

The Daily Bulletin: 2025-04-09

PUBLIC/HOUSE BILLS

H 153 (2025-2026) **INCREASE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION FEE**. Filed Feb 18 2025, *AN ACT INCREASING THE FEE FOR PERFORMING A VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION*.

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

Removes the changes to GS 20-183.7, which increased the vehicle safety inspection fee and replaces it with the following study.

Requires the Department of Transportation and Department of Environmental Quality to jointly study the North Carolina Safety and Emissions Inspection Program, including the specified issues and sets out 10 issues that must be addressed in the report, including a financial analysis of the program that includes state safety inspection fees, state emissions inspection fees, fee generation and use summaries, and program projections or issues related to fee receipts moving forward. Requires the report to be submitted to the NCGA and Fiscal Research Division as well as the specified committee, by March 1, 2026.

Intro. by Penny, Moss.

STUDY

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Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR), Department of Transportation, Transportation

H 217 (2025-2026) **DRIVER EDUC./18 YRS & OLDER & UNLICENSED**. Filed Feb 25 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE A DRIVER EDUCATION COURSE, INCLUDING ALCOHOL AND DRUG USE AWARENESS, FOR UNLICENSED PERSONS EIGHTEEN YEARS AND OLDER*.

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

Removes proposed GS 20-11.2, which would have required applicants for a driver's license age 18 and older to take an alcohol and drug abuse awareness course unless they have a license from another state or have completed a Department of Public Instruction drivers education course. Makes the following changes instead.

Enacts new GS 20-330 requiring the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles (Commissioner) to adopt rules to establish a course of driver education that will be offered by licensed commercial driver training schools to unlicensed people age 18 and up to prepare them for licensure. Requires the course to promote traffic safety and provide three hours of instruction on (1) state laws relating to the operation of a motor vehicle, (2) the physiological and psychological consequences of using alcohol and drugs and their effects on a driver, and (3) high-risk driving behaviors. Requires the course to be offered both online and in person and to ensure that there is a way to demonstrate successful completion of the course.

Amends GS 20-7 to require completion of the course described in GS 20-330 in order to obtain a drivers license. Specifies that the course does not have to be completed before obtaining a learner's permit. Excludes applicants who hold or have previously had a license, or those who have completed the drivers education course under GS 115C-215.

Applicable to applications for drivers licenses submitted on or after October 1, 2025.

Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Lowery, Biggs, Charles Smith.

GS 20

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**Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, State Agencies,
Department of Transportation**

H 219 (2025-2026) **COUNTIES/FRANCHISE AMBULANCE SERVICE**. Filed Feb 25 2025, *AN ACT REPEALING THE LAW THAT AUTHORIZES COUNTIES AND CITIES TO FRANCHISE OR OPERATE AMBULANCE SERVICES AND PROVIDING THAT COUNTY OFFICIALS SHALL NOT BE REQUIRED TO APPROVE MODIFICATIONS IN THE LEVEL OF CARE PROVIDED BY EMS PROVIDERS THAT ARE NOT OWNED OR OPERATED BY A CITY IN THE COUNTY OR THE COUNTY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.*

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

Makes the repeal of GS 153A-250, which allowed local governments, by ordinance, to franchise ambulance service, applicable to any franchise agreement or contracts for ambulance service initiated or renewed on or after the date that the act becomes law.

Moves the uncodified provision related to the approval of a modification of the level of care being provided into new GS 153A-251 and specifies that the provision is notwithstanding any other provision of law (was, notwithstanding specified listed provisions and any other provision of law).

Amends the act's long title.

Intro. by Pless.

GS 153A

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**Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management,
Local Government**

H 258 (2025-2026) **UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT**. Filed Mar 3 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE PUNISHMENT FOR COMMITTING AN ASSAULT AGAINST A UTILITY, COMMUNICATIONS, OR TRANSPORTATION WORKER.*

House amendment to the 2nd edition makes the following changes. Makes conforming changes to act's long title.

Enacts GS 14-32.6, creating the offense of felony assault, battery, and affray, as follows. Directs that unless the conduct is covered under some other provision of law providing punishment, any person who commits any assault, assault and battery, or affray is guilty of a Class I felony if during the course of prohibited conduct he or she either:

- Assaults a public transit operator, including a public employee or a private contractor employed as a public transit operator, when the operator is discharging or attempting to discharge his or her duties.
- Assaults a transportation network company (TNC) driver providing a transportation network company (TNC) service. Specifies that the definitions for "TNC driver" and "TNC service" as defined in GS 20-280.1 apply.

Removes those two classes of victims from GS 14-33 (misdemeanor assault, battery, and affray).

Intro. by K. Hall, Miller, Crawford, Jeffers.

GS 14

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

H 266 (2025-2026) **ADOPT WOMEN VETERANS DAY**. Filed Mar 3 2025, *AN ACT TO ADOPT THE FIRST DAY OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS WOMEN VETERANS DAY IN NORTH CAROLINA.*

House amendment to the 1st edition changes the date of Women Veterans Day in new GS 103-19 from June 12 to May 1. Makes conforming changes to the act's title.

Intro. by Goodwin, Majeed, Cunningham, Logan.

GS 103

[View summary](#)

Government, Cultural Resources and Museums, Military and Veteran's Affairs

H 354 (2025-2026) [CIVIL PROCEDURE/GATEKEEPER ORDERS/DATABASE](#). Filed Mar 10 2025, *AN ACT AMENDING RULE 17 OF THE NORTH CAROLINA RULES OF CIVIL PROCEDURE TO PROVIDE FOR THE ISSUANCE OF GATEKEEPER ORDERS.*

House amendment to the 2nd edition clarifies that a court is only required to strike a pleading filed by a person subject to a gatekeeping order when it is filed by the person during his or her adjudicated incompetency.

Intro. by Pyrtle, Miller, B. Jones, Greene.

GS 1A

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Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Civil Procedure, Family Law, Court System, Administrative Office of the Courts, Health and Human Services, Mental Health

H 368 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY LAW REGARDING CAR SEATS](#). Filed Mar 11 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY LAW REGARDING CHILD RESTRAINT SYSTEMS.*

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

Amends GS 20-137.1, concerning the use of child restraint systems in vehicles, as follows. Amends the exceptions under which a child does not have to be secured in a restraint system in the rear seat as follows: (1) for the exception applying when the vehicle does not have a rear seat, adds that under no circumstances will a child be placed in the front seat of a vehicle that has an active front airbag using a rear-facing child passenger restraint system (previously this was a free-standing provision applicable in all situations) and requires the seat to be secured in a vehicle with a rear seat when height and weight requirements for use of a child passenger restraint system requires the seat to be rear-facing and (2) for the exception applying when the system is designed for use with front air bags (was, air bags), to add that the system must be used according to the manufacturer's instructions as indicated on the label. Allows a child to be restrained by a properly fitted lap belt only when no seating position equipped with a lap and shoulder belt is available and the child is less than eight years old and at least 40 pounds (was, between 40 and 80 pounds under current law and between 40 and 80 pounds and less than 57 inches in height in the previous edition). Makes additional technical and clarifying changes. Amends the act's titles.

Intro. by Loftis, Penny, Ross, Scott.

GS 20

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Child Welfare

H 406 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS](#). Filed Mar 13 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY VARIOUS MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Removes Section 8 from the act, which would have made various changes to GS 20-305.1, including provisions related to labor time (automobile dealer warranty and recall obligations). Makes organizational changes.

Intro. by B. Jones, Tyson, Ross.

GS 20

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle

H 476 (2025-2026) [DST TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS/ADMIN. CHANGES 2025.-AB](#) Filed Mar 20 2025, *AN ACT MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS AND ADMINISTRATIVE CHANGES TO THE LAWS GOVERNING AND RELATED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TREASURER.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes technical change to federal statutory citation 26 USC 529A(f) in GS 147-86.73.

Intro. by Carson Smith, Wheatley.

GS 84, GS 120, GS 128, GS 143B, GS 147, GS 153A, GS 159, GS 160A

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Courts/Judiciary, Court System, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Employment and Retirement, Government, General Assembly, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government

H 477 (2025-2026) [RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS REWRITE.-AB](#) Filed Mar 20 2025, *AN ACT TO RECODIFY AND STANDARDIZE THE LAWS RELATING TO THE DEATH BENEFIT PLAN, INCLUDING BY MAKING TECHNICAL, CLARIFYING, AND CONFORMING CHANGES, UNDER THE TEACHERS' AND STATE EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM, THE CONSOLIDATED JUDICIAL RETIREMENT SYSTEM, AND THE LEGISLATIVE RETIREMENT SYSTEM, TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE SURVIVOR'S ALTERNATE BENEFIT UNDER THOSE RETIREMENT SYSTEMS, AND TO ENSURE SUFFICIENT FUNDING FOR LINE OF DUTY DEATH BENEFITS.*

House committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Makes technical change to GS 135-154 (NC Teachers' and State Employees' [TSERS] Benefit Trust). Removes requirement that member have completed at least one year of service as part of benefits on death before retirement under GS 135-63(a) (consolidated Judicial Retirement System [JRS]). Further amends GS 135-63(a1) (survivor's alternate benefit-JRS) as amended by Section 7(d) of the act, and GS 128-4.28 (survivor benefits under the Legislative Retirement System-LRS) to prevent the retirement allowance under either of these statutes from being less than the actuarial equivalent of the return of accumulated contributions, computed using the beneficiary's age as of the first day of the month following the date of the member's death. Clarifies in GS 135-63(a1) that the calculated amount of the survivor's alternate benefit allowance is notwithstanding any age or service requirements.

Intro. by Carson Smith, Wheatley.

GS 120, GS 128, GS 135, GS 143

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Courts/Judiciary, Government, General Assembly, State Government, State Personnel, Local Government

H 487 (2025-2026) [SHORTER SEPARATION FOR RETIRED ADAS AND APDS.](#) Filed Mar 24 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW CERTAIN RETIRED ASSISTANT DISTRICT ATTORNEYS AND RETIRED ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDERS TO RETURN TO WORK FOR THE STATE AFTER A TWO-MONTH SEPARATION.*

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

Modifies the shortened separation period barring a member of the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System (TSERS) in GS 135-1(20)(defining retirement) from performing paid work from 30 days after retirement to two months for retired assistant public defenders and retired assistant district attorney who are certified to have earned at least five years of membership service in either of those roles and who becomes employed by the Judicial Branch (previously no service

requirement or reemployment by Judicial Branch required). Makes conforming changes to GS 135-3(d)(changes to effective date of retirement based on work during the required separation period).

Clarifies that the State Treasurer must seek a favorable private letter ruling (was, just private letter ruling) from the IRS to determine if the act itself (was the modification to the separation period above) jeopardizes the TSERS status. Directs the Treasurer to do so by January 1, 2026, or 120 days of the act becoming law, whichever is later. Directs that if the Treasurer sought a private letter ruling on the impact of the act on TSERS, and the Internal Revenue Service declines to make a private letter ruling or does not issue a response by December 17, 2026, then the act is repealed. Provides for notice by the Treasurer to the Revisor of Statutes, its employees, and on its website in the event of the act's repeal. Makes technical, organizational, and conforming changes. Specifies that these provisions and the part of the act authorizing TSERS to increase receipts from the retirement assets of the system or pay costs associated with the administration directly from the retirement assets are effective when the act becomes law.

Directs the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the Director of Indigent Defense Services (IDS) to provide monthly certification to TSERS that the member is employed as a district attorney or public defender. Prevents retired persons reemployed under the act from eligibility for election into a position that would lead the person to be eligible to accrue benefits under GS 135-3. Authorizes the Executive Director to correct any failures of the AOC, the Conference of District Attorneys, or IDS, as specified, with AOC, the Conference of District Attorneys, or IDS to pay for the cost of correction.

Intro. by Carson Smith, Wheatley.

GS 135

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Employment and Retirement, Government, State Agencies, Department of State Treasurer, State Government, State Personnel

H 839 (2025-2026) **ADVANCED TEACHING ROLES UPDATES**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY IN THE ADVANCED TEACHING ROLES PROGRAM*.

Modifies GS 115C-301.3(7), (appears to intend GS 115C-310.3(7); enacted in SL 2024-57) which defines “classroom excellence teacher” to be a classroom teacher in an advanced teaching role who assumes and is responsible for at least 20% more students than other classrooms of the same grade level or subject area at the same school (was, 20% more than the number of students in the most recent prior school year during which the teacher did not receive a salary supplement pursuant to this statute).

Modifies GS 115C-301.7(a) (appears to intend GS 115C-310.7(a)) permitting an ATR school to exceed maximum class sizes allowed by GS 115C-301 for kindergarten through third grade when approved by the State Board of Education (was, only during any term up to three years in which state funds are awarded to the ATR unit).

Amends GS 115C-310.13 allowing ATR units to designate up to 25% (was, 15%) of teachers in an ATR school as adult leadership teachers and 10% (was, 5%) of teachers in an ATR school as classroom excellence teachers.

Applied beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by Belk, Carney, Greenfield, Majeed.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Education, Elementary and Secondary Education

H 840 (2025-2026) **REWARD SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT GROWTH**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO MODIFY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES TO PROVIDE THAT ALL SCHOOLS RECEIVE A GRADE FOR SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AND A GRADE FOR SCHOOL GROWTH*.

Amends GS 115C-12(9) requiring the State Board of Education (State Board) in determining a school's annual report card to award numerical school achievement and school growth scores and separate corresponding letter grades for each, in

accordance with GS 115C-83.15 (was, an overall achievement, growth, and performance score on a scale of 0 to 100 and a corresponding performance letter grade). Mandates that the scores and grades reflect measures required for achievement and growth by GS 115C-83.15 and provides a list of measures as examples (was, requires the school performance score and grade to reflect student performance on the listed measures). Makes changes to terminology for the scores reflecting the new school achievement and school growth language throughout the remainder of GS 115C-12(9).

Makes conforming changes to the school scores and grades language in GS 115C-47(58) and GS 115C-83.15 title and subsections (a) and (d1).

Amends GS 115C-83.15 by adding subsections (b1) and (c1). Subsection (b1) provides the school achievement grade scale used to calculate school achievement grades (A, B, C, D, or F) based on the school achievement score received. Prohibits modification of the scale to add any other designation related to other performance measures like a “plus” or “minus.” Subsection (c1) provides the school growth grade scale used to calculate school growth grades (A, B, C, D, or F) based on the State Board’s conversion of the school growth score received to a 100-point scale. Prohibits modification of the scale to add any other designation related to other performance measures like a “plus” or “minus.”

Removes subsection (d) of GS 115C-83.15 entirely, which provided the calculation method for the previous overall school performance scores and grades.

Makes conforming changes to the school scores and grades language in GS 115C-83.15(d2) and adds references to subsections (b) through (c1); which provide the calculation of the school achievement score, school achievement grades, school growth score, and school growth grades, respectively. This includes replacing all references to subsection (d) with references to subsections (b) through (c1) throughout the subsection.

Makes conforming changes to the school scores and grades language in GS 115C-83.15(f) and throughout all subdivisions in GS 115C-83.15(g). Makes the following additional changes to GS 115C-83.15(g), which requires a list of information that should be displayed more prominently on the annual report card on the Department of Public Instruction’s website than any other information: (1) adds subdivision (2a), which adds a new piece of information to the list, the percentage of schools receiving a school growth letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F earned by each school located within a local school administrative unit and statewide; (2) amends subdivision (3) by requiring the number and percentage (was, number only) of schools that have met, exceeded, or have not met expected growth by each school located within a local school administrative unit and statewide.

Amends the following definitions in GS 115C-83.17: (1) *achievement score* – a numerical score (was, a numerical score on a scale of 0 to 100) based on the sum of points earned by a school or subgroup of students pursuant to GS 115C-83.15; (2) *school grades* (was, *overall school performance grade*) – the letter grades earned by a school for achievement and growth for all students served by a school pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(b1) and (c1) (was, the grade earned by a school for all students served by a school pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(d)); (3) *school scores* (was, *overall school performance score*) – the numerical scores earned by a school for achievement and growth pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(b) and (c) (was, the numerical score earned by a school, calculated by adding the school achievement score and school growth score pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(d)); (4) *subgroup grades* (was, *subgroup performance grade*) – the letter grades earned by a school for achievement and growth for a subgroup of students served by the school pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(d2) (was, one letter grade earned for a subgroup of students); (5) *subgroup performance score* (was, *subgroup performance scores*) – the numerical scores earned by a school for subgroup achievement and subgroup growth that are converted to a 100-point scale pursuant to GS 115C-83.15(d2) (was, one score calculated by adding the subgroup achievement score and growth score).

Makes technical and conforming changes to GS 115C-83.16 and adds to subsection (a) requiring the State Board to calculate the overall school performance score by adding the school achievement score and the school growth score earned by a school to comply with federal law. The achievement score must account for 51% and the growth score 49% of the total sum.

Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-105.37, GS 115C-105.39A, GS 115C-218.65, GS 115C-218.94(a), GS 115C-238.66(11), GS 116-239.8(b)(14), and GS 116-239.13(3).

Effective January 1, 2026, and applies to school achievement grades, growth grades, and report cards issued based on data from the 2025-2026 school year.

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

H 841 (2025-2026) **SHELLFISH LEASING STUDY**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE A STATEWIDE STUDY ON SHELLFISH AQUACULTURE LEASING AND CURRENT MORATORIUMS ON SHELLFISH LEASING*.

Directs the North Carolina Collaboratory to conduct a study on shellfish aquaculture regulation. Specifies that the study should consider nine topics, including the effectiveness of existing regulations, best practices from other states, lifting or modifying moratoriums, conflicts between existing operations and tourism, and environmental and regulatory considerations. Requires the Collaboratory to consult with the North Carolina Division of Marine Fisheries, the Marine Fisheries Commission, and other stakeholders to produce the report.

Requires the Collaboratory to submit an interim report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources no later than December 1, 2025, with a final report and legislative or regulatory changes by May 1, 2026.

Intro. by Carson Smith.

STUDY

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Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries, Government, State Agencies, UNC System

H 842 (2025-2026) **VIS., HEAR., DENTAL SCREENINGS OPT-OUT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY REQUIREMENTS FOR HEALTH SCREENINGS IN SCHOOLS*.

Amends GS 115C-76.45(a) to clarify that health care screenings in public school units are not health care services offered in schools. Adds requirement to notify parents of health care screenings as specified in new GS 115C-76.46.

Enacts new GS 115C-76.46 to define health care screenings as vision, hearing, or dental screenings, or developmental screenings for cognition, language and motor function on entry to kindergarten as specified in GS 115C-83.5. Allows public school units to conduct health care screenings without parental consent as long as the schools provide parents notice of all screenings at the beginning of the school year and provide parents the results of those screenings for their children.

Intro. by Helfrich, Carney, Crawford, Greenfield.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 843 (2025-2026) **LAKE WACCAMAW DAM REPAIRS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES TO ENTER INTO AN MOA WITH THE TOWN OF LAKE WACCAMAW FOR ACCESS AND REPAIR OF A DAM LOCATED AT LAKE WACCAMAW STATE PARK*.

Requires Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) to negotiate and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Town of Lake Waccamaw (the Town) to allow the Town's employees, agents, and contractors to access the Waccamaw Dam (the Dam) within Lake Waccamaw State Park to plan and undertake necessary repairs to the Dam. In addition to access, the MOA also must include the scope, nature, and estimated time line of Dam repairs and provide for the resumption of maintenance and management of the Dam by the Department once Dam repairs are complete. Requires the Department to enter into the MOA by September 1, 2025, and to submit a copy of the MOA to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Recourses and the Fiscal Research Commission prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

[View summary](#)

**Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government,
State Agencies, Department of Natural and Cultural
Resources (formerly Dept. of Cultural Resources)**

H 844 (2025-2026) [FINDING GRACE FAMILY BILL](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO CHANGE HEALTH CARE AND ADOPTION LAWS*.

Part I. Adoption Law Changes

Amends GS 7B-100 by requiring juveniles to be placed in a safe, permanent home within two years (was, a reasonable amount of time) when it is not in the juvenile's best interest to return home after being removed. Effective October 1, 2025.

Amends GS 7B-1111(a)(7) allowing the court to terminate the parental rights if they find that a parent has willfully abandoned the juvenile for at least six cumulative (was, consecutive) months immediately before the petition or motion was filed. Effective October 1, 2025, and applying to petitions on or after that date.

Amends GS 48-1-110 providing a new requirement that the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) provide the listed information on its website pertaining to adoption, services to assist women during and after pregnancy and childbirth, and abortion alternatives and related services. Effective October 1, 2025.

