

The Daily Bulletin: 2025-03-18

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

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

Conference report to the 5th edition makes the following changes. Makes technical, clarifying, and organizational changes.

Part I

Section 1.4

Adds term *Disaster Relief Reserve* to refer to the OSBM Disaster Relief Reserve, Budget Code 23009 (Reserve) to the act's definitions.

Part II

Section 2A.1

Now directs the State Controller to transfer \$299 million (was, \$307,991,704) from SERDRF to the Helene Fund.

Section 2A.2

Decreases the total appropriations from the Helene Fund from \$532,991,704 to \$524 million and makes the following changes to the lined allocations:

- Notwithstanding GS 143B-1040(c), decreases funding back to \$120 million (was, \$140 million) to the Department of Commerce (DOC), Division of Community Revitalization (DCR), for the Home Reconstruction and Repair Program, as described.
- Increases funding from \$192,491,704 to \$200 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) for the Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program as created in Subpart II-D of the act. Makes conforming changes to account for removal of Subpart II-E, discussed below. Removes provisions directing DACS how to use any remaining funds.
- Caps grants awarded under the \$10 million allocated to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) at \$500,000.
- Modifies the grantees of the \$10 million allocated to NCEM to be member organizations of Volunteers Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) (was, nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code).
- Increases funds allocated to the Department of Commerce (DOC) for the nonprofit corporation with which DOC contracts pursuant to GS 143B-431.01(b) for targeted media campaigns from \$3 million to \$4 million. No longer allows funds to be used for grants to local tourism development offices in the affected areas. Requires the nonprofit corporation to also promote, as described, awareness that segments of the Blue Ridge Parkway that are, or subsequently become, open to the public.
- Increases funds allocated to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for the School Extension Learning Recovery Program from \$4.5 million to \$9 million.

Section 2A.4

Reduces the money allocated for the Hurricane Helene Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP Program), a federal program to provide food assistance to low-income households with food loss or damages caused by Hurricane Helene that ended in November 2024 by \$4 million (was, \$2 million) so that the funds can be redirected to DOC for the tourism related allocations discussed above. Makes conforming change to Section 2.1(a) of SL 2024-53 to account for change.

Section 2B.2

Now directs the Controller to transfer the following amounts from the following sources to the Reserve as follows (was, for allocation to the Department of Public Safety's Office of Recovery and Resilience [NCORR]):

- \$121 million (was, \$104,300) from the Savings Reserve.
- \$96 million (was, \$104,300) from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund (SERDRF).

Removes specified appropriation from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund (Florence Fund) and instead directs the Controller to transfer all funds remaining in the Florence Fund that remain unexpended as of the date of the act becomes law to the Savings Reserve. Now directs that all of the funds allocated above are appropriated within the Reserve to NCORR for the completion of the homeowner recovery program for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence (was, only \$112,708,296 of the funds). Removes provisions stating the act's intent to appropriate future funds for unmet needs. Removes provisions limiting future State funding to NCORR to future enactments of a general law by the NCGA.

Removes the April dates from the schedules set forth under the Notices to Proceed to program-selected contractors for homeowner projects for the homeowner recovery programs for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Removes the May benchmark from the schedule pertaining to the percentage of the overall total number of projects for the history of the homeowner recovery program. Decreases all of that schedule's benchmarks, starting with the May 2025 benchmark (from 91% to 88.5%) and ending with the July 2025 benchmark (from 94% to 91.5%). Increases the allowed maximums of the amount of homeowner projects that are not awarded to contracts starting with May 2025 (from 50 to 100 projects) and ending with July 2025 (from 10 to 40 projects).

Section 2C.1

Changes the amount that NCEM may use for administrative costs for the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program (RBP) from \$500,000 to 2%. Reduces the proportion of NCEM's share as part of cost-sharing agreement with an HOA to repair a qualifying private road or bridge from 75% to 50%.

Section 2D.1

Modifies the General Assembly's intent so that its intent is to: (1) review the funds appropriated by Congress for agricultural disaster relief and to consider actions needed to address any remaining unmet needs and (2) to review the adequacy of the agricultural relief measures funded by the act at that time. Directs the State Controller to transfer \$100 million from SERDRF to the Reserve. Appropriates those funds for Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program (ADCLP). Allocates those funds, along with those appropriated in Section 2A.2, above, as follows: \$200 million for verifiable losses from Hurricane Helene in the affected area and \$100 million for verifiable losses, excluding Hurricane Helene. Directs DACS to use other specified funds from SL 2022-74 for the same purpose.

Modifies the eligibility criteria for financial assistance to (1) refer to affected counties instead of affected areas; (2) remove requirement that the agricultural commodity not be harvested on or before the effective date; and modifies the time period for actions pertaining to agricultural commodities to be before the eligibility date (was, on or before the eligibility date). Now excludes livestock and poultry from definition of *agricultural commodity*. Adds defined term, *USDA*. Allows the DACS Commissioner to use the funds appropriated for ADCLP for purposes related to Hurricane Helene recovery for farmers, including storm debris removal, streambank restoration, stream restoration, and cropland restoration in the affected area, if the applicant identifies that unmet need to DACS in the application. Makes technical changes.

Removes Subpart II-E pertaining to debris removal in the affected areas.

Section 2G.1

Changes the definition of participating school unit required to offer a School Extension Learning Recovery Program (SELRP) to refer to local school administrative units in the thirteen listed counties (was, a local school administrative unit or charter school that deemed as complete 15 or more instructional days or equivalent instructional hours). Makes conforming changes, including to account for increased appropriation, listed above. Directs that funds appropriated to DPI revert to the Helene Fund on October 15, 2025.

Section 4.2

Modifies the time the Governor must submit the required report to the State Auditor on all disaster relief funds allocated to Hurricane Helene relief that have been disbursed as of the enactment of the section so that it is by no later than fifteen (was, seven) business days after the act becomes law. Removes provisions directing that failure by the Governor's office to comply

with the reporting deadlines will trigger a hearing by the specified NCGA commission as described. Removes requirement for State Auditor to report to the specified NCGA commission if the Governor fails to meet a reporting deadline.

Section 5.6

Modifies the time period that the Board of Funeral Services (Board) may suspend the requirements governing funeral establishments under GS 90-210.27A(a1) from one year to two years. Allows for an extension by the Board for up to two years (was, one year). Extends the time period that a court may further extend the time period from two years from the date of loss to three years from that date.

Section 5.8

Adds schools in Ashe County, Buncombe County, Burke County, Haywood County, Henderson County, McDowell County, Rutherford County, Transylvania County, and Watauga County to those schools provided calendar flexibility for any instructional days or equivalent hours missed due to inclement weather during the months of December 2024 through February 2025. Requires DPI to report to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the specified information for each public school unit listed by May 1, 2025.

Intro. by Greene, Bell.

APPROP, Avery, Madison, Mitchell, Watauga, Yancey, GS 90, GS 143

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

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H 50 (2025-2026) **LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS**. Filed Feb 4 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*.

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

Modifies the two separation allowance options for State law enforcement officers (GS 143-166.41) and local law enforcement officers (GS 143-166.42) as follows. Adds the following criteria for the annual special separation allowance option that is paid at a rate 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, so that it now requires that at least 50% of the 30 or more years of the officer's creditable service prior to attaining 62 years of age which was as a law enforcement officer, or, for State officers, service prior to July 1, 2017, as a probation/parole officer.

Also requires that at least 50% of the of the officer's creditable service be as a law enforcement officer, or, for State officers, for service prior to July 1, 2017, as probation/parole officer as part of the criteria that must be met as part of the annual special

separation allowance that is paid equal 0.85% of the annual base rate of compensation most recently applicable to the officer for each year of that officer's creditable service.

Intro. by Pyrtle, Miller, Chesser, Cotham.

GS 143

[View summary](#)

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

H 56 (2025-2026) **PUBLISH CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION**. Filed Feb 4 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PUBLISH COMPENSATION AND POSITION INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES*.

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

Amends GS 115C-320 by amending the items that each local board of education must record for each of its employees, to include (1) current total compensation, consisting of total compensation from all funding sources, including at least salary, and reimbursements and allowances, including reimbursements and allowances related to travel (was, current compensation, including salary supplements, bonuses, reimbursements, and allowances) and (2) date and amount of each increase or decrease in compensation with that local board of education (was, date and amount of each increase or decrease in total compensation from all funding sources, including at least salary, salary supplements and bonuses, and reimbursements and allowances, including reimbursements and allowances related to travel). Amends the information that the local board of education must annually publish for each central office employee total compensation so that it no longer includes salary supplements and bonuses. Makes additional organizational and clarifying changes.

Intro. by Paré, Loftis, Zenger, Tyson.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, Public Records and Open Meetings**

H 118 (2025-2026) **DISABLED VETERANS TAX RELIEF BILL**. Filed Feb 11 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION TO EXCLUDE FROM TAXATION THE PERCENTAGE OF APPRAISED VALUE OF A PRIMARY RESIDENCE OWNED BY A DISABLED VETERAN THAT IS EQUAL TO THE VETERAN'S DISABILITY RATING*.

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

Amends the amount of the property tax homestead exclusion for disabled veterans, under GS 105-277.1C, so that it is the first \$61,000 of appraised value of the residences (was, first \$45,000 of appraised value of the residence under current law and other specified amounts under the 1st edition). Removes the proposed changes to the definition of *disabled veteran* and instead makes a technical change. Reinstates the provision allowing a veteran to establish entitlement to homestead exemption as a qualifying veteran under the statute by either (1) establishing permanent and total service connected disability by the VA or (2) establishing receipt of adaptive housing under 38 USC 2101 due to blindness or other permanent and total disabilities.

Reinstates the provision prohibiting the amount of the exclusion allowed to all the co-owners from exceeding the exclusion allowed under the statute. Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Campbell, Loftis, Schietzelt, Chesser.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing,
Government, Tax, Military and Veteran's Affairs**

H 123 (2025-2026) **CRIMINAL FALSIFICATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS**. Filed Feb 13 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE THE OFFENSE OF WILLFUL DESTRUCTION, ALTERATION, OR FALSIFICATION OF, OR OMISSION OF INFORMATION FROM MEDICAL*

RECORDS.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition rewrites the act so that it now provides as follows.

Enacts GS 14-401.28, concerning the willful destruction, alteration, or falsification of, or willful omission of information from medical records, as follows. Makes the following criminal offenses as described, unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment:

- A Class H felony when any health care provider knowingly and willfully destroys, alters, falsifies, or omits (collectively, “tamper with” or “tampering”) information from a medical record, directs any individual to tamper with information from a medical record, or conspires with one or more health care providers to tamper with information from a medical record for the purpose of concealing the commission of a medical error, or abuse or neglect of a patient, by a health care provider in providing medical services that caused serious injury to or the death of a patient.
- A Class A1 misdemeanor when any health care provider knowingly and willfully tampers with information from a medical record, directs any individual to tamper with information from a medical record, or conspires with one or more health care providers to tamper with information from a medical record for the purpose of concealing any material fact not covered under those acts constituting a Class H felony above, relating to any potential claim or cause of action arising from a health care provider providing medical services.
- A Class I felony when any health care provider or other individual offers or receives money or any other thing of value in exchange for the destruction of, alteration of, falsification of, or omission of information from a medical record for either purpose identified above.

Specifies that nothing in the statute affects any civil remedies for actions punishable under the statute. Defines *health care provider* and *medical record*. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Changes the act's long title.

Intro. by Pless.

GS 14

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[Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

H 171 (2025-2026) [EQUALITY IN STATE AGENCIES/PROHIBITION ON DEI](#). Filed Feb 21 2025, *AN ACT ELIMINATING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) INITIATIVES IN STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CLARIFYING THE PENALTY PROVISIONS OF THE STATE BUDGET ACT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET AND FISCAL CONTROL ACT.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Specifies that new GS 126-14.7 (equality and merit in State government; no DEI) and GS 143-162.8 (no public funds for DEI) should not be construed to alter the relationship between the State and an American Indian tribe which continues to enjoy all rights, privileges, and immunities as an American Indian tribe with a recognized tribal governing body carrying out and exercising substantial governmental duties and powers similar to the State, being recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians. Exempts the NC State Commission of Indian Affairs and Indian education services and provisions from both new statutes. Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Changes the effective date to December 1, 2025 (was, when act becomes law). Specifies that the act also applies to offenses (was, just acts or omissions) committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by B. Jones, N. Jackson, Lowery, Eddins.

GS 126, GS 143, GS 143C, GS 159

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[Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Office of State Auditor, State](#)

Government, State Personnel, State Property, Local Government

H 237 (2025-2026) **CHILD WELFARE**. Filed Feb 26 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LAWS AFFECTING JUVENILES AND ASSOCIATED SERVICES, COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS, REGIONAL SOCIAL SERVICES BOARDS AND DEPARTMENTS, CONSOLIDATED HUMAN SERVICES BOARDS AND AGENCIES, AND THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.*

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

Part IV.

Changes the date by which all current members of county board of social services, regional boards of social services, and consolidated human services boards must have participated in the education and training sessions provided for new board members during their first year of service from March 1, 2028, to March 1, 2027.

Part VII.

Adds House Bill 165 from the current biennium to the materials that the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee (Committee) on Health and Human Services should review as part of its study and recommendations on the creation of Foster Ombudsman program. Removes establishing regional offices as required under Ryan's Law (SL 2017-47) from the scope of the required study. Instead, directs the Committee to follow up with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) regarding the status of those regional offices including services provided, and recommendations for statewide, uniform standards in handling child welfare matters and areas for improving the delivery of child welfare services and make recommendations based on the information provided. Clarifies that the follow up with DHHS relating to information by the Child Welfare and Family Well-Being Transformation Team should focus on information after its May 2022 interim report, and to make recommendations on that information provided. Makes clarifying and technical changes.

Intro. by Stevens.

STUDY, GS 7B, GS 108A, GS 153A

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Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Court System, Administrative Office of the Courts, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Social Services

H 251 (2025-2026) **DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDING/NONDISCRIMINATION**. Filed Feb 27 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION IN THE PROVISION OF STATE DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition adds the following. Amends GS 166A-19.41 to require state emergency assistance provided as a grant to be administered free from discrimination. Prohibits requiring applicants for these grants to provide any personal demographic information unless that information is necessary to award the grant or is otherwise required by State or federal law.

Intro. by Hastings, Greene, Balkcom, Bell.

GS 166A

[View summary](#)

Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management

H 275 (2025-2026) **FAILURE TO YIELD PENALTIES. (NEW)** Filed Mar 4 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND FAILURE TO YIELD THE RIGHT-OF-WAY TO A BLIND OR PARTIALLY BLIND PEDESTRIAN AND TO INCREASE THE PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO YIELD*

CAUSING SERIOUS BODILY INJURY.

