

The Daily Bulletin: 2025-03-31

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 554 (2025-2026) **REV LAWS TECH CHNGS/BBA CHNGS/P2P TAX PARITY**. Filed Mar 27 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE REVENUE LAWS; TO CONFORM TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM FOR AUDITING PARTNERSHIPS BY IMPOSING TAX AT THE PARTNERSHIP LEVEL FOR FEDERAL CHANGES AND BY AUTHORIZING REFUNDS FOR FEDERAL CHANGES; AND TO PROVIDE TAX PARITY FOR SHORT-TERM CAR RENTALS BY EXPANDING ALTERNATE HIGHWAY USE TAX TO INCLUDE PEER-TO-PEER RENTALS.*

Part I.

Amends GS 105-153.5 to allow a taxpayer to deduct from their adjusted gross income the amount by which the aggregate amount of losses or deductions of an S Corporation taken into account by a shareholder do not exceed the combined adjusted bases of the shareholder in the stock and indebtedness of the S Corporation. Requires a taxpayer to add to their adjusted gross income the amount by which the aggregate amount of losses or deductions of an S Corporation taken into account by a shareholder exceed the combined adjusted bases of the shareholder in the stock and indebtedness of the S Corporation. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-153.5A, the net operating loss provisions, by adding that the statute applies only to individuals, estates, and trusts, applicable retroactively to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. Further amends GS 105-153.5A, effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, by adding to the modifications that apply when a taxpayer calculates their State net operating loss, so that the amount of their excess business loss is fully allowed as a State net operating loss.

Amends GS 105-160.2, concerning the income tax on estates, trusts, and beneficiaries, as follows. No longer requires that the income of an estate or trust that is being taxed, be for the benefit of a resident of this state or for the benefit of a nonresident to the extent that the income meets specified conditions, now requiring that tax be computed on the amount of the taxable income of the estate or trust that is (1) derived from NC sources and is attributable to the ownership of any interest in real or tangible personal property in North Carolina or (2) is derived from a business, trade, profession, or occupation carried on in North Carolina. Requires that the taxable income and gross income be apportioned and allocated to this State under GS 105-130.4 (allocation and apportionment of income for corporations). Makes additional clarifying and technical changes. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-153.3 by amending the definition of *resident* as it applies to individual income tax, to now provide as follows. A resident who moves from the State during a taxable year is considered a resident until the resident has both established a definite domicile elsewhere and abandoned any domicile in this state. The fact of marriage does not raise any presumption as to domicile or residence. A resident individual is either of the following: (1) an individual who is domiciled in this state at any time during the taxable year or who resides in this state during the taxable year for other than a temporary or transitory purpose or (2) an individual who maintains a place of abode within the state and spends more than 183 days, including partial days, of the taxable year within the state (the absence of an individual from the state for more than 183 days raises no presumption that the individual is not a resident).

Amends GS 105-163.6, concerning when an employer must file returns and pay withheld taxes, as follows. Requires employers withholding an average of at least \$2,000 of State income taxes from wages each month to file a return on a quarterly basis (was, by the date set under the Code for filing a return for federal employment taxes attributable to the same wages). Removes provisions related to extensions of time for filing a return. Sets out specified due dates for the withheld State income taxes based on the employer's payday. Allows the Secretary of Revenue (Secretary) to close a taxpayer's withholding account if the taxpayer files on withholding returns or files returns showing no withholding of State income taxes for a period of 18 months.

Part II.

Enacts new GS 105-154.2, concerning federal partnership adjustments, as follows. Defines *federal partnership adjustment* as a change or correction arising from a partnership level audit or an administrative adjustment request that affects the calculation of a taxpayer's State tax. Defines additional terms as they apply to Part 2 (individual income tax) of Article 4 of GS Chapter 105. Requires that except in the case of a final federal partnership adjustment (as defined) required to be reported to the Secretary under the newly specified procedures, a partner must report and pay any State income tax due under GS 105-130.20 or GS 105-159 (both concerning federal determinations and amended returns). Requires, except for the distributive share of adjustments that have been reported as required above and an audited partnership that has made a timely election, a partnership and partner must report a final federal partnership as follows: (1) no later than 90 days after the final federal partnership adjustment, a partnership doing business in this state must: a. file an income tax return reflecting the partnership's final federal partnership adjustments, as modified by GS 105-153.5 and GS 105-153.6, and any other information required by the Secretary, and pay the additional amount due under GS 105-154(d) and GS 105-154.1, and b. notify each of its direct partners of the direct partner's distributive share of the final federal partnership adjustments, including any information necessary for the direct partner to properly file a State income tax return and (2) no later than six months after the final federal partnership adjustment, each direct partner subject to tax under this Article must file a State income tax return reporting the direct partner's distributive share of the adjustments reported to the direct partner under b above, as modified by GS 105-153.5 and GS 105-153.6, and any other information required by the Secretary, and pay any additional amount of tax due as if the final federal partnership adjustments had been properly reported. Allows an audited partnership to elect to report a final federal partnership adjustment arising from a partnership level audit, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary; makes such an election irrevocable and can't be made if the required income tax return is not filed within the required period. Sets out additional provisions that apply to an audited partnership that makes this election, concerning reporting and payment of tax, and exceptions. Sets out provisions applying to the collection of taxes for failure to pay when this election is made. Makes direct and indirect partners of an audited partnership that are tiered partners, and all owners and beneficiaries of those tiered partners that are subject to taxation, subject to the reporting and payment requirements and entitles the tiered partners to make the election. Allows the Secretary to propose an assessment against a direct or indirect partner for tax due, if a partnership or tiered partner fails to timely make any report or payment. Binds the partnership's direct and indirect partners to the actions of the State partnership representative and sets out actions the partnership representative has sole authority to do. Requires the Secretary to assess additional State tax arising from a final federal partnership adjustment.

Amends GS 105-228.90 by excluding a final federal partnership adjustment from the definition of *federal determination*. Amends GS 105-153.5 to require when calculating NC taxable income, that: (1) a taxpayer must add the amount by which the taxpayer's distributive share of partnership income, subject to the specified adjustments, is increased as a result of a final federal partnership adjustment and (2) a taxpayer may deduct the amount by which the taxpayer's distributive share of partnership income, as modified by the specified provisions, is decreased as a result of a final federal partnership adjustment. Requires the same additional deductions to federal taxable income under GS 105-130.5.

Amends GS 105-241.6, concerning the statute of limitations for refunds, to provide that if a taxpayer files a return reflecting a final federal partnership adjustment and the return is filed within the required time, the period for requesting a refund is the later of one year after the return reflecting the final federal partnership adjustment is filed or three years after the original return was filed or due to be filed. Makes the same changes to the timing for proposing an assessment under GS 105-241.8 but also adds that if there is a final federal partnership adjustment and the taxpayer does not file the return within the required time, the period for proposing an assessment of any tax due is six years after the date the Secretary received the final report of the final federal partnership adjustment.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and applies to federal partnership adjustments that become final on or after that date.

Part III.

Amends two of the conditions that can be met in order for a retailer who makes a remote sale to be considered engaged in business in North Carolina and subject to sales tax under GS 105-164.8 by specifying that a retailer who: (1) solely meets the condition of making gross sales in excess of \$100,000 from remote sales sourced to this State, including sales as a marketplace seller, for the previous or the current calendar year, or meets both this condition and the one below, is engaged in business on the first day of the first calendar month occurring at least 60 days after the retailer's gross sales exceed the threshold and (2) solely meets the condition of being a marketplace facilitator that makes gross sales in excess of \$100,000, including all marketplace-facilitated sales for all marketplace sellers, from sales sourced to this state for the previous or the

current calendar year, or meets this condition and the one above, is engaged in business on the first day of the first calendar month occurring at least 60 days after the retailer's gross sales exceed the threshold.

Amends GS 105-164.3, which defines terms for sales tax purposes, by defining the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement as the one amended as of October 9, 2024 (was, November 7, 2023).

Amends GS 105-187.90 by changing the term "shared for hire ground transport" to "shared-ride service." Amends GS 105-187.95 by no longer specifying that the proceeds of the transportation commerce tax must be credited to the Highway Fund on a quarterly basis. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Amends GS 105-113.39A to no longer require a wholesale dealer or retail dealer to obtain a vapor products license for locations where a remote seller receives or stores non-tax-paid products for delivery sales.

Amends GS 105-113.83A to no longer require the holder of a nonresident spirituous liquor vendor permit to register with the Secretary.

Amends GS 105-449.42 by changing the due date of tax for a motor carrier who is exempt from filing a return, to the last day of the month following the quarter in which the motor fuel or alternative fuel was used by the motor carrier (was, due when the tax is collectible under GS 105-241.22). Applies to taxes due on or after July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-449.60, which sets out definitions applicable to the taxation of gasoline, diesel, and blends, by (1) adding and defining the term *renewable diesel*; (2) amending the definition of *diesel fuel* so that it includes renewable diesel; and (3) expanding upon the definition of supplier to also include a purchaser of tax-paid motor fuel who introduces the respective tax-paid motor fuel into the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal, and a person who owns tax-paid motor fuel at the time it is placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal. Amends GS 105-449.97 to also allow a licensed supplier to take a credit for tax-paid motor fuel in the terminal transfer system if: (1) the supplier is the original purchaser of tax-paid motor fuel placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal or (2) the supplier owns tax-paid motor fuel at the time it is placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal. Effective July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-449.69 to allow the Secretary to cancel an exporter license if the Secretary determines that an exporter is no longer operating in this state and has failed to comply with GS 105-449.75 (notification of discontinuation of business). Makes conforming changes to GS 105-449.76.

Amends GS 105-449.87 by updating a statutory cross-reference.

Amends GS 105-449.139, related to alternative fuel taxation and licensure, to allow the Secretary or their designee to inspect the records subject to audit and take three specified actions to determine tax liability.

Amends GS 150B-2, defining terms for GS Chapter 150B, by amending the definition of *license* to exclude licenses issued under Subchapter V of GS Chapter 105 (motor fuel taxes).

Amends the definition of *gross wagering revenue* under GS 18C-901, by specifying that it includes the cash value of any bonuses or promotional credits when returned to an interactive sports wagering operator in the form of a deposit or sports wager.

Part V.

Amends GS 105-228.90 by updating references to the Internal Revenue Code. Also amends the definitions of *person*, *tax*, and *taxpayer* to correct references to Article 84 (Primary Forest Product Assessment Act) of GS Chapter 106 instead of Article 81 (Corporations for Protection and Development of Forests).

Amends GS 105-23 to no longer allow the Secretary to waive the penalty for making payments in the wrong form, and changes the penalty for filing a frivolous return from up to \$500 to up to \$2,000.

Amends GS 105-249.2 to refer to when the period of time for returns and payments was disregarded instead of referring to extensions of time.

Amends GS 1-339.1 by amending the provision providing that a judicial sale is a sale of property made under an order in an action or proceeding in the superior or district court, but not a tax foreclosure sale, specifying that for the purposes of federal law, this should not be construed to mean that a tax foreclosure sale is a non-judicial sale. Amends GS 160A-233 and GS 153A-200 by no longer making the lien of special assessments inferior to prior and subsequent liens for federal taxes, effective October 1, 2025.

Makes a technical change to GS 14-313. Amends GS 143B-245.10 by adding a definition of ALE Division. Amend GS 143B-245.15 by making the ALE Division responsible for the unannounced compliance checks of retailers, distributors, and wholesalers of consumable products or vapor products, instead of the Secretary of the Department of Revenue or his designees. Makes conforming changes and requires the ALE Division to report on violations to the Secretary when civil penalties are authorized, and allows any products identified for sale that are not on the registry to be seized, forfeited, and destroyed. Amend GS 143B-245.16 by no longer allowing the fees under Part 3 (Certification and Directory of Vapor Products and Consumable Products) to be used for enforcement and requires all fees under the part to be remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund. Makes conforming changes to reporting requirements. Amends GS 143B-218 to add to the Department of Revenue's duties performing other non-tax related functions as enacted by the NCGA. Amends GS 143B-219 by making conforming changes. Removes the functions of the State Board of Assessment from those that are transferred to the Department of Revenue.

Part VI.

Amends GS 105-278.2 by clarifying that the real property being exempted from taxation must be used for human burial purposes.

Part VII.

Amends GS 105-187.1, by (1) adding and defining the term *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider*; (2) amending the definition of *retailer* to be those engaged in the business of offering short-term leases or rentals, long-term leases or rentals, or vehicle subscriptions for motor vehicles; and (3) amending the definition of *short-term lease or rental* to include peer-to-peer vehicle sharing providers. Amends GS 105-187.5 to require the payment of a tax on the gross receipts of a limited possession commitment by: (1) a retailer that purchases a motor vehicle for use as a limited possession commitment and makes an election under this statute and (2) a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider. Allows a retailer that has purchased a motor vehicle for a limited possession commitment to elect to pay this tax instead of the tax under GS 105-187.3 when applying for a certificate of title and sets out additional provisions related to this election. Makes organizational, conforming, and technical changes. Makes conforming changes to GS 105-187.3 and GS 105-187.4.

Amends GS 153A-156 and GS 160A-215.1 by no longer specifying that the county's/city's levy of a gross receipts tax on short-term leases or rental of vehicles is a substitute and replacement of the ad valorem tax excluded by GS 105-275. Makes conforming and clarifying changes. Makes clarifying changes to GS 105-550. Amends GS 105-551 to also allow levying a privilege tax on a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider if the customer takes delivery of the vehicle within the Authority's territorial jurisdiction. Amends GS 105-552 by making conforming and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 20-280.15 by amending the definitions that apply to Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Sharing, as follows: (1) removes the definition of *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing* and the definition of *shared vehicle owner*; (2) changes the definition of *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program* to refer to a business platform that connects registered vehicle owners that have not made an election under GS 105-187.5 with drivers to enable the sharing of vehicles for financial consideration; and (3) replaces the term "vehicle sharing provider" with *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider* and defines it as a person or entity that operates, facilitates, or administers a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program. Amends GS 20-208.17 to allow airports to charge the fee and collect data for peer-to-peer vehicle sharing providers (was, programs).

Applies to gross receipts derived from rentals or leases billed on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Howard, Setzer, N. Jackson.

[GS 1](#), [GS 14](#), [GS 18C](#), [GS 20](#), [GS 105](#), [GS 143B](#), [GS 150B](#), [GS 153A](#), [GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Alcoholic Beverage Control](#), [Business and Commerce](#), [Corporation and Partnerships](#), [Courts/Judiciary](#), [Civil](#), [Civil Law](#), [Motor Vehicle](#), [Criminal Justice](#), [Criminal Law and](#)

H 563 (2025-2026) [HOUSE PERMANENT RULES](#). Filed Mar 27 2025, *A HOUSE RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PERMANENT RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE 2025 REGULAR SESSION.*

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

Adds to Rule 32 that all public bills and resolutions reported in from committee to also have been reported by the House Rules Committee before being calendared for consideration in the House; allows the rule to be waived by leave of the House.

Intro. by Bell.

[HOUSE RES](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, General Assembly](#)

H 581 (2025-2026) [CAREER PATHWAYS TRANSPARENCY ACT](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE CAREER PATH OPTIONS TRANSPARENCY ACT.*

Amends GS 116-209.16A, which requires the State Education Authority to provide information on a website under the "Know Before You Go" section to assist students and parents in selecting major and career options. Requires information on the website to assist in selection of major and career options in the State as well as each of the State's prosperity zones. Sets out definitions that apply in the statute. Amends the information that must be provided for career options to also include highest demand career areas and information on projected needs in the labor economy in the State and each prosperity zone. Amends the information that must be provided for major options to include information based on aggregate data for outcomes of public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools (was, public and private institutions of higher education only) in North Carolina. Expands upon the outcome information that is to be included as follows: (1) adds average tuition for public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools; (2) requires average and median amounts of loan debt upon graduation to also be listed among graduates for four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; (3) adds average monthly student loan payments from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; (4) requires average and median salary to also be listed among graduates from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools; and (5) requires the percentage of graduates employed within six months of graduation to be listed among graduates from four-year institutions of higher education, community colleges, and vocational and technical schools. Effective January 1, 2026.

Amends GS 115C-12 to add to the State Board of Education's (State Board) duties the requirement for the State Board and Department of Public Instruction to collaborate with the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor in collecting data for local boards of education to provide to sophomores to enable them to make informed decisions about postsecondary education choices and their professional futures through the "Know Before You Go" programs. Effective January 1, 2026, amends GS 115C-47 by requiring local boards of education to provide a program for high school sophomores with the information contained on the "Know Before You Go" website and the information compiled by the Department of Public Instruction to allow students to make informed decisions about postsecondary education choices and their professional futures.

Requires, through the longitudinal data system, that the Department of Commerce, the Department of Labor, and the Department of Public Instruction annually collect and compile data for the "Know Before You Go" website and for the programs operated by local boards of education under amended GS 115C-47, including, as soon as is practicable, at least the 10 stated elements, including: (1) the most in-demand jobs in the state and each prosperity zone, including the starting salary and education level required for those jobs; (2) the average three-year student loan default rate for all public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools in the state; (3) the average graduation rate for all public and private institutions of higher education and vocational and technical schools in the state; (4) the share of college graduates working in an occupation that does not require a college degree for each major; and (5) average starting salaries for graduates from various types of programs.

Requires, from funds appropriated in this section, that the Department of Public Instruction establish the Career Path Options Grant Program for the 2025-26 school year for local boards of education to apply for funds to provide students with the information required under amended GS 115C-47. Requires grant funds to be used to promote and distribute program materials, including printing and distribution costs, and allows using funds to hire or pay supplemental compensation to career coaches or career development coordinators to support students through the program. Appropriates \$500,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to implement the grant program. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Johnson, Winslow, Paré, Tyson.

APPROP, GS 115C, GS 116

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Commerce, Department of Labor, Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education

H 590 (2025-2026) **PATIENT SAFETY/MED. IMAGING/RADIATION THERAPY**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AND ENHANCING PATIENT SAFETY IN MEDICAL IMAGING BY ENSURING EDUCATIONALLY PREPARED AND CLINICALLY COMPETENT PERSONS PERFORM AND ADMINISTER MEDICAL IMAGING AND RADIATION THERAPY PROCEDURES*.

Identical to [S 415](#), filed 3/24/25.

Adds new Article 44, Radiologic Technologists, Radiation Therapists, Sonographers, to GS Chapter 90, providing as follows. Sets out the title of the Article and NCGA findings. Sets out definitions that apply to the Article.

Requires a license in order to perform or offer to perform radiologic imaging or radiation therapy on humans for diagnostic or therapeutic purposes or to indicate or imply that the person is licensed to perform those procedures. Prohibits employing a non-licensed person to perform radiologic imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans. Specifies that the Article does not limit or enlarge the practice of a licensed practitioner. Exempts from the Article: (1) a licensed practitioner performing medical imaging procedures or administering radiation therapy; (2) a registered dental hygienist (RDH); (3) a dental assistant I or II who has satisfactorily completed one of listed exams or programs; (4) a licensed resident physician; (5) a student enrolled in and attending a school or college of medicine or medical imaging or radiation therapy who performs medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures on humans while under the supervision of a licensed practitioner, or an individual holding a license under this Article; (6) a person administering radiologic imaging or radiation procedures as an employee of the US government; (7) a person performing radiologic procedures or therapy on cadavers; (8) a person licensed to perform radiologic imaging or radiation therapy who is performing supervised clinical procedures in preparation for certification in an additional radiologic imaging or radiation therapy modality who has registered with the Medical Imaging and Radiation Therapy Board of Examiners (Board) (allows the Board to grant this exemption for up to three years, which may be renewed); (9) chiropractic students and diagnostic imaging technicians; (10) a licensed veterinarian performing medical imaging procedures or administering radiation therapy, or to an individual employed by, or engaged as an independent contractor by, a licensed veterinarian that performs a medical imaging procedure or administers radiation therapy in the ordinary course of their employment or engagement; and (11) an individual employed by, or engaged as an independent contractor by, a podiatrist that performs medical imaging procedures in the ordinary course of their employment or engagement.

Requires the Board to establish licensure standards for the following radiologic imaging and radiation therapy modalities: (1) computed tomography; (2) cardiac invasive specialist; (3) cardiac electrophysiology specialist; (4) diagnostic medical sonography; (5) limited practice radiographer; (6) magnetic resonance; (7) nuclear medicine technologist; (8) radiation therapist; (9) radiographer; and (10) radiologist assistant. Sets out additional parameters for the scope of practice for those licensed in medical imaging or radiation therapy, as limited practice radiographers, as cardiovascular invasive specialist, as cardiovascular electrophysiology specialist, as a radiologist assistant, those performing computed tomography for diagnostic purposes, performing nuclear medicine technology, performing radiation therapy, and performing radiography.

Establishes the 9-member Board, with members meeting the specified areas of expertise appointed by the Governor. Sets out qualifications for Board members who will serve three-year terms and are limited to serving two consecutive terms. Sets out staggered terms. Sets out provisions governing officers of the Board, meeting frequency, quorum, and meeting attendance. Sets out the Board's 16 powers, including: (1) issue interpretations of this Article; (2) establish the scope of practice for each license

or permit type issued by the Board; (3) issue, renew, deny, suspend, or revoke licenses and carry out any disciplinary actions authorized by this Article; (4) conduct investigations for the purpose of determining whether violations of this Article or grounds for disciplining licensees exist; (5) establish criteria and standards for educational programs offered in the State on medical imaging and radiation therapy; and (6) approve medical imaging and radiation therapy educational programs that the Board determines meet the criteria and standards established by the Board.

Requires a person seeking licensure for a radiologic imaging or radiation therapy modality to be at least 18 years old and have a high school diploma or passed an approved equivalency test. Sets out additional requirements for those seeking licensure as a limited practice radiographer, magnetic resonance technologist, nuclear medicine technologist, radiation therapist, radiographer, radiologist assistant, sonographer, cardiac electrophysiology specialist, cardiac invasive specialist, or for computed tomography. Requires persons currently practicing as a medical imaging professional, radiation therapist, or radiologist assistant to be issued a license within two years if they hold a current license or certification in one of those respective modalities or fields issued by a medical imaging certification organization approved by the Board. Requires licensees to notify the Board within 30 days if they (1) fail to maintain the required certification and registration, or (2) are subject to any legal or disciplinary actions or are subject to proceedings for acts or conduct substantially the same as those that would constitute grounds for refusal to issue, refusal to renew, suspension, revocation, or other discipline by any of the specified entities.

Sets out examination requirements. Requires the Board to issue a license to an applicant meeting the licensure requirements of this Article and those adopted by the Board, verified by oath or admission, after paying the required fee. Allows issuing a license to perform more than one modality. Sets out when a temporary license may be issued and allows for temporary licensing when training in an additional modality. Allows new graduates awaiting national certification to be issued a provisional license for up to one year.

Sets out requirements for educational programs that might be approved by the Board.

Sets the duration of licenses at two years and sets out requirements for renewing a license. Sets out conditions for reciprocity for those licensed, registered, or certified in another jurisdiction.

Allows the Board to charge fees not to exceed the following: (1) \$100 for initial, provisional, or temporary license application fee, (2) \$150 for biennial license fee, (3) \$100 for a temporary license, (4) \$25 for a duplicate license, and (5) \$75 for a license renewal late fee. Allows the fees to be used to pay the expenses of carrying out the Article and to pay the salaries, compensation, and expenses incurred to carry out the Article.

Allows the Board to deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a license or impose probationary conditions on a license if the licensee or applicant for licensure has engaged in any of the eight types of conduct, including: (1) obtaining a license by means of fraud, misrepresentation, or concealment of material facts; (2) having been convicted of or pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a crime involving moral turpitude or any crime that indicates that the licensee or applicant is unfit or incompetent to administer medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures or that the licensee or applicant has deceived or defrauded the public; (3) practicing as a person licensed to administer medical imaging or radiation therapy procedures without a current license; or (4) engaging in conduct that could result in harm or injury to the public.

Violations of the Article are a Class 1 misdemeanor.

The above provisions are effective January 1, 2026.

Specifies that certain initial Board members do not have to meet the licensure requirements so long as they get a license within 90 days after the Board begins issuing licenses.

Allows persons other than radiologist assistants who have been engaged in the practice of medical imaging and radiation therapy and who do not hold a current registration from a voluntary professional certification organization approved by Board to continue to practice in the modality of medical imaging or radiation therapy in which they are currently employed so long as they (1) register with the Board on or before October 1, 2026, (2) do not change the scope of their current employment practice, (3) complete all continuing education requirements for their area of practice annually as prescribed by the Board, and (4) practice only under the supervision of a radiologist.

Includes a severability clause.

Allows the Board to adopt rules to implement this act once the Board is appointed by the Governor.

[View summary](#)**Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers**

H 596 (2025-2026) **STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMISSION**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE THE STANDARD COURSE OF STUDY ADVISORY COMMISSION TO RECOMMEND ACADEMIC STANDARDS TO THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL*.

Enacts GS 115C-81.6, establishing a twenty-member Standard Course of Study (SCOS) Advisory Commission (Commission), located administratively in the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) but that exercises its powers and duties independently thereof and whose purpose is to involve stakeholders in establishing the standard course of study. Requires the Commission to make recommendations regarding all aspects of the standards and competencies of the standard course of study. Sets forth three duties: (1) develop and recommend the SCOS to the State Board of Education (Board); (2) develop support materials for teachers and parents, upon approval by the Board; and (3) provide recommendations as request to the Board related to the alignment of State programs and support materials with the revised academic content standards for each core academic area. Provides for membership and appointment process (including appointment of 6 members by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the President Pro Tempore, six upon recommendation by the Speaker of the House, and six upon appointment by the Governor), meetings, and staff to assist the Commission in its work assigned by the Superintendent of DPI. Provides for four-year terms and for filling vacancies. Requires that the terms for the appointments that are made by the General Assembly begin July 1, 2025, and specifies which of those members will be appointed for two years and which for four-year terms. Requires election of a chair, vice-chair, and secretary from among its members. Specifies quorum is a majority of Commission members. Requires the Commission to adopt rules to govern its proceedings. Provides for members to be compensated for their services and reimbursement for expenses.

Requires the Commission to submit report by December 1, 2026, and annually thereafter, to the specified NCGA committee and the Board of its activities during the preceding year, together with any recommendations and findings regarding the process for revisions to the standard course of study.

When the Commission submits its recommendations for the SCOS to the Board, permits the Board to adopt the SCOS or to reject the SCOS. If the Board adopts the SCOS, it cannot make substantive changes. If the Board rejects the SCOS, it must state with specify its reasons for doing so. Permits the Commission to amend its recommendations and resubmit the SCOS to the Board, who again has the authority to reject or adopt the SCOS. If the Board fails to adopt either of these recommendations, then the Board may develop and adopts own recommended course of study.

Enacts GS 115C-81.7 (development of SCOS) as follows. Requires the Board to develop a comprehensive plan to revise on a regular basis, content standards and the standard course of study in specified core academic areas and to provide this plan to the Commission for it to review and then adopt recommended SCOS.

Requires the Commission to involve and survey a representative sample of parents, teachers, and the public, to help determine academic content standard priorities and usefulness. Specifies that a full review of available and relevant academic content standards that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable, whenever possible, must be a part of the process of the development of content standards. Requires that the revised content standards developed in the core academic areas do all of the following: (1) reflect high expectations for students and an in-depth mastery of the content. (2) be clearly grounded in the content of each academic area; (3) be defined grade-by-grade and course-by-course; (4) be understandable to parents and teachers; (5) be developed in full recognition of the time available to teach the core academic areas at each grade level; and (6) be measurable, whenever possible, in a reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability purposes. Specifies that high school course content standards must include the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue further postsecondary education or to attain employment in the twenty-first century economy. The high school course content standards must also be aligned with the minimum undergraduate course requirements for admission to the constituent institutions of UNC.

Requires the Board, in consultation with the Commission, to also develop and implement an ongoing process to align State programs and support materials with the revised academic content standards for each core academic area on a regular basis. Requires the Board to work in collaboration with the UNC Board of Governors to ensure that teacher and school administrator

degree programs, ongoing professional development, and other university activity in the State's public schools align with the Board's priorities.

Enacts GS 115C-81.8, setting forth legislative review of the SCOS adopted by the Board, as follows. Requires the Board to submit a report of proposed changes to the specified NCGA committee. Specifies that changes may be implemented after the 31st legislative date after the date the Board submits the report. Allows for NCGA to disapprove change by legislation introduced in either house by the 31st legislative day after submission of the report. Provides for effective dates of legislation. Specifies that a change that is specifically disapproved by a bill enacted into law before it becomes effective must not be implemented. Specifies that a bill specifically disapproves a change if it contains a provision that refers to the report submitted to the specified NCGA committee by title and date and the specific change by page and line number in the report that is disapproved. Notwithstanding any rule of either house of the General Assembly, permits any member of the General Assembly to introduce a bill at any time during any regular session to disapprove a change that has been submitted to the specified NCGA committee that has not become effective

Amends GS 115C-12(9c) (powers of the State Board of Education) to delete current provisions specifying its power to develop content standards, and instead directs the Board to develop the standard course of study enacted under Part 1, Courses of Study, of Article 8. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-81.5 (standard course of study) and GS 150B-1(d).

Requires the Commission to review the social studies standard course of study during the 2025-2026 school year and provide recommendations to the Board by no later than January 1, 2026. Applies to all standard courses of study after the act becomes law.

Intro. by Torbett, Blackwell.

GS 115C, GS 150B

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, State Board
of Education**

H 597 (2025-2026) [ADOPT OSPREY AS STATE RAPTOR](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO ADOPT THE OSPREY AS THE OFFICIAL RAPTOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA*.

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

Intro. by Cairns, Tyson, Carson Smith, Miller.

GS 145

[View summary](#)

Government, Cultural Resources and Museums

H 603 (2025-2026) [WORKFORCE HOUSING LOANS-PRECONSTRUCTION COSTS](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE A REVOLVING LOAN FUND IN THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY TO PROVIDE SHORT-TERM FINANCING TO SUPPORT PRECONSTRUCTION COSTS OF WORKFORCE HOUSING PROJECTS IN THE STATE*.

Enacts new GS 122A-5.16, providing as follows. Requires the North Carolina Housing Finance Agency to establish and administer the Workforce Housing Preconstruction Revolving Loan Program (Program) to make revolving loans for preconstruction costs for workforce housing projects before developers obtain permanent, private financing.