Amends GS 48-2-206, concerning the prebirth determination of the right to consent, to allow a filing by the biological mother, agency, or adoptive parents chosen by the biological mother for a special proceeding to request that the court determine if consent of the biological father is required at any time after conception as reasonably determined by a physician (was, at any time after about three months from the date of conception as reasonably determined by a physician). Effective October 1, 2025.

Amends GS 48-2-607(c), concerning appeals of a final decree of adoption, allowing a parent or guardian whose consent was necessary under GS Chapter 48 but not obtained to move to have the decree set aside within six months (was, within six months of the time the omission is or ought reasonably to have been discovered). Effective October 1, 2025.

Amends GS 115C-81.30 by adding a requirement to the list of criteria the reproductive health and safety instruction provided by local school administrative units must achieve. The instruction must provide information about adoption, its benefits, and where more information can be found. Effective at the beginning of the 2026-2027 school year.

Part II. Abortion Law Revisions

Amends GS 90-21.81A making it unlawful to procure or cause a miscarriage or abortion in the state after the sixth week (was, the twelfth week) of a woman's pregnancy.

Amends GS 90-21.81B by changing one of the listed circumstances where it is lawful to procure or cause a miscarriage or an abortion in the state to allow the procedure during the first six weeks (was, 12 weeks) of a woman's pregnancy, when the procedure is performed by a qualified physician licensed to practice medicine in a hospital, ambulatory surgical center, or clinic certified by DHHS to be a suitable facility for the performance of abortions, in accordance with GS 90-21.82A or during the first six weeks (was, 12 weeks) of a woman's pregnancy when a medical abortion is procured.

Amends GS 90-21.81C by requiring a qualified physician who advises, procures, or causes a miscarriage or abortion after the sixth week (was, twelfth week) of a woman's pregnancy to record the listed procedure information and record of findings and analysis the physician based the determination that there was a medical emergency, life-limiting anomaly, rape, or incest and provide all of this to DHHS pursuant to subsection (c).

Amends GS 90-21.82A allowing a physician to perform a surgical abortion in a listed facility during the first six (was, 12) weeks of pregnancy and prohibiting physicians from performing a surgical abortion or dispensing abortion-inducing drugs as permitted under state law in any facility other than a hospital after the sixth (was, twelfth) week of pregnancy.

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Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Juvenile Law, Abuse, Neglect and Dependency, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

H 845 (2025-2026) **REDUCE DROWNING RISK/PUBLIC DOCKS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE INSTALLATION AND USE OF WATER SAFETY RESCUE EQUIPMENT AT PIERS AND PUBLIC WATER ACCESS FACILITIES OWNED BY STATE AGENCIES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT*.

Adds new Article 5, Water Safety Rescue Equipment at Public Docks and Piers, in GS Chapter 75A, providing as follows.

Requires the owner or operator of a covered water access facility (defined as a pier or access point that is open to the public and owned or operated by the Wildlife Resources Commission, any other State agency, or a unit of local government) located in or adjacent to waters of this state to install public rescue equipment, including at least ring life buoys, on each covered water access facility. Sets out requirements for the ring life buoys and requires the station to be a bright orange or yellow. Makes the owner or operator of the covered water access facility responsible for the installation and maintenance of the public rescue equipment and for providing public education on the public rescue equipment.

Appropriates \$25,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Wildlife Resources Commission to comply with the act and to provide grants of up to \$500 to local governments in economic tier one areas to comply with this act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Helfrich, Setzer, Torbett, Rhyne.

[APPROP, GS 75A](#)

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Government, Budget/Appropriations, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Local Government

H 846 (2025-2026) **TEACHER RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE A TUITION WAIVER FOR CHILDREN OF ELIGIBLE VETERAN TEACHERS, TO REINSTATE EDUCATION-BASED SALARY SUPPLEMENTS FOR TEACHERS, TO CODIFY AND EXPAND THE TEACHER BONUS PROGRAM, TO REVISE THE TEACHING FELLOWS PROGRAM, TO REVIVE THE RETIRED TEACHERS PROGRAM, TO PROVIDE FOR TEACHER LICENSURE RECIPROCITY, AND TO STRENGTHEN REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR THREATS AND ASSAULTS ON TEACHERS*.

Part I. Tuition Waiver for Children of Eligible Veteran Teachers.

Section 1.(a). Amends GS 115B-1, which provides definitions for Chapter 115. Defines new terms *12-year teacher*, *16-year teacher*, and *20-year teacher* as a teacher with 12, 16, or 20 years of service, respectively, as a teacher in a public school unit. Defines new term *eligible teacher* as a teacher employed full-time as a teacher in a public school unit. Makes technical changes to the other terms in GS 115B-1 by renumbering the definitions to account for the additions.

Section 1.(b). Amends GS 115B-2(a), concerning people eligible for tuition waiver for classes at UNC constituent institutions and community colleges as defined in GS 115D-2(2), to add 20-year teacher to the list of positions that a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian can hold to qualify their child(ren) ages 17-23 to receive the tuition waiver under GS 115B-2(a)(4).

Adds subsection (a1) to GS 115B-2, which requires *UNC constituent institutions and community colleges*, as defined in GS 115D-2(2), to allow any child between 17-23 years old whose parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian is either a 16-year teacher or 12-year teacher to attend classes at a reduced tuition rate, which is a rate of 75% of the tuition rate where the child is enrolled for 16-year teachers and 50% of the tuition rate where the child is enrolled for 12-year teachers.

Adds subsection (a2) to GS 115B-2, which shifts the location of the prohibitions on a child's eligibility for the tuition waiver under this Chapter from exceeding 54 months if seeking a baccalaureate degree or the number of months required to complete an educational program the child is applying to, if not seeking a baccalaureate degree. Previously, this language was included in GS 115B-2(a)(4).

Section 1.(c). Appropriates \$2,000,000 in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of UNC to provide tuition waivers for children of eligible veteran teachers in accordance with GS Chapter 115B, as amended by this section.

Section 1.(d). Requires the UNC System Office to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the actual costs of the waivers for children of eligible veteran teachers adopted pursuant to subsections (a) and (b) of this section by February 15, 2026. States intent of NCGA to adjust recurring appropriations for the waivers based on the report.

Section 1.(e). Section 1 is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2025-26 academic year.

Part II. Professional Evaluation Tools

Section 2. Requires the State Board of Education (State Board) to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on at least three potential professional evaluation tools for teachers to provide feedback to teachers on their professional development and to provide administrators with information on teacher quality. Provides a list of four minimum criteria the tools must meet, which includes that the tools: (1) be evidence-based and replicable; (2) take into account existing measures of teacher effectiveness including those measures listed; (3) include professional feedback, including two specific types of feedback as listed; and (4) for at least two of the tools proposed, be viewable by teachers throughout the school year.

Part III. Revive and Revise Retired Teachers Program

Section 3.(a). Reenacts GS 115C-302.4 as it existed immediately prior to its expiration and now expires June 30, 2030.

Section 3.(b). Amends newly reenacted GS 115C-302.4 by changing the statute's title to Reemploy qualifying retired teachers (was, High-need retired teachers).

Changes defined term *high-need retired teacher* to *qualifying retired teacher* and amends the definition to a teacher who is a beneficiary of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System of North Carolina (Retirement System) who meets all of the following requirements, which includes two new requirements: (1) retired at least two months before the scheduled date of a beneficiary's reemployment (was, retired on or before February 1, 2019) after either becoming at least 65 years old with five years of creditable service, becoming at least 60 years old with 25 years of creditable service, or having 30 years of creditable service; (2) is reemployed by a local board of education to provide classroom instruction as a teacher, as defined in GS 135-1(25), employed on an annual contract to provide the instruction in any public school unit (was, exclusively at a high-need school or schools); (3) prior to retirement taught a subject area in three of the prior five school years in which a majority of the students of the teacher had EVAAS student growth index scores that met or exceeded expected growth (new requirement); and (4) has not been reemployed by any other local board of education pursuant to this section (new requirement).

Removes definitions of *high-need school* and *STEM*.

Makes conforming changes to the language in GS 115C-302.4(b) by changing all uses of *high-need retired teacher* to *qualifying retired teacher*.

Amends GS 115C-302.4(c) by making conforming changes to use *qualifying retired teacher* where *high-need retired teacher* had been used previously. Allows a qualifying retired teacher eligibility for salary supplements and state bonuses (was, not eligible), but does not allow for salary increases beyond the salary steps prescribed in subsection (b) of GS 115C-302.4.

Makes conforming changes to the language in GS 115C-302.4(d) changing all uses of *high-need retired teacher* to *qualifying retired teacher*.

Makes conforming changes to the language in GS 115C-302.4(e) changing use of *high-need retired teacher* to *qualifying retired teacher*. Limits the contract between the local board of education and a qualifying retired teacher to a term of no more than one school year and specifies that it can be renewed on an annual basis for up to five years (was, limited to the school-year length term without limit on number of renewals).

Removes GS 115C-302.4(f) pertaining to identification of STEM and Special Education Licensure Areas.

Section 3.(c). Amends GS 135-3(a)(8), concerning members whose membership in the Retirement System terminated on or after July 1, 1963, and who become entitled to benefits in accordance with the listed provisions by adding a new subdivision (i) which specifies that the postretirement earnings computed under subdivision (8) will not include earnings while

a beneficiary is employed as a qualifying retired teacher under GS 115C-302.4 and that the beneficiary must not be restored to service as a teacher or employee. Requires the Department of Public Instruction to certify to the Retirement System that a beneficiary is employed by a local board of education as a qualifying retired teacher. Requires a local board of education to inform the Retirement System if it will not employ any qualifying retired teachers for the school year by September 15 each year. Clarifies that the retirement allowance of a beneficiary who retired on an early or service retirement does not cease due to reemployment as a qualifying retired teacher and that a qualifying retired teacher is not entitled to any benefits otherwise provided under this Chapter as a result of this employment period.

Section 3.(d). Amends GS 135-3(a)(8)c1 to add reference to new sub-subdivision (i) and make technical changes.

Section 3.(e). Amends GS 135-3(d) to add a new provision that a beneficiary who retired on an early or service retirement allowance under GS Chapter 135 and is a qualifying retired teacher the two months immediately following their effective retirement date should have the option of the listed subdivisions applied that has the lesser financial impact on the member, as determined by the Retirement System (was, only applicable to those beneficiaries who retired on an early or service retirement allowance under Chapter 135 and is reemployed, or otherwise engaged to perform services for, an employer participating in the Retirement System on a part-time, temporary, interim, or fee-for-service basis during the six months immediately after their effective retirement date).

Section 3.(f). Amends GS 135-1(10), which provides the definition of *employee*, to add qualifying retired teachers under GS 115C-302.4(a) to the list of positions that the term "*employee*" does not include.

Section 3.(g). Amends GS 135-1(20), which provides the definition of *retirement* for GS Chapter 135, by adding to the included list that in order for a member's retirement to become effective in any month, the member must perform no work for an employer, including part-time, temporary, substitute, or contractor work at any time during the six months immediately after the effective retirement date or, if a member is a qualifying retired teacher, the two months immediately after the effective date of retirement (was, only that the member must not perform work for an employer, including part-time, temporary, substitute, or contractor work at any time during the six months immediately after the effective retirement date).

Section 3.(h). Amends GS 135-48.40(b)(1a), detailing the criteria retirees must meet to be eligible for partially contributory coverage under the State Health Plan by adding a retiree that is a qualifying retired teacher to the third criteria listed. Retirees must still meet all other listed criteria in GS 135-48.40(b)(1a).

Section 3.(i). Amends GS 135-106(b), regarding long-term disability benefits, to conform with changes made to GS 135-1(20) as explained in Section 3.(g) by clarifying that a long-term disability recipient who begins to receive an unreduced service retirement allowance from the Retirement System is not subject to the applicable waiting period set forth in GS 135-1(20) (was, the six-month waiting period).

Section 3.(j). Requires the State Treasurer to seek a private letter ruling from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to determine if any provisions of this section jeopardize the status of the Retirement System.

Section 3.(k). Provides that if the IRS determines a provision of this section jeopardizes the Retirement System under the Internal Revenue Code, then the section is repealed on the last day of the month following the month of receipt of that determination by the State Treasurer. Details requirements for the State Treasurer if the Treasurer receives this determination from the IRS and requirements for local school administrative units once they are notified.

Section 3.(l). Permits the Retirement Systems Division of the Department of State Treasurer to increase receipts from the retirement assets of the Retirement System to pay costs associated with the administration of the provisions of this section or to pay costs of administration directly from retirement assets.

Section 3.(m). Prohibits a beneficiary employed by a local board of education as a qualifying retired teacher from eligibility to elect into a position that would lead them to be eligible to accrue any additional benefits under GS 135-3(a)(8). Provides instruction for correction and charging for costs of correction if there is any failure to comply with the foregoing by a local board of education or beneficiary.

Section 3.(n). Appropriates \$100,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of State Treasurer to be used to obtain the private letter ruling under Section 3.(f).

Section 3.(o). Appropriates \$10,000,000 in recurring funds for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium from the General Fund to the Department of State Treasurer to be used to address the increased cost to the Retirement System as a result of

implementing Section 3.

Section 3.(p). Section 3 is effective July 1, 2026, and expires June 30, 2030.

Part IV. Expand Teacher Licensure Reciprocity

Section 4. Amends GS 115C-270.25 concerning out-of-state license applicants by adding that the State Board can grant a Continuing Professional License (CPL) to a teacher who is either (1) licensed in another state with a substantially similar licensure requirement who has at least 3 years of teaching experience and is in good standing with the other state or (2) currently teaching in a state that has been ranked in the top 25 states for education, as evaluated by the US News and World Report, during at least 3 of the 5 preceding school years (was, only allowed to grant a CPL to a teacher that was licensed in another state with a substantially similar licensure requirement with at least 3 years of teaching experience and in good standing with the other state). Effective when it becomes law and applies to applications for CPLs on or after that date.

Part V. Strengthen Reporting Requirements for Threats and Assaults on Teachers

Section 5.(a). Amends GS 115C-388(g) by adding to the list of actions occurring on school property that a principal must report to the appropriate local law enforcement agency if they have personal knowledge or actual notice from school personnel of the act to include a threat directed at a teacher and assault and removes the previous requirement that assault have to result in serious personal injury to be reportable.

Section 5.(b). Amends GS 115C-289.1(a) requiring a supervisor of a school employee with actual notice that the employee has received a threat from a student or has been assaulted by a student in violation of GS 14-33(c)(6) to immediately report the threat or assault to the principal (was, only required to report when there was actual notice of a teacher being a victim of assault by a student in violation of GS 14-33(c)(6) resulting in physical injury, as defined in GS 14-34.7).

Section 5.(c). Amends GS 115C-150.12C(29) to require the board of trustees to adopt rules to (1) notify the parents of any students alleged to be victims of any act required to be reported to law enforcement and the superintendent under GS 115C-288(g); (2) requiring a principal, or equivalent authority, to report acts to law enforcement in accordance with GS 155C-288(g); and (3) requiring school employee supervisors to report acts to the principal, or equivalent authority, in accordance with GS 115C-289.1(a) (was, only rules adopted related to the parental notification in the foregoing list).

Section 5.(d). Adds new subsection (p) to GS 115C-218.75 mandating that a charter school require a principal, or equivalent authority, to report acts to law enforcement in accordance with GS 115C-288(g) and to require school employee supervisors to report acts to the principal, or equivalent authority, in accordance with GS 115C-289.1(a).

Section 5.(e). Adds new subdivision to GS 115C-238.66 mandating that a regional school require a principal, or equivalent authority, to report acts to law enforcement in accordance with GS 115C-288(g) and to require school employee supervisors to report acts to the principal, or equivalent authority, in accordance with GS 115C-289.1(a).

Section 5.(f) Adds new subdivision to GS 116-239.8(b) mandating that a laboratory school require a principal, or equivalent authority, to report acts to law enforcement in accordance with GS 115C-288(g) and to require school employee supervisors to report acts to the principal, or equivalent authority, in accordance with GS 115C-289.1(a).

Section 5.(g) Section 5 is effective when it becomes law and applies to incidents or reports occurring on or after that date.

Part VI. Effective Date

Section 6. Effective July 1, 2025, except as otherwise provided.

Intro. by Echevarria, Willis, Schietzelt, Campbell.

[APPROP, GS 115B, GS 115C, GS 135](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Courts/Judiciary, Criminal Justice, Criminal Law and Procedure, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Higher Education, Employment and Retirement, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System, Department of State Treasurer, State Board of Education](#)

H 847 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY*.

Clarifies the types of vehicles eligible for registration as a motorcycle under GS Chapter 20. Amends GS 20-4.01(27)h to include within the definition of “passenger vehicles” that are considered motorcycles a vehicle upfitted with required highway use equipment for motorcycles that also has an engine displacement of 124cc or more and a speed capability of 40mph or greater. Amends GS 20-54(8) excluding motorcycles meeting the requirements for off-road and highway operation from the definition of “utility vehicle”, which are not allowed to be registered.

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Scott.

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle](#)

H 848 (2025-2026) [CLEVELAND CULTIVATION OF EXCELLENCE PILOT](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE CULTIVATION OF EXCELLENCE PILOT PROGRAM IN CLEVELAND COUNTY SCHOOLS*.

Enacts new GS 115C-235 to create a pilot program in Cleveland County Schools beginning in the 2025-2026 school year and ending after the 2030-2031 school year. The program allows Cleveland County Schools and the Cleveland County Board of Education to exercise flexibility in class sizes for kindergarten through third grade. The program also allows a school to hire teachers who do not possess a license in compliance with the law or in accordance with the regulations of the State Board of Education. Up to fifty percent of teachers in a school may be unlicensed. Up to twenty-five percent of all teachers employed by the Cleveland County Board of Education may be unlicensed. Teachers of mathematics, science, social studies, and language arts must be college graduates. Unlicensed teachers must complete preservice training in identifying students with disabilities, managing student behavior, defusing and de-escalating disruptive or dangerous behavior, and the safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint. Individuals who qualify to be teacher assistants in kindergarten classrooms may be teacher assistants in NC Pre-K classrooms without meeting the requirements established by statute or regulation for NC Pre-K teacher assistants. Allows the transfer of funds for teacher assistants, textbooks, and digital resources.

The State Board of Education may terminate participation in the pilot. If it does, it shall submit a report on the basis and evidence for the termination to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

Each year of the pilot, the Cleveland County Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on employment information, including the number of licensed and unlicensed teachers and long-term substitutes, recruiting data, the number of NC Pre-K teacher assistants who meet the requirements for employment as kindergarten teacher assistants, and employee retention. The report must also include average class sizes for kindergarten through third grade, explanations of flexibility in allotment, how that flexibility contributes to student success, and recommendations for the pilot.

Allows Cleveland County Schools to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee and Superintendent of Public Instruction on initial implementation and recommended legislative changes and expresses intent to provide funding to Cleveland County Schools for a teacher compensation model and student behavior intervention program.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Repeals new GS 115C-235 effective December 31, 2031.

Intro. by Scott, Torbett.

[Cleveland, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 849 (2025-2026) [UTILITY FORCED RELOCATION EXPENSES](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE THE STATE, CITY, OR PUBLIC AUTHORITY REQUIRING THE RELOCATION OF UTILITY FACILITIES RESPONSIBLE FOR THE COST OF RELOCATION*.

Sections 1 and 2 add a new subsection (c1) to GS 136-19.5 stating that if relocation of utility facilities (as defined in 23 USC 123 and applied by the U.S. Department of Transportation in 23 CFR 645.105) is required by construction of a project on the federal interstate system and is approved for reimbursement under the Federal-Aid Highway Act (as amended), the owner or operator of the facilities shall perform any necessary work upon notice from the Department of Transportation and the State must pay the entire expense properly attributable to the work (after deducting any increase in the value of the new facility and any salvage value derived from the old facility). Makes conforming changes to GS 136-18.

Section 3 adds a new GS 160A-296.2, which states that if a city requires or directs the removal or relocation of facilities installed or operated in the city's rights of way by any of several kinds of telecommunications provider (owner or operator of broadband services, video programming services pursuant to a franchise issued by the Secretary of state, telephone or telegraph lines, or a wireless facility (as defined in GS 160D-931(22)), the owner or operator shall remove or relocate the facilities and the city shall reimburse the owner or operator for the costs of the relocation or removal. This reimbursement requirement does not apply to a city with a population of less than 5,000 unless the removal or relocation is related to a road improvement or construction project funded exclusively by federal funds.

Section 4 amends GS 160A-479.15 adding the owner or operator of broadband services, video programming services pursuant to a franchise issued by the Secretary of state, telephone or telegraph lines, or a wireless facility (as defined in GS 160D-931(22)) to the scope of "public service corporation" that a regional sports authority can require to remove or relocate its facilities.

Section 5 similarly amends the scope of "public service corporation" as used in GS 160A-21 for regional public transportation authorities.