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

Amends GS 20-160.1 by increasing the penalty for failure to yield while approaching or entering an intersection, turning at a stop or yield sign, entering a roadway, upon the approach of an emergency vehicle, or at highway construction or maintenance that causes bodily injury to a Class 2 misdemeanor, including a fine of \$500 and revocation of the person's drivers license for 90 days (was, only punishable by a \$500 fine and suspension of the drivers license for 90 days; no criminal penalty was attached). Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2026. Makes conforming changes to the act's titles.

Intro. by Cairns, White, Pyrtle, Miller.

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

H 308 (2025-2026) [CRIMINAL LAW CHANGES](#). Filed Mar 5 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND STRANGULATION PENALTIES, TO MAKE CLARIFYING CHANGES REGARDING THE MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TO CREATE A FELONY CRIME OF HABITUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, TO CLARIFY EXPUNCTIONS MAY NOT BE GRANTED FOR PERSONS WITH PENDING CHARGES, TO CLARIFY WHO MAY REQUEST CONFIRMATION OF EXPUNCTION, AND TO REQUIRE SENTENCES TO RUN CONSECUTIVELY IF NOT SPECIFIED BY THE COURT.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Makes technical and organizational changes, including to December 1, 2025, effective date for certain sections of the act. Makes conforming changes, including to act's long title.

Section 2.

Makes clarifying changes to GS 15A-401(b) (concerning warrantless arrests by law enforcement).

Section 3.

Establishes crime of habitual domestic violence in new GS 14-32.6 when: (1) a person commits either misdemeanor domestic violence or an assault and (2) the person has a relationship with the victim that is one of those described as triggering the crime of misdemeanor domestic violence (e.g., a current or former spouse; parent or guardian; a current or former cohabitant; or someone with a current or former dating relationship with the victim) and (3) the person has two or more prior convictions that include any of a combination of listed offenses, with the earlier of the two prior convictions occurring no more than 15 years prior to the date of the current violation. Bars a conviction of habitual domestic violence from being used as a prior conviction for any other habitual offense statute. Designates first offense as a Class H felony with subsequent convictions to be punished at a level which is one offense class higher than the offense class of the most recent prior conviction under the statute, not to exceed a Class C felony. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Section 5.

Expands the categories of persons who can access a confidential file for expungements under GS 15A-151(a)(2) to include the attorney representing the person requesting information of the person's own discharge or expunction. Applies to requests made on or after the act becomes law.

Section 7.

Specifies that the act is effective when it becomes law, unless otherwise provided.

Intro. by Stevens.

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

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Criminal Justice, Corrections \(Sentencing/Probation\), Criminal Law and Procedure](#)

H 315 (2025-2026) [GIFT CARD THEFT & UNLAWFUL BUSINESS ENTRY](#). Filed Mar 5 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN OFFENSE FOR ENTERING A PART OF A BUILDING NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WITH THE INTENT TO COMMIT AN UNLAWFUL ACT; TO ESTABLISH THE OFFENSE OF LARCENY OF GIFT CARDS; TO REVISE THE ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT OFFENSE TO INCLUDE OFFENSES INVOLVING GIFT CARDS; AND TO PROVIDE CIVIL LIABILITY FOR LARCENY OF GIFT CARDS.*

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

Amends proposed GS 14-54(b1) to require that the person enters any area, with the intent to commit an unlawful act (was, the person knowingly and wrongfully enters any area) of a building (1) commonly reserved for personnel of a commercial business where money or other property is kept or (2) clearly marked with a sign that indicates to the public that entry is forbidden to GS 14-54 (breaking or entering buildings).

Amends GS 1-538.2 to make any person who commits an act punishable under new GS 14-72.12 (larceny of gift cards) liable for civil damages to the property owner; also makes parents or legal guardians of unemancipated minors who commit an act punishable under new GS 14-72.12 civilly liable to the property owner if they knew or should have known of the propensity for the child to commit such an act, and had the opportunity and ability to control the child, and made no reasonable effort to correct or restrain the child. Makes conforming changes to the act's long title.

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

[GS 1, GS 14](#)

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

H 330 (2025-2026) [CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT - UPDATES](#). Filed Mar 6 2025, *AN ACT TO UPDATE THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following change. Replaces the reference to "4-fluorobutyryl fentanyl" with "para-fluorobutyryl fentanyl" as one of the alternative names for certain fentanyl derivatives in GS 90-89(1a).

Intro. by Huneycutt, Miller, Pyrtle, Rhyne.

[GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 370 (2025-2026) [GSC UNIFORM ACTS REGARDING CHILDREN](#). Filed Mar 11 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE UNIFORM CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT AND TO ENACT ARTICLE THREE OF THE UNIFORM UNREGULATED CHILD CUSTODY TRANSFER ACT, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE GENERAL STATUTES COMMISSION.*

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

Amends proposed GS 50A-418 concerning the prevention of child abduction, as follows. Amends the actions a court may take to prevent imminent abduction of a child, to allow the court to authorize law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child or obtain return of the child under an order issued under the Article or other State law (was, direct the use of law enforcement to take any action reasonably necessary to locate the child, obtain return of the child, or enforce a custody determination under this Article or other State law).

Amends proposed GS 50A-419, concerning a warrant to take physical custody of a child, as follows. Amends the timing under which the respondent on a petition that alleges there is a credible risk that a child is imminently likely to be wrongfully removed, so that it must not be later than the end of the next day that the district court is in session (was, no later than the next judicial day) unless a hearing on that date is impossible, in which case the court must hold the hearing on the first possible day that the district court is in session (was, on the first judicial day possible). Amends the items that an ex parte warrant to take

physical custody of a child must do, to include authorizing law enforcement officers to take physical custody of the child without delay (was, direct law enforcement officers to take physical custody of the child immediately). Requires the petition and warrant to be served on the respondent when, or as soon as possible after (was, immediately after), the child is taken into physical custody. Makes other clarifying changes.

Intro. by Davis.

GS 48, GS 50A

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Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

H 427 (2025-2026) **CCW PERMIT/NO RECORDS PROVIDED**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REPLACE THE REQUIRED DISCLOSURE OF RECORDS CONCERNING THE MENTAL HEALTH OR CAPACITY OF AN APPLICANT FOR A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT WITH A "YES" OR "NO" STATEMENT INDICATING WHETHER THE PERSON OR ENTITY HAS INFORMATION THAT THE APPLICANT HAS BEEN DIAGNOSED BY A MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL WITH A MENTAL ILLNESS.*

Current law requires a sheriff to deny a concealed carry handgun permit to a person who is currently or has been previously adjudicated by a court or administratively determined by a governmental agency whose decisions are subject to judicial review, to be lacking mental capacity or mentally ill. Accordingly, an applicant for a concealed handgun permit must sign a release authorizing the disclosure of certain records concerning their mental health or capacity to the sheriff.

Narrows the scope of the release in GS 14-415.14 to only authorize a response to a yes or no question as to whether the person or entity has information that the applicant has been diagnosed by a medical professional with a mental illness (was, scope is mental health or capacity and required disclosure of records). Only if the response is yes, requires the responding person to provide the sheriff with the grounds for their response in writing and by no later than fifteen days from the day it provided a "yes" to the release. Grants immunity to the responding person or entity from civil damages if the statement or responding information is inaccurate in the absence of fraud or malice. Requires the release of the identity of the person or entity who provided the statement, along with whether they responded yes or no, and their contact information if the sheriff issues a denial for a concealed carry permit under GS 14-415.15(c).

Makes conforming changes to GS 14-415.13 (application for a permit); and GS 14-415.15(a) (issuance or denial of permit).

Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to update the required release to conform to the act by no later than September 30, 2025.

Applies to applications submitted on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Kidwell, Moss, Pike, Ward.

GS 14

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Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

H 428 (2025-2026) **STUDY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PARENT INVOLVEMENT**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO STUDY HOW PARENT INVOLVEMENT CAN REDUCE RECURRING STUDENT DISCIPLINE ISSUES.*

Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to evaluate how certain policies may decrease the rate of recurring disciplinary infractions with a focus on parental involvement. Requires DPI to at least study the likely impact of: (1) requiring a parent to attend a meeting with the student and school personnel as a condition of a student returning to the classroom after being removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons; (2) requiring a parent to attend counseling as a condition of a student returning to a classroom after being removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons, including the availability of resources for the counseling both in and outside of the school; (3) requiring a parent and the student to attend joint counseling

as a condition of a student returning to a classroom after being removed from the classroom for disciplinary reasons, including the availability of resources for the counseling both in and outside of the school; (4) requiring a student to attend remote instruction instead of returning to the classroom, and any social or academic impacts that may have; and (5) any additional evidence-based practices that subject matter experts identify to decrease disciplinary infractions.

Prohibits the study from including review of any student discipline infractions involving students with an Individualized Education Plan or a 504 Behavioral Plan and from making recommendations regarding those students.

Allows DPI to work with a third-party organization to complete this study.

Requires DPI to report the study's results and its recommendations to the specified NCGA committee by April 15, 2026.

Appropriates \$25,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to conduct the study and develop its report.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by F. Jackson, Wheatley.

[APPROP, STUDY](#)

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[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction](#)

H 429 (2025-2026) [TURTLE RESCUE TEAM SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE DIVISION OF MOTOR VEHICLES TO PRODUCE A TURTLE RESCUE TEAM SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE*.

Amends GS 20-79.4 to allow the Division of Motor Vehicles to issue a Turtle Rescue Team registration plate, the authorization of which previously expired on July 1, 2016. Sets the additional fee amount under GS 20-79.7 at \$30, with \$20 to be transferred to the NC State University College of Veterinary Medicine Turtle Rescue Team.

Intro. by Dahle, Ball, Cervania, Johnson-Hostler.

[GS 20](#)

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

H 430 (2025-2026) [PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & NICOTINE](#). Filed Mar 18 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*.

Identical to [S 318](#), filed 3/17/25.

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 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.

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**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 431 (2025-2026) **PREVENTING DEED FRAUD**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW THE REGISTER OF DEEDS TO REFUSE TO RECORD CERTAIN SUSPICIOUS INSTRUMENTS, TO AUTHORIZE THE REGISTER OF DEEDS TO REQUIRE NON-TRUSTED SUBMITTERS TO PRODUCE A GOVERNMENT-ISSUED PHOTOGRAPHIC IDENTIFICATION CARD BEFORE RECORDING A DEED OR CERTAIN OTHER INSTRUMENTS, TO REQUIRE THE REGISTER OF DEEDS TO PROVIDE ACCESS TO A FRAUD DETECTION ALERT SYSTEM, TO REQUIRE A STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE FRAUD DETECTION ALERT SYSTEMS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPEDITED CAUSE OF ACTION TO QUIET TITLE AFTER AN ATTEMPTED FRAUDULENT CONVEYANCE.*

Enacts GS 161-32, concerning identify verification and suspicious instruments, as follows. Defines *instrument*, *suspicious instrument* (an instrument submitted for registration for which the register of deeds has found any of four described circumstances, including that the name or information of an acknowledging officer who has purported to acknowledge the instrument does not match the official records for that acknowledging officer or that the instrument is materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent and has not been submitted by a trusted submitter or an authorized representative of a trusted submitter) and *trusted submitter* (includes a title insurance company, an attorney licensed to practice in the State, and a financial institution as defined in GS 53B-2).

Requires the register of deeds to require a person who is not a trusted submitter to produce government-issued identification as described when the person presents an instrument for registration. Instructs the register of deeds to refuse to register an instrument if one of the following three instances occur: (1) the register of deeds deems the instrument a suspicious instrument, (2) the individual submitting the instrument is not a trusted submitter or representative thereof and fails to produce the required ID, or (3) the individual submitting the instrument is not a trusted submitter or representative thereof and the information on the ID does not match the name of the grantor or conveying party in the instrument presented for registration. Authorizes the register of deeds to also (1) report a suspicious instrument to an appropriate law enforcement agency and (2) notify the acknowledging officer purported to have acknowledged the instrument of the reason for the register of deeds finding that the instrument is a suspicious instrument. Provides for notice of the identification requirements. Provides for legal protections as described against a register of deeds that refuses to record an instrument based on an erroneous finding that the instrument is a suspicious instrument. Specifies that no cause of action lies against a register of deeds or county based on the identification card requirement and any refusal to register an instrument based on those grounds. Clarifies that the statute does not require the register of deeds to provide or allow access to a record or information that's considered confidential under law.

Enacts GS 161-33, pertaining to a fraud detection alert system, as follows. Defines *fraud detection alert system* (a system which sends automated recording notifications), *land records*, *monitored identity*, *recording identification*, and *registrant*. Requires the register of deeds to ensure that registration for a fraud detection alert system is possible through an electronic registration portal, as described. Requires, when a land record is recorded for a monitored identity, that a recording notification be sent within 24 hours after the recording has been completed to each registrant who is subscribed to receive recording notifications for that monitored identity with the five required prongs of information. Specifies that no cause of action lies against a register of deeds or county with respect to the creation, maintenance, or operation of a fraud detection alert system as required by the act. Allows for a reasonable fee to enroll in the alert system.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to instruments and documents presented for registration on or after that date.

Requires the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study, as described, the feasibility of amending GS 161-33, as enacted by the act, to create a fraud detection alert system where everyone who submits a land record for registration is automatically enrolled in the fraud detection alert system without paying a fee. Specifies that before enrollment, the register of deeds would provide each individual with a notice explaining the system – its purpose, how it works, and how to opt out of enrollment. Requires the LRC to report its findings along with any proposed legislation to the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly upon its convening.

Enacts GS 41-10.2, concerning quiet title of fraudulent instruments, as follows. Permits the actual owner of an interest in real property subject to a recorded false, fictitious, or fraudulent instrument to seek expedited relief as described by filing an action in district court alleging the filing or recording of a false, fictitious, or fraudulent instrument in a public record or a private record generally available to the public. Authorizes six additional remedies, including ejectment. Requires a court order declaring an instrument already recorded is false and void as a matter of law to be recorded as described. Designates the presentation of an instrument for recording with a register of deeds or a clerk of superior court that is determined to be materially false, fictitious, or fraudulent an unfair trade practice. Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to develop a form, as described, for the expedited relief filing described herein. Defines *instrument*. Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to causes of action arising on or after that date.

Intro. by Liu, Stevens, Biggs, Budd.

[STUDY, GS 41, GS 161](#)

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

H 432 (2025-2026) [PROTECT OUR HOMES ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE EXCLUSION AMOUNT UNDER THE ELDERLY OR DISABLED PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION, TO EXPAND THE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION, TO CREATE THE HOMEOWNER ADVANTAGE PROPERTY TAX RELIEF PROGRAM AND THE ELDERLY PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER PROGRAM AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THOSE PROGRAMS, AND TO CREATE EXEMPTIONS TO THE FORCED SALE OF A HOMESTEAD.*

Section 1.