Defines preconstruction costs as land surveys, environmental due diligence and soil testing, utility connections, planning and permit fees, and site clearing and grading. Defines workforce housing as housing that is affordable to households earning between 60% and 120% of the county area median income or the State area median income, whichever is higher. Requires the establishment of guidelines for project equity requirements for applicants between 20% and 35% based on market conditions in the county where the project is located. Requires that funds appropriated to the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund for the Program be used in this statute. Caps loan amounts at \$1 million. Requires that 80% of the loans be reserved for projects in counties designated as development tier one and tier two areas, and 20% reserved for projects in counties designated as a

development tier three area. Requires an annual report to the specified NCGA committee and division on the number of loans made, and the loan amount and recipients.

Directs the State Controller to transfer \$40 million for 2025-26 from the Economic Development Project Reserve to the North Carolina Housing Trust Fund for this act.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Reives, Alston, Dahle, Lopez.

[APPROP, GS 122A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 605 (2025-2026) [DEFINITIONS FOR ADVANCED RECYCLING](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE VARIOUS ADVANCED RECYCLING DEFINITIONS AND PROCEDURES*.

Substantively identical to [S 481](#), filed 3/25/25.

Makes organizational changes to GS 130A-290, which sets forth defined terms used in Article 9, Solid Waste Management. Adds the term mass balance attribution and defines the term to mean an auditable chain of custody accounting methodology pursuant to a third-party certification system that enables the manufacturer to attribute quantities of feedstocks to one or more recycled products. Defines recycled products to mean those produced from recyclable material by mass balance attribution for chemical recycling process, which designation does not exempt the product from otherwise applicable air, water, or hazardous waste statutory and regulatory requirements. Also defines the term third-party certification system.

Intro. by Brody, Lowery, Tyson, Riddell.

[GS 130A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 625 (2025-2026) [THE PRISON RESOURCES REPURPOSING ACT](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO EXPAND THE MUTUAL AGREEMENT PAROLE PROGRAM TO ALLOW FOR THE PAROLE OF INMATES SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT WITHOUT PAROLE*.

Identical to [S 681](#), filed 3/25/25.

Amends GS Chapter 15A to add Article 85C (Mutual Agreement Parole (MAPP) program) that includes the following new statutes:

- (1) GS 15A-1380.6 providing that individuals sentenced to life without parole may be released under the MAPP program after serving 20 years of their sentence and complying with educational, vocational, and work requirements;
- (2) GS 15A-1380.7 directing the Division of Adult Correction to assess the behavioral, educational, and occupational needs of an individual serving life without parole in the first five years of their sentence, then offer the individual a 15 year MAPP contract with certain mandatory education and work requirements as outlined in this section;
- (3) GS 15A-1380.8 providing that an individual serving life without parole who completes the requirements of GS 15A-1380.7 is subject to the conditions and procedures for parole under Article 85 of GS Chapter 15A (parole procedures and conditions), is released with a five year parole period, and will not be eligible for parole again for at least five years after any violation of their parole; and
- (4) GS 15A-1380.9 establishing retroactive parole eligibility wherein an individual sentenced to life without parole who has already served 20 years of their sentence and has completed some or most of the requirements outlined in GS 15A-1380.7 by August 1, 2025, is eligible for a modified MAPP contract of 1 to 3 years after which they serve the five year parole period outlined in GS 15A-1380.8.

Effective August 1, 2025, and applies retroactively and prospectively.

Intro. by Dew, Logan.

GS 15A

[View summary](#)

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

H 627 (2025-2026) **REGULATION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE AFFORDABLE HOUSING BY ALLOWING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OR SITING OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS*.

Identical to [S 495](#), filed 3/25/25.

Enacts new GS 160D-917 requiring local governments to allow at least one accessory dwelling that conforms to the North Carolina Residential Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings for each single-family detached dwelling in areas zoned for residential use that allow for development of single-family detached dwellings. Defines accessory dwelling unit as an attached or detached residential structure that is used in connection with, or that is an accessory to, a primary single-family detached dwelling and that has less total square footage than the primary single-family detached dwelling. Allows the accessory dwelling unit to be built or sited concurrently or after the primary detached dwelling has been constructed or sited. Prohibits a local government from taking six specified actions when permitting accessory dwelling units, including requiring placement in a conditional zoning district, establishing minimum parking requirements or parking restrictions, or setting a maximum unit size of less than 800 square feet. Sets out what a local government can do concerning setbacks, and unit location requirements and size. Specifies that the statute does not apply to: (1) the validity or enforceability of private covenants or other contractual agreements among property owners related to dwelling type restrictions; (2) properties located in a historic preservation district established pursuant to Part 4 of this Article; (3) properties designated as a National Historic Landmark by the US Department of Interior; or (4) an accessory dwelling unit that is not connected to water and sewer. Applies to applications for accessory dwelling unit permits submitted on or after October 1, 2025.

Specifies that a local government that has enacted an ordinance meeting the requirements of this act and GS 160D-917, is not required to adopt a new ordinance.

Requires local governments to adopt development regulations to implement the provisions in this act by January 1, 2027; if they fail to do so, accessory dwelling units will be allowed in that local government without any limitations.

Intro. by Alston, Winslow.

GS 160D

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and
Zoning, Government, Local Government**

H 629 (2025-2026) **EXTEND PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO EXTEND AND CLARIFY THE PRIMARY CARE PAYMENT REFORM TASK FORCE*.

Identical to [S 83](#), filed 2/11/25.

Expands upon the duties of the North Carolina Primary Care Payment Reform Task Force (Task Force), under SL 2023-134, Section 9E.28, to also include collecting and compiling data and other information related to healthcare spending on primary care services in a way that is compliant with HIPAA (requires entities to comply with the request within 30 days of a request for data or information). Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to develop, and for the Task Force and the DHHS to implement, a detailed data security and safeguarding plan for this requested data. Sets out six criteria that must be included, including (1) guidelines for authorizing access to the data, including guidelines for authentication of authorized access, (2) breach planning, notification, and procedures, and (3) data retention and disposition policies. Specifies that this data is not considered a public record. Adds an additional date for the reporting to the specified NCGA committees of

April 1, 2026. Extends the termination of the Task Force from May 1, 2024, to December 31, 2026. Effective retroactively to July 1, 2023.

Intro. by Reeder.

STUDY

[View summary](#)

Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance

H 630 (2025-2026) **RESTORE LEA SALES TAX BENEFIT**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE THE SALES TAX REFUND AUTHORIZED FOR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.*

Reenacts GS 105-164.14(c)(2b) and (2c) as the subsections existed immediately before their repeal by SL 2005-276, effective July 1, 2005. Subsubsection (2b) and (2c) list local school administrative units and joint agencies created by interlocal agreement among local school administrative units to jointly purchase food service-related materials, supplies, and equipment on their behalf as identified governmental entities allowed an annual refund on taxes paid on direct purchases as described in subsection (c).

Repeals the provisions of GS 105-467(b) pertaining to tax refunds allowed for direct purchases of tangible personal property and services by local school administrative units and joint agencies created by interlocal agreement among units that jointly purchase food service related materials, supplies, and equipment on their behalf.

Repeals GS 105-164.44H, which provides for a quarterly transfer of a specified amount of the sales and use tax collected by the Department of Revenue to the State Public School Fund. Directs the Director of Budget to adjust the State Public School Fund accordingly. Appropriates to the State Public School Fund a recurring amount equal to the amount of this adjustment.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies to sales made on or after that date.

Intro. by Lofton, Longest.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, Budget/Appropriations, Tax, Local Government**

H 631 (2025-2026) **STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK STUDY**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION TO STUDY THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK TO SUSTAINABLY FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS AND DRIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH IN THE STATE.*

Establishes the 17 member Commission to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a State Infrastructure Bank (Commission) to study how the creation of such a bank could strengthen economic and community development, provide financial resources for infrastructure projects, and leverage State, federal, and private resources to address the need for access to sustainable financial assistance for projects that will contribute to economic growth, job creation, and support of local communities in the State. Sets out membership requirements. Provides for filling vacancies, establishing a quorum, meeting space, staffing, and compensation. Requires the Commission to hold at least five public meetings in distinct geographic regions of the State. Sets out 11 issues the Commission must study, including: providing financing for infrastructure related to housing development, public works infrastructure, educational infrastructure, student loans, and community quality of life projects; providing capital for continued expansion of the State's transportation, environmental, energy, and telecommunications infrastructure; examine various administrative and operational structures for organizing a State Infrastructure Bank; and the extent to which the State Infrastructure Bank should be allowed to compete with banking establishments operating in North Carolina. Allows the Commission to make an interim report to the 2026 Regular Session of the NCGA prior to its convening and requires a final report by the end of that session. Terminates the Commission on the earlier of December 31, 2026, or the filing of its final report.

Intro. by Lofton, Howard.

STUDY

H 632 (2025-2026) **AMEND HAZING LAWS**. Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE THE CRIMINAL OFFENSE OF HAZING AND TO REQUIRE EDUCATION ENTITIES TO ESTABLISH POLICIES AND PROCEDURES TO PREVENT HAZING*.

Identical to [S 375](#), filed 3/20/25.

Part I.

Repeals GS 14-35, which made it a Class 2 misdemeanor for a student attending a university, college, or school in this state to engage in hazing, or to aid or abet any other student in the commission of this offense; defines hazing as subjecting another student to physical injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group.

Instead, enacts new GS 35.1 to prohibit hazing as follows. Defines hazing as any intentional, knowing, or reckless act committed by a person, whether individually or in concert with other persons, against a minor or student of an educational institution (secondary or postsecondary educational institution), whether or not committed on the education institution's campus or property, for the purpose of recruiting, joining, pledging, initiating, admitting, affiliating with, or for the purpose of continuing or enhancing status in an organization, that causes, coerces, or forces a minor or student to do any of the following: a. violate State or federal law; b. consume any food, liquid, alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, or other substance in any non-customary manner which subjects the minor or student to a substantial risk of emotional or physical harm, including sickness, vomiting, intoxication, or unconsciousness; c. endure brutality of a physical nature, including whipping, beating, paddling, branding, dangerous physical activity, or exposure to the elements, or to endure threats of such conduct, that results in medically verifiable mental or physical harm; d. endure brutality of a mental nature, including activity adversely affecting the mental health or dignity of the individual, sleep deprivation, exclusion from social contact, conduct that could result in extreme embarrassment or to endure threats of such conduct that results in medically verifiable mental or physical harm; or e. endure any other activity which adversely affects the health and safety of the individual. Also defines alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, local affiliate organization, local organization, minor, national organization, organization, postsecondary educational institution, secondary educational institution, serious bodily injury, and student.

Specifies that a person commits an offense if the person requested, authorized, commanded, encouraged, or participated in hazing, or knowingly aided, assisted, or conspired with another person to commit hazing. Sets out the following penalties, unless the conduct is covered by another law providing greater punishment: (1) Class C felony, which may include a fine of \$15,000, if the offense results in serious bodily injury or death or (2) Class A1 misdemeanor, including a fine of \$5,000, for any other violation.

Specifies the following offenses: (1) a local organization or local affiliate organization commits an offense when the elected leadership of the local organization or local affiliate organization had specific knowledge its member, employee, or volunteer was participating, aiding, or assisting in any act of hazing a minor or student and did not attempt to intervene to stop the hazing or report it to the appropriate local authorities; (2) a national organization commits an offense if an employee or volunteer of the national organization or member of the national organization's governing board of directors knowingly directed, supervised, or actively participated in any act of hazing a minor or student; and (3) a postsecondary educational institution commits an offense if an employee or volunteer of the postsecondary educational institution or member of the educational institution's governing board of trustees knowingly directed, supervised, or actively participated in any act of hazing a minor or student. Violations are punishable by a fine of no more than \$15,000.

Requires a person who actively directs or engages in hazing that injures a minor or student to give the injured person reasonable assistance, to the extent it can be done without danger or peril to himself or others.

Sets out the following penalties, unless the conduct is covered by another law providing greater punishment: (1) Class C felony, which may include a fine of \$15,000, if the offense results in serious bodily injury or death or (2) Class A1 misdemeanor, including a fine of \$5,000, for any other violation. Violations are punishable as follows, unless another law provides for greater punishment: (1) Class 2 misdemeanor, which may include a fine of no more than \$1,000 when no serious

bodily injury or death occurs and (2) Class E felony, which may include a fine of no more than \$2,000, when serious bodily injury or death occurs.

Specifies that the consent of the person whom the hazing was directed against, and the argument that hazing was approved or sanctioned by the relevant organization, or was traditional or customary, are not defenses to prosecution.

Sets out conditions under which immunity from prosecution may apply for acting or reporting in good faith.

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

Part II.

Enacts new GS 115C-393 requiring governing boards of public school units providing secondary education to require every school containing all or parts of grades 9-12 to investigate all allegations of hazing by students according to that school's disciplinary process. Requires the Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Board of Education, UNC Board of Governors, and State Board of Community Colleges, to develop an educational plan for public schools to prevent hazing, including information on awareness, prevention, and intervention; requires provisions for schools to coordinate with national organizations for training.

Requires students to take an in-person or online educational program on hazing within 30 days of enrollment. Requires students to take the program before engaging in extracurricular activities. Requires each public school to provide on its website all of the listed information about hazing violations committed by organizations. Records must be kept for at least five years. Requires public schools to report hazing violations involving serious bodily injury or significant risk of serious bodily injury committed by an organization to local law enforcement within 72 hours of learning of the violation.

Requires the following to comply with these requirements: local boards of education (GS 115C-47), board of trustees of schools for deaf and blind students (GS 115C-150.12C), charter schools (GS 115C-218.75), regional schools (GS 115C-238.66), and laboratory schools (GS 116-239.8).

Enacts new GS 116-40.14 to require a UNC constituent institution that is an institution of higher education or a community college, to investigate all allegations of hazing by students according to the institution's standard disciplinary process. Requires the UNC Board of Governors, in consultation with the State Board of Community Colleges, Department of Public Instruction, and State Board of Education, to develop an educational plan for public institutions of higher education to prevent hazing, including information on awareness, prevention, and intervention; requires provisions for institutions to coordinate with national organizations for training.

Requires students to take an in-person or online educational program on hazing within 30 days of enrollment. Requires students to take the program before engaging in extracurricular activities. Requires each institution to provide on its website all of the listed information about hazing violations committed by organizations. Records must be kept for at least five years. Requires institutions to report hazing violations involving serious bodily injury or significant risk of serious bodily injury committed by an organization to local law enforcement within 72 hours of learning of the violation.

Makes conforming changes to GS 115D-12.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year and the 2025-26 academic year. Requires the Department of Public Instruction and the UNC Board of Governors to submit the first report on October 15, 2026, based on data from the spring 2026 semester.

Part III.

Provides a savings clause for offenses committed before the act's effective date.

Intro. by Ross, Riddell, White, Davis.

[GS 14, GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Department of Public Instruction, State Board of Education

H 634 (2025-2026) [PARITY ENHANCEMENT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY](#). Filed Mar 31 2025, *AN ACT TO UPDATE BY CONFORMING TO FEDERAL LAW THE LAWS RELATED TO HEALTH BENEFIT PLAN MENTAL HEALTH BENEFITS COVERAGE AND TO ENHANCE COVERAGE PARITY FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY*.

Identical to [S 566](#), filed 3/25/25.

Repeals subsections (b), (c), (d), and (j) of GS 58-3-220, concerning large employer group health plan minimum required benefits and durational limits.

Recodifies subsection (h) of GS 58-3-220 as subsection (a1) of GS 58-3-220.

Amends GS 58-3-220(a) by requiring all health benefit plans to provide coverage for necessary care and treatment of mental health conditions that are no less favorable than the benefits for the necessary care and treatment of physical health conditions (was, no less favorable than benefits for physical illness generally). Makes technical changes, conforming changes, and eliminates the use of illness and substitutes it with health or health condition(s) throughout. Removes definition of mental illness.

Amends GS 58-3-220(a1) by changing the defined term from mental illness to mental health condition and eliminating substance related disorders from those mental health conditions excluded from the meaning of the term. Makes technical changes to the definition as well. Makes technical changes to the definitions for health benefit plan, insurer, and medical necessity.

Amends GS 58-3-220(g) and GS 58-50-61(d1) concerning utilization review criteria to determine medical necessity by making technical changes and requiring that clinical review criteria and assessment of medical necessity for a treatment modality for any mental health condition, including substance use disorders, be consistent with the review criteria and assessments used to determine the medical necessity of non-mental health conditions. Specifies that for substance use disorders, medical necessity is determined by reliance on the most recent American Society of Addiction Medicine criteria alone.

Amends GS 58-3-220(i) by applying all applicable federal law to all health benefit plans (was, a requirement for group health benefit plans that cover both medical and surgical benefits and mental health benefits to follow applicable standards of Subtitle B of Title V of Public Law 110-343, with respect to mental health benefits).

Makes technical and conforming changes to GS 58-50-61(d).

Amends GS 58-50-61(d2) to require an insurer or its utilization review organization (was, insurer only) to follow certain criteria in issuing a utilization review decision. Makes technical changes to the subsection.

Requires the State Treasurer and Executive Administrator of the State Health Plan (SHP) to review all SHP practices, contracts with, and practices of any third party conducting utilization review on behalf of the SHP, to ensure compliance with GS 58-50-61, as amended no later than the start of the next plan year.

Mandates that the Revisor of Statutes replace the phrase chemical dependency with the phrase substance use disorder in all listed statutes.

Repeals GS 58-51-50 (coverage for chemical dependency treatment), GS 58-51-55(a)(2) (chemical dependency definition), GS 58-51-55(c) (specifying that the statute does not require insurer to offer coverage for chemical dependency), GS 58-65-75 (group insurance coverage for chemical dependency), GS 58-65-90(a)(2) (defining chemical dependency), GS 58-65-90(c) (not requiring service corporations to offer coverage for chemical dependency), GS 58-67-70 (concerning a health maintenance organization's coverage for chemical dependency), GS 58-67-75(a)(2) (chemical dependency definition), and GS 58-67-75(c) (not requiring HMO to offer coverage for chemical dependency).

Makes conforming changes to GS 58-3-192(a)(2).

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

PUBLIC/SENATE BILLS

S 451 (2025-2026) **OCCUPATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL LICENSING RELIEF**. Filed Mar 24 2025, *AN ACT TO REDUCE CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTAIN OCCUPATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING BOARDS.*

Section 1.

Requires the following ten State licensing boards (the Covered Boards) that set continuing education requirements by rule to reduce the hour requirements by 50% by either reducing the hours themselves or keeping the same number of hours and doubling the time allowed to achieve those credit hours:

- Board of Landscape Architects
- Board for Licensing of Soil Scientists
- State Board of Examiners for Engineers and Surveyors
- Board for Licensing of Geologists
- Board of Athletic Trainer Examiners
- Locksmith Licensing Board
- Board of Environmental Health Specialist Examiners
- Pesticide Board
- Appraisal Board
- Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board

Specifies that if the reduction of continuing education rules would invalidate an accreditation, Interstate Compact, or federal law or rule for a type of license, certification, or permit of a Covered Board, then the requirement to reduce the continuing education rules for that specific license is suspended. Directs the Covered Board to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee by October 1, 2025, indicating the invalidation or conflict under the act and a proposed legislative recommendation to reduce the requirements of continuing education rules to the maximum extent allowed without invalidating the licensure, certification, or permit. Defines *continuing education rules*.

Section 2.

Reduces the continuing education (CE) requirements set by the NC Licensing Board for General Contractors (GC Board) in GS 87-10.2 so that instead of having to complete eight hours of CE annually, the GC Board can determine whether the licensee will have to complete five CE hours annually or ten hours biennially. Allows for three hours of electives if the CE requirement is annual and for six hours of elective courses if the CE requirement is biennial. Reduces the amount of course hours that carry over to the next CE period from four hours to two hours. Requires the GC Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially.

Sets a compliance period if CE requirements are biennial. Sets a CE requirement of sixteen hours for licensees seeking reinstatement for more than two years after the license has gone inactive if the CE compliance period is biennial, and eight hours if the compliance period is annual. Makes conforming changes. Requires the GC Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the NC Landscape Contractors' Licensing Board (LC Board) in GS 89D-20 so that instead of having to complete seven hours of CE annually, the GC Board can determine whether the licensee will have to complete 3.5 CE hours annually or seven hours biennially. If the biennial option is selected and annual license renewals occur during the two-year period, then requires the LC Board to make sure the licensee is making satisfactory progress towards its CE requirement during the first renewal and has completed the CE hours during the second renewal. Requires the LC Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the LC Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the NC Irrigation Contractors' Licensing Board (IC Board) in GS 89G-9 so that instead of having to complete ten hours of CE annually, the IC Board can determine whether the licensee will have to complete five CE hours annually or ten hours biennially. If the biennial option is selected and annual license renewals occur during the two-year period, then requires the IC Board to make sure the licensee is making satisfactory progress towards its CE requirement during the first renewal and has completed the CE hours during the second renewal. Requires the IC Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the IC Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the NC Auctioneers Commission (Commission) in GS 85B-4 so that instead of having to complete six hours of CE annually, the Commission can determine whether the licensee will have to complete three CE hours annually or six hours biennially. Requires the Commission to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the Commission to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the NC Real Estate Commission (RE Commission) in GS 93A-38.5 so that instead of having to complete eight hours of CE annually, the Commission can determine whether the licensee will have to complete four CE hours annually or eight hours biennially. Requires the RE Commission to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the RE Commission to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Grants the NC Alarms Systems Licensing Board (Licensing Board) the power in GS 74D-5 to determine whether its licensees either (1) biennially, with licensees/registrants completing at least three CE hours during each two-year renewal period, with each registrant completing at least 1.5 hours in the biennium or (2) quadrennially, with licensees completing at least six CE hours during each four-year renewal period (spanning two renewal cycles), with each registrant completing three hours in the quadrennium. Requires the Licensing Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners (Barber Board) in GS 86B-58 so that instead of laser hair practitioners having to complete ten hours of CE annually, the Barber Board can determine whether a laser hair practitioner licensee or an electrologist licensee will have to complete five CE hours annually or ten hours biennially as a requirement for licensure renewal. Requires the Barber Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Permits the Barber Board to reduce the CE requirements by rule for licensees with substantial practice experience. Requires the Barber Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners (CAEB) in GS 88B-21 so that instead of all licensees having to complete eight hours of CE annually, CAEB can opt to issue rules that either reduce the number of CE hours required annually or extend the timeline required to complete the CE requirements as follows:

1. If CAEB opts for an annual CE requirement, then (1) a teacher, esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or manicurist will complete four hours per year and (2) a cosmetologist must complete a total of 12 hours of CE for the three-year licensing cycle and may complete these hours at any time within the cosmetologist's three-year licensing cycle.
2. If CAEB opts for an extended timeframe CE requirement, then (1) a teacher must complete a total of eight CE hours over a biennium; (2) an esthetician, natural hair care specialist, or manicurist must complete a total of eight CE hours over a biennium, with at least four hours completed each year; and (3) a cosmetologist must complete a total of 24 hours of CE over a six-year period, with a minimum of four hours completed each year.

Requires CAEB to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or during an extended timeframe. Makes conforming changes. Modifies the CE hours required to revive an inactive license so that (1) if CAEB has opted for reduced hours for active licensees then authorizes CAEB to require four to 12 hours of CE for revival or (2) if CAEB has opted to extend the timeframe to complete CE hours then allows CAEB to require eight to 24 hours as described in bullet 2, above. Requires CAEB to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Board of Registration for Foresters (Foresters Board) in GS 89B-11 so the Foresters Board must opt to either reduce the CE hours per annual registration period from 12 hours to six hours or to cap the CE requirement at 12 hours over a two-year period, with compliance determined at the end of each CE cycle. Maintains current registration renewal cycle under the statute. Requires the Foresters Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it

determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the Foresters Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Board of CPA Examiners (CPA Board) in GS 93-12 so that instead of requiring a minimum of 20 CE hours per year and a maximum of 40 CE hours per year, the CPA Board must either: (1) set an annual CE requirement of a minimum of 10 hours per year and a maximum of 20 hours per year; or (2) set a biennial CE requirement requiring a minimum of 20 CE hours and a maximum of 40 CE hours per biennium. Requires the CPA Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the CPA Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors (EC Board) in GS 87-44.1 so that the EC Board has the option to require the qualified individuals described in the statute to complete its CE requirements in 12 or 24 months. Limits the EC Board from requiring more than five CE hours per 12 months (currently limit of 10 hours per year) or more than ten hours per 24-month period, depending on the option the EC Board selects. Modifies the CE carryover provisions so that a qualified individual may carry forward not more than 50% of the required CE hours, not to exceed 2.5 for an annual cycle or five hours for a biennial cycle, to the next applicable cycle (currently, the individual may accumulate and carry forward not more than two years of the annual CE requirement). Requires the EC Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the EC Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the Well Contractors Certification Commission (WCCC) in GS 87-98.12 from two CE hours to one CE hour per year or, at WCCC's option, a total of three CE hours over the first six years of certification. Requires WCCC to provide notice, as described, to contractors when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or over a six-year period, as described. Requires WCCC to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Reduces the CE requirements set by the NC Code Officials Qualification Board (COQB) in GS 143-151.13A so that instead of licensees having to complete six CE hours annually, COQB can opt for licensees to either (1) complete three CE hours per year or (2) complete six CE hours in a two-year period. Requires COQB to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Reduces the CE hours required to revive an inactive license for individuals whose licenses have been inactive for more than two years and who have not been employed by a city or county inspection department during that time from a cap of six hours to a cap of three hours. Reduces the CE hours required to revive an inactive license for those persons whose licenses have been inactive for more than two years and who have had such employment from three hours to 1.5 hours. Reduces the CE requirement for persons whose licenses have been inactive for two years or less from two hours to one hour. Requires COQB to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Home Inspector Licensure Board (Home Board) in GS 143-151.64 so that instead of requiring a minimum of 12 CE hours per year and a maximum of 20 CE hours per year, the Home Board must either: (1) set an annual CE requirement of a minimum of six hours per year and a maximum of ten hours per year; or (2) set a biennial CE requirement requiring a minimum of twelve CE hours and a maximum of twenty CE hours per biennium. Requires the Home Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the Home Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above. Makes conforming changes.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Manufactured Housing Board (MH Board) in GS 143-143.11B so the MH Board must opt to either reduce the annual CE hours per annual registration period from eight hours to four hours or to cap the CE requirement at eight hours over a two-year period. Requires the MH Board to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires the MH Board to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Modifies the CE requirements set by the NC Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board (TTLB) in GS 90D-8 so that instead of licensees having to complete two hours of CE annually, TTLB can determine whether a licensee will have to complete one CE hour annually or two hours biennially. Requires the TTLB to provide notice, as described, to licensees when it determines whether CE requirements should be completed annually or biennially. Requires TTLB to adopt rules to implement the statutory changes discussed above.

Section 3.

Authorizes each occupational licensing board subject to the act to adopt or amend its rules to allow licensees to carry over continuing education or professional development hours from one compliance window to the next, provided all of the following conditions are met: (1) preservation of the 50% reduction in CE hours; (2) carryover does not allow for double counting; and (3) that any hours earned prior to the act's effective date that are carried forward to a future compliance window are treated uniformly for all similarly situated licenses, as described.

Section 4.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to all applications for and renewals of licensure, certification, and permits on or after that date.

Intro. by Moffitt, Jarvis, McInnis.

[GS 74D](#), [GS 85B](#), [GS 86B](#), [GS 87](#), [GS 88B](#), [GS 89B](#), [GS 89D](#), [GS 89G](#), [GS 90D](#), [GS 93](#), [GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing](#)

S 509 (2025-2026) [HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE ACT REVISIONS](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT REVISING THE STATEWIDE HEALTH INFORMATION EXCHANGE ACT; AND AUTHORIZING THE IMPOSITION OF NEW CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT AND A NEW STATE HEALTH DATA ASSESSMENT FEE*.

Section 1.

Makes technical changes to GS 90-414.1 (title). Expands the scope of the Statewide Health Information Exchange Act (Act), Article 29B of GS Chapter 90, set forth in GS 90-414.2 to include the State as an entity involved in the sharing of health information. Adds five new terms to the definitions provisions of the Act and makes technical changes. Defines *State-funded health care* to mean (1) the NC Medicaid Program, (2) the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees, and (3) health care facilities and health care programs administered or operated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), or the Department of Adult Correction (DAC), and their employees, agents, or grantees. Defines *state health care funds* as monies providers or entities for the provision of health care services to recipients of State-funded health care, including both (i) direct payments from the State to providers and entities and (ii) payments that providers and entities receive from third parties, or the agents of third parties, that are retained by the State for the administration or delivery, or both, of State-funded health care, including prepaid health plans as defined in GS 108D-1 and claims processors as defined in GS 135-48.1.

Removes licensed dentists from those individuals who are required to submit demographic and clinical data to the Health Information Exchange (HIE) network under GS 90-414.4; instead now requires dentists to only submit claims data for State-funded health plans to the HIE Network once daily. Deems a provider as connected to the HIE Network when the covered entity that provides, maintains, controls, directs, or licenses that provider's or entity's data transfer system has met the five requirements, including communicating to the NC HIE Authority (Authority), in writing, the identity of all providers and entities on whose behalf it maintains a data transfer system and providing its organizational national provider identifier (NPI) required under HIPAA.

Removes provisions pertaining to extensions of time and undue hardship exemptions for connection to the HIE Network. Expands the entities required to submit demographic and clinical data to the HIE Network at least twice per day to include each prepaid health plan that is under a capitated contract with DHHS for the delivery of Medicaid services. Now limits the type of Medicaid local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO) that is required to submit information to the HIE Network twice daily to those LME/MCO's that are under a capitated prepaid health plan contract with DHHS. Requires pharmacies to submit claims information for State-funded health plans to the HIE Network once daily. Removes the blanket exemption for substance abuse records protected under 47 CFR § 2 and instead requires disclosure to the HIE Network if the Authority has provided written notice to the participating entity that data protected by 42 C.F.R. § 2 can be disclosed for a specific purpose. Expands the providers that can voluntarily connect to the HIE Network and submit data to include college student health centers and dentists. Clarifies that a covered entity which provides, maintains, controls, directs, or licenses a data transfer system on behalf of providers and entities that are required to connect to, and submit data through, the HIE Network,

as well as on behalf of providers and entities that voluntarily do the same may elect not to submit through the HIE Network clinical, demographic, or claims data generated by the providers and entities that voluntarily connect to, and submit data through, the HIE Network. Specifies four conditions that apply to any exception granted by the Authority for connecting to and submitting data through the HIE Network, including authorizing a time-limited exception process administered by the Authority for providers and entities to connect to and begin submitting data to the HIE Network, as described. Updates the federal agency information that establishes document exchange and data submission standards. Makes conforming and technical changes.