Section 6 similarly amends the scope of "public service corporation" as used in GS 160A-651 for regional transportation authorities.

Intro. by Miller, Pyrtle, Setzer, Huneycutt.

[GS 136, GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 850 (2025-2026) [INTERBASIN TRANSFER MORATORIUM/STUDY](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO IMPOSE A MORATORIUM ON ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES FOR CERTAIN SURFACE WATER TRANSFERS*.

Contains NCGA findings.

Imposes a moratorium on the Environmental Management Commission's (EMC) issuance of certificates authorizing significant new or increased surface water transfers until six months after the report required herein. Defines *significant* in the context of a new or increased surface water transfer.

Directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (Collaboratory) to study and report on the current statutory process for approval of surface water transfers and recommend any needed legislative revisions.

Requires the Collaboratory to submit its findings and report to the 2027 General Assembly when it convenes.

Requires the Collaboratory to specifically review:

- The adequacy of the requirements in GS 143-215.22L for an environmental impact study to ensure that all impacts on upstream and downstream water users in the river basin are comprehensively and equitably compiled and considered.
- Whether the information EMC uses to decide final certification adequately takes into account (1) issues of economic equity for lower income and lower population communities in the source river basin whose future economic growth may be impacted by the proposed transfer; (2) negative impacts of increases in water pollutant concentration on riverine ecosystems resulting from large surface water transfers; and (3) whether the denial of a surface water transfer request would result in a substantial increase in utility rates or cause a financial hardship due to alternative infrastructure construction costs for the requesting party.

- Process changes needed to account for periods of extreme heat, drought, or flooding events impacting the State’s mainstem rivers.
- How incentives regarding land use, infrastructure, and drought resiliency policies for parties requesting surface water transfers could be built into the certification process to reduce the size of future transfers needed to meet demand.
- Any other matters deemed relevant by the Collaboratory to increase the fairness and effectiveness of surface water transfer certification requirements.

Requires the Collaboratory to consult with the Army Corps of Engineers and other entities that manage water impoundments whose ability to meet present and projected hydroelectric power generation and water supply needs are impacted by significant surface water transfers.

Intro. by Adams, Blackwell, Setzer, Greene.

STUDY

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, UNC System

H 851 (2025-2026) **HOSPITAL POLICE OFFICER/AUTHORITY/INFO ACCESS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO TREAT HOSPITAL POLICE OFFICERS AS A DISTINCT CATEGORY OF COMPANY POLICE OFFICERS AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN AUTHORITY AND INFORMATION ACCESS TO THESE OFFICERS.*

Enacts subparagraph (b)(1a) in GS 74E-6, creating the new classification of “hospital police officers” as a type of company police officers. Enacts subsection (d1), providing for the powers of hospital police officers on hospital property and roads and highways passing through or adjoining the property, and allowing a hospital governing board to enter into mutual aid agreements with municipalities and sheriff’s offices. Enacts new subsection (f1) granting hospital police access to the Criminal Justice Law Enforcement Automated Data System, and subsection (f2) granting access and making hospital police participating agencies of the Division of Criminal Information Network.

Amends GS 115D-5(b)(2) to include hospital police agencies in the list of organizations eligible for tuition waiver/uniform registration fees for courses from the State Board of Community Colleges that support their training needs.

Clarifies that there will be no impediment to the use of the Voice Interoperability Plan for Emergency Responders (VIPER) System for hospital police.

Intro. by Reeder, Miller, Pyrtle.

GS 74E, GS 115D

[View summary](#)

Education, Higher Education, Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Care Facilities and Providers

H 852 (2025-2026) **SAFE DOGS, SAFE OWNERS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO MANDATE STRICT CIVIL LIABILITY FOR DOG BITES WHEN A DOG INJURES A PERSON OR DOMESTIC ANIMAL WHILE RUNNING UNLEASHED IN PUBLIC AND TO ESTABLISH UNIFORM LEASHING LAWS.*

Contains whereas clauses.

Amends GS 67-1 by retitling the statute as “Liability for injury to livestock, fowls, domestic animals, or persons; definition of at large.” Reorganizes existing language into new subsection (a) and now specifies that the owner of any dog at large that kills or injures livestock, fowl, domestic animals, or persons, is liable for damages. Defines “at large” in new subsection (b) as a dog not under the reasonable, physical control of the owner or another person, and provides examples such as a dog escaping an inadequate enclosure or a dog being walked off-leash in a public place. Clarifies that “at large” does not include law enforcement dogs in official duties and dogs being used in a lawful hunt.

Amends GS 67-12 to make it unlawful for a person to let a dog over six months old to run at large at any time, instead of only at nighttime as currently prohibited by the statute.

Effective and applicable to actions brought or pending on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by von Haefen, Roberson, Dew.

[GS 67](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 853 (2025-2026) [SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE AFTER REVOCATION](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE PERSONS WHOSE LICENSES HAVE BEEN REVOKED TO HAVE A SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR*.

Amends GS 20-19 by adding new subsection (l) to mandate that the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) require a person whose license was revoked under any provision in Chapter 20 to agree to and indicate on the person's restored drivers license a restriction that the person may operate only a vehicle with a special registration plate as described in new GS 20-82.1. Requires any person subject to the subsection to obtain a special registration plate for all registered vehicles the person owns and operates, or intends to operate. Prohibits the person from operating any vehicle that does not have the special registration plate, except when operating a vehicle owned by the person's employer only if operating that vehicle is required in the course and scope of employment, the employer has been notified that the person is subject to the license restriction requiring the special registration plate, and the person has proof of this notification with them while operating the employer's vehicle for those duties. Requires a person to be subject to this subsection for seven years if the person is also subject to a restriction in GS 20-19(c3) or three years in all other cases. Mandates a one-year revocation for a violation of a restriction imposed under this subsection. Clarifies that if the period of revocation was imposed pursuant to GS 20-19(d) or (e), or GS 20-138.5(d), any remaining period of the original revocation, prior to its reduction, must be reinstated and the one-year revocation begins after all other periods of revocation have ended.

Enacts GS 20-82.1 requiring a special registration plate that is a different color from those regularly issued and is readily identifiable by law enforcement officers to be issued to any person subject to a restriction set forth in GS 20-19(l), GS 20-179.3(h1), GS 20-16.1(b)(1) and GS 20-20.1(i)(2a). Requires the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to designate the color to be used. Prohibits any person operating a vehicle with this plate from knowingly disguising or obscuring the color of the plate. Sets an additional \$10.00 fee for the special registration plates credited by the DMV to the Special Registration Plate Account.

Amends GS 20-179.3 by adding a new subsection, (h), mandating a judge to include the special registration plate requirement of GS 20-82.1 in any limited driving privilege order issued under this statute. Requires a person subject to this subsection to obtain the special registration plate for all registered vehicles they own and operate or intend to operate. Prohibits a person from operating any vehicle that does not have the special registration plate but allows the same exception for employer vehicles as detailed in GS 20-19(l) above.

Amends GS 20-16.1(b)(1) by making technical changes and conforming changes to require the imposition of the special registration plate pursuant to new GS 20-179.3(h).

Amends GS 20-20.1(i) pertaining to limited driving privilege restriction conditions by mandating the special plate requirement of GS 20-82.1 be included by a judge on any limited driving privilege order issued under this statute. Requires a person subject to this subsection to obtain the special registration plate for all registered vehicles they own and operate or intend to operate. Prohibits a person from operating any vehicle without the special registration plate but allows the same exception for employer vehicles as detailed in GS 20-19(l) above.

Effective December 1, 2025, and applies to licenses revoked and limited driving privileges issued on or after that date.

Intro. by Pike, Echevarria, Penny, Greene.

[GS 20](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 854 (2025-2026) [REQUIRE LICENSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REMOVE THE EXEMPTION FOR EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS OR TRANSLITERATORS FROM THE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS OF THE NORTH CAROLINA INTERPRETER AND TRANSLITERATOR LICENSURE ACT*.

Makes changes to GS Chapter 90D to include educational interpreters or transliterators in the licensure requirements under that Chapter. Amends GS 90D-3 to include educational interpreters or transliterators, as defined in subdivision (3), in the definition of transliterator under subdivision (9). Repeals the exemption from the Chapter for educational interpreters or transliterators in GS 90D-4(b).

Amends GS 115C-110.2 to allow continuing education hours required for licensure under GS Chapter 90D to apply toward the required 15 hours of job-related training for interpreters and transliterators under that statute.

Permits the Interpreter and Transliterator Licensing Board and the Department of Public Instruction to adopt rules to implement the act.

Effective October 1, 2026.

Intro. by Blackwell, Wheatley, Paré, Schietzelt.

GS 90D, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Public Instruction

H 855 (2025-2026) [RESIDENCY LICENSES FOR NONPUBLIC EC TEACHERS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ALLOW NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REQUEST RESIDENCY LICENSES FOR TEACHERS*.

Amends GS 115C-270.20(a) to allow nonpublic schools, including those accredited by the State Board of Education, North Carolina Association of Independent Schools, or national or regional accrediting agencies, and also including private church schools, schools of religious charter, and schools that receive no funding from the State of North Carolina, to request a residency license for a teacher.

Intro. by Blackwell, Biggs, Lofton, Scott.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 856 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY DEED RESTRICTIONS/SOLAR COLLECTORS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LAW GOVERNING DEED RESTRICTIONS ON SOLAR COLLECTORS*.

Amends GS 22B-20 to remove exemptions in subsection (d) from the prohibition on any deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement that runs with the land and would prohibit or have the effect of prohibiting solar collectors. Amends subsection (c) to clarify that a deed restriction, covenant, or similar binding agreement that runs with the land may regulate the location or screening of solar collectors if the agreement does not have the effect of “reducing the operating efficiency” (was “preventing the reasonable use”) of a solar collector for residential property. Defines the term “reducing the operating efficiency of a solar collector” to mean that the regulation would decrease the efficiency or performance of the solar collector by more than 10% of the amount originally specified for the solar collector. Applicable to deed restrictions, covenants, or similar binding agreements that run with the land recorded on or after the date the bill becomes law.

Intro. by Greenfield, Logan, von Haefen, Liu.

GS 22B

[View summary](#)

**Development, Land Use and Housing, Property and Housing,
Environment, Energy**

H 857 (2025-2026) **CREATE ALERT/MISSING PERSON W/ DISABILITY**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT CREATING THE NORTH CAROLINA MISSING WITH DISABILITY ALERT SYSTEM*.

Enacts new statute GS 143B-1022A to establish the North Carolina Missing with Disability Alert System (NCMDAS) within the existing North Carolina Center for Missing Persons (Center) to rapidly disseminate information regarding missing persons or children who are believed to be a person with a disability as defined by GS 168A-3(7a). States the purpose of NCMDAS is to protect missing persons and missing children from potential abuse or other physical harm, neglect, or exploitation.

Requires the Center or a law enforcement agency (LEA) to issue an alert upon receipt of a request that involves a missing person or missing child as defined in the act.

Further requires the Center and all LEAs to:

- Adopt guidelines and develop procedures for issuing an alert that ensure that specific health information about the missing person or missing child is not made public through the alert or otherwise.
- Provide education and training to encourage radio and television broadcasters to participate in the alert.

Requires the Center and all LEAs to consult with the Department of Transportation and develop a procedure for use of overhead permanent changeable message to disseminate permissible information in cases where doing so would enable motorists to assist in recovering the missing person or missing child. Directs the same parties to develop guidelines for the content, length, and frequency of those messages.

Intro. by T. Brown, Cunningham, Hawkins, Alston.

GS 143B

[View summary](#)

Government, Public Safety and Emergency Management

H 858 (2025-2026) **FUNDS/N. MECKLENBURG PUBLIC SAFETY**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC SAFETY IN NORTH MECKLENBURG COUNTY*.

Appropriates \$20.440 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Town of Davidson to be used for: (1) construction of a new fire station, (2) emergency vehicle purchases, (3) police equipment, and (4) breathing apparatus.

Appropriates \$6 million from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Town of Cornelius to be used: (1) for acquisition of property for the construction of a public safety facility, (2) to replace the fire department radios, and (3) to improve pedestrian safety at the intersection of NC 115/Catawba Ave.

Appropriates \$47,683,780 from the General Fund to the Office of State Budget and Management for 2025-26 to provide a directed grant to the Town of Huntersville to be used for: (1) new firetruck apparatus, (2) breathing apparatus, (3) a new firetruck, (4) anti-vehicle barriers, (5) 10 additional police vehicles, (6) the construction of a new fire station, and (7) the construction of a new police facility.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Helfrich.

APPROP, Mecklenburg

[View summary](#)

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

H 859 (2025-2026) [LOCAL GOVTS/GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAMS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT PROHIBITING COUNTIES AND CITIES FROM ADOPTING OR ENFORCING GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAMS*.

Enacts GS 153A-154.13, which prohibits a county from adopting or enforcing a guaranteed income program unless expressly authorized by law. Defines guaranteed income program as an unconditional cash payment to an individual, to be used for any purpose, and exempts programs requiring individuals to seek employment, perform work, or attend trainings.

Enacts GS 160A-205.8, which also prohibits a city from adopting or enforcing a guaranteed income program unless expressly authorized by law. Provides the same definition of guaranteed income program as GS 153A-154.13 above.

Intro. by Huneycutt.

[GS 153A, GS 160A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Government, Local Government, Health and Human Services, Social Services, Public Assistance](#)

H 860 (2025-2026) [SOCIAL MEDIA CONTROL IN IT ACT](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO COMBAT SOCIAL MEDIA ADDICTION BY REQUIRING THAT SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF NORTH CAROLINA USERS' DATA AND NOT USE A NORTH CAROLINA MINOR'S DATA FOR ADVERTISING OR ALGORITHMIC RECOMMENDATIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE, AND TO MAKE WILLFUL VIOLATIONS OF DATA USER PRIVACY AN UNFAIR PRACTICE UNDER CHAPTER 75 OF THE GENERAL STATUTES*.

Substantively identical to [S 514](#), and filed 3/25/25.

Enacts Article 2B to GS Chapter 75 to be cited as the "Social Media Control in Information Technology Act". Includes 13 defined terms. States legislative findings and establishes State policy concerning user data on social media platforms. Defines social media platform (platform) as an electronic medium with more than one million monthly active users in the US that functions as a social media service; excludes nine specified services.

Establishes the following requirements for platforms. Specifies that the platform must provide disclosure, when the user first initializes their use or after a six-month period of inactivity and in the format described, regarding their collection and use of personal information and how users can exercise their rights and choices on the platform. Requires platforms to obtain user consent before the platform collects any user-related data on the user. Further requires platforms to provide disclosure, available upon receipt of a verifiable consumer request, detailing the categories of information collected and sources from which the information is collected; the purpose for the collection, selling, or sharing of personal information; the categories of third-party to whom the business discloses personal information; and the specific pieces of information it has collected about that user. Establishes two qualifications for using personal information in algorithmic recommendations, including that the platform reasonably determines the user is not a minor and the user is notified and expressly consents to its use. Requires platforms provide users the ability to alter, change, and delete the categories of personal information used in an algorithmic recommendation system that is modifiable at any time. Bars use of categories users intend not to be used in an algorithmic recommendation system. Prohibits discrimination against users exercising rights under the Article in provision of functionality or features of the platform unless the use of user-related data in an algorithmic recommendation system is reasonably necessary to the feature or functionality. Mandates that platforms establish comprehensive and effective controls to ensure that a minor's personal information is not used in any algorithmic recommendation system, with three exceptions listed, including recommending or presenting content from accounts that a user follows in reverse chronological order or a similar method. Deems the operator of the platform liable for violations of the statute. Provides immunity where the platform made an estimation of a user's age based on the user's self-attestation that the person was not a minor.

Requires platforms to configure all privacy settings to be available to minors and default to the highest level of privacy, unless the business can demonstrate a compelling reason that a different setting is in the best interest of minors. Includes six settings that must comply with this requirement. Requires platforms to provides users with accessible mechanisms to request correction or deletion of personal information about the user. Describes requirements and recordkeeping regarding these user requests. Establishes three rights specific to minors using platforms, as specified: right to protection from manipulative design; right to

transparency; and right to protection from personalized recommendation systems. Provides the operation is potentially liable for violations of the statute.

Deems violations of the Article an unfair or deceptive act or practice under state law, effective January 1, 2026. Charges the Attorney General with monitoring compliance. Permits users to make compliance complaints and authorizes the Attorney General to bring a civil action where it is believed the noncompliance has or threatens the interest of State residents. Allows minors to file a civil action if they are affected by any covered platform found to be in violation of the Article. Where the Attorney General brings an action and prevails where a minor is affected, provides specific relief available to the court.

Establishes the 21-member Data Privacy Task Force (Task Force) within the Department of Justice. Details membership, appointment, meetings, and vacancies. Sets member terms to two years. Directs the Task Force to annually report to the NCGA on its work as specified, beginning March 15, 2025.

Effective October 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$100,000 to the Department of Justice for each year of 2025-27 to develop the registry created by the act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by McNeely, Humphrey, Johnson, Gable.

[GS 75](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Consumer Protection, Government, State Agencies, Department of Justice](#)

H 861 (2025-2026) [TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY/PREGNANCY CENTERS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT ENHANCING TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY BY REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPETITIVE GRANT PROCESS, PERFORMANCE STANDARDS, AND ADDITIONAL REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PREGNANCY CENTERS.*

Section 1

Makes funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health, for each year of the 2025-27 fiscal biennium for Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship (CPCF), a non-profit organization, subject to the following requirements:

(1) CPCF must establish a competitive grant process for awarding grants authorized by SL 2023-134, Section 9H.11(a)(1) through (a)(3), that includes a request for application (RFA) process to allow pregnancy centers to apply for and receive a grant authorized by this section on a competitive basis. RFA application must include specified components, including explanation of the applicant's operations and staff, specific activities and services provided, and a description of all medical equipment. CPCF's plan for administering the grant must also include a plan to evaluate the effectiveness of the activities, services, and programs for which grant funds are being requested, a plan to monitor compliance, and a plan to detect grantee fraud and abuse.

(2) No later than July 1st of each year (beginning in 2026), CPCF must announce the recipients of the grant awards and allocate funds to grantees. After granting awards, CPCF must submit a report on grant awards, including specified elements, to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Commission on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division.

(3) CPCF may not use more than 10% of the total amount of funds allocated for the 2023-25 fiscal biennium and not more than 15% of the total amount of funds for administrative purposes.

(4) Funds allocated to CPCF must be used for nonsectarian, nonreligious purposes only.

(5) No later than July 1st of each year (beginning in 2026), CPCF must report annually to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Commission on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division regarding monitoring activities by CPCF to ensure that grant funds are spent for the purposes for which they were requested, technical assistance CPCF provided to applicants or grantees, and a detailed breakdown of funds expended by CPCF for administrative purposes related to the competitive grant process.

(6) No later than July 1st of each year (beginning in 2026), each pregnancy center that is awarded grant funds through the competitive grant process must report to the Department of Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations, the Joint Legislative Commission on Health and Human Services, and the Fiscal Research Division on a number of specified topics related to its activities and clients served.

Section 2

Adds a new GS 131E-269.5 requiring the Department of Health and Human Services (the Department) to adopt rules establishing performance centers for pregnancy centers (defined in the new statute) operating in the State. The rules must, at a minimum, establish monitoring and reporting requirements to allow the Department to assess periodically whether pregnancy centers are adhering to the established performance standards. The reporting requirements must, at a minimum, require pregnancy centers to report annually to the Department specified information for the preceding five-year period, including itemized annual expenditures, all contracts and agreements entered into with the State or CPCF, and copies of Internal Revenue Service Form 990. The Department must take appropriate administrative action to recover any grant funds or state appropriations disbursed to a pregnancy center for any fiscal year in which the Department determines that the pregnancy center is out of compliance with the performance standards, and aggrieved pregnancy centers may appeal Department final determinations regarding compliance with performance standards as provided in GS Chapter 150B, Article 3.

Act would become effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Cervania, Crawford, Greenfield.

[GS 131E](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 862 (2025-2026) [JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE VIDEO RECORDING OF DISTRICT COURT PROCEEDINGS AND THE PUBLISHING OF REPORTS OF HOW IMPAIRED DRIVING CASES ARE RESOLVED*.

Amends GS 7A-191.1 to require electronic or mechanical recording of all criminal proceedings and infraction hearings in district court, including pre- and post-trial motions, pleas, plea bargains, explanations of reductions or dismissals in impaired driving cases, taking of evidence, sentencing, and requests for limited driving privileges. The clerk of superior court has responsibility to operate the recording device and preserve the recording. Making the recording available online is allowed and complies with public records law. The retention schedule of the Administrative Office of the Courts applies. Effective December 1, 2025.