Under current law, the property tax homestead exclusion for State residents who are either over 65 years or totally and permanently disabled and who meet the income eligibility limits, set at greater of \$25,000 or 50% of the appraised value of the residence, is excluded from taxation. Revises the property tax homestead exclusion so that the value of the exclusion is the greater of \$50,000 or 50% of the residence's appraised value. Starting for the tax year that begins on July 1, 2026, increases the base amount of the income eligibility limit under the elderly or disabled property tax homestead exclusion (GS 105-277.1) from \$25,000 to \$48,000.

Makes conforming changes.

Under current law, the property tax homestead exclusion for disabled veterans, set at the first \$45,000 of appraised value of the residence, is excluded from taxation. Revises the property tax homestead exclusion for disabled veterans under GS 105-277.1C, so that the value of the exclusion is the lesser of 50% of the appraised value of the residence or \$100,000.

Enacts GS 105-277.1E, concerning homeowner advantage property tax relief for a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner, taxable as follows. Defines a *qualifying owner* as one who meets all of the following requirements as of January 1 preceding the taxable year for which the benefit is claimed: (1) the owner has occupied the property as a permanent residence for at least two years immediately preceding the owner's filing for property tax relief and (2) the owner is a North Carolina resident. Also defines *baseline value*, *baseline year*, *owner*, *permanent residence*, and *rate of inflation*.

Establishes a general limitation, subject to the two listed exception under which there was a reappraisal of the residence that the taxable value of the permanent residence of a qualifying owner cannot exceed its baseline value by an amount more than (1) the average rate of inflation per year between consecutive general reappraisals, or 3% per year, whichever is less, and (2) 15% cumulatively. Specifies that a temporary absence due to health, or because of an extended absence while confined to a rest home or nursing home, does not deprive the owner of the tax relief so long as the residence is unoccupied or occupied by the owner's spouse or other dependent. Allows for permanent residences jointly owned and occupied by a husband and wife to qualify for the full benefit of the property tax relief. In cases of joint ownership by other persons, requires that all persons be a *qualifying owner* to obtain the tax relief. Provides for availability of tax relief upon (1) death of owner or (2) transfer of the owner's residence under circumstances described. Directs that an application for property tax relief provided should be filed during the regular listing period but may be filed and must be accepted at any time up to and through June 1 preceding the tax year for which the relief is claimed.

Enacts GS 105-277.1G, concerning the elderly property tax homestead circuit breaker, as follows. Specifies that a permanent residence owned and occupied by a qualifying owner (defined below) is designated a special class of property, taxable as set forth below. Incorporates the definitions of GS 105-277.1 and the income eligibility limit of GS 105-277.1 into GS 105-277.1G.

Allows a qualifying owner to defer the portion of the principal amount of tax that is imposed for the current tax year on his or her permanent residence and exceeds the percentage of the qualifying owner's income set out in statute's table:

Income over	Income up to	Percentage
0	Income eligibility limit (i.e., \$48,000)	0%

Specifies that if a permanent residence is subject to tax by more than one taxing unit and the total tax liability exceeds the tax limit imposed by GS 105-277.1G, then both of the taxes due and the taxes deferred under GS 105-277.1G must be apportioned among the taxing units based upon the ratio each taxing unit's tax rate bears to the total tax rate of all units.

Defines a *qualifying owner* as one who meets all of the following requirements as of January 1 preceding the taxable year for which the benefit is claimed: (1) the owner has an income for the preceding calendar year of not more than 100% of the income eligibility limit; (2) the owner has owned the property as a permanent residence for at least 10 consecutive years and has occupied the property as a permanent residence for at least 10 years; (3) the owner is at least 85 years of age; and (4) the owner is a North Carolina resident.

Allows for permanent residences jointly owned and occupied by a husband and wife to qualify for the full benefit of the property tax relief. In cases of joint ownership by other persons, requires that all persons be a *qualifying owner* to obtain the tax relief. Specifies that a temporary absence due to health, or because of an extended absence while confined to a rest home or nursing home, does not deprive the owner of the tax relief so long as the residence is unoccupied or occupied by the owner's spouse or other dependent.

Specifies that the difference between the taxes due under the section and the taxes that would have been payable in the absence of the section are a lien on the real property of the taxpayer as provided in GS 105-355(a). Requires the difference in taxes to be carried forward in the records of each taxing unit as deferred taxes. Specifies that the deferred taxes for the preceding three fiscal years are due and payable in accordance with GS 105-277.1F when the property loses its eligibility for deferral as a result of a disqualifying event described in subsection (i) of this statute. Provides for a notice stating the amount of deferred taxes and interest that would be due and payable upon the occurrence of a disqualifying event to be sent on or before September 1 of each year. Lists three disqualifying events including death of the owner or transfer of the residence unless the described conditions apply. Provides for gaps in deferrals of taxes and limitations on creditors, as described. Specifies that GS 105-277.1G does not affect the attachment of alien for personal property taxes against a tax-deferred residence. Sets forth a June 1 filing deadline for applications for tax relief under GS 105-277.1G, as described.

Enacts GS 105-277.1H, to ensure continuity in property tax relief for new owners of a primary residence by allowing owners to transfer property tax relief to their new primary residence, as described, so long as the owner continues to meet all other requirements for property tax relief and files an application with the assessor of the county in which the new primary residence is situated. Incorporates the definitions in GS 105-277.1 into the statute.

Amends GS 105-282.1(a)(2) (applications for property tax exemptions or exclusions) to provide for the applications in GS 105-277.1E and GS 105-277.1H. Exempts property that falls under GS 105-277.1E from GS 105-283 (uniform appraisal standards) and GS 105-284 (uniform assessment standards).

Makes conforming changes to GS 105-309 (contents of an abstract) and to the definition of property tax relief in GS 105-277.1 to account for newly enacted GS 105-277.1E and GS 105-277.1G.

Effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026.

Section 2.

Enacts GS 1C-1605 (a homestead exemption for forced sale), which applies to real or personal property owned by a debtor that the debtor has used as the debtor's primary residence for a period of at least 40 consecutive months from the date of purchase of the property for claims in bankruptcy or 24 consecutive months from the date of purchase of the property for all other claims, as follows. Specifies that a judgment entered against the owner of property subject to the statute may be placed as a lien against the property, but the property is exempt from forced sale under Article 29B of GS Chapter 1 or any other provision of

State law. Specifies that the lien may be enforced any time ownership of the property is transferred. Provides that the exemption is inapplicable to seven listed claims. Applies to judgments entered against a debtor on or after October 1, 2025.

Section 3.

Directs the Department of Revenue (Department) to study ways to abolish the statutory framework for the listing, appraisal, and assessment of real property under GS Chapter 105 and develop a framework to eliminate property taxes on real property in this State, as described. Requires the Department to develop a framework to replace property tax revenues through State and local budget reductions, sales-based consumption taxes, and locally determined consumption taxes. Requires the Department to report its findings to the specified NCGA committee by February 1, 2026.

Intro. by Echevarria, Winslow, N. Jackson, Dixon.

[STUDY, GS 1C, GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Tax, Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)

H 433 (2025-2026) [REGISTERED NURSES IN SCHOOLS](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW LICENSED REGISTERED NURSES TO SERVE AS SCHOOL NURSES*.

Amends GS 115C-315(d2), to allow licensed registered nurses with at least two years' experience serving in a hospital or health clinic to serve as a school nurse. Prohibits requiring these nurses to possess or promise to obtain any other certification or license as a condition of serving as a school nurse. Requires such registered nurses employed by the unit's governing body to be paid under the certified school nurse pay scale established by the State Board of Education (State Board). Makes technical and organizational changes. Grants the State Board authority to adopt temporary implementing rules.

Intro. by Gillespie, White, Cotham, Reeder.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Employment and Retirement](#)

H 434 (2025-2026) [THE CARE FIRST ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE CUT AUTHORIZATION RED TAPE EFFICIENTLY AND FACILITATE INTERVENTIONS RAPIDLY, START TREATMENT ACT*.

To be summarized.

Intro. by Bell, Reeder, Cotham, Campbell.

[View summary](#)

H 435 (2025-2026) [MOD. BD. OF ENG'ERS & AMP SURVEYORS](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO UPDATE AND CLARIFY THE NORTH CAROLINA ENGINEERING AND LAND SURVEYING ACT, MODIFYING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS, BOARD POWERS, DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURES, AND OTHER PROVISIONS TO ENHANCE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND PRACTICE*.

Section 1.

Retroactive to July 1, 2022, reenacts the following provisions repealed by Section 1 of SL 2022-1: (1) defined term *land surveyor intern* in GS 89C-3(4) and reorganizes the provision to GS 89C-3(4b) and (2) GS 89C-13(b)(1). Applies to certificates or licenses issued on or after July 1, 2022.

Section 2.

Makes technical change to defined term *practice of land surveying* in GS 89C-3.

Removes required three character references as part of an application for certification as engineering intern, or licensure as a land surveyor intern by the State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors (Board) under GS 89C-13 as reenacted by the act. Makes technical and organizational changes. Removes duplicate and outdated language.

Allows for attorneys' fees up to \$5,000 and costs, including investigative and prosecutorial costs under GS 89C-10 (powers of the Board), when the Board prevails in actions under GS 89C-10 (powers of the Board) that seek an enforcement through injunctions, in circumstances described. Allows the Board to expend its funds to support nonprofit engineering and surveying professional societies, as well as nonprofit foundations dedicated to advancing the engineering and surveying professions, for the purposes of encouraging licensure and providing continuing education to licensees. Makes technical changes.

Now requires in GS 89C-12 the Board's roster showing the names and places of business and residence of all licensed professional engineers and all licensed professional land surveyors to be published on the Board's website (was, prepared by the Board secretary current to January of each year). Makes technical changes.

Removes provisions (1) limiting renewal fees for corporations at \$75, (2) pertaining to renewal fees for business firms, and (3) concerning re-examination if the candidate fails the entrance exam from GS 89C-14 (license fees). Makes technical changes.

Makes technical changes and makes conforming change to account for repeal of GS 89C-25(7) to GS 89C-16.

Removes licensure expiration dates in GS 89C-17 (expirations and renewal) and instead allows for the expiration date to be set by the Board. Expands the scope of the statute to include licenses held by corporations. Allows the Board, by rule, to enact a multiyear renewal cycle. Removes provisions pertaining to renewals when the Board feels it necessary to protect public health and providing for a renewal fee not to exceed \$75. Provides for renewal notice to be sent by the Board (was, Board secretary sends the notice). Modifies the renewal time period as described. Replaces references to "certificate" with "license." Removes language requiring the renewal notice to be sent by email or mail. Allows for a renewal fee not to exceed \$100 per calendar year of the renewal period. Increases the reinstatement fee cap from \$100 to \$200. Requires each licensed business firm and corporation to inform the Board promptly concerning any changes to their business name, address, locations, ownership, officers, or services being offered. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Makes organizational and technical changes to GS 89C-23 (unlawful practices). Prevents an unlicensed person from representing themselves as a professional engineer or holding out to the public any engineering expertise with the intent to practice engineering. Exempts activities described in GS 89C-25 (limitations of GS Chapter 89C).

Adds testifying as a lay or expert witness at a deposition or trial as well as the preparation and drafting of an expert report in preparation for testifying as an expert at a deposition or trial as one of the activities not limited by GS Chapter 89C.

Repeals GS 89C-25.2 (concerning program of licensure by discipline).

Section 3.

Recodifies GS 89C-19.2 (limited right of entry by professional land surveyors) as GS 14-159.15.

Section 4.

Authorizes the Board to adopt rules to implement the act.

Section 5.

Effective October 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided.

Intro. by Arp, Setzer, Riddell, Campbell.

GS 89C

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing

Amends GS 153A-199 to authorize boards of commissioners to determine that assessment payments may be made by semiannual payments in addition to annual installment payments authorized under existing law. Allows for the resolution to set the number of installments, with up to 40 semiannual installments or 20 annual installments permitted. Details when semiannual payments may be due, allowing the board to provide that the first installment is due with interest either on (1) the date when property taxes are due, with one installment with interest due on the same date in each successive six-month time period, or (2) 60 days after the date that the assessment roll is confirmed, with future installments and interest due on that same day in each successive six-month time period.

Intro. by Majeed.

GS 153A

[View summary](#)

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

H 437 (2025-2026) **ESTABLISH DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONES**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONES AND INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT IMPOSED FOR COMMITTING CERTAIN DRUG OFFENSES IN A DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONE*.

Titles the act the Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones Act. Amends GS 90-95 (violations under the Controlled Substances Act) as follows. Defines *facility-based service* as any (1) emergency or temporary shelter, transitional housing provider, or permanent supportive housing entity that receives local, State, or federal funds for the purpose of providing shelter to homeless persons or (2) other entity or facility that receives local, State, or federal funds and primarily provides treatment, preventive care, or other services to homeless persons. Defines *drug-free homeless zone* to mean the area within 300 feet of a facility-based service or its accompanying grounds. Also defines *operator* to mean the listed individuals that is the recipient of local, State, or federal funds to use for the provision of facility-based services.

Establishes the following offenses punishable as follows:

- A Class E felony when any person 21 years of age or older commits an offense under GS 90-95(a)(1) (preventing manufacture, sale or delivery, or possession with intent to do so, of a controlled substance) in a drug-free homeless service zone.
- A Class 1 misdemeanor when an operator of a facility-based service intentionally allows a person to commit an offense under GS 90-95(a)(1).

Exempts the transfer of less than 5 grams of marijuana for no remuneration from constituting delivery under GS 90-95(a)(1) for purposes of the offenses listed above. Provides for signage as described.

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

Intro. by Rhyne, Chesser, Pickett.

GS 90

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

H 438 (2025-2026) **REQUIRE PAID REST BREAKS**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT AMENDING THE WAGE AND HOUR ACT TO REQUIRE EMPLOYERS TO PROVIDE A TWENTY-MINUTE PAID BREAK TO ANY EMPLOYEE WORKING A SHIFT OF SIX HOURS OR MORE*.

Enacts new GS 95-25.4A requiring employers to offer their employees, during the course of a workday of six or more hours, at least one voluntary paid break of at least 20 minutes scheduled near the middle of the workday. Prohibits using the break to delay the beginning or shorten the duration of the work period, unless approved by the employer.

Amends GS 95-25.23 to make violations of new GS 95-25.4A and rules issued under that statute, subject to a civil penalty not to exceed \$100 for the first violation and not to exceed \$500 for each subsequent violation; sets out issues to consider when

determining the amount of the penalty. Sets out a procedure under which the person charged with the violation can contest that determination.

