

The Daily Bulletin: 2025-04-07

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 691 (2025-2026) [VOTER PROTECTION AND RELIANCE ACT](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT THE RIGHT OF A VOTER TO HAVE THE VOTER'S BALLOT COUNTED AND TO PROMOTE ELECTION TIMELINESS AND INTEGRITY.*

Enacts Article 15B, titled the “Voter Protection and Reliance Act” (Act), to GS Chapter 163. Sets forth the General Assembly’s findings in GS 163-182.50. Enacts GS 163-182.51 requiring, in any civil action filed in a State court, a protest before the State Board or a county board of elections, or other proceeding, for the adjudicator to deem a law effective and an election procedure established when either of the following applies: (1) it is a constitutional provision adopted, statute enacted, or regulation codified before election day and as it was administered in any directive or administrative memorandum on election day and (2) it is a directive, administrative memorandum, including a "numbered memo," procedure, or established pattern or practice of the State Board or a county board of elections that was in place on election day. Instructs the adjudicator to construe acts and draw inferences in favor of finding that the election procedure was established, based on voter reliance and the availability of legislative or judicial recourse before election day. Specifies that if the election procedures were allegedly in conflict on election day, the adjudicator must construe those procedures in favor of the voter based on an understanding of the procedures as relied on by that voter. Provides for rules of construction for procedures changed during absentee or early voting periods or on election day. Prevents a law or interpretation of law that was not effective, or election procedure that was not established on election day from abrogating a person’s right to vote. Prohibits an administrative body, court, or official from acting to exclude a vote from canvass, fail to certify an election, withhold a certificate of election, or fail to seat a prevailing candidate by excluding votes based on a law, judicial ruling, or legal interpretation that was not in effect on election day or an election procedure that was not established by election day. Provides for expedited procedures for litigation: (1) filed within 90 days before the earliest date absentee ballots may be mailed for an election or (2) a covered action (defined) filed post-election that seeks to challenge the outcome of an election in GS 163-182.52. Requires in these expedited procedures for the plaintiff to serve the State Board or other appropriate election authority within 24 hours and the court to hold an initial scheduling conference within five days of the filing. Now instructs, in challenges before the county board of elections under GS 163-182.9, that no protest challenging a voter's registration will be sustained to invalidate a cast ballot or prevent a voter from voting where the alleged error in an accepted registration is a technical or clerical error, such as an incomplete form, on which the voter detrimentally relied, unless the protester demonstrates that the voter was in fact ineligible to vote at the time of registration.

Intro. by Rubin, Ball, Dahle, Baker.

[GS 163](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Elections](#)

H 693 (2025-2026) [INTERSTATE MESSAGE COMPACT](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND ENTER INTO AN INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR THE PRACTICE OF MASSAGE THERAPY.*

Enacts Article 36A, titled “Interstate Massage Compact” (Compact) to GS Chapter 90, as follows. States the purpose of the Compact and defines 25 terms, including *adverse action* (any administrative, civil, equitable, or criminal action permitted by a member state's laws which is imposed by a licensing authority or other regulatory body against a licensee), *Commission* (the Interstate Massage Compact Commission, the government agency whose membership consists of all member states of the Compact and that operates as an instrumentality of the member states), and *remote state* (any member state, other than the licensee’s home state).

Lists, in GS 90-637.3, ten requirements for a state to participate in the Compact, including (1) that it licenses and regulates the practice of massage therapy, (2) that it accepts passage of a national licensing examination as a criterion for massage therapy

licensure in the state, (3) that it requires licensees satisfy educational requirements prior to being licensed for services, and (4) that it have a continuing competence requirement as a condition of renewal for licensure. Clarifies that a single-state license granted to a person not residing in a member state does not confer multistate privileges. Requires a multistate license to be recognized by each remote state in the Compact as an authorization to practice massage therapy there. Sets forth 10 requirements for a licensee to be granted a multistate license under the Compact in GS 90-637.4, including having completed at least 625 clock hours of massage therapy education or the substantial equivalent thereof, holding an active single-state license to practice massage therapy in their home state, submitting to a background check and not having been convicted of or otherwise been found guilty of any of the listed offenses, and not having had any adverse action on any occupational or professional license within two years prior to the date of the application. Directs that granting of a multistate license still subjects the licensee to the requirements of their home state but it also subjects the licensee to the jurisdiction of the licensing authority, the courts, and laws of the member state in which massage therapy services are provided. Provides for rules of construction in GS 90-637.5, specifying four ways in which the Compact does not limit the autonomy of a member state, but also requiring a member state to cooperate with the Commission and other member states as much as practicable. Directs active military members or their spouses to designate a home state where the individual has a current license to practice massage therapy in good standing under GS 90-637.7.

Provides for adverse actions against a licensee by their home state in GS 90-637.6. Allows any member state to investigate actual or alleged violations of the scope of practice laws in any other member state for a massage therapist that holds a multistate license. Grants a remote member state the authority to take five actions, including taking adverse action against a licensee's authorization to practice, even in instances where the action is based on the factual findings of another member state. Deactivates a licensee's authorization to practice in all member states if an adverse action is taken by the licensee's home state against their multistate license. Directs that if adverse action against a licensee's authorization to practice is taken by a remote state, that adverse action applies to all authorizations to practice in all remote states. Provides for joint investigations. Allows for a member state to accept a licensee's participation in an alternative program in lieu of adverse action, with suspension of their license during that time.

Establishes the Commission in GS 90-637.8. Provides for Commission membership; voting; public and nonpublic meetings; powers and duties; an executive committee; financing; recordkeeping; and member-qualified immunity, defense, and indemnification. Among the 24 powers and duties charged of the Committee, includes establishing a code of conduct and conflict-of-interest policies, establishing and electing an executive committee, and the acquisition and disposal of property. Sets forth nine powers and duties of the executive committee, including monitoring Compact compliance of member states and providing compliance reports to the Commission.

Enacts GS 90-637.9 requiring the Commission to establish a coordinated database and reporting system containing licensure, adverse action, and the reporting of the existence of investigative information, including current significant investigative information, on all licensed massage therapists as well as applicants denied a license in participating states. Designates information provided to a participating state from the database is an authenticated business record entitled to a hearsay exception in any relevant judicial, quasi-judicial, or administrative proceeding in a participating state when certified by the Commission or an agent thereof. Provides for Commission rulemaking procedures and effects in GS 90-637.10, including emergency rulemaking.

Adds new GS 90-637.11, detailing oversight of the Compact by the executive and judicial branches in each participating state, dispute resolution procedures between member states, and Compact enforcement by the Commission. Provides for member state default grounds and procedures, member termination procedures, and dissolution. Provides for venue and available remedies in legal action against the Commission. Specifies that only a participating state can enforce the Compact against the Commission. Adds new GS 90-637.12, which provides for the Compact to become effective upon enactment in the seventh member state and withdrawal procedures by member states. Requires the Commission to review all participating state charters once the Compact becomes effective to ensure they are all in compliance with the model compact. Allows for a participating state to default if its compact is materially in conflict with the model compact. Deems the provisions of the Compact severable and advises on its construction and effect on other laws in GS 90-637.13.

Authorizes the North Carolina Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy (Board) to enact rules necessary to implement the Compact.

Effective when at least seven states have enacted the Compact. Instructs the Board to report to the Revisor of Statutes when the Compact has been enacted as such.

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

H 694 (2025-2026) [STUDY WATER/WASTEWATER REGIONALIZATION](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL FINANCE CENTER AT THE SCHOOL OF GOVERNMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL TO STUDY WATER AND WASTEWATER REGIONALIZATION AND IDENTIFY AREAS OF THE STATE WHERE THE COSTS OF WATER OR WASTEWATER SERVICES COULD BE LOWERED AND QUALITY OF THOSE SERVICES IMPROVED.*

Contains whereas clauses.

Directs the Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Government (EFC) to study and report on the benefits, costs, and financial, statutory, or regulatory obstacles to regionalization of water and wastewater services across the State. Tasks EFC to provide recommendations on the following matters:

- Legislative or regulatory changes in financial, auditing, or oversight requirements imposed on public water and wastewater systems that will lead to more informed decision making on financial stability of those systems, and the potential of various regionalization measures to address financial instability.
- Particular public water or wastewater systems in the State that would benefit significantly from various regionalization measures.

Defines *public water system* and *wastewater system*. Requires EFC to consult with various stakeholders, including the State Water Infrastructure Authority, and any other entity the EFC finds relevant to the issues it's studying. Directs EFC to report its findings and recommendations to the specified NCGA committees by no later than April 1, 2026.

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, UNC System, Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 698 (2025-2026) [CENTER FOR MISSING PERSONS TO HIGHWAY PATROL](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO TRANSFER THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTER FOR MISSING PERSONS TO THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL.*

Instructs that all functions, powers, duties, and obligations vested in the North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (Center) in the Department of Public Safety (DPS) are transferred to, vested in, and consolidated within the State Highway Patrol (SHP) by a Type I transfer, as defined in GS 143A-6. Adds Part 4 to Article 17 of GS Chapter 143B ("Part 4"), concerning the Center. Recodifies the fourteen listed citations as Part 4, as specified. Makes conforming changes to GS 143B-1760 (establishing the Center), GS 143B-1762 (control of the Center), GS 143B-1763 (authorizing the commander of the SHP to adopt rules), GS 143B-1765 (dissemination of missing persons data by law enforcement), GS 143B-1766 (responsibilities of Center), GS 143B-1768 (release of information by the Center), GS 143B-1769 (provision of toll-free service), GS 143B-1770 (improper release of information), and GS 143B-1771 (NC AMBER Alert system).

Changes the name of the NC Missing Endangered System to the Silver Alert System in GS 143B-1772. Narrows its scope to cover only missing persons aged 65 or older believed to be suffering from a cognitive impairment that causes an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties that makes them unable to meet their own needs or to seek help without assistance.

Requires the Center to now include procedures for use of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) to disseminate the information as quickly as possible when a person has been reported missing to a law enforcement agency. Limits the duration of the alert to 90 days. Requires the NC Blue Alert System to include procedures for use of the WEA in GS 143B-1773.

Enacts GS 143B-1774, establishing the NC Missing Endangered Alert (MEA) to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person, aged 64 or younger, or missing child who is believed to be suffering

from dementia, Alzheimer's disease, or a cognitive impairment that causes an irreversible deterioration of intellectual faculties that makes them unable to meet their own needs or to seek help without assistance and that is not a risk to the general public. Requires the Center to issue rapid alerts, as described, when it receives a request that involves a missing person or child who has been missing for not more than 72 hours since the request was received. Requires the Center to develop guidelines and procedures for issuing a 90-day alerts for missing persons. Requires the Center to consult with the Department of Transportation (DOT) to develop a procedure the use of overhead permanent changeable message signs to provide information on the missing person or missing child meeting the criteria of this section when information is available that would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing person or missing child.

Establishes the NC Ashanti Alert to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person over 18 years of age that is suspected to have been abducted and there is both abductor and vehicle information available in GS 143B-1775. Requires the Center to issue rapid alerts, as described, when it receives a request that involves a missing person who has been missing for not more than 72 hours since the request was received. Requires the Center to develop guidelines and procedures for issuing 24-hour alerts for missing persons. Requires the Center to consult with DOT to develop a procedure the use of overhead permanent changeable message signs to provide information on the missing person or missing child meeting the criteria of this section when information is available that would enable motorists to assist in the recovery of the missing person or missing child.

Establishes the Center's Missing – Weather Alert to provide a statewide system for the rapid dissemination of information regarding a missing person or child that is missing during times of extreme heat or cold and is not in a vehicle or immediately following a significant weather event. Requires the Center to issue rapid alerts, as described, when it receives a request that involves a missing person who has been missing for not more than 72 hours since the request was received. Requires the Center to develop guidelines and procedures for issuing 30-day alerts for missing persons.

Requires the SHP to adopt rules, or amendment to rules consistent with the act's provisions. Authorizes the SHP to use the procedure set forth in GS 150B-21.1 (temporary rules procedures under the APA) to adopt or amend any rules.

Intro. by Miller, Pyrtle.

[GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Public Safety, State Highway Patrol, Health and Human Services, Mental Health, Social Services, Adult Services, Child Welfare](#)

H 702 (2025-2026) [CHIROPRACTIC EDUCATION CHANGES](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY THE EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE LICENSURE AND PRACTICE OF CHIROPRACTIC AND TO ESTABLISH ACUPUNCTURE CERTIFICATION STANDARDS*.

Requires the NC State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Board) to establish certification standards for the practice of acupuncture by doctors of chiropractic in GS 90-142. Removes requirement that applicants for licensure as a chiropractor in the State have graduated from a four-year chiropractic college and that they have received at least 4,200 hours of accredited chiropractic education in GS 90-143. Now authorizes licensure for an application who is a graduate of accredited chiropractic program recognized by the US Department of Education or its international equivalent. Removes required subject testing areas from the Board's licensure examination, except for NC jurisprudence. Makes conforming changes to GS 90-139, GS 90-142.1, GS 90-146, GS 90-151. Clarifies, in GS 90-151, that a chiropractor licensed in the State cannot prescribe or administer medicine or drugs requiring a prescription as defined by the FDA (currently, just can't prescribe or administer any medicine or drugs). Changes the subjects areas where the Board is authorized to engage in rulemaking to include diagnostic imaging (currently, diagnostic radiology).

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Setzer, Howard, Almond, Huneycutt.

[GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 746 (2025-2026) **LIMITED IMMUNITY/NURSES**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE LIMITED IMMUNITY AGAINST MEDICAL MALPRACTICE FOR REGISTERED NURSES ACTING UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AS ARTICULATED IN BYRD V. MARION GENERAL HOSPITAL, 202 N.C. 337 (1932)*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Enacts new GS 90-21.15B making the following applicable when a nurse acts at the discretion of a supervising health care provider during the course of health care treatment: (1) the nurse does not owe a separate duty of care to the patient, independent of the duty of care owed by the health care provider; (2) the nurse is not engaged in a collaborative process with joint responsibility as part of a health care team; (3) the primary duty of a nurse is to diligently execute the orders of a physician; and (4) the collaboration of a registered nurse with other supervising health care providers does not create an independent separate duty of care to the patient, unless the registered nurse acts independently of or departs from the supervision of a health care provider. Prohibits recovery from a nurse in a medical malpractice action on the sole grounds that the nurse owed a separate duty of care if the nurse was acting under the direction of a health care provider. Exempts nurses acting outside of the supervision of a health care provider.

Intro. by Carson Smith, White, Lambeth.

GS 90

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Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

H 747 (2025-2026) **2025 WILDLIFE RESOURCES CHANGES.-AB** Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE WILDLIFE LAWS, AS REQUESTED BY THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION*.

Amends GS 143-254.5 making confidential records that contain site-specific information regarding rare species of plants or animal or the location of sensitive habitats when the Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission finds that disclosure will create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction of the species or habitats or the area where they are located. Excludes requests for release of records by the owner of land where the species, habitats, or areas are located.

Amends GS 20-63 allowing the issuance of a Wildlife Resources license plate. Amend GS 20-79.4 to allow the issuance of a Lifetime Conservationist special license plate. Amends the Wildlife Resources special license plate by adding the phrase that must be included. Amends GS 2081.12 requiring transferring the specified money from the sale of the Lifetime Conservationist plates to the Wildlife Resources Fund. Amends the requirements for the Wildlife Resources plate to no longer include the specified number of applications and plate description.

Amends GS 75A-7 providing that water vessel does not have to be numbered if a vessel that is required to be awarded an identification number under federal law or another state and that number has been awarded, provided that the vessel has not been within this State for a period in excess of 60 (was, 90) consecutive days. Makes conforming changes to GS 75A-5. Amends GS 75A-6.1 requiring vessels operated on waters of this State to comply with navigation rules (was limited to those vessels required to obtain an identification number, that had a valid marine document). Amends GS 7A-13.3 requiring personal watercraft that is equipped by the manufacturer with an engine cut-off switch, to require the switch to be used while the vessel is operating on a plane or above displacement speed (was, those equipped with a lanyard type of engine cut-off switch had to have the lanyard securely attached in the specified manner at all times when the watercraft is being operated in a way to turn off the engine if the operator dismounts while the watercraft is in operation). Refers to navigation rules instead of rules of the road. Effective October 1, 2025, and specifies that prosecutions for offenses committed before that date are not abated or affected by this act and the statutes that would be applicable but for this act remain applicable to those prosecutions.

Intro. by Adams, Moss, Clampitt, Turner.

GS 20, GS 75A, GS 143

[View summary](#)

**Animals, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources,
Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation,
Transportation**

H 751 (2025-2026) **UNIFORM ENERGY RATES FOR SEASONAL SERVICE**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN ELECTRIC PUBLIC UTILITIES TO OFFER UNIFORM ENERGY RATES FOR SEASONAL OR INTERMITTENT SERVICE THROUGHOUT THE STATE.*

Requires any electric public utility that serves at least 150,000 retail jurisdictional customers in this State as of January 1, 2025, that has established a rate schedule for seasonal or intermittent services in a portion of its service area, to file an application by September 1, 2025, for a rate case to offer that rate schedule for seasonal or intermittent service to all eligible customers throughout the state.

Intro. by McNeely, Arp, Huneycutt.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Public Enterprises and Utilities

H 752 (2025-2026) **TRANSPORTATION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUNDING**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO FUND RAILROAD AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT AND TO FUND THE PORT OF MOREHEAD CITY.*

Includes NCGA findings.

Enacts GS 136-44.41, creating the Special Economic Development Fund (Rail Fund) within the General Fund to be administered by the Division of Rail (Division). States the purpose of the Rail Fund is primarily for rail construction, rail improvements, industry rail connections, railcar and locomotive acquisition, and railyard construction. Permits using funds for project preparation. Requires money in the Rail Fund to be invested as required by GS 147-69.1 (Investments authorized for General Fund and Highway Funds assets), but pays interest on income received and accruing on the monthly balance of the Rail Fund into the Rail Fund. Describes sources, uses, and cost-sharing requirements of the Rail Fund, capping the annual allocations from the Fund that may be used for the State match on federal grant applications at 60%, and that may be used for project preparation uses at 30%. Directs the Division to establish procedures and criteria and adopt rules for allocating funds. Requires that the procedures include specified economic projections determined by the Department of Transportation (DOT) and award allocations to proposals with the greatest economic impact on the State, as determined by the Department of Commerce. Permits DOT to use up to 3% of the Rail Fund for administration of the Fund. Directs the Division to submit an initial report to the specified NCGA committees and division by March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter by December 1st, as specified. Appropriates \$50 million from the General Fund to the Rail Fund.

Enacts GS 63-76, creating the Special Economic Development Fund for Airports (Airports Fund) within the General Fund to be administered by the Division of Aviation. States that the Airports Fund is to be used for airport capital improvements and to incentivize and retain economically strategic flights. Requires money in the Airports Fund to be invested as required by GS 147-69.1 (Investments authorized for General Fund and Highway Funds assets) but pays interest on income received and accruing on the monthly balance of the Airports Fund into the Airports Fund. Provides for Airports Fund sources, uses, and limitations, capping capital improvement uses at 80% of the Fund's annual allocations; uses for incentivizing and retaining economically strategic flights at 17% of the Fund's annual allocations; and airport safety improvement uses, subject to DOT's determination that the lack thereof is inhibiting economic growth, at up to 20% of the Fund's annual allocations. Requires allocations from the Airports Fund to not exceed 50% of the cost for airport improvements. Directs the Division to establish procedures and criteria and adopt rules for allocating funds. Requires the Division's procedures to include specified economic projections for projects determined by DOT and award Airports Fund allocations to proposals with the greatest economic impact to the State, as determined in consultation with the Department of Commerce. Authorizes up to 3% of the Airports Fund to be used for DOT's administration of the Fund. Requires the Division to submit an initial report to the specified NCGA committees and division by March 1, 2026, and annually thereafter by December 1st, as specified. Appropriates \$100 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the Special Economic Development Fund for Airports.

Appropriates \$30 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DOT to be allocated to the North Carolina Ports Authority for the construction of a roll-on-roll-off facility for the Port of Morehead City.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Reives, Carney, Belk, Cervania.

[APPROP, GS 63, GS 136](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,
Department of Transportation, Transportation](#)

H 753 (2025-2026) [LEOS RETURN TO WORK](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW FOR THE CONTINUATION OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS*.

Part I.

Enacts GS 135-5.8 allowing members of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) to elect or continue to receive any retirement allowance for which the member is eligible if: (1) the member is in service as a law enforcement officer, has reached 59.5 years old, and has not separated from service as a law enforcement officer with the employer under which the member will begin receiving the retirement allowance; or (2) the member is a retired law enforcement officer, had a bona fide separation of at least six months, returns to service as a law enforcement officer and continue to receive that retirement allowance. Requires members making an election under (1) to also make any elections and creditable service purchases required by state law at or prior to retirement at the time of the election, as specified. Bars receiving additional membership service for any employment while the member is receiving the retirement allowance. Directs that the employer, rather than the member, must make employee contributions to TSERS in an amount calculated as described once a member elects to receive and begins receiving the retirement allowance. Provides for reduction of the member's gross salary or wage paid as if the member was making the employee contribution. Disqualifies members making an election under the statute from participating in the Disability Income Plan and instead continues the retirement allowance elected if the member becomes mentally or physically incapacitated and unable to further perform their duties of employment. Disqualifies members making an election under the statute from eligibility for State contributions to the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan and requires that contributions cease upon election. Continues eligibility for benefits under the Public Safety Employees' Death Benefits Act (Article 12A, GS Chapter 143) upon election. Provides for instances of death or separation from employment of a member receiving the retirement allowance; the effect of changes to retirement allowance of beneficiaries; and the criteria and effect of revoking the election.

Adds *Justice Officer* to the defined terms set forth in GS 128-21, applicable to the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), defined by statutory cross-reference to GS Chapter 17E. Enacts GS 128-27.1, mirroring the provisions enacted in new GS 135-5.8, to allow members of LGERS who are employed or retired law enforcement or justice officers to elect to receive any retirement allowance for which the member is otherwise eligible while continuing or returning to service; requires the member to have separated from service for no less than one month (instead of six as required under GS 135-5.8). Provides identical requirements and limitations, substituting appropriate cross-references where necessary to make the provisions applicable to LGERS members and benefits.

Makes conforming changes to GS 135-3 (TSERS membership) and GS 128-24 (LGERS membership). Changes the statutory provisions referenced in the "Notwithstanding" clauses of current GS 135-3(b) and subdivision (5a), GS 128-24 (recodified as subsection (b)). Specifies that a bona fide separation occurs when a member has severed the employment relationship with the employers and the respective System's Board of Trustees has received all applicable termination notifications. Requires the employer and beneficiary to file original sworn affidavits with the respective Board that include two described attestations within 60 days from the date a beneficiary is reemployed with an employer to preserve the bona fide separation presumption. Makes technical changes and language gender neutral.

Amends GS 143-166.41 and GS 143-166.42 governing separation allowances for law enforcement officers who are members of TSERS and LGERS. Except as otherwise described, replaces existing provisions to provide an annual special separation allowance for State and local law enforcement officers to begin the month the officer either retires on a basic service retirement or elects to begin receiving the retirement allowance while still in service pursuant to new GS 135-5.8 or GS 128-27. Sets forth

four qualifying criteria for the allowance, including that the officer has completed 30 or more years of creditable service or is 55 or older and has completed five or more years of creditable service. Includes four defined terms. Establishes a formula to calculate the allowance amount and four events which trigger cessation of allowance payments. Maintains existing provisions of each statute relating to the impact of payments on other benefits and actions, eligibility determinations, and responsibility for payments, and for GS 143-166.41, the provision regarding the transfer of funds. Adds a new requirement for allowances to be paid in equal installments on the payroll frequency used by the employer. Adds captions to the statutes' subsections.

Amends GS 143-166.84 regarding eligibility for the Sheriffs' Supplemental Pension, Article 12H. Adds a new subsection expanding eligibility to county sheriffs who have completed 10 years of eligible service as a sheriff, are at least 55 or have attained at least 30 years of creditable service regardless of age, and have elected to receive a retirement allowance while in service under new GS 128-27.1 and not revoked that election. Directs that monthly payments for sheriffs eligible under the new provision begin with the month in which the officer elects to begin receiving the retirement allowance under new GS 128-27.1. Makes conforming and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 143-166.85 regarding supplemental pension benefits under Article 12H. Adds a new subsection directing a sheriff who is still in service and entitled to receive a supplemental pension benefit to receive an annual pension benefit, payable in monthly installments. Details calculation of the benefit. Excepts from the events mandating the cessation of benefits pensioners reemployed as a sheriff or another public safety position under state law or who have elected to receive distributions while in service under new GS 128-27. Adds revocation of a pensioner's election to receive a retirement allowance under new GS 128-27.1 to the events mandating cessation of benefits, and provides for benefits upon a sheriff's later subsequent retirement. Makes technical and clarifying changes.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Part II.

Makes conforming changes to GS 135-103 (Disability Income Plan eligibility) and GS 143-166.60 (statutory cross-references to definitions).

Repeals GS 143-166.81(a), defining the scope of Article 12H to retired county sheriffs.

Amends GS 143-166.30, replacing eligibility provisions of the Supplemental Retirement Income Plan (Plan) to now encompass all law enforcement officers employed by the State as provided by GS Chapter 135, Article 5 (governing the Plan). Eliminates directives to the Board of Trustees' administration of the Plan. Defines "Plan". Allows Plan participants that have elected to receive a retirement allowance under new GS 135-5.8 to transfer eligible accumulated contributions to TSERS and receive a special retirement allowance based on their accumulated account balance at the date of transfer. No longer specifies that State contributions to the Plan under the statute are in addition to contributions on account of court assessments provided by the statute. Adds that State contributions cease upon an officer electing to receive a retirement allowance under new GS 135-5.8(a) (1). Makes technical changes.