Amends GS 7A-109.2 to require the clerk of superior court to include the disposition of the charge in the electronic record. For sentencing after impaired driving convictions, the clerk shall include aggravating factors, grossly aggravating factors, mitigating factors, and the level of punishment imposed. Requires the Administrative Office of the Courts to publish an annual report of statewide and countywide summaries of charges, dispositions, and sentencing information. Corrects a typographical error. Effective December 1, 2025.

Amends SL 2006-253 to change the act's effective date to April 1, 2026, for the requirement that the clerk make a record of electronic data about explanations of reductions or dismissals in impaired driving cases.

Directs the first annual report to include information from December 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and to be published by September 1, 2026.

Intro. by Echevarria.

[GS 7A](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Court System](#)

Part I.

Appropriates \$582,229,750 from the Savings Reserve for 2025-26 to provide funds for unmet needs from Hurricane Helene in the specified amounts to:

- 1) the Department of Commerce to: a) the Appalachian Community Capital Corporation in partnership with the Dogwood Health Trust for a grant program in accordance with Part III of this act, and b) the Rural Economic Development Division for the Creating Outdoor Recreation Economies (CORE) Program;
- 2) the Housing Finance Agency for: a) affordable housing grants to units of local government in the areas affected by Hurricane Helene to incentivize high-quality, resilient, affordable housing. This funding may also be used to repair rental units and shelters for disaster victims; b) homeowner and renter unmet needs, including immediate minor repairs and needs that are not FEMA-eligible; c) mortgage and utility assistance; d) housing stabilization services and financial assistance for homeless populations;
- 3) the Department of State Treasurer for grants to units of local government for revenue replacement;
- 4) the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources for: a) the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund for State parks restoration and rebuilding grants; and b) the Land and Water Fund for flood abatement and water quality protection grants;
- 5) the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to: a) the Division of Soil and Water Conservation for streambank stabilization and stream restoration; and b) food banks in the affected area; half of funds appropriated are to be used to buy food from local farms; c) the Forest Service for fire season preparation, including equipment and on-call and overtime pay; d) the Agricultural Development and Farmland Preservation Trust Fund for working farms and forest preservation; e) the North Carolina Forest Service for new hand crew units for wildfire risk reduction for one year of program operation; and f) the Community Conservation Assistance Program for stormwater control in the French Broad River watershed;
- 6) the Department of Public Instruction for: a) each community college in the affected area for small business centers; and b) K-12 Summer Learning Programs to support 30 days of summer instruction in the affected area;
- 7) the Office of State Budget and Management for: a) State agencies to continue operations and staffing, including The University of North Carolina System; b) Legal Aid of North Carolina, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, and Pisgah Legal Services, a nonprofit corporation, for disaster legal services for those affected by Hurricane Helene; and c) North Carolina independent colleges and universities in the affected area damaged by Hurricane Helene;
- 8) the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (NCEM): a) for resilience and backup power measures, including mobile solar and battery arrays; and b) to strengthen disaster financial and communications teams in NCEM's core capacity;
- 9) the Department of Environmental Quality for: a) engineering and design work for dam removal projects funded by federal agencies; b) septic repair and replacement grants for those that suffered direct losses of eligible services and structures from Hurricane Helene; and c) recycling infrastructure and business grants for post-disaster cleanup services.

Part II.

Directs the Department of Revenue (Department) to create and administer the Hurricane Helene Business Recovery Grant Program, a program intended to help businesses that experienced economic or physical loss because of Hurricane Helene by providing one-time grants.

Establishes eligibility for the grant program, including businesses that (1) are subject to income tax under GS Chapter 105, Article 4; (2) experienced a reduction in sales tax collections as a result of Hurricane Helene when comparing fourth quarter sales from 2023 to 2024; and (3) are located within the affected area. Requires that the businesses must apply as specified by the Department. Mandates that the maximum grant amount is \$75,000, and this amount will be reduced by any relief funding received from the state or federal government, Dogwood Health Trust, or the Appalachian Community Capital.

Outlines eligible uses for the grants as consistent with allowable uses of loans under the Economic Injury Disaster Loan program and the Business Physical Disaster Loan program of the Small Business Administration.

Caps the amount available for grants as the amount appropriated to the program under the act and directs the Department to proportionally reduce each grant award if the amounts requested exceed the amounts appropriated.

Allows the Attorney General to pursue clawback for grants awarded to businesses that are not eligible under the terms of the program.

Directs the Department to perform outreach to businesses that might be eligible in consultation with the Department of Commerce.

Allows the Department to retain 5% of the funds appropriated for the program for administrative expenses.

Part III.

Creates the Expanded Dogwood Health Trust Partnership Grant Program, a grant program administered by Appalachian Community Capital Corporation (Appalachian) in partnership with the Dogwood Health Trust. Awards grants to businesses for Hurricane Helene losses, prioritizing service-based businesses without significant taxable sales.

Establishes eligibility for the grant program as businesses that (1) are in the affected area; (2) have 50 or fewer employees; (3) have no more than \$10,000,000 in revenue for the most recent taxable year; and (4) meet the qualifications for award of a Western North Carolina Small Business Initiative II grant from Appalachian as of February 10, 2025. Requires that the businesses must apply as specified by Appalachian. Mandates that all grants awarded must be matched by the Dogwood Health Trust on a one-to-one basis. Caps the grant amount at a maximum of \$75,000.

Outlines eligible uses for the grants as consistent with a Western North Carolina Small Business Initiative II grant from Appalachian as of February 10, 2025.

Reserves \$20,000,000 of the funds allocated for artists in the affected area. Caps the amount available for grants as the amount appropriated to the program under the act and makes grants available on a first-come-first-served basis.

Allows for clawback of grants paid to businesses that are not eligible in the name of the state.

Directs Appalachian to perform outreach to businesses that may be eligible for the grants in consultation with Dogwood Health Trust.

Permits Appalachian and Dogwood Health Trust to each retain 2% of the funds appropriated for the program for administrative expenses.

Part IV

Specifies that appropriated funds under the act will revert to the Savings Reserve if not expended or encumbered by June 30, 2027, and that all funds are to be spent in the affected area as defined in SL 2024-53, §1.4.

Outlines requirements for nonrecurring funds appropriated as directed grants under the act. Makes directed grants subject to GS 143C-6-23(b)-(k) and provides they may be paid out in a single payment if \$100,000 or less, but must be paid in quarterly or monthly payments if over \$100,000. Requires a state agency administering the grants to begin disbursement within 100 days after the act becomes law and requires the state agency to provide quarterly updates to the Fiscal Research Division on the status of funds disbursed under the act. Outlines requirements for the quarterly reporting.

Specifies that notwithstanding GS 143C-1-2(b), funds appropriated as directed grants will not revert until June 30, 2026. Requires that directed grants to nonprofits must be for nonsectarian, nonreligious purposes.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Prather, Ager, Turner.

APPROP, UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

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

H 864 (2025-2026) [TRAFFIC LAW REVISIONS/COLLEGIATE PLATES](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE CERTAIN TRAFFIC LAWS AND THE DESIGN OF COLLEGIATE INSIGNIA PLATES*.

Amends GS 20-141(h) to prohibit the operation of a motor vehicle in the left lane of a multi-lane highway at a speed that impedes traffic. Amends GS 20-141(c) to increase the minimum operating speed on interstate and primary highways to forty-five miles per hour in a fifty-five mile-per-hour zone and fifty miles per hour in a sixty mile-per-hour or greater zone. Amends GS 20-146 to add that motor vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more shall not operate in the left lane of a controlled-access highway with six or more lanes. Effective December 1, 2025.

Amends GS 20-63(b1) to add Collegiate Insignia Plate as a special registration plate. Amends GS 20-81.12(b30) to specify that 300 applications for a college insignia plate are required before the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) can issue a standard-background plate and 500 are required before the DMV can develop a full-color background plate. Collegiate insignia plates for a public military college or university require 100 applications. The requestor is responsible for submitting to the DMV the required paid applications and artwork. Authorizes the Revisor of Statutes to alphabetize and renumber the special registration plates in GS 20-63(b1). Allows a college or university with a collegiate insignia plate on a standard background in production to apply to the DMV for a full-color background plate. Requires the DMV to discontinue the standard background plate and issue a full-color background plate upon after approval of artwork by the DMV and the alumni or alumnae association of the college and university, even if the required number of paid applications required by GS 20-63(b1) has not been met. Vehicle owners with collegiate insignia plates on a standard background may request a full-color background plate or keep their plates until surrendered, canceled, revoked, or replaced. Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Pickett.

GS 20

[View summary](#)

Courts/Judiciary, Motor Vehicle, Government, State Agencies, Department of Transportation

H 865 (2025-2026) [CLARIFY ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTES](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND THE DANGEROUS DOG LAWS TO PERMIT A CASE-BY-CASE DETERMINATION AS TO WHETHER A DOG TRAINED FOR DOG FIGHTING IS DANGEROUS*.

Amends GS 67-4.1 (Dogs, definitions) by removing a dog owned or trained primarily or partially for dog fighting from the definition of a “dangerous dog.”

Amends GS 67-4.5 (Dogs, local ordinances) by requiring local government programs for the control of dangerous dogs to be consistent with the provisions of Article 1A of Chapter 67 of the General Statutes (Dangerous dogs).

Effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Harrison, Humphrey, Dahle.

GS 67

[View summary](#)

Animals, Government, Local Government

H 866 (2025-2026) [AUTOMATIC ORD/EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION CLAIM](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE AUTOMATIC ENTRY OF AN ORDER PROHIBITING SPOUSES FROM WASTING, CONVERTING, OR SECRETING ASSETS UPON FILING A CLAIM FOR EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION*.

Enacts GS 50-23 (Automatic order for equitable distribution claims), which creates a standing order to prevent waste of assets or increasing of debt when an equitable distribution claim is filed. Requires the court to enter the form order created by the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Lays out the automatic order provisions, which include specifying that neither party may, without written consent of the other party or order of the court, transfer or dispose of property, withdraw or claim benefits from retirement accounts, or remove the other as beneficiary for any accounts, life insurance, or coverage for medical

or dental insurance. Specifies that the automatic order must be served by the plaintiff along with the summons and complaint. Makes the order binding and in effect until the court terminates or modifies it.

Directs the AOC to develop a form for the automatic order with the case caption, finding that the claim has been filed, and the requirements from GS 50-23. Requires AOC to provide this form on its website by October 1, 2025.

Amends GS 50-20(c) to include being held in contempt of court for violating the automatic order under GS 50-23 as a factor for the court to consider when making an equitable division of property.

Amends GS 50-21(a) to require entry of the automatic order upon filing of the initial claim for equitable distribution and makes corresponding changes to the statute.

Effective and applicable to claims filed on or after October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Stevens, Budd.

GS 50

[View summary](#)

**Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Family Law, Court System,
Administrative Office of the Courts, Development, Land Use
and Housing, Property and Housing**

H 867 (2025-2026) **POULTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO CREATE A PERMITTING PROGRAM FOR DRY LITTER POULTRY OPERATIONS; TO DIRECT THE ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DETERMINE THE NUMBER AND LOCATION OF POULTRY FARMS (CAFOS) IN NORTH CAROLINA, THE DRY LITTER WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES THAT ARE EMPLOYED BY THESE FARMS, THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL AND HEALTH IMPACTS AND DAMAGES THESE SYSTEMS AND PRACTICES MAY HAVE, AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW BEST TO REGULATE THESE WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS IN PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC'S HEALTH AND SAFETY; AND TO REVISE WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR DRY LITTER POULTRY FACILITIES.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Part I

Amends definition of *animal operation* set forth in GS 143-215.10B (definitions pertaining to animal waste management systems), to mean 82,000 or more confined poultry with a dry litter waste system, in addition to other listed animals. Makes conforming changes to GS 143-215.10C (applications and permits for animal waste management systems) to account for expanded definition of animal operation. Removes permitting provisions specific to dry litter poultry facilities. Prevents a permit application from being denied or any conditions being attached except with the Environmental Review Commission (ERC finds that denial or conditions are necessary to facilitate the act. Requires animal waste management plans to include provisions regarding waste utilization plans that assure a balance between nitrogen and phosphorus application rates and nitrogen and phosphorus crop requirements, that assure that lime is applied to maintain pH in the optimum range for crop production, as described (currently, no reference to phosphorus in that requirement).

Enacts GS 143-215.10J, forbidding any component of an animal waste management system for an animal operation to be constructed in a 100-year floodplain. Defines 100-year floodplain to mean any area subject to inundation by the 1% annual chance flood event, as indicated on the most recent Flood Insurance Rate Map prepared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency under the National Flood Insurance Program. Makes conforming change to GS 106-850 (agricultural cost share program) to provide for closure of facilities under GS 143-215.10J.

Effective January 1, 2026.

Part II

Directs the ERC to conduct a study of environmental and public health impacts of dry litter poultry waste and potential regulatory and technological solutions for addressing these impacts. Applies the definitions set out in GS 143-215.10B (regarding animal waste management systems). Lists required areas of study to include: (1) growth of the poultry industry including current location, size, and number of dry litter poultry facilities; (2) location, size, and number of those facilities in

the 100-year and 500-year floodplain and options for removing them or making them more resilient; (3) amount of dry litter poultry waste produced by those facilities and methods of disposal; (4) impacts on environment including to surface water, groundwater, and soil; (5) impacts on public health including drinking water contamination and pathogens or disease vectors and pests; (6) health impacts on waste workers; (7) cumulative environmental and public health impacts of these facilities and animal operations for swine; (8) current regulations, deficiencies in current regulations, and potential regulations of these facilities that would better protect the environment and public health, taking into regulations for swine and other livestock operations in this state; (9) disposal of dead poultry after severe storms or flooding events; (10) current and potential animal waste management technologies that could reduce or eliminate environmental and public health impacts; (11) need for additional resources, including appropriations, professional expertise, and scientific studies needed to comprehensively examine the issues identified in this act; (12) suggested changes in public records for greater transparency; and (13) for dry litter poultry waste that is land applied off-site, the location of those land application sites, and the number of such sites in the 100-year floodplain and 500-year floodplain.

Directs all state agencies to assist ERC upon its request. Authorizes ERC to request recommendations from any of the named state agencies related to any of the topics enumerated for study.

Directs ERC to report its findings and any recommendations to the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly upon its convening.

Part III

Amends GS 143-215.10C(f) to require annual, digital submission of an animal waste management plan that meets the specified criteria to the Department of Environmental Quality by owners or operators of a dry litter poultry facility that is not required to be permitted under the identified federal law but involves 30,000 or more birds (current law requires submission of the plan without specifying a time frame or format). Effective January 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Environmental Quality for 2025-26 to be allocated to the Division of Water Resources to develop education resources and provide technical assistance for owners and operators of dry litter poultry facilities in complying with the reporting requirement of the act. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part IV

Amends GS 106-24.1, pertaining to confidentiality of information collected by the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS). Specifies that complaints of violations of GS Chapter 106 (agriculture) or violations of Part 1a of Article 21 of GS Chapter 143 (Animal Waste Management Systems) relating to a farm operation and all other records accumulated in conjunction with the investigation of these complaints are considered confidential records and may be released only by order of a court of competent jurisdiction. Removes records that may be used to identify a person or private business subject to regulation from records that cannot be disclosed with the owner's permission. In addition to current exception, lists the following new exceptions to provisions pertaining to records that cannot be disclosed without the owner's permission: (1) if the disclosure is necessary to meet statutory requirements imposed on other State agencies and (2) the information is limited to the location, size, and ownership of an individual farm operation.

Contains a severability clause.

Intro. by Harrison, Butler, Greenfield, Rubin.

[GS 106, GS 143](#)

[View summary](#)

[Agriculture, Animals, Environment, Government, State Agencies, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#)

H 868 (2025-2026) [DUE PROCESS IN LEO FIELD DRUG TESTING](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO GUIDE THE USE AND SUBSEQUENT ADMISSIBILITY OF COLORIMETRIC FIELD DRUG TESTS PURSUANT TO CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS*.

Contains whereas clauses.

Amends GS 90-95 to make the use of colorimetric field drug tests alone insufficient to support probable cause for arrest. Enacts subsection (f1), which defines “colorimetric field drug test” as a kit of color test reagents for the preliminary identification of narcotic drugs, excluding thin layer chromatography, and defines “corroborating chemical analysis” as a chemical analysis subsequent to a colorimetric field drug test performed by the state crime lab or another lab meeting the standards of scientific testing and court-related evidence preparation. Enacts subsection (f2), which requires all law enforcement agencies and prosecutorial districts to adopt policies regarding arrests that ensure reliable identification of controlled substances. The policies must include (1) that prior to corroborating chemical analysis, a colorimetric field drug test is not sufficient by itself for probable cause to arrest, initiating charges, conviction, or sentencing; (2) when no corroborating chemical analysis has been performed, an individual may be cited and released, or released on a written promise to appear in court, and (3) an individual may plead to the charges and subsequently withdraw the plea and move to dismiss if a corroborating chemical analysis finds no controlled substances. Clarifies that these procedures apply only to the controlled substance crimes charged under GS 90-95(a)(3) and not other crimes an individual may be charged with in the same transaction.

Enacts GS 15A-534.9, requiring conditions of pretrial release for a violation of GS 90-95(a)(3) to comply with the new subsection (f2).

Effective and applicable to offenses committed on or after December 1, 2025.

Intro. by Rubin, Chesser.

[GS 15A, GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 869 (2025-2026) [DYNAMIC SYMBOL OF ACCESS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE USE OF THE DYNAMIC SYMBOL OF ACCESS*.

Requires the Department of Administration in consultation with other State agencies and departments to replace the international symbol of access on signs indicating access for, or use by, persons with disabilities in all State buildings and parking areas, with the dynamic symbol of access: a logo with a dynamic character leaning forward with a sense of movement. Applies to signs installed or replaced on or after January 1, 2026.

Amends GS 20-7(a) to require applicants for drivers licenses to recognize the dynamic symbol of access. Amends GS 20-37.5 to define the dynamic symbol of access and include its use on a distinguishing license plate and removable windshield placard. Renumbers subsections.

Requires the Division of Motor Vehicles to use the dynamic symbol of access when issuing all distinguishing license plates and removable window placards by January 1, 2026.

Amends GS 136-30(c) to allow owners of property that includes on a public vehicular area to place signs using the dynamic symbol of access or international symbol of access to designate parking for handicapped persons.

Intro. by Cairns, Gillespie, Tyson, Shepard.

[GS 20, GS 136](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 870 (2025-2026) [SEDIMENTATION ACT & OTHER ENV.'L CHANGES](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO AMEND SEDIMENTATION CONTROL PERMITTING REQUIREMENTS, TO ESTABLISH NEW REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMORANDUMS OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND THE UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND TO MAKE OTHER CHANGES TO THE ADMINISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS IN NORTH CAROLINA*.

Section 1.

Enacts GS 143B-279.4B requiring NCGA approval of memorandums of agreement between the EPA and the Department of Environmental Quality (Department), the Environmental Management Commission, the Coastal Resources Commission, the Sedimentation Control Commission, and any other board or commission charged with implementation of State or federal environmental law. Prohibits implementing the terms of such agreements without NCGA confirmation. Applies to memorandums of agreement, or modifications to such agreements, proposed for execution on or after the act becomes law.

Section 2.

Requires the Department, by October 1, 2025, to notify the EPA of its intent to initiate discussions to revise the NPDES Memorandum of Agreement between the State and US EPA Region 4, and any other agreement with EPA governing the State's Sedimentation Pollution Control Act of 1973 (Act) and its implementation of NCG01 to streamline the regulatory requirements of the Act and NCG01 for the purpose of eliminating program redundancies to minimize (1) unnecessary costs to, and duplication of efforts by, persons initiating land-disturbing activities; (2) unnecessary delays in project development; and (3) inefficient use of Department personnel and staff of local governments that administer delegated erosion and sedimentation control programs. Provides for appointments to the negotiations by the Speaker of the House and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as described. Requires the Department to report quarterly to the Environmental Policy Council on the status of these activities beginning January 1, 2026, until this reporting requirement is repealed.

Section 3.

Requires the Department, by October 1, 2025, to request that the EPA consult with the Department on any proposed changes to federal regulations that would impact the State's administration of federal environmental programs in North Carolina, before the EPA notices the proposed changes in the Federal Register, so that the State can have meaningful collaborative input on development of regulations that it may be charged with administering. Requires the Department to report quarterly to the Environmental Policy Council on the status of these activities beginning January 1, 2026, until this reporting requirement is repealed.

Section 4.

