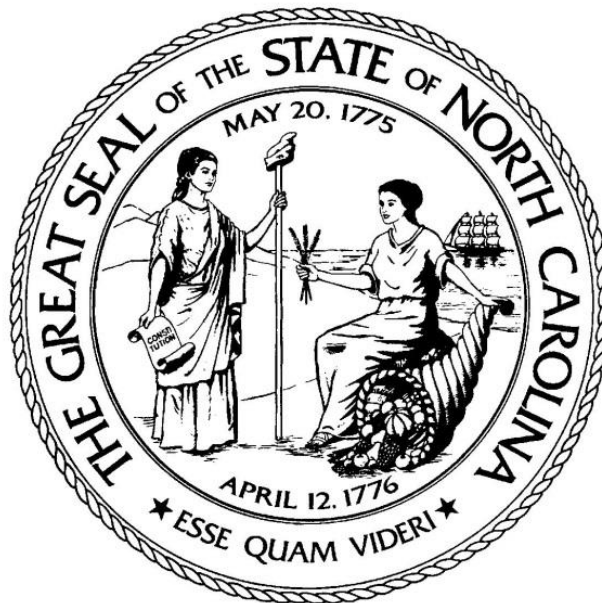


SUMMARIES OF SUBSTANTIVE RATIFIED LEGISLATION

2025 SESSION



**LEGISLATIVE ANALYSIS DIVISION
N.C. GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Foreword

This publication provides summaries of substantive legislation in public acts enacted during the 2025 Regular Session, including vetoed legislation, through October 10, 2025. Information is organized by topic. For omnibus bills that contain multiple topics, bill sections are summarized individually.

This publication provides all brief summaries in one document, and is organized alphabetically, by subject area. Individual chapters can also be selected and printed as a single document by choosing a topic [here](#) and selecting the green button at the top of that page for all summaries on that topic. Individual summaries for enacted laws can also be found by subject or through the searchable [bill index](#) by number. Individual summaries provide links to the full summary text, final session law, the bill information and history, and any other available summaries created throughout the legislative process.

Please note that information on local acts and substantial explanation of appropriated funds are generally not reflected in these summaries. Information on appropriated funds is prepared by the Fiscal Research Division and can be found at [Legislative Budget Documents](#).

The Legislative Analysis Division is a nonpartisan, central staff agency that serves as professional staff to the members of Senate and House committees and provides legal analysis and research to members of the General Assembly. Summaries are prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff as a service for legislators and do not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.

2025 Summaries of Substantive Ratified Legislation

Agriculture and Wildlife

See full summary documents for additional detail

Agricultural Crop Loss Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-D

Subpart II-D of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) creates within the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACS) the Agricultural Crop Loss Program (Crop Loss Program) to provide financial assistance to farmers affected by Hurricane Helene or any agricultural disaster in 2024. This CLP is available for any person that experienced a verifiable loss of an agricultural or aquaculture commodity or farm infrastructure for a farm located in an affected area and the commodity was planted but not harvested on or before a respective agricultural disaster in the year 2024 that resulted in the commodity's or farm infrastructure's verified loss.

DACS shall allocate the funds appropriated in the act for the CLP as follows:

1. \$200 million for verifiable losses from Hurricane Helene in the affected area.
2. \$100 million for verifiable losses from an agricultural disaster in 2024, excluding Hurricane Helene. Additionally, the Department shall use remaining funds from Section 5.9A(c)(2) of S.L. 2021-180 and Section 5.4(a)(4) of S.L. 2022-74 for the same purpose.

This Subpart of the act became effective July 1, 2025, and expires 30 months after that date. Any funds allocated to the Program not expended or encumbered by that date must revert to the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund.

Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program Correction – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 1A.2(a)

Section 1A.2(a) of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) extended the deadline for individuals to apply for relief for crop losses incurred due to Hurricane Helene from 45 days after March 19, 2025, to 60 days after that date and, for nursery crops, fruit-bearing trees and bushes, and specialty crops where the survival level was not immediately known, allowed the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to extend the deadline by an additional 60 days, rather than an additional 45 days.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Revise Voluntary Agricultural District Laws.

SL 2025-12 (H126)

S.L. 2025-12 (House Bill 126) amends the process for State and local agencies and governmental units to condemn or rezone qualifying farmland in a voluntary agricultural district (VAD) by doing all the following:

- Requiring an ordinance establishing a VAD to limit the ability of a State or local public agency or government entity to condemn or rezone qualifying farmland in a VAD by requiring the agency or entity to request that the agricultural advisory board (Board) hold a public hearing on the proposed condemnation or rezoning and submit written findings and a recommendation to the State or local public agency.
- Extending the period within which a Board must hold a public hearing and submit recommendations on a proposed State or local agency condemnation or rezoning, from 30 days to 45 days.
- Prohibiting an agency from formally initiating a condemnation or rezoning action until 120 days after the date on which the Board submits its findings and recommendations to the agency.

This act became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to condemnation or rezoning actions initiated on or after that date.

Underground Safety Revisions.

SL 2025-21 (H247)

S.L. 2025-21 (House Bill 247) does all of the following with regard to marking of underground utilities:

- Specifies that nonmechanized equipment includes soft dig technologies, defined as an excavation method that uses air or water pressure to break up soil and remove it with vacuum extraction.
- Provides that, where practical, when a facility operator makes facilities the painted surface marks must be long enough to distinguish them from dots.
- Adjusts response times for requests for marking of a facility as follows:
 - For a facility, an operator must provide information within three working days prior to the work start date rather than three working days after the day an excavator provided notice of a proposed excavation or demolition.
 - For an emergency request, the operator must make initial contact with an excavator within 3 hours.
 - For a request of an unmarked facility, the operator must arrange for the facility to be marked within three hours of the time the Notification Center receives the additional notice.

- Shortens the notice period for projects not involving subaqueous facilities from between three to twelve full working days before the proposed commencement date to not less than three full working days before the proposed commencement date.
- Extends notice validity from 15 days to 28 days.
- Limits the area of facility location requests of proposed excavation or demolition to an area that the excavator reasonably believes may be completed with 28 calendar days from the work start date.
- Provides that safe excavation practices must be used within the tolerance zone of a pipeline.
- Amends exemptions from requirements for notice before commencing an excavation.
- Clarifies that the venue for all actions arising from actual and consequential damages occurring in this State is the county where the damages occurred.
- Creates a rebuttable presumption that an excavator has exercised due care in certain circumstances.
- Makes changes to the Underground Damage Prevention Review Board (Board) concerning vacancies and quorum, and allow an informal conference process to request that the Board reverse or modify its determinations concerning violations of the Underground Utility Safety and Damage Prevention Act.

This act became effective October 1, 2025.

Sunday Opening State Historic Site Pilot Program – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2C.1

Section 2C.1 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) the nonrecurring sum of \$114,000 in each year of the 2025–2027 fiscal biennium to implement and fund the Sunday Opening State Historic Pilot Program (Program). The Program requires DNCR to open and operate the following historic sites on Sundays during each site's peak season:

1. Bentonville Battlefield.
2. Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson.
3. Charlotte Hawkins Brown Museum.
4. Fort Fisher.
5. Governor Charles B. Aycock Birthplace.
6. Historic Bath.
7. Historic Edenton.
8. Historic Halifax.
9. North Carolina State Capitol.
10. Reed Gold Mine.
11. Roanoke Island Festival Park.
12. Somerset Place.
13. Thomas Day State Historic Site.

This section of the act became effective July 1, 2025.

Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

Ratified (H96)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Alcoholic Beverage Control

See full summary documents for additional detail

Enhance ABC Commission Oversight Authority – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) gives the Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission authority to provide for a method for ABC permittees and applicants to establish compliance with all local ordinances and State and federal laws.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Modify Law Regarding Notice of Certain Violations to ABC Permit Holders – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) removes the requirement that an alcohol law enforcement agent or a local ABC officer notify an ABC permit holder within five business days after the agent or officer issues a citation to an employee of the permitted establishment for conduct occurring on the premises that is a violation of the ABC laws or criminal laws of this State.

This Part became effective July 2, 2025.

Revisions to ABC Laws – JMAC/ABC/Other Revisions.

SL 2025-65 (S664), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-65 (Senate Bill 664) makes two revisions to the alcoholic beverages laws:

- Allows wineries and distilleries to participate in alternating proprietorship arrangements and clarifies on-premises sales at distilleries participating in alternating proprietorship arrangements. This section became effective July 7, 2025.
- Makes a technical correction to the open container laws, effective October 1, 2025, to make a provision allowing "to go" mixed beverages and wine by the glass comply with federal law.

Expand Culinary Alcoholic Beverage Control Permit – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 5

Section 5 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) expands the availability of culinary permits issued by the ABC Commission, which allow a hotel, restaurant, or cooking school to have fortified wine or spirituous liquor in the kitchen for culinary purposes, to the following:

- Food businesses, which are businesses that sell food primarily to be eaten off-premises.
- Eating establishments, which are businesses that sell food to be eaten on premises, but are not large enough to qualify as a restaurant.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Children and Families

See full summary documents for additional detail

Clarification on Safe Surrender of Infants – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 5.4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Child Welfare and Adoption – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-16 (House Bill 612) does the following:

Definitions and Jurisdiction:

- Amends the definition of "abused juvenile" and creates definitions for "Division" and "post-adoption contact agreement and order."
- Adds the death of a juvenile as an event terminating the court's jurisdiction. This section became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to all actions pending or filed on or after that date.

Assessment by Director of and Notification of Person Making Report:

- Requires a home visit where a juvenile resides when there is an allegation of abuse or neglect in a child care facility.
- Allows for a review to be requested by the reporter if the director of the department of social services (director) decides not to accept a report of abuse, neglect, or dependency for an assessment.
- Changes the standard of proof to clear and convincing evidence at a hearing on interference with an assessment.
- Allows the person making the report to request a review by the prosecutor or the Division of Social Services (DSS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), if the director decides not to file a petition, previous requests were only to the prosecutor, and modifies the process for the review to incorporate the DSS.
- This section became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to requests for review or actions filed on or after that date.

Conflicts of Interest:

- Creates a new procedure for handling conflicts of interest (G.S. 7B-302.1) when the reported abuse, neglect or dependency involves specified criteria.

Parties:

- Allows the court to include foster parents or the current caretaker in the procedure for intervention if they would have the authority to file a petition to terminate parental rights. The court is permitted to remove a guardian, custodian, or caretaker as a party after adjudication, if their continuation as a party is not in the juvenile's best interest.

Authority to Issue Custody Orders:

- Authorizes a district court judge to (i) enter a nonsecure custody order once a petition is filed and (ii) delegate the court's authority to a magistrate. Each county is required to always have a judge or delegated magistrate available with whom the DHHS must request nonsecure custody of a juvenile.

Petition when Clerk's Office is Closed and Telephonic Communications:

- Clarifies orders signed by a judicial official when the office of the clerk is closed are effective and enforceable after the order is signed.
- Updates the requirements for petitions and written orders made by telephonic communication.

Co-Guardians:

- Allows for co-guardians to be appointed and establishes a procedure if the relationship between the co-guardians dissolves.

Guardian Ad Litem:

- Reduces the age for mandatory appointment of a guardian for a parent from under 18 years of age to under 16 years of age. The appointment of a guardian ad litem for a parent who is 16 or 17 years of age, unemancipated, and unmarried, is optional and is only ordered upon a motion by any party or the court.

Legal Counsel for the Department:

- Defines "legal counsel for the department" (legal counsel), requires the county DSS to be represented by legal counsel in proceedings, and requires the director to attest legal counsel has reviewed various petitions if the petition is not signed by legal counsel.
- This section becomes effective April 1, 2026, and applies to petitions filed on or after that date.

Placement of Juveniles:

- Allows DSS to recommend unsupervised visits or return of physical custody, whichever occurs first. The court findings for either recommendation are amended. The court must

find (i) the juvenile will receive proper care and supervision in a safe home for custody to be returned or (ii) it in the best interests of the juvenile for unsupervised visits to occur.

- Authorizes additional places for DSS to place juveniles within its custody and prohibits placement in an unlicensed facility without a court order.
- Authorizes the following additional placements for juveniles in nonsecure custody: (i) placement with the parent from whom the juvenile was not removed, or (ii) temporary placement in a facility licensed to provide care to juveniles. Placements in an unlicensed facility are prohibited without a court order.
- This section became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to all actions pending or filed on or after that date.

Emergency Motion for Placement and Payment:

Amends the procedure for seeking court intervention to assess costs and other relief related to a juvenile's continued stay in an emergency room or hospital when the statutory requirements for presentation at a hospital for mental health treatment (G.S. 122C-142.2) are not met in the following ways:

- Removes the standing of the DHHS to file a motion in the matter and gives the DSS the opportunity to be heard at any hearing on any motion as the supervising principal of the DSS.
- Authorizes evidence of a hospital's failure to cooperate in a juvenile's assessment in defense of alleged violations by DSS, the local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO), or prepaid health plan.
- Requires a hearing on the motion within ten business days of service or the next scheduled juvenile court session, whichever is later.
- Requires the court to make findings as to whether the juvenile met hospital discharge criteria. The date on which the court determined the juvenile met hospital discharge criteria determines the date after which payment of hospital charges and property damage is required from the responsible party.
- Clarifies dismissal of a motion due to discharge of the juvenile from the hospital does not preclude a separate cause of action for monetary damages.
- This section became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to all actions pending or filed on or after that date.

Review and Permanency Planning Hearings:

- Removes a child from the parent, guardian, or custodian only if the court finds specific criteria after initial disposition or the prior review hearing.
- Clarifies the purpose of a review hearing is to review the parent's progress on court-ordered services, including (i) the completion the court-ordered services within 12 months; (ii) the demonstration that the circumstances leading to the DSS involvement have been resolved to the court's satisfaction and (iii) providing a safe home for the juvenile.