Amends GS 143-166.50, regarding the Supplemental Income Plan for local law enforcement officers (Plan for local officers). Deletes outdated language. Adds that employer contributions to the Plan for local officers cease upon the officer's election to receive a retirement allowance under new GS 128-27.1. Allows local officer Plan participants that have elected to receive a retirement allowance under new GS 128-27.1 to transfer eligible accumulated contributions to LGERS and receive a special retirement allowance based on their accumulated account balance at the date of transfer.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Part III.

Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund in recurring funds to the Department of State Treasurer for each year of 2025-27 to implement the act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV.

Includes a severability clause. Sunsets any provision of Part I when the IRS notifies the State Treasurer is noncompliant with federal law at 30 days from receipt of a notification. Requires the State Treasurer to notify the Revisor of Statutes of any IRS notification requiring expiration.

Sunsets specified sections and subsections of GS Chapters 135, 128, and 143, as enacted by the act, effective December 31, 2029, as follows:

- GS 135-5.8;
- GS 135-3(b1);
- GS 128-27.1;
- GS 128-24(b2);
- GS 143-166.41(a)(2), (b2)(2), (c)(3)c., (c)(4);
- GS 143-166.42 (a)(2), (b1)(2), (c)(3)c., (c)(4);
- GS 143-166.85 (a3) and (b2);
- GS 143-166.85(a1), (d)(1)b., (d)(2); and
- GS 135-103(c).

Allows a law enforcement officer in service and in receipt of a retirement allowance under GS 135-5.8 or GS 128-27.1 on the date of the expiration of the statutes above, to continue that service and to receive the retirement allowance. Makes the provisions of GS 135-3 and GS 128-24 apply to any subsequent return to work.

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

[APPROP, GS 128, GS 134, GS 135, GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

[Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government](#)

H 754 (2025-2026) [FIN. EXPLOIT. PREVENTION/SAVINGS BANK UPDATES](#). Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO PROTECT DISABLED AND OLDER ADULTS FROM FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION AND TO UPDATE THE SAVINGS BANK LAWS TO INCREASE ALIGNMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANKING LAWS.*

Section 1.

Expands the General Assembly's legislative intent and purpose in GS 108A-112 to include findings about the vulnerability of older adults and statements of the General Assembly's intent to balance the rights of older adults and disabled adults to direct and control their assets, funds, and investments and to exercise their constitutional rights consistent with due process with the need to provide financial institutions the ability to place narrow, 30-day limited restrictions on these rights in an effort to decrease older adults or disabled adults' risk of loss due to abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation. Makes clarifying changes and broadens definition of *financial exploitation* to include any acts or omissions by a person, including through the use of power of attorney, guardianship, or conservatorship, to do either of the following: (1) obtain control over the older adult's or disabled adult's money, assets, or property through deception, intimidation, or undue influence to deprive him or her of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the money, assets, or property or (2) divert the older adult's or disabled adult's money, assets, or property to deprive him or her of the ownership, use, benefit, or possession of the money, assets, or property. Adds term *trusted contact* to encompass any of four listed persons, including a natural person aged 18 or older whom a customer has expressly identified in a financial institution's records who may be contacted about either the account or account owner to discuss the specified matter.

Expands good faith immunity for making a report of suspected fraud under GS 108A-115 to include agents of a financial institution. Further instructs that the financial institution, and, and its officers, employees, and agents, cannot be compelled in any action to identify the existence of or the contents of a suspicious activity report related to suspected financial abuse activity that may have been filed with the US Department of the Treasury. Makes technical changes.

Enacts GS 108A-118, authorizing a financial institution to choose to delay or refuse a disbursement or transaction from an account of a disabled adult or older adult or an account for which a disabled adult or older adult is a beneficiary or beneficial owner if: (1) the financial institution and its employees believe, based on individual observation or information received, that financial exploitation may have attempted or occurred or is currently being attempted or occurring; (2) the belief is based on an observation or the receipt of information; and (3) it initiates an internal review. Authorizes to a financial institution to take any

six listed actions in response, including delaying or refusing transactions or withdrawals. Specifies that a financial institution's authority to delay expires at the earlier of (1) 30 business days after the date on which the depository institution first acted under the authority in GS 108A-118; (2) when the institution is satisfied that the transaction or act will not likely result in financial exploitation of the older adult or disabled adult; and (3) upon court order. Allows for an additional 30-day extension based on the institution's reasonable belief that financial exploitation may continue to occur or be attempted. Provides for 5-year record keeping of each incident. Provides for good faith immunity for financial institutions. Requires a financial institution to conduct training and adopt policies, as specified, before it can exercise the statutory authority in GS 108A-118 to delay or deny transactions. Clarifies how GS 108A-112 operates in relation to other statutes. Enacts GS 108A-119, authorizing a financial institution to notify a trusted contact if it believes that financial exploitation has or may have occurred, is being attempted, or has been or may have been attempted. Authorizes the financial institution to not notify the trusted contact if it believes that the contact is involved in the financial exploitation. Exempts any such disclosures from State privacy laws.

Section 2.

Adds term *public notice* to the 32 defined terms pertaining to savings banks in GS 54C-4. Removes proviso that the definitions apply to those terms unless "the context otherwise requires." Removes process for a savings bank to obtain permission to establish a branch office in GS 54C-23. Expands the ways that State savings bank may establish branches in the State or another State to include de novo and by acquisition of existing branch offices of another depository institution. Sets deadline for the Commissioner of Banks (Commissioner) to make a decision on an application within fourteen days of the date of publication of the public notice required under GS 54C-4. Now requires the Commissioner to consider such factors as the financial condition and history of the applicant; the adequacy of its capital; the applicant's future earnings prospects; the character, competency, and experience of its management; the probable impact of the branch on the condition of the applicant State savings bank and existing depository institutions in the community to be served; and the convenience and needs of the community the proposed branch is to serve. (Currently, Commissioner must approve applications when four factors are met, including that the applicant has gross assets of at least \$10 million). Now requires State savings banks to publish public notice as part of its request a change of location for its principal office or a branch to the Commissioner under GS 54C-24. Instructs the Commissioner to take into account any public comments received in response to the notice. Requires the Commissioner to approve the request if any of four conditions apply, including that the relocation does not result in a material change in the primary service area of the principal office or branch. Makes conforming changes, including to the statute's title. Removes content of GS 54C-60, pertaining to confidential information of the Commissioner, and/or the State Banking Commission, and instead directs that GS 53C-2-7 applies to records of the Office of the Commissioner pertaining to State saving banks.

Removes provisions in GS 54C-101 requiring a director of a State savings bank to have significant ownership in the bank. Directs that the corporate powers of the State savings bank are exercised by, or under the authority of, its board of directors, and the business and affairs of the State savings bank are managed by, or under the direction of, its board of directors. Allows the Commissioner to reduce the number of a board of directors to less than five members for good cause. Provides for quarterly meetings, and liability of the board of directors. Allows for the appointment of advisory directors, and specifies that no advisory director is liable for acts or omissions undertaken as an advisory director under the laws applicable to the performance of the duties of a director of a State savings bank, unless and only to the extent the advisory director undertakes or is delegated authority as a director of the State savings bank. Repeals GS 54C-102 (requiring a State savings bank's bylaws to be approved by the Commissioner). Directs the Commissioner to review GS Chapter 54C and form a drafting group, if appropriate, to prepare updates and revisions to modernize the Chapter or to make recommendations on more fully integrating the supervision of savings banks into GS Chapter 53C (Regulation of Banks). Requires the Commissioner to submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the specified NCGA committee within one year of the act's effective date.

Intro. by Ross, Howard, N. Jackson, Crawford.

[GS 54C, GS 108A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Banking and Finance, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Adult Services](#)

Repeals GS 105-164.14(b) (pertaining to certain semiannual refunds due to certain nonprofit entities).

Enacts new subdivision GS 105-164.13(52a) (pertaining to exemptions from retail sales and use taxes) as follows. Exempts the following tangible personal property, digital property, and services for use in carrying on the work of the following entities, provided the entity is not owned or controlled by the State, from the retail sales and use taxes:

- Hospitals not operated for profit, including hospitals and medical accommodations operated by an authority or other public hospital described in Article 2 of GS Chapter 131E.
- An organization that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code and not classified in the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities major group areas of (1) Community Improvement and Capacity Building, (2) Public and Societal Benefit, or (3) Mutual and Membership Benefit.
- Volunteer fire departments and volunteer emergency medical services squads that are (1) exempt from income tax under the IRS Code; (2) financially accountable to a city as defined in GS 160A-1 (pertaining to cities and towns), a county, or a group of cities and counties; or (3) both.
- An organization that is a single member LLC that is disregarded for income tax purposes and satisfies all of the following conditions: (1) the owner of the LLC is an organization that is exempt from income tax under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code, (2) the LLC is a nonprofit entity that would be eligible for an exemption under section 501(c)(3) of the IRS Code if it were not disregarded for income tax purposes, and (3) the LLC is not an organization that would be properly classified in any of the major group areas of the National Taxonomy of Exempt Entities listed above.
- Qualified retirement facilities whose property is excluded from property tax under State tax law on qualified retirement facilities.
- A university-affiliated nonprofit organization that procures, designs, constructs, or provides facilities to, or for use by, a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. Specifies that for purposes of this sub-subdivision, a nonprofit organization includes an entity exempt from taxation as a disregarded entity of the nonprofit organization.
- Over-the-counter drugs purchased for use in carrying out the work of a hospital not listed above.

Specifies that the exemption includes indirect sales to a nonprofit entity of digital property and tangible personal property purchased by a real property contractor that becomes a part of or permanently installed or applied to any building or structure that is owned or leased by the nonprofit entity and is being erected, altered, or repaired for use by the nonprofit entity for carrying on its nonprofit activities. Directs that a sale to fulfill a real property contract with an entity that holds an exemption certificate is exempt to the same extent as if purchased directly by the entity that holds the exemption certificate. Sets forth certificate requirements for a real property contractor that purchases an item allowed an exemption under GS 105-164.13(52a). Directs a real property contractor who pays local sales and use taxes on property qualifying for an exemption under this subdivision on behalf of an entity must give the entity for whose project the property was purchased a signed statement containing (1) the date the property was purchased; (2) the type of property purchased; (3) the project for which the property was used; (4) if the property was purchased in this State, the county in which it was purchased; and (5) if the property was not purchased in this State, the county in which the property was used. If the property was purchased in this State, the real property contractor must attach a copy of the sales or purchase receipt to the statement.

Clarifies that the exemption set forth above does not apply to (1) purchases of electricity, telecommunications service, ancillary service, piped natural gas, video programming, a prepaid meal plan, aviation gasoline and jet fuel, and spirituous liquor or (2) sales and use tax liability indirectly paid by a nonprofit entity through reimbursement to an authorized person of the entity for tax incurred by the person on an item or transaction subject to State tax law.

Sets an aggregate annual exemption amount allowed to an entity under this subdivision for a fiscal year at no more than \$31.7 million in tax.

Enacts GS 105-164.29C detailing a process for a nonprofit entity to apply for the exemption set forth above, including tax liability for failure to use the purchased goods. Makes conforming changes to GS 105-467(b) (pertaining to exemptions and refunds) to refer to the exemption under new GS 105-164.13(52a).

Amends GS 105-236(a)(5a) (pertaining to penalties for misuse of an exemption certificate or affidavit of capital improvement) to specify that misuse under the subdivision includes improper use of a certificate of exemption issued to a nonprofit entity for the sales and use tax exemption set forth above.

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

Specifies that act does not affect the rights or liabilities of the State, a taxpayer, or another person arising under a statute amended or repealed by this act before the effective date of its amendment or repeal, nor does it affect the right to any refund or credit of a tax that accrued under the amended or repealed statute before the effective date of its amendment or repeal.

Intro. by Lofton, Ross.

GS 105

[View summary](#)

Government, Tax, Nonprofits

H 760 (2025-2026) **BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN TRAINING FOR TATTOOISTS**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNUAL BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN TRAINING REQUIREMENT FOR TATTOOISTS*.

Requires initial or renewal applicants for a tattoo permit in GS 130A-283 to complete annual bloodborne pathogen training, as described. Allows the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to deny an application if the training is not completed. Makes conforming changes. Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to all tattooing permit applications filed on or after that date.

Intro. by von Haefen, Crawford, T. Brown, Greenfield.

GS 130A

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health

H 761 (2025-2026) **LIMIT SESSION LENGTH**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE NORTH CAROLINA CONSTITUTION TO LIMIT THE LENGTH OF LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS*.

Subject to approval by voters at the statewide election on November 3, 2026, amends Section 11(1) of Article II of the North Carolina Constitution limiting session lengths of the General Assembly as follows. In odd-numbered years, the General Assembly can remain in regular session for no more than 90 legislative days. If the General Assembly meets in regular session in even-numbered years, the General Assembly can only remain in session for no more than 45 legislative days. Excludes reconvened/veto and special sessions from these limits. Instructs that no valid action, other than a resolution of adjournment may be taken by the General Assembly in regular session after the time limits have expired. If approved, effective upon certification by the State Board of Elections.

Intro. by Lambeth, Warren, Watford, Willis.

CONST

[View summary](#)

Constitution, Government, General Assembly

H 762 (2025-2026) **MODERNIZE NC S.A.F.E. ACT**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO MODERNIZE THE NORTH CAROLINA SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT (S.A.F.E) MORTGAGE LICENSING ACT*.

Amends Article 19B (The Secure and Fair Enforcement Mortgage Licensing Act) of GS Chapter 53 by adding a new Part 1, Application, Licensing, Examination, and Enforcement. Makes the following changes to statutes within that Part and Article.

Amends GS 53-244.020 by making part of the Act's primary purpose to be to protect consumers seeking residential mortgages (was, seeking mortgages). Makes conforming changes throughout by referring to "residential mortgage" instead of "mortgage."

Amends GS 53-244.030 by amending the definitions as used in the Article as follows. Amends the term *Banking Commission* by no longer specifying that the term means the North Carolina Credit Union Commission for the purpose of compliance with the Article by credit unions, only defining the term to mean the North Carolina Banking Commission (Commission). Amends the definition of *branch manager* to now mean a mortgage loan originator who meets the requirements of GS 53-244.050(b),

has at least three years of residential mortgage lending experience, and is assigned to, in charge of, and responsible for the business operations of a branch office (was, an individual who is assigned to, in charge of, and is responsible for the business operations of a branch office of a mortgage broker or mortgage lender). Amends the definition of *branch office* to now require that it be open to the public, and separate and distinct from the principal office (was, from the mortgage broker's or lenders' principal office); adds the requirement that it consist of at least one enclosed room or building of stationary construction. Amends the definition of *Commissioner* by no longer specifying that the term means the Administrator of the Credit Union Division of the Department of Commerce for the purpose of compliance with the Article by credit unions, only defining the term to mean the North Carolina Commissioner of Banks and their designee (Commissioner). Amends the definition of *employee* so that it also includes those in an employment relationship with a mortgage orientation support registrant. Expands upon the definition of *engaging in the mortgage business* to also include, for compensation or gain from another or on one's own behalf, pursuant to the terms of a residential mortgage loan or the service documents or contract, (1) collecting or receiving payments on existing obligations due and owing to the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer, including payments of principal, interest, escrow amounts, and other amounts due; (2) collecting fees due to the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer; (3) working with the borrower and the mortgage lender or mortgage servicer to collect data and make decisions necessary to modify certain terms of those obligations either temporarily or permanently; (4) finalizing collection through the foreclosure process under GS Chapter 45, forfeiture under GS Chapter 47H, or repossession; or (5) servicing a reverse mortgage loan. Specifies that the term does not include timeshare instruments. Amends the definition of *federal baking agency* by removing the Office of Thrift Supervision. Changes the definition of *individual person* to a human being. Amends the definition of *licensee* by removing a transitional mortgage loan originator and adding an exclusive mortgage broker. Amends the definition of *loan processor or underwriter* to include those performing duties as an employee at the direction of and subject to the supervision and instruction of a person registered under this Article (in addition to those licensed or exempt from licensing). Amends the definition of *loss mitigation specialist* to include employees of mortgage lenders in addition to employees of mortgage servicers. Amends the definition of *mortgage loan originator* to no longer include those who negotiate the term or conditions of mortgage loans, but includes a person who takes a residential mortgage loan application or offers or negotiates the terms or conditions of a residential mortgage loan; now excludes from the term an individual acting solely as a loss mitigation specialist unless the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau amends the federal provision to provide that acting as a loss mitigation specialist constitutes taking a loan application. Amends the definition of *mortgage service* to explicitly include master servicers. Amends the term *Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System and Registry* to now refer to it as the NMLS and makes conforming changes throughout the Article to refer to the NMLS; also expands upon the definition by giving its alternate name and also includes the State Examination and other electronic successor systems, and also includes within the scope of those systems the supervision of persons (in addition to licensing and registration of persons). Amends the definition of *qualifying individual* to require that the person have at least three years of residential mortgage lending or servicing experience. Amends the definition of *residential mortgage loan* by no longer including mortgage loan in the term, adding obligations in addition to loans, and by specifying that the term includes reverse mortgage loans and contracts for deed. Adds and defines *bona fide nonprofit*. Removes the term *transitional mortgage loan originator*. Makes conforming, clarifying, and technical changes.

Amends GS 53-244.040 as follows. Requires a person to register before acting as a mortgage origination support registrant with respect to dwellings located in this state. Makes it illegal to act as a mortgage origination support registrant without registration that authorizes a registrant to sponsor and employ licensed mortgage loan originators to control and supervise the registrant's loan processors or underwriters in accordance with this Article and specified federal law. Removes provisions allowing for a transitional mortgage loan originator license and instead refers to temporary authority to act as a mortgage loan originator and sets out related requirements for those individuals. Expands upon the types of licenses granted under the Article to also include a mortgage loan originator license. Provides that a mortgage lender license also allows a person to act as a registrant; provides that upon notice, a licensed mortgage lender may also act as a mortgage servicer. Allows people exempt from this Article to also service residential mortgage loans. No longer exempts from the Article state or federally chartered credit unions who have filed a notice of exemption. Adds an exemption from the Article for the following: (1) a person, that as seller, receives in one calendar year no more than three (was, five) residential mortgage loans as security for purchase money obligations; (2) an estate or trust that, as seller, receives in one calendar year no more than one residential mortgage loan as security for a purchase money obligation; (3) any agency of the federal government or any state, local, or municipal government, or their subsidiaries, making or servicing residential mortgage loans under specific legal authority; (4) a nonprofit corporation that makes or services residential mortgage loans to promote home ownership or home improvements for disadvantaged homeowners upon filing of a notice of exemption, so long as the corporation is not primarily in the business of soliciting, brokering, making, or servicing residential mortgage loans; (5) a trust institution when acting in a fiduciary capacity,

upon filing of a notice of exemption; and (6) a trustee of a trust that makes a residential mortgage loan to a qualified trust beneficiary or an immediate family member of the grantor of the trust, upon filing of a notice of exemption. Requires branch offices to be located in the United States. Requires each branch office of a mortgage broker or lender to have a branch manager who meets the experience requirements; if the lender or broker does not have a branch office, its qualifying individuals must be licensed as mortgage loan originators to oversee the origination activities conducted at the principal office.

Amends GS 53-244.050 to require applicants for licensure or registration to have a principal office in the United States.

Amends the information that must be on a license application as follows: (1) requires providing the applicant's (and any partner's, officer's, director's, or persons in a similar status's) conviction within the past five (was, 10) years of a misdemeanor involving any of the specified types of crimes but removes moral turpitude from that list and (2) requires the financial condition, credit history, and business history for applicants for all types of licensure. Amends the eligibility requirements as follows: (1) requires applicants for licensure as a mortgage loan originator or qualifying individual (except for mortgage servicers) by giving credit to individuals holding a valid mortgage loan originator license in another state for education and passage of the required test; (2) requires applicants for licensure as a mortgage lender, mortgage broker, or mortgage servicer and applicants for registration as a registrant to employ a qualifying individual; (3) requires applicants to register any branch office of a mortgage lender or broker and to employ a branch manager; and (4) removes specified provisions for sole proprietors. Amends the provisions requiring certain information about the applicant's identity when the application is for licensing as a mortgage loan originator, mortgage lender, mortgage broker, mortgage servicer, or registration as a registrant, by removing provisions related to fingerprints and personal history; allows the Commissioner, for good cause, to allow equivalent information to be provided instead of the identity information required by the statute. Allows the Commissioner to request a criminal record check for applicants or holders of a mortgage loan originator license or who is a control person, executive officer, qualifying individual, or branch manager of a person licensed or registered (was, a mortgage lender, mortgage broker, mortgage servicer, mortgage loan originator).

Amends GS 53-244.060 by amending the conditions under which a license or registration will not be issued to include when an exclusive mortgage broker applicant has failed to meet the surety bond requirements.

Amends GS 53-244.070 by amending the prelicensing education courses and the course providers to now only require that they be approved by the NCMLS, and removing additional requirements, including approval by the Commissioner. Amends GS 53-244.080 to no longer require NMLS to have developed the test. No longer requires the payment of the \$300 fee and NMLS processing fee for each branch office and instead requires paying the actual cost of obtaining a credit report, criminal history record checks, and processing fees.

Amends GS 53-244.100 to require notifying the Commissioner within 30 days (previously no timeframe was specified) when a mortgage loan originator ceases to be employed.

Amends GS 53-244.100A to also require an exclusive mortgage broker to pay the listed assessment and includes the late fee provisions in GS 53-244.101. Adds that assessments may be reduced as provided by GS 53C-8-2 (bank assessments and fees).

Amends GS 53-244.102, concerning continuing education for mortgage loan originators, by no longer requiring approval of the course to include approval of the course provider. Removes provisions specifying that the statute does not preclude any approved course that is provided by the employer, and specifying the manner in which the courses may be offered.

Amends GS 53-244.103 by amending the surety bond requirements for mortgage lenders, mortgage brokers, exclusive mortgage brokers, and mortgage servicers.

Amends GS 53-244.104 by amending the minimum net worth requirements to require the network of mortgage services be documented by an unqualified audited statement of financial condition. Adds that covered institutions must meet the requirements of new Part 2 (Prudential Standards for Mortgage Servicers) of this Article, which does not apply to mortgage servicers that are not covered institutions.

Amends GS 53-244.105 to make record keeping requirements applicable to mortgage lenders, mortgage brokers, mortgage servicers, or registrants. Adds the requirement of notifying the Commissioner of where the records will be stored. Removes the provision allowing the Commissioner to impose terms and conditions on where the records and files may be maintained outside of this state. Specifies that the statute is deemed to be complied with if the requirements of the specified federal regulations are met. Requires keeping the information security plan as part of the books and records.

Removes GS 53-244.106 concerning the display of the license.

Amends GS 53-244.107 to require mortgage lenders and brokers to include a link to NMLS Consumer Access on their websites.

Amends GS 53-244.109 by making the duties of mortgage brokers also applicable to mortgage lenders. Makes the provision on initial disclosures made under RESPA applicable to mortgage brokers only.

Makes the provisions of GS 53-244.110, concerning the duties of mortgage servicers, applicable to all licensees. Amends the requirements for disclosure when accepting assignment of servicing rights for mortgage loans to no longer include a schedule of the ranges and categories of costs and fees for servicing-related activities, notice of licensure and how to submit complaints, and other specified notices.

Amends GS 53-244.113 to also deem the Commissioner to have complied with the requirements concerning service of process by depositing with a delivery service any notice required or permitted to a licensee or registrant; makes conforming changes. Adds that a person subject to this Article who is not licensed or registered must be served as specified in GS 150B-38.

Amends GS 53-244.115 to allow the Commissioner to enter into agreements or sharing arrangements with other governmental agencies or associations representing governmental agencies and to share otherwise confidential information under these written agreements, but only to the extent allowed by GS 53C-2-7(d). Specifies that information shared pursuant to these agreements retains any and all applicable privilege and related confidentiality protections.

Amends GS 53-244.119 by amending the requirements for participation in the NMLS to allow the Commissioner to participate and require all persons to be licensed or registered through the NMLS.

Enacts new GS 53-244.122 allowing the Commissioner to temporarily waive or suspend requirements for Article 1 during an emergency.

Makes additional conforming, clarifying, and technical changes throughout the Part.

Adds new Part 2, consisting of the following new statutes.

Enacts new GS 53-244.141, setting out 24 definitions. Defines *agency* as Fannie Mae, Freddie Mac, and Ginnie Mae. Defines *covered institution* as a mortgage servicer with servicing portfolios of 2,000 or more one- to four-unit residential mortgage loans serviced or subserviced for others, excluding whole loans owned, and loans being "interim" serviced prior to sale as of the most recent calendar year end, reported in the NMLS Mortgage Call Report.

Enacts GS 53-244.142 making Part 1 and this Part applicable to covered institutions; sets out exclusions.

Enacts new GS 53-244.143 setting out capital and liquidity requirements for covered institutions.

Enacts new GS 53-244.144 requiring covered institutions to establish and maintain a board of directors responsible for oversight. Allows covered institutions not approved to service loans by a GSE or Ginnie Mae, or if these federal agencies have granted approval for a board alternative, a covered institution to establish a similar body constituted to exercise oversight and fulfill the board of directors' responsibilities in this statute. Makes the board of directors responsible for: (1) establishing a written corporate governance framework, including appropriate internal controls designed to monitor corporate governance and assess compliance with the corporate governance framework, available to the Commissioner upon request; (2) monitoring and ensuring institution compliance with the corporate governance framework and this Part; and (3) accurate and timely regulatory reporting, including the requirements for filing the Mortgage Call Report. Sets out internal auditing requirements and also requires covered institutions to undergo external audits, subject to the specified minimum requirements. Requires a covered institution to establish a risk management program overseen by the board of directors and available to the Commissioner who identifies, measures, monitors, and mitigates financial risks and changes to the risk profile of the mortgage servicer and assets being serviced. Requires the program to be able to manage credit risks, liquidity risks, operational risks, market risks, compliance risks, legal risks, and reputation risks, as described. Requires conducting an annual risk management assessment, including a formal report to the board of directors, available to the Commissioner.