Requires the Department, by October 1, 2025, to submit copies of any agreements executed between the Department and the EPA governing the State's administration of programs under the Clean Water Act to the specified NCGA committee. Also requires the Department to give that committee information on any federal funds received by the State in connection with administration of such programs, and all federal requirements for receipt of such funds as well as the adequacy of funding from all sources to fully implement the agreement requirements.

Section 5.

Includes a severability clause.

Intro. by Brody, Adams, N. Jackson, Zenger.

[GS 143B](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 871 (2025-2026) [NORTH CAROLINA MICROPLASTICS STUDY ACT](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLABORATORY TO STUDY THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE PRESENCE OF MICROPLASTICS IN THE WATERS OF THE STATE AND TO RECOMMEND STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF MICROPLASTICS.*

Includes whereas clauses.

Directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (the Collaboratory) to investigate the potential impact of plastic particles on waters of the State and develop strategies to address the impacts of plastic particles. Requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to cooperate with the Collaboratory and assist the Collaboratory

upon request. Allows DEQ to provide staff support to the Collaboratory and allows the Collaboratory to hire additional staff. Requires the Collaboratory to work with the State Division of Water Resources and other interested government entities. Details the Collaboratory's tasks and duties, including identifying plastic particles in State waterways, researching harmful impacts from plastic particles, developing and implementing strategies to address the dangers of plastic particles, developing a risk assessment framework for plastic particles, and recommending policy and statutory changes. Requires the Collaboratory to submit a comprehensive report with findings, detailed risk assessment, and recommended actions to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources and the Environmental Review Commission by July 1, 2026. Effective July 1, 2025, appropriates \$150,000 from the General Fund to the Collaboratory to fund this work.

Intro. by Price, Butler, K. Brown, Harrison.

[APPROP, STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Environment, Aquaculture and Fisheries,](#)
[Environment/Natural Resources, Government,](#)
[Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, UNC System](#)

H 872 (2025-2026) [SCHOOL EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS FOR USE OF FORCE](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE PROTECTIONS FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES THAT USE REASONABLE FORCE*.

Amends GS 115C-390.3 to create the presumption in investigative, administrative, and adversarial proceedings that the use of force by school personnel is reasonable. That presumption may be overcome if the local board of education, the State Board of Education, their designees, or a court of competent jurisdiction determines by the preponderance of the evidence that the use of force was not reasonable. Prohibits the governing body of a public school unit from retaliating against or dismissing school personnel for using reasonable force but does not prohibit investigation of the allegations. Does not prohibit suspension or appropriate leave during investigation or adjudication. Prohibits the State Board of Education from revoking or refusing to renew a license based on a licensee using reasonable force. Prohibits school personnel from being reprimanded, dismissed, disciplined, or having a license revoked or renewal denied as a result of criminal allegations for assault or a similar crime if the force that led to the allegation was in accord with this section and does not result in a conviction or plea of no contest. Applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Intro. by Blackwell, Torbett, Johnson, Echevarria.

[GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 873 (2025-2026) [DEQ AGENCY BILL.-AB](#) Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE STATUTES GOVERNING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY*.

Makes various changes to statutes as recommended by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), as described.

Section 1

Adds a new GS 143B-279.21, requiring the governing authority having control over public buildings or schools governed by the governing body of a public school unit with facilities for group meetings to permit the use of such buildings without charge (except custodial and utility fees) to DEQ for public hearings, except during the school day or in a way that would interfere with normal school activities or functions and subject to reasonable rules and regulations of the governing body of the public school. Entitles DEQ to use any school governed by the governing body of a public school unit or other state county or municipal building or any other building supported or maintained in whole or in part by or through tax revenues. Does not allow DEQ to use any tax-exempt church property for hearings without the express consent of the church involved.

Adds a subdivision (70) to GS 115C-47 requiring local boards of education to adopt policies to allow DEQ to access facilities that can facilitate group meetings on school property.

Adds a new Section 115C-238.35A requiring charter schools to adopt policies to allow DEQ to access facilities that can facilitate group meetings on school property.

This section would apply beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Section 2

Amends GS 130A-310.7(a) clarifying that a landowner who purchases property with knowledge that disposal of hazardous substances or waste occurred on the property or with a reasonable basis for knowing that disposal of hazardous substances or waste occurred on the property is a responsible party if they conduct any activity that causes exposure to or migration of the existing contamination.

Section 3

Adds a new GS 130A-295.07 requiring that an “off-site recycling facility” (as defined) comply with the requirements of Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A (solid waste management) and with 15A NCAC 13A .0113). Clarifies that a hazardous waste facility that accepts hazardous waste from off-site for recycling and meets the definition of “commercial” in GS 130A-290 is subject to the requirements of Article 9 and rules adopted by the Environmental Management Commission applicable to commercial hazardous waste facilities.

Section 4

Clarifies under GS 130A-310.39 that initial fees apply to prospective developers who submit an application for a proposed brownfields agreement (was who submit a proposed brownfields agreement). Allows DEQ to specify a schedule for prospective developers to pay the full fee (formerly required payment of the fee in two installments at specified times). Requires a prospective developer or owner of a property subject to a recorded Notice of Brownfields Property that is out of compliance with the Notice pay a fee to DEQ and the Department of Justice sufficient to cover the costs to the State to enforce or otherwise seek to correct noncompliance.

These fees are to be credited to the Brownfields Property Reuse Act Implementation Account.

If a prospective developer fails to pay the full amount of any fee due under this statute, interest on the unpaid portion of the fee accrues at the rate established by the Secretary of Revenue from the time the fee is due until it is paid. A lien for the amount of the unpaid fee plus interest attaches to the real and personal property of the prospective developer and to the property until the fee an interest is paid. DEQ also may collect unpaid fees and interest in any manner that a unit of local government may collect delinquent taxes.

Section 4

Amends GS 105-277.13 clarifying that brownfields property tax exclusion applies from the first five taxable years beginning after completion of qualifying improvements or the date upon which DEQ provides written confirmation that the prospective developer and the proposed improvements are eligible to receive a brownfields agreement (was completion of qualifying improvements or the date of the brownfields agreement). This subsection is effective January 1, 2026.

Clarifies that “qualifying improvements” are those made to real property “as prescribed in a recorded Notice of Brownfields Property” (was “real property that is subject to a brownfields agreement”). Adds column headings to table of percentage of appraised value excluded. This subsection is effective for taxes imposed for taxable years beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Section 5

Amends GS 130A-309.05 adding headings to subsections. Amends subsection (c) to state that recovered material is not subject to permitting requirements and allows DEQ to require a person who owns or has control over the material to demonstrate that it meets the requirements of subsection (c) (as before) or may require the person to obtain a beneficial use determination in accordance with new subsection (d).

Adds a subsection (d) to GS 130A-309.05 to permit DEQ to determine whether nonhazardous solid waste may be used or reused for a particular site or application as an alternative to disposal at a permitted solid waste facility. Outlines a process for obtaining a beneficial use determination and permits DEQ, after reviewing an application for beneficial use determination, (a) to authorize management of a specified type of nonhazardous solid waste at a site other than a permitted solid waste facility or (b) to issue a beneficial use determination with appropriate conditions for use of specific types of solid waste. Allows DEQ to

require submittal of a demonstration that solid waste is being managed in a manner to protect public health or the environment. Makes beneficial use determinations valid for no longer than five years and requires requests for renewal to be made at least 60 days in advance of expiration date of the approval. Requires applicants to submit to DEQ annual report detailing usage of the material and certifying compliance with GS Chapter 130A Article 9. Allows DEQ to suspend, revoke or modify authorizations for noncompliance or if new information impacts the determination of protection of public health or the environment. Requires DEQ to provide notice on its website of approved beneficial use determinations. Allows DEQ to adopt rules and establish application fees for reuse determinations, which fees are to be credited to the Solid Waste management Account.

Becomes effective January 1, 2026.

Section 6

Amends definition of “targeted interest rate project” to include projects awarded a loan for which DEQ encourages a special focus (in addition to federal law).

Section 7

Amends GS 143-214.15 emphasizing prioritization of management practices for mitigation lands or conservation easements that promote wildlife and biological diversity and still allow, where feasible, opportunities for public recreation (was maximize opportunities for public recreation and promote wildlife and biological diversity). Further amends the statute to require the Stewardship Program to maximize use of mitigation land holdings as ecological research sites and for hunting leases when the Stewardship Program determines it is feasible to do so. Removes language regarding requests for proposal to sell land to private individuals, corporations, and other nongovernmental entities.

Section 8

Amends GS 14-130 clarifying that, for purposes of crime of trespass on public lands, “state-owned lands” includes lands subject to a conservation agreement held by the State or a State agency.

Makes technical changes to GS 1-539.1 to update language to more modern usage to clarify that “owner” in that statute includes the holder (as defined in GS 121-35) of any conservation easement that includes the right to cut or prohibit the cutting of timber.

Intro. by K. Hall.

[GS 1](#), [GS 14](#), [GS 105](#), [GS 115C](#), [GS 130A](#), [GS 143](#), [GS 143B](#), [GS 159G](#)

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[Courts/Judiciary](#), [Civil](#), [Civil Law](#), [Criminal Justice](#), [Criminal Law and Procedure](#), [Education](#), [Elementary and Secondary Education](#), [Environment](#), [Environment/Natural Resources](#), [Government](#), [State Agencies](#), [Department of Environmental Quality \(formerly DENR\)](#)

H 874 (2025-2026) [NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO PROHIBIT SERVING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOODS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS*.

Includes whereas clauses.

Amends GS 115C-264.6 to prohibit local boards of education from allowing school food authorities and third parties to serve or sell ultra-processed food on school grounds during the school day. Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to create a form so that local boards of education can certify that no ultra-processed foods are being served or sold and requires DPI to publish on its website a list of all public schools are certified. Defines ultra-processed food as containing any of a list of eleven ingredients.

Amends GS 115C-150.12C to require nutrition services provided by the board of trustees of a school for deaf and blind students to comply with GS 115C-264.6. Amends GS 115C-238.66 to require nutrition services provided by a regional school to comply with GS 115C-264.6. Amends 115C-218.75 to require nutrition services provided by a charter school to comply with

GS 115C-264.6. Amends GS 116-239.8 to require that a laboratory school comply with the School Nutrition provisions of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes upon request.

Applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Intro. by Almond, Chesser, Winslow.

GS 115C, GS 116

[View summary](#)

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

H 875 (2025-2026) **DPI TO REDESIGN MATH INSTRUCTION**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE CERTAIN MATHEMATICS SUPPORTS IN SCHOOLS AND TO REPORT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON THOSE SUPPORTS*.

Enacts GS Chapter 115C, Part 1C (Mathematics Instruction). Outlines the General Assembly's priority for students to become grade-level math proficient in GS 115C-83.20. Provides definitions for the part in GS 115C-83.22. Directs the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to provide a system of support for all K-8 students in math education and their teachers in GS 115C-83.24. Mandates that DPI provide a list of systems of support including supplemental math screening systems for school districts to choose from for measuring, identifying, and articulating the student's math proficiencies and deficiencies. Also requires DPI to provide a list of math instructional materials and professional educational offerings for teachers to assist in math instruction.

Requires DPI to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee prior to implementing the first math standards adopted after the effective date of the act. Specifies that the report must include (1) the math standards adopted by the State Board of Education, (2) the math support systems adopted by DPI under GS 115C-83.24, and (3) other relevant information.

Effective and applicable to the 2025-2026 school year.

Intro. by Willis, Biggs, Pickett, Rhyne.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 876 (2025-2026) **DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW TIME LINES**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE REVIEW OF CERTAIN DEVELOPMENT APPROVALS AND BUILDING INSPECTIONS BY LOCAL GOVERNMENTS WITHIN TWO BUSINESS DAYS OF REQUEST*.

Adds a new GS 160D-402.1 to require local governments, within two business days of receiving an application for development approval, to complete an administrative review of the application and either (1) notify the developer in writing that the application is complete and no further information is required for the local government to make a determination on the application; or (2) notify the developer in writing that the application is deficient and provide a written deficiency list that identifies each deficiency; the specific law, ordinance, policy, or procedure used as the basis for each deficiency; and a description of the action the local government would deem corrective for each deficiency. Such a deficiency notice may provide recommendations, but those must be clearly designated as recommended or advisory only and may not be required as a condition of development approval.

In response to a deficiency list, a developer may correct the application and resubmit the corrected application to the local government, submit a written explanation for each deficiency and request another administrative review within two business days, or appeal the administrative decision as provided by GS 160D-405.

If a developer submits a corrected application, within two business days of receiving a corrected application the local government must notify the applicant in writing that (i) the application is complete and no further information is required or (ii) the revised application does not correct all of the deficiencies identified in the deficiency notice. If the corrected application

was amended or altered in a way not related to the identified deficiencies, the local government must consider the corrected application to be a new application.

Local governments may contract with the Department of Insurance and its marketplace pool of qualified code-enforcement officials or contract with a licensed professional engineer or licensed architect to perform independent third-party plan reviews.

If the local government does not issue a decision or determines that it is unable to complete review within the two-business-day time frame, the permit applicant may contract with the Department of Insurance and its marketplace pool of qualified code-enforcement officials or contract with a licensed professional engineer or licensed architect to perform independent third-party plan reviews. If the applicant does so, the applicant must submit to the local government a written certification by the independent plan reviewer that plans comply with applicable building codes and other state and local laws. Upon accepting such a certification, the local government must issue applicable permits within two business days and refund or waive applicable plan review and permit fees.

Third-party plan reviewers must avoid conflicts of interest in conducting reviews under this section. Conflicts include when a plan reviewer has any financial interest in—or is employed (other than as a third-party plan reviewer) by a business that has a financial interest in—providing labor, material, or appliances for construction, alteration, maintenance of, or an involvement in making of plans or specifications for the project subject to review.

GS 160D-402.1 would not apply to permit applications submitted pursuant to GS 160D-1110.1.

Amends GS 160D-1110(b) to require that, if a local government chooses to review residential building plans for structures subject to the North Carolina Residential Code, the local government must meet the initial review deadline of GS 160D-402.1.

Amends GS 160D-1104 to add a requirement that inspection departments make inspections within two business days of the first request for an inspection or notify the permit holder if an inspection cannot be completed within two business days of the first request for an inspection.

Makes the following conforming changes to statutes regarding North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board (the Board): amends the definition of “code enforcement” in GS 143-151.8(a)(3) to add persons contracting with a local government or permit applicant to perform third-party plan reviews under GS 160D-402.1; amends GS 143-151.12 to allow the Board to establish a marketplace pool of qualified code enforcement officials when requested by a permit applicant under GS 160D-402.1; and amends GS 143-151.13 to permit a licensed architect or licensed professional engineer who possesses a valid certificate but is not employed by the State or a local government to use that certificate for the limited purpose of performing independent plan reviews under GS 160D-402.1.

Becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to applications submitted on or after that date.

Intro. by Gillespie, Zenger, Brody, Winslow.

[GS 143, GS 160D](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction](#)

H 877 (2025-2026) **CHILDCARE PILOT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM INVOLVING A PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE REDUCED COST CHILDCARE BY LEVERAGING STATE RESOURCES TO REDUCE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ESTABLISHING A CHILDCARE FACILITY.*

Contains whereas clauses setting forth reasons why the act will create a pilot project demonstrating how publicly owned property and one-time public capital funding can be leveraged to result in a quality childcare facility.

Directs the Legislative Services Office (LSO) working collaboratively with the State Construction Office (SCO) and the Department of Administration (DOA), to develop the described comprehensive process for implementing a demonstration pilot project to select a third-party childcare operator as the public-private partner (P3) for the project by October 15, 2025. Instructs the LSO to invite a UNC constituent in the same county as the demonstration project to participate as a partner by either providing a site for the facility or a portion of the funding, or some combination thereof. Requires the LSO and SCO to select a site from available State- or University-owned lands suitable for the construction of a shell building and shall issue a request

for information and a request for proposal regarding the execution of a ground lease with a third party with evidence supporting the ability to operate a childcare facility that can meet the five criteria set forth in the act. Limits the ground lease to \$500 per month, with a preferred initial term of at least ten years. Provides for lease renewals, site plans, and allocation of costs for building and site maintenance, uplift of the building, utilities, and other operating costs.

Effective July 1, 2025, appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the LSO for 2025-26 to be used for the childcare pilot program. Specifies that the funds do not revert until July 1, 2027.

Intro. by [Arp, Lambeth, Paré, Rhyne.](#)

[APPROP, STUDY](#)

[View summary](#)

[Development, Land Use and Housing, Building and Construction, Education, Preschool, Government, Budget/Appropriations, General Assembly, State Agencies, UNC System, State Government, State Property](#)

H 878 (2025-2026) [INCREASED ACADEMIC TRANSPARENCY](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS TO LESSON PLANS AND OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS*.

Enacts new Part 7, Academic Transparency, in GS Chapter 115, consisting of new GS 115C-76.75. Requires a public school's governing board to make sure the following is prominently displayed on the school website, organized at least by subject area and grade level: (1) all *lesson plans*, as defined, used must be posted online no later than 10 days after the lesson was given; (2) for all public school units, any procedures for the documentation, review, or approval of the lesson plans, including course materials identified in those plans, by the principal, curriculum administrators, or other teachers; (3) for all public school units, the procedure established by the governing board for requesting an in-person review of course material not publicly available on the internet; and (4) for all public school units, a list of teacher and staff training materials and activities used at each school during the current school year. Requires that access from the website of the public school unit to the required information be available at all times. Requires maintaining public access to the information for two calendar years from the date the material is posted. Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to make templates available to schools. Allows public school units to exercise flexibility in meeting the website requirements, including by those four methods described. Excludes from these requirements a governing body responsible for the operation of schools with fewer than 30 students cumulatively. Allows a teacher or staff member to request that their personal title and last initial be used instead of their full name when posting publicly available material.

Defines *lesson plan* as an outline of: (1) the instruction provided by a teacher for a course that includes a list of (i) all course materials assigned, distributed, or otherwise presented in the course and (ii) when students must select course materials from a defined list, all course materials on that list and (2) each grade- or school-wide presentation, assembly, lecture, or other activity or event facilitated by the school during instructional hours outside of an individual teacher's classroom, excluding student presentations (including a list of each presenter by name and organization and any course material used or presented). Also defines the terms *action-oriented civics learning assignments or projects* (as used in the definition of supplemental materials), *course materials*, *instructional materials*, and *supplemental materials*.

Enacts new GS 116-69.3 requiring the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts to ensure that information about course materials is prominently displayed on the school's website for all elementary, middle, and high school programs.

Amends GS 116-235 by requiring the information about course materials be prominently displayed on the website of a laboratory school.

Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

Intro. by [Johnson, Blackwell, Gable, Willis.](#)

[GS 115C, GS 116](#)

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

H 879 (2025-2026) [AIR CONDITIONING FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE LANDLORDS TO PROVIDE AIR CONDITIONING FOR RESIDENTIAL RENTAL UNITS*.

Amends GS 42-42 to require landlords of residential property to provide operable air conditioning capable of cooling air within the premises to maintain a reasonable indoor temperature during warm weather conditions. Requires landlord to ensure that the air conditioning system is in good working order at the beginning of each tenancy. Applies to residential rental agreements and renewals entered into on or after the date that the act becomes law.

Intro. by Clark, G. Brown, Harrison, Cohn.

[GS 42](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 880 (2025-2026) [AGGIE ACADEMY LEARNING LAB/FUNDS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO SUPPORT AGGIE ACADEMY, A UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA LABORATORY SCHOOL AT NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURAL AND TECHNICAL STATE UNIVERSITY*.

Appropriates \$1 million for 2025-26 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the UNC Board of Governors to be allocated to the North Carolina Agriculture and Technical State University to be used as title indicates.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Quick, Clark, Harrison, Branson.

[APPROP](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 881 (2025-2026) [PFAS FREE NC](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO BAN THE MANUFACTURE, USE, AND DISTRIBUTION OF PFAS AND PFAS-CONTAINING PRODUCTS WITHIN THE STATE, TO IMPLEMENT MEASURES TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS CONTAMINATION FROM THE DISCHARGE OF PFAS AND 1,4-DIOXANE IN THE STATE, AND TO DIRECT VARIOUS AGENCIES TO STUDY MATTERS ASSOCIATED WITH PFAS CONTAMINATION IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH*.

Part I.

Enacts Part 8, Ban Manufacture, Use, and Distribution of Certain Toxic Chemicals, of Article 21A, GS Chapter 143.

Makes it unlawful to knowingly manufacture, use, process or distribute polyfluoroalkyl and its substances (PFAS). Excludes the use and distribution of products specifically authorized or required to contain PFAS by federal law.