- Terminates the court's jurisdiction when the parent, guardian, or custodian successfully completes court-ordered services and the child is residing in the home, absent extraordinary circumstances.

Permanent Plans and Concurrent Planning:

- Adds termination of concurrent planning when reunification is not identified as a permanent plan.
- Creates a procedure for a hearing when a juvenile is not being reunified with a parent, guardian, or custodian, prior to any change in placement for the juvenile, if specified criteria are met.
- Requires the court to inform the guardian or custodian of their right to pursue child support when the permanent plan of guardianship or custody has been achieved.

Authority over Parents:

- Adds to the court's findings that payment of child support is in the best interest of the child prior to ordering a parent to pay a reasonable sum that will cover support of the juvenile when legal custody is vested in someone other than the juvenile's parent.
- This provision became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to all actions pending or filed on or after that date.

Termination of Parental Rights:

- Changes the standard of proof to clear and convincing evidence at a hearing on termination of parental rights. This provision became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to any actions filed on or after that date.
- Adds a parent whose parental rights have been terminated to the list of permissible individuals who may file a petition to reinstate parental rights. The parent is not entitled to court-appointed counsel. This provision became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to any actions filed on or after that date.

Reinstatement of Parental Rights:

- Establishes a procedure for a pretrial hearing to consider specified criteria and requires the court to dismiss the motion if the criteria are not met. This provision became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to any actions filed on or after that date.

Presentation at a Hospital for Mental Health Treatment:

- Requires the hospital to contact the DSS director if the juvenile (i) is in DSS custody, (ii) requires mental health treatment, and (iii) is present at the hospital for reasons other than involuntary commitment or a voluntary admission order.
- Shortens the timeframe to three days for the LME/MCO to arrange for an assessment to be conducted.

- Prohibits the hospital from releasing the juvenile unless hospital discharge criteria are met and either (i) the recommended placement is available or (ii) the director or individual consents to release.
- Specifies when the director, an LME/MCO, or prepaid health plan must notify the Rapid Response Team (RRT). If notified, the RRT determines if action is needed to address the juvenile's needs, and then develops a plan with DSS, the LME/MCO, and the hospital on steps needed to meet the juvenile's treatment needs.
- Provides the meetings of the RRT and relevant individuals are confidential and not public record.
- Requires DHHS to develop and distribute uniform guidance to hospitals, DSS, and prepaid health plans on the roles and responsibilities of each entity involved in case management during a juvenile's hospital stay by April 1, 2026.
- This section became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to any action pending or filed on or after that date.

Christal's Law:

- Authorizes the Secretary of the DHHS to (i) access records pertaining to open or closed child welfare cases of DSS, (ii) inquire into and review county social work practice, and (iii) inquire and review local DSS legal practice for the delivery of child welfare services for a particular case or all cases of the DSS.
- Addresses violations by creating a protocol that notifies specified individuals with a directive to remedy the violation within a certain timeframe.
- This section became effective on June 26, 2025.

Post-Adoption Contact Agreements and Orders:

- Creates a new pathway to allow the parents of a minor adoptee in the custody of DSS and the prospective adoptive parents to enter a voluntary mediated post-adoption contact agreement prior to relinquishment of the child. A post-adoption contact agreement allows specifically described post-adoption contact with a child, including visitation, sharing of information, and communication such as the exchange of letters, electronic communication, and telephone contact.
- Requires the court to review the agreement within two days of the signing of the agreement to determine if the agreement is to be incorporated into a court order. The written agreement must be entered into without coercion, fraud, or duress, evidenced by oath or affidavit. When approved by the court, the post-adoption contract agreement and order constitute a custody determination and create a civil action. The record of the civil action is withheld from public inspection and terminates when the child turns 18 or is emancipated.
- Requires a party to a court approved post-adoption contact agreement and order seeking to modify, enforce, or terminate the agreement to file a motion in the civil action, and mediation is required unless waived by the court. The court must modify the terms of the agreement if it finds by a preponderance of evidence that there has been a material and substantial change in the circumstances and the modifications are in the best interest of

the child. The modifications are permitted to reduce but not expand the information and contact with the former parents. Frivolous actions must result in attorneys' fees to the prevailing party, and there would be no right to appeal the order.

- Clarifies that custody actions between parties of a post-adoption contact agreement and order are governed by State law and makes conforming changes.

Responsible Individual's List (List):

- Shortens the timeframe for an individual to petition the court for review of his or her inclusion on the List to less than one year from placement on the List and modifies the reason for the review to replace extraordinary circumstances with good cause.
- Allows individuals to petition the court for expungement from the List if specified conditions are met. Petitions for expungement from the List are maintained on a separate docket and provided a closed hearing before a judge without a jury, with the burden upon the petitioner to show by a preponderance of evidence. In determining whether to grant the petition, the court considers the nature of abuse or serious neglect, the amount of time since placement on the list, activities that reflect changed behavior or circumstances, and any other relevant circumstances. The court must grant the petition to remove the person's name from the list if the court finds by the preponderance of the evidence that there is little likelihood that the petitioner will be a future perpetrator of child abuse or neglect.

Past Due Child Support:

- Adds foster care assistance owed to the State by the supporting party during any period when the child is placed in the custody of DSS to the situations when child support payments are not past due, and no arrearages accrue.

Except as otherwise provided, Part I became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to all actions pending or filed on or after that date.

Expand Guardianship Assistance Program Eligibility to Youth 10 Years of Age – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-16 (House Bill 612) allows the Division of Social Services (DSS) of the Department of Health and Human Services to provide financial support through assistance payments for certain children who have exited foster care into kinship guardianship or legal guardianship.

Kinship Guardianship Assistance Program (KinGAP):

For kinship guardianship assistance payments for certain children who have exited foster care into relative guardianship, "relative" includes a person related to the child by blood, marriage,

adoption, or through a substantial relationship with the child or the child's parent prior to the child entering foster care. To be eligible, the following requirements must be met:

- The child must be at least 10 years old, but not older than 18 years old. If the child is at least 14 years of age, the child must have been consulted regarding the kinship guardianship agreement.
- The child has been removed from his or her home due to a voluntary placement agreement or because of a judicial determination that continuation in the home would be contrary to the welfare of the child.
- The child was eligible for foster care maintenance payments under federal law while residing for at least six consecutive months in the home of a licensed prospective relative guardian.
- It has been determined that reunification and adoption are not appropriate options for the child.
- The child demonstrates a strong attachment to the prospective relative guardian.
- The guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child.
- A North Carolina county child welfare agency has placement and care of the child at the time of entry into the guardianship agreement.

An individual who has exited foster care under a guardianship assistance agreement can continue to receive assistance payments after becoming 18 years old if (i) the individual was at least 16 years old before the kinship guardian assistance agreement became effective, (ii) the individual chooses to continue receiving guardianship services until becoming 21 years old, and (iii) DSS determines that the individual meets any of the following:

- Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
- Is enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education.
- Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
- Is employed for at least 80 hours per month.
- Is incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements outlined above due to a medical condition or disability that is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan for the individual.

The sibling of an individual receiving guardian assistance payments is also eligible for the payments if the sibling has not yet turned 10 years old and the county child welfare agency and prospective relative guardian agree that the guardianship agreement is appropriate for the sibling.

If the relative guardian dies or becomes incapacitated, the eligibility of the child to receive kinship guardian assistance payments is not affected by being placed with a successor legal guardian identified in the kinship guardianship assistance agreement.

Guardianship Assistance Program:

DSS must also provide for financial support of children who exit foster care into legal guardianship if the following criteria are met:

- The child is at least 10 years old and demonstrates a strong attachment to the licensed prospective guardian and the guardian has a strong commitment to caring permanently for the child. If the child is at least 14 years old, the child has been consulted regarding the guardianship agreement.
- The child is in a permanent family placement setting for at least six consecutive months before the execution of the guardianship agreement.
- The prospective guardian is eligible to be appointed as a legal guardian.
- The child is unlikely to achieve permanency through reunification or adoption.
- A North Carolina county child welfare agency has placement and care of the child at the time of entry into the guardianship agreement.

An individual who has exited foster care under a guardianship assistance agreement can continue to receive assistance payments after becoming 18 years old if (i) the individual was at least 16 years old before the guardian assistance agreement became effective, (ii) the individual chooses to continue receiving guardianship services until becoming 21 years old, and (iii) DSS determines that the individual meets any of the following:

- Is completing secondary education or a program leading to an equivalent credential.
- Is enrolled in an institution that provides postsecondary or vocational education.
- Is participating in a program or activity designed to promote or remove barriers to employment.
- Is employed for at least 80 hours per month.
- Is incapable of completing the educational or employment requirements outlined above due to a medical condition or disability that is supported by regularly updated information in the case plan for the individual.

Guardianship Assistance Agreement:

To receive payments under KinGAP or the Guardianship Assistance Program, the county child welfare agency must negotiate and enter into a written, binding guardianship agreement with the prospective guardian and provide the guardian a copy of the agreement. The agreement must include the following, at a minimum:

- The amount of and manner in which each payment will be provided and how it can be adjusted.
- The additional services and assistance the child and guardian will be eligible for under the agreement.
- The procedure by which the guardian can apply for additional services.
- That the State will pay the total cost of nonrecurring expenses associated with obtaining legal guardianship of the child if the cost does not exceed \$2,000.

The agreement will remain in effect without regard to the State residency of the guardian.

The guardianship assistance program rates will reimburse legal and relative guardians for room and board and be set at the same rate as the foster care room and board rates.

The Social Services Commission will adopt emergency rules to implement these programs. The emergency rules will remain in effect until temporary rules are adopted to replace the emergency rules. The temporary rules will remain in effect until permanent rules are adopted.

This Part of the act became effective June 26, 2025.

Revisions Regarding Permanent No Contact Orders and Felony Child Abuse – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part III

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Criminal History Record Check Requirement for Applicants Offered a Position for City and County Employment Working With Children – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part IV

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Decouple Rated License and Subsidized Child Care – Child Care Regulatory Reforms.

SL 2025-36 (H412), Part I

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Building Code Revisions – Child Care Regulatory Reforms.

SL 2025-36 (H412), Part III

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Regulatory Changes – Child Care Regulatory Reforms.

SL 2025-36 (H412), Part II

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Parents Protection Act.

SL 2025-59 (S442)

S.L. 2025-59 (Senate Bill 442) makes the following changes to laws pertaining to the adoption and care of children:

- Provides that a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker who raises or refers to a child consistent with the child's biological sex is not subject to a petition alleging abuse or neglect based on those acts only. This limitation cannot be construed to authorize or allow any other act or omission that would constitute child abuse or neglect. This section of the act became effective July 3, 2025, and applies to petitions filed before, on, or after that date.
- Prohibits an adoption agency from denying or delaying the opportunity to become an adoptive parent or the placement of a child for adoption because of an adoptive parent's refusal, unwillingness, or lack of support to enable the child to engage in gender transition. This section of the act became effective July 3, 2025, and applies to petitions and placements for adoption and opportunities to become an adoptive parent requested, filed, or submitted before, on, or after that date.
- Provides that a parent or other person providing care or supervision of a child less than 18 years old who is raising or referring to the child consistent with the child's biological sex would not be guilty of misdemeanor or felony child abuse. This section of the act became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on, before, or after that date.
- Provides that serious mental injury does not include a parent raising a child consistent with the child's biological sex. This section of the act became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on, before, or after that date.

Create Criminal Offense for Exposing a Child to a Controlled Substance – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec 1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Increase the Punishment for Committing the Offense of Solicitation of Minors by Computer – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Revise Law Prohibiting Sexual Activity by a Substitute Parent or Custodian to Include Religious Organizations or Institutions – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 9

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Protect Minor Victims of and Witnesses to Crime – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 21

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Paternity Matters – Timeshare Foreclosure/Paternity Matters.

SL 2025-75 (H992), Secs. 3 and 4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the PROPERTY, TRUSTS, AND ESTATES subject area.]

Civil Law and Procedure

See full summary documents for additional detail

Perpetual Care of Certain Cemeteries.

SL 2025-68 (H210)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the OCCUPATIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING subject area.]

IOLTA Expenditures – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 25

Section 25 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) prevents funds received by the North Carolina State Bar from banks that represent interest earned on general trust accounts or escrow accounts established by lawyers from being encumbered or expended for any purpose other than administrative costs during the period beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026.

This section of the act became effective July 9, 2025.

Surveyor Right of Entry – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) recodifies the existing limited right of entry by professional land surveyors and removes the requirement that professional land surveyors make reasonable efforts to notify adjoining property owners before conducting surveying activities.

This section became effective October 6, 2025, and applies to acts on or after that date.

Award Attorneys' Fees for Trespass to Real Property or Surveyor Negligence – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 2.5

Section 2.5 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) allows courts to award attorneys' fees in actions for trespass upon real property and in actions against licensed surveyors or their agents in actions where the negligence or deficiency of the professional surveyor or their agent caused physical damage or economic or monetary loss.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Protect the Right to Race – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 26

Section 26 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) provides that a racing facility is not subject to a nuisance action brought by a surrounding property owner within a three-mile radius of the facility if the developer of the racing facility obtained all required permits for construction of the facility before the surrounding property owner either purchased the real property or constructed any building within the three-mile radius.

This section became effective October 6, 2025, and applies to actions commenced on or after that date.