Effective October 1, 2025.

[View summary](#)

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

H 763 (2025-2026) **NEIGHBOR STATE LICENSE RECOGNITION ACT**. Filed Apr 2 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE RECOGNITION FOR INDIVIDUALS LICENSED IN CERTAIN NEIGHBORING STATES WHO ESTABLISH RESIDENCE IN THIS STATE*.

Enacts GS 93B-15.3, directing the occupational licensing board or a State agency licensing board except those overseeing chiropractors, dentists, optometrists, physicians, podiatrists, veterinarians and attorney licensure, to issue a license, certification, or registration to any applicant who establishes residence in this State and satisfies nine listed conditions, including that the applicant is currently licensed, certified, or registered in Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia in the discipline applied for in this State at the same or substantially equivalent practice level, as determined by the occupational licensing board or State agency licensing board. Requires the relevant State board to suspend an application process if a disciplinary proceeding is pending in another state until it's resolved. Requires the relevant State board to publish its requirements for licensure, as specified, on its website. Clarifies GS 93B-15.3 effect on other agreements and alternate pathways to licensure. Provides that the scope of the license, certification, or registration authorizes practicing in the State with the same rights and privileges as an individual whose home state is North Carolina. Requires each occupational board and State agency licensing board subject to GS 93B-15.3 to submit an annual report to the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, and the specified NCGA committee on the three specified matters by October 31, beginning on October 31, 2026. Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for licensure, certification, or registration received on or after that date.

Intro. by Zenger, Tyson, Moss, Pless.

GS 93B

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing

H 764 (2025-2026) **ESTABLISH DEATH BY RECKLESS BOATING**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE OFFENSE OF DEATH OR SERIOUS INJURY BY RECKLESS BOATING*.

Enacts new GS 75A-10.4 establishing the following crimes. Establishes death by reckless boating, a Class A1 misdemeanor, as when: (1) the person unintentionally causes the death of another person while operating a vessel; (2) the person was engaged in an offense under of recklessly operating a vessel that was the proximate cause of death; and (3) the person was not engaged in the offense of impaired boating. Establishes serious injury by reckless boating, a Class 1 misdemeanor, as when: (1) the person unintentionally causes the serious injury of another person while operating a vessel; (2) the person was engaged in an offense for recklessly operating a vessel that was the proximate cause of the serious injury; and (3) the person was not engaged in the offense of impaired boating. Establishes aggravated death by reckless boating, a Class F felony, as when: (1) the person unintentionally causes the death of another person while operating a vessel; (2) the person was engaged in an offense for recklessly operating a vessel that is the proximate cause of the death; (3) the person was not engaged in the offense of impaired boating; and (4) the person has a previous conviction for recklessly operating a vessel within seven years of the date of the offense. Establishes aggravated serious injury by reckless boating, a Class I felony, as when: (1) the person unintentionally causes the serious injury of another person while operating a vessel; (2) the person was engaged in an offense for recklessly operating a vessel that is the proximate cause of the serious injury; (3) the person was not engaged in the offense of impaired boating; and (4) the person has a previous conviction for recklessly operating a vessel within seven years of the date of the offense. Prohibits prosecuting a person who has been charged with death by reckless boating for the offense of manslaughter arising out of the same death; and prohibits prosecuting a person charged with manslaughter for death by reckless boating arising out of the same death. Applies to offense committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Logan, Setzer, Carney, Helfrich.

GS 75A

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

Section 1

Amends GS 120-36.7, enacting a new subsection to require a fiscal note be prepared by the Fiscal Research Division and attached to every bill and resolution introduced in the NCGA that proposes a change that could cause a net increase or decrease in the cost of constructing, purchasing, owning, or selling a single-family residence. Requires the fiscal note to identify and estimate all anticipated effects on costs for the first five years that the proposed change would be in effect. Details required bases for the estimates. Provides for instances where the Fiscal Research Division determines no estimate is possible. Prohibits including comments on the merits but allows for noting technical and mechanical defects. Describes the procedure for requesting a fiscal note, the timeline within which the note must be prepared and transmitted, and its attachment to the bill. Makes the requirements applicable to bills which are reported favorably by a committee with an amendment that proposes a change covered by the subsection.

Enacts GS 159-42.2, establishing a similar requirement applicable to governing bodies of local governments. Requires governing bodies of cities and counties to have a fiscal note prepared by their planning department (or another department designated by the body) and submitted to the body at least five days prior to a meeting where an ordinance is to be introduced that would cause a net increase or decrease in the cost of constructing, purchasing, owning, or selling a single-family residence. Requires the fiscal note be made available to the public at the meeting. Defines "introduced". Allows the department preparing the fiscal note to consult with relevant specified trade organizations. Requires the fiscal note to identify and estimate all anticipated effects on costs for the first five years that the proposed change would be in effect. Details required bases for the estimates. Provides for instances where the department determines no estimate is possible. Prohibits including comments on the merits but allows for noting technical and mechanical defects. Creates a cause of action for residents against a governing body for noncompliance. Authorizes a court to order that a fiscal note be prepared and prohibits a court from determining the sufficiency of a fiscal note.

Applies to legislation and ordinances introduced for consideration on or after July 1, 2025.

Section 2

Amends GS 160D-101, repealing the provision specifying that GS Chapter 160D (Planning and Zoning) does not impact local governments' scope of authority for planning and development regulation authorized by state law in other GS Chapters. Instead, enacts a new subsection barring local governments from exercising planning, zoning, subdivision, or development regulation authority beyond that expressly authorized by GS Chapter 160D. Prohibits local governments from enacting or enforcing more restrictive planning, zoning, subdivision or development regulations standards, limitations, or requirements than those expressly provided by State law or rule governing a particular subject matter, if any, except for regulations pertaining to floodplain management. Effective January 1, 2026. Deems void any noncompliant ordinance in effect or subsequently adopted on or after that date.

Section 3

Amends GS 160D-108.1 regarding site-specific vesting plans based on an approval required by a local government regulation. Now deems that a duration of the underlying approval less than five years (was two years) does not affect the duration of the site-specific vesting plan. Extends the duration of vested rights for site-specific vesting plans from two to five years. Now allows a local government to provide for rights to be vested for a period exceeding five years and up to eight years (was two years and up to five years). Changes language to refer to land development regulation rather than zoning action. Makes further clarifying and technical changes.

Section 4

Amends GS 160D-109 to bar members of local government governing boards and appointed boards from participating in or voting on any legislative decision (or, for appointed board members, any advisory decision) regarding a development regulation adopted under the Chapter where the member has a fixed opinion prior to the hearing on the matter that is not susceptible to change, or the member has undisclosed ex parte communication about the matter. Makes organizational and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 160D-605 regarding the required statement governing boards must approve when adopting or rejecting any zoning text or map amendment describing whether its action is consistent or inconsistent with an adopted comprehensive or land-use plan. Makes the plan consistency statement subject to judicial review (currently exempt from judicial review).

Section 5

Makes organizational changes to GS 160D-203 regarding split jurisdiction. Adds a new subsection to direct planning and development regulation jurisdiction over parcels that lie within the jurisdiction of more than one local government as follows. Specifies that:

- if only one local government has the ability to provide water and sewer services to the parcel at the time a site plan is submitted, that local government has jurisdiction over the entire parcel;
- if all of the local governments have the ability to provide either water or sewer services, but not both, at the time the site plan is submitted, the owner can designate which local government's regulations will apply to the parcel; and
- if all or none of the local governments have the ability to provide water and sewer services at the time the site plan is submitted, the local government where the majority of the parcel is located has jurisdiction over the entire parcel.

Section 6

Amends GS 160D-402, authorizing governing boards to set fees for the support, administration, and implementation of programs authorized by GS Chapter 60, to specify that such fees cannot exceed the amount reasonably required for those purposes (previously, authorized boards to fix reasonable fees).

Section 7

Amends GS 160D-403 to require that approvals concerning an application for a development project that is a permitted use in the zoning district where the project is located be made by the city's administrative staff if the city has a population of at least 125,000 people.

Section 8

Enacts GS 160D-707 (concerning applications for amendment of a zoning map or zoning regulations) and amends GS 160D-403 (concerning applications for development approval), establishing a 14-day period within which a local government or their designated staff must determine whether an application for amendment of a zoning map or zoning regulations, or development approval, is complete and notify the applicant of the application's completeness or deficiencies. Establishes a second 14-day period within which a determination of completeness must be made for amended applications or supplemental information submitted to cure identified deficiencies. Requires the local government or their designated staff to issue a receipt letter or electronic response upon the date the application is deemed complete, starting a 90-calendar day review period within which the application must be approved or denied. Tolls the review period at an applicant's request of a continuance. Permits extension of the review period up to six months only by agreement with the applicant and due to circumstances beyond the control of local government. Deems failure to act within the review period to constitute approval of the application, requiring written approval be issued upon demand by the applicant.

Section 9

Amends GS 160D-702 regarding local government authority to adopt zoning regulations. Regarding the general prohibition against applying any regulations relating to the building design elements adopted under the Chapter to any structures subject to regulation under the Residential Code, now prohibits applying these prohibited regulations to any zoning district or conditional district, without exception (current law allows property owners to voluntarily consent to application in the course of seeking and obtaining a zoning amendment or a zoning, subdivision, or development approval). Modifies and adds to the prohibited scope of zoning and development regulations (regulations) as follows. Prohibits regulations from setting a minimum width, length, or square footage (was square footage only) of any structures subject to the Residential Code. Prohibits establishing or requiring parking or parking space requirements or allocations except pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (replacing the prohibition against requiring a parking space to be larger than 9 feet wide by 20 feet long, with exceptions for handicap, parallel, or diagonal parking spaces). Specifies that the parking space prohibition applies to parking space sizes, parking spaces required for a particular development and their location and configuration within a particular development. Adds a new prohibition against setting a minimum width, length, or square footage for driveways within a development, unless the driveway abuts a public road, as defined, or pursuant to specified state law. Specifies that the prohibition does not impact

the Department of Transportation's (DOT) authority to regulate driveways adjacent to State roads. Adds a new prohibition against setting design standards for roads with a development in excess of those required by DOT, with an exception for a city that accepts ownership and maintenance responsibility for the road prior to or in conjunction with site plan approval, subject to confirmation of conformity requirements. Adds a new prohibition against requiring the installation of sidewalks or improvement of existing sidewalks for any commercial or school property, with two described exceptions, including that the sidewalk is connected to an existing sidewalk. Adds a new prohibition against establishing a setback or buffer years requirements for a multifamily development that exceeds 15 units per acre, limited to cities with a population of at least 125,000.

Section 10

Amends GS 160D-102 to define *dwelling unit* to mean a single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking, and sanitation.

Amends GS 160D-703, adding a new requirement for local governments to classify residential zoning districts based on the number of dwelling units allowed per acre and prohibits classification based on the minimum lot size allowed. Enacted as new subsection (a2), establishes siting uses statutorily permitted by right in areas zoned for residential use in a county, based on county population, ranging from no fewer than four dwelling units per acre for counties with a population of 49,999 or less, and no fewer than six dwelling units per acre for counties with a population of 275,000 or more. Enacted as new subsection (a3), establishes siting uses statutorily permitted by right in areas zoned for residential use in a city, based on city population, with no fewer than four dwelling units per acre for cities with a population of 19,999 or less, and no fewer than six dwelling units (which may be met by duplexes, triplexes, and quadruplexes permitted by right) per acre for cities with population of 125,000 or more. Adds statutory uses of right for areas zoned for non-agricultural commercial, business, or industrial use in a city with a population of 125,000 or more for duplexes, triplexes, quadruplexes, and multifamily structure with more than four residential dwelling units, with a maximum height restriction as specified. Deems the statutory uses and structure of right for described for cities with a population of 125,000 or more exempt from local design standards (unless adopted as a condition of participation in the National Flood Insurance Program) or landscape buffering regulations. Deems new subsections (a2) and (a3) applicable to all structure subject to the Residential Code regardless of whether the structures are located on multiple lots or a single lot; excludes land used for a bona fide farm purpose or open space land purpose from the scope of new subsections (a2) and (a3). Regarding conditional districts, prohibits local governments from: (1) requiring, enforcing, or incorporating into the zoning regulations, or requiring as a condition of approval of any site plan, development agreement, conditional zoning permit, or any other instrument any condition, requirement, or deed restriction not specifically authorized by law, or any condition or requirement that courts have held to be unenforceable if imposed directly by the local government; or (2) accepting any offer by the petitioner to consent to any condition not specifically authorized by law, including listed conditions and standards (current law prohibited conditions or requirements not authorized by otherwise applicable law unless the petitioner consented in writing). Defines "acre".

Effective January 1, 2026. Deems void any inconsistent local government ordinance in effect on or after that date.

Section 11

Amends GS 160D-803 to require (was permit) subdivision regulations to provide that final decisions on preliminary plats and final plats are administrative and made by a staff person or committee comprised entirely of staff persons (current law permits the decisions to be made by the governing board, the governing board on recommendation of a designated body, or a designated planning board, technical review committee of local government staff, or other designated body or staff person). Eliminates language referencing quasi-judicial decisions. Makes conforming changes.

Section 12

Applicable to cities with a population of at least 125,000 people, enacts GS 160D-974 to mandate cities to allow small housing (appears to intend "tiny houses") in areas zoned for residential or mixed-use residential, including those that allow for the development of detached single-family dwellings. Provides a savings clause for private covenants or other contractual agreements among property owners. Excludes areas designated as a local historic district unless approved by the local historic preservation authority. Authorizes a city to require a new septic system or upgrade an existing system if determined that the existing system is incapable of handling extra capacity. Defines "tiny house".

Applicable to cities with a population of at least 125,000 or more, enacts GS 160D-975 to mandate cities to allow the development of at least one accessory dwelling unit, conforming to the Residential Code, for each detached single-family

dwelling that is greater than 600 square feet, in areas zoned for residential use that allow for development of detached single-family dwellings. Allows the accessory building to be built or sited concurrently with or after the primary dwelling. Specifies that the statute does not prohibit permitting accessory dwelling units in any area not otherwise required by the statute. Defines "accessory dwelling unit". Lists three requirements from which development and permitting of an accessory dwelling unit are excepted from, including owner-occupancy requirements. Lists prohibitions for cities in connection with permitting accessory dwelling units, including prohibiting connection of the accessory dwelling unit to existing utilities serving the primary dwelling unit and charging fees that exceed the amount charged for single-family dwelling units similar in nature (other than building permit fees). Authorizes cities to regulate accessory dwelling units so long as the regulations do not act to discourage their development or siting through unreasonable costs or delay. Provides a savings clause for private covenants or other contractual agreements among property owners. Authorizes cities to impose a minimum setback for accessory dwelling units of the lesser of five feet or the setback minimum imposed generally upon lots in the same zoning classification.

Section 13

Amends GS 160D-944, adding new criteria for the designation of a historic district. Now requires that 75% of the property owners in the proposed district sign a petition requesting designation of the district. Adds a new requirement for the governing board of the local government to unanimously approve the adoption of the district.

Section 14

Amends GS 160D-1110 to prohibit local governments from requiring more than a shell permit, defined as a permit that allows for the structural construction of a building but does not result in the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, for the construction of a multifamily development project. Directs local governments to issue certificates of occupancy for individual units in a multifamily development project permitted under a shell permit as units meet the criteria for issuance, upon request of the permittee.

Section 15

Amends GS 160D-1403.1, allowing for persons with standing to bring a claim to challenge the enforceability, validity, or effect of a local land development regulation or decision (limited to local land development regulation under existing law). Expands the possible claims to include that the ordinance is arbitrary or capricious, or that the decision of an administrative staff member, local government decision-making board or governing board, or local government official made pursuant to the authority of GS 160D-702 or GS 160D-703 (regarding zoning regulations and zoning districts), is ultra vires, preempted, in excess of its statutory authority, made upon unlawful procedure, made in error of law, arbitrary and capricious, or an abuse of discretion. Adds to the criteria for standing to bring a claim to allow a claim be brought by an association, organization, society, or entity whose membership is comprised of any individual or entity identified in two existing criteria for standing relating to development permit applicants. Defines "local government official".

Section 16

Enacts GS 160D-1403.3, creating a cause of action for any person, organization, society, or entity for enforcement of the Chapter's provisions and recovery of damages, costs, and disbursements, and receipt of other equitable relief.

Section 17

Amends GS 160D-110, excluding the Chapter from the scope of GS 153A-4 and GS 160A-4 (directing for the broad construction of the Chapters and local acts).

Enacts GS 160D-1406 to allow recovery of actual damages resulting from any development decision, or lack thereof, in a civil action instituted by any person with standing under GS 160D-1402(c) (standing for appeals of quasi-judicial decisions of decision-making boards when the appeal is in the nature of certiorari). Makes recovery available for decision from any member of the decision-making body who (1) engaged in impermissible violations of due process; (2) considered evidence or other material gained outside of an evidentiary hearing when making a quasi-judicial decision; or (3) acted maliciously, arbitrarily, and capriciously, or unlawfully. Permits the award of punitive damages. Authorizes the court to compel disclosure of information necessary to a proper administration of justice, subject to the common law of legislative privilege and immunity. Provides for the award of attorneys' fees and costs.

Amends GS 6-21.7 to require courts to award reasonable attorneys' fees and costs to a party who successfully challenged acts of the member of a decision-making board under new GS 160D-1406. Makes organizational and clarifying changes.

Amends GS 153A-121 (concerning counties) and GS 160A-174 (concerning cities), specifying that the statutes, which grant counties' and cities' general ordinance-making power, do not apply to the adoption or enforcement of development regulations under GS Chapter 160D.

Section 18

Amends GS 136-102.6, adding a new subsection to mandate that the Division of Highways of DOT accept a performance guarantee as provided under GS 160D-804.1 to ensure completion of streets that are required by a municipal or county subdivision control ordinance. Requires issuance of the certificate of approval to the municipality or county upon receipt of the performance guarantee. Makes clarifying changes.

Section 19

Amends GS 160A-37 to generally prohibit cities from regulating the size, location, direction of traffic flow, and manner of construction of driveway connections into any street or alley unless expressly permitted by GS Chapter 160D (current law grants cities the express authority to regulate these matters by ordinance). For permitted ordinances under GS Chapter 160D, requires that the city have shown through substantial evidence (1) the need for the improvements is reasonably attributable to the traffic using the driveway and (2) the improvements serve the traffic of the driveway. Defines "substantial evidence".

Section 20

Enacts GS 162A-901 to require public water systems, public sewer systems, or public water and sewer systems (systems) serving the site for a proposed development to respond within 30 days of receiving a completed application for service commitment as to whether the system has capacity to serve the proposed development. Defines "proposed development". Limits reservation of capacity to applicants with an active application for development approval. Mandates reservation of capacity for the proposed development for 24 months from the date of the completed application for service commitment unless the system does not have capacity or is under a moratorium precluding expansion, as specified. Requires systems to prepare a plan for expansion of capacity within 90 days of denial of a reservation application that includes required specified components. Prohibits denial of access to the system by the system or a local government upon the applicant incurring costs associated with the proposed development in reliance on the reservation. Provides for extension of the reservation of capacity until construction is completed so long as the development application remains active or the work has commenced and continued under a valid development permit. Directs systems to notify the applicant that the reservation will expire within 90 days of the initial 24-month period.

Requires that, for applicants that, on or after July 1, 2020, received a service commitment from a system confirming availability of capacity for the applicant's development project, but whose capacity needs have not been provided, systems reserve, allocate, and provide those applicants with the capacity assured in the service commitment in the chronological order that the service commitment was issued before the system reserves, allocates, or provides capacity to another applicant.

Section 21

Enacts GS 130A-343.5 allowing property owners to: (1) install a wastewater system to serve any undeveloped or unimproved property located so as to be served by a public or community wastewater system; and (2) install a wastewater system on developed or unimproved property located so as to be served by a public or community wastewater system, if the public or community wastewater system has not yet installed sewer lines directly available to the property or otherwise cannot provide wastewater service to the property at the time the owner desires wastewater service. Prohibits requiring the property owner to connect to the public or community wastewater system so long as the wastewater system installed pursuant to Article 11 (Wastewater Systems) remains compliant and in use. Permits owners to opt-in to connection. Provides for construction of the section and lists three instances in which the section does not apply and a public or community wastewater system can mandate connection, including when the public authority or unit of government operating the system is being assisted by the Local Government Commission.

Section 22

Includes a severability clause.

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Development, Land Use and Housing, Land Use, Planning and Zoning, Government, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Health, Public Health, Public Enterprises and Utilities, Transportation

H 767 (2025-2026) **MARKET RATE TEACHER PAY STUDY**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE STUDY COMMISSION ON MARKET RATE COMPENSATION FOR TEACHERS*.

Establishes the 7-member Joint Legislative Commission on Market Rate Compensation for Teachers (Commission) to study and report on public school teacher compensation in North Carolina as compared to other states nationwide, including the seven matters listed. Provides for membership, vacancies, meetings, and staff through the Legislative Services Commission. Requires the Commission to hold at least five public meetings. Authorities an interim report to the 2025 NCGA, 2026 Regular Session, to be submitted before it convenes. Requires a final report by the end of the 2026 Regular Session. Sunsets the Commission at the earlier of December 31, 2026, or the submission of its final report.

Intro. by Lofton, Lambeth.

STUDY

[View summary](#)

Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, General Assembly

H 768 (2025-2026) **CLARIFY RADIO COVERAGE EXEMPTIONS/BLDG CODE**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TO ADOPT RULES TO AMEND THE STATE BUILDING CODE AND STATE FIRE PREVENTION CODE TO CLARIFY EXEMPTIONS FROM IN-BUILDING EMERGENCY RESPONDER RADIO COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS*.

Defines *emergency responder radio coverage requirements* (Requirements) to mean those requirements for in-building emergency responder communications enhancement systems specified under Section 510 of the North Carolina Fire Prevention Code (Code). Exempts four structures from the Requirements, including apartments and transients public lodging establishments that meet certain height or story requirements with the requisite egress. Directs that an emergency responder radio coverage system installed prior to the effective date of the act in a building or structure that meets the exemption criteria is not be required to be removed and allows those systems to be deactivated. Requires the Building Code Council to adopt rules to amend the Code in line with the provisions of the Requirements. Applies the APA's effective date provisions triggered when 10 or more written objections are received to the rule (GS 150B-21.3). Specifies that the provisions of the APA requiring review by the rules commission do not apply. Until permanent rules are adopted as discussed above, instructs the Council and local governments enforcing the Code not to enforce the emergency responder radio coverage requirements against buildings and structures that meet the exemption criteria and instead allow for deactivation of such systems instead.

Intro. by Brody, Cotham, Zenger, Winslow.

UNCODIFIED

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Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Property and Housing

H 770 (2025-2026) **EST. PROCEDURE/COMPLEX FAMILY FINANCIAL CASES**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROCEDURE FOR COMPLEX FAMILY FINANCIAL CASE DISPOSITION*.

Section 1

Amends GS Chapter 50 adding Article 6, "Complex Family Financial Cases" establishing a procedure for their designation and becomes effective as of July 1, 2025. Defines *chief hearing officer* (a hearing officer designated by the Chief Justice who determines which cases are designated as complex, assigns designated cases, and prepares reports), *complex family financial*

case (eligible claims in cases designated as complex including equitable distribution, alimony, post separation support, child support, or any combination thereof), and *hearing officer* (individual appointed to hear and enter orders in complex family financial cases).

Requires the Chief Justice to appoint hearing officers and designate a chief hearing officer. Establishes that hearing officers are employees of the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Sets out the minimum qualifications for a hearing officer.

Requires hearing officers to be North Carolina attorneys in good standing with the NC State Bar with a history of substantial involvement in complex family law cases in the 10 calendar years prior to the year of application. Substantial involvement includes an average of at least 600 hours per year handling complex family financial cases with no less than 400 hours in any one year. Requires hearing officers to have completed at least 45 hours of continuing legal education (CLE) credits in family law, nine of which may be in related fields, in the five calendar years prior to the year of application. Caps the number of CLE credits at 9 hours for attendance at an extended negotiation or mediation training course and excludes CLE credits for parenting coordinator training. Requires 10 satisfactory peer reviews by lawyers or judges with personal knowledge of the applicants' handling of complex family financial cases. Excludes peer reviews by relations by blood or marriage or colleagues at the same place of employment at the time of the application.

Establishes the annual salary for a hearing officer as set forth in the Current Operations Appropriations Act for business court judges. Provides for travel reimbursement on the same basis as State employees generally and for reimbursement for travel and subsistence expenses incurred for professional education. Excludes reimbursement for travel within the hearing officer's county of residence. Provides for hearing officers to receive longevity pay as set forth in the Current Operations Appropriations Act based on years of service. *Service* is defined as serving as a justice or judge, as a member of the Utilities Commission, as an administrative law judge, as director or assistant director of the AOC, as a hearing officer, as a district attorney, or as a clerk of superior court.

Requires hearing officers to conduct hearings and ensure the parties' due process rights are protected and take related specified actions. Grants authority to hearing officers to enter temporary, interim, and final orders related to the issues being heard and to enter orders granting or denying motions. Specifies that these orders have the same force and effect as orders entered by a district court judge and that hearing officers have statewide authority to conduct hearings on complex family financial cases. Requires hearing officers to complete at least nine hours of CLE credit in family law or related fields annually. Caps at one hour per year CLE credit for attendance at negotiation or mediation training and excludes CLE credit for parent coordinator training.