Permits the Secretary of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ, Secretary) to assess penalties up to \$5,000 for a violation of a requirement of Part 8, or up to \$25,000 if the violation involved a hazardous waste, and up to \$10,000 for repeat offenses, with penalties for multiple occurrences capped at \$200,000 for any month. Provides for considerations to be considered in determining penalty amounts, and procedures for civil penalties, including notice. Allows for contested case petitions within 30 days following the receipt of notice of the assessment.

Provides for remission requests within 30 days of receipt of the notice assessment, which must be accompanied by a waiver of the right to a contested case hearing and a stipulation to the facts on which the assessment is based. Allows for remission requests to be resolved by the Secretary and the violator, and if they are unable to resolve the request, then the Secretary must deliver the request and recommended action to the Committee on Civil Penalty Remissions of the Environmental Management Commission.

Requires the Secretary to request the Attorney General to begin a civil action in specified superior court for penalties not paid within 30 days of notice of the assessment, or 30 days after a final agency decision or order has been served if the violator

contests the case or requests remission. Sets a three year statute of limitations on civil actions from the date of the final agency decision or court order service.

Part II.

Expands the water pollution control measures set out in GS 143-215.1 as follows. Directs the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to require applicants for a new or renewed individual National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit to disclose each pollutant in the person's discharge reasonably expected to be at or above the pollutant's practical quantitation limit (PQL), including concentration discharged and either the chemical abstracts service (CAS) number or a detailed characteristic description. Additionally, mandates that when any person is required to obtain a NPDES permit that receives waste from an industrial user: (1) the industrial user must disclose in the user's application for a new or renewed pretreatment permit each pollutant in the user's discharge that is at or above the pollutant's PQL and (2) must eliminate PFAS and 1,4-dioxane, either by the permittee or the industrial user, any perfluoroalkyl or its substances (PFAS) prior to discharge into State waters, as specified.

Part III.

Amends GS 130A-329 to require public water systems subject to drinking water sampling requirements under the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule to give public notice, including written notice to each customer and post sampling results online, within 30 days of receiving them. Makes conforming and organizational changes.

Requires by June 30, 2025, that public water systems that have received prior sampling results demonstrating the presence of PFAS in finished drinking water provide public notice of the sampling results, including written notice to each customer and posting sampling results online. Defines PFAS to mean any fluorinated substances that contain at least one fully fluorinated methyl or methylene carbon atom, including any precursors of such substances.

Part IV.

Directs DEQ to begin identifying technology-based limits for detectable PFAS, as defined, in new and renewed NPDES permits, with treatment sufficient to reduce detectable PFAS in effluent to non-detect levels, as defined. Requires DEQ to begin this action by June 1, 2026.

Directs DEQ to study the presence of PFAS in land-applied biosolids, including identification of the most common PFAS, likely categories of sources, the propensity for migration off-site, and accumulation and persistence in soil and water downgradient from land application sites. Requires DEQ to report to the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) and the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by September 1, 2026. Directs the EMC to adopt rules to prevent PFAS migration or accumulation off-site from land application sites if DEQ finds PFAS are likely to migrate and accumulate at detectable levels in soil and water that are downgradient from sites in its study.

Directs DEQ to study the presence of PFAS in leachate collected and disposed of from municipal solid waste landfills and construction and demolition debris landfills, including identification of the most common PFAS and the effectiveness of treatment technologies. Requires DEQ to report to the EMC and ERC by September 1, 2026. Directs the EMC to adopt rules to prohibit the disposal of leachate containing detectable PFAS, as defined, at wastewater treatment plants if DEQ finds practical removal from wastewater prior to discharge impracticable.

Requires DEQ to approve a US EPA-validated lab method by January 1, 2026, if the US EPA has not certified a lab method for the identification and measurement of PFAS in wastewater.

Requires DEQ to create an inventory of all ongoing direct and indirect discharges of PFAS to the air and surface waters, and known and likely instances of PFAS contamination in soil and groundwater. Sets out data that must be included in the inventory. Allows coordinating with specified entities to assemble the inventory of PFAS discharges and contamination. Requires a report to the Environmental Review Commission by September 1, 2026, and requires quarterly updates on new discharges or contamination thereafter.

Requires the Secretaries' Science Advisory Board of the DEQ and the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct a risk assessment, based on the best available scientific information, of the risks to human health presented by exposures to PFAS present in North Carolina in various media, including air, water, and soil, both as individual toxic substances and as a class of toxic substances. Requires a report to the specified NCGA committees by September 1, 2026.

Part V.

Directs the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to implement a program to study the estimated human exposure to per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in the Cape Fear River Basin, and to conduct an epidemiological study of populations of the Cape Fear River Basin to identify disparities in disease prevalence consistent with long-term exposures to PFAS. Requires consultation with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Requires DHHS to report to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by December 31, 2026, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2026.

Directs the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to study the estimated ecological exposures and impacts from PFAS contamination in the Cape Fear River Basin. Requires WRC to report to the ERC by December 31, 2026, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2026.

Directs the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM) to study the estimated costs to the State, local governments, businesses, and individuals in response to human and ecological exposure to PFAS. Requires consultation with DEQ and the Attorney General to estimate costs attributable to each source of PFAS identified in the state. Requires OSBM to report to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) by December 31, 2026, with quarterly reporting to the ERC until a final report is issued, beginning January 1, 2026.

Directs the NC Policy Collaboratory to study the ongoing and anticipated future costs of the aggregate impact of the discharge, emission, and contamination of PFAS in North Carolina, as specified, and to report to the specified NCGA committees by September 1, 2026.

Directs the ERC to study all statutory and regulatory requirements for disclosing the discharge or release of PFAS or other emerging contaminants to DEQ and the public, and report to the 2026 Regular Session of the NCGA.

Directs the ERC to study actions taken by other states to promote the practice of green chemistry to reduce the generation and use of hazardous chemicals and to drive sustainable alternatives to the use and manufacture of PFAS and other emerging contaminants. Requires the ERC to also study relevant tax incentives, regulatory changes, and other approaches other states have adopted. Requires the ERC to report to the 2026 Regular Session of the NCGA.

Part VI.

Appropriates the following nonrecurring funds from the General Fund for the 2025-26 fiscal year for the studies in Part V: \$200,000 to DEQ; \$100,000 to DHHS; \$100,000 to WRC; \$100,000 to OSBM; and \$100,000 to the Collaboratory. Effective July 1, 2025.

Part VII.

Appropriates \$5 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2025-26 fiscal year for the Bernard Allen Drinking Water Fund to fund drinking water treatment systems for covered wells, as defined.

Appropriates \$5 million in recurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ to expand DEQ's ambient water quality monitoring activities to identify emerging and other pollutants in State waters at locations upstream from surface drinking water intakes.

Appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2025-26 fiscal year to develop a strategy to address persistent toxic chemicals in the State's environment. Requires development of a PFAS Chemical Action Plan pursuant to criteria provided, and consultation with stakeholders with opportunities for public comment. Requires the Final PFAS Chemical Action Plan to identify recommendations for legislative and administrative action. Requires finalization of the Plan by January 1, 2027, with implementation by April 1, 2027.

Appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to DEQ for the 2025-26 fiscal year to study PFAS destruction and disposal techniques to identify a safe (as defined), effective, and scalable technology, including an analysis of current technologies. Allows for coordination of research with other entities. Requires DEQ to report to the EMC and ERC by September 1, 2026.

Appropriates \$80 million in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund to the State Water Infrastructure Authority for the 2025-26 fiscal year to issue matching grants to water systems to build or improve drinking water treatment systems to substantially reduce public exposure to detectable PFAS.

Directs the Attorney General to develop and maintain a record of cumulative expenses of State agencies and local governments relating to the grants for drinking water treatment systems for covered wells, the study of PFAS destruction and disposal techniques, and the grants to water systems to build or improve drinking water treatment systems to reduce public exposure of detectable PFAS, as required by the act.

Defines detectable PFAS for purposes of the appropriations provisions of the act.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Part VIII.

Contains a severability clause.

Intro. by Harrison, Butler, Colvin, Cohn.

APPROP, STUDY, GS 130A, GS 143

[View summary](#)

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

H 882 (2025-2026) **BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC & FOREVER CHEMICALS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH EXTENDED PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY FOR CERTAIN PRODUCERS OF PACKAGING MATERIALS, BAN CERTAIN TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN PACKAGING MATERIALS, AND BAN INTENTIONALLY ADDED PFAS IN COVERED PRODUCTS.*

Part I

Adds new Part 2K, Extended Producer Responsibility, in Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A, providing as follows. Sets out and defines the terms *collector, packaging material, postconsumer waste material, producer responsibility fund, fulfillment service provider, producer responsibility organization or organization, readily-recyclable, recycling rate, responsible producer or producer, reusable, and stewardship plan.*

Requires responsible producers (as defined) to register with the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) before selling, offering for sale, or distributing in North Carolina a product contained, protected, delivered, presented, or distributed in or using packaging materials. Also prohibits responsible producers from selling, offering for sale, or distributing in the state a product that is contained, protected, delivered, presented, or distributed in or using packaging materials unless the producer participates as a member of a producer responsibility organization for which a stewardship plan is approved by DEQ and through that participation, meets the following requirements of the statute, effective October 1, 2025. Requires responsible producers to reduce the total amount of non-reusable packaging material used for containing, protecting, delivering, presenting, and distributing products sold, offered for sale, or distributed in North Carolina according to the specified schedule which first requires a reduction of 10% after two years following approval of the stewardship plan and builds up to 40% reduction after eight years following the approval of the stewardship plan. Requires responsible producers to ensure that all of their non-reusable packaging material in the aggregate, used for containing, protecting, delivering, presenting, and distributing the products it sold, offered for sale, or distributed in North Carolina is recycled at a rate set out in the specified schedule, under which 50% is to be recycled after five years following approval of the stewardship plan, building up to 90% after 12 years following approval of the stewardship plan. Requires responsible producers to ensure that all non-reusable packaging material used for containing, protecting, delivering, presenting, and distributing the products it sold, offered for sale, or distributed in North Carolina to incorporate, on average and in the aggregate, amounts of postconsumer waste materials at the rate set out in the specified schedule, under which 50% must be postconsumer waste material after five years following approval of the stewardship plan, building up to 90% after 12 years after the approval of the stewardship plan.

Requires responsible producers to establish or join a producer responsibility organization (organization) to act as an agent on behalf of the producer for purposes of satisfying obligations under this Part. Requires the organization to have participation fees and sets out guidelines for those fees including requiring that fees provide producers with financial incentives to reward

waste reduction and recycling compatibility innovations and practices and to discourage designs or practices that increase product management costs. Requires the organization to maintain a producer responsibility fund consisting of the payments received from responsible producers, to be used to reimburse participating collectors as required by statute; fund collection and convenience obligations; fund required outreach and education programs; fund the actual operating costs of the organization; and pay fees assessed by DEQ for implementing this Part. Sets out the schedule for paying participation fees. Requires responsible producers to provide the organization with all information necessary for determining the producer's compliance with the stewardship plan and for calculating the participation fees.

Requires each organization to develop and submit a stewardship plan to DEQ, to be updated every five years, or sooner if requirements are not being met or followed by the responsible producer or organization, or if circumstances have changed. Sets out 12 categories of information that must be included in the stewardship plan, including a comprehensive list of the packaging material products for which the producer or organization is responsible for under the plan, a description of how the packaging materials covered under the plan will be collected and managed using environmentally sound management practices, a proposal for implementing the outreach and education program in a manner that increases access to recycling throughout North Carolina, and a description of the process for collectors to recoup all reasonable activity-based costs from the organization for collecting, transporting, or sorting packaging materials covered under the plan. Requires the organization to give stakeholders and members of the public an opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan before it is submitted to DEQ. Allows the organization to prepare a revised plan and submit it to DEQ in response to changed circumstances.

Requires DEQ to make a determination on the plan within 90 days. Sets out 10 factors that DEQ must consider in reviewing the plan. Requires the organization and its members to implement the approved plan no later than six months after it is approved.

Makes organizations responsible for calculating and dispersing funds for collectors that elect to be compensated by the organization for the recovery, recycling, and processing of packaging material. Requires collectors to provide for recycling of all recyclable packing material listed under a stewardship plan in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Sets out provisions for calculating the reimbursement rate. Requires participating collectors to annually report to the organization on information necessary to determine the collector's incurred net costs. Prohibits participating collectors from charging fees to customers for reimbursable costs. Effective October 1, 2026.

Requires organizations to provide for widespread, convenient, and equitable access to collection opportunities for the packaging materials identified in the stewardship plans. Sets out conditions under which the organization must provide for curbside or multifamily recycling collection. Requires responsible producers to indicate on packaging material sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in North Carolina: (1) the percentage of postconsumer waste material content, (2) whether the packaging material is readily recyclable, and (3) whether the packaging material is compostable. Effective October 1, 2026.

Requires organizations to provide effective outreach, education, and communications to consumers in North Carolina on: (1) proper end-of-life management of packaging materials; (2) the location and availability of curbside and drop-off collection opportunities; (3) recycling and composting instructions that are consistent statewide, except as necessary to take into account differences among local ordinances and processing capabilities; easy to understand, and easily accessible. Sets out additional requirements for the outreach and education's design and content. Requires DEQ to evaluate these efforts and determine if changes are necessary. Effective October 1, 2026.

Requires organizations to report annually to DEQ on evaluating progress toward meeting the Part's requirements for the immediately preceding year; sets out information that must be included in the report. Sets out confidentiality requirements. Requires DEQ to publish on its website a list of responsible producers and organizations that are out of compliance.

Allows the Environmental Management Commission (EMC) to adopt rules setting fees for responsible producers and organizations to defray DEQ's administration costs.

Provides for enforcement of the part, including holding each responsible producer jointly and severally liable for payment of any penalty imposed on an organization.

Exempts the following responsible producers, except as otherwise provided, from this Part: (1) producers generating less than \$2 million in gross revenue during the immediately preceding calendar year; (2) producers selling, offering for sale, or distributing for sale in this state during the immediately preceding calendar year less than 1 ton of packaging material; and (3) producers conducting all of the packaging material sales in this state during the immediately preceding calendar year at a single point of retail sale that was not supplied or operated as part of a franchise.

Allows the EMC to adopt rules to implement this Part.

Unless otherwise specified, effective October 1, 2025.

Part II.

Adds new Part 2L, Ban Manufacture and Distribution of Certain Toxic Substances in Packaging Materials, in Article 9 of GS Chapter 130A, providing as follows.

Prohibits knowingly (1) manufacturing packaging material containing a covered toxic substance or (2) distributing, selling, or offering for sale, for use within North Carolina or for export from the state, any packaging material containing a covered toxic substance. Defines *covered toxic substance* as: ortho-phthalates, bisphenols, PFAS, lead and lead compounds, hexavalent chromium and compounds, cadmium and cadmium compounds, mercury and mercury compounds, benzophenone and its derivatives, halogenated flame retardants, perchlorate, formaldehyde, toluene, polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene, and polycarbonate.

Allows the Secretary of Environmental Quality to assess a civil penalty of no more than \$5,000 for violations involving a hazardous waste and of up to \$25,000 against a person who violates this Part. Sets out penalties for repeat offenses. Sets out procedures for determining the penalty amount and for notifying the person assessed a penalty. Allows for the filing of contested case petitions within 30 days of receipt of the notice. Sets out the process for filing a request for remission of civil penalties. Provides that if the penalty has not been paid within 30 days, the Secretary is to request the Attorney General to institute a civil action, which must be filed within three years of the date the final agency decision or court order was served on the violator. Effective October 1, 2025.

Part III.

Adds new Part 8 to GS Chapter 143, Article 21A, consisting of the following. Enacts new GS 143-215.104BB prohibiting a person from knowingly manufacturing, selling, or offering for sale any covered product that contains intentionally added PFAS in this state. Defines a *covered product* as any product subject to the requirements of this Part, including food packaging. Defines *product* as an item manufactured, assembled, packaged, or otherwise prepared for sale to consumers, including its product components, sold or distributed for personal, residential, commercial, or industrial use, including for use in making other products. Requires manufacturers of covered products to give people selling the product in this state a certificate of compliance stating that the product is in compliance with the Part and does not contain any intentionally added PFAS. Defines *intentionally added PFAS* as: (1) PFAS added to a product or one of the product's components that have a function or technical effect in the product, including the PFAS components of products that constitute added chemicals or products thereof; or (2) PFAS used or produced during the manufacture or processing of a product introduced into or onto the product, including any source of PFAS that is reasonably known to be present, such as using processing agents, mold release agents, or fluorination. Specifies that the Part does not apply to the sale or resale of used products.

Appropriates \$100,000 for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DEQ to implement the above. Effective July 1, 2025.

Unless otherwise specified, this act is effective October 1, 2025.

Intro. by Harrison, Butler, Price, Greenfield.

GS 130A, GS 143

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR)

H 883 (2025-2026) **SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM FOR LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO APPLY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION FOR ONGOING EXTRAORDINARY COSTS OF CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES, INCLUDING FOR PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS IN SETTINGS OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SYSTEM TO REDUCE THE USE OF MODIFIED DAY, HOMEBOUND, AND HOSPITALIZED PLACEMENTS, AND TO REQUIRE AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE MONITORING OF STUDENTS IN HOMEBOUND, MODIFIED DAY, AND HOSPITAL PLACEMENTS.*

Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to establish a grant program for local school administrative units to apply for funds from the Special State Reserve Fund (SSRF) for children with disabilities, beginning with the 2025-26 fiscal year, to cover extraordinary costs of certain students with disabilities, including costs associated with the placement of students in private schools with approved nonpublic education programs providing special education in accordance with a student's individualized education program (IEP). Requires the program to provide funds for students with disabilities on an ongoing basis according to the students' IEPs. Specifies that the funds supplement and not supplant existing federal, State, and local funding for children with disabilities.

Allows a local school administrative unit to apply for grant funds for a student with disabilities served by the unit for extraordinary costs (as defined) associated with services provided to the student. Requires the unit to demonstrate that the total cost of the services equals or exceeds four times the State average per pupil expenditure for children with disabilities in the prior fiscal year. Requires that the student's IEP support the determination of the services. Grants are student-specific and follow the student for special education and related services provided within the State. Sets out documentation requirements. Allows for grant renewals. Requires reimbursement of 75% of the extraordinary costs and disburses funds quarterly.

Requires DPI to ensure that, if a student who is covered by grant funds is placed in a private school that has an approved nonpublic education program providing special education in accordance with a student's individualized education program (IEP), that the school is approved by DPI as adhering laws governing education services for students with disabilities and governing seclusion and restraint of students. Continues the local school administrative unit's liability for ensuring the student is receiving a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) while the student is placed in the private school, and requires annual review of the student's IEP and any interim reviews requested by the student's parent or legal guardian for purposes of educational decision making. Sets out conditions to be met before the grant is renewed.

Appropriates \$1 million in recurring funds for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the SSRF for the grant program.

Requires DPI to report by March 15, 2026, to the specified NCGA committee on the number of grant applications for the 2025-26 school year, amount of funds awarded, types of out-of-school system placements and service providers, and the type of extraordinary costs reimbursed.

Amends GS 115C-107.5 to add to the items that the State Board of Education must include in its annual report to the specified NCGA committee on children with disabilities, to also include a summary analysis of the following to be monitored and collected monthly by DPI on students with disabilities in each local school administrative unit: (1) the number of new and continued homebound placements; (2) the number of new and continued modified day placements; (3) the number of new and continued Home/Hospital, Separate Schools, and Residential placements; and (4) the number of new and continued PRTF placements. Requires this information to be submitted beginning October 15, 2026.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Balkcom, Cotham, Biggs, Arp.

[APPROP, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 884 (2025-2026) [PREPARED FOOD TAX - MODIFICATION](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO INCREASE THE GROSS RECEIPTS THRESHOLD FOR ARTISANAL BAKERIES EXEMPT FROM THE SALES TAX*.

Modifies the definition of an *artisan bakery* that is exempt from sales tax in GS 105-164.13B(a)(4) to be a bakery that (1) derives over 80% of its gross receipts from bakery items and (2) has annual gross receipts, combined with the gross receipts of all related persons (defined within) not exceeding \$2.4 million (was, \$1.8 million).

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

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

[GS 105](#)

H 885 (2025-2026) **REVISE SUSPENSION & PARENTAL NOTICE POLICIES**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REVISE SUSPENSION POLICIES IN PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS BY DEFINING LENGTHS OF SUSPENSION, LIMITING THE USE OF SUSPENSION, CREATING A RIGHT OF APPEAL FOR SHORT-TERM SUSPENSION, DEFINING WHAT CONSTITUTES REASONABLE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS, PROHIBITING THE USE OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT, AND REQUIRING CHILD CARE PROVIDERS TO REPORT DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS IN EARLY CHILD CARE SETTINGS.*

Prohibits corporal punishment in public school units by amending GS 115C-390.4. Provides that physical restraint under GS 115C-391.1 and reasonable use of force under GS 115C-390.3 are not considered corporal punishment.