Commercial Law and Consumer Protection

See full summary documents for additional detail

Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 2F.1

Section 2F.1 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) establishes the Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program, administered by the Department of Commerce, to assist small businesses by providing grants to local governments to expedite infrastructure repairs impacting the operation and patronage of small businesses in the area affected by Hurricane Helene. The total grant amount per county is limited to no more than 10% of the total funds appropriated for the program.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Revise Megasites Readiness Program – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 4.2

Section 4.2 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) revises the Megasites Readiness Program as follows:

- Removes the requirement that certain infrastructure be publicly owned to qualify for funding.
- Broadens the scope of qualifying electrical work from "electrical utility lines" to "electric infrastructure."
- Adds a North Carolina nonprofit organization that is tax exempt under 501(c)(12) to the definition of "government partnership."
- Expands the eligible allocation of funds to include purposes beyond site selection and acquisition.
- Requires that money for megasite agreements be disbursed in full to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Selectsite Modifications – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 4.3

Section 4.3 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) does the following:

- Reallocates unspent funds previously allocated to the North Carolina Selectsite Fund to engage a national site selection firm through a competitive bid process to produce a report identifying and evaluating between three and five selectsites that are located in counties declared a Presidential disaster area on September 28, 2024, as a result of Hurricane Helene.

- Expands the eligible uses of previously allocated selectsite funds to include purposes beyond due diligence.
- Increases the number of selectsites that the Selectsite Readiness Program may identify and evaluate from up to 15 selectsites to up to 20 selectsites.
- Requires that money previously appropriated for the Selectsite Readiness Program be transferred in full to the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Provide for Officer Exculpation. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) permits a corporation to set forth in its articles of incorporation a provision limiting or eliminating the personal liability of any officer arising out of an action for monetary damages for breach of any duty as an officer, except for:

- Acts or omissions that the officer knew at the time of the breach were clearly in conflict with the best interests of the corporation.
- Any transaction from which the officer derived an improper personal benefit.
- Acts or omissions occurring before the date the provision became effective.
- Any claim by or in the right of the corporation.

As used in this Part, unless the articles of incorporation otherwise provide, the term "officer" is defined to mean:

- An individual duly appointed by the board of directors as president, chief executive officer, chief operating officer, chief financial officer, chief legal officer, secretary, controller, treasurer, or chief accounting officer of the corporation.
- Any officer of the corporation designated by resolution of the board of directors as an officer for purposes of benefiting from the limitation or elimination of personal liability authorized by this part.

This Part also authorizes the board of directors to determine from time to time by resolution that an officer designated as an officer for purposes of being protected from personal liability pursuant to this Part is no longer so designated. No such resolution will be effective as to an officer, or any act or omission of an officer, prior to its adoption.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Clarify Provisions for Emergency Bylaws and Emergency Powers – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) clarifies that emergency bylaws can only become effective during an emergency if adopted in advance of an emergency. During an emergency, unless the emergency bylaws say otherwise, the board of directors is permitted to postpone a meeting of shareholders for which notice had been given or allow for remote participation. The corporation is required to give notice to shareholders of any postponement and means of permissible remote communication.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Clarify Provisions for Selection of Exclusive Forum. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) allows articles of incorporation to require internal corporate claims to be brought exclusively in any specified court or courts of this State and any additional courts in this State or in any other jurisdiction with which the corporation has a reasonable relationship, provided that personal and subject matter jurisdiction exist. This Part also invalidates any provision in the articles of incorporation or bylaws that prohibit bringing an internal corporate claim in the courts of the State or requires the claims to be determined by arbitration.

As used in this Part, "internal corporate claim" is defined to include:

- A claim based on a violation of a duty under State law by a current or former director, officer, or shareholder in such capacity.
- A derivative proceeding brought on behalf of the corporation.
- An action asserting a claim arising pursuant to any provision of the North Carolina Business Corporation Act, the articles of incorporation, or the bylaws.
- An action asserting a claim governed by the internal affairs doctrine that is not otherwise included in the definition of "internal corporate claim."

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Prohibition Against the Issuance of Scrip in Bearer Form – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) prohibits corporations from issuing scrip certificates or share certificates in bearer form and only allows for the issuance of scrip in certificated or

uncertificated form. Scrip represents fractional shares and will be exchanged for a full share upon surrendering enough scrip to equal a full share. This Part also requires the corporation to deliver to the scrip holder a written statement of the information required for share certificates and the terms of the scrip within a reasonable time after the issuance or transfer of scrip without certificates.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Clarify and Revise Derivative Proceedings Procedures. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) updates and clarifies the law governing derivative proceedings to provide that:

- Before a shareholder commences a derivative proceeding, the shareholder must deliver a written demand to the corporation describing the reasons for the demand and the action being requested.
- If the shareholder is a beneficial shareholder or an unrestricted voting trust beneficial owner, the written demand must be accompanied by evidence of the beneficial ownership.
- A determination that a derivative proceeding is not in the best interests of the corporation can be made before or after the commencement of the derivative proceeding.
- In order to contest this determination, the plaintiff has to allege facts establishing that the statutory requirements for dismissal of the action based on the determination have not been met.
- The plaintiff has the burden of proof on the issue of whether the statutory requirements for dismissal based on the determination have not been met, unless the plaintiff alleges with particularity facts establishing that a majority of the board of directors at the time the determination was made did not consist of independent directors, in which case the corporation has the burden of proving that the statutory requirements have been met.
- The court can order the plaintiff to pay the corporation's reasonable expenses, including attorneys' fees, incurred in responding to the demand or in defending the derivative proceeding if it finds that the demand was made or the proceeding was commenced or maintained without reasonable cause or for an improper purpose.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Make Clarifying and Technical Changes Regarding the Authority of Board Committees – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) allows a board of directors to delegate to a board committee the authority to amend articles of incorporation if the amendment does not require shareholder approval.

This Part became effective June 30, 2025.

Clarify Provisions for Mergers Between Parent Entities and Subsidiary Corporations. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part VII

Part VII of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) clarifies the law governing mergers between a parent unincorporated entity and a subsidiary corporation to:

- Provide that in certain mergers between a parent unincorporated entity and a subsidiary corporation, the parent entity must approve a written plan of merger.
- Remove the requirement that the articles of merger set forth the following:
 - The terms and conditions of the merger.
 - The manner and basis of converting interests in each merging business entity into interests, obligations, or securities of the surviving entity, into cash or other property, or of cancelling the interests.
- Add a requirement that the articles of merger include a statement that the plan of merger has been approved by each merging business entity in the manner required by law.

Part VII of S.L. 2025-33 became effective October 1, 2025.

Electronic Storage of Attested Written Wills by An Attorney – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part VIII

Part VIII of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) does the following:

- Defines the terms "electronic" and "record."
- Authorizes an attorney licensed in this State to create an electronic record of an attested written will at the direction of the testator and during the testator's life. The electronic record must include (i) the attorney's certification that the electronic record is a complete, true, and accurate copy of the attested written will, that (ii) the attorney was authorized by the testator to store it as an electronic record, and that (iii) the testator was advised that the creation of the electronic record eliminates the testator's ability to revoke the attested written will by physical act.

- Authorizes an attorney licensed in this State to create a certified paper copy of an attested written will stored as an electronic record by certifying by affidavit that the paper copy is a complete, true, and accurate copy of that electronic record. These provisions also authorize the probating of the certified paper copy of the attested written will.
- Amends the statute governing the manner of probate for an attested will to also establish the manner of probate for a certified paper copy or an attested written will stored as an electronic record.

Part VIII becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to attested written wills stored as electronic records on or after that date, regardless of the date of execution of the attested written will.

Modification of Emergency Video Sunsets. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part IX

Part IX of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) extends the sunset on the statutory authorization for emergency video notarization and emergency video witnessing to make this authorization expire upon the earlier of 12:01 a.m. July 21, 2026, or the date the Secretary of State issues the first license to an electronic notarization platform.

This Part became effective June 30, 2025.

Updates to Elective Share Statutes – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part X

Part X of S.L. 2025-33 amends the law governing a surviving spouse's claim for an elective share to:

- Provide additional guidance drafting trusts that will count 100% towards the spouse's elective share.
- Clarify that the requirement of a nonadverse trustee must be in place for the duration of the trust, including successor trustees, and that this requirement is met if the surviving spouse serves as his or her own trustee.
- Clarify and simplify the process by which a surviving spouse files a claim for elective share.

This Part becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to elective share claims filed on or after that date.

Trust Administration / Contest Updates. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part XI

Part XI of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) provides that:

- A trustee of a trust that was revocable at the settlor's death cannot distribute trust property to any beneficiary if:
 - The trustee knows of a pending judicial proceeding contesting the identity of the beneficiaries eligible to receive distributions therefrom; or
 - A potential contestant has notified the trustee in writing of a possible proceeding to contest the validity of the identity of the beneficiaries eligible to receive distribution.
- Any distribution made in violation of these provisions will constitute a breach of trust by the trustee.
- Upon motion of a party and after notice to interested parties, a court can make an exception to these provisions on good cause shown, subject to any conditions the court can, in its discretion, impose, including the posting of a bond by the beneficiary.
- A beneficiary whose interest is determined to be invalid is liable to return any distribution received.
- A beneficiary who refuses to return the distribution after being ordered to do so by a court will be liable for all costs incurred for recovery of the distribution, including attorneys' fees.

This Part becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to settlors dying on or after that date.

Revisions To Year's Allowance Statutes – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part XII

Part XII of S.L. 2025-33 (House Bill 388) does the following:

- Clarifies that a proceeding for a spouse's allowance or for a child's allowance is an estate proceeding.
- Clarifies that a child's year's allowance has priority over a spouse's year's allowance when both of the following are true:
 - The surviving spouse fails to petition for the spousal allowance within six months after the decedent's date of death.
 - An eligible person files a petition for a child's allowance before the spouse files a petition for an allowance.
- Clarifies that a child who is at least 18 years old or an emancipated minor at the time of the filing of a petition can file his or her own petition for the child's allowance.
- Removes the provision that allowed a clerk, on the clerk's own motion, to determine that a hearing is necessary to determine whether a year's allowance should be awarded.
- Provides that if no administrator has been appointed, the clerk can disburse estate funds upon motion of the clerk or application of an interested party when both of the following are true:
 - It has been more than six months since the decedent's death.
 - There has been no petition filed and assignment of a spouse's or child's year's allowance.

The provision authorizing the clerk's disbursement of funds when it has been more than six months since the decedent's death and there has been no petition and assignment of a year's allowance became effective June 30, 2025. The remainder of this Part becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to petitions filed on or after that date.

Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws.

SL 2025-41 (S295)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Modernize NC S.A.F.E. Act/Second Mortgage Fee Act.

SL 2025-43 (H762)

S.L. 2025-43 (House Bill 762) does the following:

Modernization of the North Carolina Secure and Fair Enforcement Mortgage Licensing Act (S.A.F.E. Act) – The act reorganizes the Article, makes technical corrections, adds new language to create efficiencies, and harmonizes servicing provisions with federal program requirements. Specifically, the changes include:

- Creating a Part 1 titled "Application, Licensing, Examination, and Enforcement" comprising the existing sections in Article 19B and creating a Part 2 titled "Prudential Standards for Mortgage Servicers," which strengthens the nonbank mortgage servicing supervision framework for which compliance is required to service Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac loans.
- Removing provisions for the transitional licensing of mortgage loan originators and adding provisions to recognize temporary authority, which are changes to conform to federal law.
- Requiring at least three years of residential mortgage lending or servicing experience to be a "qualifying individual" who operates the business under the supervision and control of a mortgage broker, mortgage lender, or mortgage servicer.
- Requiring registration for a mortgage origination support specialist.
- Removing State and federally chartered credit unions that have filed a notice of exemption from the list of exemptions from this Act.
- Providing a list of additional exemptions from the S.A.F.E. Act, which include:
 - A person who receives three or fewer residential mortgage loans as security for purchase money obligations in one calendar year.
 - An estate or trust that receives no more than one residential mortgage loan as security for a purchase money obligation in one calendar year.
 - Any agency of the federal government or any state, local, or municipal government, or their subsidiaries, making or servicing residential mortgage loans.
 - Any bona fide nonprofit that makes or services residential mortgage loans to promote home ownership for improvements for disadvantaged homeowners,

upon filing a notice of exemption with the Commissioner of Banks (Commissioner), so long as soliciting, brokering, making, or servicing residential mortgage loans is not their primary business.

- A trust acting in a fiduciary capacity, upon filing a notice of exemption with the Commissioner.
- A trustee of a trust, created under the laws of this State or the United States, that makes a residential mortgage loan to a qualified beneficiary of the trust or immediate family member, upon filing a notice of exemption with the Commissioner.
- Requiring branch offices of mortgage lenders and brokers to be in the United States and requiring applicants for licensure to have a principal office located in the United States.
- Substituting branch office registration for licensing and eliminating the branch license and associated fees.
- Modernizing mortgage loan origination testing and education provisions to align with national standards.
- Requiring mortgage lenders, brokers, servicers, or registrants to notify the Commissioner where required records will be stored.
- Removing the requirement for each mortgage broker and lender to display its certificate of licensure in public view at the principal and branch offices.
- Making the Commissioner's participation in NMLS discretionary and allowing the Commissioner to determine whether all persons must be licensed or registered through NMLS.
- Creating emergency powers for the Commissioner to waive regulatory requirements on a temporary basis in the event of a natural disaster or other national, regional, State, or local emergency.

Mortgage Fee Alignment – The act provides that the 2% limitation on lender fees and discounts provided by a lender do not apply to a loan secured by a second or junior lien on real property if the total points and fees charged to a borrower by all lenders related to that loan do not exceed the lesser of:

- Amounts specified under federal law.
- 3% of the total loan amount.