Sets out the procedure for designation of a complex family financial claim beginning January 1, 2026. Requires the party seeking the designation to file and serve a Notice of Designation (the notice) on all parties or counsel and on the chief hearing officer. Requires the party to succinctly state in the notice any factors as enumerated in the new GS 50-114 and the reasons that support a complex case designation. Deems as waived any factor or reasons not asserted in the notice. Gives the other party 30 days to file and serve an opposition to the notice. Deems as waived any opposition to any factor or reason not asserted in the opposition. Requires the chief hearing officer to enter a written order within 45 days of service of the notice determining whether the action should be designated as a complex family financial claim and file the order in the county where the action was filed. Requires parties in cases designated as complex to share equally the additional filing fee for complex family financial cases in amended GS 7A-305 (see below). Requires the chief hearing officer to assign to a hearing officer claims designated as complex. Limits all proceedings in the claim to be heard by the assigned hearing officer. Provides that claims that are denied a complex case designation are heard as all other claims filed under GS Chapter 50. Applies the rules in GS Chapter 50, Article 1, the NC Rules of Civil Procedure, the NC Rules of Evidence, and applicable local rules of court to complex family financial cases.

Identifies 13 factors for the chief hearing officer to consider when determining whether to designate a claim as a complex family financial case. These factors include valuation and classification issues of assets, changes in value of separate property, tax issues, pre- and post-marital agreements, total value of the estate, the parties' incomes, and the length of time requested for trial. Gives priority to claims filed in excess of 365 days and requested trial dates in excess of 15 days.

Limits motion hearings to remote proceedings unless good cause exists for in-person hearings. Requires in-person hearings on the issues and subjects such hearings to requirements for recording and maintenance of exhibits. Requires such hearings to be scheduled on consecutive days. Designates the location for all in-person hearings as the county where the action was filed in an available courtroom staffed by a deputy or assistant clerk and a bailiff. Establishes appeals of orders entered by a hearing officer as provided in amended GS 7A-27(b) (see below).

Section 2

Requires the Chief Justice to appoint three hearing officers and designate one of them as the chief hearing officer by September 1, 2025. Authorizes the Chief Justice to create additional rules or procedures as necessary. Requires the chief hearing officer and the AOC to prepare and submit an initial report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety and the Fiscal Research Division on or before August 1, 2026, and an annual report thereafter. Enumerates seven items to be included in the annual report, including statistics on disposition of cases and recommendations for improvement or expansion of the program.

Section 3

Amends GS 7A-305(a)(2) assessing an additional filing fee for claims designated as complex family financial claims. Requires each party to pay \$1,100 upon assignment of the claim as complex.

Amends GS 7A-27(b) adding new subsections (5) and (6) regarding appeals of right in complex family financial cases to the Court of Appeals. Provides for appeals of right directly to the Court of Appeals from any final judgment of a hearing officer in a complex family financial case and from any interlocutory order of judgment of a hearing officer if it (a) affects a substantial right, (b) determines the action and prevents a judgment from which an appeal might be taken, (c) discontinues the action, (d) grants or refuses a new trial, or (e) determines a claim prosecuted under GS 50-19.1.

Intro. by Stevens.

GS 7A, GS 50

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Court System,
Administrative Office of the Courts**

H 771 (2025-2026) **CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURES**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE DEPOSITIONS OF CERTAIN WITNESSES FOR PRESERVATION OF TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL ACTIONS, TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL RIGHTS FOR VICTIMS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND TO MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO THE CONFERENCE OF DISTRICT ATTORNEYS.*

Section 1.

Adds Part 1 “Depositions in Criminal Actions” to Article 10 of GS Chapter 8, consisting of existing GS 8-74 through new GS 8-74.1 to 8-74.10, as follows. Authorizes, in GS 8-74.1 for depositions through court order of a material witness to be taken by the State, upon successful motion by the State and notice to the defendant. Allows for court deposition orders to include production of evidence not privileged. Instructs a court not to order the deposition unless it appears to the court that the testimony of the witness is material and at least one of six factors apply, including the witness is in imminent danger of death or great bodily harm. Provides for content for the motion, court with jurisdiction over the motion, contents of court order, designation of a judge to preside over the deposition upon motion of either party, and for the court to hear the motion ex parte if the defendant fails to appear unless it determines that the defendant’s absence was not willful and should be excused for good cause. Provides for notices of deposition to the defendant in GS 8-74.2, along with their right to be present at the deposition. Provides for procedures for when the witness to be deposed is a child or an individual with an intellectual or developmental disability. Requires the defendant to have counsel at any such deposition, unless the defendant elects to proceed without counsel. Requires the State to pay for costs of the deposition. Instructs that the deposition be taken as a trial deposition if a judge is presiding over the proceeding. Requires that the State or the defendant make available to each other, for examination and use at the deposition, any statement of the witness being deposed which is in the possession of the State or the defendant and which would be required to be made available if the witness were testifying at the trial. Specifies that the deposition may be offered as evidence at trial insofar as permitted by the rules of evidence and that it may be also used for impeachment. Specifies that a witness is not unavailable if the exemption, refusal to testify, claim of lack of memory, inability, or absence of such witness is due to the procurement or wrongdoing of the party offering the deposition at the hearing or trial for the purpose of preventing the witness from attending or testifying. Allows for objections to the deposition or a part thereof in the same manner as civil proceedings. Provides for recording of the deposition. Allows the parties to agree to take a deposition without the State needing to make a motion under GS 8-74.1. Articulates the General Assembly’s intent that depositions only be taken in criminal proceedings in exceptional circumstances, as described.

Adds a Part 2, “Depositions in Civil Actions,” consisting of GS 8-76 through the rest of Article 10.

Effective December 1, 2025.

Section 2.

Enacts GS 114-66, providing for rights of sexual assault victims related to the sexual assault evidence collection kit (if so used), as follows:

- (1) The right to information, upon request, from the appropriate person or entity of the testing status and location of the sexual assault evidence collection kit.
- (2) The right to receive written notification, upon request, from the appropriate person or entity of the intended destruction or disposal of the kit at least 60 days before the date of the intended destruction or disposal.
- (3) The right to further preservation of the sexual assault evidence collection kit in accordance with GS 15A-266.5A.
- (4) The right to have an advocate or support person present during any court proceedings.

Directs that these rights apply to both reported and unreported sexual assault examination kits. Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to sexual assault evidence collection kits in the possession of any hospital, law enforcement agency, or the Department of Public Safety on or after that date. Requires the Office of the Attorney General to prepare and publish on its website a list of those rights in plain, easily understandable language by December 1, 2025.

Section 3.

Removes “President-elect” as one of the officers in the Executive Committee of the DA Conference in GS 7A-412. Requires that the Executive committee consist of a President, Vice-President, and at least four other members of the conference (currently, committee consists of four members, President, Vice-President, and President-elect). Shortens the amount of notice that the President of the Conference or Executive Committee must give to the DA Conference in calling a meeting from 10 days to five days. Makes language gender neutral. Removes reference to clerical support in title of GS 7A-414. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Stevens.

GS 7A, GS 8, GS 114

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Procedure, Evidence, Court System, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, State Agencies, Department of Justice

H 772 (2025-2026) **NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT LIFELINE ACT**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO SHARE THE SUICIDE AND CRISIS LIFELINE PHONE NUMBER IN VARIOUS WAYS.*

Amends the following statutes requiring giving students the phone number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline on any new student ID issued to a student in grades 6-12, on the school website, on the home screen of any electronic device issued to students, on any digital or printed school agenda or calendar, on a document during any suicide awareness activity, and on a document when the student registers: (1) GS 115C-47, applicable to local boards of education; (2) GS 115C-150.12C, applicable to schools for deaf and blind students; (3) GS 115C-218.75, applicable to charter schools; (4) GS 115C-238.66, applicable to regional schools; (5) GS 116-239.8, applicable to laboratory schools; (6) new GS 115C-566.5, applicable to private church schools and schools of religious charter, and qualified nonpublic schools; (7) GS 115D-5, applicable to community colleges; and (8) applicable to UNC. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Cunningham, Blackwell, Lambeth, G. Brown.

GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 116

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Government, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

H 773 (2025-2026) [SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE CHANGES](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE METRICS AND GRADES TO BETTER REFLECT SCHOOL PERFORMANCE*.

Makes changes to GS Chapter 115C, Article 8, Part 1B (School Performance) to modify the performance metrics and grades related to school performance.

Amends GS 115C-83.15(b) to modify the school achievement score calculation by separating the assessments for grades kindergarten through fifth and grades sixth through eighth, assigning points for metrics related to annual assessments. For grades six through eight, requires one point to be assigned for each of the following: (1) for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments for mathematics; (2) for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments for science in grades six through eight; (3) for each percent of students who progress in achieving English language proficiency on annual assessments in grades five through eight; (4) for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments for English Language Arts; and (4) for each percent of students in grade eight who complete a high school level course. Alters the metrics for assessments of grades ninth through twelfth in subparagraph (b)(2) by including a point for each percent of students who meet specified levels for advanced course exams, dual enrollment courses, armed services qualification tests, and industry credentials (was, minimum score for admission into a UNC constituent institution on a nationally normed test of college readiness, or enrolled in Career and Technical Education Courses and score at the specified levels on a nationally normed test of workplace readiness); applies these same changes to subsection (e1) career and readiness scores. Makes each achievement metric equally weighted. Alters the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) in subsection (c) by making conforming changes and adding that the growth score must also include the percentage of students in the lowest 25% in English Language Arts and mathematics. Specifies the overall performance score is an equally weighted calculation of the metrics in subsection (b) and EVAAS for the overall performance score in subsection (d). Changes the threshold scores for overall performance grades in subsection (d). Makes corresponding changes throughout the statute. Makes technical changes.

Alters the school quality and student success indicators for ninth through twelfth grades in GS 115C-83.16(a)(2)b. to include advanced course exams, dual enrollment courses, armed services qualification tests, and industry credentials (was, minimum score for admission into a UNC constituent institution on a nationally normed test of college readiness, or enrolled in Career and Technical Education Courses and score at the specified levels on a nationally normed test of workplace readiness).

Defines “advanced course exam” in GS 115C-83.17(1a) as an Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Advanced International Certificate of Education course.

Effective and applicable for the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Biggs, Cotham, Willis, Rhyne.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 774 (2025-2026) [SCHOOL BREAKFAST FOR ALL](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE BREAKFAST TO PUBLIC SCHOOL STUDENTS AT NO COST TO THE STUDENTS AND TO ESTABLISH THE FARM-TO-TABLE INITIATIVE*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Enacts new GS 115C-263.5 requiring the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), to the extent that funds are made available, to allocate funds for public schools to provide free breakfast to students in Pre-K through 12th grade. Prohibits state and federal reimbursements for the universal breakfast program from exceeding 100% of the federal free rate of meals served. Encourages schools to implement innovative breakfast service models. Requires DPI to report each year that funds are made available, to the specified NCGA committee on participation rates, costs, and program effectiveness. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-264 and GS 115C-263.

Enacts new GS 115C-264.6, under Part 2 of Article 17 of GS Chapter 115C, requiring DPI to develop a farm-to-table initiative to incorporate locally sourced and fresh ingredients into the universal breakfast program. Encourages schools to partner with

local farmers and food producers to procure fresh, seasonal, and nutritional food options. Requires providing opportunities for students to learn about agriculture, nutrition, and sustainable food systems. Amends the following statutes to require school to provide nutrition services in accordance with Part 2: (1) GS 115C-150.14, applicable to schools for the deaf and blind; (2) GS 115C-218.75, applicable to charter schools; (3) GS 115C-238.72, applicable to local school administrative units; and (4) GS 116-239.8, applicable to laboratory schools.

Appropriates \$39 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI, requiring \$34 million to be allocated to public schools for the universal breakfast program, and \$5 million to public school units to support the farm-to-table initiatives.

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

Intro. by Biggs, Lambeth, Pickett, Cotham.

APPROP, GS 115C, GS 116

[View summary](#)

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

H 775 (2025-2026) **CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR SCHOOL POSITIONS**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR THE INITIAL MEMBERS OF A CHARTER SCHOOL BOARD OF DIRECTORS, APPLICANTS FOR EDUCATOR LICENSURE, AND APPLICANTS FOR EMPLOYMENT WITH A PUBLIC SCHOOL UNIT AND TO CONSOLIDATE THE STATUTES REGULATING CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL*.

Part 1

Amends GS 115C-218.1(b) to require that initial members of a charter school board of directors consent to a criminal history check as provided in GS 115C-218.4. Amends GS Chapter 115C, Article 14A by enacting a new section, GS 115C-218.4, titled Charter board of directors criminal history checks. Defines *criminal history* as it is defined in GS 115C-77(a). Defines *member* as an individual who is a member of the board of directors (BOD) of a nonprofit seeking initial approval to establish a charter school.

Directs that prior to final approval of a charter application being granted, all nonprofit BOD members must pay for and submit to criminal history checks, except that a nonprofit may pay on behalf of a member. Requires the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to provide any member's criminal history from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories to the Charter Schools Review Board (Review Board), which must then require the member to be fingerprinted, provide additional information required by the SBI to the Review Board, and sign a form consenting to the check and use of identifying information required by the repositories, including fingerprints. Prohibits the Review Board from issuing a charter to a nonprofit with a member who refuses to consent.

Requires the Review Board to review and determine whether a member's criminal history (i) constitutes a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel or (ii) indicates that the member does not have the necessary integrity or honesty to serve on the BOD of a charter school. The Review Board must make written findings regarding how it used the information it received to deny an application, if it does so.

Information received and used by the Review Board under this statute is confidential and not a public record and may be destroyed by the Review Board after one calendar year.

Exempts the Review Board and its employees from liability for negligence arising from acts or omissions made in carrying out the duties of this statute; however, that immunity does not extend to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that is otherwise actionable. Deems immunity under this part waived to the extent of indemnification by insurance or under GS Chapter 143, Articles 31A and 31B, and to the extent sovereign immunity is waived under the Tort Claims Act under GS Chapter 143, Article 31. Makes it a Class A1 misdemeanor for any member to willfully furnish, supply, or otherwise give false information for a criminal history record check under this part.

This part is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for initial charters received on or after that day.

Part 2

Amends GS 115C-270.1 to define *applicant* as an individual who submits an application for licensure, including initial applications, renewal applications, and applications for reinstatement. Defines *criminal history* as defined in GS 115C-7(a).

Amends GS 115C-270.5(a) to mandate that the State Board of Education (SBE) require all applicants for licensure in North Carolina be checked for a criminal history, as provided in new GS 115C-270.12 (described further below).

Amends GS 115C-270.10(a) to allow the SBE to include in its schedule of fees costs associated with the criminal history check.

Amends GS Chapter 115C, Article 17E by enacting GS 115C-270.12, titled Licensure criminal history checks.

- Requires first-time applicants under this Article be checked for a criminal history before the SBE may issue a license.
- Allows an applicant to be temporarily employed while the SBE reviews the applicant's criminal history and makes a decision.
- Requires an applicant (or a governing body of a public school unit that chooses to) to pay fees associated with the criminal history check under this part.
- Requires the SBI to provide to the SBE the criminal history from the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories of any applicant, all of whom are required to be fingerprinted; provide additional information required by the SBI to a person designated by the SBE; and sign a form consenting to the check and use of identifying information required by the repositories, including fingerprints. Prohibits the SBE from issuing a license to an applicant who refuses to consent.
- Requires the SBE to review and determine whether an applicant's criminal history indicates that the applicant (i) constitutes a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel, (ii) does not have the necessary integrity or honesty to fulfill the duties of a professional educator, or (iii) otherwise fails to meet the SBE's standards and criteria governing professional educator ethics and moral character. The SBE must make written findings regarding how it used the information it received to deny an application, if it does so.
- Authorizes the SBE to provide upon request an applicant's criminal history to the governing body of a public school unit considering employing the applicant, during the period of licensure.
- Information received and used by the SBE under this part is confidential except where provided and not a public record and may be destroyed by (i) the SBE after the individual's license has ended or has been renewed or (ii) the governing body of a public school unit after it is used for purposes authorized by this part after one calendar year.
- Exempts the SBE and its employees from liability for negligence arising from acts or omissions made in carrying out the duties of this part; however, that immunity does not extend to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that is otherwise actionable. Deems immunity under this part waived to the extent of indemnification by insurance or under GS Chapter 143, Articles 31A and 31B, and to the extent sovereign immunity is waived under the Tort Claims Act under GS Chapter 143, Article 31. Makes it a Class A1 misdemeanor for any applicant to willfully furnish, supply, or otherwise give false information for a criminal history record check under this part.

Encourages the SBE to work toward programming the licensure system to align with the Multistate Educator Lookup System to enable electronic validation of out-of-state credentials and related information.

This part is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for licensure received on or after that day.

Part 3

Establishes Part 7, titled Public School Unit Personnel, in GS Chapter 115C, Article 7B. Recodifies GS 115C-332 into newly established Part 7. Amends GS 115C-77 as described below.

Clarifies that criminal history include crimes under GS Chapter 14, Article 5A, Endangering Executive, Legislative, and Court Officers, and Article 7B, Rape and Other Sex Offenses. Amends the definition of *school personnel* to include employees of public school units, including part-time employees, and qualifying independent contractors of public school units. Further defines the following terms:

- Consumer reporting agency. – an entity which, for monetary fees, dues, or on a cooperative nonprofit basis, regularly engages in whole or in part in the practice of assembling or evaluating consumer credit information or other information on consumers, including criminal history checks, for the purpose of furnishing consumer reports to third parties, and which uses any means or facility of interstate commerce for the purpose of preparing or furnishing consumer reports, and which is regulated as provided in 15 U.S.C. § 1681, et seq. A criminal history check by a consumer reporting agency provided for purposes of this section must

include a (i) search of the state criminal registry or repository in which the applicant resides; (ii) multistate/multijurisdiction database search, which includes a follow-up search at the originating source for any information returned by the database search and which confirms final disposition information of the same;(iii) search of records obtained from county, state, and federal criminal repositories where the individual resides and has previously resided; and (iv) search of the National Sex Offender Registry established as provided in 42 U.S.C. § 16919.

- Governing body. – The governing body of a public school unit.

Replaces nearly all references to "local boards" with "governing body" throughout.

Requires the governing body's criminal history check policies to require applicants for school personnel employment to submit to criminal history checks by either a consumer reporting agency, the SBI, or both. Allows a governing body to require an applicant to pay for fees associated with a criminal history check under this part.

Makes valid and requires a public governing body of a public school unit to accept a school personnel applicant's criminal history check in the last three years as part of an application for licensure pursuant to GS 115C-270.12. Allows the governing body to request a copy of the criminal history check from the SBE.

Requires the SBI to provide to a governing body the criminal history for any applicant under this part. A governing body that requires a criminal history check by the SBI must require the applicant to be fingerprinted by and provide additional information as required by the SBI, and to sign a form consenting to the check and use of identifying information required by the repositories, including fingerprints. Prohibits the governing body from employing or contracting with an applicant who refuses to consent. Authorizes a governing body to require an applicant to pay for fingerprinting.

This part is effective January 1, 2026, and applies to applications for employment received on or after that date.

Part 4

Makes conforming changes and repeals to consolidate background check statutes to the following statutes: GS 115C-157.1(b) (2), GS 115C-218.90(b), GS 115C-238.73, GS 115C-298.5(b)(2), GS 115C-332.1, GS 115C-562.5, GS 116-239.12, GS 14-202.4(d)(3), and SL 2021-180.

Part 5

Amends GS 143B-1209.11, titled Criminal record checks of school personnel, as follows.

- Makes conforming changes to subsection (a).
- Enacts new subsection (a1) authorizing the SBI to provide an applicant's criminal record check to the SBE if the applicant consents to the record check. Further authorizes the SBI to provide a criminal record check as defined in GS 115C-270.1(1a) by fingerprint card to the SBE, in accordance with GS 115C-270.12. Makes confidential information received by the SBE as provided in GS 115C-270.12(e).
- Enacts new subsection (a2) authorizing the SBI to provide a criminal record check to the Review Board of a member of a nonprofit BOD seeking initial approval to establish a charter school, if the member consents to the record check. Further authorizes the SBI to provide a *criminal record check* as defined in GS 115C-218.4(a)(2) by fingerprint card to the Review Board, in accordance with GS 115C-218.4. Makes confidential information received by the Review Board as provided in GS 115C-218.4(e).
- Authorizes the SBI to charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by the SBI in conducting a criminal record check under the immediately above two provisions; however, the fee must not exceed the actual cost of locating, editing, researching, and retrieving information.

Part 6

Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, State Board of Education

H 776 (2025-2026) **NC RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO FURTHER PROTECT THE PRACTICE OF RELIGION AND TO ENACT THE NORTH CAROLINA RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT.*

Specifies the intent of the bill to protect religious practices from neutrally applied action from local governments and HOAs.

Amends GS 41A-4 (Unlawful discriminatory housing practices) making the prohibition on discriminatory housing practices on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicapping condition or family status, applicable to any person to whom the requirements and prohibitions of the State Fair Housing Act apply. Adds new subsection (h), specifying that with respect to the prohibition on making housing unavailable or denying housing under subparagraph (a)(8), it is an unlawful housing practice for a local government or HOA to restrict religious gatherings in a dwelling or burden the practice of religion in the neighborhood where the dwelling is located.

Creates new GS Chapter 99D, Article 2 (The North Carolina Religious Freedom Restoration Act), and provides definitions for the Article. Provides that the free exercise of religion is protected, and state action may not burden religion unless both of the following apply: (1) the action is essential to further a compelling government interest, and (2) the action is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. Grants a claim or defense in any judicial action for a person whose exercise of religion is burdened, with appropriate judicial relief, damages, and attorneys' fees. Contains a limitation that nothing in the Article will be construed to address the constitutional prohibition on establishment of religion, and a severability clause.

Directs the Revisor of Statutes to create new GS Chapter 99D, Article 1 (Interference with Civil Rights) containing the existing GS 99D-1, and to make necessary conforming changes.

Amends GS 166A-19.2(b) in the North Carolina Emergency Management Act specifying that a religious institution may be required to comply with broadly applicable emergency requirements if they do not impose a substantial burden on religious services or if the State demonstrates both of the following: (1) the burden is necessary to further a compelling government interest, and (2) the burden is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest. Provides that when asserting a violation, the new GS 99D-23 (Free Exercise of Religion) prevails over the relevant provisions of the Emergency Management Act.

Contains a severability clause.

Intro. by Echevarria, Arp, N. Jackson, Moss.

GS 41A, GS 99D, GS 166A

[View summary](#)

Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Government

H 777 (2025-2026) **EXPRESSING FRENCH FRIENDSHIP**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH FRANCE ON TRADE ISSUES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-FRANCE ALLIANCE, CELEBRATING CENTURIES OF FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NORTH CAROLINA AND FRANCE, STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND FRANCE, ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF FRENCH CULTURE AND CENTURIES OF FRENCH IMMIGRATION ON NORTH CAROLINA, AND REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE FRENCH REPUBLIC.*

Includes whereas clauses.

States that the House of Representatives: (1) recognizes the historic significance of the friendship and alliance between the US and France; (2) commends the people of France for their remarkable achievements in promoting democracy, economic prosperity, and international cooperation; (3) applauds France for its continued partnership and economic cooperation with the

State; and (4) affirms the friendship and cooperation between France and the State and expresses commitment to further strengthening these ties. Urges Congress to work more closely with France on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between French and American companies in the economy of both the US and France. Expresses to Congress full support for the longstanding alliance between the US and France. Requires this resolution to be provided to the French Embassy in Washington, DC, the Honorary Consuls of France to the US Southeast, each member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the US House of Representatives and the Secretary of the US Senate, and the President.

Intro. by Reives, Bell, Huneycutt, Ager.

[HOUSE RES](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, General Assembly, State Government](#)

H 778 (2025-2026) [EXPRESSING UK FRIENDSHIP](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *A HOUSE RESOLUTION URGING THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM ON TRADE ISSUES AND FOREIGN INVESTMENT, EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE UNITED STATES-UNITED KINGDOM ALLIANCE, STRENGTHENING FRIENDSHIP AND ECONOMIC TIES BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM, ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPACT OF BRITISH CULTURE ON NORTH CAROLINA, AND REAFFIRMING THE BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP AND COOPERATION BETWEEN THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND.*

Includes whereas clauses.

States that the House of Representatives: (1) recognizes the historic significance of the friendship and alliance between the US and the United Kingdom; (2) commends the people of United Kingdom for their remarkable achievements in promoting democracy, economic prosperity, and international cooperation; (3) applauds the United Kingdom for its continued partnership and economic cooperation with the State; and (4) affirms the friendship and cooperation between the United Kingdom and the State and expresses commitment to further strengthening these ties. Urges Congress to work more closely with the United Kingdom on mutually beneficial trade relations to encourage increased investment and collaboration between English and American companies in the economy of both the US and the United Kingdom. Expresses to Congress full support for the longstanding alliance between the US and United Kingdom. Requires this resolution to be provided to the United Kingdom Embassy in Washington, DC, the British Consulate General, each member of North Carolina's Congressional Delegation, the Clerk of the US House of Representatives and the Secretary of the US Senate, and the President.

Intro. by Reives, Bell, Penny, Greenfield.

[HOUSE RES](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, General Assembly, State Government](#)

H 780 (2025-2026) [ALL PRO DADS & RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD NC](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL ALL PRO DAD CHAPTERS AND CREATE A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT NORTH CAROLINA FATHERS.*

Sets out nine "Whereas" clauses identifying statistics that support the need for paternal engagement in children's lives. Appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and management for 2025-26 for a directed grant to Family First, Inc., a Florida nonprofit corporation (the nonprofit), to expand its All Pro Dad fatherhood program to North Carolina. Also appropriates \$3 million from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) for 2025-26 for grants to address the needs of fathers and allows using up to \$2 million to contract for the required Program Manger. Requires the nonprofit to register with the Secretary of State in North Carolina and to use the funds to encourage father-child engagement. Gives DHHS six months to implement the grant to the nonprofit from the effective date of July 1, 2025.

