who acquired title from a relative, or 20% or more of the cotenants are relatives.

Requires a court, in a proceeding to partition real property under Article 2 of GS Chapter 46A to determine whether the property is heirs property; if such a determination is made, then the property must be partitioned under this Part unless all of the cotenants agree otherwise in a record. Sets out the procedure for notice by posting when a petitioner in a partition proceeding seeks authorization for notice by publication and the court decides that the property may be heirs property. Requires any commissioners appointed to partition the property by the court to be disinterested and impartial and not a party to or a participant in the proceeding.

Requires the court, if it determines that the property that is the subject of a partition proceeding is heirs property, to determine the fair market value of the property by ordering an appraisal. Requires the court, however, to adopt a valuation or use another method of valuation when it has been agreed to by all cotenants. Provides that if the court determines that the evidentiary value of an appraisal is outweighed by the cost of the appraisal, the court must determine the fair market value of the property, after an evidentiary hearing, and send notice to the parties. Sets out the procedure to be followed when an appraisal is conducted.

Requires the court, when any cotenant requested partition by sale, after the determination of value, to send notice that any cotenant except one requesting partition by sale, may buy all of the interests of the cotenants making the request. Allows any cotenant, except the one requesting partition by sale, to give notice to the court no later than 45 days after the notice is sent stating that they elect to buy all interest of the cotenant requesting partition by sale. Sets out the process for determining the purchase price. Sets out procedures that apply at the end of the 45 days, varying based on how many of the cotenants (including, none) elect to buy the interests of the cotenant requesting partition by sale, including setting deadlines by which the electing cotenants must pay their apportioned price. Allows a cotenant who is entitled to buy an interest to request, no later than 45 days after the court sends notice to the parties, that the court authorize the sale as part of the pending proceeding of the interests of cotenants named as respondents and served with the complaint but that did not appear in the proceeding; allows the court to deny the request or authorize the requested additional sale on fair and reasonable terms, subject to the stated limitations.

Provides that when all the interests of all cotenants that requested partition by sale are not purchased by other cotenants, or if, after conclusion of the buyout, a cotenant remains that has requested partition in kind, the court must order partition in kind unless the court, after consideration of all seven listed factors, finds that partition in kind will result in substantial injury to the cotenants as a group. Requires that when the court does not order partition in kind, the court must order partition by sale or, if no cotenant requested partition by sale, the court is required to dismiss the proceeding. Sets out the processes to be followed when the court orders partition in kind.



Requires that when the court orders a sale of heirs property, the sale must be an open-market sale unless the court finds that a sale by sealed bids or an auction would be more economically advantageous and in the best interest of the cotenants as a group. Sets out the procedures to be followed for an open-market sale, including the appointment of a real estate broker when one is not agreed upon; procedures to be followed depending on whether or not the broker receives an offer to purchase in a reasonable time; and requirements for the broker to report to the court. Sets out requirements for when the court orders a sale by sealed bids or an auction.

Provides that in applying and construing this uniform act, consideration must be given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect to its subject matter among states that enact it. Sets out how this new Part relates to the Electronic Signatures in Global and National Commerce Act.

Makes conforming changes to GS 46A-26.

Applies to petitions for partition filed on or after January 1, 2026.

**Intro. by Sawrey, Lowe, Settle.**

[GS 46A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing](#)

S 318 (2025-2026) [PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & NICOTINE](#). Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT THE YOUTH FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF VAPING AND NICOTINE ADDICTION BY RAISING THE LEGAL SALES AGE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO AGE 21 AND TO REQUIRE A TOBACCO RETAIL SALES PERMIT.*

Part I.

Enacts Chapter GS 18D, pertaining to Tobacco Products Retail Sales.