Makes corresponding changes to remove corporal punishment references in GS 115C-12(27), GS 115C-107.7, GS 115C-276(r), and GS 115C-390.2(h).

Amends the definitions provisions of GS 115C-390.1 (state policy and definitions pertaining to student discipline). Defines *intermediate-term suspension* as the exclusion for more than 20, but no more than 42, cumulative school days of a student from school attendance for disciplinary purposes from the school to which the student was assigned at the time of the disciplinary action. Defines *in-school suspension* and *reasonable attempt*. Makes conforming changes to *short-term suspension* and *long-term suspension* to account for *intermediate-term suspension*. Specifies that notice to parents must be written in plain language and easy to understand. Specifies that if a school is aware that a parent has a primary language other than English, then school must provide the notice in both English and the parent's primary language.

Amends GS 115C-390.2 (discipline policies) as follows. Encourages governing boards to implement truancy and tardiness policies that focus on intervention strategies aimed at addressing the root cause of absenteeism, promoting attendance through positive reinforcement and engagement. Prevents governing body policies from suspending students solely for truancy and tardiness (currently, only prevents governing boards from imposing long-term suspensions or expulsions for truancy or tardiness). Further prevents governing bodies from: (1) restricting physical activity as a form of punishment; (2) detaining students for disciplinary purposes for more than one hour after the official end of the school day; and (3) authorizing suspension for students in kindergarten through third grade (except when required by federal law), limiting suspension for these students for up to five day per incident but only if it is determined that there is an imminent threat of serious harm to other students or staff that can't be addressed through interventions and supports. Requires governing bodies to adopt a policy for in-school suspension. Provides for reasonable attempts at notice to parents within one hour of the end of the school day that the suspension was imposed and limits on the number of days a student may be subject to in-school suspension. Removes reference to safe schools plans. Limits short-term suspensions to more than 10 consecutive school days per suspension period and no more than 20 cumulative school days per year under GS 115C-390.5 (short-term suspensions). Removes reference to safe schools plans. Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 115C-390.6 (short-term suspension procedures) as follows. Now allows for a student to appeal a short-term suspension if it is for three days or more and if the student will have a cumulative 15 days or more of short-term suspension at the end of the period being appealed to the superintendent. Makes technical and conforming changes. Requires the principal to make a reasonable attempt at notice within one hour of the end of the school day that the suspension was imposed (currently required to give notice at the end of the workday when reasonably possible but not later than two days after suspension is imposed).

Adds new GS 115C-390.6A (intermediate-term suspensions), allowing a principle to recommend intermediate-term suspensions to the superintendent for a student who willfully engages in conduct that violates a provision of the Code that authorizes such suspensions. Provides for an opportunity for hearing before the superintendent. Permits the superintendent to, either upon a hearing (if requested) or review of the circumstances of the recommended suspension, to (1) impose suspension if consistent with Board policy; (2) impose another appropriate penalty; or (3) decline to impose any penalty. Guarantees students who are subject to intermediate-term suspension the opportunity to take instructional materials home for the length of the suspension, the right to receive all missed assignments upon request, and the opportunity to take exams missed during the suspension period.

Provides for intermediate-term suspension procedures in new GS 115C-390.6B, including written notice with eight required components, a requirement that the student decline the opportunity for hearing in writing, process in case of requests for

postponement of the hearing, the conduct of the hearing, an appeal to the local board of education, judicial review, and confidentiality provisions pertaining to witnesses that could create a safety risk.

Amends GS 115C-390.7 (long-term suspensions) to require a hearing before such a suspension is imposed. (Currently, a student may opt out of a hearing.) Makes conforming changes.

Amends GS 115C-390.8, long-term suspension procedures as follows. Requires the principal to make a reasonable attempt to give notice to the student's parents within one hour of the end of the workday on the day the suspension is recommended (currently, must do so when reasonably possible or as soon thereafter as practicable). Requires the student and parent to have been given reasonable notice of the time and place of the suspension hearing. Makes conforming changes.

Makes technical change to GS 115C-390.11(expulsion).

Amends GS 115C-391.1 (concerning permissible use of seclusion and restraint) to require the principal or designee to make a reasonable attempt to give notice to the student's parents within one hour of the end of the workday on the day the incident occurred (currently, only has to notify the parent or guardian promptly and provide certain information). Makes organizational and conforming changes.

Amends GS 115C-391.2 (student searches) to require the school to make a reasonable attempt to notify a student's parent before any search or interrogation occurs or if unsuccessful, to give notice to the student's parents within one hour of the end of the workday on the day the search occurred.

Repeals GS 6-21.4, regarding counsel fees and costs in lawsuits regarding corporal punishment against public school principals or teachers. Not applicable to civil actions arising before the effective date of the act. Applies beginning with the 2025-26 school year

Adds new GS 143B-168.10L (disciplinary actions in early child care settings) requiring all early child care providers, including public school units and private schools offering prekindergarten services to annually submit a report to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) with detailed data on suspensions and expulsions with four required elements. Requires DPI to analyze data for patterns and to inform strategies for minimizing suspensions and expulsions, while emphasizing non-exclusionary disciplinary practices. Requires DPI to issue any specific reporting guidelines and data formats.

Appropriates \$2 million from the General Fund to DPI in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to assist DPI in developing and distributing guidance to public school units on how to implement the act.

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

Intro. by Morey, Cervania, Price, K. Brown.

APPROP, GS 115C

[View summary](#)

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

H 886 (2025-2026) **AEDS AND CPR IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE PLACEMENT OF AUTOMATIC EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDS) IN ALL SCHOOLS IN PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS AND TO PROVIDE TRAINING FOR SCHOOL PERSONNEL ON THE USE OF AEDS AND CPR*.

Enacts GS 115C-12(50) to require the State Board of Education (State Board) to adopt rules for the installation, use, and maintenance of automatic external defibrillators (AEDs) in public school units. Lists five required components of the rules, including placement of at least one AED in each school and implementation of an appropriate training course for school personnel in the use of AEDs, as specified.

Amends GS 115C-47, GS 115C-150.12C, GS 115C-218.75, GS 115C-238.66, GS 116-11, and GS 115C-562.5 requiring local boards of education, schools for deaf and blind students, charter schools, regional schools, the UNC Board of Governors for all public secondary schools under their instruction, and nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants

who have facilities where students attend in-person classes, to develop policies for the installation, maintenance, and use of AEDs pursuant to the rules adopted by the State Board under the new GS 115C-12(50).

Appropriates \$4.1 million from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for 2025-26 to be allocated by the Superintendent of Public Instruction on a first-come, first-served basis to governing bodies of public school units in an amount sufficient to purchase and install one AED per school and train personnel on the proper use of the AED as required by this act.

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

Intro. by Gable, Almond, Schietzelt, Chesser.

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

[View summary](#)

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

H 887 (2025-2026) [ADDRESS ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ADDRESS ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS IN THE WATERS OF THE STATE*.

Identical to [S 505](#), filed 3/25/25.

Recodifies subdivisions (1c), (1d), (1e), and (1f) of GS 75A-2 (Definitions) as subdivisions (1e), (1f), (1g), and (1h) of that statute. Amends the definition of “abandoned vessel” in subdivision (1) to include vessels left 30 consecutive days on public lands or waters of the state or on private property without permission. Provides additional definitions for “days” in subdivision (1c), “derelict vessel” in (1d), “unattended” in (4b), and “vessel emergency” in (5a). Exempts historic shipwrecks under the ownership and custody of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, which must be salvaged under the provisions of GS Chapter 121, Article 3.

Creates new Article 5 (Abandoned and Derelict Vessels) in GS Chapter 75A. Provides for the authority of law enforcement officers and the Wildlife Resources Commission (WRC) to remove or relocate abandoned and derelict vessels and establishes the priority of Article 5 over local ordinances. Prohibits docking, beaching, or grounding any vessel on land beyond a 30 day period without approval from the WRC or other responsible government agency, or the private landowner, and prohibits leaving a vessel adrift, anchored, moored or docked for more than 10 days in a 30 day period in waters of the state unless at a private dock or with a permit issued by a state or local government. Allows those with property damage to recover damages from the vessel's owner or operator. Establishes a procedure for the removal of abandoned vessels and derelict vessels, including notice posted by the WRC informing the owner of possible consequences and penalties for not removing the vessel. Sets out timing and content requirements for the notice. Outlines a forfeiture and disposal procedure for abandoned and derelict vessels, as well as cargo and equipment in the vessels, that do not comply with the notice and compliance requirements of Article 5. Authorizes recovery of removal costs by the WRC and local governments for abandoned and derelict vessels disposed of under the Article.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Miller, Cairns.

[GS 75A](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 888 (2025-2026) [FUNDS FOR NC COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ASSN](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH, TO SUPPORT THE NORTH CAROLINA COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ASSOCIATION*.

Appropriates \$1 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health to be allocated as a directed grant to the North Carolina Community Health Worker Association to fund continued mobilization, training, and certification of community health workers.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Cervania, Wheatley, Greenfield.

APPROP

[View summary](#)

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

H 889 (2025-2026) **LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK DIRECTIVES**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES TO ENTER INTO AN MOA FOR MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF CERTAIN RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND TO MOVE THE PARK HEADQUARTERS TO THE TOWN OF FAIR BLUFF*.

Instructs the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (Department) to negotiate a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the Department to do both of the following:

- Assume the management and operation of the River Walk, adjacent Park, and any associated parking areas (collectively, the Facilities) in the Town of Fair Bluff (Town) as a unit of Lumber River State Park (Park).
- Utilize the Town's Lumber River Visitors Center (Center) as the headquarters of the Park.

Requires the MOA to:

- Be entered into no later than March 1, 2026.
- Be submitted to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division prior to the convening of the 2026 Regular Session of the 2025 General Assembly.
- Include delineation of the areas subject to management by the Town and the areas subject to management by the Department.
- Include the establishment, collection, and sharing of any user fees for property usage and events operated at the Facilities and the Center. Noting, however, that this is not (1) intended to require an admission charge to any property or any event, or (2) authorizing the Department to charge an admission fee for use of the Facilities or the Center other than during a festival or other special event or as a rental fee for a private event.
- Include the adoption and enforcement of bylaws, rules, and guidelines needed for the Department to carry out the required management duties.
- Include the transfer or agreement on shared use, management, or implementation of any assets, liabilities, contracts, or agreements between the Town and the Department necessary to carry out the duties imposed on the parties by the MOA, to be made in accordance with applicable law.

Allows, but does not require, the MOA to provide for shared management of parking and other areas utilized for the River Walk, the Park, and the Center and for other uses.

Intro. by B. Jones.

UNCODIFIED, Columbus

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (formerly Dept. of Cultural Resources)

H 890 (2025-2026) **SCHOOL INTERNET EMERGENCY ACCESS ACT**. Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP A PLAN TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE TO SCHOOLS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY AND TO ESTABLISH THE EMERGENCY INTERNET SERVICE FUND*.

Enacts GS 115C-23 (Emergency Internet Service Plan and Fund), directing the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to develop and maintain an emergency internet service plan for temporary internet for public schools during a state of emergency. Requires DPI to consult with the Department of Information Technology, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management when preparing the emergency plan. Specifies that the plan must include (1) how many months internet service can be provided, (2) conditions necessary to activate the plan, (3) public schools are not required to provide funds to initiate service under the plan, (4) equipment necessary for the plan at each public school, (5) third-party relationships necessary to support the plan, and who will establish and maintain the accounts, and (6) how to protect sensitive data. Establishes the Emergency Internet Service Fund, which is nonreverting and may be used for purchase of equipment or maintaining contracts and accounts for service. Requires the superintendent of DPI to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by February 15 of each year on if there are any changes to the plan, including a copy of the plan, an accounting of the services provided under the plan since the last report, the balance of the service fund and funds expended from it, and any other relevant information.

Appropriates \$3,927,380 in nonrecurring funds from the General Fund for the 2025-2026 school year to DPI to establish the Emergency Internet Service Fund.

Effective and applicable July 1, 2025, for the 2025-2026 school year.

Intro. by Greenfield, Greene, Clampitt, Riddell.

[APPROP, GS 115C](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 891 (2025-2026) [CIVIL ACTIONS/STATE AGENCY AND AG LITIGATION](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT ENACTING THE GOVERNMENT AGENCY FORUM SELECTION ACT AND RELATING TO LITIGATION BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL*.

Adds new Article 54, Government Agency Forum Selection Act, to GS Chapter 1, providing as follows. Makes it state public policy that its General Court of Justice maintain primary jurisdiction to hear civil actions involving the State or one of its local political subdivisions, as follows: (1) for matters where a State court has concurrent jurisdiction with a federal court, an action brought by the State or a local political subdivision of the State must be brought in State court; (2) allows a State or local political subdivision to file a civil action in federal court instead of State court if the federal court has exclusive jurisdiction over the subject matter; and (3) in any case where the State or a local political subdivision is the defendant in a civil action, it must not seek to remove, or consent to removal of, the action from State court to federal court. Excludes agents of the State acting under GS 1-72.2 or GS 120-32.6. Includes a severability clause in the Article.

Amends GS 114-2.8 to also require the Attorney General to initiate actions on behalf of the State to enforce or defend State laws. Also prohibits the Attorney General from advancing an argument in an action pending in any jurisdiction (was, state) that would invalidate a statute enacted by the NCGA.

Intro. by Blackwell, Schietzelt, Blust, Howard.

[GS 1, GS 114](#)

[View summary](#)

[Courts/Judiciary, Civil, Civil Law, Government, State Government, Local Government](#)

H 892 (2025-2026) [CDL TRAINING/DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A GRANT PROGRAM AT THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE TO ASSIST RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE HELENE IN OBTAINING A COMMERCIAL DRIVERS LICENSE AND POST-TRAINING EMPLOYMENT*.

Requires the Department of Commerce (DOC) to establish a grant program to encourage and facilitate residents of Western North Carolina who were impacted by Hurricane Helene to obtain commercial drivers licenses (CDLs), by give CLD training providers funds to cover the costs of CDL training programs and providing stipends for temporary accommodations for trainees. Requires a qualifying CDL training provider to: (1) offer a four-week accelerated CDL training program; (2) be

authorized to conduct on-site CDL testing to streamline licensing; and (3) have enrollment and training facilities within a 75-mile radius of Asheville. Provides grants of \$4,000 per trainee, paid upon the trainee's successful completion of the program and obtaining a CDL. Caps accommodation grants at \$1,500 for trainees that meet certain needs and caps the amount of the program's funds that may be used for these grants at \$277,500. Requires trainees to be NC residents and gives priority to residents of affected counties. Requires DOC to establish the application process and organize partnerships with hotels and motels for the accommodations stipends and with local employers and construction firms to assist grads of the CDL training program in securing employment linked to disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Appropriates \$2.5 million for 2025-26 from the General Fund to DOC for the grant program.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Intro. by Lambeth, Arp.

[APPROP, UNCODIFIED](#)

[View summary](#)

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

H 893 (2025-2026) [CHIROPRACTIC INVESTIGATORY COSTS](#). Filed Apr 9 2025, *AN ACT TO LIMIT THE AMOUNT THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS MAY CHARGE AS COSTS IN DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS TO REQUIRE ACCURATE MINUTES FOR OFFICIAL MEETINGS*.

Allows for the NC State Board of Chiropractic Examiners (Board) to charge the licensee costs for a *disciplinary action* (defined) against them under GS 90-157.4 only if the disciplinary action results in a disposition other than a complete exoneration. Specifies that the costs may include attorneys' fees (was, reasonable attorneys' fees), as well as the newly added meeting costs, investigative fees, and any other costs so long as they do not exceed the following amounts: (1) \$1,000 in a disciplinary action settled by consent without a full Board hearing or (2) \$3,000 in a disciplinary action adjudicated by the Board after a full hearing or if the Board refers the action to the Office of Administrative Hearings. Provides for reasonable actual costs, including attorneys' fees incurred by the Board where it makes findings of fact after a full disciplinary hearing that the licensee's defense was dilatory or not asserted in good faith. Provides for the Board to send an itemized description of costs to the licensee and processes for a refund if the licensee is overcharged.

Voids any provision in an informal settlement, consent order, final agency decision, or other dispositive document in which the licensee consents to pay costs in an amount greater than those specified.

Requires, in GS 90-144, the Board to keep full and accurate minutes as a public body under State law that cover the specified matters, including summaries of the contents of the treasurer's, director's, and attorney's reports and each committee report and the motion verbage and the corresponding vote of each member of the Board for any motion before the Board. Directs that a draft version of the minutes be published within 15 business days after each meeting and the final version of the minutes immediately upon approval of the draft version.

Effective October 1, 2025, and applies to disciplinary actions (defined) on or after that date.

Requires the Board to adopt rules to implement the act.

Intro. by Campbell, Bell, Huneycutt, Scott.

[GS 90](#)

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing](#)

S 344 (2025-2026) [POOLED TRUST TRANSFERS/PUBLIC BENEFITS ELIG.](#) Filed Mar 19 2025, *AN ACT TO ENSURE THE TRANSFER OF ASSETS FOR FAIR MARKET VALUE TO POOLED SPECIAL NEEDS TRUSTS BY SENIORS AGE SIXTY-FIVE AND OLDER DOES NOT ADVERSELY IMPACT ELIGIBILITY FOR MEDICAID OR STATE-COUNTY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE.*

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

Intro. by Galey, Ford, Alexander.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services, Health and Human Services, Health, Health Insurance, Social Services, Public Assistance

S 369 (2025-2026) [MEDICAID TELEHEALTH SERVICES.](#) Filed Mar 20 2025, *AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT CERTAIN PROVIDERS OF TELEHEALTH SERVICES ARE ELIGIBLE TO ENROLL AS MEDICAID PROVIDERS.*

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition makes the following changes. Replaces references to "telemedicine" with "telehealth." Changes reference from "medical provider group" to "health care provider group."

Intro. by Galey, Sawrey, Burgin.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

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

S 449 (2025-2026) [FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND K-20 TECH PLANNING.](#) Filed Mar 24 2025, *AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO EVALUATE CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS ON TECHNOLOGY COSTS AND TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REPORT ON BREAK/FIX RATE.*

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

Reorganizes proposed required rules on technology costs and reports on break/fix rates in GS 115C-12 to new GS 115C-102.10 (technology costs) and new GS 115C-102.11 (break/fix rate reporting requirements), respectively. Moves defied terms break/fix rate and school technology device from GS 115C-47 to new GS 115C-102.11 and makes technical changes. Requires each public school unit's governing body to submit a report on four specified matters to the State Board of Education (Board) annually, by August 15th each year. Sets the first reporting deadline on August 15, 2026, based on data collected during the 2025-26 school year. Makes technical and conforming changes to the Board's annual November 15th reporting requirement to account for new public school unit reporting requirement. Specifies that the Board's first report is due by November 15, 2026.

Requires a local board of education to adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the Board pursuant to GS 115C-102.10. Makes conforming changes to GS 115C-12 and GS 115C-47 to account for new GS 115C-102.10 and GS 115C-102.11, respectively.

Amends the following statutes to require the specified entity to adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the Board in addition to their required report to the Board on their break/fix rate of technology: (1) GS 115C-150.12C (schools for deaf and blind students); (2) new GS 115C-218.33 (charter schools); (3) GS 115C-238.66 (regional schools); and (4) GS 116-239.8 (laboratory schools). Makes technical and conforming changes.

Makes technical changes to GS 115D-9.40 and GS 116-11(9c).

Intro. by Lee, Corbin, Overcash.

GS 115C, GS 115D, GS 116

[View summary](#)

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

S 472 (2025-2026) **AMEND 401 CERTIFICATION PROCESS**. Filed Mar 24 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE PROCESS FOR 401 WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY.*

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

Now requires the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to begin review of permit applications under the Water Quality Certification Rules, 15A NCAC 02H .0500 (Rules) immediately upon receipt of the application, but no certification should be issued until the applicant has paid the requisite fee. (Was, application not deemed complete for DEQ review until the fee was paid.) Clarifies that the expedited process DEQ is required to adopt under the act allows it to approve or deny an application under the expedited timeframe (was, DEQ could approve an application). Sets the deadline for DEQ to complete review at five business days of receipt of the application and fee (was, just application).

Requires DEQ to prepare and submit to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) the expedited review process for water quality certifications required for projects that have received a Nationwide Permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers under the act, by August 1, 2025. Directs that those changes are effective on the later of (1) October 1, 2025, or (2) the first day of a month that is 60 days after DEQ's Secretary certifies to the Revisor of Statutes that the EPA has approved the proposed expedited review process. Provides for notice on DEQ's website. On the day DEQ receives notices that its expedited review process has been approved by the EPA, directs DEQ to request the United States Army Corps of Engineers approve a modification to the Programmatic Agreement executed between the agencies to reflect the review and decision timelines for water quality certifications. Requires DEQ to report to the specified NCGA committee on the status of its activities pertaining to EPA approval and modifications of its programmatic agreement as discussed above, quarterly, beginning September 1, 2025, until the date the act becomes law.