Permits the Authority, if it participates in the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement (Agreement), to provide individual access services through the Agreement in GS 90-414.6 (State ownership of NIE Network data). Makes conforming changes. Modifies the Authority's powers and duties under GS 90-414.7, as follows. Exempts federal agencies that access the HIE Network solely to review patient data for treatment purposes and exchanges made through eHealth Exchange or the Trusted Exchange Framework and Common Agreement from the statute's requirement that the Authority enter into a HIPAA compliant business arrangement agreement with such an entity, so long as the Authority enters into the agreements that are required to participate in each of these respective national networks. Extends its obligations to facilitate and promote the use of HIE Networks to covered entities to include business associates acting on their behalf. Adds three new duties, including to enforce the Act, provide data related services as allowed under the Act, and adopt rules to implement the appeals process established by GS 90-414.15 (discussed below). Adds another ex officio voting member to the Authority's Advisory Board established under GS 90-414.8. Makes conforming changes to GS 90-414.9 (participation by covered entities). Expands the types of civil or criminal penalties and civil remedies that may be imposed for violations under GS 90-414.12 to include those applicable under any federal law or regulation (currently, just the HITECH act and regulations). Makes it unlawful for any person or entity to knowingly present or cause to be presented to the Authority a false record in its annual report (discussed below) to avoid full payment of the State health data assessment (described below). Subjects those persons or entities to a fine of at least \$5,000 but not more than \$10,000 per violation, plus three times the amount of damages sustained by the Authority as a result of that person's or entity's actions. Allows for the Authority to assess daily penalties capped at \$50 per day or each day after the required reporting period or deadline that the annual compliance report remains out of compliance with the requirements prescribed by GS 90-414.13.

Enacts GS 90-414.13, requiring each covered entity that provides, maintains, controls, directs, or licenses the data transfer system of a provider or entity subject that provides health care services to beneficiaries of State-funded health care to submit an annual compliance report to the Authority by May 1 each year with the daily civil penalty discussed above starting to accrue after the first of May. Requires the annual report to cover seven prongs of information including the status of technical connection and data submission to the HIE Network and an attestation to the completeness and validity of the annual report. Exempts a covered entity that provides, maintains, controls, directs, or licenses a data transfer system solely on behalf of a provider or entity that voluntarily connects to the HIE Network pursuant from the annual report requirement. Provides for an abbreviated annual report by State agencies. Allows for the Authority to waive any of the annual report requirements upon request and for good cause if compliance would cause an undue hardship. Requires DHHS's Division of Health Benefits (DHB) to assist in administering the annual report requirement as it pertains to State Medicaid providers, as determined as necessary by the Authority. Nevertheless requires DHB to annually provide the Authority with a current list of enrolled Medicaid providers, assist with notifying those Medicaid providers about the annual compliance report requirement and reporting deadline, and provide available information requested by the Authority that is necessary for the Authority to audit or verify the completeness and accuracy of an enrolled Medicaid provider's annual compliance report and related materials submitted to the Authority by or on behalf of that provider.

Provides for an annual State health data assessment fee due on May 1 in GS 90-414.14 if a covered entity (1) is not connected to the HIE network or (2) is connected to the HIE Network but is not submitting data through the HIE Network. Provides for a fee schedule to be set by the General Assembly. Establishes the HIE Network Data and Participation Fund (Fund) as a special fund in the Department of Information Technology (DIT) under the management and control of the Authority, consisting of the monies described. Prevents the Authority from using monies in the Fund for any purpose other than to pay for expenses incurred by the Authority in carrying out its powers and duties as set forth in the Act. Specifies that monies in the Fund are only available for expenditure upon an act of appropriation of the General Assembly and that the Fund is subject to the provisions of the State Budget Act, except that no unexpended surplus of the Fund may revert to the General Fund. Allows for a covered entity to claim an exemption from the assessment fee if any of the five listed conditions apply, including that the covered entity attests in writing that it and the providers and entities on whose behalf it provides, maintains, controls, directs, or licenses a data transfer system received less than \$500,000 in State health care funds for providing health care services to beneficiaries of

State-funded health care. Authorizes the Authority to revoke a covered entity's exemption from payment of the assessment fee if the covered entity is unresponsive to communications from the Authority or if the covered entity fails to maintain contact with the Authority. Provides for notice and an opportunity to cure.

Provides, in GS 90-414.15, for an appeal of the Authority's determinations to (1) grant or deny requests for time-limited exceptions and (2) assess penalties under for violations of the Act, as described. Allows the Authority, in GS 90-414.16, to provide data related services to a covered entity participating in the HIE Network or to a business associate of the participating covered entity that is using the service to perform a function for the participating covered entity. Clarifies that GS 90-414.16 should not be construed to require the Authority to provide data related services to covered entities or their business associates and that data disclosed or used in the Authority's provision of these services to any person or entity cannot be used for commercial purposes. Allows the Authority to charge a reasonable fee for its services that cannot exceed its actual cost incurred.

Section 2.

Establishes the deadline for the first annual report described under GS 90-414.13 as May 1, 2028.

Section 3.

Establishes initial State health data assessment fee schedules for annual compliance report periods beginning in 2028, 2029, and 2030 based on the amount of State Health Care Funds received, ranging from 1.6% of those funds received in 2027-2029 if the entity received over \$1 million in the respective time period to no fee if the entity received less than \$250,000.

Section 4.

Sets the act's effective date at December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Hise, Burgin, Adcock.

GS 90

[View summary](#)

Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Social Services, Public Assistance

S 532 (2025-2026) **PRESERVING COMPETITION IN HEALTHCARE ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT PRESERVING COMPETITION IN HEALTHCARE BY REGULATING THE CONSOLIDATION AND CONVEYANCE OF HOSPITALS*.

Enacts new Article 11C, Preserving Competition in Healthcare Act, to GS Chapter 131E. Sets forth defined terms. Defines *hospital entity* to include any licensed hospital, whether corporate or governmental, and any affiliated entity. Defines transaction to include all of the following, so long as the value of the assets, control, or governance interest equals or exceeds \$5 million:

1. The sale, transfer, lease, exchange, optioning, conveyance, or other disposition of no less than 50% of the assets or operations of any hospital entity to any person or entity other than another hospital entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with such hospital entity;
2. the transfer of control or governance of a hospital entity to a person or entity other than another hospital entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with such hospital entity;
3. any binding legal obligation between two or more persons that results in a transfer of control, responsibility, or governance of no less than 50% of a hospital entity's assets to an acquiring entity;
4. any transaction, regardless of its exact form, that would be subject to review under the Article if it was structured as a purchase, merger, or joint venture;
5. any of the above transactions that is entered into by a hospital entity or by any person or entity that controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with such hospital entity; or
6. dispositions of no less than 50% of a hospital entity's assets made in the course of a bankruptcy proceeding.

Enacts GS 131E-214.21, requiring the State Auditor (Auditor), the Attorney General (AG), and the State Treasurer (Treasurer) (collectively, the Governing Actors) to collectively act or decide together on any or decision that is required by them under the Article. Excludes from the Article's scope in GS 131E-214.22 those transactions that are in the usual and regular course of a hospital entity's activities which the Governing Parties have provided a written waiver for the transaction. Deems the Governing Parties' determination final and not subject to judicial review unless found to be arbitrary and capricious.

Establishes, in GS 131E-214.24, a procedure for hospital entities to notify the Governing Parties of proposed transactions and for the Governing Parties to review and make determinations with respect to transactions subject to the Article, as described. Requires hospital entities subject to the Article to provide the Governing Parties with written notice of a proposed transaction and certification that a copy of the Article has been provided to each member of the governing board or board of trustees of the hospital entity. Allows for a single written notice to suffice for both the hospital entity and acquiring entity, subject to the Governing Parties requesting more information as needed. Provides for the effect of the notice and directs the Governing Parties to adopt rules regarding required content and manner of the written notice. Sets forth a 60-day timeline for the Governing Parties' review in GS 131E-214.26, within which the Governing Parties must notify the hospital entity in writing of its decision to either object to or take no action regarding the proposed transaction. Provides for the Governing Parties to extend the review period for up to another 60 days. Prohibits the parties from consummating the transaction during the review period.

Additionally requires in GS 131E-214.28, for the hospital entity to give written notice of the proposed transaction by publication in at least one newspaper in general circulation in each relevant county, as specified, within ten days after providing written notice to the Governing Parties. Details requirements of the published written notice and deems failure to provide this notice as sufficient grounds for the Governing Parties to object to the proposed transaction.

Requires in GS 131E-214.30, for the hospital entity and acquiring entity to hold at least one public hearing within 30 days after providing written notice to the Governing Parties, but not within 14 days after publication of written notice. Details hearing requirements, including seven days' written notice to the Governing Parties of the time, date, and location of the public hearing. Also requires the hospital entity and acquiring entity to give written notice to the relevant local governing bodies, as specified. Requires the Governing Parties' approval to conduct the public hearing electronically. Provides specific hearing requirements for hospital entities that are nonprofits or publicly owned entities. Allows the Governing Parties to conduct an additional public hearing, subject to similar notice requirements. Deems the parties to the proposed transaction responsible for the costs of all public hearings. Excludes dispositions made in the course of a bankruptcy proceeding.

Lists eight general considerations the Governing Parties must address in making a determination about the proposed transaction in GS 131E-214.32, including (1) whether the fair market value of any asset to be transferred from the hospital entity to the acquiring entity has been manipulated by the actions of the parties in a manner that causes the fair market value of the asset to decrease; (2) whether the proposed transaction may have a significant effect on the cost, availability, accessibility, or quality of healthcare services for any affected community by considering six required factors; (3) any objections raised in the comments submitted to the AG; and (4) whether the proposed transaction complies with all applicable State and federal laws and regulations, including antitrust laws. Lists eight additional considerations the Governing Parties must take into account in making a decision about any proposed transaction subject to the provisions of the Article that would alter the control or governance of a tax-exempt or publicly owned hospital entity. Finally, for any proposed transaction subject to the provisions of the Article that involves a hospital owned by a municipality or a hospital authority, requires the Governing Parties to determine whether the transaction complies with the provisions of Article 2 of GS Chapter 131E governing the sale or conveyance of any rights of ownership the municipality or hospital authority has in a hospital entity.

Enacts GS 131E-214.36, granting the Governing Parties authority to contract, consult and receive advice from any State or US agency, or contract with experts or consultants, to assist in transaction review. Allows the Governing Parties to request from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) a report of the anticipated effects of any proposed transaction on access to, or the pricing of, healthcare services in any part of the State; allows extension of the review period upon requests of such reports so long as the total review period does not exceed 180 days from the Governing Parties' notice that the parties have submitted a complete notice. Authorizes the Governing Parties to impose specified fees upon the acquiring entity of up to \$50,000 for the cost of all the contracts entered into by the Governing Parties, the Governing Parties' actual review costs and DHHS's actual costs for report preparations. Allows the acquiring entity to seek an order from a court to limit its liability for imposed fees. Details procedures for such an objection and the effect of failing to pay imposed fees.

Establishes requirements for instances in which the Governing Parties objects to the proposed transaction in GS 131E-214.38. Requires the Governing Parties to file an action seeking injunctive relief in superior court, as described. Details procedures of such actions based on whether the hospital entity is a nonprofit or publicly owned entity, or a for-profit entity. In either instance, the court can issue a final determination approving the transaction, approving the transaction subject to modification, or disapproving the transaction. Allows appeal of the court's decision, except prohibits the Governing Parties from appealing a court's approval of the transaction subject to the same modification the Governing Parties initially sought. Allows any party to decline to enter into a transaction modified by court order. Deems modified transactions entered into not subject the renewed objections by the Governing Parties.

Following either the conclusion of the review process by the Governing Parties under GS 131E-214.32 or, if necessary, after a final decision of any judicial action authorized under GS 131E-214-38, requires the acquiring party to submit an annual report on its compliance with the terms of the purchase agreement for the transaction, including any representations made to, or modifications made by the Governing Parties. Directs the Governing Parties to adopt rules to specify the required contents of the annual report. Requires entities that acquired a nonprofit or publicly owned hospital entities to also submit a report on its charitable activities and the disposition of its charitable assets. Authorizes the Governing Parties to file an action for relief as specified to restore the benefits of healthcare provider competition if the Governing Parties deem it reasonable and necessary to do so based on the acquiring entity's failure to comply with the terms of the agreement either approved by the Governing Parties or issued by a court, including any modifications thereto.

Prohibits an acquiring entity from changing the financial assistance policy regarding uninsured or underinsured in effect immediately proceeding consummation of the transaction without first providing 120 days' written notice to the AG, its hospital staff, and patients who have previously benefited from the hospital entity's policy, with a limited exception for increases to applicable eligibility income limits. Clarifies that this provision does not prevent a hospital from increasing its applicable income limits used to determine patient eligibility for financial assistance at any time following consummation of the transaction, and it does not require an acquiring entity to provide prior notice to the Governing Parties. Details notice requirements for patients who previously benefited from the policy. Includes education requirements for the acquiring entity's physicians regarding new financial assistance policies and verbally informing patients of the new policy during the notice period.

Enacts GS 131E-214.42, as follows. Deems any transaction in violation of the Article void. Subjects each member of the governing board and each chief financial officer of the transaction entered in violation of the Article up to \$50,000 per transaction unless the violation was made in wanton disregard of the law, in which case the penalty may be up to \$1 million per violation. Directs the Governing Parties to initiate an action for determination of the penalty amount in the Superior Court for Wake County. Prohibits DHHS from issuing hospital licensed to any party of a transaction entered in violation of the notice, public hearing, and review requirements of the Article. Specifies the effect of the Article on the Governing Parties' authority and the effect of the Article's penalties and remedies.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to activities occurring on or after that date.

Intro. by Burgin, Mayfield, Corbin.

GS 131E

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Government, State Agencies, Department of Justice, Department of State Treasurer, Office of State Auditor, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

S 552 (2025-2026) [ABC OMNIBUS 2025](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE ALCOHOL LAWS OF THIS STATE*.

Section 1.

Appropriates \$309,568,563 from the State Capital and Infrastructure Fund (Fund) to the Department of Administration (DOA) for 2025-26 to be used for advanced planning and construction of a new automated warehouse and associated offices for the North Carolina Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission (ABC). Upon the earlier of project completion or July 1, 2029, directs

ABC to repay the total amount of funds appropriated from the Fund for the project in an amount of no less than \$20.67 million annually, to be credited to the Fund. Directs that the act should not be deemed to preclude repayment of amounts more than the minimum prescribed annual amount. Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 2.

Establishes a service business permit as a new kind of ABC permit under GS 18B-1001, as follows. Authorizes a service business (an establishment that is primarily engaged in the business of providing services to the general public that require an occupational license issued by the State) to furnish complimentary malt beverages and unfortified wine to customers, in conjunction with the provision of the service, for consumption on the permittee's premises at no extra charge to the customers in the servings and amounts specified, subject to the conditions of GS 18B-603, described below. Authorizes purchase of permitted beverages from a wholesaler.

Specifies in GS 18B-603, that the ABC may only issue service business permits to qualified persons and establishments located within a jurisdiction in which on-premises malt beverage permits or on-premises unfortified wine permits may be issued, subject to the three following restrictions for a service business permit:

1. If on-premises malt beverage permits, but not on-premises unfortified wine permits, may be issued in the jurisdiction, the service business permittee may furnish only malt beverages to customers.
2. If on-premises unfortified wine permits, but not on-premises malt beverage permits, may be issued in the jurisdiction, the service business permittee may furnish only unfortified wine to customers.
3. If on-premises malt beverage permits and on-premises unfortified wine permits may be issued in the jurisdiction, the service business permittee may furnish malt beverages and unfortified wine to customers.

Provides for a \$50 service business permit fee in GS 18B-902. Specifies in GS 18B-903 that a service business permit remains valid indefinitely unless it is surrendered, suspended, or revoked. Sets annual registration and inspection fee at \$50 per permit. Requires service business permittees to submit a recycling plan along with the original permit application and any renewal. Makes technical and conforming changes to GS 18B-GS-903, GS 18B-300 (pertaining to purchase and consumption of malt beverages and unfortified wine), and GS 18B-1006.1 (additional requirement for certain permittees to recycle beverage containers).

Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 3.

Modifies the packaging requirements for a single serving of unfortified wine that is sold by vehicle delivery under either (1) an on-premises unfortified wine permit, (2) an on-premises fortified wine permit, and (3) a mixed beverages permit in GS 18B-1001 so that the packaging complies with GS 20-138.7 (transporting open container offenses) and is in an unopened manufacturer's original container or is transported in a locked container, in the trunk, or in the area behind the last upright seat in a motor vehicle not equipped with a trunk (currently statute specifies that notwithstanding GS 20-138.7, the only requirement is if container continues to be sealed and is in the passenger area of the vehicle). Makes conforming changes to GS 20-138.7.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Section 4.

Modifies the county alcoholic beverage elections under GS 18B-600 for mixed beverages so that in addition to the conditions specified, a county may hold such an election if a city in the county operates at least one ABC store. Specifies that if a county does not operate at least one ABC store, a mixed beverages permittee may purchase liquor from an ABC store that is designated as a mixed beverage ABC store operated by any local board operating in the same county as the permittee. Retroactively effective to October 1, 2024.

Section 5.

Makes technical correction to GS 18B-603(d)(4) (concerning brown bagging permits).

Section 6.

Corrects the statutory citation in GS 18B-300.3 so that it refers to GS 18B-1001 (listing kinds of ABC permits) instead of GS 18B-1000 (definitions concerning ABC retail establishments).

Section 7.

Authorizes an ABC permittee business that is not permitted to sell mixed beverages to allow a customer to possess and consume on the business's premises mixed beverages purchased from a mixed beverages permittee in the social district.

Intro. by Moffitt, Johnson, Hanig.

[APPROP, GS 18B, GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Alcoholic Beverage Control, Government, Budget/Appropriations](#)

S 563 (2025-2026) [THE MICHAEL JORDANS OF TOMORROW ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE LAWS TO ENHANCE THE COMPETITIVENESS OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN NORTH CAROLINA WITH REGARD TO NAME, IMAGE, AND LIKENESS AGREEMENTS AND DIRECT COMPENSATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES.*

Titles the act the Michael Jordans of Tomorrow Act. Sets forth four findings by the General Assembly in relation to Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) compensation in the State.

Enacts Article 39 (concerning student-athletes) to GS Chapter 116, as follows. Defines five terms, including *NIL* (the use of a student's name, image, or likeness for commercial purposes and in exchange for compensation to the student. Compensation may include cash, in-kind gifts, or other tangible benefits to the student) and *constituent institution* (a UNC constituent institution). Allows a constituent institution to assist a student-athlete in securing one or more NIL agreements in GS 116-411 by facilitating introductions between student-athletes and potential sponsors, providing NIL education and contract review assistance, and partnering with businesses and collectives to promote NIL deals. Prevents a constituent institution from directly compensating a student-athlete for athletic performance or participation. Allows a constituent institution to collaborate with the NIL Clearinghouse to provide support to students when entering NIL agreements. Authorizes student-athlete compensation by a constituent institution in GS 116-412 for participating in interscholastic athletics at that institution in addition to any other benefits provided to student-athletes. Authorizes a constituent institution to allocate up to \$20.5 million per year from interscholastic athletics revenues (defined) for direct compensation to student-athletes. Provides for an annual report to the specified NCGA committee and the Department of Commerce (DOC) on the matters described. Requires a constituent institution to collaborate with DOC to ensure direct compensation of student-athletes provided in accordance with this statute complies with federal and State law and any other applicable rule or policy.

Allows for NIL compensation in line with Article 29E of GS Chapter 115C to be deducted from a taxpayer's annual gross income under GS 105-153.5. Enacts GS 105-153.12, allowing a taxpayer who is an eligible business (one that has entered into an NIL agreement with a student-athlete) to claim a nonrefundable credit against its taxes that is equal to 50% of the compensation paid by the business to the student-athlete, but capped at \$500,000 per tax year. Provides for rules for allocation, including to pass-through entities. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Enacts GS 116-413, requiring the UNC Board of Governors to establish the NC NIL Advancement Fund (Fund) to provide matching funds with NIL collectives to support NIL agreements, with prioritization to the following:

- Student-athletes who qualify for in-State tuition and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.
- Student-athletes who have officially committed to that constituent institution.
- NIL agreements involving local businesses and tourism boards.

Authorizes high school students participating in interscholastic athletics to enter into NIL agreements in GS 115C-407.56, subject to six conditions, including that the agreement cannot condition the receipt, type, or extent of any compensation to the student on the extent or quality of the student's athletic performance or their current or future enrollment a specific institution, that the student's parent or guardian be party to the agreement if the student is under eighteen, and that the student is provided financial literacy resources by either their school or the NIL Clearinghouse. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-407.50

(definitions pertaining to interscholastic athletics) and GS 115C-407.55 (rules for interscholastic athletics). Applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Establishes the NIL Clearinghouse in GS 143B-437.022, administered by DOC to do the following:

- Educate student-athletes and their families about NIL agreements.
- Assist student-athletes in reviewing NIL agreements and navigating the NIL process.
- Facilitate State-endorsed NIL partnerships by prioritizing student-athletes attending in-State colleges.
- Provide grants to student-athletes who commit to in-State colleges capped at the lesser of the amount received by the student-athlete as compensation under an NIL agreement or \$5,000.

Requires DOC to review all NIL agreements paying more than \$5,000 to ensure the agreement (1) affords the student-athlete fair market value compensation, (2) complies with the requirements governing NIL agreements, and (3) provides any other relevant protections DOC deems necessary to promote the well-being of the student-athlete. Allows DOC to hire or contract for staff to accomplish the purposes set forth in GS 143B-437.022 and to use up to 5% of appropriated funds for administrative purposes. Requires DOC to adopt rules to implement GS 143B-437.022.

Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to DOC for 2025-26 to be used for purposes consistent with new Article 39, described above. Effective July 1, 2025.

Establishes the six-member Joint Legislative Study Committee on Name, Image, and Likeness Revenue Sharing (Committee) to study and make recommendations on the four specified matters related to NIL and student-athletes. Provides for meetings, expenses, professional and clerical staff, quorum, and appointment of chairs. Directs the Committee to submit a final report on the results of its study to the General Assembly on or before March 31, 2026, as described. Sunsets the Committee upon the earlier of the filing of its final report or March 31, 2026.

Intro. by Batch, Garrett, Smith.

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, General Assembly, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Commerce, Tax

S 571 (2025-2026) **MOMNIBUS 3.0**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA MOMNIBUS ACT.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Part I.

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish and operate a Maternal Mortality Prevention Grant Program (grant program) to award grants to eligible entities to establish or expand programs for the prevention of maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity among black women. Requires applicants to be community-based organizations offering programs and resources aligned with evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for black women. Requires DHHS, beginning July 1, 2025, to conduct outreach to encourage eligible applicants to apply and provide application assistance. Awards grants with amounts ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Sets out criteria to be considered when awarding the grants. Sets out the types of technical assistance DHHS must provide. Requires DHHS to report to the specified NCGA committee and division by October 1, 2026, and October 1, 2027; sets out issues to be addressed in the report.

Appropriates the following from the General Fund to DHHS, Division of Public Health, for each year of the 2025-27 biennium: (1) \$93,513 in nonrecurring funds to establish a time limited, full-time Public Health Program Coordinator IV position to provide application assistance and technical assistance to recipients, and prepare the required report and (2) \$4,906,487 in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the Maternal Mortality Prevention Grant Program. Allows up to 1% of these funds to be used for administrative purposes related to the grant program. Authorizes DHHS to hire one full-time, time-limited Public Health Program Coordinator IV position. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part II.

Enacts new GS 130A-33.62, providing as follows. Requires DHHS, in collaboration with (1) community-based organizations led by black women that serve primarily black birthing people and (2) a historically black college or university or other institution that primarily serves minority populations to create or identify an evidence-based implicit bias training program (training program) for health care professionals involved in perinatal care (the provision of care during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum and neonatal periods). Sets out 12 minimum components of the training program, including identification of previous or current unconscious biases and misinformation; identification of personal, interpersonal, institutional, structural, and cultural barriers to inclusion; corrective measures to decrease implicit bias at the interpersonal and institutional levels; and information about how to communicate more effectively across identities. Requires all health care professionals to complete the training program, specifying deadlines for completion depending on whether the individual is licensed before or after January 1, 2026. Requires proof of completion for license/registration/accreditation/certification renewal. Defines a *health care professional* as a licensed physician or other health care provider licensed, registered, accredited, or certified to perform perinatal care and regulated under the authority of a health care professional licensing authority. Encourages DHHS to seek opportunities to make the training program available to all health care professions and to promote its use among four specified types of providers and programs. Requires DHHS to collect specified information related to maternal mortality to inform ongoing improvements to the training program.

Enacts GS 130A-33.63 specifying that a patient getting care at a perinatal care facility (a hospital, clinic, or birthing center providing perinatal care in the state) has six listed rights, including: to be informed of continuing health care requirements following discharge; to actively participate in decisions regarding the patient's medical care and the right to refuse treatment; and to receive care and treatment free from discrimination on the basis of age, race, ethnicity, color, religion, ancestry, disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, citizenship, nationality, immigration status, primary language, or language proficiency. Requires perinatal care facilities to provide patients upon admission with a written copy of the rights.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Appropriates \$2.5 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to DHHS, Division of Public Health, to establish and administer the training. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part III.

Appropriates \$3 million for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors for recruiting, training, and retaining a diverse workforce of lactation consultants in North Carolina by supporting the infrastructure and sustainability of lactation consultant training programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities located within the State, to be distributed equally between Bennett College, Fayetteville State University, Johnson C. Smith University, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and North Carolina Central University to cover costs of administering a lactation training program, including specified costs that include student aid. Requires DHHS to give technical assistance to those schools concerning developing training content, recruitment from historically marginalized populations to enroll, recruitment of historically underutilized providers to serve as teachers and preceptors, and identifying rural and medically underserved areas of the State experiencing a shortage of lactation consultants in order to recruit program graduates to work in these areas. Requires a report by May 1, 2028, to the specified NCGA committees on the benefits the state received due to the funding of the training programs. Sets out items that must be included in the report. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Requires DHHS to establish a Perinatal Education Grant Program awarding competitive grants to eligible entities to establish or expand perinatal education programs in rural, underserved, or low-wealth areas of the State. Defines perinatal education program as one that operates for the primary purpose of educating pregnant women and their families about healthy pregnancy, preparation for labor and birth, breast feeding, newborn care, or any combination of these. Requires applicants to be community-based organizations that offer perinatal education and resources aligned with evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for black women. Requires DHHS to conduct outreach and application assistance beginning September 1, 2025. Requires outreach to give special consideration to eligible applicants who: (1) are based in, and provide support for, communities with high rates of adverse maternal health outcomes and significant racial and ethnic disparities in maternal health outcomes; (2) are led by black women; and (3) offer programs and resources that are aligned with evidence-based practices for improving maternal health outcomes for black women.

Requires individual grants to be no less than \$10,000 or more than \$50,000. Terminates the program on June 30, 2027. Requires DHHS to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee and division by October 1, 2028, on the specified information. Appropriates \$3 million for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium from the General Fund to DHHS for this grant program; allows DHHS to use up to 5% of these funds for administrative purposes. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part V.

Appropriates \$6.5 million for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to DHHS, Division of Public Health (DPH) to create a Momni-Bus Initiative to fund efforts to expand access to maternal and infant health care and parenting programs, supports, and services to families residing in geographic areas of the State where there is limited or no access to maternity care services, including obstetric providers, a hospital or birth center, prenatal care, or postpartum care. Requires funds to be allocated in specified amounts for (1) a directed grant to the March of Dimes, Inc., and (2) for directed grants on a competitive basis to nonprofit, community-based, and faith-based organizations that offer programs, supports, and services aligned with evidence-based practices for a healthy pregnancy through the postpartum period, infant health and care, and parenting programs, supports, and services. Requires DPH to report to the specified NCGA committee and division by October 1, 2027, and October 1, 2028, on the grants that were awarded. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Murdock, Batch, Robinson.

[APPROP, GS 130A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Public Health](#)

S 577 (2025-2026) [TITLE INSURANCE KICKBACKS CLARIFICATION](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT CLARIFYING THE PROHIBITION AGAINST KICKBACKS OR OTHER UNEARNED FEES IN TITLE INSURANCE TRANSACTIONS*.

Expands the requirements for the exemptions to the prohibitions against payment or receipt of title insurance kickbacks, rebates, commissions, and other payments under GS 58-27-5 to apply the following: (1) the payment may also be made from an employer to a bona fide employee, including the payment of a commission for the sale of title insurance; (2) the person or entity purchasing title insurance is not required to use any particular title insurance company, agency, or agent, except as permitted under regulations adopted pursuant to the federal Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act (Act) and (3) either the person or entity purchasing title insurance is provided with the Act's written disclosure requirements as described or the person or entity purchasing title insurance isn't provided with a written disclosure but they demonstrate that the failure was unintentional and resulted from a bona fide error notwithstanding maintenance of procedures that were reasonably adapted to avoid that error. Specifies that in any judicial or administrative proceeding the person or entity relying upon the error provisions has the burden of proof of establishing its applicability by a preponderance of the evidence.

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

Intro. by B. Newton, Daniel, Sawrey.

[GS 58](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Insurance, Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing](#)

S 581 (2025-2026) [REVISE NEGLECTED JUVENILE DEFINITION](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE THE DEFINITION OF NEGLECTED JUVENILE TO EXEMPT CERTAIN INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES*.

Amends the definition of *neglected juvenile* under GS 7B-101, so that it is not considered neglect of a juvenile if a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker allows the juvenile to engage in independent activities, including those described, without adult supervision if a reasonable and prudent parent would consider the independent activity safe and appropriate based on the juvenile's age, maturity, and physical and mental abilities.

[View summary](#)**Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency**

S 583 (2025-2026) **LEAD. INVEST. FAMILIES/FOSTER TEEN ACT (LIFT)**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE "LEADING INVESTMENTS IN FAMILIES AND FOSTER TEENS ACT" AND TO IMPLEMENT THE HEALTHY START NC PROGRAM TO REDUCE MATERNAL MORTALITY AND CHILDHOOD POVERTY AND TO OFFSET COSTS BY MODIFYING THE CORPORATE INCOME TAX RATE SO AS TO KEEP THE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE FOR CORPORATE TAXPAYERS MORE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH THAT WHICH IS REQUIRED OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS OF THE STATE.*

Contains whereas clauses.