Defines thirty terms used in the Chapter. Specifies in GS 18D-101 the powers of the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (Commission) under new Chapter GS 18D as the following: (1) administer tobacco retail sales under the chapter; (2) provide for enforcement of those laws in conjunction with the ALE Division and (3) issue permits and impose sanctions against permittees. Specifies that the Commission has all other powers which may be reasonably implied from those powers or which are incidental to or convenient for performing the Commission's duties. Authorizes, in GS 18D-102, the Commission's employees and licensed alcohol enforcement agents to investigate the operation of each licensed premises for which a tobacco retail sales permit has been issued as described. Specifies that refusal to allow inspection is grounds for discipline under GS 18D-103. Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to resist or obstruct an officer attempting to make a lawful inspection.

Lists the administrative penalties that may be imposed by the Commission for violations of GS Chapter 18D, including revocation of the permittee's permit, suspension of a permit, and/or fines ranging from up to \$500 for a first violation to up to \$1,000 for a third violation within three years of the first violation in GS 18D-103. Authorizes a compromise of not more than \$5,000 in those instances where the Commission is authorized to suspend or revoke a permit. Allows the Commission to accept a compromise and suspend a permit in the same case but prevents it from revoking a permit if a compromise is accepted. Directs that the clear proceeds of any civil penalty be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund (Fund). Specifies that suspension or revocation of a permit is grounds for suspension or revocation of any related State or local revenue license. Instructs that unless the Commission provides otherwise, suspension of or revocation of a permit, does not include automatic revocation or suspension, respectively, of any ABC permit held by the same permittee for the same establishment.

Allows the Commission to adopt, amend, and repeal rules to carry out the provisions of GS Chapter 18D. Provides for the applicability of the administrative procedures act (APA), as specified.

Makes it unlawful under GS 18D-200 for a person, that is not a delivery service making deliveries on behalf of a permit holder, to sell a tobacco product to a consumer in the State without a permit.

Provides for the disposition of tobacco products by law enforcement officers who seize those products as evidence of a tobacco retail sales violation under GS 18D-201, including: (1) storage of the seized goods until the end of the applicable hearing; (2)

disposition of the seized goods by court order as described upon notice to a defendant, to other known owners, and the Commission; and (3) disposition by court order as described after the criminal charge is resolved. Prevents the court from ordering disposition of the seized goods if they are also needed at an administrative hearing. Authorizes the Commission to take any of the actions a court may have taken under prongs 1 and 2, above after an administrative hearing. Prevents Commission from destroying any seized products if no criminal proceedings have commenced until notice has been given to the district attorney for the district where the goods were seized. Specifies that any sales will be by public auction. Provides for segregation and disposition of sales as described. Authorizes four listed categories of persons to bring a superior court action in the county where the tobacco products were seized, including, a persons claiming to be the owner of wrongfully held tobacco products, persons claiming to be entitled to sale proceeds of the tobacco products seized, and persons claiming to be entitled to restitution for tobacco products wrongfully destroyed.

Provides for forfeiture of tobacco products possessed or sold in violation of the tobacco retail sales laws in GS 18D-202. Clarifies that tobacco products which may be possessed lawfully are not subject to forfeiture when they were used unlawfully by someone other than the owner of the tobacco products and the owner did not consent to the unlawful use. Authorizes application to judge for an order authorizing seizure of the products if they have not already been seized. Directs that such an order can only be issued after criminal process has been issued for tobacco retail sales violation in connection with the product. Provides for safe storage until trial. Allows the presiding judge in a criminal proceeding to take any of five described actions after resolution of a charge against the owner or possessor of the tobacco product subject to forfeiture. If the judge orders forfeiture, authorizes the judge to also order any of the following dispositions: (1) sale at public auctions to a tobacco manufacturer, wholesaler, or retailer sales permittee or (2) destruction if possession of the product would be unlawful or sale or other disposition is impracticable. Provides for distribution of sale proceeds, including to persons who hold a security interest in the seized tobacco but who did not consent to the unlawful use of the tobacco. Provides for an in rem action when the owner is unknown and forfeiture is sought. Allows any owner of a seized tobacco product seized for forfeiture to apply to a judge to have the product returned if no criminal charge has been made in connection within a reasonable time after seizure. Prevents return of the seized goods if it would be unlawful.