Amends GS 95-241 by prohibiting discriminating or taking any retaliatory action against an employee because the employee in good faith files a claim or complaint, initiates any inquiry, investigation, inspection, proceeding or other action, or testifies or provides information to any person with respect to new GS 95-25.4A.

Intro. by Dahle.

GS 95

[View summary](#)

Employment and Retirement

H 439 (2025-2026) **ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY OF KNIFE**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW THE CONCEALED CARRY OF BLADED WEAPONS IF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS ARE MET*.

Amends GS 14-269 (prohibiting carrying concealed knives and other listed deadly weapons), as follows. Amends the definition of *ordinary pocket knife*, which is exempt from the statute when carried in a closed position, so that it now means a folding knife with a blade not more than 6 inches long (was, a small knife, designed for carrying in a pocket or purse, that has its cutting edge and point entirely enclosed by its handle, and that may not be opened by a throwing, explosive, or spring action). Adds that the statute does not apply if: (1) the weapon is a knife (defined as a bowie knife, dirk, dagger, switchblade, or a bladed weapon of like kind to these weapons described not including an ordinary pocket knife); (2) the person carrying the concealed knife is at least 18 years old; (3) the person carries valid identification at all times that they are carrying a concealed knife and displays the identification upon demand by a law enforcement officer; (4) the person has not been convicted of a felony under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States; and (5) the person is not carrying a concealed knife in or on a place where a concealed handgun is prohibited from being carried under subsection (c) of GS 14-415.11. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Kidwell, Ward, Pike.

GS 14

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

H 440 (2025-2026) **HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY BODIES**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO LABEL FOODS WITH VACCINES AND PROHIBIT HARMFUL FOOD ADDITIVES*.

Part I.

Amends GS 106-121 by amending the definition of *drug* as it applies to the North Carolina Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, so that it also means foods that contain a vaccine or vaccine material. Defines vaccine or vaccine material as a substance intended to stimulate the production of antibodies and provide immunity against disease that is: (1) prepared from the causative agent of a disease, its products, or a synthetic substitute to act as an antigen without inducing the disease and (2) authorized or approved by the US Food and Drug Administration for use in humans.

Part II.

Enacts new GS 106-129.1 prohibiting a person from manufacturing, selling, distributing, holding, or offering for sale in commerce a food product for human consumption that contains any of the nine listed substances, including potassium bromate, propylparaben, and red 40. Amends GS 106-124.1 to make a person violating new GS 106-129.1 liable for civil penalties of up to \$5,000 for a first violation and up to \$10,000 for each subsequent violation. Effective January 1, 2027.

Intro. by Winslow, Almond, Lambeth, Loftis.

GS 106

[View summary](#)

Health and Human Services, Health

H 441 (2025-2026) [LOGGERHEAD TURTLE/STATE SALTWATER REPTILE](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ADOPT THE LOGGERHEAD SEA TURTLE AS THE OFFICIAL SALTWATER REPTILE OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Enacts GS 145-52 as title indicates.

Intro. by Iler, Goodwin, Davis, Kidwell.

[GS 145](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Cultural Resources and Museums](#)

H 442 (2025-2026) [RESTORE FLOUNDER/RED SNAPPER SEASON](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE RECREATIONAL FISHING FOR SUMMER FLOUNDER AND RED SNAPPER IN NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH THE CREATION OF A FOUR-YEAR PILOT PROGRAM*.

Includes whereas clauses. Requires the the Fisheries Director, the Marine Fisheries Commission (Commission), and the Division of Marine Fisheries of the Department of Environmental Quality (Division) to: (1) issue proclamations and undertake amendments to the fishery management plan for summer flounder and red snapper to allow an annual recreational season between May 15 and July 31, with a limit of one fish or more per person per day, and no seasonal limit (specifies that all other size and manner of take limits continue to apply to the summer flounder and red snapper fisheries); and (2) revise any regulations, guidelines, or policies regarding the catch and release fishery so that flounder and red snapper caught and released by recreational fishermen will not be counted towards catch limits or quotas set by the Division or the Commission. Requires the Division to report annual to the specified NCGA committees, including an assessment of progress in conserving summer flounder and red snapper populations and an estimate of the time line for the Division to be able to increase the daily creel limit above one fish per day for the red snapper and summer flounder fisheries. Expires August 1, 2029.

Intro. by Iler, Goodwin, Davis, Kidwell.

[UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

[Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#)

H 443 (2025-2026) [CONST. AMENDMENT: COUNCIL OF STATE VACANCIES](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO MODIFY THE PROCESS FOR FILLING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF SECRETARY OF STATE, AUDITOR, TREASURER, SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION, ATTORNEY GENERAL, COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE, COMMISSIONER OF LABOR, AND COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE*.

Subject to approval by voters at the statewide general election held on November 3, 2026, amends Section 7(3) of Article III of the North Carolina Constitution concerning the filling of vacancies in the office of Secretary of State, Auditor, Treasurer, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Attorney General, Commissioner of Agriculture, Commissioner of Labor, and Commissioner of Insurance to require that if the officer was elected as the nominee of a political party, the Governor must appoint from a list of three qualified persons recommended by the political party with which the vacating officer was affiliated at the time of election, if that political party makes a recommendation within 30 days of the vacancy. Requires the State Board of Elections to certify the results of the referendum and if a majority of votes are in favor of the amendment, the Secretary of State must enroll the amendment among the permanent records of that office.

Intro. by K. Hall, Blackwell, Stevens, Huneycutt.

[CONST](#)

[View summary](#)

**Constitution, Government, Elections, State Government,
Executive**

H 444 (2025-2026) **HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION REFORM BILL**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LAWS GOVERNING UNIT OWNER ASSOCIATIONS AND LOT OWNER ASSOCIATIONS, TO MANDATE PRELITIGATION MEDIATION OF DISPUTES BETWEEN OWNERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR MEMBERS, AND TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO COLLECT AND REPORT ON COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED TO IT INVOLVING SUCH DISPUTES.*

To be summarized.

Intro. by Liu, Iler, Setzer.

[View summary](#)

H 445 (2025-2026) **FAIRNESS & TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION SALARIES**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REINSTATE EDUCATION-BASED SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PERSONNEL, INCLUDING SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS, AND TO REQUIRE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PUBLICIZE SALARY SCHEDULES FOR OCCUPATIONAL THERAPISTS AND PHYSICAL THERAPISTS.*

Repeals GS 115C-302.10 (listing qualifications for certain education-based salary supplements). Instructs that for the 2025-26 school year, State Board of Education policy TCP-A-006, as it was in effect on June 30, 2013, will be used to determine (1) whether teachers and instructional support personnel, including school social workers, are paid on the "M" salary schedule and (2) whether they receive a salary supplement for academic preparation at the six-year or doctoral degree level. Appropriates \$8 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2025-26 to reinstate education-based salary supplements for teachers and instructional support personnel, including school social workers.

Requires every local board of education to publish on its website the salary schedule adopted for occupational therapists and physical therapists pursuant GS 115C-316(b1) for that school year.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by von Haefen, Quick, Ball, Prather.

APPROP, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 446 (2025-2026) **PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSING BOOKING PHOTOGRAPHS**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REGULATE THE DISSEMINATION AND REMOVAL OR DESTRUCTION OF BOOKING PHOTOGRAPHS.*

Enacts new GS 15A-502.01 prohibiting a law enforcement agency from providing a booking photograph, defined as a photo or image of an individual who is alleged to have committed a crime that is taken by law enforcement at the initial booking, of a defendant pretrial to any publish-for-pay publication or publish-for-pay website (both as defined). Mandates that a publish-for-pay publication or website remove and destroy a booking photograph of any individual who submits a request for removal and destruction pursuant to GS 15A-152(a1), as enacted. Provides that conditioning removal upon payment of a fee or other item of value can constitute a criminal offense and subject the entity to a civil penalty under GS 15A-152(c), as amended.

Amends GS 15A-153 by enacting new subsection (a1), explicitly requiring a publish-for-pay publication or website to remove and destroy any booking photograph within seven business days of receiving notice to remove the booking photograph if there is no criminal conviction related to the arrest that generated the photograph and the individual submits with the request written documentation that the criminal charge related to the arrest that generated the photograph resulted in a dismissal, acquittal,

expunction, or that the grand jury returned no true bill on a proposed indictment. Amends subsection (c) to make a publish-for-pay publication or website that fails to remove and destroy a booking photograph liable for any damages sustained as a result of the violation by the person that is the subject of the booking photograph, including \$100 per day for each day after the seven-day deadline on which the photo is visible or publicly accessible in the publish-for-pay publication or website, with the prevailing party also entitled to court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. Provides that this liability is in addition to other punishment or penalty under law.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to: (1) disclosures of booking photographs by a law enforcement agency occurring on or after that date; (2) requests for removal and destruction submitted on or after that date; (3) the conditioning of removal or destruction of a booking photograph on the payment of any fee or other item of value occurring on or after that date; and (4) the failure to remove and destroy a booking photograph in accordance with GS 15A-502.01 occurring on or after that date.

Intro. by T. Brown, A. Jones, Reives.

[GS 15A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 447 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR KERNERSVILLE EVENT CENTER](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE KERNERSVILLE EVENT CENTER*.

Appropriates \$34 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Town of Kernersville as title indicates. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lambeth.

[APPROP, Forsyth](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 448 (2025-2026) [SAFE FIREARM STORAGE/SALES TAX EXEMPTION](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE A TEMPORARY SALES TAX EXEMPTION FOR EQUIPMENT DESIGNED TO PREVENT UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS FROM ACCESSING FIREARMS*.

Amends GS 105-164.13 (setting forth retail sales and use tax exemptions) to exempt certain equipment designed to prevent unauthorized access to firearms from sales tax, including (1) devices installed on firearms that are designed to prevent the firearm from firing without first being deactivated and (2) a device for home use that is designed to prevent access to a firearm by any means other than a key, a combination, biometric data, etc., including a gun safe, gun case, or lockbox. Equipment designed to allow for the display of firearms, including glass-faced cabinets, are not included in the sales tax exemption. Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to sales made on or after that date, and expires October 1, 2026, for sales made on or after that date.

Intro. by Dahle, Clark.

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Tax](#)

H 449 (2025-2026) [CRIMES AGAINST MINORS/REVISE LAW](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING THE OFFENSE OF SOLICITATION OF MINORS BY COMPUTER; TO REQUIRE CERTAIN PETITIONS PERTAINING TO SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION BE PLACED ON THE CRIMINAL DOCKET; AND TO ESTABLISH THE OFFENSES OF HABITUAL INDECENT EXPOSURE AND AGGRAVATED HABITUAL INDECENT EXPOSURE*.

Section 1.

Modifies the felony classification for a first violation of GS 14-202.3 (solicitation of child by computer or certain other electronic devices to commit an unlawful sex act) from a Class H felony to a Class E felony. Makes second or subsequent violations, or a first violation committed when the defendant had a prior conviction in any federal or state court in the United States that is substantially similar to the offense set forth in GS 14-202.3, as a Class D felony. Increases the penalty from a Class G felony to a Class C felony when the defendant, or any other person for whom the defendant was arranging the meeting in violation of the statute, actually appears at the meeting location. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Section 2.

Amends the process for a judicial determination of the requirement to register as a sex offender under the circumstances described in GS 14-208.12B to require that the court clerk receiving such a petition place it on the criminal docket to be calendared by the district attorney. Applies to petitions filed on or after December 1, 2025.

Section 3.

Establishes the offense of habitual indecent exposures to minors for persons with two or more prior convictions under GS 14-190.9 (indecent exposure) as a class F felony unless the conduct is punishable for another law providing greater punishment. Adds new GS 14-190.9(a7) creating a Class E felony for aggravated habitual indecent exposure when the person is at least 18 years old and willfully expose themselves to a minor in a public place and has two or more prior convictions under any combination of the listed offenses (except for habitual indecent exposure) in GS 14-190.9. Requires a sentencing court to require any person convicted of either offense to register as a sex offender. Designates these convictions a *reportable conviction* under GS 14-208.6(4), the definitions pertaining to sex offender registration.

Section 4.

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

Intro. by Balkcom, Pyrtle, Stevens, Miller.

[GS 14](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 450 (2025-2026) [PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT A PRIVATE DETECTIVE OR PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR FROM INSTALLING AND USING AN ELECTRONIC TRACKING DEVICE WITHOUT FIRST OBTAINING A SEARCH WARRANT OR OTHER JUDICIAL ORDER AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION AND USE; AND TO REQUIRE THAT WILDLIFE PROTECTORS OBTAIN A SEARCH WARRANT OR OTHER SIMILAR ORDER BEFORE CONDUCTING INSPECTIONS OR INVESTIGATIONS ON OR IN CERTAIN PRIVATE PROPERTY.*

Repeals GS 14-196.3(b)(5)k (making it unlawful for a private detective or private investigator licensed under GS Chapter 74C, to knowingly install, place, or use an electronic tracking device without consent and other acts described, provided that (1) the tracking is pursuant to authority under GS 74C-3(a)(8), (2) the tracking is not otherwise contrary to law, and (3) the person being tracked is not under the protection of a domestic violence protective order under GS Chapter 50B or any other court order that protects against assault, threat, harassment, following, or contact).

Specifies that nothing in GS 113-136 (enforcement authority of inspectors and protectors) authorizes searches as described without a search warrant or judicial order authorizing the search (was, just those search in contravention of the constitutional prohibitions against unreasonable searches and seizures). Amends GS 113-302.1 (inspections of licensed and commercial premises) to require when a search is conducted to determine whether any wildlife on the premises is possessed in accordance with applicable laws and rules, required records are being kept, and other legal requirements are being observed when the establishment is open for business or if a proprietor or employee is on the premises, an administrative search warrant is required that it is secured under the terms of Article 4A of GS Chapter 15 (currently, only need to secure an administrative warrant in the protector's discretion or if case law requires it).

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

Intro. by Chesser, Miller, Pyrtle, Huneycutt.

GS 14, GS 113

[View summary](#)

Animals, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

H 451 (2025-2026) **DIABETES EDUCATION FOR PARENTS**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT DIABETES TO PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS*.

Amends GS 115C-375.3 as follows. Requires governing bodies of public school units (was, local boards of education and boards of directors of charter schools) to ensure that the State Board of Education's guidelines for individual diabetes care plans are implemented in schools in which students with diabetes are enrolled. Requires that governing bodies of public school units ensure all schools provide parents and legal guardians information containing six described components relating to type 1 and type 2 diabetes at the start of each school year.

Appropriates \$10,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2025-26 for developing and distributing guidance to public school units on implementing the act's requirements.

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

Intro. by Cotham, Arp, Cunningham, Kidwell.

APPROP, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 452 (2025-2026) **REVISE LAW/OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH FACILITY**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH CARE FACILITIES*.