The provisions of the act pertaining to mortgage fee alignment became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to loans made on or after that date. The provisions of the act pertaining to the S.A.F.E. Act became effective October 1, 2025.

Clarify Permitted Trade Practices with Respect to Insurance Rebates. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part VI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the INSURANCE subject area.]

Information Rights of Estate/Death of LLC Member.

SL 2025-55 (S307)

S.L. 2025-55 (Senate Bill 307) creates a new type of ownership interest in a limited liability company (LLC) when a person's LLC membership ceases because of the person's death or because of an adjudication by a court that the person is incompetent.

In the event of a person's death or judicial finding of incompetency, that person's estate or designated agent or guardian will automatically become a special economic interest owner. A "special economic interest owner" is defined as a person who owns an economic interest, possesses information rights, and has the right to seek dissolution, but is not a member.

This act became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to requests for information and actions for dissolution commenced on or after that date.

Revisions to Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund Requirements. – JMAC/ABC/Other Revisions.

SL 2025-65 (S664), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-65 (Senate Bill 664) amends the law governing the Job Maintenance and Capital Development Fund (JMAC) to provide that a JMAC grant to a business that has qualified as a major employer will not be reduced for failing to maintain its required employment level unless the employment level falls short by more than 100 employees, at which point the grant will be reduced by 1% for every 1 employee more than 100 by which it falls short of the required employment level.

This Part became effective July 7, 2025, and applies to awards in effect on or after that date.

Perpetual Care of Certain Cemeteries.

SL 2025-68 (H210)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the OCCUPATIONAL BOARDS AND LICENSING subject area.]

Personal Privacy Protection Act.

SL 2025-79 (S416)

S.L. 2025-79 (Senate Bill 416) enacts the "Personal Privacy Protection Act" as new Article 18 in the North Carolina Nonprofit Corporation Act.

Prohibited Agency Actions – Public agencies are prohibited from doing any of the following, except as otherwise required by law:

- Requiring any person or nonprofit organization to provide the agency with personal information or otherwise compelling its release.
- Releasing, publicizing, or otherwise publicly disclosing personal information in the agency's possession.
- Requesting or requiring a current or prospective agency contractor or grantee to list nonprofit organizations to which it has provided financial or nonfinancial support.

The term "personal information" is defined as "any list, record, register, registry, roll, roster, or other compilation of data of any kind that directly or indirectly identifies a person as a member, supporter, volunteer, or donor of financial or nonfinancial support to any nonprofit organization."

Penalties for Violations – A person alleging a violation of these provisions is entitled to bring a civil action in which the court can award injunctive relief; compensatory damages of not less than \$2,500 per violation or three times that amount if the violation was intentional, and court costs, including reasonable attorney's fees and witness fees. In addition, a person who knowingly violates this Article will be guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

If any provision or application of Article 18 is held invalid, then the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of Article 18 that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 9, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Allow Buyer's Agent Compensation to be Included in the Offer to Purchase – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 10

Section 10 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) directs the Real Estate Commission to implement its rule concerning offer and sales contracts to allow preprinted contracts to include provisions regarding the payment of a commission or compensation and to amend its rule consistent with that implementation.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Locked Hearing Aid Disclosures for Hearing Aid Fitters, Dealers, and Audiologists – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Secs. 9 & 9.1

Section 9 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) establishes certain requirements applicable to licensed hearing aid specialists who sell locked hearing aids. This section requires licensed hearing aid

specialists who sell locked hearing aids to provide purchasers with the following written notice in 12-point font type or larger, prior to the sale:

"The locked hearing aid being purchased uses locked, nonproprietary or proprietary locked programming software and can only be serviced or programmed at specific facilities or locations."

The purchaser must sign the written notice prior to completing any sale.

Upon selling a locked hearing aid, the seller must deliver to the purchaser a written receipt that provides, in addition to the information required by G.S. 93D-7, the following information: the date of sale; the make, model, and serial number of the hearing aid; whether the hearing aid is new, used, or reconditioned; the name and license number of each person who sold or provided any recommendation or consultation regarding the purchase; the address and office hours for the licensee's business; and the terms of any guarantee or written warranty made to the purchaser.

Section 9.1 of S.L. 2025-94 establishes requirements for licensed audiologists that are identical to those requirements in Section 9 which are applicable to hearing aid specialists.

These sections became effective October 1, 2025.

Swimming Pool Amendments – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Secs. 16 & 17

Section 16 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) prohibits a local board of health from adopting a rule concerning a private pool serving a single-family dwelling otherwise exempt from regulation by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to G.S. 130A-280.

Section 17 of S.L. 2025-94 rewrites the S.L. 2024-49 exemption for private swimming pools serving a single-family dwelling used only by residents and their guests to apply regardless of whether the guests gain use of the private pool through a sharing economy platform or pay a fee. In cases where a fee is exchanged for pool access, the private pool must be "maintained in good and safe working order."

This section also makes various technical and organizational changes to G.S. 130A-280.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Constitution and Elections

See full summary documents for additional detail

State Board of Elections Exempt Positions/Funds – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2E.3

Section 2E.3 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) appropriates recurring funds to the State Board of Elections for seven new policymaking positions, all of which are also designated as exempt policymaking positions under the North Carolina Human Resources Act.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Courts, Justice, and Corrections

See full summary documents for additional detail

Allow Use of Inmates to Clean up Debris on Public Roads and Roadsides – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.3

Section 5.3 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) does the following:

- Directs the Department of Adult Correction to work with the Department of Transportation to allow inmates to clean up debris from Hurricane Helene found on public roads and roadsides in the affected areas.
- Modifies the provisions guiding the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program litter cleanup pilot program to allow for the cleanup of debris from disasters declared by the President of the United States or by the Governor.

This section of the act became effective March 19, 2025. The provision pertaining to the Statewide Misdemeanant Confinement Program applies to debris removal resulting from disaster declarations made before, on, or after that date.

Birth Certificates for Persons Adopted.

SL 2025-9 (S248)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Authorize Magistrates to Accept for Filing Petitions for Adult Protective Services Emergency Orders After Business Hours and to Hear Ex Parte Motions Regarding the Petitions When a District Court Judge is Unavailable – Department of Health and Human Services Revisions.

SL 2025-27 (H576), Sec. 5.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Emergency Medical Services Personnel Provisions.

SL 2025-42 (H975)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Review of Personnel Records – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) requires a North Carolina law enforcement agency considering an applicant for employment as a sworn law enforcement officer, or sheriff considering an applicant for employment as a deputy sheriff, to request and review the complete personnel file of the applicant of any North Carolina law enforcement agency where the applicant was employed within the previous five years. The previous employer of the applicant must grant the requesting agency access to the applicant's complete personnel file upon receipt of a release signed by the applicant.

This Part became effective July 2, 2025.

Administrative Office of the Court Agency Requests.

SL 2025-54 (H620)

S.L. 2025-54 (House Bill 620) makes various changes to the statutes affecting the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and the courts of North Carolina.

Section 1 adds the newly established High Point University School of Law to the recipient list of State Appellate Division reports.

Section 2 makes a technical correction to replace "drug treatment court" with "local judicially managed accountability and recovery court" (JMARC) for consistency with Article 62 of Chapter 7A of the General Statutes. It also clarifies that Article 62 of Chapter 7A applies to all JMARC regardless of funding source. This section became effective August 1, 2025.

Section 3 prohibits the use of modified AOC forms without proper notice that the form has been modified. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to modified forms used on or after that date.

Section 4 repeals the requirement that a person who wishes to change his or her name must give 10 days' notice of the application by publication at the courthouse. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to applications for a name change filed on or after that date.

Section 5 clarifies that no bond is required of a bank or trust company licensed to do business in this State that has powers or privileges granted in its charter to serve as guardian. A notary public will be permitted to acknowledge a bond. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025.

Section 6 makes technical changes and requires a commission instead of a jury in cases concerning the election of a surviving spouse to take a life interest in lieu of an intestate share. It changes the extension time to qualify or renounce as Executor or Administrator to 20 days. Accounts of an estate filed with the clerk of superior court are required to contain certified copies of wills in any county where the decedent owned real estate after the will is probated. It also

clarifies the procedure for transferring a motor vehicle upon inheritance or devise and the procedure for depositing a will with the clerk of superior court. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025.

Section 7 clarifies that the jurisdiction of superior court judges assigned to a specific case is the same as the jurisdiction of a regular judge over matters arising in the regular judge's district.

Section 8 makes a technical correction to remove a reference to a repealed statute.

Section 9 modifies provisions related to domestic violence protective orders by specifying that the clerk does not have to effect service if the appropriate law enforcement agency is not in North Carolina. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to service of process occurring on or after that date.

Section 10 does the following related to juvenile custody:

- Adds an indictment and an information to the charging documents to be considered when a request for secure or nonsecure custody of a juvenile is made.
- Updates G.S. 7B-1904 to facilitate the procedure in G.S. 15A-960 to remove a case from superior court back to juvenile court.
- Modifies the process for release of an obligor from a juvenile's bond if the case is removed to juvenile court.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to proceedings occurring on or after that date.

Section 11 requires clerks to send copies of inpatient commitment orders to the entities or physicians responsible for providing treatment within 48 hours of the hearing. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to orders issued on or after that date.

Section 12 includes retirement as a reason a judge can be unavailable in proceedings regarding judicial settlement. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to actions taken on or after that date.

Section 12.2 requires AOC to prescribe rules for any training or educational material provided to jurors and prohibits the court from providing jurors with any training or educational material not allowed under AOC rules. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to training or educational material provided on or after that date.

Section 12.3 provides that except for original stenomask audio files and audio files of digital recording technicians, audio recordings created by court reporters are not public records and can be disclosed to the parties or the public only to the extent allowed by a court order for good cause shown.

Section 12.4 clarifies when a landlord is permitted to charge reasonable attorneys' fees to a tenant if an eviction is based on a default other than the nonpayment of rent. This section is effective retroactively to September 9, 2024.

Section 12.5 modifies the mandatory retirement statutes for superior court judges and district court judges. Under previous law, no superior court judge or district judge could continue in office beyond the last day of the month in which the judge attains 72 years of age. This section allows superior court judges and district judges to continue serving until the last day of the calendar year in which the judge attains 72 years of age. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to judicial retirements on or after that date.

Section 13 establishes a procedure regarding the suspension, removal, or reinstatement of Clerks of Superior Court. This section became effective July 2, 2025, and applies to proceedings based upon clerk conduct occurring on or after that date.

Section 14 clarifies who can serve as a Business Court Judge and what cases can be designated as complex business cases. It also clarifies which cases can be appealed. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to judges designated and proceedings held on or after that date.

Section 15 grants the AOC Director the authority to create an official flag, seal, and other emblems of the judicial branch.

Section 16 clarifies the authority of the AOC Director to set the number of magistrates within a county above the minimum required for that county.

Section 17 clarifies the requirements for the disbursement of expenses to personnel of the judicial department.

Section 18 modifies mediated settlement procedures in superior court and district court. Specifically, evidence from mediated settlement conferences pursuant to G.S. 7A-38.1, G.S. 7A-38.3B, G.S. 7A-38.3D, and G.S. 7A-38.4A are admissible in proceedings for abuse, neglect, or dependency of a juvenile or proceedings for abuse, neglect, or exploitation of an adult.

Section 19 clarifies the authority of a senior resident superior court judge in the event of disability of another judge. It also requires a special license plate issued to a senior resident superior court judge serving in districts 7A, 7B, 8A, 8B, 8C, 9A, 9B, 15A, 15B, 43A, and 43B to also include the letter associated with the district's number.

Section 20 grants the North Carolina State Bar the authority to discipline out of state attorneys practicing law in North Carolina.

Section 21 allows for certain physical documents to be converted to an electronic format for filing with the General Court of Justice.

Except as otherwise provided above, this act became effective July 2, 2025.

Revise Law Governing the Granting of Immunity to Witnesses – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Require Certain Petitions Pertaining to Sex Offender Registration be Placed on the Criminal Docket – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 5

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Revise Law Governing the Recording of Court Proceedings – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 11

Section 11 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies the law related to recording of court proceedings to require that arguments of counsel on questions of law be recorded upon motion of a party or upon the judge's own motion.

This section became effective July 9, 2025, and applies to proceedings commenced on or after that date.

Remove Concurrent Sentencing Default – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 19

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Extend Sunset Date for Use of Guards at State Prisons – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 22

Section 22 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) extends the sunset date for the use of private security guards at state prisons from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

This section became effective on July 9, 2025.

Modify Law Governing Electronic Signatures of Court Documents – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 24

Section 24 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) allows the chief district court judge and senior resident superior court judge of their respective districts to establish rules to allow for the court's manual signature on orders of the court executed outside of court and fee application orders.

This section became effective July 9, 2025, and expires two years after that date.

Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act.

SL 2025-85 (H318)

S.L. 2025-85 (House Bill 318) does the following:

- Modifies the list of offenses for which the administrator of a jail or confinement facility must attempt to determine legal residency of a prisoner to include the following:
 - Any felony.
 - A Class A1 misdemeanor under the unborn victims statutes, the rape and other sex offenses statutes, or the assaults statutes.
 - Any violation of a domestic violence protective order.
 - Any offense involving impaired driving.
- Requires a judicial official determining conditions of pretrial release to attempt to determine legal residency for the same offenses applicable to prisoners, and if unable to determine legal residency, commit the defendant to a facility to be fingerprinted and held for a period of two hours after a query to Immigration and Customs Enforcement of the United States Department of Homeland Security (ICE). If ICE does not issue a detainer and administrative warrant for the defendant within the two-hour period, the defendant will be released pursuant to the terms and conditions of the pretrial release order. If the facility receives an ICE detainer and administrative warrant for the defendant within the two-hour period, the defendant will be taken before a judicial official for processing based on the ICE detainer and administrative warrant.
- Requires a person subject to a court order based on receipt of an ICE detainer and administrative warrant to be held for 48 hours after the time the person would otherwise be released from the facility unless ICE takes custody of the person or ICE rescinds the detainer.
- Requires the facility holding a person subject to a court order based on receipt of an ICE detainer and administrative warrant to notify ICE, not more than 2 hours after the person

would otherwise be released, of the date and time the 48 hours will expire using the manner indicated on the detainer and administrative warrant.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This act became effective October 1, 2025. The section of the act pertaining to the legal status of prisoners applies to any person confined in or released from a facility on or after that date, and the section of the act pertaining to pretrial release proceedings applies to persons appearing before a judicial official for a determination of pretrial release conditions on or after that date.