Intro. by Jarvis, McInnis, Moffitt.

UNCODIFIED

[View summary](#)

Environment, Environment/Natural Resources, Government, State Agencies, Department of Environmental Quality (formerly DENR)

S 508 (2025-2026) **LL TO CPL/APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM** Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PATHWAY TO A CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL LICENSE FOR TEACHERS TEACHING UNDER A LIMITED LICENSE, TO ESTABLISH THE TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, TO REPURPOSE FUNDS FROM THE TEACHER APPRENTICE GRANT PROGRAM FOR THE TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM, AND TO REQUIRE THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AND THE STATE BOARD OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES TO DEVELOP AN EXPEDITED TEACHER PIPELINE PATHWAY.*

Senate committee substitute to the 1st edition removes the content of the previous edition and rewrites the bill as follows. Makes conforming changes to the act's long and short titles.

Part I.

Now amends GS 115C-270.15 (exam requirements) to waive the licensure exam requirements for a teacher with a limited license who has available growth data under the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) and has a positive growth score for two of the three most recent years for which growth scores are available. Directs the State Board of Education (Board) to convert that teacher's limited license to a continuing professional license. Makes conforming changes. Applies to limited licenses expiring on or after the act becomes law.

Part II.

Establishes a Teacher Apprenticeship Program (Program) in GS 115C-269.33 as a competitive grant program to increase the number of professionally licensed teachers in the State and improve teacher competency, student outcomes, and teacher retention in the State. Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to administer the Program in collaboration with ApprenticeshipNC. Defines six terms, including *advanced teaching role (ATR) unit* (a local school administrative unit operating under a Board-approved ATR plan, which implements teaching assignments that either require teaching an increased number of students or serving as an ATR team lead). Provides for annual requests for proposals (RFP) by November 1st each year with ATR units submitting proposals containing the specified content by January 1st annually. Directs the first RFP to be issued by November 1, 2025, with applications to established apprenticeship programs beginning in the 2026-27 school year. Provides for allocation of funds for grants as specified if funds are appropriated by the General Assembly for the Program. Requires DPI to allocate the greater of 15% of any allocated funds or \$300,000 to perform the seven administrative tasks in consultation with DPI.

Sets forth six minimum requirements that apply to Program apprentices and apprenticeship employers, including that an employer employ no more than a maximum of ten total apprentices as described, salary supplements, classroom mentors, and required enrollment in a recognized educator preparation program, as described. Provides for grant terms of three years. Allows an apprenticeship employer to convert one position allocated to the unit for classroom teachers to its dollar equivalent at the salary on the first step of the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule for every one apprentice employed by the unit who is receiving State grant funds if the funds are used for the specified purposes and the apprentice receiving State grant funds would have been eligible to fill the vacant position using a residency license, emergency license, or permit to teach, but was instead hired into the apprentice position.

Directs ApprenticeshipNC to provide an annual report on the Program to the specified NCGA committee by March 15th each year, with the first report due by March 15, 2027.

Repeals GS 115C-269.32, the Teacher Apprentice Grant Program.

Of the \$1 million in recurring funds allocated for the Teacher Apprentice Grant Program pursuant to GS 115C-269.32, beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, requires that the funds instead be used for the Program established by the act.

Effective July 1, 2025.

Part III.

By no later than February 15, 2026, requires the UNC Board of Governors in collaboration with the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC), to submit a report to the specified NCGA committee on a plan for an expedited pathway for NC high school students to enter the teaching profession, to cover three specified matters, including any necessary legislative changes or appropriations.

Intro. by Lee, McInnis, Jones.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Education, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, Budget/Appropriations, State Agencies, Community Colleges System Office, UNC System

S 528 (2025-2026) [CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS & FLEXIBILITIES](#). Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS AND PROVIDE FOR FLEXIBILITIES IN SCHOOL-AGE CHILD CARE*.

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

Part I.

Deletes provisions that would have expanded the types of materials the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) must consider in evaluating the education levels of in conjunction with issuing a rated license to a child care facility in GS 110-90 to include the NC Early Childhood Credential, based on experience. Removes provisions in GS 110-91 that would have set

forth staff/child ratio modifications for groups of children 1 year of age or older during nap time. Makes technical change to GS 110-91(7)a.

Deletes provision that would have required the DHHS, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division) to ensure, as specified, that its rules on multiuse child care centers grant access to applicants who meet the pre-licensing guidelines and are awarded a license by the Division. Directs that applicants who meet the pre-licensing guidelines and are awarded a license by the Division are considered eligible to qualify as a tenant in a multi-use facility. Makes organizational change.

Part II.

Makes organizational changes to Part II. Makes organizational and conforming changes to GS 110-91 (mandatory changes for a child care facility license). Expands the requirements that the building and grounds of public or private elementary school that is also being used to provide school-age children with an out-of-school child care program to include space and equipment criteria.

Amends the required qualifications for child care staff listed in GS 110-91(8) so that child care center administrators must have either the School-Age Administration Credential, or the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential when exclusively providing school-age child care (previously, no exclusivity requirement). Makes conforming changes.

Adds the Weikart Youth Program Quality Assessment ("Weikart Program") as an assessment tool for evaluating out-of-school child care programs and awarding of a star-rating. Extends the act's deadline for Division to take the described steps and have the Weikart Program available for applicants from no later than six months after the act becomes law to one year after the act becomes law.

Intro. by Burgin, Galey, Corbin.

GS 110

[View summary](#)

[Business and Commerce, Occupational Licensing, Education, Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education, Government, State Agencies, Department of Health and Human Services](#)

S 754 (2025-2026) **[SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY:A NEW ALTERNATIVE](#)**. Filed Mar 25 2025, *AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION IN ADOPTING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR*.

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

Further amends GS 115C-84.2, as follows. Removes requirement that a schools is able to provide sufficient makeup days to accommodate school closings in order to move its opening date. Makes organizational, conforming, clarifying, and technical changes. Removes GS 115C-84.2A, which would have established a duty of a local board of education to ensure that a local school administrative unit is complying with Part 2 of Article 8 of GS Chapter 115C. Changes the statutory codification concerning school calendar enforcement; withholding of funds from GS 115C-84.2B to GS 115C-84.2A. Now requires the State Board of Education (Board) to ensure local boards of education comply with GS 115C-84.2 (was, public school units comply with Part 2 of GS Chapter 115C, Article 8). Makes conforming changes. Changes the statutory codification pertaining to school calendar enforcement; liability of local board from GS 115C-84.2C to GS 115C-84.2B. Changes scope of compliances from Part 2 of GS Chapter 115C, Article 8 to GS 115C-84.2.

Now specifies that the act applies beginning with the 2026-27 school year (was, 2025-26 school year).

Intro. by Galey, Berger, Lee.

GS 115C

[View summary](#)

[Education, Elementary and Secondary Education](#)

LOCAL/SENATE BILLS

S 131 (2025-2026) [TEMP LOCAL SALES TAX CHANGES/BUNCOMBE CO.](#) Filed Feb 21 2025, *AN ACT TO TEMPORARILY MODIFY BUNCOMBE COUNTY'S USE OF ONE-HALF OF ARTICLE 39 LOCAL SALES AND USE TAX PROCEEDS TO INCLUDE BOTH SCHOOL CAPITAL OUTLAY AND SCHOOL OPERATING EXPENSES AND TO MAKE TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE BUNCOMBE SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND COMMISSION.*

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

Section 1.

Provides that the net proceeds of Buncombe County's local sales and use tax collected under Article 39 of Chapter 105 will be distributed to the county using the ad valorem method. Instead of authorizing Buncombe County to use the net proceeds of the local government sales and use tax revenue distributed to it under the act for any public purpose, now requires that it use 50% of those proceeds for school capital outlay purposes (defined) or to retire any indebtedness incurred by the county for these purposes, and for school operating expenses. Directs the School Capital Fund Commission for Buncombe County (Commission) to advise the county commissioners for school capital outlay purposes by considering the capital needs of both the Buncombe County School System and the Asheville City School System, prioritizing those needs, and recommending projects to be funded, with ultimate control of the use of the funds to be with the county commissioners. Requires the remaining 50% of the funds to be used for any public purpose. Makes clarifying and technical changes.

Section 2.

Adds the following content.

Amends SL 1983-134, as amended (creating the Commission) as follows. Removes the requirement that any other capital funds appropriated by Buncombe County estimated to cost more than \$100,000 at any one location apply before those funds are apportioned among the Asheville City Board of Education and the Buncombe County Board of Education. Now requires that all funds in the Public School Capital Needs Fund be used to finance new public school construction, to finance public school improvement and renovation projects that exceed \$100,000, or to retire any indebtedness incurred by the county for these purposes (was, Funds were to be used to finance new public school of any amount, construction, to finance public school improvement and renovation projects that \$100,000, estimated to cost in excess of \$100,000 at any one location, or to retire any indebtedness incurred by the county after July 1, 1983 for these purposes). Makes a technical change.

Intro. by Moffitt, Mayfield, Daniel.

UNCODIFIED, Buncombe

[View summary](#)

Government, Tax

ACTIONS ON BILLS

PUBLIC BILLS

H 53: INCREASE ACCIDENT THRESHOLDS/SAFE DRIVER PLAN.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 69: MILITARY AND VETERANS EDUCATIONAL PROMISE ACT. (NEW)

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 81: RESTRICT USE OF VEHICLE TELEMATICS.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

H 123: CRIMINAL FALSIFICATION OF MEDICAL RECORDS.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 149: SCHOOL FINANCIAL FLEXIBILITY PILOT PROGRAM.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 152: ACCESS TO TRANSCRANIAL MAGNETIC STIMULATION.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 153: INCREASE VEHICLE SAFETY INSPECTION FEE.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 156: INCREASE ACCESS FOR SMALL EMPLOYERS/INSURANCE.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Health

H 160: JOEL H. CRISP SUDEP AWARENESS LAW.

House: Regular Message Sent To Senate

Senate: Regular Message Received From House

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

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

House: Withdrawn From Cal

House: Cal Pursuant Rule 36(b)

H 217: DRIVER EDUC./18 YRS & OLDER & UNLICENSED.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Finance

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 218: EMERGENCY INFO ON DMV APPLICATIONS.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 219: COUNTIES/FRANCHISE AMBULANCE SERVICE.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On State and Local Government

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

House: Regular Message Sent To Senate

Senate: Regular Message Received From House

Senate: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 254: ADOPT TUSKEGEE AIRMEN DAY.

House: Withdrawn From Com

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

H 258: UTILITY WORKER PROTECTION ACT.

House: Amend Adopted A1

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

House: Ordered Engrossed

H 266: ADOPT WOMEN VETERANS DAY.

House: Amend Adopted A1

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

House: Ordered Engrossed

H 308: CRIMINAL LAW CHANGES.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 354: CIVIL PROCEDURE/GATEKEEPER ORDERS/DATABASE.

House: Amend Adopted A1

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

House: Ordered Engrossed

H 358: MAINTAIN NAIC ACCREDITATION OF DOI.-AB

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 368: CLARIFY LAW REGARDING CAR SEATS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 1

H 377: CHANGES TO ESTATES AND TRUSTS STATUTES.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 389: CHILD CARE WORKFORCE PILOT PROGRAM. (NEW)

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 397: USE OF EPINEPHRINE NASAL SPRAY. (NEW)

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 406: CLARIFY MOTOR VEHICLE DEALER LAWS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

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

H 421: MOTOR VEHICLE DEALERS.

House: Reptd Fav

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

H 476: DST TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS/ADMIN. CHANGES 2025.-AB

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 1

H 477: RETIREMENT DEATH BENEFITS REWRITE.-AB

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 1

H 481: GSC TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS 2025 PART 2.

House: Passed 2nd Reading

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 487: SHORTER SEPARATION FOR RETIRED ADAS AND APDS.

House: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

House: Re-ref Com On Appropriations

H 537: ALENA'S LAW.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 1

H 570: RESPONSIBLE FIREFIGHTING FOAM MANAGEMENT ACT.

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Agriculture and Environment

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

House: Reptd Fav

House: Re-ref Com On Judiciary 2

H 707: DRONES/CERTAIN VENDOR PURCHASES PROHIBITED.

House: Serial Referral To Finance Stricken

H 818: BIRTH CERTIFICATES FOR PERSONS ADOPTED.

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 819: DIT AGENCY BILL.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 820: PRESCRIPTION EYE DROP EARLY REFILL COVERAGE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 821: DRIVERS LICENSE EXPIRATION MORATORIUM.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 822: MOPED REGULATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 823: COUNTY SERVICE DISTRICTS/RESEARCH & URSD.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 824: EXPAND TREATMENT ACCESS/OPIOID USE DISORDER.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 825: ELECTION IMPROVEMENTS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 826: NO RETALIATION AGAINST MANDATORY REPORTERS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 827: CREATE ANNUAL SEX OFF REGISTRY FEE.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 828: PROHIBIT PROP BETS ON COLLEGE/AMATEUR SPORTS.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 829: LOCKSMITH LICENSING ACT MODERNIZATION.

House: Passed 1st Reading

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

H 839: ADVANCED TEACHING ROLES UPDATES.

House: Filed

H 840: REWARD SCHOOLS FOR STUDENT GROWTH.

House: Filed

H 841: SHELLFISH LEASING STUDY.

House: Filed

H 842: VIS., HEAR., DENTAL SCREENINGS OPT-OUT.

House: Filed

H 843: LAKE WACCAMAW DAM REPAIRS.

House: Filed

H 844: FINDING GRACE FAMILY BILL.

House: Filed

H 845: REDUCE DROWNING RISK/PUBLIC DOCKS.

House: Filed

H 846: TEACHER RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT.

House: Filed

H 847: CLARIFY MOTORCYCLE REGISTRATION ELIGIBILITY.

House: Filed

H 848: CLEVELAND CULTIVATION OF EXCELLENCE PILOT.

House: Filed

H 849: UTILITY FORCED RELOCATION EXPENSES.

House: Filed

H 850: INTERBASIN TRANSFER MORATORIUM/STUDY.

House: Filed

H 851: HOSPITAL POLICE OFFICER/AUTHORITY/INFO ACCESS.

House: Filed

H 852: SAFE DOGS, SAFE OWNERS.

House: Filed

H 853: SPECIAL LICENSE PLATE AFTER REVOCATION.

House: Filed

H 854: REQUIRE LICENSURE OF EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETERS.

House: Filed

H 855: RESIDENCY LICENSES FOR NONPUBLIC EC TEACHERS.

House: Filed

H 856: CLARIFY DEED RESTRICTIONS/SOLAR COLLECTORS.

House: Filed

H 857: CREATE ALERT/MISSING PERSON W/ DISABILITY.

House: Filed

H 858: FUNDS/N. MECKLENBURG PUBLIC SAFETY.

House: Filed

H 859: LOCAL GOVTS/GUARANTEED INCOME PROGRAMS.

House: Filed

H 860: SOCIAL MEDIA CONTROL IN IT ACT.

House: Filed

H 861: TAXPAYER ACCOUNTABILITY/PREGNANCY CENTERS.

House: Filed

H 862: JUSTICE IMPROVEMENTS.

House: Filed

H 863: DISASTER RECOVERY ACT OF 2025 - PART 1(B).

House: Filed

H 864: TRAFFIC LAW REVISIONS/COLLEGIATE PLATES.

House: Filed

H 865: CLARIFY ANIMAL WELFARE STATUTES.

House: Filed

H 866: AUTOMATIC ORD/EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION CLAIM.

House: Filed

H 867: POULTRY WASTE MANAGEMENT.

House: Filed

H 868: DUE PROCESS IN LEO FIELD DRUG TESTING.

House: Filed

H 869: DYNAMIC SYMBOL OF ACCESS.

House: Filed

H 870: SEDIMENTATION ACT & OTHER ENV.'L CHANGES.

House: Filed

H 871: NORTH CAROLINA MICROPLASTICS STUDY ACT.

House: Filed

H 872: SCHOOL EMPLOYEE PROTECTIONS FOR USE OF FORCE.

House: Filed

H 873: DEQ AGENCY BILL.-AB

House: Filed

H 874: NORTH CAROLINA HEALTHY SCHOOLS ACT.

House: Filed

H 875: DPI TO REDESIGN MATH INSTRUCTION.

House: Filed

H 876: DEVELOPMENT APPLICATION REVIEW TIME LINES.

House: Filed

H 877: CHILDCARE PILOT.

House: Filed

H 878: INCREASED ACADEMIC TRANSPARENCY.

House: Filed

H 879: AIR CONDITIONING FOR RENTAL PROPERTIES.

House: Filed

H 880: AGGIE ACADEMY LEARNING LAB/FUNDS.

House: Filed

H 881: PFAS FREE NC.

House: Filed

H 882: BREAK FREE FROM PLASTIC & FOREVER CHEMICALS.

House: Filed

H 883: SUPPORT STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES ACT.

House: Filed

H 884: PREPARED FOOD TAX - MODIFICATION.

House: Filed

H 885: REVISE SUSPENSION & PARENTAL NOTICE POLICIES.

House: Filed

H 886: AEDS AND CPR IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

House: Filed

H 887: ADDRESS ABANDONED AND DERELICT VESSELS.

House: Filed

H 888: FUNDS FOR NC COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER ASSN.

House: Filed

H 889: LUMBER RIVER STATE PARK DIRECTIVES.

House: Filed

H 890: SCHOOL INTERNET EMERGENCY ACCESS ACT.

House: Filed

H 891: CIVIL ACTIONS/STATE AGENCY AND AG LITIGATION.

House: Filed

H 892: CDL TRAINING/DISASTER AFFECTED AREAS.

House: Filed

H 893: CHIROPRACTIC INVESTIGATORY COSTS.

House: Filed

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

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 177: ADD PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS TO MEDICAID HASP.

Senate: Reptd Fav

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

S 190: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT LICENSURE COMPACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav

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

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

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House

House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 207: LITTER LAW/REBUTTABLE PRESUMPTION.

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 220: PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY RIGHTS.-AB

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 335: PHARMACISTS/TEST AND TREAT/INFLUENZA & STREP. (NEW)

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 344: POOLED TRUST TRANSFERS/PUBLIC BENEFITS ELIG.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

S 369: MEDICAID TELEHEALTH SERVICES.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 372: CONFIRM MCKINLEY WOOTEN, SEC. OF REV.

Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Select Committee on Nominations

S 429: 2025 PUBLIC SAFETY ACT.

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

S 449: FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND K-20 TECH PLANNING.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 472: AMEND 401 CERTIFICATION PROCESS.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Agriculture, Energy, and Environment

S 474: THE DAVE ACT.

Senate: Regular Message Sent To House
House: Regular Message Received From Senate

S 507: AUTO ENROLLMENT IN ADVANCED ELA COURSES.

Senate: Passed 2nd Reading
Senate: Passed 3rd Reading

S 508: LL TO CPL/APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 528: CHILD CARE REGULATORY REFORMS & FLEXIBILITIES.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute
Senate: Com Substitute Adopted
Senate: Re-ref Com On Rules and Operations of the Senate

S 558: ELIMINATING "DEI" IN PUBLIC HIGHER ED.

Senate: Amend Tabled A1
Senate: Amend Tabled A2
Senate: Passed 2nd Reading
Senate: Passed 3rd Reading

S 602: H'CAINE HELENE BLDG CODE WINDOW EXEMPTION.

Senate: Reptd Fav
Senate: Re-ref Com On Commerce and Insurance

S 664: JMAC COMPLIANCE FLEXIBILITY.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 675: SECOND MORTGAGE FEE ALIGNMENT ACT.

Senate: Reptd Fav

S 710: DPS AGENCY CHANGES.-AB

Senate: Withdrawn From Com

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

S 754: SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY:A NEW ALTERNATIVE.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

Senate: Re-ref Com On Judiciary

LOCAL BILLS

H 26: TOWN OF MADISON/SATELLITE ANNEXATION.

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 63: TOWN OF ANDREWS/DEANNEXATION.

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 143: MAYSVILLE OCCUPANCY TAX.

House: Passed 3rd Reading

H 147: ELIZABETH CITY AND KING/DEANNEXATIONS (NEW).

House: Passed 3rd Reading

S 131: TEMP LOCAL SALES TAX CHANGES/BUNCOMBE CO.

Senate: Reptd Fav Com Substitute

Senate: Com Substitute Adopted

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

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