Section 1.

Enacts Part 3B, termed the "Leading Investments in Families and Foster Teens (LIFT) Act" (Act) to Article 3 in GS Chapter 143B. as follows. Defines twelve terms, including *eligible recipient* (a high school participant, expectant or new mother participant, survivor of a natural disaster participant, or young adult exiting foster care participant, who meets the criteria to receive Program income payments). Establishes, in GS 143B-146.32, the Leading Investments in Families and Foster Teens Program (Program) within the Department of Health and Human Services (Department) to support eligible recipients with *Program income payments* (cash payments of equal amounts issued monthly to eligible recipients with the intention of stabilizing the eligible recipients' financial security and to protect from emergency expenditures) for limited periods of time in accordance with the Program, as specified. Provides for Program payments of \$1,000 a month in accordance with the four listed schedules for high school students, young adults exiting foster care, expectant or new mothers, and survivors of natural disaster, respectively, from April 1, 2026, through to April 1, 2035. Establishes the LIFT Fund (Fund) in GS 143B-146.33 within the Department as a non-reverting interest-bearing account to receive appropriations, gifts, grants, federal funds, donations, and any other funds to support the Program. Directs the Department to administer the Fund. Specifies that monies in the Fund are appropriated for the purposes in the act and cannot be diverted for other purposes. Requires the Department to coordinate with the listed agencies to distribute Program funds to respective eligible Program recipients in GS 143B-146.34. Provides, in GS 143B-146.35, that Program income payments are not (1) considered taxable income for the purposes of State income taxes, (2) considered in calculating any State tax credits, (3) used to offset any liabilities owed by an eligible recipient, and (4) affect income eligibility of the eligible recipient or the household of the eligible recipient for any public assistance, benefits, or programs administered or funded by the State. Provides for rules in the event of a conflict between the State tax provisions and federal program aid. Authorizes the Department to adopt rules to implement the act.

Specifies that GS 143B-146.35, as enacted by the act, is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026. The remainder of this section is effective July 1, 2025.

Section 2.

Of the funds received by the State and appropriated to the Department from the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Block Grant, directs the Department to allocate to the Division of Social Services (Division) the recurring sum of \$161.6 million for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to implement the Healthy Start NC Program (Program). Additionally appropriates from the General Fund to the Department \$146.3 million for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to be allocated to the Division for implementation of the Program to provide nonrecurrent, short-term benefits in the form of prenatal and infant cash allowances to meet pre- and post-birth needs of expecting mothers and babies. Directs the Division to develop detailed guidelines to administer, and accomplish the purposes of, the Program, as described. Provides for the following uses of Program funds: (1) a one-time award to an expecting mother during pregnancy in the amount of \$1,500 and (2) a monthly award for the maximum amount of time permitted under federal law to qualify as nonrecurrent, short-term benefits, not to exceed the first year after giving birth to the mother in the amount \$500. Provides for means testing in determining award recipients, as described. Effective July 1, 2025.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, amends GS 105-130.3 (corporate income tax for C Corporations) to set a flat rate of 2.25 of the taxpayers' State net income. Removes provisions that would gradually reduce a C

corporation's corporate income tax so that after 2029, the tax rate would be 0%.

Intro. by Murdock, Chitlik, Applewhite.

APPROP, GS 105, GS 143B

[View summary](#)

Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Tax, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare, Public Assistance

S 586 (2025-2026) [ALLERGY SAFE NC](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO KEEP CHILDREN WITH FOOD ALLERGIES SAFE AT CHILD CARE CENTERS*.

Amends GS 110-91 to require all child care facilities to observe four requirements with respect to allergies, including (1) require each caregiver to receive training on the administration of epinephrine, (2) require emergency services to be contacted each time epinephrine is administered, (3) notifying the child's parents as described, and (4) adopt food service policies that address and limit exposure to allergens, with copies to be provided to the parents of the children attending the facility.

Intro. by Chitlik, Garrett.

GS 110

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

S 588 (2025-2026) [PREGNANT WORKERS PROTECTION ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT PREGNANT WOMEN FROM DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES*.

Expands the protected classes under the State's employment discrimination statute (GS 95-151) to include pregnancy. Makes conforming changes to GS 126-34.02 (grievance procedures stemming from discrimination, harassment, or retaliation claims under the State Human Resources Act) to include pregnancy. Makes it a discriminatory practice under the State's Disabilities Protection Act (GS 168A-5) for an employer to fail to provide reasonable accommodations (as described) for any limitation of an employee related to pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, unless the employer can demonstrate that providing such accommodations would impose an undue hardship on the operation of the business of the employer. Defines *pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions* in GS 168A-3 to include pregnancy, childbirth, and related medical conditions, including lactation. Pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions are considered a physical impairment when they substantially limit one or more major life activities. Includes *pregnancy and pregnancy-related conditions* in the definition of *handicapping condition* under the State's Fair Housing Act.

Applies to acts and omission occurring on or after July 1, 2026.

Intro. by Murdock, Chitlik.

GS 41A, GS 95, GS 126, GS 168A

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Environment, Government, State Agencies, Office of State Human Resources (formerly Office of State Personnel)

S 595 (2025-2026) [REV LAWS TECH CHNGS/BBA CHNGS/P2P TAX PARITY](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE REVENUE LAWS; TO CONFORM TO THE FEDERAL SYSTEM FOR AUDITING PARTNERSHIPS BY IMPOSING TAX AT THE PARTNERSHIP LEVEL FOR FEDERAL CHANGES AND BY*

AUTHORIZING REFUNDS FOR FEDERAL CHANGES; AND TO PROVIDE TAX PARITY FOR SHORT-TERM CAR RENTALS BY EXPANDING ALTERNATE HIGHWAY USE TAX TO INCLUDE PEER-TO-PEER RENTALS.

Part I.

Amends GS 105-153.5 to allow a taxpayer to deduct from their adjusted gross income the amount by which the aggregate amount of losses or deductions of an S Corporation taken into account by a shareholder do not exceed the combined adjusted bases of the shareholder in the stock and indebtedness of the S Corporation. Requires a taxpayer to add to their adjusted gross income the amount by which the aggregate amount of losses or deductions of an S Corporation taken into account by a shareholder exceed the combined adjusted bases of the shareholder in the stock and indebtedness of the S Corporation. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-153.5A, the net operating loss provisions, by adding that the statute applies only to individuals, estates, and trusts, applicable retroactively to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2022. Further amends GS 105-153.5A, effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, by adding to the modifications that apply when a taxpayer calculates their State net operating loss, so that the amount of their excess business loss is fully allowed as a State net operating loss.

Amends GS 105-160.2, concerning the income tax on estates, trusts, and beneficiaries, as follows. No longer requires that the income of an estate or trust that is being taxed, be for the benefit of a resident of this state or for the benefit of a nonresident to the extent that the income meets specified conditions, now requiring that tax be computed on the amount of the taxable income of the estate or trust that is (1) derived from NC sources and is attributable to the ownership of any interest in real or tangible personal property in North Carolina or (2) is derived from a business, trade, profession, or occupation carried on in North Carolina. Requires that the taxable income and gross income be apportioned and allocated to this State under GS 105-130.4 (allocation and apportionment of income for corporations). Makes additional clarifying and technical changes. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-153.3 by amending the definition of *resident* as it applies to individual income tax, to now provide as follows. A resident who moves from the State during a taxable year is considered a resident until the resident has both established a definite domicile elsewhere and abandoned any domicile in this state. The fact of marriage does not raise any presumption as to domicile or residence. A resident individual is either of the following: (1) an individual who is domiciled in this state at any time during the taxable year or who resides in this state during the taxable year for other than a temporary or transitory purpose or (2) an individual who maintains a place of abode within the state and spends more than 183 days, including partial days, of the taxable year within the state (the absence of an individual from the state for more than 183 days raises no presumption that the individual is not a resident).

Amends GS 105-163.6, concerning when an employer must file returns and pay withheld taxes, as follows. Requires employers withholding an average of at least \$2,000 of State income taxes from wages each month to file a return on a quarterly basis (was, by the date set under the Code for filing a return for federal employment taxes attributable to the same wages). Removes provisions related to extensions of time for filing a return. Sets out specified due dates for the withheld State income taxes based on the employer's payday. Allows the Secretary of Revenue (Secretary) to close a taxpayer's withholding account if the taxpayer files on withholding returns or files returns showing no withholding of State income taxes for a period of 18 months.

Part II.

Enacts new GS 105-154.2, concerning federal partnership adjustments, as follows. Defines *federal partnership adjustment* as a change or correction arising from a partnership level audit or an administrative adjustment request that affects the calculation of a taxpayer's State tax. Defines additional terms as they apply to Part 2 (individual income tax) of Article 4 of GS Chapter 105. Requires that except in the case of a final federal partnership adjustment (as defined) required to be reported to the Secretary under the newly specified procedures, a partner must report and pay any State income tax due under GS 105-130.20 or GS 105-159 (both concerning federal determinations and amended returns). Requires, except for the distributive share of adjustments that have been reported as required above and an audited partnership that has made a timely election, a partnership and partner must report a final federal partnership as follows: (1) no later than 90 days after the final federal partnership adjustment, a partnership doing business in this state must: a. file an income tax return reflecting the partnership's final federal partnership adjustments, as modified by GS 105-153.5 and GS 105-153.6, and any other information required by the Secretary, and pay the additional amount due under GS 105-154(d) and GS 105-154.1, and b. notify each of its direct partners of the direct partner's distributive share of the final federal partnership adjustments, including any information necessary for the direct

partner to properly file a State income tax return and (2) no later than six months after the final federal partnership adjustment, each direct partner subject to tax under this Article must file a State income tax return reporting the direct partner's distributive share of the adjustments reported to the direct partner under b above, as modified by GS 105-153.5 and GS 105-153.6, and any other information required by the Secretary, and pay any additional amount of tax due as if the final federal partnership adjustments had been properly reported. Allows an audited partnership to elect to report a final federal partnership adjustment arising from a partnership level audit, in a manner prescribed by the Secretary; makes such an election irrevocable and can't be made if the required income tax return is not filed within the required period. Sets out additional provisions that apply to an audited partnership that makes this election, concerning reporting and payment of tax, and exceptions. Sets out provisions applying to the collection of taxes for failure to pay when this election is made. Makes direct and indirect partners of an audited partnership that are tiered partners, and all owners and beneficiaries of those tiered partners that are subject to taxation, subject to the reporting and payment requirements and entitles the tiered partners to make the election. Allows the Secretary to propose an assessment against a direct or indirect partner for tax due, if a partnership or tiered partner fails to timely make any report or payment. Binds the partnership's direct and indirect partners to the actions of the State partnership representative and sets out actions the partnership representative has sole authority to do. Requires the Secretary to assess additional State tax arising from a final federal partnership adjustment.

Amends GS 105-228.90 by excluding a final federal partnership adjustment from the definition of *federal determination*. Amends GS 105-153.5 to require when calculating NC taxable income, that: (1) a taxpayer must add the amount by which the taxpayer's distributive share of partnership income, subject to the specified adjustments, is increased as a result of a final federal partnership adjustment and (2) a taxpayer may deduct the amount by which the taxpayer's distributive share of partnership income, as modified by the specified provisions, is decreased as a result of a final federal partnership adjustment. Requires the same additional deductions to federal taxable income under GS 105-130.5.

Amends GS 105-241.6, concerning the statute of limitations for refunds, to provide that if a taxpayer files a return reflecting a final federal partnership adjustment and the return is filed within the required time, the period for requesting a refund is the later of one year after the return reflecting the final federal partnership adjustment is filed or three years after the original return was filed or due to be filed. Makes the same changes to the timing for proposing an assessment under GS 105-241.8 but also adds that if there is a final federal partnership adjustment and the taxpayer does not file the return within the required time, the period for proposing an assessment of any tax due is six years after the date the Secretary received the final report of the final federal partnership adjustment.

Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and applies to federal partnership adjustments that become final on or after that date.

Part III.

Amends two of the conditions that can be met in order for a retailer who makes a remote sale to be considered engaged in business in North Carolina and subject to sales tax under GS 105-164.8 by specifying that a retailer who: (1) solely meets the condition of making gross sales in excess of \$100,000 from remote sales sourced to this State, including sales as a marketplace seller, for the previous or the current calendar year, or meets both this condition and the one below, is engaged in business on the first day of the first calendar month occurring at least 60 days after the retailer's gross sales exceed the threshold and (2) solely meets the condition of being a marketplace facilitator that makes gross sales in excess of \$100,000, including all marketplace-facilitated sales for all marketplace sellers, from sales sourced to this state for the previous or the current calendar year, or meets this condition and the one above, is engaged in business on the first day of the first calendar month occurring at least 60 days after the retailer's gross sales exceed the threshold.

Amends GS 105-164.3, which defines terms for sales tax purposes, by defining the Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement as the one amended as of October 9, 2024 (was, November 7, 2023).

Amends GS 105-187.90 by changing the term "shared for hire ground transport" to "shared-ride service." Amends GS 105-187.95 by no longer specifying that the proceeds of the transportation commerce tax must be credited to the Highway Fund on a quarterly basis. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Amends GS 105-113.39A to no longer require a wholesale dealer or retail dealer to obtain a vapor products license for locations where a remote seller receives or stores non-tax-paid products for delivery sales.

Amends GS 105-113.83A to no longer require the holder of a nonresident spirituous liquor vendor permit to register with the Secretary.

Amends GS 105-449.42 by changing the due date of tax for a motor carrier who is exempt from filing a return, to the last day of the month following the quarter in which the motor fuel or alternative fuel was used by the motor carrier (was, due when the tax is collectible under GS 105-241.22). Applies to taxes due on or after July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-449.60, which sets out definitions applicable to the taxation of gasoline, diesel, and blends, by (1) adding and defining the term *renewable diesel*; (2) amending the definition of *diesel fuel* so that it includes renewable diesel; and (3) expanding upon the definition of supplier to also include a purchaser of tax-paid motor fuel who introduces the respective tax-paid motor fuel into the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal, and a person who owns tax-paid motor fuel at the time it is placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal. Amends GS 105-449.97 to also allow a licensed supplier to take a credit for tax-paid motor fuel in the terminal transfer system if: (1) the supplier is the original purchaser of tax-paid motor fuel placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal or (2) the supplier owns tax-paid motor fuel at the time it is placed in the terminal transfer system at a location other than an IRS-registered terminal. Effective July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-449.69 to allow the Secretary to cancel an exporter license if the Secretary determines that an exporter is no longer operating in this state and has failed to comply with GS 105-449.75 (notification of discontinuation of business). Makes conforming changes to GS 105-449.76.

Amends GS 105-449.87 by updating a statutory cross-reference.

Amends GS 105-449.139, related to alternative fuel taxation and licensure, to allow the Secretary or their designee to inspect the records subject to audit and take three specified actions to determine tax liability.

Amends GS 150B-2, defining terms for GS Chapter 150B, by amending the definition of *license* to exclude licenses issued under Subchapter V of GS Chapter 105 (motor fuel taxes).

Amends the definition of *gross wagering revenue* under GS 18C-901, by specifying that it includes the cash value of any bonuses or promotional credits when returned to an interactive sports wagering operator in the form of a deposit or sports wager.

Part V.

Amends GS 105-228.90 by updating references to the Internal Revenue Code. Also amends the definitions of *person*, *tax*, and *taxpayer* to correct references to Article 84 (Primary Forest Product Assessment Act) of GS Chapter 106 instead of Article 81 (Corporations for Protection and Development of Forests).

Amends GS 105-23 to no longer allow the Secretary to waive the penalty for making payments in the wrong form, and changes the penalty for filing a frivolous return from up to \$500 to up to \$2,000.

Amends GS 105-249.2 to refer to when the period of time for returns and payments was disregarded instead of referring to extensions of time.

Part VI.

Amends GS 105-278.2 by clarifying that the real property being exempted from taxation must be used for human burial purposes.

Part VII.

Amends GS 105-187.1, by (1) adding and defining the term *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider*; (2) amending the definition of *retailer* to be those engaged in the business of offering short-term leases or rentals, long-term leases or rentals, or vehicle subscriptions for motor vehicles; and (3) amending the definition of *short-term lease or rental* to include peer-to-peer vehicle sharing providers. Amends GS 105-187.5 to require the payment of a tax on the gross receipts of a limited possession commitment by: (1) a retailer that purchases a motor vehicle for use as a limited possession commitment and makes an election under this statute and (2) a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider. Allows a retailer that has purchased a motor vehicle for a limited possession commitment to elect to pay this tax instead of the tax under GS 105-187.3 when applying for a certificate of

title and sets out additional provisions related to this election. Makes organizational, conforming, and technical changes. Makes conforming changes to GS 105-187.3 and GS 105-187.4.

Amends GS 153A-156 and GS 160A-215.1 by no longer specifying that the county's/city's levy of a gross receipts tax on short-term leases or rental of vehicles is a substitute and replacement of the ad valorem tax excluded by GS 105-275. Makes conforming and clarifying changes. Makes clarifying changes to GS 105-550. Amends GS 105-551 to also allow levying a privilege tax on a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider if the customer takes delivery of the vehicle within the Authority's territorial jurisdiction. Amends GS 105-552 by making conforming and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 20-280.15 by amending the definitions that apply to Peer-to-Peer Vehicle Sharing, as follows: (1) removes the definition of *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing* and the definition of *shared vehicle owner*; (2) changes the definition of *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program* to refer to a business platform that connects registered vehicle owners that have not made an election under GS 105-187.5 with drivers to enable the sharing of vehicles for financial consideration; and (3) replaces the term "vehicle sharing provider" with *peer-to-peer vehicle sharing provider* and defines it as a person or entity that operates, facilitates, or administers a peer-to-peer vehicle sharing program. Amends GS 20-208.17 to allow airports to charge the fee and collect data for peer-to-peer vehicle sharing providers (was, programs).

Applies to gross receipts derived from rentals or leases billed on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by McInnis, Craven.

[GS 18C, GS 20, GS 105, GS 150B, GS 153A, GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Alcoholic Beverage Control, Business and Commerce, Corporation and Partnerships, Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, APA/Rule Making, State Agencies, Department of Revenue, Tax, Local Government, Transportation](#)

S 620 (2025-2026) [THE STRONG ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT ENACTING THE "STOPPING TRAFFICKING AND REINFORCING OPIOID AND NARCOTICS GUARDRAILS (S.T.R.O.N.G.) ACT" TO PROVIDE FOR A COMPREHENSIVE STATEWIDE RESPONSE TO THE FENTANYL CRISIS BY INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN DRUG TRAFFICKERS, CERTAIN DEATH BY DISTRIBUTION OFFENSES, AND FOR TRAFFICKING NEAR SCHOOLS AND CERTAIN OTHER PUBLIC PLACES; ENHANCING LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING AND RESOURCES; UPGRADING AND EXPANDING THE CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES REPORTING SYSTEM; EXPANDING OPIOID USE DISORDER PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS; APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THESE PURPOSES; AND CREATING A TAX CREDIT FOR BUSINESSES THAT HIRE EMPLOYEES WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TRAINING.*

Part I.

Titles the act as the STRONG Act of 2025.

Part II.

Sets out the NCGA's findings of fact related to opioid use, substance use disorders, medical cannabis, and fentanyl.

Part III.

Amends GS 90-95 by changing the following penalties for a person who commits trafficking in opium, opiate, or heroin: (1) makes it a Class E felony when the amount is two grams or more, but less than 14 grams (was, Class F felony for four grams or more but less than 14 grams), to be sentenced to a minimum of 90-120 months in prison (was, 70-93 months), and decreases the fine from \$500,000, to \$250,000 when the substance is heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil; (2) makes it a Class D felony when the amount is 14-28 grams (was, Class E felony), to be sentenced to a minimum of 180-225 months in prison (was, 90-120 months), and decreases the fine from \$750,000, to \$500,000 when the substance is heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil; and (3) makes it a Class B1 felony when the amount is 28 grams or more (was, Class C felony), to be sentenced to a minimum term of life without parole (was, 225-282 months in prison), and increases the fine from \$1 million to \$2 million when the substance is heroin, fentanyl, or carfentanil. Adds that a law enforcement agency investigating these offenses may intercept, endeavor to

intercept, or procure any other person to intercept or endeavor to intercept, any wire, oral, or electronic communication, subject to applicable laws and constitutional requirements. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Amends GS 14-18.4 by increasing the penalty for: (1) death by distribution through unlawful delivery with malice of certain controlled substances from a Class B2 felony to a Class B1 felony, (2) death by distribution through unlawful sale of certain controlled substances from a Class B2 felony to a Class B1 felony; and (3) aggravated death by distribution through unlawful sale of certain controlled substances from a Class B1 felony to a Class A felony. Applies to offense committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Amends GS 90-95 by adding the following. Makes it a Class B1 felony for any person 21 or older who commits an offense under GS 90-95(h)(4) (trafficking in opium, opiate, opioid, or heroin) on property used for a child care center, or for an elementary or secondary school, or for a playground, or within 1,500 feet of the boundary of real property used for those purposes. Provides that persons 21 or older who commits an offense under GS 90-95(h)(4) (trafficking in opium, opiate, opioid, or heroin) on property used for a public park, shopping mall, or transit station, or within 1,500 feet of the boundary of real property used for those purposes will have their minimum term of imprisonment increased by 36 months. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the State Bureau of Investigation to support and expand its Drug Task Force. Effective July 1, 2025.

Enacts GS 90-95.2A establishing the nine-member State and Federal Drug Interdiction Task Force within the Department of Public Safety to encourage and effectuate collaboration between State and federal entities for the interdiction of illegal controlled substances within the state. Sets out provisions governing election of a chair, a quorum, and per diem, and travel and subsistence expenses. Requires the Task Force to report the specified NCGA committee on any findings, legislative proposals, and other information that would aid state and federal law enforcement in the interdiction of illegal controlled substances with the state.

Amends GS 17C-6 by expanding upon the powers of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission, and GS 14E-4 to expanding upon the powers of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission, to include training on opioid detection for criminal justice officers and justice officers, as applicable. Applies to in-service training occurring on or after January 1, 2026.

Part V.

Amends GS 90-113.73 to also require dispensers and prescribers to report on their DEA number for prescriptions for xylazine and nitazenes. Provides that a dispenser is not required to report when (1) xylazine or nitazenes are provided directly to the user in a quantity not more than a 48-hour supply, or (2) xylazine or nitazenes are a component of a compound prescription that is dispensed in dosages of 100 milligrams or less. Makes additional conforming and technical changes. Applies to acts occurring on or after December 1, 2025.

Appropriates \$3.5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Use Services (Division) to upgrade data analytics and automation within the Controlled Substances Reporting System. Effective July 1, 2025.

Requires the Division to work towards connecting the Controlled Substances Reporting System to federal data sharing networks through data sharing agreements with federal agencies to track cross-border drug trafficking trends and submit a progress report to the specified NCGA committee and division by December 1, 2025.

Part VI.

Appropriates \$35 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Division, to be allocated in the specified amounts for fentanyl overdose education and prevention, expansion of State-funded medication-assisted treatment programs, expansion of community-based rehabilitation programs, and rural drug crisis response. Also states the NCGA's intent to establish a certification process for charitable, nonprofit, faith-based rehabilitation centers for individuals with opioid use and other substance use disorders and allows the Division to use the specified amount of funding to study and develop recommendations on this issue, with a report due to the specified NCGA committee and division by May 1, 2026.

Part VII.

Enacts new GS 105-153.12 establishing an income tax credit for businesses with employees who successfully complete substance use disorder counseling and have been employed for at least eight months, equal to \$2,500 per eligible employee. Limits the credit to \$50,000 per taxable year for each eligible business. Sets out how the provision applies to pass-through entities. Requires the business to obtain and submit documentation about the employee's completion of counseling, but provides that the employee may disclose, but is not required to disclose, protected health information. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Intro. by Bradley, Smith, Everitt.

[APPROP, GS 14, GS 90, GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Tax, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

S 624 (2025-2026) [AI CHATBOTS - LICENSING/SAFETY/PRIVACY](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT REGULATING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE CHATBOT LICENSING, SAFETY, AND PRIVACY IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Enacts new GS Chapter 114B, licensing of chatbots, as follows.

Defines *chatbot* as a generative artificial intelligence system with which users can interact by or through an interface that approximates or simulates conversation through a text, audio, or visual medium. Defines *generative artificial intelligence system* as one that uses artificial intelligence, as defined in the specified federal act, to generate or substantially modify image, video, audio, multimedia, or text content. Define additional terms used in the Chapter.

Requires obtaining a health information chatbot license before operating or distributing a chatbot that deals substantially with health information. Sets out information that must be included in the license application, including quality control and testing procedures, proof of insurance coverage, and documentation of the chatbot's security measures and protocols. Requires the Department of Justice (DOJ) to review applications based on six criteria, including public safety considerations and risk management procedures. Requires DOJ to adopt rules to carry out this Chapter. Requires licensees to maintain professional liability insurance. Requires licensees to: (1) implement industry-standard encryption for data in transit and at rest, maintain detailed access logs, and conduct regular security audits no less than once every six months; (2) report any data breaches within 24 hours to DOJ and within 48 hours to affected consumers; (3) obtain explicit user consent for data collection and use; (4) provide users with access to their personal data; and (5) provide users with the ability to delete their data upon request. Requires licensees to clearly disclose six pieces of information, including the artificial nature of the chatbot, data collection and use practices, and emergency resources when applicable. Requires a licensee to: (1) demonstrate effectiveness through peer-reviewed, controlled trials with appropriate validation studies done on appropriate sample sizes with real-world performance data; (2) demonstrate effectiveness in a comparative analysis to human expert performance; and (3) meet minimum domain benchmarks as established by the DOJ.

Under new GS 114B-5, requires DOJ to enforce this Chapter and rules adopted under this Chapter. Requires the Attorney General to designate staff to the oversight and enforcement of this Chapter, who may enter, at reasonable times, any factory, warehouse, or establishment in which licensed chatbots are manufactured, processed, or held, and to inspect, in a reasonable manner and within reasonable limits and in a reasonable time. Also allows DOJ to conduct digital inspections of licensed chatbots. Requires treating information that is a trade secret or confidential commercial information as confidential. Requires providing the manufacturer or importer with a detailed report on identified deficiencies and required corrective actions. Includes recordkeeping and reporting requirements for manufacturers or importers.

Makes it illegal to: (1) introduce or deliver for introduction into state commerce any chatbot that deals substantially with health information without complying with these licensing requirements; (2) fail to comply with any requirement of this Chapter or any rule adopted hereunder; (3) refuse to permit access to or copying of any record as required by this Chapter; or (4) fail to

report adverse events as required under this Chapter. Violations of GS 114B-5 are subject to civil penalties of \$50,000, with the proceeds remitted to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund.

Includes a severability clause.

Effective January 1, 2026.

Part II.

Enacts new GS Chapter 170, Chatbot Safety and Privacy Act, as follows.

Defines *covered platform* as any person that provides chatbot services to users in this state, if the person (1) has annual gross revenues exceeding \$100,000 in the last calendar year or any of the two preceding calendar years or (2) has more than 5,000 monthly active users in the US for half or more of the months during the last 12 months. Excludes from the term any person that provides chatbot services solely for educational or research purposes and does not monetize such services through advertising or commercial uses or any government entity providing chatbot services for official purposes. Defines *legitimate purpose* as a purpose that is lawful and in line with the stated objectives, functionalities, core services, and reasonable expectation of users on a platform. Defines other terms used in this Chapter.

Prohibits a covered platform from processing data or designing chatbot systems and tools in ways that significantly conflict with trusting parties' best interests, as implicated by their interactions with chatbots. Sets out requirements for covered platforms, in carrying out their duty of loyalty in emergency situations, duty of loyalty in preventing emotional dependence on a chatbot, duty of loyalty in chatbot identify disclosure, duty of loyalty in influence, duty of loyalty in collection, duty of loyalty when personalizing content, and duty of loyalty in gatekeeping of personal information.

Specifies that the duties between a covered platform and an end-user are to be established through a terms of service agreement which is presented to the end-user in clear, conspicuous, and easily understandable language. Requires the terms of service agreement to (1) explicitly outline the online service provider's obligations, (2) describe the rights and protections afforded to the end-user under this relationship, and (3) require affirmative consent from the end-user before the agreement takes effect. Requires notification of material changes to the terms of service agreement and obtain renewed consent for such changes and requires the terms to be easily accessible to users at all times through the covered platform's application or website.

Requires the chatbot's identification process to include the covered platform informing users that the chatbot has four specified features, including that it is not human or sentient, and is without personal preference or feelings. Requires users to give explicit and informed consent to interact with the chatbot, as described. Prohibits using deceptive design elements that manipulate or coerce users into providing consent or that obscure the nature of the chatbot or consent process. Requires repeating the chatbot identity communication and opt-in consent at the start of each new session with a user.

Requires covered platforms to: (1) ensure that all user-related data disclosed collected through conversations between users and chatbots or through third-party cookies, undergoes a process of de-identification prior to storage and analysis; (2) take reasonable care to prohibit the incorporation or inclusion of any sensitive personal information derived from a user during the use of a chatbot into an aggregate dataset used to train any chatbot or generative artificial intelligence system; and (3) store all chatbot conversations which does not include sensitive personal information for at least 60 days. Sets out further requirements related to these data privacy provisions.

Allows the Attorney General to bring a civil action when he has reason to believe that a covered platform has committed a violation, on behalf of the State's residents, to: (1) enjoin any practice violating this Chapter and enforce compliance with the pertinent section or sections on behalf of residents of the State; (2) obtain damages, restitution, or other compensation, each of which must be distributed in accordance with State law; or (3) obtain such other relief as the court may consider appropriate.

Allows persons suffering an injury due to a violation of the Chapter to sue the covered platform to enjoin further the violation, recover damages in an amount equal to the greater of actual damages or \$1,000 per violation, obtain reasonable attorneys' fees and litigation costs; and obtain any other appropriate relief. Requires actions to be brought within two years after the person first discovered or reasonably should have discovered the violation. Prohibits a person from bringing more than one action against the same covered platform for the same alleged violation.

Includes a severability clause for the Chapter.

Effective January 1, 2026.

Intro. by Burgin.