Specifies seven requirements for a tobacco retail sales permit under GS 18D-300 including (1) that the person be at least 21 years of age; (2) not have been convicted (defined) of certain crimes or tobacco retail offenses within certain time periods; (3) be current in all applicable State tax returns and in payment of all taxes, interest, and penalties that are collectible under GS 105-241.22. Allows the Commission to decline to take action against a permittee who may have incurred any of the convictions or violations described in prong 2, above. If the permittee is a business, specifies that each of the eight classes of listed persons must qualify for a retail sales permit, including the owner of a sole proprietorship, each member of a firm, association, or general partnership, each general partner in an limited partnership, each manager and any member with a 25% or greater interest in an LLC, and each officer, director, and owner of 25% or more of the stock of a corporation except that those persons don't have to be 21 unless they are a manager or is otherwise responsible for the daily operations of the business.

Requires the Department of Revenue (DOR) to provide information to the Commission to confirm current tax status. Allows the Commission to take disciplinary action against a permittee if DOR informs it that the person is not current on their taxes as detailed above. Specifies that disciplinary action can only last until the Commission receives notice from DOR that the person is now current. Allows the requirement to pay all taxes, interest, and penalties to be satisfied by an operative agreement under covering any amounts that are collectible under GS 105-241.22. Specifies that GS Chapter 150B (the APA) does not apply to a Commission action on issuance, suspension, or revocation of a tobacco retail sales permit for taxes.

Specifies that the Commission is the only entity authorized to issue a tobacco retail sales permits in GS 18D-301. Requires the Commission to consider three factors, as described, of the applicant and business location, including the reputation, character, and criminal record of the applicant and whether the retail seller's operation would be detrimental to the surrounding neighborhood. Allows the Commission to determine the suitability and qualifications of an applicant for a permit along with the suitability of the location to which the permit may be issued.

Requires, in GS 18D-302, the Commission to investigate the applicant (and the premises for a retail seller permit) with the assistance of the ALE Division as described, before issuing a permit. Provides for an application form, fingerprinting, and a criminal record check. Requires such information to be kept confidential and specifies that the information is not a public record. Allows the State Bureau of Investigation to charge a fee to the applicant for the criminal records check. Makes knowingly making false statements on applications unlawful and grounds for discipline including, denial, suspension or revocation of a permit. Provides for nonrefundable \$400 application fee for each type of permit (retail seller, delivery seller, and remote seller). Requires all application fees to be remitted to the State Treasurer for the General Fund.

Specifies in GS 18D-303 that once issued, permits are valid for up to one year (May 1 to April 30). Sets nonrefundable renewal fees in the same amount as those provided for in GS 18D-302. Prevents the Commission from revoking a permit for failure to pay a renewal fee until June 1 of the year the payment is unpaid. Provides for notice to permittees with unpaid renewal fees. Requires the Commission to impose a 25% late fee.

Prevents permits from being transferred from one person to another or one location to another, except as described below. Provides for automatic expiration of the permit and surrender of the permit to the Commission if there is a change in ownership of the permittee as described. Allows a person, who, through contract, lease, management agreement, or change of ownership or transfer of business becomes lawfully entitled to use and control of the premises of an establishment that holds permits immediately prior to such change of ownership may continue to operate the establishment, as successor to the prior permittee, to the same extent as the predecessor permittee until the person receives a temporary or new permit, subject to the five listed limitations. Specifies conditions under which transfer to a trust would not constitute change in ownership. Requires corporations to submit an application for a substitute manager if there is a change in managers of any person who is required to qualify as an applicant within the time and under the conditions specified. Provides for duplicate permits if they are lost, stolen, or if the permittee's name or business name is changed, subject to a \$10 fee.