Amends Article 2 of GS Chapter 108A adding Part 12, "Responsible Fatherhood NC Act." Defines *Department* as DHHS, and *Program* as Responsible Fatherhood NC (the Program). Identifies the intent of the legislature to recognize and support the role of fathers in children's lives. Requires DHHS to contract with a Program Manager to implement the Program. Sets out criteria

for the Program Manager to be a nonprofit organization with a history of focusing on responsible fatherhood and the capacity to manage a statewide initiative. Requires the Program Manager to develop, implement, and manage the Program with a focus on awareness of the role of fathers and resources for fathers, including the identification and use of existing available resources.

Requires DHHS to create two grants to be awarded to nonprofit community-based organizations to address the needs of fathers: (1) grants for services tailored to the needs of the father supported by case management and (2) grants for parenting education, specifically for fathers. Requires DHHS to prioritize grant applicants based on a list of nine priorities, including need in a geographic area, mission of the organization, community involvement, and capacity. Limits grants to three years contingent on the organization's compliance with requirements and its performance. Limits grant duration to three years, with subsequent funding contingent on compliance with the grant requirements and adequate performance. Requires grantees to report to the DHHS.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Willis, D. Hall, B. Jones, Bell.

[APPROP, GS 108A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of State Budget and Management](#)

H 781 (2025-2026) [UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC CAMPING & SLEEPING](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT BANNING UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC CAMPING OR SLEEPING IN THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF THE STATE*.

Amends GS Chapter 160D, Article 9, enacting new GS 160D-917, titled Camping in public spaces. Defines the following terms:

- (1) Department – The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) or the county health department if designated by DHHS.
- (2) Local government unit – A county or municipality.
- (3) Public camping or sleeping – Lodging or residing overnight in a temporary outdoor habitation used as a dwelling or living space and evidenced by the erection of a tent or other temporary shelter, the presence of bedding or pillows, or the storage of personal belongings or lodging or residing overnight in an outdoor space without a tent or other temporary shelter. The term does not include (i) lodging or residing overnight in a motor vehicle that is registered, insured, and located in a place where it may be lawfully or (ii) camping for recreational purposes on property designated for those purposes.

Prohibits a local government unit (Unit) from authorizing or otherwise allowing any person to regularly engage in public camping or sleeping on public property, including, but not limited to, public buildings or grounds and any public right-of-way under the jurisdiction of the Unit. Provides an exception to this prohibition that allows the governing body of a Unit to, by majority vote, designate Unit-owned property located within its jurisdiction to be used for a continuous period of up to one year for public camping or sleeping purposes. Other than those Units identified in the Local Government Commission's "unit list," a Unit so designating property must establish and maintain minimum stands and procedures designed to (i) ensure the safety and security of the designated property and the persons lodging or residing on the property, (ii) maintain sanitation, including, at a minimum, by providing access to clean and operable restrooms and running water, (iii) coordinate with the county health department to provide access to behavioral health services, which must include substance abuse and mental health treatment resources, and (iv) prohibit illegal substance use and alcohol use on the designated property and enforce the prohibition against such use.

Requires a Unit's designation to be certified by the Department to become effective. Certification requires Units to submit documentation proving that (i) insufficient open beds in homeless shelters in the Unit exist, (ii) the designated property is not contiguous to property zoned for residential use, (iii) the designated property would not adversely and materially affect the property value or safety and security of other existing residential or commercial property in the unit and would not negatively

affect the safety of children, and (iv) the Unit developed a plan to satisfy the minimum standards and procedures required under new GS 160D-917(c), described above.

Establishes a timeline for certain actions related to designation and certification.

- Requires the Department within 10 days of receiving a request to certify a designation to notify a requesting Unit of the date a request was received and any incorrect or missing information.
- Requires the Department within 45 days after receiving a complete submission to certify the designation. Deems a designation as having been certified on the 45th day if the Department takes no action.
- Requires a Unit to publish on its website within 30 days after the Department certifies the designation the minimum standards and procedures required under new GS 160D-917(c), described above, for so long as Unit property remains so designated.
- Requires a Unit to publish on the Unit's website any notice by the Department recommending closure no more than five business days after receiving notice by the Department, which may inspect designated property at any time and must provide notice to a Unit if it recommends closure due to a failure to comply with the statute's requirements.

Allows for a civil action to be brought by the Attorney General or by any resident of or owner of a business located in the Unit to enjoin violations under this act and provides certain remedies for successful actions. Requires that an applicant seeking an injunction to file an affidavit attesting that (i) the applicant provided written notice of the allegation to the Unit's governing body, (ii) the Unit was given five business days to cure the alleged violation before the applicant sought an injunction, and (iii) the county or municipality failed to take all reasonable actions within its powers to cure the alleged violation within those five business days.

Declares that the statute does not apply during any time in which a state of emergency has been declared by the Governor pursuant to GS 166A-19.20 or a Unit pursuant to GS 166A-19.22.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Biggs, N. Jackson, Balkcom, Schietzelt.

GS 160D

[View summary](#)

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

H 782 (2025-2026) **CIVIC CLUB REGISTRATION PLATE CLARIFICATION**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT CLARIFYING THE ISSUANCE OF CIVIC CLUB SPECIAL REGISTRATION PLATES*.

Amends GS 20-79.4(b)(44) to clarify that for civic club special license plates, a member of the organization includes the organization itself if the organization is the registered owner of the vehicle, and includes Lions Club in the list of example organizations.

Intro. by Biggs, Tyson, Balkcom, Eddins.

GS 20

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle

H 784 (2025-2026) **PROHIBIT ASSAULT WEAPONS**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT SEMIAUTOMATIC ASSAULT WEAPONS AND LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION FEEDING DEVICES*.

Amends GS Chapter 14 through the enactment of new Article 53D, titled Semiautomatic Assault Weapon and Large Capacity Ammunition Feeding Device Prohibition.

Enacts GS 14-409.48, titled Definitions.

- Defines large capacity ammunition feeding device as a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device manufactured after the effective date of new Article 53D with a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds

of ammunition. Excludes from the definition an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

- Defines semiautomatic assault weapon as meaning any of the following: (1) any of the firearms, or copies or duplicates of the firearms in any caliber, known as any of the following: Norinco, Mitchell, and Poly Technologies Avtomat Kalashnikovs (all models); Action Arms Israeli Military Industries Uzi and Galil; Beretta Ar70 (SC-70); Colt AR-15; Fabrique National FN/FAL, FN/LAR, and FNC; SWD M-10, M-11, M-11/9, and M-12; Steyr AUG; INTRATEC TEC-9, TEC-DC9, and TEC-22; or revolving cylinder shotguns, such as or similar to Street Sweeper and Striker 12; (2) a semiautomatic rifle that can accept a detachable magazine and has at least two of the following features: a folding or telescoping stock; a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon; a bayonet mount; a flash suppressor or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor; or a grenade launcher; (3) semiautomatic pistol that has an ability to accept a detachable magazine and has at least two of the following features: an ammunition magazine that attaches to the pistol outside of the pistol grip; a threaded barrel capable of accepting a barrel extender, flash suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer; a shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel and that permits the shooter to hold the firearm with the nontrigger hand without being burned; a manufactured weight of 50 ounces or more when the pistol is unloaded; or a semiautomatic version of an automatic firearm; or (4) a semiautomatic shotgun that has at least two of the following features: a folding or telescopic stock; a pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon; a fixed magazine capacity in excess of five rounds; or an ability to accept a detachable magazine.

Enacts GS 14-409.49, titled Semiautomatic assault weapons and large capacity ammunition feeding devices prohibited; identification markings. Prohibits a person in North Carolina from manufacturing, transferring, or possessing a semiautomatic assault weapon, or from transferring or possessing a large capacity ammunition feeding device. Expects from prohibition each of the following:

1. The possession or transfer of any semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device otherwise lawfully possessed on the effective date of this Article.
2. The manufacture of any semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device on or before the effective date of this Article.
3. Any firearm that is manually operated by bolt, pump, lever, or slide action; or that has been rendered permanently inoperable; or is an antique firearm.
4. Any semiautomatic rifle that cannot accept a detachable magazine that holds more than five rounds of ammunition.
5. Any semiautomatic shotgun that cannot hold more than five rounds of ammunition in a fixed or detachable magazine.
6. The manufacture for, transfer to, or possession by the United States, a department or agency of the United States or this State, a political subdivision of this State, or a transfer to or possession by a law enforcement officer employed by such an entity for purposes of law enforcement.
7. The transfer to a licensee under Title I of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 for purposes of establishing and maintaining an on-site physical protection system and security organization required by federal law, or possession by an employee or contractor of such licensee on-site for such purposes or off-site for purposes of licensee-authorized training or transportation of nuclear materials
8. The possession by an individual who is retired from service with a law enforcement agency and is not otherwise prohibited from receiving a firearm or ammunition of a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device transferred to the individual by the agency upon such retirement.
9. The manufacture, transfer, or possession of a semiautomatic assault weapon or large capacity ammunition feeding device by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer for the purposes of testing or experimentation authorized by federal law.

Requires that the serial number for any semiautomatic assault weapon manufactured in North Carolina after the effective date of this Article clearly show the date the weapon was manufactured. Requires that any large capacity ammunition feeding device manufactured in this State after the effective date of this Article shall be identified by a serial number that clearly shows that the device was manufactured or imported after the effective date of this Article.

Makes a violation of this statute punishable as a Class E felony.

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

Intro. by A. Jones, Greenfield, Price, Rubin.

GS 14

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure

H 785 (2025-2026) **SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY STUDY**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO STUDY BUDGET FLEXIBILITY FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION*.

Directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to study changes for implementing budget flexibility for local school administrative units. Provides that the flexibilities are to include methods of combining allotments, allowing transfers between allotments, or other methods DPI finds viable. Requires DPI to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on or before April 1, 2026, identifying beneficial methods of flexibility and making legislative recommendations.

Appropriates \$50,000 from the General Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year to DPI for the study.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lofton, Willis.

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

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

H 786 (2025-2026) **WORKING FAMILIES ACT**. Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT REDUCING PARENT COPAYMENTS FOR SUBSIDIZED CHILD CARE, REENACTING THE CHILD TAX CREDIT, RAISING THE STATE MINIMUM WAGE IN PHASES UP TO FIFTEEN DOLLARS PER HOUR, ALLOWING A HIGHER LOCAL MINIMUM WAGE, INCREASING THE INCOME ELIGIBILITY LIMIT FOR THE PROPERTY TAX HOMESTEAD CIRCUIT BREAKER, CREATING A HOMEBUYERS' ASSISTANCE PROGRAM WITH THE NORTH CAROLINA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS WHO WORK AS PUBLIC SERVANTS, AND ENACTING THE NORTH CAROLINA PAID FAMILY LEAVE INSURANCE ACT TO HELP WORKING FAMILIES AND CREATING THE EMPLOYER GRANT FUND TO OFFSET COSTS INCURRED BY EMPLOYERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE*.

Section 1

Amends Section 49D.3(b) of SL 2023-134 by reducing the amount families must pay for subsidized child care from 10% to 7% of gross family income. Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 2

Amends GS 105-153.10, which provides for the 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. Increases the credit amount, ranging from \$125 to \$250 depending on filing status (was, \$100 to \$125). 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.

Section 3

Amends GS 95-25.3 by increasing the minimum wage from \$6.15 to: (1) \$10 per hour, effective January 1, 2026; (2) \$12 per hour, effective January 1, 2027; (3) \$13 per hour effective January 1, 2028; (4) \$14 per hour, effective January 1, 2029; (5) \$15 per hour, effective January 1, 2030; and (6) the amount determined by the Commissioner of Labor, effective January 1, 2031, and annually thereafter. Adds new provision requiring the Commissioner of Labor, each September beginning in 2030, to calculate an adjusted minimum wage rate indexed to the percentage increase in the Consumer Price Index (All Urban Consumers, US City Average for All Items), CPI-I, or its successor index, as calculated by the US Department of Labor for the 12-month period preceding the previous September 1; requires each adjusted minimum wage rate to be published on September 30 and take effect on the following January 1.

Section 4

Amends GS 105-277.1B by increasing the limit on the income eligibility for the property tax homestead circuit breaker from 150% to 180% of the income eligibility limit. Effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Section 5

Directs the Housing Finance Agency (Agency) to establish a program under the Homeownership Fund to provide assistance, in the form of reimbursement or direct payment, to first-time homebuyers that are employed full-time as public servants in the State. Defines public servant as an active duty member or veteran, law enforcement officer, teacher, firefighter, or EMS personnel employed in the State. Defines first-time homebuyer. Provides for the lesser of \$25,000 or 10% of the purchase price for down payment assistance, mortgage insurance premium assistance, and closing costs. Allows for monthly mortgage insurance payment assistance for up to 60 months for any single first-time homebuyer. Authorizes the Agency to adopt, modify, or repeal rules and regulations to implement the act. Includes other defined terms.

Appropriates \$150 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Homeownership Assistance Fund for 2025-26 to be used to implement the act.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Section 6

Enacts new GS Chapter 96A, to be cited as the "North Carolina Paid Family Leave Insurance Act." Sets forth 15 defined terms applicable to the Chapter. Deems family and medical leave benefits provided under the terms of the Chapter payable beginning January 1, 2026, to covered individuals, defined as any person who submits an application and meets the monetary eligibility criteria set forth in GS 96-14.1(b) (regarding unemployment benefit claims) or is self-employed, elects coverage, and meets the requirements of new GS 96A-13, and meets the administrative requirements of the new Chapter and rules adopted thereunder, who meet one of five requirements, including: (1) is caring for a new child during the first year after birth, adoption, or child placement; (2) is caring for a family member with a serious health condition; (3) has a serious health condition; (4) is caring for a covered service member, as defined, who is the covered individual's next of kin or other family member; and (5) because of any qualifying exigency leave (as defined) arising out of the fact that the family member of the covered individual is on active duty or has been notified of an impending call or order to active duty in the Armed Forces. Defines family member, next of kin, and serious health condition. Specifies maximum duration of benefits based on eligibility requirement, ranging from 12 weeks to 26 weeks. Provides for payment within two weeks of filing a claim and every two weeks thereafter. Details parameters regarding the determination of payment amounts, with the maximum benefit permitted to be 100% of the statewide average weekly wage, and the minimum benefit set at \$100 per week, unless the covered individual's average weekly wage is less than the amount of that full wage. Bars payment for less than eight hours of leave taken in one work week.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, requires an employer to remit contributions to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Fund (Fund), at a rate annually fixed by the Assistant Secretary of the Division of Employment Security (DES). Provides for the setting of contribution rates for 2026 and 2027, and 2028 and subsequent years. Defines employer to include individuals, partnerships, associations, corporations, business trusts, legal representatives, any organized group, the State, political subdivisions of the State and any State or local agency or government instrumentality; excludes the federal government. Requires self-employed individuals electing coverage to make employer contributions as specified. Bars deducting more than 50% of the contribution required from that employee's wages.

Authorizes the covered individual to opt to take paid family and medical leave on an intermittent or reduced leave schedule with prorated benefits, subject to total leave permitted by the Chapter, employer operations, and notice requirements.

Provides for the covered individual's restoration by the employer to the position held by the covered individual upon expiration of family and medical leave as when the leave commenced, or a position with equivalent seniority, status, employment benefits, pay, and other terms and conditions of employment. Requires employers to maintain health benefits the covered individual had prior to leave for the leave duration, with the covered individual required to continue required applicable contributions. Details employer liability for violation of these protection provisions, including damages for compensation denied or lost with interest and liquidated damages, or actual monetary losses sustained up to a sum of 12 weeks of wages or salary of the employee, and equitable relief. Allows for an action for damages to be brought in any federal or State court by one or more employees against an employer for or on behalf of the employees or the employees and others similarly situated. Provides for the award of costs of the action, such as reasonable attorneys' fees and expert witness fees. Establishes a two-year statute of limitations, with a three-year statute of limitations for willful violations.

Bars prohibiting the exercise of or interfering with the exercise of rights protected by the Chapter. Prohibits retaliatory personnel actions or otherwise discriminating against a person for exercising protected rights under the Chapter. Includes a non-exhaustive list of rights protected under the Chapter to which the anti-retaliation provisions apply. Prohibits employers from counting leave taken under the Chapter as an absence that can lead to or result in an adverse employment action. Makes these provisions applicable to persons who allege violations in good faith. Provides for the liability provisions regarding employment protections to apply to the anti-retaliation provisions.

Provides for concurrent leave under the federal Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA). Provides for concurrent or coordinated payments and leave for disability or family care leave under a collective bargaining agreement or employer policy subject to written notice. Provides for the effect of such agreements and policy on an individual's rights and an employer's duties under the Chapter.

Provides for notice by the employer upon hiring and annually thereafter and when leave under the Chapter is requested or anticipated, stating rights and terms under the Chapter, benefit amounts, benefit procedures, Chapter protections, and rights to bring an action or file a complaint. Also requires posting of the notice in languages specified. Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to adopt rules establishing additional notice requirements. Requires employees to provide notice to their employer as soon as practicable of their intention to take leave under the Chapter.

Directs the Assistant Secretary to establish a system for appeal of denied leave under the Chapter. Provides for judicial review of leave benefits after an aggrieved party has exhausted administrative remedies established by the Assistant Secretary. Directs the Assistant Secretary to implement confidentiality procedures for claims filed and appeals taken.

Mandates disqualification from benefits for a period of one year for willfully falsifying or misrepresenting material facts or willfully failing to report a material fact to obtain Chapter benefits. Provides for DES to seek repayment of benefits resulting from material misrepresentation or claim rejection following benefit payment. Authorizes the Assistant Secretary to waive all or some of the amount where recovery would be against equity or good conscience.

Requires self-employed persons electing coverage to do so for an initial period of at least three years, effective upon filing written notice with the Assistant Secretary and agreeing to supply necessary income information. Provides for coverage withdrawal by self-employed persons.

Directs DES to establish and administer a family and medical leave insurance program and collect employer contributions under the Chapter. Requires DES to begin receiving and paying Chapter claims by January 1, 2025. Provides for application content and procedures. Requires DES to notify an employer within five business days of a claim filed under the Chapter. Provides for information sharing subject to the individual's consent. Deems files and records of individuals under the Chapter confidential, with the individual or authorized representative authorized to review the records or receive information from the records upon presentation of the individual's signed authorization. Directs the Department of Commerce to adopt necessary implementing rules for the Chapter.

Provides for notice upon filing a claim if the IRS determined benefits to be subject to federal income tax.

Creates the Fund within the custody of DES solely to pay Chapter benefits, with expenditure authority restricted to the Assistant Secretary or a designee. Authorizes investment actions with excess funds by DES.

Creates the Employer Grant Fund to offset employer costs of the program if they demonstrate the need for financial assistance. Specifies that the Fund consist of appropriations from the General Fund and unconditional and unrestricted donations from public agencies and private sources. Requires the Department of Commerce to adopt rules to administer the fund.

Establishes an annual reporting requirement for DES to report to the NCGA, beginning January 1, 2028, on projected and actual program participation by leave purpose, gender of the beneficiary, premium rates, fund balances, outreach efforts, and family members for whom leave was taken to provide care, as applicable.

Directs DES to conduct a public education campaign, with outreach information available in specified languages.

Encourages DES to use State data collection and technology to the extent possible and to integrate the program with existing State policies.

Includes a severability clause.

Requires implementing rules to be adopted by October 1, 2025.

Appropriates \$19 million for 2025-26 and \$30 million for 2026-27 from the General Fund to the Department of Commerce, Employer Grant Fund, to offset employer costs of the Paid Family Medical Leave Act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Pittman, Ball, G. Pierce, Lofton.

[APPROP, GS 95, GS 96A, GS 105](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Department of Commerce, Tax, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare, Military and Veteran's Affairs](#)

H 787 (2025-2026) [REVISE NC 529 PROGRAM](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MATCHING PROGRAM FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PARENTAL SAVINGS TRUST FUND AND TO CREATE A TAX DEDUCTION FOR CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS TO QUALIFIED TUITION PROGRAMS.*

Amends GS 116-209.25 establishing a matching program (the Program) by the State Education Assistance Authority (the Authority) for contributions to the Parental Savings Trust Fund (the Fund) for accounts opened under section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code (new subsection (e1)). The Authority will provide matching contributions of \$100 for every \$50 contributed by an eligible person, up to \$500 per year, with a maximum of \$1,500 per qualifying student. Defines *eligible person* (a qualified parent or interested party who is a resident of North Carolina and has a household income not exceeding 250% of the federal poverty guidelines) and *qualifying student* (resident of North Carolina who is 14 years of age or younger). Appropriates \$180,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina for 2025-26 to be allocated to the Authority to fund the Program. Effective July 1, 2025.

Amends GS 105-153.5(b) creating a new tax deduction of up to \$2,000 for individuals who file as single and up to \$4,000 for a couple filing a joint return (new subsection (12a)), for contributions to an account in the Parental Savings Trust Fund. Requires adding back to adjusted gross income any amounts previously deducted from the Fund if not used for qualified higher education expenses, unless withdrawn due to the death or permanent disability of the beneficiary. Applies to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 2026.

Intro. by Roberson, T. Brown, Price.

[APPROP, GS 105, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 789 (2025-2026) [MITIGATING FACTOR/PRETRIAL USE OF IID](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A MITIGATING FACTOR FOR CERTAIN PERSONS CHARGED WITH IMPAIRED DRIVING WHO VOLUNTARILY EQUIP AND OPERATE A MOTOR VEHICLE WITH AN IGNITION INTERLOCK SYSTEM PRIOR TO TRIAL*.

Section 1

Establishes as the purpose for this act to (1) incentivize certain individuals charged with impaired driving to install an ignition interlock system prior to trial as a potential mitigating factor at sentencing, (2) encourage responsible behavior and compliance with requirements of said systems, and (3) introduce early intervention measures to reduce repeat offenses.

Section 2

Amends GS 20-179(e), Mitigation Factors to Be Weighed, by enacting new subsection (6b) to provide as a new factor that the defendant (i) before trial, voluntarily equipped a designated motor vehicle with a qualifying ignition interlock system which the defendant then regularly used for at least six months, and (ii) produced satisfactory evidence that the defendant did not start the vehicle with a greater than 0.02 alcohol concentration or commit any acts that violate the interlock policies of the Division of Motor Vehicles or otherwise violate GS 20-17.8A. Applies only where each of the following is true:

1. The defendant was charged with an offense under GS 20-138.1 (impaired driving).
2. The vehicle being operated by the defendant was not involved at the time of the offense in a crash resulting in the serious injury or death of a person.
3. At the time of the offense, the defendant held either a valid driver's license or a license that had been expired for less than one year.
4. At the time of the offense, the defendant did not have an additional unresolved pending charge involving impaired driving, or an additional conviction of an offense involving impaired driving within the five years preceding the date of the offense.
5. At the time of the offense the person did not have an alcohol concentration of 0.15 or more.
6. The defendant equipped the designated motor vehicle with an ignition interlock system no later than 45 days after being charged with the offense.
7. The defendant only operated the designated motor vehicle with a limited driving privilege that is valid in this State or during a time when the defendant's driver's license was not revoked or suspended.

Amends subsection (7) to reflect that the factor provided in subsection (6b) is exempt from the general rule that mitigation factors under GS 20-179(e) only apply where the conduct that underlies the mitigation factor must have occurred during the same transaction or occurred as the impaired driving offense.

Section 3

Amends GS 20-179.5, affordability of ignition interlock system, to make a person who voluntarily installs an ignition interlock system responsible for installation and monitoring costs. Allows a person who meets the requirements of new GS 20-179(e) (6B) a. through f., described in Section 2 above, but who is unable to afford the cost of an ignition interlock system, to apply for a waiver of a portion of the costs through an authorized vendor.

Section 4

Makes this act effective December 1, 2025, and applicable to offenses committed on or after that date.

Intro. by Schietzelt, Chesser, Reeder, Carson Smith.

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

H 790 (2025-2026) [PROHIBIT VAPE/TOBACCO SHOPS NEAR SCHOOLS](#). Filed Apr 3 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS, ALTERNATIVE NICOTINE PRODUCTS, AND VAPOR PRODUCTS WITHIN ONE THOUSAND FEET OF A SCHOOL BUILDING*.

Amends GS Chapter 14, Article 52, adding new GS 14-401.28, titled Sale of tobacco products, alternative nicotine products, and vapor products near schools unlawful. Makes it unlawful for any person, firm, or corporation to sell or purchase such products within any structure or at any location which is within 1,000 feet of a public or nonpublic school's property line. Defines the term "tobacco products," "alternative nicotine products," and "vapor products" to mean the same as defined in GS 14-313. Excludes from the definition of "school" a home school under GS 115C-563 as well as higher education institutions. Makes a violation a Class 2 misdemeanor; however, it is not a violation if a sale or purchase in an otherwise prohibited area is incidental to the primary operations of an established business facility.

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

Intro. by Buansi, Loftis, Cunningham, Campbell.

GS 14

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

H 792 (2025-2026) **CLEAN ENERGY GRANTS**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CLEAN ENERGY GRANTS*.

Appropriates \$10 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Commerce (DOC) to be allocated to the NC Clean Energy Innovation and Research Fund established in this act, for clean energy innovation and research grants.

Appropriates \$4.5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DOC for the One North Carolina Fund to provide competitive grants for support of clean energy and energy efficiency innovation, entrepreneurship, and small business development in the clean energy sector. Provides that appropriated funds that are not spent or encumbered by June 30, 2027, revert to the General Fund.