GS 114B, GS 170

[View summary](#)

**Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection, Government,
State Agencies, Department of Justice**

S 631 (2025-2026) **JUVENILE JUSTICE WORKFORCE FIX/FUNDS**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT AWARDING A LEGISLATIVE SALARY INCREASE FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE STAFF AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.*

Appropriates \$10.4 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$14.1 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Division) to be allocated for employee salary increases, effective July 1, 2025. Requires that \$3.9 million of these funds be allocated to reduce salary compression in connection with these increases.

Effective for the 2025-27 biennium, sets out the annual salary schedules as follows: (1) for Youth Counsel Technicians, salaries range from \$40,908 with 0 years of experience to \$53,230 with 6+ years of experience for 2025-26 and from \$42,953 with 0 years of experience to \$55,892 with 6+ years of experience for 2026-27; (2) for Youth Services Behavioral Specialists, from \$42,254 with 0 years of experience to \$54,981 with 6+ years of experience for 2025-26 and from \$44,367 with 0 years of experience to \$57,730 with 6+ years of experience for 2026-27; (3) for Youth Counselors, from \$445,910 with 0 years of experience to \$58,803 with 6+ years of experience for 2025-26 and from \$48,206 with 0 years of experience to \$61,743 with 6+ years of experience for 2026-27; and (4) for Juvenile Court Counselors, from \$49,391 with 0 years of experience to \$72,070 with 6+ years of experience for 2025-26 and from \$51,861 with 0 years of experience to \$75,674 with 6+ years of experience for 2026-27.

Intro. by Bradley, Theodros, Smith.

APPROP

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Juvenile Law, Delinquency, Government,
Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Public
Safety**

S 633 (2025-2026) **GUARDING FREEDOMS & PUBLIC SAFETY ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT A PERSON CONVICTED OF A MISDEMEANOR CRIME OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENSE FROM PURCHASING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM; TO REQUIRE A UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECK FOR THE SALE OF A FIREARM; TO REENACT THE PISTOL PURCHASE PERMIT LAW; AND TO REQUIRE CERTIFICATION OF THE SAFE STORAGE OF FIREARMS BY PARENTS OR GUARDIANS OF STUDENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.*

Section 1

Enacts GS 14-269.9 making it a Class A1 misdemeanor for a person to possess, purchase, or receive or attempt to do so, a firearm, machine gun, ammunition, or permits to purchase or carry concealed firearms if the person has been adjudicated guilty of or received a prayer for judgment continued or a suspended sentence for an offense under GS 14-32.5 (misdemeanor crime of domestic violence), or an offense in another state, that if committed here, is substantially similar to an offense under GS 14-32.5. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Section 2

Adds new Article 53D, Universal Background Check, to GS Chapter 14, providing as follows. Prohibits a federally licensed firearm dealer from selling, transferring, or delivering a firearm to a private person without conducting a background check that includes verifying the private person's identity by examining a government-issued identification card and conducting a check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. Makes it illegal for the following person to possess a firearm: (1) under an indictment or information for, or has been convicted in any state or in any court of the United States of, a felony (other than an offense pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, or restraints of trade); (2) fugitive from justice; (3) unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana or any depressant, stimulant, or narcotic drug; (4) adjudicated mentally

incompetent or has been committed to any mental institution; (5) alien illegally or unlawfully in the United States; (6) discharged from the US Armed Forces under dishonorable conditions; (7) has renounced his or her US citizenship; (8) subject to a court order that was issued after a hearing of which the person received actual notice, and at which the person had an opportunity to participate, that restrains the person from harassing, stalking, or threatening an intimate partner or child of the intimate partner, or engaging in other conduct that would place an intimate partner in reasonable fear of bodily injury to the partner or child, and that includes a finding that the person represents a credible threat to the physical safety of the intimate partner or child, or by its terms explicitly prohibits the use, attempted use, or threatened use of physical force against the intimate partner or child that would reasonably be expected to cause bodily injury. Makes it illegal for a federally licensed firearm dealer to sell, transfer, or deliver a firearm to another person if the background check reveals that possession by the person would violate the law or if the dealer knows or has reason to know that the person is prohibited from possessing a firearm. Makes it a Class F felony for a federally licensed firearm dealer to sell, transfer, or deliver a firearm to a person in violation of this Article, or any person to provide materially false information to the dealer with the intent of illegally obtaining a firearm.

Makes it illegal for a private person to transfer a firearm to another without conducting a background check through a federally licensed firearm dealer and the firearm dealer verifying that the transfer is not illegal. Defines *transfer*. Requires a private person who transfers any firearm in a transaction subject to these requirements to keep a record of the transfer that includes specified information about the person to whom the transfer is made; specifies that the records are not public record but must be made avail to law enforcement agencies upon request. Sets out exceptions for transactions involving specified family members and guardians. Violations are a Class F felony. Applies to transfers of firearms occurring on or after October 1, 2025.

Section 3

Reenacts the following as they existed immediately prior to their repeal: (1) GS 14-402 (Sale of certain weapons without permit forbidden); (2) GS 14-403 (Permit issued by sheriff; form of permit; expiration of permit); (3) GS 14-404 (Issuance or refusal of permit; appeal from refusal; grounds for refusal; sheriff's fee); (4) GS 14-405 (Record of permits kept by sheriff; confidentiality of permit information); (5) GS 14-407.1 (Sale of blank cartridge pistols); (6) GS 14-408.1 (Solicit unlawful purchase of firearm; unlawful to provide materially false information regarding legality of firearm or ammunition transfer); (7) GS 14-315(b1)(1) (includes as a defense to the prohibition on selling or giving a firearm to a minor that the person shows that the minor produced an apparently valid permit to receive the weapon); and (8) GS 122C-54(d2) (giving sheriffs access to the record of involuntary commitment for inpatient or outpatient mental health treatment or for substance abuse treatment required to be reported to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System). Applies to pistols sold, given away, transferred, purchased, or received on or after October 1, 2025.

Section 4

Enacts new GS 115C-76.37 requiring the governing bodies of public school units to create a policy requiring parents or guardians of students to submit a form before the start of each school year certifying that any firearms in their home are safely stored. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Section 5

Includes a savings clause.

Intro. by Bradley, Grafstein, Everitt.

GS 14, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management

S 639 (2025-2026) [NORTH CAROLINA FARM ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE AGRICULTURAL LAWS OF THIS STATE.*

Section 1

Requires the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) to update the Strategic Plan for Protecting Agricultural Water Resources to include six additional topics, including: (1) water infrastructure needs to increase access and long-term storage capacity, (2) methods to identify best management practices for temporary water storage and retention to mitigate downstream flooding; and (3) methods to design incentive programs to compensate landowners that participate in flood mitigation programs. Requires DACS to report to the specified NCGA committee by October 1, 2026, on the development of the plan and any legislative changes needed to implement the plan.

Section 2

Authorizes the 9-member Feral Swine Working Group (Working Group), housed within the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission), tasked with developing a statewide plan to control feral swine damage on private and public lands. Requires the Working Group to act in an advisory capacity to the Commission. Sets out for specific tasks in developing the plan, including orienting the plan toward public health and safety and toward landowner assistance, providing some relief to landowners through feral swine control, management, and eradication. Requires the Working Group to report annually to the Commission, and specified NCGA entities on the results of the program. Requires the Commission to implement the plan and allows entering into a cooperative agreement with the Wildlife Services Division of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the US Department of Agriculture, DACS, and other relevant agencies or organizations to accomplish the plan.

Section 3

Amends GS 160D-804 to require the subdivision regulation to provide that if any subdivision boundary abuts one or more protected farm tracts (a tract of land subject to an agricultural conservation easement), then the applicant must reserve a vegetative buffer of at least 100 feet between the shared boundary and the residential lots that would otherwise abut the protected farm tracts.

Section 4

Amends GS 160D-705 to allow a special use permit to be denied on the ground that the proposed land use will have an undue negative impact on agricultural production within the local government's jurisdiction.

Section 5

Repeals GS 143-215.6E, which concerned the Violation Points System applicable to permits for animal waste management systems for swine farms.

Section 6

Amends GS 106-803 and GS 106-805 to correct the references to laws on requirements for animal waste management systems.

Section 7

Amends Section 10.4 of SL 2023-134, concerning the animal waste fertilizer conversion cost-share program, by expanding upon eligible entities to also include any person converting sludge from an anaerobic lagoon or other liquid animal waste management system treating animal waste from a livestock operation into fertilizer products.

Section 8

Amends GS 106-549.97, concerning regulation of farmed cervids produced and sold for commercial purposes, by amending the definition of farmed cervid by add a definition of cervids that are susceptible to Chronic Wasting Disease. Allows any cervid that is not susceptible to Chronic Wasting Disease to be imported into the State to any licensed captive cervid facility.

Section 9

Requires the Disposal Systems Rule, 15A NCAC 02T .0113, to be implemented as follows. Requires the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to deem a disposal system to be permitted and not require individual permits or coverage under a general permit if the system meets all of the following: (1) the disposal system is a composting facility for equine or bovine mortality; (2) the disposal system does not result in any violations of surface water or groundwater standards; (3) the disposal system does not directly discharge to surface waters; (4) the construction and operation of the facilities are approved by DACS; (5) the facilities are approved by the State Veterinarian; and (6) in the event of an imminent threat of a contagious

animal disease, any emergency measure or procedure related to composting of animal mortality pursuant to GS 106-399.4(a) is authorized. Requires the EMC to adopt rules to amend the Rule so that it is consistent with this provision.

Section 10

Amends GS 115C-379 to allow a minimum of two excused absence from school each academic year for participation in equestrian sporting events, livestock shows, or similar agricultural events, in addition to the already allowed absences for religious observance and military leave. Makes conforming changes.

Section 11

Amends GS 106-942, concerning the requirement of permits for fires in woodlands in high hazard counties, by making the statute also applicable in New Hanover and Pender counties.

Section 12

Amends GS 143-442, concerning registration of pesticides, by removing the specified fees for the annual assessment, instead allowing the amount to be set by the Pesticide Board.

Section 13

Amends GS 119-57 to also allow agents of the Commissioner of Agriculture to take on the Commissioner's duties over Article 5, Liquefied Petroleum Gases. Also gives the Commissioner or his authorized agents authority to: (1) access the premises and records of any place where liquefied petroleum products are stored for the purpose of conducting an inspection or examining any documentation related to the transport, sale, safety, and storage of liquefied petroleum gases; (2) issue stop-sale, hold, and removal orders for any equipment used to dispense, store, or transport liquefied petroleum gases that is found in violation of the provisions of GS Chapter 119 or rules adopted pursuant to the Chapter; and (3) recall a vehicle used for the delivery of liquefied petroleum gas back to its original point of dispatch for inspection upon receipt of a consumer complaint.

Section 14

Amends GS 81A-52, concerning licensure of public weighmasters. Requires weighmasters to be licensed for a period of one year that begins the day the application is processed (was, beginning the first day of July and ending June 30) and raises the licensing fee from \$19 to \$25. Amends GS 81A-54 by expanding upon the items that must be listed on a weighmaster's seal and removing the \$6 fee. Adds provisions governing how the weighmaster's signature must be captured when an electronic stamp is used to apply the seal to a certificate.

Section 15

Requires DACS to collect information on communication lines that fall below the minimum height requirement and create a public safety hazard, especially to agricultural operations. Requires seeking input from specified entities, including the Office of Broadband Infrastructure. Requires a report before the convening of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

Amends GS 113-187 to punish violations of a shellfish lease or aquaculture operation permit that are not related to shellfish sanitation only as an infraction, unless the violation is knowing or willful. Applies to offenses committed on or after July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 106-900 by giving the Commissioner the power to appoint as many DACS law enforcement officers as deemed necessary, no longer limiting their purpose to investigating and enforcing violations of the laws within DACS authority or that occur on DACS property. Removes current provisions governing powers of arrest and obtaining and serving warrants and instead provides as follows. Gives DACS law enforcement officers jurisdiction throughout the State in enforcing all matters within their respective jurisdiction. Give law enforcement officers that have taken the required oath, the authority to arrest and take other investigatory and enforcement actions for any criminal offense meeting any of the following: (1) occurring, encountered, or otherwise discovered on the premises of, or elsewhere when the conduct relates to, property owned by, leased to, or managed by DACS; (2) provided for under GS Chapter 106, including the forest laws; (3) provided for in any duly adopted DACS rule; (4) encountered or otherwise discovered while investigating or enforcing matters for DACS or encountered or otherwise discovered while investigating or enforcing the provisions of this Chapter, including the forest laws and any duly adopted DACS rule; (5) encountered or otherwise discovered while carrying out any duty or function assigned to DACS by law; (6) occurring in a law enforcement officer's presence; (7) occurring outside of a law enforcement officer's presence and for other offenses evincing a flouting of their authority as enforcement officers or constituting a threat to public

peace and order which would tend to subvert the authority of the State if ignored [specifies that DACS law enforcement officers are authorized to arrest for violations of GS 14-223 (resisting officers), GS 14-225 (false report), GS 14-269 (carrying concealed weapons), and GS 14-277 (impersonation of an officers)]; and (8) when assisting another law enforcement agency. Gives DACS law enforcement officers authority to: (1) execute criminal process; (2) obtain and serve warrants, including arrest warrants, search warrants, orders for arrest, criminal summonses, citations, subpoenas, and warrants for violation of any duly DACS rule, and all other process connected with any cases within their subject matter jurisdiction; (3) respond to and take enforcement action for any crime of violence or breach of the peace; and (4) any additional duties as may from time to time be directed by the Commissioner when needed for security purposes at a public event or to protect persons or property because of a disaster or state of emergency. Makes enforcement of GS Chapter 106, including the forest laws and any DACS rules the primary responsibility of law enforcement. Also sets out the powers of DACS law enforcement officers related to service of notices, orders, and demands. Allows DACS law enforcement officers to temporarily stop a person they believe is engaged in activities regulated by DACS to determine compliance with the law, and to see that provisions of GS Chapter 20 (motor vehicles) are enforced. Gives them the power to arrest any motor vehicle on the state's highways to determine if it is being operated in violation of GS Chapter 20.

Section 18

Amends GS 14-78 by amending the punishment for larceny of ungathered crops, by adding a fine of at least \$250 for a first offense, which is also a Class H felony, and by making second or subsequent offenses a Class G felony, including a fine of at least \$500. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Section 19

Includes a severability clause.

Intro. by Jackson, Sanderson, Barnes.

STUDY, New Hanover, Pender, GS 14, GS 81A, GS 106, GS 113, GS 115C, GS 119, GS 143, GS 160D

[View summary](#)

Agriculture, Animals, Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, State Board of Education

S 640 (2025-2026) [AI ETHICS AND LITERACY ACROSS EDUCATION](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE INSTRUCTION ON ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SCHOOLS*.

Enacts new GS 115C-81.66 requiring the State Board of Education to adopt standards for age-appropriate instruction on artificial intelligence for grades K-12. Requires the standards include basic concepts of artificial intelligence (AI), real work applications, economic, legal, and social issues surrounding the use of information provided by AI, and responsible, ethical use of AI. Requires that these standards allow for AI instruction to be included in the standards for computer science courses offered in middle and high schools. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Bradley, Theodros, Chaudhuri.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, State Board of Education

Includes whereas clauses.

Reenacts and amends GS 105-153.10, which provides for the state child tax credit. Defines qualifying child by reference to the Internal Revenue Code (Code). Eliminates the provisions which require the taxpayer to be permitted a federal tax credit as a qualifying condition to the state child tax credit. Changes the amount of the credit to (1) \$1,900 for each qualifying child six years old or younger and (2) \$1,600 for any other qualifying child. Phases out the amount of the credit proportionally based on the income phase out applicable to the federal earned income tax credit. Updates the statutory cross-reference regarding the calculation of state taxable income. Prohibits married individuals who file separate returns from collectively claiming more than the maximum credit allowed under a joint return. Eliminates the provision that prohibits the credit allowed from exceeding the amount of individual income tax imposed by the Part 2, Article 4, for the taxable year reduced by the sum of all credits allowed, excluding payments made by or on behalf of the taxpayer. Instead, enacts new provisions that allow the credit to exceed the amount of individual income tax imposed for the taxable year reduced by the sum of all credits allowable, and requires the Secretary of the Department of Revenue to issue a refund of the excess to the taxpayer. Provides for refunds and computation of allowable credits, with nonrefundable credits subtracted before refundable credits. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Intro. by Chitlik, Bradley, Everitt.

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Tax](#)

Enacts new GS 115C-376.7, referred to as the Suicide, Safety, and Violence Education (SAVE) Students Act. Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), in consultation with the Department of Health and Human Services, to keep a list of approved evidence-based training programs, including at least one that is free to a school, to be posted on DPI's website for: (1) suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention and (2) social inclusion. Sets out required content of training courses needed in order to qualify as a training program on these topics. Requires students in grades 6-12 to receive two hours or two standard class periods, whichever is shorter, of training each school year from one of the approved programs. Requires an hour each on suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention, and on social inclusion. Allows a student to be excused from the training upon written request from a parent or guardian. Requires employees who have significant interaction with students as part of their routine duties to receive one hour of training each school year from an approved program on suicide awareness and prevention and violence prevention. Allows student training to count toward health education and employee training to count toward specified raining hours. Allows the creation of a student-led club focused on these issues in school with students in grades 6-12; sets out requirements for these clubs.

Amends GS 115-47, requiring local boards of education to adopt a school-based mental health plan, including a mental health training program and suicide risk referral protocol in accordance with GS 115C-376.5 and new GS 115C-376.7. Amends the following to require the already required mental health plans also be in accordance with new GS 115C-376.7: GS 115C-150.12C (applicable to regional schools); GS 115C-218.75 (applicable to charter schools), GS 115C-238.66 (applicable to regional schools); and GS 116-239.8 (applicable to laboratory schools).

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Lowe, Hanig.

[GS 115C, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Instruction, Health and Human Services, Mental Health](#)

S 643 (2025-2026) [EXPAND & ENHANCE THE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO EXPAND AND ENHANCE THE NORTH CAROLINA TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 116-209.6, which defines terms as they are used in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program by removing the terms qualifying licensure area, qualifying teacher, and STEM.

Amends GS 116-209.62 by making the program open to all teachers, not just those that teach in qualifying licensure areas.

Amends the NC Teaching Fellows Program (Program) set forth in Part 3, Article 23, of GS Chapter 116 as follows. Changes the Program's purpose to no longer focus on recruiting, preparing, and supporting students residing in or attending institutions of higher education in the State for preparation as highly effective teachers in qualifying licensure areas in the State's public schools. Instead broadens the Program's stated purpose to include preparing these students to be highly effective teachers in the State's public schools. Removes qualifying *licensure area*, *qualifying teacher*, and *STEM* from the Part's defined terms. Makes conforming changes throughout the Program to remove references to qualifying licensure area positions, candidates, and licensure, making the Program generally applicable to all public school teachers meeting the Program's requirements.

Amends GS 116-209.62 as follows. Modifies the use of the Program's Trust Fund, now authorizing up to an additional \$600,000 to be used for extracurricular enhancement activities of the Program, such as summer programs and alumni programs, and up to another \$500,000 to be used for the Director of the Program to implement recruitment activities required by subsection (d) of the statute, annually. Maintains the current authority to use the greater of \$600,000 or 10% of available funds for administrative costs and the salary of the Director and other Program staff (previously, this amount was to also cover expenses of the Teaching Fellows Commission and for the Commission to fund extracurricular activities).

Now requires the Program to be administered in cooperation with each postsecondary constituent institution of UNC with an approved educator preparation program and up to four institutions of higher education with approved educator preparation programs (EPPs) selected by the Teaching Fellows Commission, representing a diverse selection as specified (currently, the Program is limited to ten institutions of higher education selected by the Commission from both constituent institutions of UNC and private postsecondary institutions operating in the State). Makes conforming changes to subsection (g) regarding award of forgivable loans to reflect these changes to institutions eligible under the Program. Increases the forgivable loan award under the Program from \$5,000 per semester to \$6,000 per semester; maintains existing semester limits based on the individual seeking licensure. Makes technical and conforming changes.

Amends GS 116-209.63 to now provide for forgiveness of the loan and any interest accrued on the loan if the recipient serves as a teacher in an NC public school, within 10 years after graduation from a program leading to licensure, for every year the teacher was awarded the forgivable loan, in any combination of (1) six months at a NC public school identified as low-performing either at the time the teacher accepts employment or transfers to another school identified as low performing and/or (2) one year at a NC public school not identified as low-performing. Requires forgiveness if the State Education Assistance Authority finds it impossible for the recipient to work up to four years (was, eight years), within 10 years of completing a program leading to licensure, at an NC public school because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient.

Appropriates \$10 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund to revise the Program in accordance with the above provisions.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies to applications for the award of funds beginning in the 2025-26 academic year.

Intro. by Lowe, Salvador.

[APPROP, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

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

INCREASING CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR INJURING A MINOR IN A CROSSWALK, SCHOOL ZONE, OR SCHOOL WALK ZONE; AND CREATING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY ENHANCEMENT FUND.

Section 1

Titles the act as The Protect Our Schools Act.

Adds newly defined term, *school walk zone* (an area within a school zone, identified by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) that is likely to sustain pedestrian traffic sufficient to render the speed limits designated in GS 20-141 unsafe) to GS 20-4.01 (definitions pertaining to the DMV).

Amends GS 20-141.1 (speed limits in school zones and now, school walk zones) to require the Department of Transportation (DOT) to annually consult with the governing body of each public school unit and certain nonpublic school units to designate school walk zones that include (1) speed limits lower than the general speed limits set forth in GS 20-141 and (2) ensuring appropriate actions are taken to effectuate the reduced speed limit. Makes technical, organizational, and conforming changes. Now specifies that the penalties in this statute apply unless the conduct at issue is covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment. Makes it Class 3 misdemeanor to drive a motor vehicle in a school zone or school walk zone without due care and resulting in injury to a minor. Amends GS 20-173 (concerning pedestrians' right-of-way at crosswalks) to specify that, unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, a person who drives a motor vehicle in a school zone or school walk zone at a speed greater than the speed limit set and posted under this section is responsible for an infraction and is required to pay a penalty of \$250; makes it a Class 3 if injury to a minor results. Effective December 1, 2024, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Section 2

Establishes the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Fund (Fund) as a special fund within DOT to support pedestrian safety initiatives. Appropriates \$10 million from the Highway Fund to DOT in nonrecurring funds for fiscal year 2025-26 to be allocated to the Fund for the three purposes and the amounts specified in the act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 3

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Intro. by Everitt, Bradley, Grafstein.

[APPROP, GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Transportation, Transportation](#)

S 646 (2025-2026) [MAKE NC INSURRECTION-FREE](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT MAKING PARTICIPANTS IN THE JANUARY SIXTH INSURRECTION INELIGIBLE FOR STATE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT.*

Adds new Article 17, Eligibility for State Government Employment, in GS Chapter 126, providing as follows. Sets out NCGA findings. Specifies that this Article applies to State employees in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches, including UNC and the community colleges.

Makes a person ineligible for State employment if: (1) the person has been convicted of a covered offense related to the events at the US Capitol; (2) the person was pardoned for any or all of the person's actions involving the January 6 insurrection; (3) a federal or state court has found, after notice and opportunity for hearing, that the person engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the US in violation of section 3 of the Fourteenth Amendment to the US Constitution, or (4) clear and convincing evidence demonstrates the person engaged in infamous or disgraceful conduct through participation in efforts to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power, attack law enforcement, or undermine democratic institutions. Defines covered offense as any: a. federal offense relating to insurrection, rebellion, or domestic terrorism; b. conviction under 18 USC § 1752 relating to restricted building or grounds violations; c. conviction under 40 USC § 5104 relating to violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds; or d. any substantially similar offense under State law. Defines infamous or disgraceful conduct as acts that

demonstrate contempt for constitutional government, violence against democratic institutions, or conduct that brings disrepute to public service. Makes this applicable to: (1) hirings on or after July 1, 2025; (2) current employees upon discovery of disqualifying conduct or conviction of a covered offense; and (3) contract employees employed by a contractor doing business with the State.

Sets out the procedure for terminating or denying employment to a person under this Article. Requires a determination of infamous or disgraceful conduct to be supported by clear and convincing evidence. Allows any person aggrieved by a final decision to seek judicial review in superior court.

Includes a severability clause.

Applies to employment decisions made on or after July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Garrett, Everitt, Robinson.

GS 126

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Employment and Retirement, Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, State Government, Executive, State Personnel

S 647 (2025-2026) **THE CHILD PROMISE ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO FULFILL NORTH CAROLINA'S PROMISE TO ITS CHILDREN THROUGH COMPREHENSIVE INVESTMENT IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CHILDCARE INFRASTRUCTURE, TO ENSURE THAT EVERY CHILD HAS ACCESS TO QUALITY EARLY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES REGARDLESS OF GEOGRAPHY OR FAMILY INCOME, TO STRENGTHEN THE EARLY CHILDHOOD WORKFORCE, AND TO SUPPORT WORKING FAMILIES ACROSS THE STATE.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Section 1

Appropriates \$90,250,000 in recurring funding for the 2025-27 biennium, from the General Fund, to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), to continue implementing the prekindergarten program (NC Pre-K) and requires that the funds to be used to increase the number of slots available to 10,000 over the next three years, as specified. Sets out provisions for determining eligibility for the program. Requires the sites established under this section to have a 4 or 5 star rating. Allows the Division to use up to 3% of the funds for administrative expenses.

Appropriates from the Economic Development Reserve Fund and available ARPA funds to the Division, \$6.8 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium for a grant program for childcare facilities in census tracts where the ratio of children under age 5 to care providers exceeds 3:1. Sets out the amounts of the grants based on the number of children at the facility. Require a 15% grant match by recipients and requires them to commit to provide the service for at least five years. Requires \$350,000 of the funds in each fiscal year to be used to employ a full-time program manager and allows \$250,000 to be used for technical assistance.

Requires the Division to coordinate with other DHHS divisions to modernize inspection standards for childcare centers. Requires biannual inspections for 4- and 5-star childcare centers and an electronic checklist system for providers. Requires inspection standards to include reasonable space requirements (indoor and outdoor) and allow for expedited review for expansions by providers with three or more years in good standing. Requires these modernized standards to be implemented over 18 months. Requires the Division to use funds available to it to implement this requirement.

Appropriates \$9,562,500 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Division and \$3,187,500 from the North Carolian Education Fund, for the 2025-27 biennium for a grant program for after school program in public school where more than 50% of the students receive free or reduced lunch. Requires the programs to operate at least three hours a day/5 days a week and provide academic support and transportation. Allows charging students a fee based on family income. Requires the Division to work with the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to establish administrative guidelines for the program and in reporting on

attendance and improvement in academic outcomes. Requires the report to be made to DHHS, DPI, and specified NCGA entries. Allows \$400,000 to be used each fiscal year to employ program coordinators and a full-time director.

Section 2

Requires the maximum gross annual income for initial eligibility for subsidized child care to be based on the percentage of the federal poverty level as follows: (1) for age 0-5, 300%; and (2) for age 6-12, 133%. Requires fees for families required to share in child care costs to be based on 7% of gross family income. Gives priority to foster children, children with disabilities, and homeless children.

Requires the Division to use available funds from the Child Care and Development Fund to implement the specified scale for determining childcare subsidy eligibility for 2026-27.

Allows, for each year of the 2025-27 biennium, a taxpayer with children under age 6 and an income between 300-400% of the federal poverty level, a deduction of \$1,500 for each qualifying child. Increase the deduction by the specified amounts for children with disabilities, infants, and children in a childcare desert.

Appropriates \$22.9 million for the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to DHHS for on-site childcare providers to construct and renovate childcare facilities and provide childcare subsidies to employees; limits funds to providers with 10 or more employees.

Section 3

Appropriates \$950,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund and the Child Care and Development Fund to the Division to enhance the pay of educators in licensed childcare facilities. Sets out the amount of the supplement based on educational levels and pays an additional supplement for infant-toddler specialization, bilingual certification, and rural locations.

Require the Division to implement 5-star rating system reforms by reducing documentation required to be submitted on a biannual basis; incorporate classroom assessment tools, such as CLASS and ERS; streamline staff qualification verifications; and increase subsidy reimbursement differentials.

Appropriates \$1.8 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund and the Child Care and Development Fund, to the Division to administer a mentorship program for childcare providers seeking a star-level increase. Sets out requirements for mentors.

Section 4

Appropriates \$2.8 million for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund and the Child Care and Development Fund to the Division for retention bonuses to full-time childcare facility employees in licensed facilities. Sets out the amount of the bonus based on years of service.

Appropriates \$2.8 million for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium from the General Fund and Child Care and Development Fund to the Division to administer a professional development program for childcare workers, including specific topic and an online tracking and verification system.

Appropriates \$9 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund and Child Care and Development Fund to the Division to expand T.E.A.C.H. scholarships and sets amounts based on the degree; requires recipients to commit to continued employment in a childcare facility for at least one year.

Requires the Division to develop and administer an apprenticeship program for individuals desiring to work in the childcare industry. Sets out requirements for hours of experience, technical instruction, wages, and duration.

Section 5

Appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Division to enter into public-private partnerships with childcare facility owners to construct and renovate facilities, purchase equipment and materials, provide professional development, and provide quality enhancement projects. Sets out matching requirements.

Requires the Division to collaborate with DPI in administering a grant program to expand school-based care facilities; defines eligible projects. Requires the Division to establish 12 regional hub-and-spoke support networks for family childcare. Requires the networks to share administrative services such as billing and enrollment, substitute pool management, bulk

purchasing, professional development, business coaching and support, and quality improvement assistance. Requires this to be funded by using available funds from Child Care and Development Fund and funds from the General Fund appropriated for this purpose.

Requires the Division to develop and administer a universal Pre-K pilot program in 5 counties, one urban with a population of less than 500,000; two suburban with a population of 100,000 or more but less than 500,000; and two rural counties with a population of less than 100,000, to provide for universal eligibility of all 4 years olds in the State; a mixed delivery system of public schools, Head Start, and private childcare centers; a full day of 6 hours or more required; standardized quality requirements across setting; and a common enrollment system. Requires the program to be funded with funds from the General Funds with a match of 15% from the participating counties.

Section 6

Requires the Division to give 20% of the additional subsidy money provided in this act to parents of infants and toddlers in childcare. Also requires using funds to fund one family engagement navigator in each county and for a database of all ECE professionals. Requires this program to be funded by the General Fund and the Child Care and Development Fund.