Enacts GS 18D-304, containing miscellaneous provisions, including the following. Instructs that a retail seller permit authorizes the sale of tobacco products only in the physical presence of the consumer on the fixed premises of the establishment located in the State and named in the permit. Directs that a delivery seller permit authorizes a delivery sale only, originating either inside or outside of the State. Requires a remote seller permit to authorize a remote sale only, originating either inside or outside of the State. Provides for prominent posting of the permit on the premises. Prevents a tobacco retail sales permit from being issued to a business on the campus or property of a public school, college or university. Requires the Commission to send notice of the issuance of a permit with the name and address of the permittee and establishment to the three listed agencies.

Provides for temporary permits as described in GS 18D-305. Allows for electronic submission of payments and forms in GS 18D-306. Authorizes applications for permits under GS Chapter 18D to be filed simultaneously or in conjunction with applications for ABC permits under GS Chapter 18B in GS 18D-307.

Specifies in GS 18D-400 that a permittee is responsible for the entire premises where a permit is issued as well as the actions of all of their employees, as described. Prevents permittees from knowingly employing any person whose license under GS Chapter 18D has been revoked in the past 18 months. Requires employees and agents of permit holder to demand proof of age from prospective purchasers if they have reasonable grounds to believe the person is under 30 years of age. Requires delivery sellers and remote sellers to (1) perform an age verification through an independent, third-party age verification service that compares information available from public records to the personal information entered by the individual during the ordering process to establish that the individual ordering the tobacco products is 21 years of age or older and (2) use a method of shipping, mailing or delivery that requires a signature of a person at least 21 years of age before the product is delivered. Provides for required training of employees or agents of retail sellers by the employer. Provides for display of a consumer statement as described.

Prevents four types of conduct from occurring on licensed premises in GS 18D-401, including fighting or disorderly conduct, violations of GS Chapter 18D, or violations of the controlled substances, gambling, or prostitution statutes, or any other unlawful acts. Directs that it is unlawful for a permittee to fail to superintend in person or through a manager the business for which a permit is issued.

Enacts GS 18D-402, containing miscellaneous tobacco sales provisions preventing six described courses of conduct, including selling tobacco products through displays accessible to the public without the assistance of a permittee's employee or agent other than in an establishment open only to persons 21 years of age and older.

Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person to sell, aid, assist, or abet any other person in selling tobacco products to any person under the age of 21 years, or for any person shall purchase tobacco products on behalf of a person under the age of 21 years in GS 18D-500. Exempts sales of tobacco products to an employee or agent of a tobacco retail sales permittee under the age of 21 years when possession of the tobacco product is required pursuant to a tobacco retail sales permit in the performance of that person's duties of employment or contract.

Makes it a Class 2 misdemeanor for any person under the age of 21 to present or offer false, fraudulent, or the identification of another to purchase or receive tobacco products in GS 18D-501. Makes all other purchases or attempts at purchase of tobacco

purchase by those persons an infraction which may require completion of a tobacco education program as described. Provides that it is not unlawful for an employee or agent of a tobacco retail sales permittee under the age of 21 years to accept receipt of, sell, transport, possess, or dispense tobacco products when required pursuant to a tobacco retail sales permit in the performance of that person's duties of employment or contract, if the employment of the person for that purpose is lawful under applicable youth employment statutes and Commission rules. Provides for aiding and abetting liability in GS 18D-502 in the punishment classes as described.

Provides for persons under age 21 to be lawfully enlisted by any of the following and under the described conditions in GS 18D-503: (1) law enforcement, including the Division of Alcohol Law Enforcement, to test compliance if the testing is under the direct supervision of that law enforcement department and written parental consent is provided; (2) DHHS pursuant to a written plan to use persons under age 21 in annual, random, unannounced inspections, so long as parental consent is given; and (3) a research program affiliated with an accredited community college, college, or university located in this State to test compliance as part of a scientific research study to further efforts in underage tobacco use prevention, provided that prior written parental consent is given for persons under 18 years of age.