Amends GS 14-277.4, concerning obstruction of health care facilities, as follows. Prevents a person from knowingly approaching another person within 8 feet of such person, unless such other person consents, for the purpose of passing a leaflet or handbill to, displaying a sign to, or engaging in oral protest, education, or counseling with such other person in the public way or sidewalk area within a radius of 100 feet from any entrance door to a health care facility. Removes provisions making a second offense a Class 1 misdemeanor under described circumstances. Instead, makes a second or subsequent conviction for a violation of either subsection a or b of GS 14-277.4 (concerning obstructing or blocking access to or from a health care facility or its common areas, and injuring or threatening a person who is obtaining, aiding another in obtaining or providing health care services), within three of the most recent conviction a Class I felony. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Greenfield, K. Brown, Johnson-Hostler, Cunningham.

GS 14

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

H 453 (2025-2026) **INCREASE MEDICAID PCS AND PDN RATES**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATES FOR PERSONAL CARE SERVICES AND PRIVATE DUTY NURSING SERVICES*.

Appropriates \$11.2 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 Health Benefits (Division) to increase to \$7.50 per 15-minute increment the Medicaid rate paid for personal care services pursuant to the specified Medicaid Clinical Coverage Policies provided to Medicaid beneficiaries through the State Plan Personal Care Services Program (PCS), Community Alternatives Program for Children (CAP/C), Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA), and Community Alternatives Program Choice (CAP/CO). Specifies that these funds provide a state match for federal funds.

Appropriates \$19.8 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to Division for an increase to \$16.25 per 15 minutes the Medicaid rate paid for private duty nursing services pursuant to the specified Medicaid Clinical Coverage policies. Specifies that these provide a State match for federal funds.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by White, Wheatley, Cunningham, Lambeth.

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 454 (2025-2026) [REVIEW OF FEDERAL ACTS/RULES/REGULATIONS](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LEGISLATIVE REVIEW OR REVIEW BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL OF FEDERAL ACTS TO DETERMINE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF THOSE ACTS AND TO PROHIBIT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL FEDERAL LAWS, RULES, AND EXECUTIVE ORDERS.*

Amends Article 2 of GS Chapter 120 (Duties and privileges of members of the General Assembly) by adding GS 120-9.1 to do the following:

- (1) Define “federal action” as any federal law, rule, or executive order;
- (2) Authorize the General Assembly to review any federal action to determine the constitutionality of the action or direct the Attorney General to review any federal action to determine the constitutionality of the action and whether to seek an exemption from the federal action or have the action declared unconstitutional;
- (3) Provide that the General Assembly may direct the Attorney General to seek to have a federal action declared unconstitutional if the General Assembly determines the action to be unconstitutional;
- (4) Provide that the General Assembly may declare a federal action unconstitutional if the Attorney General declines to seek to have the action declared unconstitutional;
- (5) Prohibit the State, its political subdivisions, and any entity receiving State funds from implementing any federal action that restricts a persons rights or that the General Assembly or Attorney General have determined to be unconstitutional and which is related to: (i) pandemics/health emergencies, (ii) regulation of natural resources, (iii) regulation of agriculture, (iv) use of land/wetlands/water, (v) certain regulation of the financial sector, (vi) regulation of the right to bear arms, (vii) regulation of education, (viii) regulation of extracurricular sports, and (ix) any other powers reserved to the State.

Intro. by Kidwell, Moss, Pike.

[GS 120](#)

[View summary](#)

[Constitution, Government, General Assembly](#)

H 455 (2025-2026) [REPEAL CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT REPEALING NORTH CAROLINA'S CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS.*

To be summarized.

Intro. by Kidwell, Ward, Pike.

[View summary](#)

PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 50 (2025-2026) [FREEDOM TO CARRY NC](#). Filed Feb 4 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT A PERSON'S RIGHT TO CARRY A CONCEALED HANDGUN WITHOUT A PERMIT AND TO CONTINUE ALLOWING PERSONS TO ACQUIRE A CONCEALED HANDGUN PERMIT FOR THE PURPOSES OF RECIPROCITY OR FOR ANY OTHER REASON DESIRED.*

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

Makes organizational changes to the act by moving all new statutes to the front of the bill and putting others changes in statutory numerical order.

Amends proposed GS 14-415.35 by no longer prohibiting a person who has been convicted of an impaired driving offense under GS 20-138.1, GS 20-138.2, or GS 20-138.3 within three years prior to the date on which the person is carrying the weapon, from carrying a concealed weapon. Makes conforming changes to GS 14-415.12.

Amends proposed GS 14-415.36 by changing the punishment for carrying a concealed weapon into (1) in an area prohibited by a rule adopted by the Legislative Services Commission under GS 120-32.1 concerning State legislative buildings and grounds, (2) in any area prohibited by 18 USC 922 or any other federal law, (3) in a law enforcement or correctional facility, or (4) on any private premises where notice is given by posting a conspicuous notice or statement by the person in legal possession or control of the premises that carrying a concealed handgun is prohibited, from a Class 1 misdemeanor to an infraction and allows requiring the person to pay a fine of up to \$500.

Amends GS 14-415.12 to allow a sheriff to deny a concealed handgun permit to an applicant who has been discharged from the US Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions (was, under conditions other than honorable).

Amends GS 14-269(a1), instead of removing it, to make an exception to the prohibition on willfully and intentionally carrying concealed firearms on the person, for handguns carried under Articles 54B (Concealed Handgun Permit) and 54C (enacted in this act) of GS Chapter 14.

Deletes the proposed changes to GS 14-269.2, concerning carrying weapons on campus or other educational property.

Intro. by Britt, Daniel, Settle.

[GS 14](#), [GS 74G](#), [GS 113](#)

[View summary](#)

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

S 321 (2025-2026) [ACCOUNTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE EDUCATIONAL AND EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFICATION AS A CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT.*

Authorizes the following as another way for an applicant to fulfill the educational requirements needed to receive a certificate of qualification from the State Board of Certified Public Accountant (CPA) Examiners (Board) in GS 93-12:

- The person has received a bachelor's degree with a concentration in accounting and other courses that the Board may require from a college or university that is either accredited by a regional accrediting association or determined by the Board to have standards substantially equivalent to those of a regionally accredited institution. (the "Second Requirement.")

(Was, only way to fulfill educational requirement is by having a bachelor's degree with a concentration in accounting [the "First Requirement".]) Clarifies that the First Requirement can be satisfied with proof of a bachelor's degree or higher along with the requisite semester hours and other requirements.

Requires applicants applying under the Second Requirement to also have two years of experience in the field of accounting under the direct supervision of a licensed CPA in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia. Makes

conforming and organizational changes. Authorizes the Board to adopt rules to implement the act.

Effective January 1, 2026.

Intro. by Britt, Overcash, Lazzara.

GS 93

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing

S 322 (2025-2026) **UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT AGAINST A UTILITY OR COMMUNICATIONS WORKER*.

Identical to S 311, filed 3/17/25.

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.

GS 14

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Public Enterprises and Utilities

S 323 (2025-2026) **STUDENT HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH THE SAFER SEX SUPPLIES GRANT PROGRAM*.

Titles the act the "Student Health and Responsibility Act." Contains whereas clauses.

Establishes the Safer Sex Supplies Grant Program (Program) for the 2025-26, 2026-27, and 2027-28 fiscal years to reduce health care costs and support student success by assisting eligible entities that are grant recipients to provide free access for students to safer sex supplies at UNC constituent institutions, community colleges, and high schools located in public school units. Provides for the separate administration of the Program by: (1) the UNC Board of Governors (Board) for UNC constituent institutions, (2) the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) for community colleges, and (3) the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for high schools in public school units. Sunsets the Program on June 30, 2028. Defines *applicable administering entity*, *eligible entity*, and *safer sex supplies*. Provides for a grant application that requires the applicant to provide information on two listed matters, including the applicant school's current and ongoing needs for safer sex supplies along with the cost thereof. Requires each administering entity to develop criteria and guidelines for selecting grant recipients, including those described. Limits use of grant funds to providing free safer sex supplies to students in accordance with the application submitted by the eligible entity. Directs entities to refrain from requiring parental permission for students to access safer sex supplies, including for students enrolled in high school in a public school unit. Requires collaboration amongst administering entities to share, to the extent possible, best practices and coordinate outreach.

Clarifies that the grant funds supplement and do not supplant any State or non-State funds already provided for safer sex supplies. Authorizes use up to \$100,000 of the funds appropriated to each administering entity for administrative costs each year. Requires, by April 1 of each fiscal year in which funds are awarded, for each administering entity to report on the Program, including on the five listed matters to the specified NCGA committee.

Appropriates \$9.6 million from the General Fund for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium to provide Program grants to be allocated to the UNC Board, the Community Colleges Systems Office (Office), and DPI, in the amounts described.

Appropriates \$750,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health for 2025-26 and again for 2026-27 for the three described uses relating to coordination, technical assistance, and collaboration with local health departments/student groups under the Program. Specifies that the appropriated funds do not revert, but instead remain available until June 30, 2028.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Applewhite, Robinson.

APPROP, UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Department of Health and Human Services

S 324 (2025-2026) **2025 SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT NORTH CAROLINA CITIZENS FROM HARMFUL TOXINS IN DRINKING WATER BY REQUIRING THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO ESTABLISH MAXIMUM CONTAMINANT LEVELS FOR CHEMICALS THAT ARE PROBABLE OR KNOWN CARCINOGENS OR ARE OTHERWISE TOXIC.*

Requires the Committee for Public Health (Committee) to do the following no later than October 15, 2025. Requires the Committee to begin rulemaking to establish maximum contaminant levels (MCLs), as that term is defined under GS 130A-313 (the North Carolina Clean Water Act), for probable or known carcinogens and other toxic chemicals likely to pose a substantial hazard to public health. Requires the Commission to establish MCL's for the following five contaminants: (1) per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS); (2) perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA); (3) perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS); (4) Hexavalent chromium (chromium-6); and (5) 1,4-Dioxane. Also requires considering establishing MCLs for any other contaminants for which at least two other states have set MCLs or issued guidance.

Directs Commission to review certain materials during rulemaking, and annually review these materials thereafter to determine if the MCL's should be modified. Specifies that the MCL's must be protective of public health including vulnerable subpopulations such as pregnant and nursing mothers, infants, and children, which state MCLs shall not exceed any MCL or health advisory established by the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Intro. by Everitt, Applewhite, Smith.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health, Public Enterprises and Utilities

S 325 (2025-2026) **CREATE DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.*

Establishes the Department of Housing and Community Development (Department) as a cabinet-level department containing the Division of Operations, the Division of Community Development, the Division of Housing and the Policy and Legislative Office.

Amends GS 143B-2 making the Department subject to the Executive Organization Act of 1973. Amends GS 143B-6 making the Department a principal department.

Amends GS 126-5 listing the Department among those which the Governor may designate positions that are exempt from the NC Human Resources Act.

Enacts new Article 18, Department of Housing and Community Development in GS Chapter 143B, providing as follows. Establishes the Departments and sets out its structure. States the Department's mission as: (1) partner with communities in this State to develop economic potential of communities and residents; (2) provide training and certification for building officials; and (3) invest in housing and community development projects in this State to assist low- to moderate-income residents. Establishes the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Community Development as the head of the Department. Establishes the 9-member North Carolina Board of Housing and Community Development to advise the Secretary and to assist in the mission of the Department. Sets out membership appointment power, sets terms at two years and provides for filling vacancies.

Appropriates \$30 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Smith, Grafstein.

[APPROP, GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies](#)

S 326 (2025-2026) [ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT ADVANCING ECONOMIC SECURITY FOR ALL IN NORTH CAROLINA BY INCREASING THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE TO TWENTY-TWO DOLLARS PER HOUR, ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION ANNUALLY; MANDATING EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK; REQUIRING PAID SICK LEAVE, PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE, AND WORKPLACE SAFETY, EMERGENCY, AND EVACUATION PROTECTIONS; RESTORING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION AND STUDYING UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR APP-BASED "GIG ECONOMY" WORKERS; INCREASING THE TIPPED MINIMUM WAGE; ENDING WAGE THEFT; REQUIRING THE FAIR ASSESSMENT OF PERSONS WITH CRIMINAL HISTORIES BY "BANNING THE BOX"; REPEALING PUBLIC EMPLOYEE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RESTRICTIONS; REENACTING THE EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT AND TAX CREDITS FOR CHILD AND DEPENDENT CARE EXPENSES; CREATING A REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION THAT FIRST RESPONDERS, HEALTH CARE WORKERS, AND ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS INFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS CONTRACTED THE DISEASE IN THE COURSE OF EMPLOYMENT; AND PROVIDING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR A COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR RETIREES OF THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE CONSOLIDATED JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM.*

Identical to [H 339](#), filed 3/6/25.

Section 1.1

Titles the act as the "Economic Security Act of 2025."

Amends GS 95-25.3(a) to delete the provision requiring wages of at least \$6.15 per hour and instead requires a minimum wage of \$22.00 per hour, effective when the act becomes law. Starting September 30, 2026, and annually thereafter, requires the Commissioner of Labor to adjust the minimum wage using the described consumer price index to take effect on the following January 1.

Section 1.2

Enacts Article 2B, entitled Equal Pay Act, to GS Chapter 95 as follows.

Enacts GS 95-25.27 to establish that no employer can pay any person in the employer's employ at wage rates less than the rates paid to employees of the opposite sex in the same establishment for the same quantity and quality of the same classification of work. Establishes that any employer who violates the statute is liable to the employee affected in the amount of the wages that the employee is deprived of because of the violation. Defines employer to include the state and any local political subdivision of the state and every person having control or direction of any woman or man employed at any labor, or responsible directly or indirectly for the wages of another who employs more than five employees. Defines an employee as any person in receipt of or entitled to compensation for labor performed for another.

Establishes that nothing in the statute prohibits a variation of rates of pay for employees engaged in the same classification of work based upon seniority; a difference in length of service; ability; skill; difference in duties or services performed, whether regularly or occasionally; difference in the shift or time of day worked; hours of work; or restrictions or prohibitions on lifting or moving objects in excess of specified weight or other reasonable differentiation; or factor or factors other than sex, when exercised in good faith.

Bars an employer who is in violation of the statute from reducing the pay of any employee in order to bring the employer into compliance with Article 2B. Bars an employer from retaliating against any employee who seeks redress pursuant to Article 2B or who participates in the investigation of a complaint under Article 2B.