Requires the Division to implement a program to assist businesses providing childcare, that includes fast tracking licensure with a 14-day review for employer sponsored centers; tax credits of at least \$1,000 per employee for providing flexible work hours; and regional childcare coordinators.

Section 7

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Garrett, Everitt, Salvador.

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

Education, Preschool, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

S 653 (2025-2026) **POLLUTER PAYS**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE PERSONS CAUSING OR CONTRIBUTING TO CONTAMINATION RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS OF CLEANUP AND PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE WATER SUPPLIES TO PERSONS WITH WATER SUPPLIES AFFECTED BY SUCH CONTAMINATION.*

Amends GS 143-215.3, which establishes the general and auxiliary powers of the Environmental Management Commission (Commission) and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Authorizes the Secretary of DEQ (Secretary) to order persons causing or contributing to water or air pollution causing danger to the health or safety of the public, revealed by an investigation pursuant to Article 21 (Water and Air Resources) or Article 21B (Air Pollution Control) of GS Chapter 143, to immediately reduce or discontinue the emission or discharge, or take other necessary measures or omissions, within a period of time specified at the discretion of the Secretary. Permits the Secretary to order the person to provide alternate water supplies or to establish a permanent replacement water supply to persons with water supplies damaged by the water or air pollution in question at the discretion of the Secretary. Specifies that the establishment of a permanent replacement water supply must be by connection to a public water supply, unless an affected household opts for a whole house filtration system the responsible person will be required to install and maintain. Additionally, the Secretary is authorized to assess the person causing or contributing to the pollution in question for any actual and necessary costs incurred by the State in removing, correcting, or abating any adverse effects upon the water or air resulting from the pollution for which the person is responsible. Authorizes the Secretary to file a civil action in superior court in the county where the pollution in question occurred or where the person resides or has their principal place of business to recover sums assessed if a person refuses or fails to pay within a reasonable time.

Amends GS 143-215.2, which authorizes the Commission to issue a special order or other instrument to any person responsible for causing or contributing to any pollution of state waters within an area for which standards have been adopted pursuant to GS 143-214.1 or GS 143-215. Adds to the Commission's authority to issue special orders by specifying that a special order can

include a requirement that the responsible person provide temporary alternate or permanent replacement water supplies to persons with supplies damaged by the water pollution in question.

Intro. by Garrett, Meyer, Mayfield.

GS 143

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health

S 654 (2025-2026) **END DUAL LICENSURE FOR AUDIOLOGISTS**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MODERNIZE AUDIOLOGY LICENSURE STATUTES BY ELIMINATING DUAL LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS AND TO REQUIRE DISCLOSURE TO CONSUMERS WHEN PURCHASING LOCKED HEARING AIDS*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 93D-14 to exempt a person who holds a valid unrestricted license as an audiologist, audiology assistant, or certified technical from licensure under GS Chapter 93D (North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board) (was, a person who has both a doctoral degree in audiology and holds a valid permanent license as an audiologist was exempt). Removes provisions: (1) requiring a person to become a registered apprentice or be licensed before fitting or selling hearing aids if they do not have both a doctoral degree in audiology and hold a valid permanent license as an audiologist; and (2) subjecting an audiology assistant or certified technical being supervised by a licensee or a person exempt from licensure to the provisions of GS Chapter 93D and requiring those persons to be registered as an apprentice or licensed before fitting or selling hearing aids.

Enacts new GS 93D-7.1 requires a licensed person who sells locked hearing aids to provide the purchaser with the specified written notice about who can service or program the hearing aid, before consummating the sale, and requires it to be signed by the purchaser and retained by the seller. Defines a locked hearing aid as a hearing aid that uses either proprietary programming software or locked, nonproprietary programming software that restricts programming or servicing of the device to specific facilities or providers. Also requires giving the purchaser a written receipt signed by the licensee that contains specified information about the sale and the hearing aid, including specified information about the licensee and any terms of any guarantee or written warranty made to the purchaser with respect to the hearing aid. Requires the licensee to keep specified records for each hearing aid sold, for at least seven years.

Enacts new GS 90-308, requiring audiologists to meet the same requirements as those in GS 93D-7.1 when fitting or selling locked hearing aids to patients.

Allows the North Carolina State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board to adopt rules to implement these requirements.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Sawrey.

GS 90, GS 93D

[View summary](#)

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

S 656 (2025-2026) **COSMETIC ART DEREGULATION**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO EXEMPT NATURAL HAIR CARE SERVICES, BLOW-DRY STYLING, AND MAKEUP ARTISTRY FROM LICENSING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF COSMETIC ART EXAMINERS; TO CONVERT THE MANDATORY NATURAL HAIR CARE SPECIALIST LICENSE TO A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATE; AND TO EXPAND AUTHORIZED SETTINGS FOR CERTAIN COSMETIC ART SERVICES*.

Part I.

Amends GS 88B-2, concerning the definitions of terms as they apply to GS Chapter 88B (cosmetic art), by adding and defining the terms blow-dry styling, certified natural hair care specialist (and removes the previous term natural hair care specialist), and makeup artistry.

Makes conforming changes throughout to refer to certification as a natural hair care specialist instead of licensure as a natural hair care specialist and to changes provisions related to licensure to certification. Amends GS 88B-10.1 to specify that a certificate is not required to practice as a natural hair care specialist but is required to hold oneself out as or advertise as a certified natural hair care specialist.

Amends GS 88B-12 by making conforming changes to no longer allow issuance of a temporary employment permit to an applicant for licensure as a natural hair care specialist. Amends GS 88B-13 to allow issuing a certificate to applicants licensed or certified as a natural hair care specialist in another state, if specified conditions are met. Allows designating an applicant who is licensed or certified as a natural hair care specialist in another state as a certified natural hair care specialist under the same reciprocity or comity provisions that the state in which they are licensed or certified grants to persons certified in NC.

Requires an applicant for a license to operate a cosmetic art shop to list all certified natural hair care specialists who practice in the shop and identify them as either an employee or booth renter. Prohibits requiring a license to operate a cosmetic art shop if the services at the shop are exclusively natural hair care, blow-dry styling, or makeup artistry, and the people providing those services are exempt from licensure. Allows limited inspections by the NC Board of Cosmetic Art Examiners (Board), however, if a shop provides natural hair care performed by a certified natural hair care specialist.

Amends GS 88B-21 to prohibit inactive certificate holders from holding themselves out or advertising as a certified natural hair care specialist while inactive but allows them to continue to practice natural hair care.

Amends GS 88B-22 to provide that an individual certified as a natural hair care specialist may practice only natural hair care or services exempt from GS Chapter 88B. Requires holding a certificate to use the title certified natural hair care specialist.

Amends GS 88B-24 to allow the Board to restrict, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue, renew or reinstate a license or certificate for violations of GS 86B-31 (sanitary rules or regulations) or GS 86B-32 (persons exempt) by any person licensed or certified by the Board or any person practicing cosmetic art under an exemption applicable to persons providing natural hair care, makeup artistry, or blow-dry styling if they have taken the specified course, while providing cosmetic art services in a barber shop. Amends GS 88B-25 by exempting from GS Chapter 88B, a person providing only natural hair care, makeup artistry, or blow-dry styling if they have completed a one-time four-hour course on sanitation and safety that is offered or approved by the Board before providing services.

Part II.

Amends GS 88B-15 to extend who may visit residences of individuals who are sick or disabled and confined to their residence in order to attend to their cosmetic needs by: (1) making conforming changes by including those with certifications; and (2) including individuals exempt from licensure when providing natural hair care, blow-dry styling, or makeup artistry. Also allows all included individuals to visit other venues such as event locations to attend to the cosmetic needs of those receiving services. Specifies that this statute does not limit the locations at which an individual exempt from licensure may provide natural hair care, blow-dry styling, or makeup artistry. Makes additional conforming changes.

Amends GS 86B-32 by exempting from the Article (Barbers) person who are authorized (certified or exempt from licensure) by the Board.

Allows the Board to adopt rules to implement the changes to GS 88B-15 and allows the NC Board of Barber and Electrolysis Examiners to adopt rules to implement changes to GS 89B-32.

Part III.

Sets out provisions governing the transition from natural hair care specialist licensure to certification, concerning automatic conversion, pending applications, and renewal of certificates. Allows the Board to adopt rules to implement the act and requires it to post on its website about the exemption for persons providing natural hair care, makeup artistry, or blow-dry styling who have met the sanitation and safety training requirements, the requirements for completing the course, and instructions for accessing at least one free Board-approved course that satisfies these requirements.

Makes the act effective October 1, 2025.

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing

S 657 (2025-2026) **KEEPING OUR COACHES ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOCATE TAX PROCEEDS FROM SPORTS BETTING TO PROVIDE SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR ATHLETIC COACHES.*

Amend GS 105-113.128, concerning the use of proceeds from the tax on interactive sports wagering operators to require that \$11 million be credited annually to the Department of Public Instruction to be allocated to eligible public school units for salary supplements to all eligible athletic coaches to ensure that each eligible athletic coach receives a total annual salary supplement for serving as an athletic coach of at least \$3,000 in State and non-State funds. Requires eligible public school units providing non-State funds for salary supplements for athletic coaches in the prior school year to continue to provide at least that amount. Defines an eligible athletic coach as a person employed full-time in a public school unit who serves as an athletic coach and who receives a salary supplement from non-State funds for serving as an athletic coach that is equal to or less than \$3,000 each school year. Define eligible public school unit as a public school unit that reports to the Department of Public Instruction by August 15 of each year on the amount of non-State funds provided for salary supplements for athletic coaches in the prior school year. Allows any unexpended funds to be allocated to the North Carolina Alliance of YMCAs, Inc. to support youth sports programming in the state. Effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Johnson, Settle, Chitlik.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction, Tax, Lottery and Gaming

S 659 (2025-2026) **INVESTING IN NORTH CAROLINA ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO RAISE SALARIES FOR TEACHERS, STATE EMPLOYEES, COMMUNITY COLLEGE EMPLOYEES, AND EMPLOYEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA; TO PROVIDE A COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE FOR RETIREES; TO EXPAND THE WAGES PROGRAM STATEWIDE; AND TO CREATE A TAX CREDIT FOR QUALIFYING EMPLOYERS EQUAL TO THE LESSER OF FIVE PERCENT OF WAGES PAID TO EMPLOYEES DURING THE TAXABLE YEAR OR TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS.*

Part I.

Sets a monthly teacher salary schedule for "A" teachers for 2025-26 for licensed public school personnel classified as teachers, based on years of experience, ranging from \$4,600 for teachers with 0 years of experience to \$6,370 for 29 or more years of experience. Provides for a 12% salary supplement for licensed teachers who have National Board for Professional Teaching Standards certification; a 10% salary supplement for licensed teachers classified as "M" teachers; a \$126 salary supplement for licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the six-year degree level, in addition to the "M" teachers salary supplement; a \$253 salary supplement for licensed teachers with licensure based on academic preparation at the doctoral degree level, in addition to the "M" teachers salary supplement; a 10% salary supplement for certified school nurses; and a \$100 salary supplement for school counselors licensed as counselors at the master's degree level or higher.

Requires that the first step of the salary schedule for school psychologists, school speech pathologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher, and school audiologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher must be equivalent to the sixth step of the "A" salary schedule. Provides for a 10% and \$500 salary supplement. Deems these employees eligible to receive salary supplements equivalent to those of teachers for academic preparation at the six-year degree level or the doctoral degree level. Requires that the twenty-sixth step of the salary schedule for school psychologists, school speech pathologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher, and school audiologists licensed at the master's degree level or higher must be 7.5% higher than the salary received by these same employees on the twenty-fifth step of the salary schedule. Provides that in lieu of the amounts of annual longevity payments to teachers paid on the teacher salary schedule, beginning with the 2014-15 fiscal year, the amounts of those longevity payments are included in the monthly amounts under the teacher salary schedule.

Details teacher compensation for the 2025-26 school year based on either (1) the applicable salary schedule; (2) the sum of the salary the teacher received in 2013-14, longevity pay for the 2013-14 school year, and annual bonus provided in SL 2014-100; or (3) the sum of the salary and annual bonus the teacher received in the 2014-15 school year, with the compensation amount determined to be equal to the greater of those amounts. Provides that "teacher" includes instructional support personnel. Appropriates \$872,642,336 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to increase salaries for teachers and support personnel.

Part II.

Raises salaries for certain individuals whose salaries are (1) set/authorized in this Part under the State Human Resources Act (SHRA) and (2) who are employed in a state-funded position on June 30, 2025, by 3% effective July 1, 2025, in addition to any other raises permitted by law. Gives a cost-of-living adjustment to certain individuals (1) whose salaries are set/authorized in this Part under the State Human Resources Act (SHRA) and (2) who are employed in a state-funded position on June 30, 2026, of 3% effective July 1, 2026, in addition to any other raises permitted by law. Exempts employees of local boards of education, local community college employees, employees of The University of North Carolina, officers and employees of the Department of Adult Correction (DoAC) subject to Sections 2.7 and 2.8 of this Part, clerks of superior court compensated under GS 7A-101, state law enforcement officers to which Section 2.9 applies, employees of the State Highway Patrol to which Section 2.9A applies, and employees of schools operated by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the State Board of Education (Board) who are paid based on the Teacher Salary Schedule. Allows for permanent part-time employees to receive the increase on a prorated and equitable basis. Specifies that no eligible State-funded employee will be prohibited from receiving the full salary increase solely because the employee's salary after applying the increase would be above the maximum of the salary range prescribed by the State Human Resources Commission (SHRC).

Authorizes state agencies to use the funding allotted to them from the Receipt-Supported Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Reserve to fundshift a limited number of receipt-supported positions in the General Fund to net appropriation funding.

Replaces references to "longevity pay" in GS Chapter 126 with "retention pay." Sets retention pay provided to employees who are full-time or over half-time and have a permanent, time-limited, or probationary appointment and who are in pay status for one-half of the regularly scheduled workdays and holidays in a pay period ranging from 1% for those employees with two years but less than five years of service to 4.5% for those employees with 25 or more years of service.

Provides for retention bonuses for the 2025-26 fiscal year as follows: (1) the school personnel described in Part I and continuously employed by the State or a public school unit from July 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025, a retention bonus of \$500 paid during November 2025; (2) the school personnel described in Part I and continuously employed by the State or a public school unit from November 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, a retention bonus of \$500 paid during April 2026; (3) an additional retention bonus of \$250 to all permanent full-time State employees and local education employees continuously employed from July 1, 2025, to October 31, 2025, who earn an annual salary that does not exceed \$75,000, payable in November 2025; and (4) all permanent full-time State employees and local education employees employed by the State or a public school unit from November 1, 2025, to March 31, 2026, and who earn an annual salary that does not exceed \$75,000 must be paid an additional retention bonus of \$250 paid during April 2026 by employers of State employees and local education employees. Specifies that the funds appropriated for retention bonuses in excess of the amounts required to implement these bonuses will revert and not be credited to the Pay Plan Reserve. Specifies how bonuses are to be paid and treated in terms of whether they are categorized as salary.

Provides the following cost-of-living adjustments for community college personnel: (1) effective July 1, 2025, the State Board of Community Colleges shall provide community college faculty and non-faculty personnel with an across-the-board salary increase in the amount of 3% and (2) effective July 1, 2026, the State Board of Community Colleges must provide community college faculty and non-faculty personnel with an across-the-board salary increase in the amount of 3%. Sets out the minimum salaries for nine-month, full-time curriculum community college faculty for the 2025-27 fiscal biennium based on education level. Prohibits full-time faculty members from earning less than the minimum salary for his or her education level.

For the UNC system, directs that SHRA employee salaries will be increased as provided by this act. Authorizes the UNC Board of Governors to provide EHRA employees a salary increase pursuant to policies adopted by the board for one or more of the following purposes: merit pay, across-the-board increases, recruitment bonuses, retention increases, and other compensation increases pursuant to those policies. Requires the Board of Governors to report on the use of compensation to the General Assembly by March 1 of each year of the biennium.

Requires correctional officers in the Department of Adult Correction to be compensated at a specific pay rate on the basis of a salary schedule based on years of experience. Also requires employees in the Department of Adult Correction, Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to be compensated at a specific pay rate based on years of experience; sets out the salary schedule to be used based on type of position. Sets out the annual salary schedule for correctional officers, based on experience and job class, for 2025-26 ranging from \$38,750 for correctional officers classified as COI with 0 years of experience to \$55,700 for correctional officers classified as COIII with six or more years of experience; raises those amounts for 2026-27.

Sets an annual salary schedule for probation and parole officers, based on experience, for 2025-26 ranging from \$46,745 for officers with 0 years experience to \$68,266 for officers with 6 years or more of experience; increases those amounts for 2026-27. Requires Juvenile Court Counselors working in the Division of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to also be paid on this salary schedule.

Sets an annual salary schedule based on the officer's respective work experience, based on experience and job class, for law enforcement officers of Alcohol Law Enforcement and the State Bureau of Investigation compensated pursuant to an experience-based salary schedule for 2025-26 ranging from \$55,081 for those with 0 years experience and \$80,374 for those with 6 years or more of experience; increases those amounts for 2026-27.

Sets an annual salary schedule based on the officer's respective work experience, based on experience and job class, for law enforcement officers of the State Highway Patrol pursuant to an experience-based salary schedule for 2025-26 ranging from \$56,650 for those with 0 years experience and \$82,660 for those with 6 years or more of experience; increases those amounts in 2026-27.

Specifies that employees of the schools operated by DHHS, DPS, and the Board who are paid on the Teacher Salary Schedule will be paid as authorized by the act and that employees of the School of Science and Mathematics of The University of North Carolina paid pursuant to a salary schedule adopted by the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics Board of Trustees will be paid in accordance with the schedule adopted by that board.

Specifies that the COLAs authorized by the act will be paid on (1) July 1, 2025, and do not apply to persons who separated from service due to resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, death, or retirement or whose last workday is prior to June 30, 2025 and (2) July 1, 2026, and do not apply to persons who separated from service due to resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, death, or retirement or whose last workday is prior to June 30, 2026. Provides for flexibility by the Director of the Budget (Director) to administer the act. Sets forth provisions related to the effective dates of State employer contribution rates for administrative purposes. Applies to all employees paid from state funds, including employees of public schools, community colleges, and UNC.

Provides that the annual salaries in effect for the following on June 30, 2025 and 2026, must be legislatively increased as provided in Section 2.1 of the act, unless another requirement applies under other provisions of the act: permanent, full-time State officials and persons whose salaries are set in accordance with the SHRA; permanent, full-time State officials and persons in positions exempt from the SHRA; permanent, part-time State employees; and temporary and permanent hourly State employees.

Requires the Office of Budget and Management (OMB) to ensure the appropriations are being used appropriately. Specifies that funds appropriated for COLAs and employee benefit increases cannot be used to adjust the budgeted salaries of vacant positions or to provide salary increases in excess of those required by the General Assembly except to increase the budgeted salary of any position to the minimum of the position's salary range and to meet retention pay needs. Authorizes the Director to reallocate funds if they find the funds are being used for other purposes. Specifies that the funds appropriated for COLA and employee benefit increases in excess of the amounts required will be credited to the Pay Plan Reserve. Requires OMB to report to the specified NCGA committee and division by March 1 of each year of the biennium on the expenditure of funds for legislatively mandated salary increases and employee benefits with four specified matters that must be addressed.

Allows, during the 2025-27 fiscal biennium, State agencies, departments, institutions, the North Carolina Community College System, and UNC to offer State employees the opportunity to use or to cash in special bonus leave benefits that have accrued pursuant to specified provisions under the following conditions: (1) employee participation in the program must be voluntary; (2) special leave that is liquidated for cash payment to an employee must be valued at the amount based on the employee's current annual salary rate; and (3) by September 1, 2025, and September 1, 2026, a report on the demographic information must be submitted to the respective agency head or employing agency and to the Fiscal Research Division.

Amends GS 135-5 (pertaining to benefits under TSERS), GS 135-65 (post-retirement increases under CJRS), GS 120-4.22A (post-retirement increases under LRS) as follows. Effective July 1, 2025, provides for a 2% COLA for certain beneficiaries who retired on or before July 1, 2024, and for employees who retired after July 1, 2024, and before June 30, 2025. Provides for proration. After September 1, 2025, but on or before October 31, 2025, provides that a one-time 1% COLA supplement payment will be paid on or behalf of living beneficiaries whose retirement began on or before September 1, 2025. Does not allow for proration. After September 1, 2026, but on or before October 31, 2026, provides for a one-time 1% COLA supplement payment to be paid on or behalf of living beneficiaries whose retirement began on or before September 1, 2026. Does not allow for proration. Sets forth provisions related to payment if the beneficiary dies before payment is made. Specifies that no beneficiary will be deemed to have acquired a vested right to any future supplemental payments.

Appropriates from the General Fund to the Reserve for Compensation Increases, effective July 1, 2025: (1) \$408,040,000 for the 2025-26 fiscal year, (2) \$543,511,000 for the 2025-26 fiscal year; and effective July 1, 2026: (1) \$701.1 million in recurring funds for the 2026-27 fiscal year and (2) \$40 million for the 2026-27 fiscal year to fund pay increases and cost-of-living adjustments.

Part III.

Appropriates from the General Fund to DHHS's Division of Child Development and Early Childhood Education \$22.7 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$36.3 million in recurring funds for 2026-27 to expand the Child Care WAGES program, which provides salary supplements for early childhood educators in order to provide supplements and expand the program statewide.

Part IV.

Enacts GS 105-163.6B (providing a tax credit to employers for wages paid). Defines *term qualifying taxpayer* to mean an employer or payer subject to income tax that has annual receipts for the most recent previous tax year of \$8 million or less. Permits qualifying taxpayers to take a credit equal to the lesser of \$10,000 or 5% of the wages paid by the qualifying taxpayer during the taxable year. Requires the Secretary to refund the excess to the qualifying taxpayer if the credit plus any other allowable credits exceed the tax imposed. Specifies provisions governing the refundable excess and methods of computation. Provides for substantiation by the qualifying taxpayer upon request of the Secretary. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025, and sunsets for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2028.

Part V.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Applewhite, Grafstein, Bradley.

[APPROP, GS 105](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, General Assembly, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Department of Adult Correction, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Instruction, Department of Revenue, Office of State Budget and Management, State Government, State Personnel, Tax](#)

[View summary](#)

S 660 (2025-2026) [HONORING SACRIFICE: NC VETERANS RELIEF ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO GRADUALLY INCREASE THE EXEMPTION AMOUNT UNDER THE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION, TO ALLOW DISABLED VETERANS TO PREQUALIFY FOR THE DISABLED VETERAN PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD EXCLUSION, TO EXCLUDE THE PRIMARY MOTOR VEHICLE OWNED BY A ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISABLED VETERAN FROM THE PROPERTY TAX, AND TO REIMBURSE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR A PERCENTAGE OF THEIR RESULTING REVENUE LOSS.*

Contains whereas clauses.

Section 1.

Amends the disabled veteran property tax homestead exclusion (GS 105-277.1C) as follows, effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2025. Increases the amount of the exclusion to the first \$75,000 of the appraised value of the veteran's residence (was, the first \$45,000 of the appraised value). Effective for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2026, increases the amount of the exclusion to the first \$125,000 of the appraised value and to the lesser of \$500,000 or 100% of the appraised value of the residence starting July 1, 2027. Specifies that a qualifying owner who receives an exclusion under GS 105-277.1C is not eligible for any other property tax relief.

Sets a *holds harmless amount* as the appraised value of the property excluded from taxation under the disabled veteran's property tax homestead exclusion, multiplied by the applicable local tax rate. Sets a *total hold harmless amount* as the sum of the hold harmless amount for all property excluded from taxation under this statute in the county multiplied by 50% plus the hold harmless amount for all property excluded from taxation under this statute in the cities located in the county multiplied by 50%.

Requires counties and cities to notify the Secretary of Revenue (Secretary) of the total hold harmless amount and disallows reimbursement to the local government if it fails to notify the Secretary by the due date. Requires the Secretary to reimburse the city or county on or before December 31 of each year, provided however, that if the hold harmless amount for any city or county exceeds 1% of its total general fund revenue for the most recent fiscal year, the Secretary will also reimburse that city or county for all amounts exceeding that threshold. Requires county to disperse attributable reimbursement funds to cities within the county. Requires cities or counties that received funds because they were collecting taxes for another unit of government or special district to credit those funds to those units in accordance with regulations issued by the Local Government Commission. Pays for the reimbursement and the Secretary's costs in administering the reimbursement by drawing those from the individual income tax revenues received under Part 2 of Article 4 in GS Chapter 105.

Allows for disabled veterans or their surviving spouses who have not remarried to apply for prequalification of the homestead exemption tax relief, even before purchasing a property, so long as a prequalified veteran/eligible spouse applies for the property tax relief when purchasing the property. Sets forth an application process and notice requirements. Makes conforming changes.

Effective for tax years beginning July 1, 2025, except as otherwise specified.

Section 2.

Amends GS 105-275 (Property classified and excluded from the tax base) to exclude from property tax any motor vehicles owned by a person who has a 100% disability rating certified by the US Department of Veterans Affairs and that are used by that person as their primary personal vehicle. Excludes vehicles used primarily for business or commercial purposes.

Amends GS 105-330.4 (concerning motor vehicle property taxes), as follows. Sets a *holds harmless amount* as the appraised value of the property excluded from taxation under the disabled veteran's property tax motor vehicle exclusion, multiplied by the applicable local tax rate. Sets a *total hold harmless amount* as the sum of the hold harmless amount for all property excluded from taxation under this statute in the county multiplied by 50% plus the hold harmless amount for all property excluded from taxation under this statute in the cities located in the county multiplied by 50%.

Requires counties and cities to notify the Secretary of Revenue (Secretary) of the total hold harmless amount and disallows reimbursement to the local government if it fails to notify the Secretary by the due date. Requires the Secretary to reimburse the city or county on or before December 31 of each year, provided however, that if the hold harmless amount for any city or county exceeds 1% of its total general fund revenue for the most recent fiscal year, the Secretary will also reimburse that city or county for all amounts exceeding that threshold. Requires county to disperse attributable reimbursement funds to cities within the county. Requires cities or counties that received funds because they were collecting taxes for another unit of government or special district to credit those funds to those units in accordance with regulations issued by the Local Government Commission. Pays for the reimbursement and the Secretary's costs in administering the reimbursement by drawing those from the individual income tax revenues received under Part 2 of Article 4 in GS Chapter 105.

Applies to motor vehicles registered on or after the act becomes law and motor vehicle property tax exemptions occurring on or after that date.

Section 3.

Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department) for 2025-26 to be used to establish the Veterans' Economic Development Incentive Grant Program (Program), to provide financial assistance in the form of grants to eligible entities to promote affordable housing initiatives for veterans, infrastructure improvements for veterans, and veteran employment programs. Specifies that the funds do not revert but remain available until they are expended. Contains definitions. Provides for an application and awards on a first-come, first-served basis. Caps the grant amount at \$100,000 per qualifying project. Allows the Department to retain up to 5% of the appropriated funds for administrative expenses.

Section 4.

By no later than September 1 of each year, requires the Department to provide a report to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division that contains the following:

1. An assessment of the financial impact on local governments of the provisions of this act.
2. Data on the number of veterans benefitting from the homestead exclusion and motor vehicle tax exemption, as modified by this act.
3. An evaluation of whether the Veterans' Economic Development Incentive Fund has contributed to workforce development for veterans, infrastructure improvements for veterans, and affordable housing initiatives.

Intro. by Applewhite, Smith, Robinson.

[APPROP, GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Military & Veterans Affairs, Tax, Local Government, Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)

S 664 (2025-2026) [JMAC COMPLIANCE FLEXIBILITY](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW FLEXIBILITY IN THE EVENT OF NONCOMPLIANCE WITH A JMAC AGREEMENT*.

Amends GS 143B-437.012, concerning the Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund, to add to the required content of the grant agreement to include a provision requiring the business to maintain an employment level, including full-time and equivalent full-time contract employees, at the specified levels. Requires for a major employer who fails to maintain the level of employment by more than 100 employees, a 1% reduction of the grant for every one employee below that threshold (was, the grant must be reduced in proportion to the extent the business fails to maintain employment at this specified level and that the business is not eligible for a grant in any year in which the employment level is less than 80% of what is required). Makes additional conforming, clarifying, and technical changes.

Intro. by B. Newton, McInnis.

[GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Community and Economic Development](#)

S 665 (2025-2026) [UPLAND BASIN PERMITTING REFORM](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REFORM PERMITTING RELATED TO UPLAND BASINS*.

Adds new Part 5A, Upland Basis, to Article 7 of GS Chapter 113A, providing as follows.

Sets out NCGA findings and the intent that the Part be broadly construed to further the Part's general purposes. Defines an upland basin as a marina constructed by excavating or dredging lands of elevations above the current mean or ordinary high-

water mark and designed to accommodate more than ten vessels or boat slips. Considers upland basins a water dependent use for purposes of general use standards adopted by the Coastal Resources Commission.

Requires, unless the Director of the Division of Water Resources makes a finding, based on site-specific technical information that the applicant cannot substantially comply with one or more of the criteria specified in the statute, that the Division of Water Resources and the Division of Coastal Management approve an application for the development of an upland basin project, within 60 days after the applicant submits a completed application or requested supplemental information. Sets out provisions governing requests for supplemental information. Deems an application approved if the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) fails to act on an application for the development of an upland basin project within the 60-day review period. Sets out 10 criteria with which an upland basin must comply to qualify for permitting, including: (1) the upland basin is designed to accommodate ten or more vessels, including individual homeowner boat slips, boat lifts, or dry stack storage; (2) the waters contained in the upland basin meet the specified standards for dissolved oxygen content; (3) construction of the upland basin impacts or removes a total area of coastal wetlands that is no more than 5% of the total area of the proposed upland basin waters; (4) construction of the upland basin impacts or removes a total linear footage of coastal wetlands fringe that is no more than 10% of the total linear footage of existing coastal wetlands along the shoreline of the property or properties of the permit applicant; and (5) the upland basin has a 30-foot vegetated buffer along the post-project shoreline. Provides that once an upland basin has operated for at least 24 months, if the Director of the Division of Water Resources determines that additional information is needed to assure long-term compliance with water quality standards, the owner must be notified to provide information necessary to address these concerns. Sets out provisions applicable when a Major Development Coastal Area Management Act permit application has been submitted for a project. Allows the transfer of any permit and related authorizations and approvals for an upland basin project. Sets out provisions under which an applicant for an upland basin project is allowed to use innovative technology to maintain dissolved oxygen levels or to improve dissolved oxygen, including requiring financial assurance. Deems an upland basin project that satisfies the 10 criteria above to also satisfy other specified provisions, including the requirements for a state water quality certification, CAMA management objects and use standards of coastal wetlands AEC and estuarine and ocean system AEC. Allows, when data indicates material noncompliance with applicable water quality standards in the waters within the upland basin or adjacent waters within the vicinity of each entrance to the upland basin, DEQ to require the owner to bring the waters within the upland basin and adjacent waters into compliance with applicable water quality standards.