Specifies three defenses to violations of GS 18D-500 under circumstances where the seller: (1) demonstrates the purchaser produced identification showing the person's age to be the required age and bearing a physical description of the person named on the identification reasonably describing the purchaser; (2) produces evidences of other facts that reasonably indicated at the time of sale that the purchaser was at least the required age; and (3) evidence that at the time of sale the purchaser utilized a biometric identification system that demonstrated their age to be at least 21 and that they had registered an official federal or State ID with the seller or the seller's agent showing them to be the legal age for purchase. Allows for deferred prosecution or conditional discharge under GS 18D-505 under the conditions described.

Provides for restitution as specified in GS 18D-600. Specifies that unless otherwise specified, any violation of GS Chapter 18D is a Class 1 misdemeanor, and authorizes the Court to impose the provisions GS 18D-201 (seizure), GS 18D-202 (forfeiture) and GS 18D-600 (restitution), in GS 18D-601.

Enacts GS 18D-700, concerning certification and directory of vapor products and consumable products, as follows. Requires the Secretary of DOR to certify vapor products and consumable products eligible for retail sale in the State and list them on a directory as required by Part 3 of Article 4 of GS Chapter 143B. Sets forth the following penalties for violations of the above:

1. A retailer, distributor, or wholesaler who offer for sale a consumable product or vapor product intended for ultimate retail sale in this State that is not included in the directory is subject to a warning with a mandatory reinspection of the retailer within 30 days of the violation.
- For a second violation of this type within a 12-month period, the fine will be at least \$500 but not more than \$750.00 and, if licensed, the licensee's license will be suspended for 30 days.
  - For a third or subsequent violation of this type within a 12-month period, the fine will be at \$1,000 but not more than \$1,500 and, if licensed, the licensee's license will be revoked.

Provides for seizure, forfeiture, or destruction upon a second or subsequent violation of the above, as described.

1. A manufacturer whose consumable products or vapor products are not listed in the directory and who causes the products that are not listed to be sold for retail sale in North Carolina, whether directly or through an importer, distributor, wholesaler, retailer, or similar intermediary or intermediaries, is subject to a civil penalty of \$10,000 for each individual product offered for sale in until the offending product is removed from the market or until the offending product is properly listed on the directory. In addition, any manufacturer that falsely represents any information required by a certification form is guilty of a misdemeanor for each false representation.

Authorizes the State to recoup costs, including the costs of investigation, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorneys' fees. Specifies that repeated violations of Part 3, Article 4 of GS Chapter 143B is an unfair and deceptive trade practice.

Part II.

Repeals GS 14-313, which concerned access to tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, vapor products, and cigarette wrapping papers by persons under age 18. Makes conforming changes in GS 7B-2508.1; GS 14-50.16A, GS 15A-150, GS

75D-3, and GS 105-113.4F. Replaces references to GS 14-313 with the appropriate new statutory references in GS 143B-245.10, GS 143B-245.11, GS 143B-245.14, GS 105-113.4F, and GS 143B-245.16.

Amends GS 15A-145, to allow a person who has not been previously convicted of any felony, or misdemeanor other than a traffic violation, who pleads guilty to or is guilty of the offense of the sale of a tobacco product to a person under age 21 to file a petition for expunction. Allows the petition to be restored in such cases when the court finds that the petitioner has remained of good behavior and been free of any felony or misdemeanor, other than a traffic violation, for two years from the date of conviction, and the petitioner has no outstanding restitution orders or civil judgments representing amounts ordered for restitution entered against him. Makes language gender neutral.