Adds new Part 2L, Clean Energy Innovation and Research Fund, in Article 10 of GS Chapter 143B, providing as follows. Establishes the NC Clean Energy Innovation and Research Fund (Fund) in DOC and makes the Office of Science, Technology and Innovation in the Department responsible for administering the Fund. Requires DOC to make grants from the Fund to private businesses with fewer than 100 employees, nonprofit organizations, local governments, and State agencies to encourage the expansion of small to medium-size businesses with fewer than 100 employees that will help grow a green economy in the State. Requires the Fund to be used for clean energy and energy efficiency innovations and research and for the development of small businesses and encouragement of entrepreneurship in these areas. Sets out three priority areas. Allows setting a cap on the grant amounts and requiring private business to provide matching funds. Allows DOC to adopt rules for the Fund's administration. Allows the specified amount of funds to be used to administer the Fund.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Dew.

APPROP, GS 143B

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Environment, Energy, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Commerce

H 793 (2025-2026) **FAYETTEVILLE AREA PROJECTS**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS PROJECTS IN THE CITY OF FAYETTEVILLE*.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the City of Fayetteville to establish an Innovation District within the City to foster economic growth and collaboration by bringing together entities such as educational institutions, businesses, universities, and start-ups in a concentrated area. The City will collaborate with Fayetteville State University and other local entities to establish the venture to stimulate economic activities in Cumberland County.

Appropriates \$2.5 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the City of Fayetteville to consolidate the City's and Cumberland County's 911 Emergency Dispatch Center.

Appropriates \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Hollywood Heights Community Club's Community Center for facility repairs and maintenance.

Appropriates \$400,000 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to provide a directed grant to the City of Fayetteville to provide equal funding to support four fire stations.

Appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to provide a directed grant to the City of Fayetteville for maintenance and trail development at Lake Rim Park.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Colvin, Wheatley, F. Jackson, Charles Smith.

[APPROP, Cumberland](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Community and Economic Development, Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Office of State Budget and Management](#)

H 794 (2025-2026) [STUDY HIGHWAY PATROL STAFFING/SALARY SCALE](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO STUDY THE STAFFING REQUIREMENTS AND SALARY SCALES OF THE STATE HIGHWAY PATROL*.

Directs the State Highway Patrol to study and develop legislative recommendations based on the needs of the state for (1) overall staffing size, (2) troop staffing size for regions of the state, (3) overall salary scale, and (4) salary scale per rank.

Requires the State Highway Patrol to report findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the House Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Senate Appropriations Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than March 1, 2026.

Intro. by Willis, Paré, Campbell, Loftis.

[STUDY, UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, State Highway Patrol](#)

H 795 (2025-2026) [INCREASED ACCESS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER FAMILIES](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO EXPAND GUARDIANSHIP ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY TO YOUTH TEN YEARS OF AGE*.

Section 1.(a)

Reserves GS 108A-50.3 through GS 108A-50.9 for future codification purposes.

Section 1.(b)

Amends GS 108A-24. Defines division as the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services.

Section 1.(c)

Amends GS Chapter 108A, Article 2, adding new Part 4A, titled Kinship Guardianship Assistance.

Enacts GS 108A-50.10. Authorizes the Division of Social Services of the Department of Health and Human Services (Division) to provide financial support for eligible children placed into relative guardianship from foster care. Eligibility for kinship guardianship assistance payments (KinGAP) extends until the child is 18 years-old if each of the following are true:

- (1) Removal from the child's home was a result of a voluntary placement agreement or a judicial determination that remaining in the home was contrary to the child's welfare.
- (2) The child was eligible for foster care maintenance payments pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 672 while residing for at least six consecutive months in the home of a licensed prospective guardian who is related to the child by blood, marriage, or adoption, or who has a substantial relationship with the child or the child's parent prior to the child being placed in foster care.
- (3) Reunification and adoption have been determined to be inappropriate for the child.
- (4) The child is at least 10 years old and demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian who has a strong commitment to caring for the child permanently.
- (5) At the time of entry into the guardianship agreement, a North Carolina county child welfare agency has placement and care of the child.
- (6) The child, if at least 14 years old, has been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship arrangement.

Authorizes continued KinGAP to anyone 18 years or older who (i) left foster care under a guardianship assistance agreement, (ii) attained 16 years of age before the kinship guardianship assistance agreement became effective, (iii) voluntarily continues to receive guardianship services until reaching 21 years of age, and (iv) is determined by the Division to be (a) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, (b) enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, (c) participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment, (d) employed for at least 80 hours per month, or (e) incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements preceding this provision due to a medical condition or disability that is supported by regularly updated information in the individual's case plan.

Extends eligibility for KinGAP to a child who is less than 10 years old but whose sibling qualifies for KinGAP, if the county child welfare agency and the prospective relative guardian agree on the guardianship arrangement being appropriate for the sibling.

Preserves continued eligibility for KinGAP for an individual whose relative guardian dies or is incapacitated and is replaced by a successor legal guardian identified in the kinship guardianship assistance agreement.

Enacts GS 108A-50.11, titled Guardianship assistance. Authorizes the Division to use State funds allocated for foster care to provide financial support for eligible children who exit foster care into legal guardianship, if the Division determines that the following are true:

- (1) The child has attained 10 years of age and demonstrates a strong attachment to the licensed prospective guardian and the prospective guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child.
- (2) The child is in a permanent family placement setting for at least six consecutive months prior to the execution of the guardianship agreement.
- (3) The prospective guardian is eligible to be appointed as a legal guardian pursuant to GS 7B-600(b).
- (4) The child is unlikely to achieve permanency through reunification or adoption.
- (5) At the time of entry into the guardianship agreement, a North Carolina county child welfare agency has placement and care of the child.
- (6) The child, if at least 14 years old, has been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship arrangement.

Authorizes continued guardianship assistance payments after attaining 18 years of age to anyone who left foster care under a guardianship assistance agreement if the individual (i) attained 16 years of age before the guardianship assistance agreement became effective, (ii) voluntarily continues to receive guardianship services until reaching 21 years of age, and (iii) is determined by the Division to be (a) completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential, (b) enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education, (c) participating in a program or activity

designed to promote or remove barriers to employment, (d) employed for at least 80 hours per month, or (e) incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements preceding this provision due to a medical condition or disability that is supported by regularly updated information in the individual's case plan.

Enacts GS 108A-50.12, titled Guardianship assistance agreement. Requires the county child welfare agency to negotiate and enter into a binding guardianship assistance agreement with the prospective guardian of an eligible child and to provide that prospective guardian with a copy of the agreement, in order for payments to be received.

Requires the guardianship agreement to, at a minimum, specify (i) the manner and amount of each anticipated guardianship assistance payment, (ii) how a payment may be adjusted, (iii) additional services and assistance available to the child and guardian under the agreement, (iv) the procedure by which the guardian may apply for additional services, (v) the State will bear the full cost of nonrecurring expenses associated with obtaining legal guardianship of the child, limited to \$2,000, and (vi) the agreement remains in effect without regard to the State residency of the guardian.

Enacts GS 108A-50.13, titled Reimbursement for guardians. Sets room and board reimbursement rates for legal and relative guardians under the guardianship assistance program to be the same as those established for foster care under GS 108A-49.1.

All parts of this section are effective July 1, 2025.

Section 2

Requires the Social Services Commission to adopt temporary rules for the implementation of the act's provisions, which will remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted in their place.

Intro. by Loftis, Almond, Davis, Penny.

GS 108A

[View summary](#)

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

H 796 (2025-2026) **THE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH LINE AWARENESS ACT.** Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE SUICIDE SAFETY NUMBERS ON STUDENT IDENTIFICATION CARDS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS SERVING STUDENTS IN GRADES SIX THROUGH TWELVE.*

Amends the following statutes requiring giving students the phone number for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline on any new student ID issued to a student in grades 6-12: (1) GS 115C-47, applicable to local boards of education; (2) GS 115C-150.12C, applicable to schools for deaf and blind students; (3) GS 115C-218.75, applicable to charter schools; (4) GS 115C-238.66, applicable to regional schools; (5) GS 116-239.8, applicable to laboratory schools; and (6) new GS 115C-566.5, applicable to private church schools and schools of religious charter, and qualified nonpublic schools. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Buansi, Cunningham, Pickett, Reeder.

GS 115C, GS 116

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

H 797 (2025-2026) **RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WHOLESALING PROTECTION.** Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE NORTH CAROLINA REAL ESTATE LICENSE LAW TO CLARIFY THAT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WHOLESALING AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS CONSTITUTE REAL ESTATE BROKERAGE ACTIVITY THAT REQUIRES LICENSURE AND TO PROVIDE HOMEOWNERS WITH A RIGHT TO CANCEL SUCH TRANSACTIONS.*

Makes changes to GS Chapter 93A to clarify that residential property wholesaling requires a real estate broker's license.

Amends GS 93A-2 defining residential property wholesaling to include soliciting homeowners for purchase contracts of their property unless it will be used as the soliciting party's residence, marketing or selling purchase contracts for residential property for consideration or selling or buying or negotiating purchase contracts or options for property, and makes residential property wholesaling a part of the real estate broker definition.

Creates new GS Chapter 93A, Article 8 (Residential Property Wholesaling and We Buy Houses Homeowner Protection Act), intended to protect homeowners from unfair and deceptive practices in residential property wholesaling. Grants a homeowner the right to cancel a purchase contract that is part of a residential property wholesale transaction within 30 days and requires payment of a refund within 10 business days after cancellation. Requires purchase contracts used in these transactions to include a statement about the cancellation right in 14-point font, with specific provisions for how to cancel. Makes failure to provide the right to cancel a per se unfair or deceptive trade practice and authorizes a party to bring actions under GS Chapter 75 to obtain relief. Specifies that recoveries under GS Chapter 75 will not be offset from consideration paid to the homeowner in connection with the property transaction. Permits the Attorney General to enforce the provisions as allowed under GS Chapter 75.

Allows the North Carolina Real Estate Commission to adopt rules to implement the act.

Effective and applicable to purchase contracts entered on or after October 1, 2025.

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

[GS 93A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 798 (2025-2026) [EXPAND ACCESS TO COLD WEATHER SHELTERS/FUNDS](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF AGING, TO EXPAND ACCESS TO TEMPORARY EMERGENCY SHELTERS FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WHEN SEVERE WEATHER IS EXPECTED.*

Appropriates \$1.72 million in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 biennium from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Aging (Division), to establish a Cold Weather Shelters Grant Program (Program) to provide grants to municipalities and nonprofits for Program providing temporary emergency shelters for homeless people when severe weather is expected. Requires the Division, in consultation with the Division of Emergency Management, to develop application materials and selection criteria, which takes into consideration availability of other funds available to the applicant and the incidence of poverty in the service area. Caps grant amounts at \$215,000 for any fiscal year. Allow using up to 5% to cover administrative costs. Requires the Division to report annually, beginning in 2027, to the specified NCGA committee and division on the use of the funds; sets out additional requirements for the content of the reports. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Greenfield, Turner, Longest, Baker.

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Social Services](#)

H 799 (2025-2026) [ENSURE NONDISCRIMINATION IN GOVERNMENT](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO ENSURE NONDISCRIMINATION AND DIGNITY IN GOVERNMENT HIRING, PROMOTION, TRAINING, AND WORKPLACES.*

Amends GS 126-14.6, adding a new provision establishing as State policy that State employee hiring, promotion, and training must be without regard to race or ethnicity, religion, or sex and that applications for State employment cannot inquire about race. Expands the definition of "promote" to also mean compelling State employees or contractors (was State employees only) to affirm or profess belief in the concepts listed in the section. Eliminates current subsection (b), which lists 13 concepts that are prohibited from being promoted in State government workplaces or included as part of any State employee training

program. Enacts new subsection (c), listing 13 concepts as prohibited from being promoted in State government workplaces or included as part of any State employee training program, borrowing and expanding upon the language of the 13 concepts eliminated from subsection (b) to address religion and ethnicity in addition to race and sex. Deems a violation of the statute employment discrimination.

Amends GS 126-34.02 allowing to be heard as a contested case allegations of an applicant for State employment, a State employee, or former State employee alleging employment discrimination or harassment based on ethnicity, after completion of the agency grievance procedure and the Office of State Human Resources Review. Deems a violation of GS 126-14.6 employment discrimination.

Enacts GS 160A-170 and GS 153A-100 to require cities and counties, respectively, to (1) refrain from soliciting or requiring an applicant for employment to endorse or opine about beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles regarding matters of contemporary political debate or social action as a condition of employment; and (2) refrain from soliciting or requiring an applicant for employment to describe the applicant's actions in support of, or in opposition to, the beliefs, affiliations, ideals, or principles regarding matters of contemporary political debate or social action. Permits applicants to voluntarily opine or speak regarding any matter. Prohibits employment applicants from inquiring into matter prohibited as compelled speech under the sections. Provides for construction of the statutes with respect to discussing an applicant's resume, curriculum vitae, or other work or remarks; complying with federal or State law; and constitutionally protected speech. Includes in GS 153A-100 that a violation of the statute is employment discrimination.

Enacts GS 160A-170.1 and GS 153A-100.1 stating legislative intent with regards to city and county employee training methods and procedures. Lists 13 concepts which cities and counties are prohibited from promoting in city and county workplaces or including as part of city or county employee training programs, mirroring the list enacted in GS 126-14.6(c), including (1) that one race, religion, ethnicity, or sex is inherently superior to another race, religion, ethnicity, or sex; and (2) an individual's moral character is necessarily determined by their race, religion, ethnicity, or sex. Defines "promote". Specifies that the statute does not prevent a private contractor who provides training to city or county employees from responding to questions that are raised by participants and pertain to the prohibited concepts so long as the contractor clarifies that the government employer does not endorse the concepts. Excludes constitutionally protected speech from the statute's scope. Mandates employee hiring, promotion, and training be without regard to race, religion, ethnicity, or sex, and prohibits employment applications from inquiring about race. Includes in GS 160A-170.1 that a violation of the statute is employment discrimination.

Enacts GS 143-162.8, prohibiting State agencies, local governments, and non-State entities from using State funds or public monies to promote, support, fund, implement, or maintain discriminatory programs (defined as a program promoting the concepts listed in GS 153A-100.1). Additionally prohibits State agencies, local governments, and non-State entities from applying for, accepting, or using federal funds, grants, or other financial assistance that require compliance with discriminatory programs. Requires discontinuing existing programs funded through financial assistance that requires compliance with discriminatory programs. Includes five defined terms. Defines the scope of the prohibitions as described, and excluding constitutionally protected speech. Provides for construction of the statute with regards to identified federal laws, and other applicable State or federal law, and seven identified exemptions, including academic course instruction and guest speakers or performers on short-term engagements. Makes a knowing and willful violation of the statute a Class 1 misdemeanor. Provides for application of penalty provisions set for under specified state law. Directs the State Auditor to conduct periodic compliance audits with referrals directed for prosecution by the district attorney and reported to the specified NCGA committee or the Local Government Commission, as appropriate. Creates civil actions for persons or employees seeking injunctive or declaratory relief and recovery of reasonable attorneys' fees and costs and provides for venue of each action. Establishes that liability under the section is in addition to that under any other applicable provisions of law or cause of action in consequence of the violation. Includes a severability clause for the statute's provisions.

Specifies that the act does not modify or supersede existing federal, State, or local law governing public accommodations or private establishments exempt from such requirements.

Includes a severability clause for the act's provisions.

Effective July 1, 2025.

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government

H 800 (2025-2026) **REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS & DELIVERY OF CHILD CARE**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO STUDY AND REPORT ON THE EFFECTIVENESS AND DELIVERY OF VARIOUS CHILD CARE INITIATIVES; TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM THAT WOULD ALLOW A CHILD CARE TEACHER EMPLOYED FULL TIME BY A LICENSED CHILD CARE PROGRAM IN THE STATE TO BE DEEMED AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR CHILD CARE SUBSIDY FOR THE TEACHER'S PRESCHOOL-AGE CHILDREN; AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DIRECTIVES REGARDING CHILD CARE IN THIS STATE.*

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) to study the North Carolina Pre-K and North Carolina Smart Start programs, including review of (1) complete allocation of funds for the programs, (2) other early childhood models that may better maximize funds for child care needs, and (3) current rules and guidelines for the quality rating improvement system to allow child care providers to offer child care to as many children as possible. Requires the Division to conduct an analysis of the Pre-K system to ensure every funded slot can be filled, and directs that the Division should reassign any open slots to counties with a waiting list. Permits the Division to increase class sizes to 22 in counties with available slots but no additional teachers or classrooms. Directs the Division to study current child care subsidy rates to determine a recommended minimum. Requires the Division to report its findings and recommended legislative action to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division on or before April 30, 2026.

Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the General Fund for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to the Division for a pilot program where all teachers employed full time by a licensed child care program are automatically eligible for preschool-age child care subsidies. Requires the eligible teachers to be enrolled or in the process of enrolling in an Introduction to Early Childhood class, and to commit to remaining in college and completing either an Early Childhood Education Infant/Toddler Certificate or Child Development Certificate within 18 months. Provides that the coursework will be covered by the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood North Carolina Scholarship Program, with no cost to the teacher. Requires the Division to implement the pilot program within 120 days of July 1, 2025. Requires the Division to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the Fiscal Research Division by March 31, 2026, on the number of child care teachers in the pilot program by county, and to make quarterly reports thereafter. Specifies that the quarterly reports, and annual reports due by December 31st of each year, must contain (1) the number of teachers in the pilot program already teaching who became automatically eligible, (2) the number of new teachers added, by county, on a monthly basis, and (3) the retention of teachers in the pilot program. Effective July 1, 2025.

Mandates that funds appropriated for the Pilot Program to Increase the Provision of In-Home Child Care from SL 2023-134 and the Tri-Share Child Care Pilot Program from SL 2023-134 are subject to review and approval by the General Assembly before the Division can expend the funds for either program.

Specifies that any county providing supplemental child care funds must allow families to select a four- or five-star rated child care center of their choice.

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services to collaborate with the Department of Insurance to suggest ways to lower insurance costs for child care in the state.

Intro. by Willis, Paré, Campbell, Loftis.

APPROP, STUDY

[View summary](#)

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

H 801 (2025-2026) [LRC STUDY PAPER TOWNS](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH COMMISSION TO STUDY PAPER TOWNS IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Requires the Legislative Research Commission (LRC) to study the status of “paper towns.” Defines a *paper town* as a town that exists in fact but does not provide adequate services, as required by law, to its residents. Sets out the requirements for the study as (1) determine whether towns incorporated by the General Assembly (GA) since 1995 are currently providing the services proposed by the petitioners; (2) determine whether services currently provided are sufficient to sustain the incorporation for purposes of taxation, zoning, and regulation of the right to control private property; (3) determine whether the GA should take action due to the failure of the town to provide services sufficient to sustain the incorporation; and (4) review the statutory criteria for incorporation to determine if any changes are needed. Sets a deadline for the LRC’s final report, including any proposed legislation, when the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 NCGA convenes.

Intro. by Stevens, Ross.

[STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, General Assembly, Local Government](#)

H 802 (2025-2026) [NICOTINE & VAPING PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE EVIDENCE-BASED NICOTINE, HEMP, AND VAPOR PRODUCT USE MATERIALS AND TO DIRECT DISCIPLINARY REPERCUSSIONS FOR STUDENTS FOUND VAPING*.

Enacts GS 115C-407.1, containing three definitions *hemp product*, *nicotine product*, and *vapor product*. Enlarges the scope of the required school policy prohibiting tobacco on school grounds under GS 115C-407 to prohibit nicotine, hemp, and vapor products. Changes the entity responsible for adopting such written policies from the local boards of education to the governing bodies of public school units. Removes duties to implement and enforce such policies. Removes outdated language. Changes the entity charged with working with governing bodies of public school units in implementing such policies from the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Requires the student prevention resources to be age-appropriate and evidence-based. Directs resources to be provided at the beginning of the school year and to be available throughout the school year. Requires any prevention materials to be approved by DHHS using the statutorily prescribed criteria before they are made available to students. Makes conforming changes.

Enacts GS 115C-391.5 requiring the Code of Student Conduct developed by the governing body of the public school unit to include a policy that if any student under the age of 21 is found in possession of a nicotine, hemp, or vapor product, the product will be confiscated. Provides for 24-hour notice to a student’s parent or legal guardian upon confiscation. Provides for prevention materials to be provided and either a student meeting or student participation in an evidence-based, self-paced nicotine, hemp, and vapor product use education program. For a second offense, requires the same education measures to be taken as a first offense, but also requires that the school take disciplinary action as outlined in the Student Code of Conduct and school discipline policies. For a third or subsequent offense, requires the same educational measures be taken as a first or second offense, but allows educational community service to be an additional option. Requires the State Board to report on violations of new GS 115C-391.5 as described in GS 115C-12. Requires DHHS to publish on its website nicotine, hemp, and vapor product awareness information, including the various types of products containing nicotine or hemp and the health issues associated with nicotine, hemp, and vapor products along with a list of evidence-based resources for use by public schools by no later than September 15, 2025.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Rubin, Lambeth, White, Cervania.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 803 (2025-2026) [3-YEAR FDA APPROVAL FOR NEW CHILDHOOD VAXX](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT PROHIBITING THE COMMISSION FOR PUBLIC HEALTH FROM ADDING ANY NEW VACCINES TO THE STATE'S CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION SCHEDULE UNLESS THE VACCINE HAS EITHER BEEN APPROVED BY THE UNITED STATES FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION (FDA) FOR A MINIMUM OF THREE YEARS OR, IF FDA-APPROVED FOR LESS THAN THREE YEARS, UPON THE RECOMMENDATION OF BOTH THE NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAL SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND THE NORTH CAROLINA PEDIATRIC SOCIETY BOARD OF DIRECTORS.*

Amends GS 130A-152 (Immunization required) subsection (a) to prevent the Commission for Public Health from adding a new vaccine to the childhood immunization schedule unless (1) the vaccine has been approved by the FDA for at least three years or (2) the vaccine has been approved by the FDA for less than three years but is recommended by both the North Carolina Medical Society Board of Directors and the North Carolina Pediatric Society Board of Directors. Creates new subsection (a1) from existing language and makes corresponding changes to that subsection. Amends subsection (c) to require rules implementing reasonable fees for health care providers to charge for administering vaccines provided by the state, and limitations on requirements that can be placed on parents for allowing their children to receive vaccines provided by the state, and repeals subsection (c1), which contained substantially similar language. Makes corresponding and clarifying changes to the rest of the statute.

Effective and applicable to new vaccine requirements established on or after the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Blackwell, Biggs, Potts, Rhyne.

[GS 130A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Health and Human Services, Health](#)

H 804 (2025-2026) [HUMAN LIFE PROTECTION ACT OF 2025](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT ABORTION AFTER CONCEPTION EXCEPT WHEN NECESSARY TO PRESERVE THE LIFE OF THE MOTHER.*

Part I titles the act as "The Human Life Protection Act of 2025."

Part II enacts GS 14-45.2, making it a Class B2 felony to perform, induce, or attempt an abortion, with one described exception. Enhances punishment for violations that result in the death of an *unborn child*, defined to include all stages from fertilization until birth, to a Class B1 felony. Defines *abortion*, *fertilization*, *pregnant*, *reasonable medical judgement*, and *unborn child*. Provides for one exception for which three criteria must be met: (1) a licensed physician performs, induces, or attempts the abortion; (2) in the exercise of reasonable medical judgement, the pregnant female has a life-threatening physical condition aggravated by, caused by, or arising from a pregnancy that places the female at risk of death or poses a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function unless the abortion is performed or induced (excludes risks arising from a claim or diagnosis that the female would engage in conduct that may result in death or substantial impairment); and (3) in the exercise of reasonable medical judgement, the physician provides the best opportunity for the unborn child to survive unless that would create a greater risk of the pregnant female's death, a serious risk of substantial impairment of a major bodily function of the pregnant female. Excludes medical treatment provided by a licensed physician that results in the accidental or unintentional injury or death of an unborn child.

In addition to the criminal punishment provided, subjects violators to a civil penalty of at least \$100,000 per violation, and requires the appropriate licensing authority to revoke the license, permit, registration, certificate or other authority of the physician or health professional. Specifies that the statutory civil and criminal penalties do not affect other civil remedies available. Specifies that the statute does not impose any liability on the pregnant female.

Part III makes the following conforming changes. Repeals GS 14-44 (*Using drugs or instruments to destroy unborn child*), GS 14-45 (*Using drugs or instruments to produce miscarriage or injure pregnant woman*), and GS 131E-269 (Authorization to charge fee for certification of facilities suitable to perform abortions); and Article 11 (Woman's Right to Know Act) and 1K (Certain Abortions Prohibited), GS Chapter 90. Replaces statutory cross-references in GS 14-23.7 to now repealed GS 14-45.1 with references to new GS 14-45.2. Repeals Part 4A (Abortion Clinic Licensure) of Article 6 of GS Chapter 131EG; makes conforming changes to GS 131E-272.

Part III provides a severability clause and makes the act effective July 1, 2025, and applicable to abortions performed, induced, or attempted on or after that date.

[View summary](#)

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

H 805 (2025-2026) **PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/WOMEN AND MINORS**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO PREVENT THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN AND MINORS*.

Enacts Article 51A, titled the “Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Women and Minors Act,” to GS Chapter 66, as follows. Defines fourteen terms including *online entity* (an individual or group of individuals working together or an entity as defined in GS 66-500, concerning commercial publication and distribution of material harmful to minors), *online entity operator* (a provider for an online entity), *pornographic image* (a visual depiction of actual or feigned sexual activity or an intimate visual depiction), and *eligible person* (with respect to a pornographic image published to an online entity, includes (1) an individual depicted in the pornographic image who has not provided consent, or who has withdrawn consent in compliance with the laws applicable to the jurisdiction, for the distribution of the pornographic image; (2) an authorized representative; or (3) a law enforcement officer acting pursuant to a valid court order).