Intro. by Hanig, Sanderson.

[GS 113A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#)

S 666 (2025-2026) [2025 WATER SAFETY ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR PFAS MITIGATION AND RESEARCH, TO DIRECT THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH TO ADOPT STANDARDS FOR PFAS IN DRINKING WATER, AND TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT TO ADOPT PFAS DISCHARGE LIMITS FOR SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRIAL USERS AND PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS DISCHARGING DIRECTLY TO SURFACE WATERS.*

Adds new Part 9, PFAS Mitigation, to Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A, with the purpose of providing funding to support the mitigation of the impacts of environmental contamination due to PFAS on local public water and wastewater systems. Establishes the PFAS Mitigation Fund within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to support statewide efforts to detect, reduce, mitigate, and prevent exposure to PFAS and to support scientific research and technology development related to PFAS removal, treatment, monitoring, and precursor identification. Specifies that the fund consists of any funds appropriated by the NCGA and grants from federal agencies or other non-State entities. Allows the Fund to be used by the State Water Infrastructure Authority (SWIA) to provide grants to units of local government operating public water or wastewater treatment systems for: (1) PFAS sampling and monitoring in drinking water, wastewater, surface water, and groundwater; (2) installation or upgrade of water treatment technologies for PFAS removal; and (3) emergency response and remediation of PFAS contamination in soil, surface water, and groundwater. Gives priority to public water systems and public wastewater systems (1) for which contamination from PFAS has caused the greatest impacts on public health and the environment and (2) that are or meet the criteria to be categorized as a distressed unit. Requires SWIA to report annually as a

part of the report required by GS 159G-72 regarding projects funded under this provision. Makes conforming changes to GS 159G-71. Appropriates \$56 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DEQ for the Fund.

Appropriates \$14 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the UNC North Carolina Collaboratory to support scientific research on PFAS conducted by or in collaboration with public or nonprofit academic institutions, including any of the five specified issues. Requires consultation with affected stakeholders, scientific experts, and State and local officials to ensure funding is targeted to research in areas of highest environmental and public health impact. Applies GS 116-255(c) to these funds. Requires the Collaboratory to include in their report under GS 116-256 documentation of its use of the funds and updates on the research funded by this section.

Enacts new GS 130A-315.1 setting out maximum contaminant levels for Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS), Perfluorononanoic acid, Hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid, Perfluorohexanesulfonic acid (PFHxS), Perfluorobutanesulfonic acid (PFBS), and mixtures containing two or more of PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and PFBS. Requires the adoption of rules to establish a compliance schedule with respect to these levels for all public water systems.

Requires DEQ, in consultation with the North Carolina Collaboratory, by October 1, 2025, to develop: (1) science-based PFAS concentration limits for commonly detected PFAS, which must be used to establish monitoring, permitting, and pollution reduction requirements for direct dischargers to surface waters and significant industrial users ("regulated entities") as provided in this section; (2) source reduction and treatment requirements to be imposed, including requiring regulated entities to do one or more of the specified four actions; and (3) a compliance schedule of up to 36 months to begin no later than January 1, 2026, for regulated entities to achieve the requirements. Requires all National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits and pretreatment permits, as applicable, for regulated entities subject to this section to include enforceable limits or conditions for PFAS discharges based on the established concentration limits and available treatment options, as determined by DEQ. Sets out allowable exemptions. Makes this section applicable only to the following regulated entities: (1) significant industrial users that discharge wastewater containing PFAS compounds to a POTW and have exceedances of the established PFAS concentration limits and (2) direct dischargers that discharge wastewater containing PFAS compounds to surface waters of the state under an NPDES permit, and have exceedances of the established PFAS concentration limits. Requires the Environmental Management Commission to adopt temporary and permanent rules to implement the provisions of this section and allows DEQ to issue interim guidance pending rule adoption.

Includes a severability clause.

Intro. by Lee.

[APPROP, GS 130A, GS 159G](#)

[View summary](#)

[Environment](#), [Environment/Natural Resources](#), [Government](#), [Budget/Appropriations](#), [State Agencies](#), [UNC System](#), [Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#), [Health and Human Services](#), [Health](#), [Public Health](#)

S 667 (2025-2026) **GOVERNMENT MODERNIZATION**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MODERNIZE NORTH CAROLINA GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE THROUGH TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENTS, BLOCKCHAIN INTEGRATION, AND PUBLIC SERVICE DIGITIZATION*.

Titles the act the Government Modernization Act of 2025. Sets out findings and sets the purpose of the act as modernizing NC's government operations by implementing advanced technological solutions to enhance efficiency, security, and accessibility in public services.

Requires the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to oversee the modernization of IT infrastructures across all agencies, including: (1) upgrading outdated legacy systems to enhance interoperability and efficiency; (2) implementing cloud-based solutions for improved data management and service continuity; and (3) establishing centralized digital records management to facilitate inter-agency coordination and reduce redundancies. Requires state agencies to assess their current IT infrastructure within six months of this act becoming law and submit a modernization plan to DIT for its review and implementation.

Requires the State Chief Information Officer to develop and implement enhanced cybersecurity protocols that include the specified components.

Establishes the State Cybersecurity Take Force to oversee the implementation of security measures and report annually to the NCGA on progress and emerging threats.

Requires DIT to consult with the Department of Administration in studying ways in which integrating blockchain technology may contribute to the specified outcomes. Requires DIT to report its findings to the specified NCGA committee no later than 12 months after the act becomes law.

Requires state agencies to expand and improve upon online services, including: (1) digital application and processing for licenses, permits, and public records; (2) online portals for tax payments, business filings, and other essential government functions; and (3) mobile-friendly platforms to enhance accessibility. Requires the Office of Digital Transformation to be established in DIT to oversee this digitization.

Requires the NCGA to appropriate funds for the implementation of this act, with priority given to funding for IT infrastructure upgrades, cybersecurity enhancements, blockchain pilot programs, and the expansion of technology partners to ensure cost-effective and innovative solutions in the implementation of this act.

Requires DIT to report annually to the NCGA on implementation status, challenges, and recommendations related to government modernization efforts. Requires the establishment of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Digital Governance to oversee implementation and compliance with this act.

Effective July 1, 2025, and expires June 30, 2030.

Intro. by Theodros, Chaudhuri, Salvador.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

**Government, State Agencies, Department of Administration,
Department of Information Technology**

S 668 (2025-2026) **NC GENETIC COUNSELORS WORKFORCE ACT**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE GENETIC COUNSELORS LICENSURE BOARD AND TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF GENETIC COUNSELING*.

Amends GS Chapter 90 by enacting new Article 44, pertaining to genetic counselor licensure.

Defines the following terms *ABGC* (American Board of Genetic Counseling), *ACGC* (Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling), *ACS* (Active Candidate Status conferred by the American Board of Genetic Counseling), *Active Candidate Status* (a person who has met the requirements established by the ABGC to take the ABGC certification examinations in general genetics and genetic counseling and has been granted this designation by ABGC), *board*, *CEU*, *department*, *examination*, *genetic counseling*, *genetic counseling intern*, *genetic counselor*, *genetic testing*, *NSGC*, *qualified supervisor*, *reciprocity*, *referral*, *supervisee*, *supervision*, and *temporary license*.

Establishes a five-member Genetic Counselors Licensure Board (Board) with members serving staggered terms. All members must be state residents. Specifies that two members will be appointed by the General Assembly, upon the recommendation of the Speaker of the House and President Pro Tempore of the Senate, respectively, and will each serve three-year terms for their initial terms. The remaining three members will be appointed by the Governor. After expiration of the initial term, Board members will be appointed by the specified appointing authority for three-year terms. All except the Governor's appointees must be licensed genetic counselors who will obtain licensure as soon as the first application period begins. Sets term limits of two consecutive terms. Specifies that a former member is eligible for appointment after a one-year period of not being a member of the Board. Provides for a process for filling vacancies. Bars Board members from participating in matters where they have a pecuniary or similar conflict of interest. Requires the Board to meet at least twice a year. Sets forth quorum and rules pertaining to how additional meetings may be called. Bars the Board members from receiving compensation but allows for per diem and necessary travel expenses. Allows them to hire staff and to fix staff compensation. Bars the Board from employing staff to perform inspectional or ministerial tasks for the Board. Emphasizes that the State will not be liable for expenses incurred by the Board in excess of the income derived from Article 44. Specifies that the Governor may remove a

Board member for all of the following: (1) ceases to meet the qualifications specified in the act; (2) fails to attend three successive Board meetings without just cause as determined by the remainder of the Board; (3) is found by the remainder of the Board to be in violation of the provisions of Article 44 or to have engaged in immoral, dishonorable, unprofessional, or unethical conduct, and the conduct is deemed to compromise the integrity of the Board; (4) is found guilty of a felony or an unlawful act involving moral turpitude by a court of competent jurisdiction or is found to have entered a plea of nolo contendere to a felony or an unlawful act involving moral turpitude; (5) is found guilty of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance regarding Board duties by a court of competent jurisdiction; and (6) is incapacitated and without reasonable likelihood of resuming Board duties, as determined by the Board.

Specifies the following powers and duties of the Board:

- Administer, coordinate, and enforce the provisions of Article 44.
- Adopt, amend, or repeal rules to administer and enforce Article 44.
- Establish and determine qualification and fitness of applicants for licensure under Article 44.
- Issue, renew, deny, suspend, revoke, or refuse to issue or renew any license under Article 44.
- Establish fees for applications, initial and renewal licenses, and other services provided by the Board.
- Discipline individuals licensed under Article 44.
- Adopt rules that establish standards of ethical practice.

Specifies that the Board may empower any member to conduct any proceeding or investigation necessary to its purposes and may empower its agent or counsel to conduct any investigation necessary to its purposes, but any final action requires a quorum of the Board. Provides for official seal.

Requires the Board to make public, on its website, the names of licensed genetic counselors and disciplinary information. Requires the Board to submit an annual report to the Governor of its activities since the preceding July 1, including (1) names of all licensed genetic counselors to whom licenses have been granted, (2) any cases heard or decisions rendered, (3) recommendations of the Board for future actions and policies, and (4) a financial report. Requires all Board members to sign the report and provides for a member to record a dissenting view.

Enacts GS 90-754, setting forth qualifications for licensure as a genetic counselor and an application process before the Board. Specifies that the applicant must meet the following criteria:

- Submit an application prescribed by the Board.
- Pay a fee determined by the Board.
- Provide satisfactory evidence of having certification as a genetic counselor by the ABGC.
- Is at least 18 years of age.
- Is of good moral character and conducts all professional activities in accordance with accepted professional and ethical standards.
- Has not engaged in any practice at any time that would be a ground for denial, revocation, or suspension of a license.
- Has submitted the required criminal history record, as required by law.
- Is qualified for licensure under the requirements of Article 44.

Allows for temporary licenses to be issued in certain circumstances and provides for reciprocity with other jurisdictions with substantially the same licensing requirements. Provides for an alternative application for licensure if the individual does not qualify as a genetic counselor under GS 90-754 but who has worked as a genetic counselor for at least 10 years preceding the enactment of Article 44 and provides documentation of all of the following: (1) has a master's or higher degree in genetics or a related field of study, (2) has never passed the ABGC certification examination, (3) submits three letters of recommendation from at least one genetic counselor who qualifies for licensure under this Article and a licensed physician, and (4) can provide documentation of attending NSGC-approved continuing education programs within the last five years. Except for temporary licenses, all licenses must be renewed every two years. Requires genetic counselors whose licenses have been suspended or revoked to return the original license to the Board.

Specifies that the scope of practice of genetic counseling includes all of the following:

- Obtain and evaluate individual, family, and medical histories to determine genetic risk for genetic or medical conditions and diseases in a patient, the patient's children, and other family members.

- Discuss the features, natural history, means of diagnosis, genetic and environmental factors, and management of risk for genetic or medical conditions.
- Identify, order, and coordinate genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies as appropriate for the genetic assessment.
- Integrate genetic laboratory test results and other diagnostic studies with personal and family medical history to assess and communicate risk factors for genetic or medical conditions and diseases.
- Explain the clinical implications of genetic laboratory tests and other diagnostic studies and their results.
- Evaluate the client's or family's responses to the condition or risk of recurrence and provide client-centered counseling and anticipatory guidance.
- Identify and utilize community resources that provide medical, educational, financial, and psychosocial support and advocacy.
- Provide written documentation of medical, genetic, and counseling information for families and health care professionals.

Specifies that the practice of genetic counseling does not include diagnosis, treatment, or recommendations for treatment. Sets fee schedule. Sets forth requirements related to criminal history checks for all licensure applicants. Sets forth continuing education requirements.

Bars individuals from holding themselves out as genetic counselors unless licensed under Article 44. Practicing without being licensed and registered is a Class 1 misdemeanor. Makes it a Class I felony to practice without being licensed and registered and falsely representing oneself in a manner as being licensed or registered. Makes it a Class I felony to practice without being licensed and registered while being an out-of-state practitioner.

Exempts an individual from the requirements of Article 44 if the following requirements are met: (1) any individual licensed by the State to practice in a profession other than genetic counseling when acting within the scope of the individual's profession and doing work of a nature consistent with the individual's training (the individual cannot hold themselves out to the public as a genetic counselor); (2) any individual employed as a genetic counselor by the State, as well as the federal government or an agency thereof, if the individual provides genetic counseling services solely under the direction and control of the organization by which the individual is employed; (3) a student or intern enrolled in an ABGC-accredited genetic counseling educational program if genetic counseling services performed by the student are an integral part of the student's course of study and are performed under the direct supervision of a licensed genetic counselor assigned to supervise the student and who is on duty and available in the assigned patient care area and if the person is designated by a title "genetic counseling intern."

Sets forth a 15-prong code of conduct, a violation of which is grounds for discipline, which may include denying, suspending, or revoking licensure and may discipline, place on probation, limit practice, and require examination, remediation, and rehabilitation of any applicant or licensee by the Board. Allows for alternate sanctions in lieu of denial, suspension, or revocation of a license. Allows the Board to enter into consent orders with the licensee or applicant in lieu of or in connection with any disciplinary proceeding or investigation. Permits the Board to seek a court order for a physical or psychological evaluation if the Board is considering whether an applicant or licensee is physically or mentally capable of practicing. Requires disciplinary procedures to conform to the APA, including its hearing provision. Clarifies that no applicant or licensee is entitled to hearing for failure to pass an examination. Specifies that an individual whose license has been denied or revoked may reapply to the Board for licensure after the passage of one calendar year from the date of the denial or revocation. Provides that a licensee may voluntarily relinquish a license at any time with the consent of the Board. Allows the Board to delay or refuse granting consent as necessary in order to investigate any pending complaint, allegation, or issue regarding violation of any provision of Article 44 by the licensee. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, clarifies that the Board retains full jurisdiction to investigate alleged violations of Article 44 by any individual whose license is relinquished under this subsection and, upon proof of any violation of Article 44 by any individual, the Board may take disciplinary action. Sets out items that are not considered public record.

Allows the Genetic Counselors Licensure Board to appear in an action for injunctive relief to prevent violations of the Article. Sets out provisions governing the administering of oaths and the subpoena of witnesses, records, and other materials. Sets out provisions governing jurisdiction over an inactive license.

Effective October 1, 2026.

Requires the Board to adopt temporary rules to implement the act, which remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted and go into effect.

Requires that the initial appointments of the Board must be made on or before October 1, 2025, with the initial terms to commence on January 1, 2026.

Enacts new GS 143B-1209.23A allowing the Board to conduct criminal records checks. Effective October 1, 2026.

Intro. by Sawrey, Moffitt.

GS 90, GS 143B

[View summary](#)

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

S 670 (2025-2026) [DRONES/CERTAIN VENDOR PURCHASES PROHIBITED](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE STATE AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE SHALL NOT PURCHASE ANY SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM MANUFACTURED OR ASSEMBLED BY CERTAIN FOREIGN VENDORS.*

Enacts GS 143-59.5 preventing the State and its political subdivisions from purchasing or otherwise acquiring any small, unmanned aircraft system manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity. Prohibits State funds from being used in connection with the purchase or acquisition of any small, unmanned aircraft system (defined) manufactured or assembled by a covered foreign entity, including any State funds provided through a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement. Defines covered foreign entity as an individual, foreign government, or party that meets one or more of the following:

- Is on the United States Consolidated Screening List or Entity List.
- Is domiciled in the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.
- Is under the influence or control of the government of the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.
- Is a subsidiary or affiliate of an individual, government, or party of the People's Republic of China or the Russian Federation.

Applies to small, unmanned aircraft purchased on or after July 1, 2027.

Intro. by B. Newton, Brinson, Daniel.

GS 143

[View summary](#)

Government, State Government, State Property, Local Government

S 671 (2025-2026) [HELENE REV. REPLACE./LOCALS; PROP TAX RELIEF](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE GRANTS AS REVENUE REPLACEMENT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS THAT EXPERIENCED REVENUE LOSS FROM PROPERTY TAXES, SALES AND USE TAXES, AND WATER AND SEWER RECEIPTS AS THE RESULT OF HURRICANE HELENE AND TO PROVIDE INTEREST RELIEF ON PROPERTY TAXES FOR PROPERTY OWNERS WHO SUSTAINED A CERTAIN LEVEL OF PROPERTY DAMAGE AS THE RESULT OF HURRICANE HELENE.*

Authorizes the Department of Revenue (DOR) to create and administer the Helene Local Government Revenue Replacement Grant Program (Program) to provide grants to local governments in western North Carolina that experienced revenue loss from property taxes, sales and use taxes, and water and sewer receipts as a result of Hurricane Helene. Authorizes a local government that is awarded a grant under the Program to use the funds for any public purpose. Defines eight terms, including *eligible applicant* (a local government that can show qualified revenue loss) and specifies that notwithstanding GS 105-472, a county is not eligible for a grant for sales and use tax revenue loss if it changes the method of distribution for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. Defines *qualified revenue loss* as the sum of property tax revenue loss, sales and use tax revenue, and water and sewer fee revenue loss, as specified.

Permits an eligible applicant to apply for a grant in the amount of the eligible applicant's qualified revenue loss for the applicable application period so long as the applicant complies with the application periods set forth in the act. Authorizes DOR to accept applications until funds are fully awarded. Appropriates \$40 million from the General Fund to DOR for 2025-26 to be used for the Program but allows DOR to use up to \$800,000 in administration and the described outreach. Requires DOR to remit any leftover funds back to the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), to be returned to the General Fund. Specifies that amounts deposited into the Reserve under the act are receipts that do not constitute an "appropriation made by law," as that phrase is used in Section 7(1) of Article 30 V of the North Carolina Constitution. Sets out requirements for

public outreach efforts. Requires DOR to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee and the Fiscal Research Division by March 1 on the two covered matters.

Specifies that real and personal property that both (1) is located in the affected area, as defined in Section 1A.4 of SL 2024-57 (counties designated before, on, or after the effective date of the law under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Helene) and (2) sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Helene for which the property owner received compensation in excess of \$42,000 in the form of State or federal disaster relief or insurance proceeds, or a combination thereof, is designated a special class of property under Article V, Section 2(2) of the North Carolina Constitution and is eligible to have interest that (1) accrues for the period of January 7, 2025, through December 31, 2026, and (2) is attributable to an underpayment of property tax on qualifying real or personal property due on September 1, 2024, will not be collected or, to the extent it is collected, will be carried forward as a credit against the property tax due the following year. Exempts classified motor vehicles. Provides for an application for the interest relief described above to be filed no later than October 1, 2026, and that untimely applications will not be considered.

Intro. by Hise, Moffitt, Daniel.

APPROP, UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

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

S 672 (2025-2026) **PROTECT NORTH CAROLINIANS FROM MEDICAL DEBT.** Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ADOPT THE PRO-FAMILY, PRO-CONSUMER MEDICAL DEBT PROTECTION ACT TO LIMIT THE ABILITY OF LARGE MEDICAL FACILITIES TO CHARGE UNREASONABLE INTEREST RATES AND EMPLOY UNFAIR TACTICS IN DEBT COLLECTION.*

Part I.

Enacts Article 11C, GS Chapter 131E, to be cited as the Medical Debt Protection Act (Act). States the Article's legislative purpose. Includes 15 defined terms. Requires all large health care facilities (defined to include licensed hospitals, outpatient clinics and facilities affiliated with licensed hospitals, licensed ambulatory surgical centers, and other practices providing specified services with revenues of at least \$20 million annually, and professionals offering services in one of these locations) to develop a written financial assistance policy called a medical debt mitigation policy (MDMP) pursuant to the Article and any implementing rules. Defines an *MDMP* to include seven components, including the basis for calculating amounts charged to patients and the method for applying for financial assistance, as well as eligibility criteria for financial assistance. Makes the requirements applicable regardless of federal law requirements. Further details required content of an MDMP and requires its approval and annual review by the owners or governing body of the health care provider.

Establishes seven steps a large health care facility (facility) must take before seeking payment for any emergency or medically necessary care, including determining the patient's health care insurance status, offering to screen a patient for insurance eligibility and other public programs that assist in health care costs, determining qualifications for free or discounted care under the MDMP, and determining eligibility for financial assistance under the facility's Presumptive Eligibility Policy. Requires the facility to accept and consider a patient's application for financial assistance submitted within one year of the date of the first bill; however, if the patient is the subject of collection activity by the facility or a medical debt collector and the patient submits an application for financial assistance, the large health care facility must accept and process the application at any time. Provides that for applicants eligible for financial assistance, no initial monthly payment is due within the first 90 days after the health care services were provided. Requires the creation of an appeals process for those denied financial assistance.

Sets the following terms for patients who qualify for financial assistance under the MDMP, applicable to charges for health care services not covered by insurance and would be billed to the patient: (1) patients with household incomes of 0%-300% of the federal poverty level shall receive free care; (2) patients with household income of more than 300% up to 400% of the federal poverty level will be charged no more than an amount calculated in the following manner: a. recalculate the patient's bill using the Medicare reimbursement rate applicable on the dates of service, b. the patient shall be charged no more 25% of the recalculated bill; (3) patients with household incomes of more than 400% up to 600% of the federal poverty level shall receive the same discount listed in (2) if the patient or the patient's household has incurred medical expenses during the previous 12 months which in total exceed 5% of the household's income; and (4) in addition to other financial assistance

provided under this Article, no patient with a household income at or below 400% of the federal poverty level shall be required to pay more than \$2,300 in cumulative medical bills to large health care facilities in any 12-month period. Upon patient request and documentation, any health care services that have been delivered by one or more large health care facilities after the \$2,300 limit has been met must be provided as free care.

Requires the facility to adopt a process to screen for presumptive eligibility for financial assistance and establish a process for determining non-presumptive eligibility. Prohibits billing a patient until the patient has been screened for presumptive eligibility and notified if eligible. Sets out requirements for the presumptive eligibility screening. Requires patients found to not be presumptively eligible for financial assistance to be given a process to apply to financial assistance that meets the listed requirements.

Sets out ways in which the large health care facility must publicize its MDMP, including making the policy and financial assistance application easily accessible online. Requires that the patient be informed of any financial assistance policy with every written and oral attempt by a medical creditor or debt collector to collect medical debt for health care services provided by a large health care facility. Includes translation requirements for MDMPs and other language access accommodations required by a large health care facility.

States four prohibited collection actions, including causing arrest or garnishing wages or tax refunds. Prohibits medical creditors and medical debt collectors from engaging in permissible extraordinary collection actions, as defined, until 180 days after the first bill for a medical debt has been sent, and before which specified notice requirements must be met at least 30 days prior to taking such actions. Prohibits a large health care facility or medical debt collector from taking extraordinary collection actions to collect debt for health care services provided by the facility unless the actions are described in the facility's billing and collections policy. Requires reversal of extraordinary collection actions taken when a patient is later found eligible for financial assistance.

Requires large health care facilities to post price information online as described, including using gross charges for services and listing amounts Medicare would reimburse for the service.

Provides immunity from liability for spouses or other persons for the medical debt or nursing home debt of another adult, and prohibits a person from voluntarily consenting to assume such liability.

Requires providing an itemized bill before requesting payment, or within 60 days of a patient's request. Sets out what must be included in the bill. Prohibits a medical creditor or medical debt collector that knows or should have known about an internal review, external review, or other appeal of a health insurance decision that is pending now or within the previous 180 days from: (1) communicating with the consumer regarding the unpaid charges for health care services for the purpose of seeking to collect the charges or (2) initiating a lawsuit or arbitration proceeding against the consumer relative to unpaid charges for health care services.

Sets limits on the interest that may be charged on medical debt and on judgments on such debt. Requires medical creditors and medical debt collectors to offer patients qualifying for financial assistance or owing over \$5000 a payment plan no less than 36 months, with payments limited to 5% of the patient's household income. Sets out additional provisions governing such payment plans.

Provides requirements for providing receipts of medical debt payments to consumers. Provides for debt forgiven by a medical center to not constitute a breach of contract between the medical center and the insurer or payor.

Creates a private right of action for a consumer against whom a violation of the Article occurs for the greater of up to treble the amount of damages incurred, or civil penalties of \$500-\$4,000 per violation. Allows for injunction or other equitable relief. Allows a consumer to bring an action for violations within four years from the occurrence of the violation. Prohibits MDMPs from waiving the patient's right to resolve a dispute by equitable relief, the award of damages, attorneys' fees and costs, or an evidentiary hearing. Deems any waiver by any patient or consumer of rights and protections under the Article void. Grants enforcement authority to the Attorney General and requires the AG to establish a complaint process, which is deemed a public record.

Requires large health care facilities to annually file their MDMP with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), as specified, with DHHS required to post the reports in a searchable online database, and annually prepare a consolidated report. Requires DHHS to consult with specified entities to develop materials to inform the public about MDMP policies.

Includes a severability clause.

Exempts federally qualified health centers from several of the above provisions.

Effective June 1, 2025, and applies to medical debt collection activities occurring after that date and to agreements and contracts entered into, amended, or renewed on or after that date.

Part II.

Repeals GS Chapter 44, Article 9A (liens for ambulance service) and Article 9B (attachment or garnishment and lien for ambulance service in certain counties).

Part III.

Amends GS 105A-2 by amending the definition of *debt* as it applies to the Setoff Debt Collection Act by removing the provisions concerning debt for UNC constituent institutions schools of medicine, clinical programs, or affiliated practices that provide care to the general public and for the UNC Health Care System and those under the System's control.

Part IV.

Provides that this act controls over GS 131E-91, GS 131-99, and GS 131E-147.1 in the event of conflict.

Intro. by Burgin.

[GS 44, GS 105A, GS 131E](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, State Agencies, UNC System, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

S 673 (2025-2026) [PROTECT PHYSICIANS VOICES/FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE NONCLINICAL SERVICES SUBJECT TO CONSUMER PROTECTION LAWS AND TO PROVIDE WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION AND EMPLOYMENT PROTECTIONS FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS*.

Part I.

Amends GS 75-1.1 to limit the application of the statute's learned profession exemption to health care providers only for acts and omissions directly related to providing medical, dental, or other health care that are subject to litigation under Article 1B (medical malpractice actions) of GS Chapter 90.

Part II.

Enacts new GS 95-28.1B, as follows. Defines health care professional as an individual who is a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse. Defines hospital, medical staff bylaws, and stakeholder. Makes it state policy that health care professionals have the right to report violations of medical staff bylaws to appropriate authorities and make comments concerning patient care for the protection of the public. Prohibits subjecting a health care professional to adverse action for reporting a violation of medical staff bylaws or making comments concerning patient care. Makes conforming changes to GS 95-241.

Part III.

Enacts new Article 52, Limitations on Agreements with Health Care Professionals, in GS Chapter 66, providing as follows. Defines health care professional as a licensed physician, physician assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or registered nurse. Also defines medical staff bylaws, nondisclosure agreement, and non-compete clause. Requires a nondisclosure agreement entered into with a health care professional to include a statement that it does not restrict them from reporting safety concerns, ethical violations, or illegal activities. Prohibits requiring a health care professional from entering into a nondisclosure agreement that would: (1) prevent the health care professional from discussing patient safety concerns with licensing agencies, accrediting bodies, or other regulatory or oversight entities; or (2) restrict the health care professional's ability to report to the appropriate authorities violations of law, medical ethics, or medical staff bylaws. Prohibits an employment contract for a health care professional employed by a hospital from containing a non-compete clause. Also

prohibits any policy or contractual agreement with a health care professional from providing new practice information upon patient request, and if available, requires the information to be provided by the person receiving the request. Voids any nondisclosure agreement or non-compete clause that violates the Article. Entitles a health care professional who prevails in an action under this Article to damages plus reasonable attorneys' fees and costs.

Part IV.

Allows the North Carolina Board of Medicine to adopt rules to implement Parts II and III.

Intro. by Burgin, Mayfield.

[GS 66, GS 75, GS 95](#)

[View summary](#)

[Employment and Retirement, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

S 674 (2025-2026) [LIC. MENTAL HEALTH RECIPROCITY/RECOGNITION](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCESS TO LICENSED MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS FOR CITIZENS IN NORTH CAROLINA THROUGH RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS FOR CERTAIN OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS.*

Enacts Article 18J to GS Chapter 90 and titles the article the “Mental Health Licensure Recognition Act (Act).” Sets forth seven defined terms. Enacts GS 90-270.202 allowing a licensed mental health professional licensed or certified in another State to be able to practice in their respective scopes of licensure in this State under the appropriate licensing board in accordance with the Act. Requires a licensed mental health professional seeking to qualify for such licensure to comply with six listed criteria including having engaged in the active practice of the occupation for which the person is seeking a license or certification from the occupational licensing board in this State for at least two of the five years preceding the date of the application and not having committed any act in any jurisdiction that would have constituted grounds for refusal, suspension, or revocation of a license to practice that occupation in this State at the time the act was committed and has no pending complaints. Requires the applicable licensing board to issue a decision on an application within 60 days of receiving a completed application, as described. Clarifies that the act does not supersede or invalidate any existing interstate compact or reciprocity agreement, including Articles 24A and 18H of GS Chapter 90. Directs the Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors, North Carolina Psychology Board, North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board, and the North Carolina Medical Board to adopt rules to implement the provisions of the act.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Smith, Grafstein.

[GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers, Mental Health](#)

S 675 (2025-2026) [SECOND MORTGAGE FEE ALIGNMENT ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE FEES OR DISCOUNTS THAT CERTAIN LENDERS MAY CHARGE ON SECOND OR JUNIOR LIEN REAL ESTATE LOANS TO ALIGN MORE CLOSELY WITH FEDERAL QUALIFIED MORTGAGE STANDARDS.*

Current law limits lenders from charging or receiving fees or discounts that total more than 2% in the aggregate on loans that are secured by a second or junior lien on real property. Amends GS 24-10, concerning maximum fees on loans secured by real property, as follows. Notwithstanding any fee limitations set forth in the statute, directs that the 2% limit discussed above does not apply to a loan secured by a second or junior lien on real property by one of the home loan lenders described in GS 24-1.1A so long as the total points and fees charged to the borrower by all lenders in connection with the loan do not exceed the lesser of (i) the amounts specified in 12 C.F.R. § 1026.43(e)(3) (federal truth in lending regulations), or (ii) 3% of the total loan amount. Applies to loans made on or after the act becomes law.

Intro. by Craven, Overcash, Blue.

GS 24

[View summary](#)

**Banking and Finance, Development, Land Use and Housing,
Property and Housing**

S 676 (2025-2026) **THE NORTH CAROLINA SURVIVORS' ACT.** Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW FOR MITIGATED SENTENCING FOR SURVIVORS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER FORMS OF ABUSE.*

Titles the act the NC Survivors' Act (Act). Adds new Part 4 to Article 81B of GS Chapter 15A. Applies the Act to all criminal sentencing procedures. Defines five terms. Enacts GS 15A-1340.27 (concerning survivor sentencing) requiring, during a hearing to sentence a person or for a person to accept a plea of guilty, when that person is a survivor of domestic violence and has been charged with a crime, the court to consider as a mitigating factor that the person has been abused physically, sexually, or psychologically by the person's sexual partner, family member, or member of the household, the trafficker of the person, or other individual who used the person for financial gain. Requires the defendant to provide to the court evidence as described. If the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the defendant was a survivor of domestic violence as described and that the violence or abuse was related to and was a substantial contributing factor in causing the defendant to commit the offense or to the defendant's criminal behavior, the court must depart from the applicable sentence and use the lower ranges provided by the act. Exempts persons convicted of any five described convictions, including any offense that would require the person to register as a sex offender.

Enacts GS 15A-1340.28 requiring, where a court has imposed a criminal judgment and sentence upon a defendant other than for an offense exempt from GS 15A-1340.27 and the defendant is serving the sentence in the custody of the Department of Adult Correction, the court to impose a new, lesser sentence following a hearing if the court determines each of the following: (1) at the time of the offense for which the sentence is being served, the defendant was a victim as described above or (2) the violence or abuse was related to and was a substantial contributing factor in causing the defendant to commit the offense for which the defendant is presently in custody or the defendant's criminal behavior. Provides for a hearing on the issue and a process for a request for resentencing. Provides for assistance of counsel. Provides for the resentencing hearing procedure for a resentencing application received under GS 15A-1340.28 in new GS 15A-1340.29, as described.

Effective December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Grafstein.

GS 15A

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections
(Sentencing/Probation), Criminal Law and Procedure**

S 677 (2025-2026) **SOS (STATE OWNED STRUCTURES) CHILDCARE ACT.** Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW THE USE OF STATE OWNED PROPERTY FOR THE USE OF CHILDCARE FOR STATE EMPLOYEES, REQUIRE RENOVATIONS OR NEW BUILDS OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY TO INCLUDE A CHILDCARE CENTER OR ADULT CARE CENTER, CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES, TO CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR COUNTY GRANTS FOR THIRD-SHIFT CHILDCARE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS, REQUIRE FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR ONSITE CHILDCARE AT EACH NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND COLLEGE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM, ESTABLISH WORKGROUP TO EXAMINE STREAMLINING LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PHYSICAL STRUCTURES FOR COMMERCIAL CHILDCARE FACILITIES.*

Part I.

Require the Department of Administration (DOA) to report to the specified NCGA committee and commission by March 31, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of using obsolete and underutilized state-owned buildings (available buildings) to house childcare facilities giving priority to state employees. Specifies items that must be included in the report, including estimated costs for asbestos and lead remediation and barriers to the use of available buildings for childcare. Requires any state project to build or renovate property with a budget more than \$5 million to include a child care center or adult day care center if more

than 250 people would work in the building. Specifies that this includes current projects that have no broken ground by July 1, 2025, unless one of the specified exceptions apply.

Part II.

Requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) to establish a pilot program for onsite childcare for state employees, that meets the specified parameters, including that (1) the childcare facility must operate an apprenticeship program in conjunction with a public or private university or community college who operates an early childcare education program; and (2) the State will provide the upfit cost of the space to meet the licensure requirements at reasonable levels that are customary at the operators' other facilities and those similarly situated and provide use of the space rent free.

Appropriates \$5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for the Division to use in establishing the childcare centers. Provides that if the state incurs any expenses for asbestos or lead remediation in establishing the childcare centers the state is eligible for reimbursement from the Asbestos and Lead Remediation Fund subject to the rules of the fund for up to \$500,000. Effective July 1, 2025.

Requires the Division to report to the specified NCGA committees and division, by April 1, 2027, on the implementation of the pilot program.

Part III.

Appropriates \$6 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DHHS for a pilot program giving counties grants to establish third-shift childcare for first responders, with priority to be given to third shift facilities operated in unused or underutilized county-owned buildings. Requires a report by April 1, 2027, to the specified NCGA committees and division on the implementation of the pilot program. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Requires the State Board of Community Colleges to study and report to the specified NCGA committees and division by March 31, 2026, on implementation of a publicly available child care program on every community college campus with priority given to children of community college employees and students. Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Community College System Office for the study, effective July 1, 2025.

Requires the UNC Board of Governors to study and report to the specified NCGA committees and division by March 31, 2026, on implementation of a publicly available child care program on every constituent institution campus with priority given to children of university employees and students. Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors or the study, effective July 1, 2025.

Part V.

Requires the Division to establish the Commercial Childcare Licensure Workgroup to examine streamlining requirements for the physical structure of commercial childcare centers. Sets out membership of the workgroup and requires the workgroup to develop findings and recommendations related to three specified issues. Requires the Division to report by January 1, 2026, to the specified NCGA committees and division.

Intro. by Chitlik, Chaudhuri, Everitt.

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Department of Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, State Government, State Personnel, State Property, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

BUILDS OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY TO INCLUDE A CHILDCARE CENTER OR ADULT CARE CENTER ONSITE, CREATE A PILOT PROGRAM FOR USE OF STATE-OWNED PROPERTY FOR CHILDCARE FACILITIES FOR STATE EMPLOYEES.

Section 1.

Requires the Department of Administration (DOA) to report to the specified NCGA committees by no later than March 31, 2026, on the feasibility and advisability of using obsolete or underutilized State-owned buildings (available buildings) to house childcare facilities giving childcare priority to State employees, as described. Instructs that any project undertaken by the State to build or renovate property having a budget greater than \$5 million must include a child care center or adult day care center if more than 250 people would work in the building. Directs that the requirement includes current projects which have not broken ground by July 1, 2025 unless one or both of two exceptions apply: (1) inclusion of either type of center would delay the project by six months or more or (2) inclusion of either type of center would increase the project by 10% or more.

Section 2.

Establishes a pilot program for onsite childcare for State employees under the Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) requiring the Division to contract with a private commercial childcare provider to establish three childcare centers for State employees to be established on State-owned property that is unused or underutilized. Directs that priority in contracting be given to commercial childcare providers that currently operate five or fewer facilities and provide high quality childcare. Provides for contract terms as described, including that the childcare facility must operate an apprenticeship program in conjunction with public or private university or community college who operates an early childhood education program. Tasks the Division with creating the requirements for the apprenticeship program and pair the childcare centers with a university or community college early education program utilizing parameters similar to the Durham Childcare Apprenticeship Program.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Resources (appears to intend Health and Human Services) for 2025-26 for the Division's use in establishing the childcare centers. Specifies that if any expenses are incurred by the State for asbestos or lead remediation in establishing the childcare centers required under the act, the State is eligible for reimbursement from the Asbestos and Lead Remediation Fund subject to the rules of the fund for up to \$500,000. Effective July 1, 2025.

Requires the Division to report on and make recommendations to the specified NCGA committees and the Fiscal Research Division on the status of the implementation of the pilot program including successes, concerns, problems encountered, enrollment, and expenditures by April 1, 2027.

Intro. by Chitlik, Chaudhuri.

APPROP, STUDY

Education, Preschool, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, State Government, State Personnel, State Property

[View summary](#)

S 679 (2025-2026) THE WOMEN'S CARE ACT. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE A COURT TO TEMPORARILY DEFER THE IMPRISONMENT OF A PREGNANT PERSON THAT IS FOUND NOT TO BE A THREAT TO THE COMMUNITY.*

Amends GS 148-25.2 (concerning care for female incarcerated persons related to pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum recovery), as follows. Instructs a sentencing court, at the time of sentencing a pregnant female person, when the court's sentence includes a term of imprisonment and the court has determined the pregnant female person poses no significant threat or danger to any person, to the community, or to any property in the community, to have the sentence deferred until at least 12 weeks after the delivery of the child or the end of the pregnancy, whichever occurs first. Requires the pregnant patient to maintain healthcare and to report monthly to the court, as described. Requires the court to allow the person to be supervised on probation prior to incarceration for at least a period of 12 weeks and up to a period of 12 months after delivery or the end of the pregnancy, whichever occurs first. Specifies that no payment of fines, fees, restitution, and probation fees will be imposed during this time. Requires the court to allow supervision to be conducted by phone or other electronic means. Requires the person to maintain perinatal healthcare, treatment, and assessments and shall participate in education and resource programs to

the extent these programs are available in the pregnant female person's community or from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), with monthly reporting to their probation officer. Requires reporting of any pregnancy loss within 72 hours of the loss, as specified. Requires every prison and local confinement facility in the State to submit an annual report to DHHS on the number of female persons incarcerated, including those that were pregnant as described, to begin on March 1, 2026.

Applies to sentences issued on or after the act becomes law.

Intro. by Grafstein.

[GS 148](#)

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Government, State Agencies, Department of Adult Correction, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health

S 683 (2025-2026) [KEEPING KIDS AND PARENTS TOGETHER ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE COMMUNITY-BASED SENTENCING FOR NON-VIOLENT OFFENDERS THAT ARE THE PRIMARY CARETAKER OF A DEPENDENT CHILD.*

Adds new Part 4, sentencing primary caretakers, in Article 81B of GS Chapter 15A, providing as follows.

Defines a primary caretaker of a dependent child as either: (1) a parent who has consistently assumed responsibility for the housing, health, and safety of a child prior to the parent's incarceration, or (2) a woman who has given birth to a child after or while awaiting the woman's sentencing hearing and who expresses a willingness to assume responsibility for the child's housing, health, and safety. Specifies that a parent who, in the child's best interest, has arranged for the temporary care of the child in the home of a relative or other responsible adult will not be excluded from the definition of "primary caretaker of a dependent child," solely for that reason.

Requires the sentencing court, before sentencing a person for an offense, to determine if it was a nonviolent offense and if the convicted person is a primary caretaker of a dependent child; if so, the court must impose an individually assessed sentence, without imprisonment, based on community rehabilitation, with a focus on parent-child unity and support. Allows the court to require the person to meet certain appropriate conditions, including any of the 11 listed conditions, including anger management, financial literacy, and parenting classes. Allows the court to also require the person to appear in court anytime during the person's sentence to evaluate their progress in treatment or rehabilitation, or to determine if the person has violated any conditions of the sentence. Allows the court, during such an appearance, to modify the conditions, decrease the duration of the sentence because of the person's advancement, or sanction the person for violations of the conditions, including requiring serving a period of confinement.

Intro. by Grafstein.

[GS 15A](#)

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Corrections (Sentencing/Probation), Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

S 684 (2025-2026) [PUT MONEY TO WORK IN COMMUNITIES ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO ENACT THE PUT MONEY TO WORK IN COMMUNITIES ACT TO INCREASE AND INCENTIVIZE PHILANTHROPIC INVESTMENT IN ALL 100 COUNTIES BY PROVIDING A TAX CREDIT FOR CHARITABLE GIFTS BY TAXPAYERS TO ENDOWED FUNDS OF COMMUNITY FOUNDATIONS.*

Enacts new GS 105-130.34A (applicable to corporate income tax) and GS 105-153.12 (applicable to individual income tax), providing as follows. Sets out the purpose of the statutes and defines terms used in the statutes, including endowed fund and qualified community foundation. Defines qualified contribution as an endowment gift to a qualified community foundation for an endowed fund that qualifies as a charitable gift under the specified section of the IRS Code. Gives a C Corporation or individual taxpayer that makes a qualified contribution of at least \$1,000 to an endowed fund of a qualified community

foundation during the taxable year a tax credit equal to 25% of the qualified contribution. Caps the aggregate amount of the credit in a taxable year at \$50,000. Requires submitting an application to claim the credit. Caps the total aggregate amount of all credits allowed to taxpayers under both of the statutes at \$12.5 million in a taxable year. Allows for a reduction of credits when the total amount of credits claimed exceeds the maximum allowed amount. Allows any unused portion of the credit to be carried forward for five years. Sunsets the statutes effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2030. Requires the Department of Revenue to include specified information on the credits in the required economic incentives report. Effective for taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

Intro. by Chitlik, Lowe, Bradley.

[GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Corporation and Partnerships, Government, Tax, Nonprofits](#)

S 685 (2025-2026) [AUTHORIZE MAINT. BONDS/SUBDIVISION STREETS](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT MAINTENANCE AND ACCEPTANCE GUARANTEES FOR SUBDIVISION DEVELOPMENTS TO PREVENT THE CREATION OF UNMAINTAINED PUBLICLY DEDICATED ROADS*.

Creates new GS 160D-804.2 (Temporary maintenance and acceptance guarantees), allowing counties to require developers to post a maintenance guarantee for any publicly dedicated roadway to be transferred for public maintenance under GS 136-102.6 or any municipal ordinance. Provides for the acceptable forms of guarantee including surety bonds and letters of credit, and establishes a maximum of 20% of the reasonably estimated cost of construction for the road or street secured by the guarantee. Specifies that the appropriate use of the guarantee is to ensure the road or street meets the minimum standards of the roadway's administering entity prior to acceptance into the roadway system. Requires a county to petition the administering entity for road addition to its roadway system within five days of completed construction once the guarantee has been used. Requires the administering entity to automatically accept a road or street if it has not been accepted into the applicable roadway system for maintenance for four years after the plat has been recorded with the register of deeds. Outlines procedures for acceptance of the road or street and release of a guarantee, and legal responsibilities.

Intro. by Smith.

[GS 160D](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Government, Local Government, Transportation](#)

S 686 (2025-2026) [THE FAIR SENTENCING ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REMOVE THE MANDATORY MINIMUM SENTENCES REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN CRIMINAL OFFENSES*.

Removes the required mandatory minimum sentences in the following: (1) GS 14-7.41, applicable to a person convicted of a firearm-related felony and of the status offense; (2) GS 20-179, concerning convictions for impaired driving; (3) GS 90-95(h), applicable to trafficking in marijuana, trafficking in synthetic cannabinoids, trafficking in methaqualone, trafficking in cocaine, trafficking in methamphetamine, trafficking in amphetamine, trafficking in substituted cathinones, trafficking in opium, opiate, opioid, or heroin, and trafficking in Lysergic Acid Diethylamide, trafficking in MDA/MDMA. Also amends GS 90-95(h) to allow, rather than requiring sentences to run consecutively and to make conforming changes. Applies to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Smith, Murdock.

[GS 14, GS 20, GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

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

S 687 (2025-2026) [NC LAND AND WILDLIFE ACT](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS TO INVEST IN INITIATIVES TO IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND HABITATS OF THE STATE'S WILDLIFE POPULATIONS.*

Sets forth the act's purpose and findings, including to provide additional funding and awareness of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the State's deer population and to enhance wildlife conservation programs, especially northern bobwhite quail habitat restoration and red wolf recovery initiatives.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the Wildlife Resources Commission (Commission) for 2025-26 to expand statewide monitoring, reporting, and mitigation efforts for CWD, including the creation of an incentive program to provide cash bounties to any person reporting a confirmed positive CWD case, a reduced-price hunting license to hunters participating in CWD tracking programs, and grants for research into CWD transmission and mitigation to universities and nonprofit wildlife research entities.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the Commission for 2025-26 to establish a statewide habitat restoration initiative for northern bobwhite quail, through at least the three described programs, including a cost-share program to provide matching grants of up to \$5,000 to landowners who agree to participate in northern bobwhite quail habitat restoration activities on their lands, and a study on sustainable quail hunting regulations, with a report on this study due to the specified NCGA committees by December 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the Commission for 2025-26 to establish two initiatives for red wolf conservation and rural support, including a cost-share program to provide matching grants of up to \$10,000 to landowners who agree to provide protected habitat for red wolf populations on their land. Requires the Commission to report on its implementation including any recommendations for funding needs and legislative changes to accommodate making these initiatives permanent, to the specified NCGA committee by no later than December 1, 2027.

Requires the Department of Transportation (DOT) to utilize the grant received from the Federal Highway Administration's Wildlife Crossings Pilot Program to install wildlife crossings for red wolves on U.S. Highway 64 in and adjacent to the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge.

Requires the Commission to adopt rules to revise its fees and fee payment for lifetime hunting and fishing licenses in the following revenue neutral manner: (1) create the specified age-based categories, with the middle-aged adult category charged the maximum fee, seniors receiving a 50% discount on the maximum fee, and younger age groups charged less than older age groups; (2) multi-generational license discounts to families purchasing three or more lifetime licenses at the same time; and (3) offer a monthly installment payment options for licenses that are over \$1,000. Directs the Commission to seek sources of funds from non-State sources for the initiatives funded by the act, including grants from federal and nonprofit wildlife conservation organizations. Requires the Commission to provide a report on its implementation of the above as part of its annual report required by GS 143-250.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Smith.

[APPROP, STUDY, UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

[Animals, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#)

S 692 (2025-2026) [REDUCE PARENT COPAYS/SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REDUCE PARENT COPAYMENTS FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE.*

Amends Section 9D.3 of SL 2023-134 by reducing fees for families required to share in the cost of child care from 10% to 5% of gross family income. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Mohammed, Batch, Murdock.

[UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

Education, Preschool, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare, Public Assistance

S 693 (2025-2026) **VETERAN ACCESS, LIBERTY, OPTIONS FOR RECOVERY**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REGULATE COMPENSATION FOR SERVICES RELATED TO VETERANS' BENEFITS MATTERS*.

Enacts new GS 143B-1278, providing as follows. Defines *veterans' benefits matter* as the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim affecting an individual who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for a benefit, program, service, commodity, pension, function, or status, the entitlement to which is determined under the laws and regulations administered by the US Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs pertaining to veterans, their dependents, their survivors and any other individual eligible for such benefits. Prohibits a person from: (1) receiving compensation for preparation, presentation or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with an initial disability claim related to a veterans' benefits matter, except as permitted by this statute; (2) receive compensation for referring an individual to another person to prepare, present, prosecute, or advise, consult, or assist the individual with, a veterans' benefits matter; (3) directly or by implication guarantee or advertise that any individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits; (4) a person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter or engaging in the preparation of an initial claim for a fee shall not: a. aggressively or directly solicit business regarding any veterans' benefit matter, or b. gain direct access to any personal medical, financial, or government benefits log in, username, or password information; (5) a person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter must not use a medical professional for a secondary medical exam with whom they have an employment relationship; and (6) enter into any agreement related to a veterans' benefits matter that does not comply with this statute. Requires a person seeking to receive compensation for preparing, presentation or prosecution of, or advising, consulting or assisting an individual with, a veterans' benefits matter to memorial all terms of the agreement, before rendering services, in a written agreement signed by both parties and contains specified terms. Violations are a violation of the NC Unfair Trade Practices Act. Exempts attorneys licensed to practice in NC from the statute. Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Britt, Lee, Craven.

GS 143B

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection, Military and Veteran's Affairs

S 751 (2025-2026) **PROTECT CHILDREN FROM LEAKING GARBAGE TRUCKS**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO RESTORE PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTIONS FROM LEAKING SOLID WASTE TRANSPORT VEHICLES*.

Repeals the amendments to the collection and transport rule (15A NCAC 13B .0105) established in Section 59.2 of SL 2013-413, which prevented the Commission for Public Health (Commission) from requiring vehicles or containers used for the collection and transportation of solid waste to be leak-proof; but that allowed the Commission to require that these containers be designed and maintained to be leak-resistant in accordance with industry standards. Requires the Commission to adopt a rule substantively identical to 15A NCAC 13B .0105 as it existed on August 22, 2013. Directs that, until the effective date of the readopted rule, the Commission and the Department of Environmental Quality will implement 15A NCAC 13B .0105 as it existed prior to the effective date of SL 2013-413. Specifies that the provisions of the APA requiring review by the rules commission do not apply. Applies the APA's effective date provisions triggered when 10 or more written objections are received to the rule (GS 150B-21.3).

Intro. by Garrett, Robinson.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Environment, Government, APA/Rule Making, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health

S 760 (2025-2026) [CONFIRM LEE LILLEY, SEC. OF COMMERCE](#). Filed Mar 27 2025, *A SENATE RESOLUTION RELATING TO THE APPOINTMENT, NOMINATION, AND CONFIRMATION OF LEE LILLEY AS SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE*.

Includes whereas clauses. Requires the Senate to consider whether to confirm Lee Lilley as Secretary of the Department of Commerce.

Intro. by Rabon.

SENATE RES

[View summary](#)

[Government, General Assembly, State Agencies, Department of Commerce](#)

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 15: SUPPORT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 50: LEO SPECIAL SEPARATION ALLOWANCE OPTIONS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 67: INTERSTATE MEDICAL LICENSURE COMPACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 71: RESPIRATORY CARE MODERNIZATION ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 83: REVISE LAWS GOVERNING MINORS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 96: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 141: THE JOE JOHN REMEMBRANCE ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 150: EXPEDITE SURPLUS PROP./EDUCATIONAL ORGS.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 189: RED LIGHT CAMERA DELAY INTERVAL.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 206: MOD. GUN RETRIEVAL - DVOS/JUVENILE 911 CALLS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 231: SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE LICENSURE COMPACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 244: DEPOLITICIZE GOVERNMENT PROPERTY ACT.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 251: DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDING/NONDISCRIMINATION.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 295: REQ. DOT TO INSTALL PROP. CORNER MARKERS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 331: ADOPT OFFICIAL STATE RICE FESTIVAL.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 355: OSFM TO STUDY FUTURE OF RURAL FIREFIGHTING. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 370: GSC UNIFORM ACTS REGARDING CHILDREN.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 382: ELK PERMIT AUCTION/RAFFLE.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 388: AMEND BUSINESS CORPORATIONS ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

H 545: BAN GHOST GUNS & UNDETECTABLE FIREARMS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 546: INMATE MEDICAID SUSPENSION/TEAM-BASED CARE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 547: CHILDREN'S SERVICES PROTECTION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 548: NC ECONOMIC PROGRESS AND WELL-BEING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 549: CLARIFY POWERS OF STATE AUDITOR.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 550: MODIFY MILEAGE AND PER DIEM.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 551: CLUBHOUSE EXPANSION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 552: AG MANUFACTURING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 553: ENSURING PATIENT SAFETY W/MAIL ORDER MEDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 554: REV LAWS TECH CHNGS/BBA CHNGS/P2P TAX PARITY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 555: MEDICAID TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 556: 2025 CHARTER SCHOOLS REVIEW BOARD OMNIBUS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 557: THE ANDY GRIFFITH SHOW AS STATE TV SHOW.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 558: CRITERIA FOR PHP CONTRACT PROCUREMENT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 559: MAKE ELEVATORS GREAT AGAIN.-AB

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 560: PARENTS PROTECTION ACT.

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 561: 2025 YOUTH END NICOTINE DEPENDENCE ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 562: COM. COLL. BEHAV. HEALTH WORKFORCE ENHAN. ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 563: HOUSE PERMANENT RULES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 564: STATE RETIREES COST-OF-LIVING INCREASE/FUNDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 565: CHECK YES, SAVE LIVES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 566: PRINCIPAL FELLOWS CHANGES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 567: ENSURE ACCESS TO BIOMARKER TESTING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 568: 2025 OMNIBUS LABOR AMENDMENTS.-AB

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 575: THE HUNTER ROBINSON ACT.

House: Filed

H 576: DEPT. OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES REVISIONS.-AB

House: Filed

H 577: PROTECT TOWERS AND TRUCKERS ACT.

House: Filed

H 578: THE JASON FLATT ACT OF NORTH CAROLINA.

House: Filed

H 579: NC HOUSE PUBLIC ACCESS ACT OF 2025.

House: Filed

H 580: SBOE LEGISLATIVE CHANGES.-AB

House: Filed

H 581: CAREER PATHWAYS TRANSPARENCY ACT.

House: Filed

H 582: PROVIDING RELIEF TO IMPACTED FAMILIES ACT.

House: Filed

H 583: LAW ENFORCEMENT/DESTROY CERTAIN FIREARMS.

House: Filed

H 584: PERMIT/PROVISIONAL LICENSE MODIFICATIONS.

House: Filed

H 585: HUMAN TRAFFICKING REPORTING/RESPONSE SYSTEM.

House: Filed

H 586: YMCA EXPANSION FUNDING.

House: Filed

H 587: CORPS COMMUNITY CENTER FUNDING.

House: Filed

H 588: SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST OMNIBUS.

House: Filed

H 589: THE SECOND LOOK ACT.

House: Filed

H 590: PATIENT SAFETY/MED. IMAGING/RADIATION THERAPY.

House: Filed

H 591: ELEC. MONITORING IN NURSING/ADULT CARE HOMES.

House: Filed

H 592: TOXIC-FREE MEDICAL DEVICES ACT OF 2025.

House: Filed

H 593: LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITS.

House: Filed

H 594: FUNDS/KINGS GRANT CONNECTIVITY.

House: Filed

H 595: PARENTAL RIGHTS FOR CURRICULUM AND BOOKS.

House: Filed

H 596: STANDARDS ADVISORY COMMISSION.

House: Filed

H 597: ADOPT OSPREY AS STATE RAPTOR.

House: Filed

H 598: LIVE EVENT TICKETING PROTECTIONS & AMP REFORMS.

House: Filed

H 599: AWARD NC FOREST SERVICE PAY INCREASE.

House: Filed

H 600: RECOGNITION OF THE TUSCARORA.

House: Filed

H 601: FUNDS FOR FACILITIES OF DAV ORGANIZATIONS.

House: Filed

H 602: COACH SAFELY ACT.

House: Filed

H 603: WORKFORCE HOUSING LOANS-PRECONSTRUCTION COSTS.

House: Filed

H 604: RURAL AND DOWNTOWN COMMUNITY ECO. DEV. GRANTS.

House: Filed

H 605: DEFINITIONS FOR ADVANCED RECYCLING.

House: Filed

H 606: CIVIL PROCEDURE AMENDMENT.

House: Filed

H 607: REGULATE HEMP CONSUMABLE PRODUCTS.

House: Filed

H 608: PROTECT HEALTH AND GOV'T PERSONNEL INFO.

House: Filed

H 609: OPTION FOR RAW MILK CONSUMPTION.

House: Filed

H 610: STUDY ON YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL.

House: Filed

H 611: INCREASE APS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 612: FOSTERING CARE IN NC ACT.

House: Filed

H 613: THE VEHICLE REGISTRATION CONVENIENCE ACT.

House: Filed

H 614: THE MICHAEL MITCHKE F.I.N.E. LAW.

House: Filed

H 615: ENROLLMENT STABILITY FOR MILITARY STUDENTS.

House: Filed

H 616: SELECTSITE READINESS PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS.

House: Filed

H 617: SUPPORTING SMALL FARMERS FOR NC'S FUTURE ACT.

House: Filed

H 618: IVERMECTIN ACCESS ACT.

House: Filed

H 619: HEALTH CARE SECURITY ACT.

House: Filed

H 620: AOC AGENCY REQUESTS.-AB

House: Filed

H 621: FUNDS FOR THE UMBRELLA CENTER.

House: Filed

H 622: LIMIT EXCESSIVE MAG SIZES.

House: Filed

H 623: NC FOLK FEST AND FIFA FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 624: PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICING.

House: Filed

H 625: THE PRISON RESOURCES REPURPOSING ACT.

House: Filed

H 626: HOUSING CHOICE ACT.

House: Filed

H 627: REGULATION OF ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS.

House: Filed

H 628: REENACT CHILD TAX CREDIT.

House: Filed

H 629: EXTEND PRIMARY CARE TASK FORCE.

House: Filed

H 630: RESTORE LEA SALES TAX BENEFIT.

House: Filed

H 631: STATE INFRASTRUCTURE BANK STUDY.

House: Filed

H 632: AMEND HAZING LAWS.

House: Filed

H 633: EXPAND SICKLE CELL DISEASE PROGRAMS & AMP SVCS.

House: Filed

H 634: PARITY ENHANCEMENT FOR ADDICTION RECOVERY.

House: Filed

H 635: INCREASE ACCESS TO FERTILITY TREATMENT.

House: Filed

S 37: HERTFORD COUNTY RURAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 117: GSC UNIFORM COMM. CODE/EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 121: GSC CONVEYANCES BETWEEN SPOUSES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

S 177: ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 311: UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 316: LOWER HEALTHCARE COSTS.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 474: THE DAVE ACT.

Senate: Sequential Referral To Appropriations/Base Budget Stricken

Senate: Sequential Referral To Rules and Operations of the Senate Added

S 760: CONFIRM LEE LILLEY, SEC. OF COMMERCE.

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

Senate: Ref to Commerce and Insurance. If fav, re-ref to Select Committee on Nominations

LOCAL BILLS

H 173: WAKE COUNTY ETJ.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/01/2025

H 352: MODIFY WATER AND SEWAGE PROJECT BID REQ. (NEW)

House: Reptd Fav

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

House: Placed On Cal For 04/02/2025

S 36: CHINA GROVE EVEN YEAR ELECTIONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

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