Expands upon the duties of the ABC Commission (Commission) under GS 18B-203 to include: (1) providing for the enforcement of the tobacco retail sales laws in GS Chapter 18D, in conjunction with the ALE Division, and issuing tobacco retail sales permits and imposing sanctions against permittees as set forth in GS Chapter 18D. Makes technical changes.

Amends GS 18B-500 to alcohol law-enforcement agents authority to arrest and take investigatory and enforcement actions for criminal offenses while investigating or enforcing GS Chapter 18D; specifies that their primary responsibilities include enforcement of the Chapter.

Enacts new GS 18B-908 allowing applications for permits under GS Chapter 18D to be filed simultaneously or in conjunction with applications for tobacco retail sales permits, including allowing the Commission to combine them into a single application. Allows the Commission to use, rely upon, or incorporate by reference any information an application for a permit under GS Chapter 18B has submitted in conjunction with a tobacco retail sales permit.

Amends GS 143B-245.10 by updating the definition of timely filed premarket tobacco product application; makes other conforming and technical changes, including updating statutory cross-references.

Part III.

Specifies that prosecutions for offenses committed before the effective date of this act are not abated or affected by this act, and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

Allows the ABC Commission, effective March 1, 2026, to issue tobacco retail sales permits as authorized by Section 1 of this act effective for the period of May 1, 2026, through April 30, 2027.

Makes GS 18D-100, GS 18D-101, GS 18D-104, GS 18D-300 through 18D-302, and GS 18D-304 through 18D-307, as enacted by Section 1 of this act, effective when this act becomes law and applicable to permits effective on or after May 1, 2026.

Makes the remainder of Sections 1 through 3 of this act effective May 1, 2026, applicable to offenses committed on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.

**Intro. by Adcock.**

GS 7B, GS 14, GS 15A, GS 18B, GS 18D, GS 143B

[View summary](#)

**Alcoholic Beverage Control, Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Health and Human Services, Health**

S 319 (2025-2026) **LSAUS TO MAINTAIN AIG SERVICES IN ALT. PROGS.** Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO CONTINUE TO PROVIDE ALL APPROPRIATE EDUCATIONAL SERVICES TO ACADEMICALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED STUDENTS IF THE STUDENT IS PLACED INTO AN ALTERNATIVE LEARNING PROGRAM OR SCHOOL.*

Amends GS 115C-150.7(b) by creating new subdivision (7a), requiring local boards of education to include within their local plans for serving academically and intellectually gifted students a procedure for providing continuous services to children who are placed in alternative learning programs or alternative schools under GS Chapter 115C, Article 8C.

**Intro. by Everitt.**

GS 115C

S 320 (2025-2026) **LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS**. Filed Mar 17 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTION FOR STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS WITH AT LEAST THIRTY YEARS OF CREDITABLE SERVICE*.

Identical to [H50](#), filed 2/4/25.

Adds an additional separation allowance option (so that there are two in total) for State law enforcement officers (GS 143-166.41) and local law enforcement officers (GS 143-166.42) as follows. For officers meeting all of the following criteria, the annual special separation allowance to be paid is equal to 0.85% of the annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation at the time the officer attained 30 years of service multiplied by 30:

- The officer has completed 30 or more years of creditable service prior to attaining 62 years of age.
- The officer has completed at least five years of continuous service as a law enforcement officer immediately preceding the officer's service retirement. Any break in this required continuous service that is a result of disability retirement or disability salary continuation benefits will not adversely affect an officer's qualification to receive an allowance so long as the officer returned to service within 45 days after the disability benefits had ceased and is otherwise qualified to receive the allowance.

Specifies that if an officer meets the eligibility requirements for both additional separation allowance options, then the employer making the allowance payments will allow the officer to choose which of the two calculation formulas to use for that officer's allowance. Provides that the election by the officer is a one-time, irrevocable election and must be made prior to the first allowance payment. Sets the additional separation allowance option described above as the default option if no election is made by the officer. Sets the cessation date for the additional separation allowance option for reasons other than death as the time when the officer has undergone a period of receiving the allowance that is the equivalent to the total of 62 years of age minus the age which the officer first completed 30 years of creditable service.