Sale of Mainframe and Related Technology Components – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 5.1

Section 5.1 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) allows the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) to sell its mainframe computing system and related components on terms that AOC deems to be in its best interests and without involvement of the State Surplus Property Agency.

This section became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Remote Public Access Fees – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 5.2

Section 5.2 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) clarifies the authority of the Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts to enter into contracts under reasonable terms with third parties to provide remote electronic access to certain court records and clarifies that funds recovered pursuant to any such agreements must be remitted to the State Treasurer to be held in the Court Information Technology Fund.

This section became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Iryna's Law.

SL 2025-93 (H307)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Criminal Law and Procedure

See full summary documents for additional detail

Transfer North Carolina Center for Missing Persons to the State Highway Patrol – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 5.1

Section 5.1 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) corrects the earlier move of the State Highway Patrol away from the Department of Public Safety by addressing and moving the Center for Missing Persons to the new independent State Highway Patrol and amends and establishes alerts that may be issued by the Center for Missing Persons.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Clarification on Safe Surrender of Infants – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 5.4

Section 5.4 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) provides that a parent who safely surrenders an infant less than 30 days old will not be prosecuted under the misdemeanor child abuse statute for any acts or omissions related to the care of that infant, which harmonizes the misdemeanor child abuse statute with the same change previously made in other statutes. This section also provides that the safe surrender of an infant less than 30 days old can be treated as a mitigating factor in sentencing for a felony child abuse conviction.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Revisions Regarding Permanent No Contact Orders and Felony Child Abuse – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-16 (House Bill 612) expands the offenses for which a permanent no contact order may be issued by the court at sentencing and modifies felony child abuse laws.

Permanent No Contact Orders

This part expands the ability of a court to issue a permanent no contact order against a defendant at sentencing as follows:

- Expands the offenses for which the order may be issued to include any Class A through G felony and any offense of strangulation inflicting serious injury. Previously, the order was only allowed for offenses requiring sex offender registration.

- Authorizes the court to include members of the victim's immediate family in the order, if the immediate family members are specifically identified.

Felony Child Abuse

This part modifies the offense of felony child abuse as follows:

- Broadens the applicability of the Class D felony for committing or allowing the commission of any sexual act upon a child less than 16 to apply to any person providing care to or supervision of the child. Previously, the offense required the person to be a parent or legal guardian.
- Adds an additional Class B2 felony for a parent of or any other person providing care to or supervision of a child less than 16 years of age who intentionally and routinely inflicts physical injury on the child and deprives the child of necessary food, clothing, shelter, or proper physical care for the purpose of causing fear, emotional injury, or deriving sexual gratification.
- Provides that "grossly negligent omission", which is a term used in several existing provisions, includes the failure to report a child as missing to law enforcement as provided in G.S. 14-318.5(b).

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Criminal History Record Check Requirement for Applicants Offered a Position for City and County Employment Working With Children – Fostering Care in NC Act.

SL 2025-16 (H612), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-16 (House Bill 612) requires local governments to run criminal history record checks with the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) for any person offered employment in any position with the local government that will require the employee to work with children in any capacity. Any offer of employment in those positions must be conditional pending the results of the criminal history record check through the SBI.

This part became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to offers of employment on or after that date.

Theft of Temporary Housing During Emergency – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) provides that the offense of trespass during an emergency occurs when a person unlawfully enters upon the premises of another person in an emergency area during a declared state of emergency when the usual security of property is not

effective due to the occurrence or aftermath of the emergency that prompted the declared state of emergency.

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-18 also increases the penalty for looting temporary housing. Specifically, it provides that any person who commits the crime of trespass during an emergency under G.S. 14-288.6(a) and unlawfully takes or damages the temporary housing of another, or unlawfully takes property from the temporary housing of another, is guilty of looting and is punished as a Class F felon. Looting property other than temporary housing is punishable as a Class H felony.

The term "emergency area" is defined to mean the geographical area covered by a declared state of emergency. The term "temporary housing" includes the following:

- Any structure being used for human shelter which is designed to be transportable and is not permanently attached to the ground, another structure, or a utility system.
- A vehicle being used as temporary living quarters.
- Any equipment used to transport or deliver a temporary living structure or vehicle.
- Any item attached or intended to be attached to a temporary living structure or vehicle that provides air conditioning, heating, or a source of power.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Support Implementation of Capacity Restoration Pilot Programs – Department of Health and Human Services Revisions.

SL 2025-27 (H576), Sec. 6.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Allow Certain Schools to Apply for Re-Accreditation by the Criminal Justice Education and Trainings Standards Commission – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 5

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Emergency Medical Services Personnel Provisions.

SL 2025-42 (H975)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Eliminate Required Inspection of Window Tint and Require Drivers with Tinted Windows to Roll Down on Approach of Law Enforcement – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 22

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Parents Protection Act.

SL 2025-59 (S442)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CHILDREN AND FAMILIES subject area.]

Create Criminal Offense for Exposing a Child to a Controlled Substance – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) creates new criminal offenses for exposing a child under the age of 16 to a controlled substance. Any person who "knowingly, intentionally, or with reckless disregard for human life" causes or permits a child to be exposed to a controlled substance is guilty of a felony.

The classification of offense is determined by the degree of harm caused, as follows:

- Causing exposure – Class H felony.
- Causing exposure resulting in the child ingesting the controlled substance – Class E felony.
- If the ingestion results in serious physical injury – Class D felony.
 - Serious physical injury is physical injury that causes great pain and suffering, including serious mental injury.
- If the ingestion results in serious bodily injury – Class C felony.
 - Serious bodily injury is bodily injury that creates a substantial risk of death or that causes serious permanent disfigurement, coma, a permanent or protracted condition that causes extreme pain, or permanent or protracted loss or impairment of the function of any bodily member or organ, or that results in prolonged hospitalization.
- If the ingestion is the proximate cause of death – Class B1 felony.

The offense does not apply to a person that intentionally gives a child a controlled substance that has been prescribed for the child by a licensed medical professional when given to the child in the prescribed amount and manner.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses on or after that date.

Revise Laws Pertaining to the Disclosure and Release of Autopsy Information Compiled or Prepared by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Increase the Punishment for Committing the Offense of Solicitation of Minors by Computer – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 3

Section 3 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) increases the punishment for committing the offense of solicitation of minors by computer as follows:

- A first violation is increased from a Class H felony to a Class G felony.
- A second or subsequent violation, or a first violation committed when the defendant had a prior conviction for a substantially similar offense, is a new offense and is punishable as a Class E felony.
- The punishment for a defendant who actually appears at the meeting location with the minor is increased from a Class G felony to a Class D felony.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Revise Law Governing the Granting of Immunity to Witnesses – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) removes the requirement that the district attorney inform the Attorney General prior to applying to the court for an order to compel a witness to testify when that order would grant the witness immunity after the witness has asserted, or is likely to assert, a privilege against self-incrimination.

This section became effective July 9, 2025, and applies to applications made on or after that date.

Require Certain Petitions Pertaining to Sex Offender Registration be Placed on the Criminal Docket – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 5

Section 5 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies the process related to petitions to terminate sex offender registration by requiring the clerk of court upon receipt of the petition from the

petitioner to collect the applicable filing fee and place the petition on the criminal docket to be calendared by the district attorney.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to petitions filed on or after that date.

Allow Persons Outside of this State to File for a Domestic Violence Protection Order – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies the law related to domestic violence protective orders so that a person who resides outside of North Carolina may seek a protective order for certain acts that have occurred in North Carolina.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to motions filed on or after that date.

Revise Requirement Under the Crime Victims Compensation Act That Criminally Injurious Conduct Be Reported to Law Enforcement Within 72 Hours of Its Occurrence – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 7

Section 7 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) amends the reporting requirement under the Crime Victim's Compensation Act to allow a victim 6 months, rather than 72 hours, to report the criminally injurious conduct to law enforcement and still be eligible for benefits under the act.

This section became effective July 9, 2025, and applies to applications filed on or after that date.

Revise Criminal Offense of Secretly Peeping into Room Occupied by Another Person – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies the criminal law related to secretly peeping into a room occupied by another person by updating certain definitions and modifying certain offenses.

G.S. 14-202 generally provides that it is a Class 1 misdemeanor to "peep secretly" into any room occupied by another person or underneath the clothing of another person. Higher penalties attach to certain aggravating conduct. Previously, subsection (e) provided that "Any person who secretly or surreptitiously uses any device to create a photographic image of another person underneath or through the clothing being worn by that other person for the purpose of viewing the body of, or the undergarments worn by, that other person without their consent shall be guilty of a Class I felony."

S.L. 2025-70 deletes this language and replaces it with the following: " Unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, any person who, with the intent to create a photographic image of a private area of an individual without the individual's consent, knowingly does so under circumstances in which the individual has a reasonable expectation of privacy shall be guilty of a Class I felony."

Additionally, any person who secretly peeps into a room while possessing a device capable of creating a photographic image, with the intent to create that image, is guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses on or after that date.

Revise Law Prohibiting Sexual Activity by a Substitute Parent or Custodian to Include Religious Organizations or Institutions – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 9

Section 9 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies G.S. 14-27.31, which prohibits sexual activity by a substitute parent or custodian to include religious organizations or institutions. G.S. 14-27.31(b) prohibits a person having custody of a victim of any age or a person who works for an institution having custody over a person from engaging in sexual activity with the person. Section 9 modifies this law to provide that an institution having custody over a person includes a "religious organization or institution." This section also creates a new definition of "custody" to clarify that definition.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Clarify that all Felony School Notifications are limited to Class A through Class E Felonies – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 10

Section 10 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies G.S. 7B-3101 to clarify that a juvenile court counselor is only required to notify the juvenile's school if the juvenile committed what would be a Class A through E felony, if committed by an adult.

This section became effective July 9, 2025.

Increase Punishment for Fentanyl Offenses – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 14

Section 14 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) modifies the North Carolina Controlled Substances Act to provide for increased penalties related to the possession and sale of fentanyl and carfentanil. The punishment is increased as provided below:

- Possession of fentanyl and carfentanil is increased from a Class I felony to a Class H felony.
- Sale, delivery, and possession with intent to sell or deliver fentanyl and carfentanil is increased from a Class G felony to a Class F felony.
- Trafficking offenses for possession of fentanyl and carfentanil are increased as provided below:
 - 4 grams or more, but less than 14 grams is increased from a Class F felony to a Class E felony.
 - 14 grams or more, but less than 28 grams is increased from a Class E felony to a Class D felony.
 - 28 grams or more remains a Class C felony.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Set Limits on Motions for Appropriate Relief in Noncapital Cases – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 15

Section 15 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) provides that in a noncapital case, a defendant may file a postconviction motion for appropriate relief (MAR) based on any of the enumerated grounds within 7 years of one of the triggering events. A defendant is permitted to file an MAR based on one of the enumerated grounds at any time with the consent of the district attorney.

These provisions also allow a defendant to raise any of the following claims at any time after the verdict:

- Good cause exists for excusing the grounds for denial and actual prejudice results from denial of the defendant's claim, or that failure to consider the defendant's claim will result in a fundamental miscarriage of justice.
- There has been a significant change in law applied in the proceedings and retroactive application is required.
- The defendant is in confinement and is entitled to release because his sentence has been fully served.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to verdicts entered on or after that date.

Repeal Filial Responsibility Crime – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 16

Section 16 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) repeals G.S. 14-326.1 which made it a crime for a person to fail to maintain and support their parents if the parents are sick or not able to work and not able to support themselves. The offense was a Class 2 misdemeanor generally, and a Class 1 misdemeanor for a second or subsequent offense.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Clarifying Changes Regarding Misdemeanor Crime of Domestic Violence – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 17

Section 17 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) makes the following clarifying changes regarding a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence:

- Misdemeanor assaults, batteries, and affrays (G.S. 14-33) must not be a lesser included offense of misdemeanor crime of domestic violence (G.S. 14-32.5).
- A person is guilty of habitual misdemeanor assault if that person (i) commits a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, and (ii) has two or more prior convictions for misdemeanor assault, felony assault, or a violation of a misdemeanor crime of violence, with the earlier of the two prior convictions occurring no more than 15 years prior to the date of the current violation.
- An officer may make an arrest without a warrant if the officer has probable cause to believe that a person has committed a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence.
- In a case where a defendant is charged with a violation of a misdemeanor crime of violence, the judicial official who determines the conditions of pretrial release shall be a judge.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Create Felony Crime of Habitual Domestic Violence – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 18

Section 18 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) creates the felony crime of habitual domestic violence. A person is guilty of habitual domestic violence if that person commits an offense under the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence statute, or commits an assault where the person is related to the victim by a relationship described in the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence statute, and has two or more prior convictions that include either of the following combination of offenses, with the earlier of the prior convictions occurring no more than 15 years prior to the date of the current violation:

- Two or more convictions under the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence statute.
- One prior conviction under the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence statute and at least one prior conviction involving assault where the person is related to the victim by a relationship set forth in the misdemeanor crime of domestic violence statute.