Prevents an online entity operator from acting to publish or allow a user to publish a pornographic image to the online entity unless the operator has verified that each individual appearing in the pornographic image: (1) was not less than 18 years of age when the image was created; (2) has provided explicit written evidence of consent for each act of sexual activity in which the individual engaged during the creation of the pornographic image; and (3) has provided explicit written consent for the distribution of the specific pornographic image. Clarifies that a consent to the sexual act does not constitute consent to the distribution of the pornographic image. Provides for the evidence of consent to be obtained through a form prepared by the Office of the Attorney General (AG), as described. Requires the online entity operator to produce at least one form of valid identification for each individual appearing in the pornographic image as described. Tasks the AG with adopting rules to implement the Article.

Requires an online entity operator to establish a procedure for removing a pornographic image from the online entity in GS 66-507 at the request of a person and to designate one or more employees of the operator to be responsible for handling requests for removal of pornographic images. Requires that the online entity post prominent notice on its website on how to request removal of pornographic images. Requires the operator to remove the pornographic image as quickly as possible, but in any event not later than 72 hours after receiving the request if made by an eligible person. Establishes review procedures if the request is received by a person other than an eligible person. Directs the online entity to temporarily remove the image if a question arises as to the consent of a performer. Requires the online operator to block the pornographic image, and any altered or edited version of the pornographic image, from being distributed on or published to the online entity again. Bars a user of an online entity from distributing or publishing a pornographic image of an individual to the online entity without the consent of the individual in GS 66-508.

Provides for enforcement of the Article by civil penalties on a per day and per image basis in GS 66-509. Designates violations of the Article a Class 1 misdemeanor. Caps penalties brought by the AG at \$10,000 for each day the image remains on the online entity. Allows for a civil action brought by an eligible person harmed by the online image with damages in the greater of (1) \$10,000 for each day during which an online image remains on the online entity calculated on a per day and per image basis or (2) actual damages. Provides for attorneys’ fees for a prevailing eligible person. Allows for civil penalties capped at \$10,000 for each day that an online entity’s failure to provide the required notice, discussed above. Allows for civil penalties capped at \$5,000 for each day that an online entity fails to remove a pornographic image upon request by an eligible person. If an online entity fails to undergo the specified review procedures upon request for removal of a pornographic image from a person other than an eligible person, then allows for an eligible person to bring a civil action against the online entity operator in the appropriate district court of the United States for damages in the greater of (1) \$10,000 for each day during which an online image remains on the online entity calculated on a per day and per image basis or (2) actual damages. Excludes an online entity operator from liability under the Article if they reasonably relied upon verification materials, so long as the operator removes the pornographic materials not later than 24 hours after receiving notice that the verification materials violate the Article.

If an online entity operator violates this Article with respect to a pornographic image, allows any eligible person to bring a civil action against the online entity operator for damages in an amount equal to the greater of (1) \$10,000 for each day during which the pornographic image remains on the online entity in violation of this Article or (2) actual damages. If a user of an online entity violates this Article with respect to a pornographic image, authorizes any eligible person to bring a civil action against the user for damages in an amount equal to the greater of (1) \$10,000 for each day during which the pornographic image remains on the online entity in violation of this Article, calculated on a per day and per image basis or (2) actual damages.

Contains severability clause.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to acts or omissions occurring before, on, or after that date; except that prosecutions under GS 66-510 (appears to intend GS 66-509), as enacted by the act, may be brought only for acts or omissions occurring on or after that date.

Intro. by N. Jackson, Budd, Stevens, Balkcom.

GS 66

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Government, State Agencies, Department of Justice

H 806 (2025-2026) **PUBLIC SCHOOL OPERATIONAL RELIEF**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO REMOVE CLASS SIZE REQUIREMENTS AND TO REQUIRE FIFTY PERCENT OF TEACHERS IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL TO HAVE A LICENSE*.

Repeals the following sections of GS Chapter 115C which establish and detail duties, waivers, and flexibility of statutorily mandated class size requirements: GS 115C-47(10); GS 115C-105.26(b)(1); GS 115C-234.5(e); GS 115C-301(c) and (c1); GS 115C-301(g); and GS 115C-310.7(a). Makes conforming deletions in the following sections of GS Chapter 115C to eliminate references to class size requirements, exceptions, penalties, and reporting: GS 115C-81.5(b)(8); GS 115C-105.37A(b); GS 115C-276(k); and GS 115C-301(f).

Amends GS 115C-295, eliminating the requirement that all teachers employed in State public schools or schools receiving public funds be required or qualified to hold a license in compliance with state law or State Board of Education regulations. Deletes the companion provision making it unlawful for any board of education to employ or keep in service a teacher who neither holds or is qualified to hold the described license.

Enacts GS 115C-295.4, granting local boards of education general authority to employ and contract with necessary teachers to perform the particular service for which they are employed in the school, with one exception for teachers employed pursuant to GS 115C-325. Establishes a new requirement that at least 50% of the teachers in a school hold teacher licenses. Requires that all teachers teaching listed core subjects be college graduates. Requires hired teachers who are not licensed to complete preservice training in four areas before beginning instruction, including identifying and educating children with disabilities, and the safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint. Allows preservice training be offered by an educator preparation program or by a local school administrative unit.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Willis, Biggs, Cotham, Rhyne.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Employment and Retirement

H 807 (2025-2026) **STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR A STRONG NC**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO RAISE SALARIES FOR TEACHERS, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, TO PROVIDE BREAKFAST AND*

LUNCH IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AT NO COST TO STUDENTS THROUGH AN ALLOCATION BASED ON SCHOOL FOOD AUTHORITY EVALUATIONS, TO PROVIDE FOR A ONE-TO-ONE DEVICE REFRESH FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND TO REVISE THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

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 \$4,450 for teachers with 0 years of experience to \$5,795 for 25 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 \$406.3 million 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.

Amends GS 115C-111.05 by requiring the State Board of Education (State Board), to the extent funds are available for this purpose, to allocate funds for children with disabilities to each local school administrative unit on the basis of reported cost of the services provided instead of on a per child basis. Appropriates \$89.4 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$109.2 million in nonrecurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DPI to implement the plan for weighted funding for children with disabilities on the basis of the reported cost of services provided developed by DPI pursuant to Section 7.7 of SL 2023-134, to be distributed as described.

Part III.

Amends GS 115C-263 to require public school units to have a school food authority to provide school nutrition services in the schools under their jurisdiction by offering students two meals per day, breakfast and lunch (was, local boards of education must provide to the extent practicable school nutrition services in the schools under their jurisdiction). Requires the State Board of Education, to the extent funds are available for this purpose, to allocate funds to school food authorities at public school units to provide students with free healthy nutrition services. Requires, in issuing the allocation, that the amount be determined based on an evaluation of the authority's nutrition services (sets out minimum requirements for the method and criteria used for the evaluation), that funds be distributed on a fair and equitable basis, and the allocation be issued at the beginning of the fiscal year, with the Board allowed to reserve for future allocation an amount not to exceed 10%. Specifies that funds allocated under this statute supplement and do not supplant funds from other sources for the same purpose.

Amends GS 115C-218.75 by requiring charter schools, GS 115C-238.72 by requiring regional schools, GS 115C-150.14 by requiring schools for students with visual and hearing impairments, and GS 116-239.8 requiring laboratory schools to provide school nutrition services according to GS 115C-263 and GS 115C-264 (setting out requirements for school nutrition programs, including that they participate in the National School Lunch Program). Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 115C-264 requiring local boards of education operating school nutrition programs to also participate, if eligible, in the Community Eligibility Provision Program.

Appropriates \$144 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to provide nutrition services to students in public school units at no cost to the students. Allows the use of funds appropriated to State Aid for Public Schools for this purpose if this funding is insufficient for 2025-26.

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

Part IV.

Enacts GS 115C-102.10 requiring the State Board to adopt by rule standards for a one-to-one electronic device refresh and replacement program to provide schools funds to update or replace electronic devices used directly by students and teachers for instruction. Requires the standards to cover three areas at a minimum, including instructions on how to dispose of devices no longer in use. Requires local school administrative units to administer the programs in accordance with standards set by the State Board. Appropriates \$152,620,000 from the General Fund to DPI in recurring funds for 2025-26 for DPI to establish the one-to-one device refresh program.

Part V.

Prevents the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) from awarding any Opportunity Scholarship grants to new persons who did not receive those grants in the prior school year, starting with the 2025-26 school year. Specifies the General Assembly's intent to eliminate the program beginning in the 2036-37 school year or once all recipients become ineligible for receipt of the scholarship grants.

Expands the qualifications required for a student to meet the definition of *eligible student* in GS 115C-562.1 so that the student must have received a scholarship grant for the school year prior to the school year for which the student is applying and also resides in a household with an income level between the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch program and not in excess of 200% of that amount. Removes priority award order and makes conforming changes to GS 115C-562.2 (scholarship grants) to account for new definition of *eligible student*.

Starting with the 2027-28 year, modifies the funds appropriated for the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve (Reserve) in GS 115C-562.8 so that they are reduced from a high of \$800 million for the 2031-32 school year to \$111,589,117 for that year. Continues the reduction for subsequent years until the 2036-37 year when the opportunity scholarship is sunset. Makes conforming and technical changes.

Reduces funds appropriated for Opportunity Scholarship grants as follows: (1) of the recurring funds appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the opportunity scholarship program pursuant to SL 2021-180, by the sum of \$30 million for 2025-26; (2) of the funds appropriated to the Reserve for 2024-25 and allocated from the Reserve for the award of scholarship grants in 2025-26, by the sum of \$277,165,459 for 2025-26; and (3) of the funds appropriated to the Reserve as follows: \$369,867,906 in recurring funds for 2025-26 and \$82,848,257 in recurring funds for 2026-27.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Effective July 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided.

Intro. by von Haefen, Baker, Prather, F. Jackson.

APPROP, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, State
Board of Education**

H 808 (2025-2026) **NC INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACT**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CONTRACTS OR OTHER AGREEMENTS THAT WOULD GRANT CERTAIN FOREIGN-OWNED COMPANIES ACCESS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THIS STATE AND TO REQUIRE CRIMINAL HISTORY RECORD CHECKS FOR INDIVIDUALS GRANTED ACCESS TO CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IN THIS STATE.*

Sections 1(a)-(b)

Amends GS Chapter 64 enacting new Article 4, titled Prohibit Adversarial Foreign Control of Critical Infrastructure (which may be cited as the Infrastructure Protection Act). Enacts GS 64-61 to provide the following definitions for use in Article 4:

- **Company.** – A sole proprietorship, organization, association, corporation, partnership, joint venture, limited partnership, limited liability partnership, or limited liability company, including a wholly owned subsidiary, majority-owned subsidiary, parent company, or affiliate of those entities or business associations, that exists to make a profit.
- **Critical infrastructure.** – A communication infrastructure system, cybersecurity system, electric grid, hazardous waste treatment system, or water treatment facility.
- **Cybersecurity.** – The measures taken to protect a computer, computer network, computer system, or other technology infrastructure against unauthorized use or access.
- **Designated country.** – A country designated by the Council of State as a threat to critical infrastructure under this Article.
- **Governmental entity.** – Any State agency, institution, board, commission, bureau, council, department, division, officer, or political subdivision, including counties, municipal corporations, county or city boards of education, and other local public bodies, as well as any other entity for which the State has oversight responsibility.

Enacts 64-62, titled Prohibited access to critical infrastructure. Prohibits a government entity from contracting or agreeing regarding critical infrastructure in North Carolina with a company if (i) the company would receive direct or remote access to or control of said infrastructure (except access specifically allowed by the company for product warranty and support purposes), and (ii) the government entity knows the company is either of the following:

1. The majority of stock or other ownership interest of the company is owned, held, or controlled by (i) individuals who are citizens of China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or a designated country or (ii) a company or other entity, including a governmental entity, that is owned or controlled by citizens of or by the government of China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or a designated country.
2. Headquartered in China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, or a designated country.

Applies the above prohibition regardless of whether the company or its parent company's securities are publicly traded and/or the company or its parent company are listed on a public stock exchange as a Chinese, Iranian, North Korean, or Russian company, or as a company of a designated country. Declares as against public policy and void ab initio any contract or other agreement entered into by a North Carolina-organized business that meets the above descriptions. Permits the Council of State to designate a country as a threat to critical infrastructure under this Article.

This statute is effective when it becomes law and applies to contracts entered into, modified, or renewed on or after that date.

Sections 2(a)-(b)

Amends GS 7A-349 requiring the Judicial Department to require a criminal history record check for anyone given access to a communication infrastructure or cybersecurity system under the Judicial Department's authority.

This statute is effective October 1, 2025.

Sections 3(a)-(b)

Amends GS 62-43 requiring that the North Carolina Utilities Commission adopt rules requiring a criminal history check for any individual given access to the electric power grid or to a communication infrastructure system under said Commission's regulatory authority.

This statute is effective when it becomes law. Rules adopted pursuant to this statute must be adopted to take effect as soon as practicable but no later than October 1, 2026.

Sections 4(a)-(d)

Amends GS 90A-24 enacting new provision (b). Requires all applicants for initial certification as a water treatment facility operator to consent to a criminal history record check and allows the Board of Certification (Board) to deny certification to any applicant who refuses. Requires the Board to provide the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) with an applicant's signed consent, fingerprints, and other identifying information required by the State or National Repositories (Repositories) and the SBI. Requires the Board to keep all information obtained pursuant to this subsection confidential. Requires the applicant to pay

the cost of a criminal history record check and fingerprinting under this subsection. Any fees required by the SBI must be collected by the Secretary of State and remitted to the SBI for expenses associated with conducting the record check.

Amends GS 143B, Article 13A, enacting new GS 143B-1209.59, titled Criminal record checks for the Water Treatment Facility Operators Board of Certification. Authorizes the SBI to provide a criminal history from the Repositories of any prospective operator to the Board. The Board must then provide to the SBI, along with the request, the prospective operator's signed consent to the criminal record check and use of fingerprints and other identifying information required by the Repositories and the SBI. The prospective operator's fingerprints must be used for a search of the State's criminal history record file, and the SBI must forward a set of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check. All information obtained by the Board pursuant to this statute is confidential. The SBI may charge a fee to offset the cost incurred by it to conduct a criminal record check under this statute, up to the actual cost of locating, editing, researching, and retrieving information.

Amends GS 90A-27 to limit the fee established by the Board for issuing or renewing a certificate to \$50.00. Requires the Board to also charge the applicant a fee for a criminal history record check pursuant to GS 90A-24.

This statute is effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for initial certification received on or after that date.

Sections 5(a)-(b)

Amends GS 116-11 enacting new subdivision (3d) requiring the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina to adopt a policy that requires criminal history record checks for individuals granted access to a communication infrastructure or cybersecurity system of the University of North Carolina.

This statute is effective when it becomes law. The policy adopted pursuant to this statute shall be adopted to take effect as soon as practicable but no later than October 1, 2026.

Sections 6(a)-(b)

Amends GS 130A-295 including among the existing statutory requirements for an applicant seeking a permit for hazardous waste facility that, under new provision (3), the applicant requires a criminal history record check for any individual granted access to the hazardous waste treatment systems under its control.

This statute is effective October 1, 2025.

Sections 7(a)-(b)

Amends GS 143B-1336 applying the background check requirements of existing provision (g) to any contractor granted access to a communication infrastructure system or cybersecurity system under the authority of the State Chief Information Officer.

This statute is effective when it becomes law and applies to contracts entered into, modified, or renewed after that date.

Section 8

Recodifies GS 143B-1209.58 as GS 143B-1208.15.

Section 9.

Makes this act effective when it becomes law, except as otherwise provided.

Intro. by Loftis, McNeely, Johnson.

[GS 7A, GS 62, GS 64, GS 90A, GS 116, GS 130A, GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Government, State Government, Public Enterprises and Utilities](#)

Amends GS 115C-47 to create new subdivision (1b), directing local boards of education to include students that attend a NC Pre-K program held in a building owned by a local school administrative unit in the average daily membership for that unit. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Clark, Helfrich, Quick, von Haefen.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 810 (2025-2026) [STATE EMPLOYEE BEREAVEMENT LEAVE/UP TO 40-HRS.](#) Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT PROVIDING STATE EMPLOYEES PAID WITH BEREAVEMENT LEAVE OF UP TO FORTY HOURS ON DEATH OF AN IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER AND EIGHT HOURS ON DEATH OF A COLLEAGUE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE.*

Creates new GS 126-8.7 (Paid bereavement leave), requiring the State Human Resources Commission to adopt rules and policies granting permanent, probationary, or time-limited full-time state employees paid leave after the death of an immediate family member (40 hours of leave) or colleague (8 hours of leave). Specifies requirements for the rules and policies, including requiring a statement identifying the relationship to the deceased and documentation for immediate family members, placing no annual limit on the number of uses of the leave, granting time to travel on the day of the funeral for the death of a colleague, requiring that the leave be used within 180 days of the death for an immediate family member, and disciplinary action or dismissal for falsely claiming leave. Outlines the nature of the leave, including that it is in addition to sick and annual leave, has no cash value upon termination, does not count towards retirement eligibility, cannot be applied to negative leave balances, and is not eligible for donation as shared leave. Mandates that the statute is applicable to all state employees, employees of the University of North Carolina system, public school employees, and community college employees, and directs the appropriate governing board, officer, or entity to adopt rules and policies to implement the leave equivalent to those adopted by the State Human Resources Commission.

Amends GS 126-5(c19) including references to the new GS 126-8.7.

Appropriates \$2,000,000 from the General Fund for each year of the 2025-27 biennium to the Reserve for Compensation Increases for the paid bereavement leave.

Effective and applicable to requests for leave for deaths occurring on or after July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Hawkins, White, Cotham.

[APPROP, GS 126](#)

[View summary](#)

[Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Office of State Human Resources \(formerly Office of State Personnel\), State Government, State Personnel](#)

H 811 (2025-2026) [TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY ACT.](#) Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE ASSESSORS TO PROVIDE WRITTEN NOTICE TO PROPERTY OWNERS OF CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATED TO THE REVALUATION OF REAL PROPERTY AND TO REQUIRE BUDGET OFFICERS TO PUBLISH AN ESTIMATE OF THE REVENUE-NEUTRAL RATE DURING YEARS IN WHICH A REAPPRAISAL OCCURS.*

Amends GS 105-317 to expand the duties of assessors to include a written notice to real property owners within 30 days of the completion of the revaluation of the property required by GS 105-286. Sets out the contents of the notice, including the most recent and immediately prior appraised values of the property, percentage increase or decrease between subdivisions, instructions to property owners for appealing the newly appraised value, tax rates, and government department contact information and where to access the government's budgets. Requires assessors to include certain information for all governments in the county that adopted a tax rate with the annual tax notice during any year in which a revaluation of real property is conducted. Sets out the required information, including various tax rates, percentage increase or decrease between

subdivisions, and government department contact information and where to access the government's budgets. Makes the same amendments to GS 105-328.

Amends GS 159-11 to expand the duties of the budget officer to include the publication of an estimate of the revenue-neutral rate on the government's official website no later than May 15 of each year in which a general appraisal of real property is conducted. Requires the Local Government Commission to develop and distribute a template for calculating the estimate.

Requires the budget officer to update the website no later than July 15 upon adoption of the annual budget for a year in which a revaluation is conducted, including various tax rates, percentage increase or decrease between subdivisions, and government department contact information and where to access the government's budgets.

Effective for reappraisals on or after January 1, 2025.

Intro. by Paré, Zenger, Tyson, Moss.

GS 105, GS 159

[View summary](#)

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

H 812 (2025-2026) [UNC-PEMBROKE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY FUNDS/DJT](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR A PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT DONALD JOHN TRUMP AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT PEMBROKE.*

Appropriates \$10 million from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for 2025-26 to be allocated to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke (UNCP) to construct a presidential library in honor of President Donald John Trump. UNCP may partner with the federal National Archives and Records Administration to the extent necessary to complete the project. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lowery, B. Jones, Moss.

APPROP

[View summary](#)

Education, Higher Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System

H 813 (2025-2026) [ENHANCED REG. OF REGISTERED RES. FACILITIES](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT REPLACING THE TERM "MULTIUNIT ASSISTED HOUSING WITH SERVICES" WITH "REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY" AND REDEFINING THE TERM "ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCE" TO EXCLUDE THESE FACILITIES TO MAKE IT CLEARER TO THE PUBLIC THAT REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES ARE NOT EQUIVALENT TO LICENSED ADULT CARE HOMES; UPDATING THE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES; EXPANDING THE LIST OF PERSONS NOT TO BE CARED FOR IN REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES; AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO SEEK AN INJUNCTION OR OTHER PROCESS AGAINST A REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITY OPERATING WITHOUT APPROVED REGISTRATION; AND DIRECTING THE MEDICAL CARE COMMISSION TO ADOPT RULES ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR REGISTERING, INSPECTING, AND TAKING ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST REGISTERED RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES.*

Effective January 1, 2026, amends and adds to Part I, Licensing, of Article I, Adult Care Homes, GS Chapter 131D, as follows.

Amends GS 131D-2.1, eliminating *multiunit assisted housing with services* as a defined term. Deletes multiunit assisted housing with services from the types of *assisted living residences*, as defined. Deletes the term *registration*. Adds and defines *registered residential facility* to mean a nonlicensed residence for two or more unrelated adults, by whatever name it is called, in which the housing management arranges for a licensed home care or hospice agency to provide hands-on personal care services and nursing services to residents through an individualized written care plan; excludes described continuing care retirement communities and temporary family health care structures. Makes changes throughout the Part to replace references to multiunit assisted housing with services to registered residential facilities.

Expands the types of health concerns or care needs that generally prevent individuals from being accepted to a registered residential facility under GS 131D-2.2 to include: (1) individuals who, because of one or more physical or cognitive impairments, are unable to evacuate from the registered residential facility independently without physical or verbal assistance and (2) individuals who exhibit wandering behaviors or who, because of one or more cognitive impairments, require supervision to maintain their safety in the registered residential facility. Modifies the exception to the prohibition by now allowing the facilities to care for individuals with one of the listed conditions or care needs if a physician certifies that the appropriate care can be provided on a temporary basis by an appropriate licensed health care professional to meet the resident's needs and prevent unnecessary relocation (previously, did not require that the care be provided by an appropriate licensed health care professional).

Enacts GS 131D-2.2A providing for the annual registration of registered residential facilities with the Division of Health Service Regulation (Division) as follows. Lists eleven required disclosures that must be included on a disclosure statement as part of its application, including (1) charges for rentals or services offered by the facility which cannot be changed without 30 days' written notice to residents; and (2) a listing of all licensed home care and hospice agencies and other community services located in the same areas as the facility and their contact information. Requires the Division to approve or disapprove of the disclosure statement as part of the registration process. Requires registered residential facilities to continually comply with the disclosure statement and notify the Division within 14 days of making any changes. Requires inclusion of the disclosure statement as part of the resident's annual rental contract and requires the resident or their legal representative to annually sign the statement.

Requires the housing management of a registered residential facility to have a financial interest or affiliation, or formal written agreement that makes personal care services accessible and available to residents through at least one licensed home care or hospice agency. Provides for resident choice of provider, separate billing for personal care services, and informed consent for contracting housing and services.

Requires initial and annual screening of residents to identify resident needs and ancillary services needed. Allows for assistance with self-administration of medications by appropriately trained staff if a licensed nurse has approved the delegation of medication pursuant to the home care agency's established plan of care for the resident.

Prohibits a registered residential facility and its owners, agents, employees, or affiliates from serving as a resident's legal representative or payee, or handling a resident's funds. Requires criminal background checks for registered residential facility employees. Bars hiring or using as a volunteer any individual listed on the NC Health Care Personnel Registry (Registry). Requires registered residential facilities to verify that a licensed home care or hospice agency conducts criminal background checks of its employees prior to referrals.

Authorizes the Division to deny, suspend, or revoke, the registration of a registered residential facility for any of the three listed reasons, including that the Division has determined the facility is providing services that require a license rather than registration or that the Division has determined the facility is not in compliance with its disclosure statement. Authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS Secretary) to deny, suspend, amend, or revoke the registration of a registered residential facility, or suspend the admission of any new residents to a registered residential facility, in any case in which the DHHS Secretary finds that there has been a substantial failure to comply with Part 1 of Article 1 of GS Chapter 131D, any applicable rules adopted under Part 1, or any other applicable State laws or rules. Allows a facility to contest the Division's or the Secretary's actions by requesting an administrative hearing under GS Chapter 150B (the APA).

Establishes a duty of a registered residential facility that knows or has cause to suspect that a resident is being abused, neglected, or exploited to report to law enforcement, the Registry, and the appropriate county department of social services, pursuant to State law.

Provides for inspection by the Secretary to investigate complaints filed with the Division and requires registered residential facilities to allow the Division access to the premises and records upon request. Provides a timeline and requirements for the Division to send a written report of its findings to the facility and for the facility to submit a plan of correction to the Division. Permits the Division to take adverse action for failure to submit a plan of correction.

Excludes registered residential facilities from those facilities exempt from licensure requirements under Article 1, set forth in GS 131D-2.3.

Amends GS 131D-2.5 to refer to a registered residential facility instead of a multiunit assisted housing with services.

Amends GS 131D-2.6 to authorize DHHS to initiate injunctive or other proceedings against any person to restrain or prevent the establishment, conduct, management, or operation of a registered residential facility without approved registration.

Amends GS 143B-165, directing the Medical Care Commission (Commission) to adopt rules establishing standards for registered residential facilities, including those previously required for multiunit assisted housing with services as well as inspections and the approval, denial, revocation, or amendment of a facility's registration, and suspension of admission at a facility.