Adds defined terms allowance, law enforcement officer, officer, and probation/parole officer (G 143-166.41 only). Makes organizational, clarifying, and technical changes.

Applies to law enforcement officers retiring on or after July 1, 2025.

**Intro. by Berger, Sawyer, Ford.**

GS 143

[View summary](#)

**Employment and Retirement, Government, Public Safety and  
Emergency Management**

## **ACTIONS ON BILLS**

### **PUBLIC BILLS**

#### **H 21: DRIVERS LICENSE DESIGNATION/AUTISM.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

#### **H 28: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**H 35: ESTABLISH MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**H 37: ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS & REPRESENTATION.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**H 62: FARMERS PROTECTION ACT.**

*House: Withdrawn From Com*

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

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

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

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

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/19/2025*

**H 98: PATRIOTISM EXPRESSION ACT.**

*House: Serial Referral To State and Local Government Stricken*

*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 124: ADOPT OFFICIAL STATE COOKIE.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**H 125: ADOPT OFFICIAL STATE STAR.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**H 182: REVISE LAWS ON DOMESTIC & CHILD ABUSE.**

*Senate: Regular Message Received From House*

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 184: PROMOTE NORTH CAROLINA SAWMILLS.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/19/2025*

**H 186: THE STARS AND STRIPES COMMITMENT ACT.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/19/2025*

**H 193: FIREARM LAW REVISIONS.**

*House: Withdrawn From Com*

*House: Re-ref to the Com on Judiciary 2, if favorable, Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 198: AMEND LAW ON NOTICE OF ABC VIOLATION.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/19/2025*

**H 391: MORE APS STAFF TO ADDRESS ELDER ABUSE.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 392: FUNDS/FORSYTH UNITED WAY/SUMMER LEARNING.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 393: FUNDS FOR ONE LOVE FESTIVAL.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 394: DISTRACTED DRIVING/CHILDREN AND ANIMALS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 395: FUNDS/JACKSON, TRANSYLVANIA & SWAIN COUNTIES.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 396: NURSING FELLOWS & CURRIC. SUPPORT FUNDS/WSSU.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 397: USE OF EPINEPHRINE NASAL SPRAY IN SCHOOLS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 398: ENACT KINCARE & SAFE DAYS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 399: NC BOARD OF NURSING LICENSURE FEES.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 400: BENTLEY'S LAW.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 401: ALLOW LOTTERY WINNERS TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 402: NC REINS ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*



*House: Ref to the Com on Regulatory Reform, if favorable, Judiciary 1, if favorable, Commerce and Economic Development, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House*

**H 403: WORKERS' RIGHTS ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 404: FAIR & AFFORDABLE HOUSING ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 405: REESTABLISH NC COORDINATE SYSTEM OF 1983.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 406: CLARIFY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 407: DIVINE NINE SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE ACT.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**H 409: FUNDS FOR CASWELL COUNTY VOL. FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 410: NCIOM STUDY/MEDICAL AID IN DYING.**

*House: Filed*

**H 411: REDUCE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR PRIMARIES.**

*House: Filed*

**H 412: CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 413: MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 414: 1-TO-1 CREDIT FOR CAREER AND COLLEGE PROMISE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 415: SPLIT MATH COURSES AND CHANGE MATH GRAD. REQS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 416: FUNDS FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 417: FUNDS FOR HOKE COUNTY PARK.**

*House: Filed*

**H 418: K-5 PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS REQUIREMENT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 419: SCHOOL OF THE ARTS BUILDING PURCHASE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 420: SOUND BASIC EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD.**