A person convicted of this offense is guilty of a Class H felony for the first offense. Subsequent convictions are punished at a level which is one offense class higher than the offense class of the most recent prior conviction, not to exceed a Class C felony.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Remove Concurrent Sentencing Default – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 19

Section 19 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) removes the default of a concurrent sentence if not expressly stated by the court and requires the court to make a finding on the record stating its reasoning for determining whether sentences shall run concurrently or consecutively.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Retrieval of Firearms, Ammunition, and Permits Surrendered Pursuant to an Ex Parte, Emergency, or Permanent Domestic Violence Protective Order – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 20

Section 20 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) amends the laws regarding retrieval of firearms, ammunition, and permits surrendered pursuant to a domestic violence protective order (G.S. 50B-3.1) as follows:

- Authorizes the sheriff to release surrendered firearms to the defendant without a court order if the defendant is not otherwise prohibited from having a firearm and one of the following occurs:
 - The court does not enter a protective order when the ex parte or emergency order expires.
 - The protective order is denied by the court following a hearing.

Prior to releasing the firearms, the sheriff must conduct a criminal history check through the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) and verify that the defendant is not prohibited from possessing or receiving a firearm pursuant to federal law and that the defendant does not have any pending criminal charges committed against the person that is the subject of the current protective order or pending charges that, if convicted, would prohibit the defendant from possessing a firearm.

- Allows third-party owners to file a motion requesting return of seized firearms at any time following seizure and prior to their disposal. Previously, third-party owners only had 30 days after seizure to file a motion.

- Authorizes a sheriff to file a motion to dispose of seized firearms under any of the following circumstances:
 - 90 days after the expiration of an order or final disposition of any pending criminal charges if no motion has been filed by the defendant or a third-party owner requesting return.
 - The court has determined that the third-party owner is precluded from regaining possession.
 - The defendant or third-party owner fails to remit all fees within 30 days of a request to retrieve the firearm.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to firearms, ammunition, and permits surrendered on or after that date. Beginning February 1, 2026, this section also applies to firearms, ammunition, and permits surrendered before December 1, 2025.

Protect Minor Victims of and Witnesses to Crime – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 21

Section 21 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) provides that the contents of any "911" or other emergency telephone call where the caller is less than 18 years of age are not public record.

This section became effective July 9, 2025.

Allow Law Enforcement Agencies with Online Reporting Systems to Accept Reports of Lost or Stolen Firearms from Individuals – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 23

Section 23 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) allows any local law enforcement agency that has an online crime reporting system to also allow individuals to file online reports of lost or stolen firearms. Online reports of lost or stolen firearms submitted to any local law enforcement agency are not public records under State law. Any person who willfully makes or causes to be made a false report of a lost or stolen firearm is guilty of a violation of the statute governing false reports to law enforcement agencies or officers.

This section became effective October 1, 2025.

The Law and Order Act.

SL 2025-71 (S311)

S.L. 2025-71 (Senate Bill 311) does the following:

- Increases the punishment for committing an assault against a utility or communications worker to a Class 1 misdemeanor. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

- Creates new criminal offenses related to the unlawful sale and possession of embalming fluid, with the penalties ranging from a Class I felony to a Class D felony. These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Amends the Workplace Violence Prevention laws to include mass picketing and allows an employer who has suffered unlawful conduct at the workplace to obtain a civil no-contact order. These provisions became effective July 9, 2025, and apply to acts or omissions occurring on or after that date.
- Establishes an offense for entering a part of a building not open to the public with the intent to commit an unlawful act, with a first offense being a Class 1 misdemeanor and any subsequent offenses being a Class I felony. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Establishes the offense of larceny of gift cards, which is punishable as a Class 1 misdemeanor if the value of the gift card is not more than \$1,000. Any other violation is punishable as a Class H felony. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Revises the organized retail theft offense laws to include offenses involving gift cards, with the penalty ranging from a Class H felony to a Class C felony depending on the aggregate value of gift cards stolen. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Provides civil liability for the new offense of larceny of gift cards. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Creates a new Class H felony for possession of an explosive or incendiary device or material under certain circumstances. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Increases the penalty for reckless driving to a Class 1 misdemeanor if the reckless driving causes serious injury and a Class A1 misdemeanor if the reckless driving causes serious bodily injury. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Increases the penalty for unlawful street racing to a Class H felony if the speed competition causes serious injury and a Class G felony if the speed competition causes serious bodily injury or death and increases the penalties for hit and run offenses that result in death. These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Amends the current statute on possession of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon to create additional offenses:
 - Possession of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon during the commission or attempted commission of certain felonies is a Class F felony.
 - Possession and brandishing of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon during the commission or attempted commission of certain felonies is a Class D felony.
 - Possession and discharge of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon during the commission or attempted commission of certain felonies is a Class C felony.

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

- Enhances the punishment for larceny of mail by requiring a person convicted of larceny to be sentenced at one class level higher than the principal offense if the larceny is of mail. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Revises the offenses of first and second degree burglary and creates an enhancement for burglary when committed by a person in possession of a firearm, revises the offense of breaking out of a dwelling and creates an enhancement when committed by a person in possession of a firearm, and creates an enhancement for the offense of breaking or entering buildings generally when committed by a person in possession of a firearm. These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Establishes a mitigating factor for certain persons charged with impaired driving who voluntarily equip and operate a motor vehicle with an ignition interlock system prior to trial. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Prohibits the use of immobilization devices on commercial motor vehicles for parking enforcement purposes. A violation of this provision is a Class 2 misdemeanor. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Requires towers of a nonconsensual tow or a tow pursuant to the direction of a law enforcement officer to promptly return commercial cargo to the owner of the commercial cargo upon request and provides for circumstances under which a tower must allow for a trailer swap. This provision became effective July 9, 2025.
- Reduces the waiting period to obtain eligibility to petition to expunge one nonviolent misdemeanor to three years. This provision became effective July 9, 2025, and applies to petitions filed on or after that date.

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 9, 2025.

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-71, which creates new offenses regarding possession of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon, is similar to the provisions in Section 15.5 and Section 15.6 of Senate Bill 50. Senate Bill 50 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 12, 2025, and vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025.

Reduce Concealed Handgun Fees for Certain Veterans – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) reduces the concealed handgun permit application and renewal fees for individuals who were discharged honorably or under general honorable

conditions from military service in the Armed Forces of the United States. An applicant claiming a reduced fee based on previous military service must provide one of the following:

- A Form DD-214 showing the applicant has been discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions.
- A Veterans Identification Card issued by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Other documentation (i) showing the applicant was discharged honorably or under general honorable conditions and (ii) deemed satisfactory by the sheriff.

If the applicant provides this documentation, the application fee for a concealed handgun permit is \$45.00, and the renewal fee is \$40.00. The proceeds of these fees are remitted to the Department of Public Safety.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to applications for concealed handgun permits and permit renewals submitted on or after that date.

Authorize Sheriffs to Send Permit Expiration Notice via Email – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part VII

Part VII of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) authorizes a sheriff to send the holder of a concealed handgun permit the statutorily required notice regarding the expiration of a permit holder's concealed handgun permit via electronic mail, rather than first class mail, if the permit holder consents to receive electronic communications. The permit holder may consent to receive electronic communications on the permit application. The State Bureau of Investigation is required to create a separate paper form that a permit holder may submit to the sheriff to provide or revoke their consent to receive electronic communications.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Enact Harrison's Law to Revise the Criminal Offense of Hazing – Harrison's Law.

SL 2025-73 (S375), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-73 (Senate Bill 375) modifies the offense of hazing as follows:

- Modifies the offense of hazing committed by a student so that it is punished as a Class A1 misdemeanor.
- Creates a new offense prohibiting hazing by school personnel that is punished as a Class I felony. School personnel include teachers, school administrators, and coaches.

Hazing is defined as "subjecting a student to physical or serious psychological injury as part of an initiation, or as a prerequisite to membership, into any organized school group, including any society, athletic team, fraternity or sorority, or other similar group."

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Personal Privacy Protection Act.

SL 2025-79 (S416)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805)

S.L. 2025-84 (House Bill 805) does the following:

- Provides that the following definitions apply to all administrative rules, regulations, or public policies of North Carolina and its political subdivisions, unless otherwise specified:
 - Biological Sex. – The biological indication of male and female in the context of reproductive potential or capacity, such as sex chromosomes, naturally occurring sex hormones, gonads, and nonambiguous internal and external genitalia present at birth, without regard to an individual's psychological, chosen, or subjective experience of gender.
 - Boy. – A minor human male.
 - Father. – A male parent.
 - Female. – A term that when used to refer to a natural person, means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex characterized by a reproductive system with the biological function of producing ova (eggs).
 - Gender identity. – A term that means an individual's self-declared identity that may not align with biological sex and, being a subjective internal sense, shall not be treated as legally or biologically equivalent to sex.
 - Girl. – A minor human female.
 - Male. – A term that when used to refer to a natural person, means a person belonging, at conception, to the sex characterized by a reproductive system with the biological function of producing sperm.
 - Man. – An adult human male.
 - Mother. – A female parent.
 - Woman. – An adult human female.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2026.

- Enacts Article 51A of Chapter 66 of the General Statutes, which is entitled "Prevent Sexual Exploitation of Women and Minors Act." This Article does the following:
 - Requires online entity operators to comply with certain age verification and written consent requirements for individuals appearing in pornographic images.
 - Requires online entity operators to establish certain procedures for removing a pornographic image upon request and to prominently display a notice on its website or mobile application that provides instructions on how to request removal of a pornographic image.
 - Prohibits users of online entities from distributing or publishing a pornographic image of an individual to the online entity without that individual's consent.
 - Authorizes the Attorney General to impose civil penalties on online entity operators for violations of this Article.
 - Authorizes civil actions against online entity operators and users of online entities for certain violations of this Article.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to acts or omissions occurring before, on, or after that date.

- Prohibits State funds from being used to fund surgical gender transition procedures, puberty-blocking drugs, or cross-sex hormones for any prisoner incarcerated in the State prison system or the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program or otherwise in the custody of the Department of Adult Correction, or to support the administration of any governmental health plan or government-offered insurance policy offering surgical gender transition procedures, puberty-blocking drugs, or cross-sex hormones to any prisoner incarcerated in the State prison system or the Statewide Misdemeanor Confinement Program or otherwise in the custody of the Department of Adult Correction. This provision does not apply to the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees. This section became effective July 1, 2025. The exemption for the State Health Plan for Teachers and State Employees expires 30 days after the Memorandum and Order, dated June 10, 2022, or the permanent injunction ordered therein in *Kadel v. Folwell*, 1:19CV272 is vacated, overturned, or is no longer in force.
- Provides that certain causes of action for malpractice under G.S. 1-15 arising out of the performance of or failure to perform services while in the course of facilitating or perpetuating gender transition must be commenced within 10 years from the time of discovery by the injured party of both the injury and the causal relationship between the treatment and the injury against the offending medical professional or entity. This section became effective July 29, 2025, and applies to causes of action accruing before, on, or after that date.
- Provides that when the sex of a person is changed on an amended or new birth certificate, the State Registrar will attach the new certificate to the certificate of birth then on file and will preserve both certificates as a multi-page document. The State Registrar will forward a copy of the new certificate to the register of deeds of the county of birth. The register of deeds of the county of birth will attach the new certificate to the copy of the certificate of birth on file. The register of deeds will preserve both certificates as a multi-page document. Thereafter, when a certified copy of the certificate of birth of the

person is issued, it will be a copy of the multi-page document. The State Registrar will adopt rules and policies to implement these requirements. This section becomes effective December 1, 2025.

Please note that the summaries for sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 of S.L. 2025-84 can be found in the Education subject area of this publication.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 29, 2025.

Excuse Students with Religious Objections – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Parent Access to Library Books – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Restrictions on Sleeping Quarters – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Department of Labor Modifications – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 4.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT subject area.]

Iryna's Law.

SL 2025-93 (H307)

S.L. 2025-93 (House Bill 307) enacts "Iryna's Law" and makes changes to various criminal and court procedures.

Pretrial Release

The act makes several changes to the pretrial release laws as follows:

- Requires law enforcement to share any relevant behaviors of a defendant the officer has observed with a judicial official determining conditions of pretrial release.
- Creates a new definition of "violent offense" and provides additional requirements for pretrial release of defendants charged with a violent offense or who have a significant criminal history.
- Provides a new procedure to address defendants with mental health concerns. If a defendant is: (i) charged with a violent offense and court records indicate that the defendant has been involuntarily committed within the prior three years, or (ii) charged with any offense and the judicial official has reasonable grounds to believe the defendant is a danger to themselves or others, the judicial official shall enter an order including all the following:
 - Require the defendant to receive an initial examination by a commitment examiner.
 - Require the arresting officer to transport the defendant to a hospital emergency room or other crisis facility with certified commitment examiners for the initial examination.
 - Require the commitment examiner to either (i) petition for involuntary commitment, or (ii) provide written notice to the judicial official that there are no grounds to file a petition for involuntary commitment.
 - Provide that, except as provided below, if a petition for involuntary commitment is filed, the custody of the defendant is determined by that process during the pendency of the petition, any hearings, or involuntary commitment orders issued.
 - Provide that if a defendant has not met all other conditions of pretrial release, if no involuntary commitment petition is filed, no involuntary commitment custody order is issued, or at any time the involuntary commitment provisions would otherwise release the defendant, the defendant must be held in the local confinement facility in the county where pretrial release conditions were set until all conditions of pretrial release are met by the defendant.
- Creates a rebuttable presumption that no condition of release will reasonably assure the appearance of a defendant and the safety of the community if the defendant is charged with a violent offense, and requires that if conditions of pretrial release are set, a secured bond, and in some instances house arrest, must be ordered. Judicial districts that do not currently have house arrest available are directed to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with a vendor to provide this service.
- Provides that if a defendant has been convicted of 3 or more offenses (Class 1 misdemeanor or higher) within the prior 10 years, a judicial official may only release the defendant under the conditions of a secured bond, or with house arrest with electronic monitoring.
- Directs judicial officials to make written findings of fact in all cases where pretrial release is authorized for defendants subject to these new pretrial release conditions.
- Removes a written promise to appear from the options for pretrial release conditions.