Enacts GS 95-25.28, which allows an affected employee to file a complaint with the Department of Labor (Department) and requires the Department to investigate the complaint and notify the employer and the employee of the results of the investigation. Allows an employee receiving less than the wage to which the employee is entitled under the statute to recover in a civil action the balance of those wages, together with costs and attorneys' fees, notwithstanding any agreement to work for a lesser wage. Provides that the employee is not required to exhaust administrative remedies before filing the civil action. Establishes that a civil action pursuant to the statute is to be instituted within two years after the date that the alleged violation is discovered by the affected employee.

Section 1.3

Enacts new Article 3A of GS Chapter 95, to be cited as the Healthy Families and Healthy Workplaces Act (HFHW Act). Denotes that state public policy in promoting the general welfare of the people of North Carolina requires the enactment of new Article 3A under the police power of the state.

Provides definitions for the following terms as used in the HFHW Act: child, domestic violence, employee, employ, employer, health care provider, immediate family member, parent, paid sick time or paid sick days, sexual assault, stalking, and small business.

Provides that the proposed HFHW Act does not apply to (1) bona fide volunteers in an organization where an employer-employee relationship does not exist or (2) any person who is exempt from the Wage and Hour Act under GS 95-25.14(a)(2) through (8), GS 95-25.14(b), GS 95-25.14 (b1), GS 95-25.14(c), and GS 95-25.14(e). Makes an exception regarding domestic workers, providing that they are exempt only if they are employed in the place of residence of their employer.

Provides that paid sick time begins to accrue at the start of employment at a rate of one hour of paid sick time for every 30 hours worked. Provides additional guidelines regarding discretionary advancement of sick time by the employer, limits on the amount of paid sick time accrued and the accrual of paid sick time when there is a separation of employment followed by a rehiring by the same employer. Provides that with the exception of the specified exemptions to the proposed HFHW Act, any employee who works in North Carolina and who must be absent from work for the reasons delineated in proposed new GS 95-31.5(a) is entitled to paid sick time.

Directs that paid sick time is to be provided by an employer to an employee who meets any of the following reasons listed in proposed new GS 95-31.5: (1) to care for the employee's immediate family member who is suffering from a physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition that requires care, professional medical diagnosis or care, preventive medical care, or a routine medical appointment, (2) to care for the employee's own physical or mental illness, injury, or medical condition that requires care, professional medical diagnosis or care, preventive medical care, or a routine medical appointment, or (3) absence necessary due to circumstances resulting from the employee, or a family member of the employee, being a victim of stalking or domestic or sexual violence, if the leave is to allow the employee to obtain for the employee or the family member medical attention, victims services, counseling, relocation, or legal services. Permits the employer to require certification of the qualifying health issue or event when a paid sick time period covers more than three consecutive work days. Provides guidelines for determining what may be deemed acceptable certification. Provides that an employer may not require certification from a health care provider that is employed by the employer. Prohibits an employer from requiring the disclosure of details relating to domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or an employee's medical condition as a condition of providing paid sick time to an employee. Directs an employer to treat as confidential any information that the employer acquires about the employee or the employee's immediate family regarding domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or health conditions. Prohibits the employer from requiring an employee to secure a replacement worker as a condition of providing sick time under the proposed HFHW Act. Prohibits counting paid sick time taken under the Article as an absence that may result in a retaliatory or adverse action. Directs the employee to make a good faith effort, when the use of paid sick time is foreseeable, to provide

the employer with advance notice. States that this Article provides minimum requirements regarding paid sick time and should not be construed to limit, preempt, or otherwise affect other applicability of law, regulation, or policy that extends additional or greater protections to employees, nor should this proposed act be construed to discourage employers from adopting more generous paid sick time policies. Provides that employers already offering a paid sick time policy do not have to modify that policy providing that the paid sick time policy currently in place offers an employee, at his or her discretion, the option to take paid sick time that is equivalent to the amount and for the same purposes offered under the proposed HFHW Act.

Requires employers to provide notice to employees, in Spanish and English, of their entitlement to paid sick time as well as other related information. Notice may be provided by supplying each employee with a notice in Spanish and English or by conspicuously displaying a poster in the place of employment in both languages. Prohibits employers from retaliating against employees who request or use paid sick time. Provides that an employee has a right to file a complaint with the Commissioner of Labor (Commissioner) or in the General Court of Justice if an employer (1) denies an employee paid sick time or (2) retaliates against an employee for requesting or taking paid sick time.

Authorizes the Commissioner to enforce and administer the provisions of the proposed HFHW Act. Provides criteria regarding employer's liability for a violation under the proposed HFHW Act, including provisions for the potential awarding of liquidated damages for a violation of the act. Directs that actions under the proposed HFHW Act must be brought within two years pursuant to GS 1-53. Also provides that the rights and remedies created under the HFHW Act are supplementary to all existing common law and statutory rights and remedies. Directs the Commissioner to adopt rules to implement the proposed act. Provides that the provisions of the proposed Article are severable.

Makes conforming changes to GS 95-241(a).

Effective January 1, 2026, and applies only to covered employment on or after that date. Specifies that with respect to employees covered by a valid collective bargaining agreement in effect on January 1, 2026, this section does not apply until the expiration date in the collective bargaining agreement; however, this section applies upon any such agreement's renewal, extension, amendment, or modification in any respect after January 1, 2026.

Section 1.4

Adds new GS 95-158, creating workplace safety requirements for heat exposure when temperatures exceed 90 degrees Fahrenheit for more than 15 minutes in a 60-minute period or where the employees are performing a heavy workload or are required to wear double-layer woven clothing, as follows. Requires employers to modify work schedules to minimize heat exposure, increase rest frequency, establish a mandatory buddy system, and maintain communication systems for heat-related emergency response. Directs each employer to adopt a heat safety plan and natural disaster and evacuation plan, as described. Instructs the Commissioner to adopt rules to implement new GS 95-158.

Adds new GS 95-159, concerning employee rights in an emergency. During an emergency condition, prevents employers from: (1) Taking or threatening adverse action against any employee for refusing to report to, or leaving, a workplace or worksite within the affected area because the employee has a reasonable belief that the workplace or worksite is unsafe; or (2) preventing any employee from accessing the employee's mobile device or other communications device for seeking emergency assistance, assessing the safety of the situation, or communicating with a person to verify their safety. Defines emergency condition as either conditions of extreme peril or disaster caused by natural conditions or criminal act or an order to evacuate specified locations that is caused by natural conditions or criminal act. Excludes a health pandemic from the definition. Defines a reasonable belief that the workplace or worksite is unsafe. Excludes twelve types of employees from the above requirements, including first responders, utility workers, certain healthcare workers, and employees of licensed residential care facilities. Requires the employee to provide prior notice of the emergency condition to the employer when feasible or as soon as possible if prior notice is not feasible. Excludes instances when emergency conditions have ceased from the scope of the section. Provides for an enforcement action by the Commissioner and a private right of action by the employee when the violation results in actual harm.

Section 1.5

Amends the labor laws of North Carolina to reduce the amount of tips that may be counted as wages of tipped employees through December 31, 2025, and subsequently requires that no tips may be counted as wages.

Section 1.6

Amends GS 95-25.2 modifying the format of the definitions section and adding subsection (5a) defining employment status, subsection (8a) defining intentional, and subsection (16a) defining willful. Makes technical changes.

Amends GS 95-25.13(1) requiring only written notification to employees at the time of hiring and upon any material change of (1) the promised wages and basis upon which wages will be calculated; (2) the method, day, and place for payment; (3) the full name, mailing address, and telephone number of the employer and the federal and state tax identification number of each employer who is not a natural person; and (4) the employment status of the employee.

Amends GS 95-25.22 requiring the court to award liquidated damages in an amount equal to twice the amount found to be due to an employee when the employer has violated provisions relating to minimum wage, overtime, or wage payment unless the employer shows the act or omission constituting a violation was in good faith and the employer had reasonable grounds for believing the act or omission was not a violation of this article.

Amends GS 95-25.22 adding subsection (a2) clarifying liability of an employer found in violation of GS 95-25.13 to be in the form of actual damages, including, but not limited to, lost wages and benefits plus interest.

Amends GS 95-25.22 adding subsection (a3) expanding the forms of damages available to employees to include statutory damages of up to \$500 per employee per violation.

Amends GS 95-25.22(d) to require awarding costs, fees, and attorneys' fees in addition to a judgment awarded to a plaintiff.

Amends GS 95-25.22 adding an exception to the statute of limitations for actions arising out of a willful violation. Such actions may be brought within three years. Actions may also be brought within one year after notification to the employee of final disposition by the state of a complaint for the same violation.

Amends GS 95-25.23 expanding civil penalties to include violations of provisions relating to minimum wage, overtime, wage payment, or notification.

Enacts GS 95-25.23D entitling an employee to enumerated liens for the purpose of wage claims and collections under this Article and outlining perfection and priority of liens. Liens recorded pursuant to subsection (f) take precedence over all other debts, decrees, liens, or mortgages against the employer. A successful action to foreclose a lien pursuant to this section entitles the employee to court costs and reasonable attorneys' fees. Provides further regulations of the liens.

Section 1.7

Adds a new Article 17, Fair Assessment of Persons with Criminal Histories, to GS Chapter 126. Defines the following terms as they apply in this Article: (1) criminal history means a state or federal history of conviction for a misdemeanor or felony relevant to an applicant's fitness for public employment but does not include a record of arrest that did not result in a conviction; (2) hiring authority means an agent responsible by law for the hiring of persons for public employment; and (3) public employment means any employment, including seasonal or temporary work, where the State or any local political subdivision of the State is the employer.

Prohibits a hiring authority from (1) asking about or considering the criminal history of an applicant for public employment or (2) including such an inquiry on any initial employment application form until the hiring authority has made a conditional offer of employment to the applicant. Declares that this Article does not apply to public employment in positions where the hiring authority is required by law to consider the applicant's criminal record. Provides that nothing in this Article is to be construed to prevent any hiring authority in its discretion from adopting the provisions of this Article.

Prohibits any person from being disqualified for public employment solely or in part because of a previous conviction except as otherwise required by law or if the conviction is determined to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the position after all of the following factors are considered: (1) the level and seriousness of the crime; (2) the date of the crime; (3) the age of the person at the time of conviction; (4) the circumstances surrounding the commission of the crime; (5) the connection between the criminal conduct and the duties of the position; (6) the prison, jail, probation, parole, rehabilitation, and employment records of the person since the date the crime was committed; and (7) the subsequent commission of a crime by the person. Clarifies that an arrest record that did not result in a conviction cannot be the basis for disqualification from public employment.

Requires a hiring authority to inform an individual of a potential adverse hiring decision based on the background check and provide the applicant an opportunity to provide evidence that the report is incorrect or inaccurate.

Specifies criteria governing data to be collected by the State Human Resources Commission.

Declares that the provisions of this Article apply to all applicants for public employment. Makes a conforming change to GS 126-5.

Effective when the act becomes law and applies to applications for employment made on or after that date.

Section 1.8

Repeals GS 95-98 (prohibiting public employee union collective bargaining agreements).

Section 1.9

Reenacts GS 105-151.31 (earned income tax credit), which provides an individual who claims an income tax credit under section 32 of the Internal Revenue Code (IRS Code) for the taxable year with a credit against the tax imposed by the Individual Income Tax Act (Act), as it existed immediately before its specified sunset expiration. Also amends the statute by establishing that the allowable credit against the tax imposed by the Act is to be equal to 5% (was, a percentage of up to 5% based on the taxable year) of the amount of credit the individual qualified for under section 32 of the Code. Repeals the provision providing that Section 3507 of the Internal Revenue Code, Advance Payment of Earned Income Credit, does not apply to the credit. Repeals the sunset provision.

Effective for taxable years on or after January 1, 2025.

Section 1.10

Enacts GS 115C-151.34, providing for a tax credit against federal income tax for a percentage of employment-related expenses under section 21 of the Internal Revenue Code as a credit against state income tax at an amount equal to 100% of the amount provided under the section that is claimed. Requires provision of required information to the Secretary of Revenue to claim the credit. Reduces the credit amount as specified based on adjusted gross income and filing status. Provides for reduction based on nonresident or part-year resident status. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Section 2.1

Amends GS 96-14.2 to revise the calculation and cap of the weekly unemployment benefit amount, now providing for an amount equal to the wages paid to the individual in the highest paid quarter of the individual's base period (rather than the last two completed quarters) divided by 52 and rounded to the next lower dollar. Increases the weekly benefit cap from \$350 to \$680. Effective for benefit weeks beginning on or after April 1, 2025.

Section 2.2

Amends GS 96-14.3 to establish a maximum duration of receipt of unemployment benefits at 26 weeks, unless expressly extended by state or federal law. Makes conforming changes to eliminate adjustments to the benefit period based on seasonal statewide unemployment rates.

Section 2.3

Requires the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study expanding the State's employment security system to cover self-employed workers (means an individual who has a contract or arrangement to perform work or services, including app-based ride-share and food delivery drivers, freelancers, and other similar "gig economy" workers) who are laid off or have hours reduced due to an economic downturn. Requires a report of its findings and legislative proposals to the 2026 Session of the 2025 General Assembly.

Section 3.1

Amends GS 97-53 to expand the definition of occupational diseases applicable to the Workers' Compensation Act to include a pandemic infection contracted by a covered person which is presumed to be due to exposure in the course of the covered person's employment. Defines covered person to mean (1) a law enforcement officer, jailer, prison guard, firefighter, or an emergency medical technician, or paramedic employed by a State or local government employer, including volunteer firefighters; (2) a health care worker; or (3) an employee required to work during the pandemic for a business declared essential by executive order or municipal order, including food service, retail, and other essential personnel. Defines pandemic.

Section 4.1

Effective July 1, 2025, increases the cost-of-living retirement allowance payable to, or on account of, beneficiaries whose retirement commenced on or before January 1, 2025, by 3% of the allowance payable on June 1, 2025, under the Teachers and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS-GS 135-5), the Consolidated Judicial Retirement Act (JRA-GS 135-65), the Legislative Retirement System (LRS-120-4.22A) and the Local Government Employees' Retirement System (LGERS-GS128-27). Provides for a prorated amount of 3% for those beneficiaries who retired between January 2, 2025 and June 29, 2025, as determined by the Board of Trustees based upon the number of months that a retirement allowance was paid between January 1, 2025, and June 30, 2025. Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 5.1

Appropriates \$250 million from the General Fund to the Reserve for Retiree Cost-of-Living Adjustments in recurring funds for 2025-26 to fund the cost-of-living adjustments described in Section 4.1. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Murdock, Mayfield, Grafstein.

[APPROP, STUDY, GS 95, GS 96, GS 97, GS 105, GS 120, GS 126, GS 128, GS 135](#)

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, General Assembly, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Labor, State Government, State Personnel, Tax, Local Government

S 327 (2025-2026) [NC BITCOIN RESERVE AND INVESTMENT ACT](#). Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA BITCOIN RESERVE AND INVESTMENT ACT*.