*House: Filed*

**H 421: MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.**

*House: Filed*

**H 422: BEYOND THE CHOICE ACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 423: SKIP THE STUFF ACT.**

*House: Filed*

**H 424: GAMING LAWS/ALLOW CERTAIN SOCIAL GAMES.**

*House: Filed*

**H 425: PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & NICOTINE.**

*House: Filed*

**H 426: WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM.**

*House: Filed*

**S 50: FREEDOM TO CARRY NC.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

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

**S 59: REVISE VOLUNTARY AG. DISTRICT LAWS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 220: PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.-AB**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Senate Clerk's Office*

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 223: EXPAND ACADEMIC TRANS. PATHWAYS/SOPHOMORE HS.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 226: ALIGN BENEFITS FOR FIREFIGHTERS WITH CANCER.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

*Senate: Re-ref Com On Appropriations/Base Budget*

**S 261: ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT.**

*Senate: Regular Message Sent To House*

*House: Regular Message Received From Senate*

**S 281: ESSENTIAL RELIEF FOR CHILD CARE ACT.**

*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 282: CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION.**

*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 283: EXPAND SICKLE CELL DISEASE PROGRAMS & SVCS.**

*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 284: GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS FUNDING REQUESTS.**

*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 285: TEACHER SALARY SUPPLEMENT/GUILFORD CNTY SCHS.**

*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 286: NC BOARD OF NURSING LICENSURE FEES.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 287: SAFEGUARD HEALTH INS. UTILIZATION REVIEWS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 288: FUNDS FOR PAULI MURRAY CENTER.**

*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 289: FUNDS FOR THE STAGVILLE MEMORIAL PROJECT.**

*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 290: NC REINS ACT.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 291: REGULATION OF SHORT-TERM RENTALS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 292: FUNDS/TOWN OF GRIFTON RESILIENCY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 293: TOWN OF PINETOPS FIRE DEPT. APPROPRIATION.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 294: BUDGETING ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 295: CLARIFY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS.**

*Senate: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 296: BUY AMERICAN STEEL.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 297: NURSING FELLOWS & CURRIC. SUPPORT FUNDS/WSSU.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 298: INEXPERIENCED OPERATOR CONTINUOUS COVERAGE.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 299: GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 300: NC REACH ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 301: FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT GRANT FUND MODS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 302: THE SERGEANT MICKEY HUTCHENS ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 303: REPEAL SERVICE TAX.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 304: REENACT EITC.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 305: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 306: WC/SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 307: INFO. RIGHTS OF ESTATE/DEATH OF LLC MEMBER.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 308: PERMANENT PLATES FOR WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 309: CHANGES TO ESTATES AND TRUSTS STATUTES.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 310: RELIGIOUS PROPERTY - TAX EXEMPTION.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 311: UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 312: THE STARS AND STRIPES COMMITMENT ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 313: SUPPORTING SMALL FARMERS FOR NC'S FUTURE ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 314: ELIMINATE ETJ OVERLAP.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 315: MORE TRANSPARENCY/EFFICIENCY IN UTILIZ. REV.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 316: LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 317: UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 318: PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & AMP NICOTINE.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 319: LSAUS TO MAINTAIN AIG SERVICES IN ALT. PROGS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**S 320: LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS.**

*Senate: Filed*

**LOCAL BILLS**

**H 58: EXTEND ELECTED OFFICIALS' TERMS/KITTRELL.**

*Senate: Withdrawn From Com*

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

**H 223: TOWN OF MOORESVILLE/PROPERTY CONVEYANCE.**

*House: Reptd Fav*

*House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)*

*House: Placed On Cal For 03/18/2025*

**S 149: HENDERSON COUNTY/BLUE RIDGE CC CONSTRUCTION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 174: RUTHERFORD CTY/ISOTHERMAL CC CONSTRUCTION.**

*House: Passed 1st Reading*

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

**S 203: CITY OF WILMINGTON/PROPERTY CONVEYANCES.**

*Senate: Regular Message Sent To House*

*House: Regular Message Received From Senate*

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