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to persons appearing before a judicial official for the determination of pretrial release conditions on or after that date.

Aggravating Factor

The act provides that the commission of the offense by the defendant while the victim was using a public transportation system is an aggravating factor to be considered in felony sentencing and capital sentencing.

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Modify Suspension of Magistrates

The act makes changes to rules governing magistrates as follows:

- Requires that rules of conduct for magistrates include rules regarding conflicts of interest.
- Authorizes the Chief Justice to suspend a magistrate.
- Expressly provides that failure of a magistrate to make written findings of fact that are required by statute is grounds for suspension and removal. However, a magistrate may not be removed from office for the first incident of failure to make written findings.

Direct the Collaboratory to Study Mental Health and the Justice System

The act directs the North Carolina Collaboratory to study the following:

- The intersection of mental health in the justice system for both adults and juveniles in North Carolina.
- The availability of house arrest as a condition of pretrial release in each county or judicial district.
- Methods of execution other than those currently authorized by State law.

Additionally, the North Carolina Collaboratory is authorized to reallocate up to \$1,000,000 of funds previously appropriated to the Collaboratory to conduct the studies required.

Prohibit the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice

The act provides that the Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice, created by the Governor's Executive Order No. 145, and extended by Executive Order No. 273, which has expired, may not be recreated except by act of the General Assembly.

Modify Death Penalty Proceedings

The act modifies the timing and venue of proceedings in death penalty cases as follows:

- Requires automatic review by the North Carolina Supreme Court and any post-conviction motions for appropriate relief be heard within 24 months of filing or entry of judgment. Any extension beyond that time must include a written finding of extraordinary circumstances that provide good cause for the extension of time. These provisions apply: (i) to motions filed and judgments entered on or after December 1, 2025, and (ii) to motions filed or judgments entered prior to, and any motions pending on, December 1, 2025, except that any motion filed or judgment entered more than 24 months prior to December 1, 2025 shall be heard or reviewed no later than December 1, 2027, and shall be scheduled for hearing or review no later than December 1, 2026.
- Modifies the venue for post-conviction proceedings in capital cases to provide that any filing, claim, or proceeding related to the conviction, sentencing, treatment, housing, or execution of a defendant that has been convicted of a capital offense and sentenced to death is in the county of conviction. This provision applies to any filings made and any proceedings or hearings held on or after December 1, 2025.

The act also provides that lethal injection is the default method of execution in North Carolina; however, it allows for the use of other methods of execution if lethal injection is found to be unconstitutional or is not available for another reason. Upon such an event, the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction is required to select another method of execution that has been adopted by another state that has not been declared unconstitutional by the United States Supreme Court. All challenges to a method of execution that have been declared unconstitutional are subject to direct appeal to the North Carolina Supreme Court. These provisions are effective when they become law.

Modify the Procedures for Involuntary Commitment of a Defendant Found Incapable of Proceeding

The act modifies laws governing the custody of a person found incapable of proceeding in a criminal trial and their underlying charges as follows:

- Authorizes the district attorney to make a motion prior to the dismissal of criminal charges for the court to determine whether the defendant should be evaluated pursuant to Chapter 122C of the General Statutes for involuntary commitment.
- Provides that criminal charges dismissed due to incapacity to proceed are not expunged by operation of law.
- Requires notice to additional parties for actions regarding a defendant found incapable to proceed as follows:
 - Requires the clerk to provide notice of any inpatient commitment hearing for a defendant found incapable to proceed to the chief district judge and the district attorney in the county in which the defendant was found incapable of proceeding if the defendant's custody order indicates that the defendant was charged with a violent crime.

- Requires a facility to notify the district attorney in the county in which the defendant was found incapable of proceeding before the defendant is discharged or conditionally released.
- Provides that if the district attorney elects to represent the State's interest in either of these matters, upon motion of the district attorney, the venue for the hearings, rehearings, and supplemental rehearings is the county in which the respondent was found incapable of proceeding.

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to dismissals and proceedings occurring or commitment proceedings initiated on or after that date.

Extend Terms of Probation and Post-Release Supervision for Certain Juvenile Offenders and Clarify Victim's Notification Rights

The act makes the following changes to probation and post-release supervision of a juvenile adjudicated delinquent:

- Authorizes an additional 1 year extension of probation, not to exceed a total of 3 years, for a juvenile adjudicated of an offense that would be a Class A, B1, or B2 felony if committed by an adult.
- Requires the term of post-release supervision be 3 years for a juvenile adjudicated of an offense that would be a Class A, B1, B2, or C felony if committed by an adult.
- Requires notification to any victim that has requested notification, and an opportunity to be heard, for any termination of probation or post-release supervision for a juvenile.

These provisions become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

Additional Assistant District Attorneys and Legal Assistants in Mecklenburg County

The act appropriates funds for 10 additional full-time assistant district attorneys and 5 full-time legal assistants in Mecklenburg County beginning fiscal year 2025-2026.

This provision became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Require Authorization for Release of Violent Involuntary Commitment Respondents Prior to Hearing

The act modifies the procedure for involuntary commitment to provide that if the custody order directing a respondent be taken to a 24-hour facility for examination states that the respondent has had a conviction for a violent offense within the previous 10 years and has been subject to an involuntary commitment order within the previous 5 years, the respondent may not be released from the 24-hour facility until one of the following occur:

- The court orders the respondent's release following the district court hearing.

- The physician has provided written certification to the court of several factors, and a district court judge has issued an order authorizing the respondent's release prior to the district court hearing.

This provision becomes effective December 1, 2027, and applies to custody orders issued on or after that date.

Except as otherwise provided above, this act became effective October 3, 2025.

Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

Ratified (H96)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Freedom to Carry NC.

Ratified (S50)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

University of North Carolina Constituent Institutions to Comply with Laws Related to Immigration – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153), Part VI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Disaster Relief

See full summary documents for additional detail

Disaster Recovery Appropriation, Transfer, and Programs – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-A

Subpart II-A of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) requires the State Controller to transfer the sum of \$299 million dollars from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund to the Helene Fund, and appropriates \$524 million from that fund as follows:

- \$120 million to the Department of Commerce, Division of Community Revitalization for the Home Reconstruction and Repair Program.
- \$200 million to the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for the Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program.
- \$100 million to the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety for the Private Road and Bridges Repair and Replacement Program.
- \$55 million dollars for the Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program.
- \$20 million to the Office of State Budget and Management to distribute to State agencies and units of local government for debris and sedimentation removal unmet needs.
- \$10 million to the Office of the State Fire Marshal to disburse grants to small and volunteer fire departments in counties in the affected area that qualify for Individual and Public Assistance Categories C-G to cover expenses incurred due to Hurricane Helene, to purchase equipment, or to make capital improvements to assist with readiness for future emergency response.
- \$10 million to the Division of Emergency Management of the Department of Public Safety to disburse grants to any member organization of Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs) actively involved in actual and ongoing repair and reconstruction projects.
- \$4 million to the Department of Commerce for the nonprofit corporation with which the Department contracts for targeted media campaigns to encourage both in-State and out-of-state tourists to return to areas impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- \$9 million to the Department of Public Instruction for the School Extension Learning Recovery Program.

This subpart also makes various amendments to rental assistance provisions in S.L. 2024-53, The Disaster Recovery Act of 2024 – Part II, to authorize that eligible recipients can receive up to two assistance payments as determined by county departments of social services (previously one payment capped at a U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's measure).

This subpart also makes 2024 appropriation adjustments to transfer unused Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program appropriations to effectuate the Department of Commerce \$4 million appropriation for targeted media campaigns described above.

The additional rental assistance provision became effective retroactively to October 25, 2024. The appropriations and appropriation adjustment provisions became effective March 19, 2025.

Close Out Operations Provide Emergency Relief – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-B

Subpart II-B of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) does the following:

- Repeals the Office of Recovery and Resiliency's (NCORR) statutory authority effective October 1, 2026.
- Transfers \$121 million from the Savings Reserve, \$96 million from the State Emergency Response and Disaster Relief Fund, and the unexpended amount from the Hurricane Florence Disaster Recovery Fund to NCORR for completion of the homeowner recovery program for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence. Funds revert on October 1, 2026.
- Sets certain benchmarks for NCORR to meet regarding the issuance of notices to proceed and the total amount of unawarded projects by July 1, 2025, excluding withdrawn or ineligible projects, with requirements for NCORR to report on these benchmarks to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Fiscal Research Division.
- Mandates a monthly reporting requirement, which began August 1, 2025, to continue to oversee NCORR homeowner recovery programs for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence, until NCORR is dissolved on October 1, 2026.
- Changes the State Auditor's reporting requirement of NCORR's use of funds to support homeowner recovery projects under Rebuild NC from quarterly to monthly.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-C

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Agricultural Crop Loss Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-D

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE subject area.]

Small Business Infrastructure Grant Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 2F.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

School Extension Learning Recovery Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 2G.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Extension of State of Emergency – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Part III

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Extension of Expiration Dates for Certain Regulatory Requirements – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.1

Section 5.1 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) extends the expiration dates of 10 regulatory flexibility provisions from S.L. 2024-51 (Helene I), S.L. 2024-53 (Helene II), and S.L. 2024-57 (Helene III) to the expiration of Executive Order No. 315 as extended by law.

The extended provisions pertain to (i) drinking and wastewater infrastructure, (ii) administrative dissolution of businesses, (iii) state employment, (iv) building permits and inspections, (v) construction, (vi) modular dwellings, and (vii) concealed handgun permits.

This section applies retroactively to March 1, 2025, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

Facilitate Permanent Installation of Broadband Infrastructure – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the UTILITIES subject area.]

Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Funeral Establishment Exemption Waiver – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.6

Section 5.6 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) amends the authority of the Board of Funeral Service to exempt funeral establishments from preparation room and reposing room requirements for up to two years (an increase from 180 days), and amends the ability for a funeral establishment to petition the court to extend the exemption period up to either three years from the date of loss or one year from the date of the court's order, whichever is greater.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Reconstruction of Nonconforming Residential Structures – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.7

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

School Calendar Flexibility and School Nutrition Compensation – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.8

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Extend Quality Improvement Plan Flexibility – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.9

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Utility Emergency Authority – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.10

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the UTILITIES subject area.]

Extend the Time-Limited Removal of Barriers to Allow Retirees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System to Return to Work on a Part-Time, Temporary, or Interim Basis – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.11

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the RETIREMENT subject area.]

Delay 2024 North Carolina State Building Code Effective Date. – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.12

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Agricultural Disaster Crop Loss Program Correction – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 1A.2(a)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE subject area.]

Local Government FEMA Loan Reimbursement from Previous Disasters – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 1A.3

Section 1A.3 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) authorizes units of local government that received State loan funds pursuant to previously enacted legislation responding to Hurricanes Matthew, Florence, Michael, and Dorian, to assist with cashflow management while awaiting federal reimbursement to apply to the Department of Public Safety's Office of Recovery and Resiliency for forgiveness of all or part of the outstanding loan principal and interest if:

- The unit of local government applied for Public Assistance reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and that application was denied, in whole or in part.
- The unit of local government does not have any active appeals or active arbitrations for Public Assistance reimbursement from FEMA.
- The project worksheet has been closed.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Nondiscrimination in State Disaster Recovery Assistance – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Secs. 2 and 3

Sections 2 and 3 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) make it a Class I felony for the State, or its agencies and employees, to deny or discriminate against a United States citizen, United States national, or qualified alien for disaster recovery assistance based on political affiliation or political speech. These sections also prohibit the State from requiring any applicant for any State emergency assistance in the form of grants to provide any personal demographic information unless that information is necessary to award the grant or to otherwise comply with State or federal law.

The portion of the act creating a Class I felony becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date. Section 3 became effective June 26, 2025.

Theft of Temporary Housing During Emergency – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Automatic State Adoption of Any Temporary Federal Relief Issued by the Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services or the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 5

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Authorize a Temporary Exemption from Certain State Building Code Requirements Pertaining to Fire-Resistant Windows for Downtown, Commercial Structures Damaged by Hurricane Helene – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 6

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Historic Flood Event Building Code Exemptions (Replacing or Reconstructing Existing Buildings). – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 7

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Historic Flood Building Code Exemption (Vegetative Debris) – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 8

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Historic Flood Event Building Code Exemption (Composting) – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 9

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Hurricane Helene Local Government Capital Grant Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Subpart II-B

Subpart II-B of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) creates the Hurricane Helene Local Government Capital Grant Program (Program), administered by the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), to disburse grants to units of local governments or federally recognized tribes in the Helene-affected area for capital projects in the affected area in accordance with the Program requirements. OSBM must disburse grants to eligible recipients under a damage per capita formula developed from Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) damage estimates and reports in the affected area from Hurricane Helene. The grants must be used for capital projects to repair, renovate, or replace infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene. These capital projects must be projects that have been denied eligibility for FEMA Public Assistance reimbursement. OSBM must prioritize grants to an eligible recipient with a population of 300,000 or fewer based on the 2023 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer and that qualify, in whole or in part, for FEMA Public Assistance Categories C through G. OSBM may not award more than the following percentages of the funds appropriated for the Program:

1. 20% to one county, including grants to units of local government within that county.
2. 5% per eligible recipient.
3. 5% per zip code if that zip code only qualifies for FEMA Public Assistance Categories A through B.