Titles the act as the North Carolina Bitcoin Reserve and Investment Act and sets out the act's purpose. Authorizes the Office of the State Treasurer (Treasurer) to allocate up to 10% of public funds into Bitcoin (BTC) as part of the State's long-term financial strategy. Requires Bitcoin acquired with these allocated funds to be placed into a reserve (Bitcoin Reserve). Allows the Treasurer to engage in Bitcoin-backed investment strategies, including staking, lending, and other regulated yield-generating activities.

Requires that the Bitcoin Reserve be managed as a strategic asset in conformity with the following: (1) the Treasurer must ensure Bitcoin in the Bitcoin Reserve is held in cold storage wallets with multi-signature authentication to prevent unauthorized access; (2) the Treasurer must establish a department within the Office of the State Treasurer to have custody of the Bitcoin Reserve in order to ensure management is by a State entity and have direct State control over assets in the Bitcoin Reserve; (3) the Treasurer must establish a Bitcoin Economic Advisory Board made up of industry experts to provide ongoing guidance; and (4) the Treasurer must conduct monthly audits to verify the reserve status, balance, security, and financial performance and must implement State-backed insurance policies to protect the reserve against cyber threats and economic downturns.

Sets out requirements governing the acquisition and purchase of Bitcoin. Requires exploring Bitcoin mining operations as a means of increasing the State's holdings at minimal cost.

Requires that the Bitcoin Reserve be held as a long-term asset and limits its use as follows: (1) the use is (i) required to respond to a severe financial crisis where alternative reserve assets are insufficient, (ii) part of a State-approved investment strategy to enhance the value of the Bitcoin Reserve, (iii) to finance critical infrastructure and economic development projects approved by the NCGA, and (iv) to provide funding for Bitcoin-related research, education, and business incentives to foster economic growth; (2) liquidation of Bitcoin in the Bitcoin Reserve is approved by at least two-thirds of the members of both chambers of the NCGA present and voting; and (3) the use is to back bonds as an alternative financing mechanism for public projects.

Requires the treasurer to comply with all applicable federal and State laws regarding cryptocurrency holdings and taxation. Requires the State to advocate for Bitcoin-friendly regulations at the federal level to protect State Bitcoin reserves.

Requires the Treasurer to report quarterly to the NCGA on the status, value, and performance of the Bitcoin Reserve; require the report to be available on the Treasurer's website.

Intro. by Johnson, Overcash.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer,
State Government, State Property**

S 328 (2025-2026) **UNDERGROUND SAFETY REVISIONS**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO UPDATE THE UNDERGROUND UTILITY SAFETY AND DAMAGE PREVENTION ACT*.

Amends GS 87-117 by adding and defining the term *soft dig technologies* as an excavation method that uses air or water pressure to break up soil and remove it with vacuum extraction.

Makes the following changes to the Underground Utility Safety and Damage Prevention Act, Article 8A of GS Chapter 87 (Act). Expands an operator's (i.e., a person, public utility, communications or cable service provider, municipality, electrical utility, or electric or telephone cooperative that owns or operates a facility in this State) responsibilities under GS 87-121 to now include (1) making initial contact with an excavator within three hours when there is an emergency request and (2) arranging to mark unmarked facilities (i.e., any underground line, underground system, or underground infrastructure that is used for communication, electricity, gas, petroleum, petroleum products, hazardous liquids, water, steam, or sewage) within three hours of receiving notice. Modifies provisions relating to marking the operator's facility. Changes the time frame for an operator to provide certain information to an excavation to three full working days prior to the start date provided by the excavator for a facility (was, within three full working days after the day notice of proposed excavation was provided). Allows operator and excavator to modify required information and notice requirements by electronically transmitted written agreements (currently, no mention of such agreements).

Modifies the notice of excavation requirements required by GS 87-122 to be given by an excavator to a Notification Center (i.e., a NC member-owned nonprofit corporation sponsored by operators that provides a system through which a person can notify operators of proposed excavations and demolitions) so that the notice for demolition or excavation that does not involve a subaqueous facility must now be given not less than three full working days prior to the proposed commencement date of the excavation or demolition (was, within three to 12 full working days before the excavation or demolition begins). Changes the expiration of the notice to 28 calendar days after the date notice was given (was, 15 full working days). Modifies the contents of the required notice so that the excavator must now give the area of locale that they reasonably believe will completed within 28 calendar days of the work start date, and excludes areas that have been completed and accepted. Requires the excavator to use safe excavation practices, including hand digging or potholing, with the tolerance zone of a pipeline system. Makes technical, clarifying, and conforming changes.

Modifies GS 187-124's exemptions to the notice requirements set forth in GS 187-122 as follows:

- Limits the exemption for an excavation or demolition that involves the tilling of soil for agricultural or gardening purposes to those that encroach on any operator's right-of-way, easement, or permitted use and are less than 12 inches in depth.
- Extends the exemptions for certain mechanisms with nonmechanized equipment to those conducted by a surveyor's contractor.
- Removes excavations or demolitions pertaining to maintenance activities on a right-of-way by other governmental entities with labor on their permanent payroll.

Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 87-126 to set venue for claims adjudication for actual and consequential damages occurring in the State in as the county of the occurrence. Provides for a rebuttable presumption in GS 87-128 that an excavator has exercised due care in preparing for or conducting an excavation so that it is not financially responsible to a nonresponsive operator during an excavation. Changes the standard of due care in such instances to due care in conducting or preparing the excavation (was, due care to protect existing facilities when there is evidence of the existence of those facilities near the proposed excavation area).

Modifies the vacancy and quorum provisions of the Underground Damage Prevention Review Board (Board) under GS 87-129. Requires the Board to establish an internal attendance policy, with power to Board to appoint an interim member if a

member is removed or resigns for failure to meet the attendance policy. Allows Board members to appear at meetings via conference telephone or other electronic means. Extends the time the Board has to contact alleged violators of the Act from 10 days to 15 working days. Sets a 30-day deadline for the Board to notify individuals who it has found to have violated the Act. Provides for an informal conference upon request of the person found to be in violation of the Act. Requires Board to notify the UC if it imposes a penalty for a violation. Requires the UC to impose the penalty. Makes conforming changes. Requires the UC to annually report to the Board the compliance of persons upon whom fines or penalties have been imposed under the Act. Provides for a civil action initiated by the Attorney General for any unpaid penalties.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lazzara, Sawrey, Jones.

GS 87

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Public Enterprises and Utilities

S 329 (2025-2026) **RECOGNIZING SOUTH FORK PASSAGE STATE TRAIL**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE SOUTH FORK PASSAGE STATE TRAIL AND TO PROVIDE FOR ITS ADDITION TO THE STATE PARKS SYSTEM*.

Includes whereas clauses. Sets out NCGA findings related to the proposed South Fork Passage Trail corridor.

Authorizes the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to add the South Fork Passage Trail (Trail) in Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston counties to the State Parks System as a State trail. Describes where the Trail will be located. Requires DNCR to support, promote, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments on State Park lands and on lands of other federal, State, local, and private landowners. Sets out which laws, rules, and policies apply on segments of the Trail that cross property controlled by agencies or owners other than the DNCR's Division of Parks and Recreation. Exempts the Trail from the requirement in GS 143B-135.54(b) that additions be accompanied by adequate appropriations for land acquisition, development, and operations, but allows the State to receive donations of appropriate land and purchase other needed lands for the Trail with existing funds in the Land and Water Fund, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the Complete the Trails Fund, the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund, and other available sources of funding.

Intro. by Overcash, Hollo, Alexander.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources

S 330 (2025-2026) **LME/MCO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY**. Filed Mar 18 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE QUARTERLY REPORTING BY LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITIES/MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE PROVIDERS AND TO PROVIDE FOR SPECIFIC MINIMALLY ADEQUATE SERVICES REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY LOCAL MANAGEMENT ENTITIES/MANAGED CARE ORGANIZATIONS*.

Requires every local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) to submit the following to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) quarterly beginning October 1, 2025, and for four years thereafter: (1) number of individuals served by the LME/MCO who had an emergency department stay of more than 24 hours and the length of stay for each individual; (2) number, and percentage of, individuals served by the LME/MCO who were unable to access a healthcare provider both willing and able to initiate services within 30 days of the approval of those services; (3) amount of funds retained by the LME/MCO for services approved for an individual served by the LME/MCO but not used due to limited access to appropriate or available providers; (4) number of healthcare providers in the LME/MCO's network by provider type and any subsequent change; and (5) number of individuals deemed eligible for mental, behavioral, or substance use services pursuant to contract between DHHS and the LME/MCO who are not receiving any or all of those services through the LME/MCO, except when the needed service is made available by another payor.

Requires the Secretary of DHHS to adopt rules incorporating the following to be met no later than December 31, 2023, and quarterly thereafter: (1) LME/MCOs must have fewer than two beneficiaries per county in the LME/MCO's catchment area boarded in a hospital emergency department at any one time; and (2) individuals served by the LME/MCO must have access to a willing and available healthcare provider and begin receiving all approved services within 45 days of the approval of the services at least 85% of the time (excluding specialized medical services for which there are extended wait times for individuals who are not Medicaid beneficiaries). Allows the Secretary to incorporate these items into any future managed care contracts. Also allows the Secretary to develop additional measures of LME/MCO compliance with requirements for timely access to services for individuals they serve. Failure of an LME/MCO to meet the benchmarks for two consecutive quarters constitutes a failure to provide for minimally adequate services and the Secretary must take corrective action.

Intro. by Grafstein.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

LOCAL/HOUSE BILLS

H 58 (2025-2026) **VARIOUS LOCAL ELECTIONS. (NEW)** Filed Feb 4 2025, *AN ACT TO EXTEND THE TERMS OF THE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR THE TOWN OF KITTRELL FROM TWO TO FOUR YEARS; TO PROVIDE THAT THE ASHEBORO CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION SHALL CONSIST OF SEVEN MEMBERS ELECTED ON A PARTISAN BASIS IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS TO SERVE FOUR-YEAR STAGGERED TERMS; TO ESTABLISH RESIDENCY DISTRICTS FOR THE ANSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS; AND TO PROVIDE THAT VACANCIES ON THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ARE FILLED IN ACCORDANCE WITH G.S. 153A-27.1.*

Senate committee substitute to the 2nd edition adds the following content and makes conforming changes to the act's titles.

Section 2

Requires two members of the Asheboro City Board of Education to be elected in 2025 on a nonpartisan plurality basis with the results determined according to GS 163-292 (determination of election results in cities using the plurality method) to serve a one-year term.

Specifies that this section does not affect the term of office of any member elected in 2025 to the Asheboro City Board of Education; requires any vacancy for a member elected in 2025 to be filled by appointment of the remaining members of the Asheboro City Board of Education to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Requires each member of the Asheboro City Board of Education elected in 2025, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy for a member elected in 2025, to serve until a successor has been elected and qualified.

Amends Section 2 of SL 1957-35, as amended, by decreasing the membership of the Asheboro City Board of Education from 11 to seven members and requires that they be elected to staggered four-year terms instead of to six-year terms. Requires that they be elected at the time of the general election in each even-numbered year as terms expire, with candidates nominated at the same time and manner as county officers. Requires elections to be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of GS Chapters 115C and 163. Requires any vacancy to be filled in accordance with GS 115C-37.1 (vacancies in offices of county boards elected on partisan basis in certain counties) and makes conforming changes to GS 115C-37.1.

Repeals the following sections of SL 1957-35, as amended: Section 1 (concerning the composition of the Asheboro City Board of Education), Section 3 (specifying members of the Asheboro City Board of Education and the election of their successors), Section 4 (concerning elections), Section 5 (concerning notice of special elections), Section 6 (concerning the conduction of elections), and Section 7 (concerning terms of office).

Extends the terms of office for the four members serving on the effective date of this section whose terms of office are set to expire in 2027 by one year, and the terms of office for the three members serving on the effective date of this section whose terms are set to expire in 2029 by one year. Sets out provisions to stagger the terms.

Requires the Asheboro City Council, between the date of the 2028 general election and the first Monday in December 2028 to appoint a registered voter who resides in the Asheboro City Board of Education School Administrative Unit district to serve on the Asheboro City Board of Education to vote only in the case of a tie; this person's term expires the first Monday in December 2030.

Specifies that this does not affect the term of office of any member elected in 2021 or 2023 to the Asheboro City Board of Education and requires any vacancies in those positions to be filled by appointment of the remaining Board members to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Requires each member of the Asheboro City Board of Education elected in 2021 or 2023, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy for one of those members, to serve until a successor has been elected and qualified.

Effective the first Monday in December of 2026, and requires elections in 2026 and thereafter to be conducted accordingly.

Section 3

Specifies that the Anson County Board of Commissioners consists of seven members elected from seven single-member residency districts with one member elected from each residency district. Requires a person to be a qualified voter and resident of the district in which the candidate seeks to be elected to the Anson County Board of Commissioners. Requires all candidates for election to be voted on by all eligible voters in the county. Provides that members take office and qualify on the first Monday in December of the year of election, and the terms of their predecessors expire at that same time.

Requires, until revised in accordance with GS 153A-22.1, the residency districts required by this section to be the districts used in the 2022 elections for the Anson County Board of Commissioners. Makes conforming changes to GS 153A-22.1 (redefining residency district boundaries).

Effective the first Monday in December 2026, and elections in 2026 and thereafter must be conducted accordingly.

Section 4

Amends GS 153A-27.1 (vacancies on board of commissioners in certain counties) by adding Caswell County to the scope of the statute.

Intro. by Winslow.

UNCODIFIED, Anson, Caswell, Randolph, Vance

[View summary](#)

Government, Elections

H 294 (2025-2026) **JACKSON CO BD OF ED ELECTION PARTISAN**. Filed Mar 5 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTISAN ELECTION FOR MEMBERS OF THE JACKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION*.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Further amends provisions concerning election to the Jackson County Board of Education (Board) under Section 5(a) of SL 2024-14 as follows. Adds that a person not eligible to file or be elected to the Board unless they are a qualified voter and resident of the residency district in which the candidate seeks to be elected. No longer specifies that the partisan elections are to be as provided in GS 163-291.

Adds that this act does not affect the term of office of any member elected to the Board in 2024. Requires any vacancy on the Board for a member elected in 2024 to be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Board to serve the remainder of the unexpired term. Requires each member elected in 2024, or any member appointed to fill a vacancy in 2024, to serve until a successor has been elected and qualified.

Removes the change to Section 5 of SL 2024-14 (concerning elections for the Board) that made the section effective the first Monday in December 2025 instead of 2026.

Changes the effective date for the entire act to the first Monday in December of 2026, and requires elections in 2026 and thereafter to be conducted accordingly.

Makes conforming changes to the act's long title.

Intro. by Clampitt.