Authorizes the Commission to adopt emergency rules to implement the act, as specified, which sunsets on the earlier of January 1, 2027, or the date permanent rules adopted by the Commission become effective. Prohibits the Commission from adopting temporary rules pursuant to this provision.

Effective January 1, 2026, amends GS 131E-256, governing the Registry, to include registered residential facilities in the definition of "health care facilities".

Appropriates \$355,214 in recurring funds to the Division for each year of 2025-27 to fund three FTE Facility Compliance Consultant I positions dedicated to the Division to assist with the registration and inspection of registered residential facilities. Appropriates \$18,000 to the Division for the 2025-26 year to purchase equipment, supplies, and other nonrecurring expenses associated with the positions.

Intro. by Pittman, Clark, Crawford.

[APPROP, GS 131D, GS 131E, GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 814 (2025-2026) [POWER INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY & AMP EFF.\(PIRE\)](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF ADVANCED CONDUCTORS AND GRID ENHANCING TECHNOLOGIES*.

Adds new subparagraph (11) to GS 62-2(a), declaring the policy of promoting the deployment of advanced conductors and grid enhancing technologies to the public electricity grid in the state. Requires transmission planning to be coordinated with energy planning and fixing of rates to promote the least-cost mix of generation and transmission capital expenditures.

Defines "advanced conductors" as conductors with at least 10% lower resistance than aluminum conductor steel reinforced lines, and "grid enhancing technology" as any hardware or software that enhances the performance and efficiency of a grid system, in GS 62-100. Makes organizational changes to the statute.

Amends GS 62-101 (Certificate to construct transmission line) including new subparagraph (c)(2a), which exempts from a certificate the upgrading, modifying, modernizing, or reconstructing of an existing line for the purpose of increasing capacity solely through the deployment of advanced conductors and/or grid enhancing technologies for any of the seven purposes, including increasing transmission capacity or efficiency, increasing reliability or resiliency, or increasing capacity to connect new generation resources.

Creates new subparagraph (a)(3a) in GS 62-102 (Application for certificate), requiring a description of the advanced conductors and/or grid enhancing technologies to be used when applying for a certificate to construct a transmission line, including the costs and benefits, and outlines specific possible benefits such as increasing transmission capacity. Also creates subparagraph (a)(3b), which requires a description of any alternatives to the line, including advanced reconductoring and/or grid enhancing technologies evaluated but not selected for the proposed line.

Amends GS 62-110.9 (Requirements concerning reductions in emissions of carbon dioxide from electric public utilities) requiring a public utility to produce a report showing it evaluated a range of cost-effective transmission and distribution solutions, including advanced reconductoring and/or grid enhancing technologies when preparing its carbon plan. Requires the report to include descriptions of all alternatives considered and the costs and benefits of each, and additional considerations of transmission factored into future scenarios in a 15-year time frame.

[View summary](#)[Environment, Energy, Public Enterprises and Utilities](#)

H 815 (2025-2026) [VOUCHER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING STANDARDS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.*

Part I Revise Eligibility Requirements for Opportunity Scholarships

Amends GS 115C-562.1 by repealing subsection (3a) and replacing it with subsection (3d), redefining an *eligible student* as a student residing in North Carolina who has not yet received a high school diploma and who meets certain requirements. Requires an eligible student to satisfy one of the following criteria: (1) full-time attendance at a NC public school or a Department of Defense (DOD) school located in NC; (2) receipt of a previous scholarship grant; (3) attainment of the age to start school; (4) placement in foster care; (5) adoption one year or less before the scholarship grant application; (6) parent or legal guardian who is active duty or who has been discharged within 12 months prior to application; or (7) both enrollment in a nonpublic school during spring semester prior to the school year for which the student is applying and was previous enrollment in either a NC public school or a DOD school located in NC. Prohibits an eligible student from enrolling in a postsecondary institution earning 12 hours of academic credit. Requires the eligible student to either reside in a household with an income level not exceeding 200% of the federal free or reduced-price lunch eligibility threshold or is in foster care. Excludes distributions from the estate of a decedent the calculation of income and the household income of the foster parent.

Adds definitions of *full-time student* (a student enrolled exclusively in a nonpublic school whose parents have released the local school administrative unit of all obligations to educate the eligible student while the student is receiving a scholarship grant) and *part-time student* (a student enrolled part time in a public school and part time in a nonpublic school).

Amends GS 115C-562.2 to require the State Education Assistance Authority (the Authority) to begin awarding scholarship grants on March 15. Sets out the priority for awarding the grants, with first priority given to eligible students who received a grant for the school year prior to the application, and 50% of the remaining funds disbursed to eligible students residing in households with an income level not exceeding 200% of the federal free or reduced-price lunch eligibility threshold, and the rest disbursed to all other eligible students.

Replaces subsections (b2), (b3), and (b4) with subsection (a1) which sets out the criteria for determining the amount of the scholarship grant. Limits the grant to 90% for full-time students and 45% for part-time students of the average State per pupil allocation for eligible students residing in households with an income level not exceeding 200% of the federal free or reduced-price lunch eligibility threshold. Limits the grant to 90% for full-time students and 45% for part-time students of the required tuition and fees for the nonpublic school the student will attend for eligible students residing in households with an income level exceeding 200% of the federal free or reduced-price lunch eligibility threshold. Allows a nonpublic school to include tuition and fees for books, transportation, equipment, or other items required by the nonpublic school. Prohibits scholarship grants from exceeding either the average State per pupil allocation or the required tuition and fees for the nonpublic school, as applicable to the eligible student.

Part II Increase Accountability and Reporting Standards for Nonpublic Schools Receiving Opportunity Scholarships

Clarifies in GS 115C-562.2(b2) that scholarship grants shall be awarded in monthly installments. Requires for grant recipients in grades three through 12 (was, grades three, eight, or 11) that the Authority provide to the nonpublic school an amount equal to the cost of the required nationally standardized test.

Amends GS 115C-562.5, requirements for nonpublic schools that accept eligible students receiving scholarship grants. Expands the requirement for nonpublic schools to annually provide documentation of their tuition and fees to the Authority and to the Division of Nonpublic Education (the Division). Requires the Division to publish this information on its website. Limits the increase of tuition and fees to 5% per school year. Requires the nonpublic school to adopt a criminal background check policy that mirrors the local board of education policy. Requires compliance with a standard course of study as adopted by the State Board of Education and administration of all tests required by the State Board of Education for students in grades three and higher. Does not prohibit the nonpublic school from administering additional tests. Repeals subsections (4)a., b., and c.

Replaces the term *financial review* with *audit* and requires the nonpublic school to report the results of an audit to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 31. Requires a school receiving more than \$250,000 to publish its expenditures in the Uniform Education Reporting System. Requires nonpublic schools to provide annually all the attendance records from the previous school year of students receiving scholarship grants.

Adds requirements in subsections (9) through (15), including teacher qualifications, minimum days (185) and hours (1,025) of required instruction, maintenance of an operating reserve of four months' worth of expenses, allowance of the copying and inspection of all contracts to which the nonpublic school is a party, the contact information of the owner of the school to be published on the school website, compliance with state laws regarding expulsion of students, and reports to the Authority on any expulsions from the nonpublic school.

Amends subsection (c) to require nonpublic schools enrolling more than 25 students to report to the Authority testing data for eligible students in grades three and higher and to require the Authority to publish such data on its website. Amends subsection (c1) prohibiting discrimination to remove the reference to 42 USC 2000d and replace it with race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, disability, or religion of any student or their family members. Expands to the State Board of Education, in addition to the Authority, the power to determine a nonpublic school's compliance with the requirements.

Amends GS 115C-562.8(d) to repeal subsection (1) and require any unexpended funds at the end of a fiscal year to be carried forward for one fiscal year.

Effective July 1, 2025, and applies to the 2025-2026 school year.

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

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

H 816 (2025-2026) **VOUCHER SCHOOL TRANSPARENCY ACT**. Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING STANDARDS FOR NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AND TO REQUIRE THE STATE AUDITOR TO ANNUALLY REVIEW AUDITS OF AT LEAST THREE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.*

Part I, Accountability and Reporting for Opportunity Scholarships.

Amends GS 115C-562.5 as follows. Adds to or otherwise changes requirements of nonpublic schools that accept eligible students who receive scholarship grants. Makes annual the tuition and fees documentation required to be provided to the State Education Assistance Authority (Authority). Requires nonpublic schools adopt a policy requiring criminal history checks under GS 115C-332 of all teachers, applied uniformly for all applicants before extending an unconditional job offer. Permits a nonpublic school to employ an applicant conditionally while a decision regarding the applicant and their criminal history are pending. Permits policies that allow for periodic checks of criminal histories of teachers. Requires that a nonpublic school that receives an inquiry from any other public school unit or nonpublic school in the state to indicate if an employee's criminal history was relevant to the employee's resignation or dismissal.

Modifies provision (a)(5) to include among information provided by nonpublic schools to the Authority graduation rates of students receiving scholarship grants, including four-year cohort graduation rates, in a manner consistent with Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, and any associated federal regulations.

Requires the administration of nationally standardized tests in grades 3 through 8 (was, 3 and 8).

Modifies provision (a)(6) to subject nonpublic schools to an audit in any year in which the school accepts students receiving \$100,000 or more in scholarship grants awarded under this part. Nonpublic schools accepting students receiving less than \$100,000 must contract pursuant to this provision for an audit every three years. Audit reports must be shared by the nonpublic school with the Authority by the end of the calendar year in which the audit is conducted.

Expands the information nonpublic schools must provide annually to the Division of Nonpublic Education, Department of Administration (Division), to include the following:

- All attendance records of students receiving scholarship grants from the previous school year.
- The percentage of teachers with a teacher license.
- Whether the nonpublic school is accredited and, if so, the identity of that accreditor.
- Documentation of a completed fire inspection in the previous 365 days.
- Curriculum used by the nonpublic school for each grade level.
- The number of students receiving scholarship grants for the first time who attended a public school unit in the previous school year.
- The number of students receiving scholarship grants who attended a public school unit in the previous school year.
- Requires nonpublic schools to report to the Authority the number of children enrolled who receive scholarship funds and who have a disability and an Individualized Education Plan (IEP). For any such children, the school must also report whether it is educating each child in compliance with GS 115C-106.3(6) and applicable policies adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) for local school administrative units under GS Chapter 115C, Article 9. The information in this paragraph should only be reported to the extent it does not violate federal law and to the extent it can be provided without revealing personally identifiable information of a student.

Directs nonpublic schools to comply with the requirements of GS Chapter 115C, Article 8C, including:

- School Risk Management Plan. – The nonpublic school, in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall adopt a School Risk Management Plan (SRMP) relating to incidents of school violence. In constructing and maintaining these plans, the nonpublic school must use the School Risk and Response Management System. These plans are not considered a public record and are not subject to inspection and examination under GS 132-6.
- Schematic diagrams and school crisis kits. – The nonpublic school shall provide schematic diagrams and keys to the main entrance of school facilities to local law enforcement agencies, in addition to implementing the provisions in GS 115C-105.52.
- School safety exercises. – At least once a year, the nonpublic school shall hold a full school-wide lockdown exercise with local law enforcement and emergency management agencies that are part of the school's SRMP.
- Safety information provided to the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management. – The nonpublic school shall provide the following: (i) schematic diagrams, including digital schematic diagrams, and (ii) emergency response information requested by the Division for the SRMP. The schematic diagrams and emergency response information are not considered public records as the term *public record* is defined under GS 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and examination under GS 132-6.

Expands requirement found in provision (c)(1) that a nonpublic school enrolling more than 25 students in any grade whose tuition and fees are paid at least in part by scholarship grant shall report to the Authority on the aggregate standard test performance of eligible students in grades three through eight and 11 (was previously grades three, eight, and 11).

Amends Section 3J.23 of SL 2024-57 to expand the enumerated requirements to apply for students in third grade through eighth grade (was previously for those in third and eighth grade).

Part II, Require the State Auditor to Annually Review Audits of At Least Three Opportunity Scholarship Schools.

Amends GS 147-64.6(c) to add as an annual responsibility of the State Auditor (Auditor) to review at least three completed audits of nonpublic schools that are reported to the Auditor pursuant to GS 115C-562.5(a)(6). Requires the Auditor to then report each year no later than March 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee the results of this review, including the uses of taxpayer funds by the nonpublic schools and academic outcomes of students receiving scholarship grants under GS Chapter 115C, Article 39, Part 2A.

Part III

Effective when it becomes law, unless otherwise provided.

Intro. by Rubin, Ball, Prather, Brockman.

[GS 115C, GS 147](#)

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, State Agencies, Office of State Auditor**

H 817 (2025-2026) [TRIAD REGIONAL GRANTS](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR VARIOUS GRANTS BENEFITTING THE TRIAD REGION.*

Appropriates \$14.525 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to be allocated in the form of grants to the following entities for the following purposes:

- (1) Hasten International, Inc., a nonprofit, for mobile medical clinic services;
- (2) Camel City Track Foundation, a nonprofit, for an expansion of existing facilities;
- (3) Samantha and Kyle Busch Bundle of Joy Fund, a nonprofit, to provide assistance to low- and middle-income families struggling with the high cost of fertility treatments;
- (4) Piney Grove Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc., a nonprofit, to enhance unit transportation and firefighting capabilities;
- (5) Winston-Salem Speedway, LLC, for stadium improvements;
- (6) North Carolina Folk Festival, a nonprofit, for the annual Folk Fest in Greensboro;
- (7) Historic Bethabara Park, Inc., a nonprofit, for repairs, replacements, and enhancements related to the historic site;
- (8) Forsyth County for the Cure Violence program to address gun violence;
- (9) Creative Corridors Coalition, a nonprofit, for the design and construction of the Peter Oliver Public Park.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lambeth, Zenger.

[APPROP, Forsyth, Guilford](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Budget/Appropriations, Cultural Resources and Museums, Public Safety and Emergency Management, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers](#)

H 818 (2025-2026) [BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS ADOPTED](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE ACCESS TO NEW BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS ADOPTED SIMILAR TO PERSONS THAT ARE NOT ADOPTED.*

Identical to [S 248](#), filed 3/6/25.

Expands the entities authorized to issue copies or abstracts of an adoptee's new certificate of birth reflecting adoptive parents under GS 48-9-107 to include county registers of deeds. Now requires the State Registrar to issue copies of new adoptee birth certificates to registers of deeds located in the county of the adoptee's birth to replace the adoptee's original birth certificate (currently, Registrar is prohibited from issuing copies of an adoptee birth certificate to register of deeds). Clarifies that the State Registrar may issue copies of adoptee birth certificates upon request. Applies to new birth certificates of persons adopted before, on, or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by N. Jackson, Loftis, Biggs.

[GS 48](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 819 (2025-2026) [DIT AGENCY BILL](#). Filed Apr 7 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE GENERAL STATUTES RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY, COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, AND*

TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Part I.

Changes the title of GS Chapter 116E to the “NC Longitudinal Data System” (currently, titled as the Education Longitude System). Adds *CJIS*, *HIPAA*, *IDEA*, and *public school* to GS 116E-1 (definitions provision of the chapter). Modifies the definition of *System* to clarify that it refers to the NC Longitudinal Data System including components referred to as the NC Longitudinal Data Service (Service). Changes references from “local school administrative unit” to “public school” in term *unique student identifier or UID*. Makes technical changes.

Removes language limiting the linkage of student data and workforce data in the System to no longer than five years from the described start date in GS 116E-2 (System purpose).

Modifies the powers and duties of the Governmental Data Analytics Center (Center) in GS 116E-4 as follows. Removes requirement that the Center designate a compliance timeline for electronic transcripts, as described. Requires the Center to publish the data inventory. Expands the Center’s compliance laws to include the IDEA, HIPAA, CJIS, and the Internal Revenue Code. Requires the Center to develop and implement policies to also comply with those laws in addition to any other privacy measures relevant to the data available to the System (currently, just other privacy measures and FERPA). Makes conforming change. Moves the System’s administrative location from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to the Department of Information Technology (DIT) in GS 116E-5. Now requires the System to serve as a data broker for the entire Department of Commerce (DOC) instead of just its Division of Employment Security. Requires the System and recipients of data in fulfillment of approved data requests to use only aggregated data in public reports (currently, requires the System to use only aggregate data in the release of data in reports and in response to data requests). Instructs that ownership of all data collected and maintained by the System remains with the contributors to the System and that management and disclosure of data by the System does not change the data’s ownership. Makes conforming changes.

Requires in GS 116E-6 (concerning data sharing by public schools, charter schools, institutions of higher education and State agencies) that all sharing supported by the System comply with all applicable federal and State data and data privacy laws and regulations. Makes conforming change.

Part II.

Finds that it is in the best interest of the State for DIT to lead the State’s cybersecurity efforts comprehensively rather than having State agencies handle cybersecurity individually in a fragmentary way. For the 2025-27 fiscal biennium, specifies that of the funds available in the IT Reserve, DIT can use up to \$25 million each fiscal year to enhance DIT capabilities in four specified areas, including State agency adherence to plans and policies related to cybersecurity incidents, security alerts, advisory responses, security awareness, and agency cybersecurity training protocols and monitoring and assessing State agency adherence to risk assessment policies, as described. For the 2025-27 fiscal biennium, specifies that of the funds available in the IT Reserve, DIT can use up to \$3.8 million each fiscal year to support the further development and integration of the NC HealthConnex system, as specified.

Requires, in GS 143B-1378, for the State CIO to consider an agency’s noncompliance with cybersecurity plans and standards when reviewing agency requests under IT Projects and Management (Part 3 of Article 15 of GS Chapter 143B) and IT Procurement (Part 4 of same). Changes section title from “Assessment of agency compliance with cybersecurity standards” to “Assessment of agency compliance with cybersecurity standards; reporting requirements.”

Finds that it is in the best interests of the State for DIT to assess duplication in enterprise information technology spending across State agencies to identify opportunities for cost-savings and increased efficiency in information technology resource allocation. Tasks DIT with selecting a third-party vendor for the 2025-26 fiscal year to assist in a comprehensive assessment of enterprise information technology spending across all State agencies to determine areas of duplication and inefficiency, to include at least five specified areas of spending. Requires State agencies to provide all data, reports, and assistance requested by DIT to facilitate its assessment. On or before October 1, 2026, requires DIT to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee and division along with the Office of the State Auditor on its assessment, including the four specified topics.

Requires the Office of State Budget and Management and the Office of the State Controller to establish information technology-specific fund codes within each State agency’s existing budget codes no later than December 1, 2025, to assist DIT in its responsibility to monitor budgeting for IT matters. Requires the State CIO to work with the Office of State Controller and

the Office of State Budget and Management to develop an implementation plan and to submit the plan to the specified NCGA committee and division by September 1, 2026.

Removes (1) the long-range IT Plan and (2) cloud-based utility computing as subjects covered under the CIO's biennial State IT Plan required by GS 143B-1330. Amends GS 115C-150.11(c), as enacted by Section 3J.1(a) of SL 2024-57, to exclude IT (was, included) as one of the matters for which the Department of Administration is tasked to provide each school with support.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Part III.

Specifies except as otherwise provided, effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Johnson, Blackwell, Hawkins, Winslow.

[GS 116E, GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

**Education, Elementary and Secondary Education,
Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies,
Department of Information Technology, State Government,
State Property**

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

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

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 96: EXPEDITED REMOVAL OF UNAUTHORIZED PERSONS.

Senate: Regular Message Received From House

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 364: STIP GRANT ANTICIPATION NOTES.

House: Serial Referral To Finance Stricken

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

House: Serial Referral To Transportation Added

House: Serial Referral To Finance Added

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

H 616: SELECTSITE READINESS PROGRAM MODIFICATIONS.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 753: LEOS RETURN TO WORK.

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 754: FIN. EXPLOIT. PREVENTION/SAVINGS BANK UPDATES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 755: NONPROFIT SALES TAX EXEMPTION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 756: FUNDS FOR HARMONY EMPOWERMENT LIFE CENTER.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 757: FUNDS FOR JOYFUL SOUL TREASURES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 758: FUNDS FOR MIND AND HEART HAVEN PROJECT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 759: FAMILY AND COMMUNITY WELLNESS ACT/FUNDS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 760: BLOODBORNE PATHOGEN TRAINING FOR TATTOOISTS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 761: LIMIT SESSION LENGTH.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 762: MODERNIZE NC S.A.F.E. ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 763: NEIGHBOR STATE LICENSE RECOGNITION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 764: ESTABLISH DEATH BY RECKLESS BOATING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 765: LOCAL GOV. DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS OMNIBUS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 766: EXPAND ACCESS TO TEEN MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 767: MARKET RATE TEACHER PAY STUDY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 768: CLARIFY RADIO COVERAGE EXEMPTIONS/BLDG CODE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

House: Ref to the Com on Housing and Development, if favorable, Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

H 769: NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE BANK.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 770: EST. PROCEDURE/COMPLEX FAMILY FINANCIAL CASES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 771: CRIMINAL LAW PROCEDURES.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 772: NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT LIFELINE ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 773: SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE 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 774: SCHOOL BREAKFAST FOR ALL.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 775: CRIMINAL HISTORY CHECKS FOR SCHOOL POSITIONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 776: NC RELIGIOUS FREEDOM RESTORATION ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 777: EXPRESSING FRENCH FRIENDSHIP.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 778: EXPRESSING UK FRIENDSHIP.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 779: DESIGNATE CHILDREN'S DAY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 780: ALL PRO DADS & RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD NC.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 781: UNAUTHORIZED PUBLIC CAMPING & AMP SLEEPING.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 782: CIVIC CLUB REGISTRATION PLATE CLARIFICATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 783: FUNDS FOR SIDEKICKS ACADEMY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 784: PROHIBIT ASSAULT WEAPONS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 785: SCHOOL FUNDING FLEXIBILITY STUDY.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 786: WORKING FAMILIES ACT.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 792: CLEAN ENERGY GRANTS.

House: Filed

H 793: FAYETTEVILLE AREA PROJECTS.

House: Filed

H 794: STUDY HIGHWAY PATROL STAFFING/SALARY SCALE.

House: Filed

H 795: INCREASED ACCESS FOR YOUTH IN FOSTER FAMILIES.

House: Filed

H 796: THE STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH LINE AWARENESS ACT.

House: Filed

H 797: RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WHOLESALING PROTECTION.

House: Filed

H 798: EXPAND ACCESS TO COLD WEATHER SHELTERS/FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 799: ENSURE NONDISCRIMINATION IN GOVERNMENT.

House: Filed

H 800: REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS & AMP DELIVERY OF CHILD CARE.

House: Filed

H 801: LRC STUDY PAPER TOWNS.

House: Filed

H 802: NICOTINE & VAPING PREVENTION IN SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 803: 3-YEAR FDA APPROVAL FOR NEW CHILDHOOD VAXX.

House: Filed

H 804: HUMAN LIFE PROTECTION ACT OF 2025.

House: Filed

H 805: PREVENT SEXUAL EXPLOITATION/WOMEN AND MINORS.

House: Filed

H 806: PUBLIC SCHOOL OPERATIONAL RELIEF.

House: Filed

H 807: STRONG PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR A STRONG NC.

House: Filed

H 808: NC INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION ACT.

House: Filed

H 809: COUNT NC PRE-K FOR SCHOOL ADM.

House: Filed

H 810: STATE EMPLOYEE BEREAVEMENT LEAVE/UP TO 40-HRS.

House: Filed

H 811: TAXPAYER TRANSPARENCY ACT.

House: Filed

H 812: UNC-PEMBROKE PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY FUNDS/DJT.

House: Filed

H 813: ENHANCED REG. OF REGISTERED RES. FACILITIES.

House: Filed

H 814: POWER INFRASTRUCTURE RESILIENCY & EFF.(PIRE).

House: Filed

H 815: VOUCHER SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT.

House: Filed

H 816: VOUCHER SCHOOL TRANSPARENCY ACT.

House: Filed

H 817: TRIAD REGIONAL GRANTS.

House: Filed

H 818: BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS ADOPTED.

House: Filed

H 819: DIT AGENCY BILL.

House: Filed

S 63: BOARD OF MOTOR VEHICLES/AUTHORITY STUDY.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 101: PROTECT CERTAIN TAX-ADVANTAGED ACCOUNTS.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 124: REDUCE BARRIERS TO STATE EMPLOYMENT.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 171: MODERNIZE REG/MASTER'S LEVEL PSYCHOLOGISTS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 205: CLARIFY SWIMMING POOL LAWS/PRIV. POOL RENTALS.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 245: THE RAKIM SHACKLEFORD EMBALMING FLUID ACT.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 254: ESTABLISH OFFENSE FOR POSS. OF EXPLOSIVE.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

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

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 321: ACCOUNTING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACT.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 328: UNDERGROUND SAFETY REVISIONS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 387: BROWNFIELDS PROPERTY REUSE ACT REVISIONS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 451: OCCUPATIONAL/PROFESSIONAL LICENSING RELIEF.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 474: THE DAVE ACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 477: DNCR AGENCY BILL.-AB

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 505: ADDRESS ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 508: HIGHLY EFFECTIVE LIMITED LICENSE TEACHERS.

Senate: Sequential Referral To Appropriations/Base Budget Added After Education/Higher Education

S 513: MODIFY RQMTS. FOR WIND ENERGY FACILITIES.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 584: LOCAL GOVT TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM FINANCING.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 595: REV LAWS TECH CHNGS/BBA CHNGS/P2P TAX PARITY.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 706: COUNTY WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 728: UTILITY-SCALE BATTERY STORAGE RQMTS.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 730: EXPAND CEPS/NUCLEAR AND HYDRO.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

LOCAL BILLS

S 145: MECKLENBURG TRANSPORTATION REFERENDUM.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

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