Jackson

[View summary](#)

[Government, Elections](#)

H 302 (2025-2026) [PITT CO. BD. OF ED. ELECT. PARTISAN](#). Filed Mar 5 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PARTISAN ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE PITT COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION*.

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

Instead of amending Section 1 of SL 1987-193, as amended, so that the members of the Pitt County Board of Education (Board) are elected on a partisan basis under GS 163-291 at the time of the general election in even-numbered years as terms expire, to direct that Board members are to be nominated at the same time and in the same manner as other county officers, that they serve until their successors are elected and qualified, requiring members to take office on the first Monday in December after the election, and requiring the elections to be conducted in accordance with GS Chapters 115C and 163, incorporates those provisions into Section 4. Also requires that Board members serve staggered terms. Makes technical changes. Make clarifying changes to Section 6. Removes references to the impact of the act on the term of office of any Board member elected or appointed to fill a vacancy in 2022. Changes the effective date of the act so that the entire act becomes effective the first Monday in December of 2026, and requires elections in 2026 and thereafter to be conducted accordingly.

Intro. by Reeder.

[Pitt, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Elections](#)

H 336 [TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY/DEANNEXATIONS](#). Filed Mar 6 2025, *AN ACT REMOVING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY*.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition removes an additional parcel, as described, from the corporate limits of the Town of Maggie Valley.

Intro. by Pless.

[Haywood](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Local Government](#)

H 337 (2025-2026) [CITY OF SOUTHPORT/DEANNEXATIONS](#). Filed Mar 6 2025, *AN ACT REMOVING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF SOUTHPORT*.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Clarifies that the three parcels being removed from Southport's corporate limits are as identified by their Brunswick County Tax Office Parcel Number (was, Parcel Identification Number).

Intro. by Miller.

[Brunswick](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Local Government](#)

H 338 [TOWN OF OAK ISLAND/DEANNEXATIONS. \(NEW\)](#) Filed Mar 6 2025, *AN ACT TO REMOVE CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF OAK ISLAND*.

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Removes the eleven parcels from the corporate limits of the Town of Oak Island instead of from the City of Southport. Makes conforming changes to account for the change to

Oak Island from Southport. Clarifies that the parcels are as identified by the Brunswick County Tax Office Parcel Number (was, Parcel Identification Number). Makes conforming changes to the act's titles.

Intro. by Miller.

Brunswick

[View summary](#)

Government, Local Government

LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 36 (2025-2026) [CHINA GROVE EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS](#). Filed Jan 30 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT REGULAR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE TOWN OF CHINA GROVE SHALL BE HELD IN EVEN-NUMBERED YEARS.*

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Further amends the Charter of the Town of China Grove (SL 2002-42) as follows. Specifies that regular municipal elections must be held at the time of the general election. Instead of specifying the staggered terms for the Aldermen, specifies that the Aldermen are to be elected to staggered four-year terms. Makes other clarifying and technical changes.

Requires that when elections resume in even-numbered years beginning in 2026, they will be with the same staggering of terms as when elections were conducted in odd-numbered years.

Intro. by Ford.

Rowan

[View summary](#)

Government, Elections

S 127 (2025-2026) [LOWER TAXES FOR SCOTLAND COUNTY](#). Filed Feb 21 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE SCOTLAND COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT A SCHOOL BUDGET IN ITS DISCRETION, TO ELIMINATE THE MANDATORY SCHOOL FUNDING FLOOR, AND TO MAKE CONFORMING CHANGES.*

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Makes organizational changes and conforming changes to act's long title.

Amends SL 1963-707, as amended, as follows. Removes requirement for the Scotland County Board of Education (Board) to file a recommended supplemental tax budget, which when added to the regular budget, and would provide the amount of per student funding determined by the Board to be requisite to provide an appropriate education to all students in Scotland County. Strikes provisions in SL 1963-707, as amended, that (1) required the Board to submit a supplemental tax budget when added to the regular budget, provides, at a minimum, current expense expenditures per student from local funds which are no less than the average current expense expenditures per student from local funds throughout the State as determined by the latest certification of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and (2) required the Scotland County Board of Commissioners (BOC) to approve the budgets in the minimum amount with discretion to approve in higher amounts, to be funded with local funds.

Requires, for fiscal year 2025-26, the Board to submit a budget request for operational and capital funding in amounts that would provide an appropriate education to all students in Scotland County during that fiscal year to the BOC, at the same time the other school budgets are filed. Directs the BOC to consider the educational goals and policies of the State and the local Board, the Board's budgetary request, the Board's financial resources, and the Board's and the BOC's fiscal policies in evaluating the request. Based on this evaluation, directs the BOC to determine, in its discretion, the amount of county revenues, including any voted supplemental tax revenues, to be appropriated to the Board's local current expense fund and capital outlay fund for fiscal year 2025-2026. Prevents the Board or the BOC from initiating a dispute resolution process or filing any legal action challenging the determination of funds to be appropriated by the BOC to the local current expense fund and capital outlay fund for fiscal year 2025-26. Requires, that beginning with fiscal year 2026-27 and each year thereafter, the preparation, submission, and approval of a budget for the Board to be in accordance with Article 31 of GS Chapter 115C.

Removes provisions repealing SL 2002-66 (concerning current expense expenditures from local funds for Scotland County schools) and Section 63 of SL 2004-203 (pertaining to the base amount of funding for current expense expenditures from local funds).

Intro. by Britt.

Scotland

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

S 214 (2025-2026) **FOUR OAKS/CREEDMOOR DEANNEXATIONS. (NEW)** Filed Feb 27 2025, *AN ACT REMOVING CERTAIN DESCRIBED PROPERTY FROM THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF FOUR OAKS AND THE CITY OF CREEDMOOR.*

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

Removes the specified tract from the corporate limits of the City of Creedmoor. Specifies that this act has no effect upon the validity of any liens of the City for ad valorem taxes or special assessments outstanding before the act's effective date; allows those liens to be collected or foreclosed upon after the effective date of this act as though the property were still within the City's corporate limits. Effective June 30, 2025. Specifies that property in the described area as of January 1, 2025, is no longer subject to municipal taxes for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2025. Makes additional conforming and technical changes. Changes the act's titles.

Intro. by Sawrey.

UNCODIFIED, Granville, Johnston

[View summary](#)

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 8: NC MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL WASTE ACT OF 2025.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 16: GENERAL ASSEMBLY: IN GOD WE TRUST - DISPLAY.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 21: DRIVERS LICENSE DESIGNATION/AUTISM.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 23: ALLOW STANLY COMM. COLL. CULINARY OFF CAMPUS.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 28: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION ACT.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 35: ESTABLISH MILITARY APPRECIATION MONTH.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 37: ENHANCE FIREFIGHTER BENEFITS & REPRESENTATION.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

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

Senate: Conf Com Reported

House: Conf Com Reported

House: Added to Calendar

House: Conf Report Adopted

H 50: LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Pensions and Retirement

H 56: PUBLISH CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Education - K-12

H 71: RESPIRATORY CARE MODERNIZATION ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 87: CELL PHONE-FREE EDUCATION.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 91: DEFINE ARMED FORCES/CONFORMING CHANGES.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 94: DIS. VETERAN HOMESTEAD EXCL. PREQUALIFICATION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 118: DISABLED VETERANS TAX RELIEF BILL.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 123: CRIMINAL FALSIFICATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 124: ADOPT OFFICIAL STATE COOKIE.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 125: ADOPT OFFICIAL STATE STAR.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 162: LOCAL GOV'T APPLICANTS/CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECK.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 171: EQUALITY IN STATE AGENCIES/PROHIBITION ON DEL.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On State and Local Government

H 212: CONDEMNATION/SERVICE ON SPOUSES NOT REQUIRED.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 213: POST NC VETERANS' BENEFITS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Commerce and Economic Development

H 227: U.S. & N.C. FLAGS/MADE IN USA.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Commerce and Economic Development

H 236: REMEMBER 9/11 WITH FREEDOM FLAG.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 237: CHILD WELFARE.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Health

H 251: DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDING/NONDISCRIMINATION.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery

H 275: FAILURE TO YIELD PENALTIES. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 297: BREAST CANCER PREVENTION IMAGING PARITY.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Insurance

H 308: CRIMINAL LAW CHANGES.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 309: BLDG. CODE FAM. CHILD CARE HOME CLASS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Housing and Development

H 315: GIFT CARD THEFT & UNLAWFUL BUSINESS ENTRY.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 330: CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT - UPDATES.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 370: GSC UNIFORM ACTS REGARDING CHILDREN.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 402: NC REINS ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 1

H 408: FORT FISHER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUNDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 410: NCIOM STUDY/MEDICAL AID IN DYING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 411: REDUCE EARLY VOTING PERIOD FOR PRIMARIES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 412: CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 413: MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION AND REINVESTMENT ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 416: FUNDS FOR BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 417: FUNDS FOR HOKE COUNTY PARK.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 419: SCHOOL OF THE ARTS BUILDING PURCHASE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 420: SOUND BASIC EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 421: MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 422: BEYOND THE CHOICE ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 427: CCW PERMIT/NO RECORDS PROVIDED.

House: Filed

H 428: STUDY SCHOOL DISCIPLINE PARENT INVOLVEMENT.

House: Filed

H 429: TURTLE RESCUE TEAM SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATE.

House: Filed

H 430: PROTECT YOUTH FROM HARMS OF VAPING & NICOTINE.

House: Filed

H 431: PREVENTING DEED FRAUD.

House: Filed

H 432: PROTECT OUR HOMES ACT.

House: Filed

H 433: REGISTERED NURSES IN SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 434: THE CARE FIRST ACT.

House: Filed

H 435: MOD. BD. OF ENG'ERS & AMP SURVEYORS.

House: Filed

H 436: COUNTIES/SEMIANNUAL ASSESSMENTS.

House: Filed

H 437: ESTABLISH DRUG-FREE HOMELESS SERVICE ZONES.

House: Filed

H 438: REQUIRE PAID REST BREAKS.

House: Filed

H 439: ALLOW CONCEALED CARRY OF KNIFE.

House: Filed

H 440: HEALTHY FOOD HEALTHY BODIES.

House: Filed

H 441: LOGGERHEAD TURTLE/STATE SALTWATER REPTILE.

House: Filed

H 442: RESTORE FLOUNDER/RED SNAPPER SEASON.

House: Filed

H 443: CONST. AMENDMENT: COUNCIL OF STATE VACANCIES.

House: Filed

H 444: HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION REFORM BILL.

House: Filed

H 445: FAIRNESS & TRANSPARENCY IN EDUCATION SALARIES.

House: Filed

H 446: PROHIBITION ON DISCLOSING BOOKING PHOTOGRAPHS.

House: Filed

H 447: FUNDS FOR KERNERSVILLE EVENT CENTER.

House: Filed

H 448: SAFE FIREARM STORAGE/SALES TAX EXEMPTION.

House: Filed

H 449: CRIMES AGAINST MINORS/REVISE LAW.

House: Filed

H 450: PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS ACT.

House: Filed

H 451: DIABETES EDUCATION FOR PARENTS.

House: Filed

H 452: REVISE LAW/OBSTRUCTION OF HEALTH FACILITY.

House: Filed

H 453: INCREASE MEDICAID PCS AND PDN RATES.

House: Filed

H 454: REVIEW OF FEDERAL ACTS/RULES/REGULATIONS.

House: Filed

H 455: REPEAL CERTIFICATE OF NEED LAWS.

House: Filed

S 50: FREEDOM TO CARRY NC.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

S 121: GSC CONVEYANCES BETWEEN SPOUSES.

Senate: Reptd Fav

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

S 122: GSC UNIF. COMMUNITY PROP. DISP. AT DEATH ACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav

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

S 254: ESTABLISH OFFENSE FOR POSS. OF EXPLOSIVE.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 261: ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 296: BUY AMERICAN STEEL.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

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 298: INEXPERIENCED OPERATOR CONTINUOUS COVERAGE.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 299: GOVERNMENT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 300: NC REACH ACT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 301: FILM AND ENTERTAINMENT GRANT FUND MODS.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 302: THE SERGEANT MICKEY HUTCHENS ACT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 303: REPEAL SERVICE TAX.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 304: REENACT EITC.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 305: COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 306: WC/SELF-INSURANCE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
Senate: Withdrawn From Com
Senate: Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 308: PERMANENT PLATES FOR WATER & SEWER AUTHORITY.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 309: CHANGES TO ESTATES AND TRUSTS STATUTES.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 310: RELIGIOUS PROPERTY - TAX EXEMPTION.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 311: UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate
Senate: Withdrawn From Com
Senate: Re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 312: THE STARS AND STRIPES COMMITMENT ACT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

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

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 314: ELIMINATE ETJ OVERLAP.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

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

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref to Health Care. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 316: LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref to Health Care. If fav, re-ref to Judiciary. If fav, re-ref to Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 317: UNIFORM PARTITION OF HEIRS PROPERTY ACT.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

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

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

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

Senate: Passed 1st Reading
Senate: Ref To Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 320: LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 321: ACCOUNTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 322: UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 323: STUDENT HEALTH AND RESPONSIBILITY ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 324: 2025 SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 325: CREATE DEPT. OF HOUSING AND COMM. DEVELOPMENT.

Senate: Filed

S 326: ECONOMIC SECURITY ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 327: NC BITCOIN RESERVE AND INVESTMENT ACT.

Senate: Filed

S 328: UNDERGROUND SAFETY REVISIONS.

Senate: Filed

S 329: RECOGNIZING SOUTH FORK PASSAGE STATE TRAIL.

Senate: Filed

S 330: LME/MCO TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY.

Senate: Filed

LOCAL BILLS

H 58: VARIOUS LOCAL ELECTIONS. (NEW)

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

H 223: TOWN OF MOORESVILLE/PROPERTY CONVEYANCE.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 240: DAVIDSON CHARTER CONSOLIDATION.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 279: FILLING VACANCIES/HAYWOOD COUNTY BD. OF COMM.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 294: JACKSON CO BD OF ED ELECTION PARTISAN.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 302: PITT CO. BD. OF ED. ELECT. PARTISAN.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 336: TOWN OF MAGGIE VALLEY/DEANNEXATIONS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 337: CITY OF SOUTHPORT/DEANNEXATIONS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 338: TOWN OF OAK ISLAND/DEANNEXATIONS. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

S 36: CHINA GROVE EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

S 127: LOWER TAXES FOR SCOTLAND COUNTY.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

S 203: CITY OF WILMINGTON/PROPERTY CONVEYANCES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 214: FOUR OAKS/CREEDMOOR DEANNEXATIONS. (NEW)

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

S 219: STALLINGS/MARVIN SATELLITE ANNEXATIONS. (NEW)

Senate: Reptd Fav

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

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