OSBM must submit a report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee, and the Fiscal Research Division no later than six months after the application period for this Program opens, and every six months thereafter until all funds are expended. The report must include, at a minimum, the following:

1. The number of grants disbursed and to which eligible recipients.
2. The proposed uses for each grant.
3. The average and median amounts of the grants disbursed under the Program.

This section became effective June 27, 2025.

Hurricane Helene Flood Mitigation Grant Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Subpart II-C

Subpart II-C of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) establishes the Hurricane Helene Flood Mitigation Grant Program (Program). Funds appropriated in this act to North Carolina Emergency Management (NCEM) for the Disaster Relief and Mitigation Fund must be used to provide funds to the Program to provide flood mitigation grants to local governments and nonprofit organizations to undertake flood mitigation projects in the affected area. Recipients of grants under the Program are not required to cost-share or match and are to be paid under a reimbursement model for eligible costs incurred.

Projects that receive grants under the Program must reduce the risk of future damage from flooding through structural or nonstructural measures through the following:

- Culvert or bridge retrofits or replacements.
- Stormwater and drainage system improvements.
- Relocation of at-risk infrastructure.
- Hardening of critical facilities and utilities.

Local governments may also apply for engineering assistance grants under the Program which may be used to identify and design shovel-ready projects related to flood mitigation.

NCEM and the Program are subject to the following restrictions:

- NCEM must not award a grant larger than (i) 10% to a single recipient or (ii) 20% to a single county, of the total funds appropriated in this act for the Program.
- NCEM may retain up to 1.5% of the funds appropriated for the Program for administrative expenses.

This subpart became effective June 27, 2025.

Aerial Asset Accessibility Grant Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Subpart II-D

Subpart II-D of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) creates the Aerial Asset Accessibility Grant Program (Program), administered by the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management (NCEM), for the purposes of repairing damage from Hurricane Helene and to improve airfield property to increase emergency preparedness and disaster response. Eligible recipients for a grant awarded under this Program are limited to persons or units of local government that own an airport that (i) is currently in operation or (ii) was in operation prior to Hurricane Helene and not currently in operation but for damage from Hurricane Helene and meet certain criteria. Eligible recipients are subject to prioritization by NCEM. Grants must not exceed \$5 million per eligible recipient, and a single county must not receive more than two grants. NCEM must submit a report to the chairs of the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division no later than six months after the application period for this Program opens, and every six months thereafter until all funds are expended.

This subpart became effective June 27, 2025.

Dam Safety Grant Fund – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Subpart II-E

Subpart II-E of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) creates, within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), a special, nonreverting account known as the Dam Safety Grant Fund (Fund) to issue grants to eligible dam owners for the purpose of dam repair, modification, or removal, if the dam was damaged by a natural disaster. In administering the Fund, DEQ's Division of Energy, Mineral, and Land Resource shall prioritize grants to serve as the State match for eligible projects based on the Risk-Based Prioritization Method established under the federal High Hazard Potential Dams (HHPD) Rehabilitation Grant Program. Grants from the Fund may also be awarded to projects not eligible for the federal match pursuant to the HHPD Rehabilitation Grant Program if the dam was damaged by a natural disaster and classified as high hazard. DEQ must report annually to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources on the Fund and grants disbursed from the Fund.

This section became effective June 27, 2025.

Disaster Recovery Constituent Portal – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Subpart II-F

Subpart II-F of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) requires the Department of Information Technology to issue a request for proposals for the development and creation of a disaster relief portal to operate as a central platform for relevant updates and constituent services in response to natural

disasters in the State. The portal must consolidate relevant State and federal resources into a single, centralized portal where affected citizens can engage with State agencies, find resources, and receive real-time information.

This subpart became effective June 27, 2025.

Additional Budgetary Funding Availability and Regulation – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) makes additional budgetary funding availability and regulation by:

- Further extending the state of emergency issued by the Governor in Executive Order No. 315, as extended, to October 1, 2025.
- Appropriating approximately \$686 million in federal disaster funding to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund for allocation in accordance with eligibility criteria for the purposes of wastewater treatment works, drinking water facilities, and decentralized wastewater treatment systems in the State impacted by Hurricane Helene.
- Extending the terms of water infrastructure loans, enacted by Section 4C.7(j) of S.L. 2024-53, as amended by Section 1D.10 of S.L. 2024-57, from June 30, 2030 to June 30, 2035.
- Clarifying the Governor may only reallocate contingency and emergency funds on a nonrecurring basis.
- Authorizing demolition of Black Mountain Home for Children structures if approved by the Chief Financial Officer, Chancellor, and Board of Trustees of North Carolina State University.
- Specifying that for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, program administrators for State and local projects funded from the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund and grants awarded by the State Water Infrastructure Authority from the State Drinking Water and Wastewater Reserves, shall prioritize applicants from counties that (i) were designated, in whole or in part, by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development as the most impacted and distressed counties from Hurricane Helene and (ii) have a population of 300,000 or fewer based upon the 2023 Certified County Population Estimates from the State Demographer.

This part became effective June 27, 2025.

Reversion, Limitations on Use of Funds, Audit, and Reporting of Funds – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part II.

SL 2025-26 (H1012), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-26 (House Bill 1012) places several restrictions and requirements on the use of disaster relief funds, including that:

- Funds appropriated by the act must be reverted to the Savings Reserve if not spent or encumbered by June 30, 2030.
- A recipient of State funds under the act must take all reasonable steps to obtain alternative funds, including insurance and federal aid, to cover the losses or needs for which the State funds are provided, and must return the State funds if the recipient does obtain those alternative funds.
- The Governor may not use these funds to make budget adjustments, and must ensure that these funds are allocated in a manner that does not adversely impact any person or entity's eligibility for federal aid.
- The Office of State Budget and Management, the Governor, and the State Auditor must report on the appropriations and allocations provided for in this act, in addition to their existing disaster relief funding reporting requirements.

This section became effective June 27, 2025.

Alena's Law & Office of Vital Records Changes.

SL 2025-44 (H537)

S.L. 2025-44 (House Bill 537) made changes to laws pertaining to receivership proceedings to administer the property of missing persons, specifically to:

- Provide that a federal written finding of presumed death is considered prima facie evidence of death by a judge or is considered sufficient evidence of death to be submitted to a jury, as applicable.
- Provide that the disappearance and continued absence, for at least 90 days, of a person that coincides with a State or federally declared disaster declaration creates a rebuttable presumption of death.
- Require that the complaint filed in superior court to initiate a receivership proceeding includes, as applicable, the existence of a federal written finding of presumed death or an averment of disappearance and continued absence for at least 90 days coincident to a State or federally declared disaster.

The act also requires the Office of Vital Records and local register of deeds offices to process birth and death certificate amendments within 30 days after receipt of the completed application, required proof, and payment of the applicable fee. It also prohibits telework by employees of the Office of Vital Records, except in certain circumstances.

This act became effective July 1, 2025. The provisions that relate to receivership proceedings apply to complaints for actions for receiver filed on or after that date.

Education

See full summary documents for additional detail

School Extension Learning Recovery Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 2G.1

Section 2G.1 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) requires local school administrative units (LEAs) in the following counties affected by Hurricane Helene to offer a School Extension Learning Recovery Program (Program) following the 2024-2025 school year for students in grades four through eight: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey. Any charter school within any of these counties can elect to participate in the Program.

To be eligible for the Program, students must have been enrolled in a participating LEA or charter school during the 2024-2025 school year. The Program must give first priority to students who have not reached proficiency in reading or mathematics by the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Participation is voluntary and the parent or guardian of a student must provide consent for a student to enroll in the Program.

Whenever possible, a student must participate at the school the student was enrolled in for the 2024-2025 school year. A student who was enrolled in a charter school that elects not to participate in the Program can attend the Program in the participating LEA closest to the student's residence.

A participating LEA or charter school must develop and submit a plan to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for its Program no later than 30 days prior to the final instructional day of the 2024-2025 school year. DPI must notify the participating LEA of any recommended changes within 21 days.

The plan for the Program must meet the following requirements:

- Is separate and apart from the 2024-2025 school year rather than an extension of the school year.
- Includes at least 72 hours of instruction that meets the following:
 - Includes at least three hours of daily instructional time (excluding time for lunch, transition periods, and physical activity).
 - Includes at least one hour of enrichment activity, such as sports, music, or arts.
 - Includes a period of physical activity during the instructional day.
 - Does not provide instruction on Saturdays.
 - Provides instruction in person.
 - Provides grade level course offerings in reading, mathematics, or a combination of both.

- Provides meal service for each instructional day.
- Provides transportation services to the school.
- Identifies the assessment that will be administered at the beginning and end of the Program to evaluate student progress.

Participating LEAs and charter schools must employ teachers and other school personnel as temporary employees on a contract basis. These temporary employees are not considered employees or teachers for the purposes of the Teachers and State Employees Retirement System (TSERS) or the State Health Plan and their earnings are not treated as compensation for the purpose of TSERS. Additionally, these employees are not eligible to accrue paid leave during their temporary employment.

Participating LEAs and charter schools must select assessments from a list provided by DPI for students to complete at the beginning and conclusion of the Program. Assessment results must be shared with all teachers of record for that student for the 2025-2026 school year.

By October 15, 2025, participating LEAs and charter schools must report all of the following to DPI:

- The number of students offered first priority enrollment in the Program, and the total number of students that enrolled in the Program.
- The attendance record of enrolled students.
- Results of the assessment given to students at the beginning and end of the Program.
- The number of students who progressed to the next grade level and the number of students who were retained in the same grade level after participating in the Program.

By January 15, 2026, DPI must report on the following to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC):

- Implementation of the Program.
- The information required to be reported by participating LEAs to DPI.
- A copy of each Program plan submitted to DPI, including any changes recommended by DPI, the reason the change was recommended, and whether the recommendation was followed.
- Any other data or information DPI deems relevant.

The Office of Learning Research at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (OLR) must study the effectiveness of the Program. OLR must report the results of the study to the JLEOC by January 15, 2027.

This section appropriates \$9 million to DPI for the Program. Any remaining funds will revert to the Helene Fund on October 15, 2025.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

School Calendar Flexibility and School Nutrition Compensation – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.8

Section 5.8 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) addresses school calendar flexibility and school nutrition compensation for counties affected by Hurricane Helene.

School Calendar Flexibility: For instructional days or equivalent hours missed due to Hurricane Helene between December 2024 and February 2025, the governing body of a specified public school unit can, in its discretion, do the following: (i) make up any number of the instructional days or equivalent hours missed, (ii) deem as completed any number of the instructional days or equivalent hours missed up to a total of 10 days, or (iii) implement a combination of both of these options. The section only applies to public school units in the following counties: Ashe, Avery, Buncombe, Burke, Haywood, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Rutherford, Transylvania, Watauga, and Yancey.

All employees and contractors of public school units that have been granted school calendar flexibility are deemed to have worked for any scheduled instructional days missed due to inclement weather during the months of December 2024 through February 2025 if the public school unit deemed the instructional time was completed. Employees and contractors must be compensated as if they had worked on the scheduled instructional days that were missed.

School Nutrition Compensation: Of the disaster recovery funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) in S.L. 2024-51, DPI must provide compensation to public school employees and contractors of schools participating in the National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program for scheduled instructional days when compensation would have been provided by school meal receipts or by federal funds either (i) as authorized by the provision deeming those days to have been worked or (ii) for a scheduled instructional day that was conducted remotely. Employees and contractors compensated using funds described in this section must be compensated in the same manner they would have been compensated if they had worked on the scheduled instructional days that were missed or provided remotely.

If the funds appropriated are insufficient to provide for the authorized compensation, DPI must develop uniform criteria to determine the comparative economic need of public school units and prioritize those with the greatest economic need when awarding available funds.

Reporting Requirements: By May 1, 2025, DPI was required to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly on the following information for each public school unit that was allowed calendar flexibility and school nutrition compensation:

- The number of instructional days or hours missed due to inclement weather from December 2024 through February 2025, the number of days deemed completed as allowed by this section, and any makeup days scheduled for missed days from December 2024 through February 2025.

- Any compensation provided to employees and contractors as allowed by this section.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Revise Deadline for University of North Carolina Report on State Budget Allocations and Policies – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 2.1

Section 2.1 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) changes the deadline for the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to submit a report on the actions and adjustments necessary to its budgetary policies, regulations, and standards resulting from the Current Operations Appropriation Act to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division from February 1 of each year to March 1 of each year.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

University of North Carolina Board of Governors Temporary Employment Authority – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 2.2

Section 2.2 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) adds student-oriented professionals and temporary employees to the list of employees of The University of North Carolina who are exempt from most provisions of the Human Resources Act (HRA). These employees continue to be covered by Article 6 of the HRA related to equal employment and compensation opportunities and Article 7 of the HRA related to privacy of employee personnel records.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2026.

University of North Carolina School of the Arts Building Purchase – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 7.2

Section 7.2 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) appropriates \$4.5 million from funds available in the Office of State Budget and Management Flexibility Funds to the University of North Carolina School of the Arts Foundation. These funds are nonrecurring for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to be used to purchase real property and for a new loading dock.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Expand and Codify Free School Group Admission – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 6

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

University of North Carolina Tuition Discounts for Certain Students.

SL 2025-17 (H373)

S.L. 2025-17 (House Bill 373), as amended by Section 2.4 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358), allows constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina (UNC) to discount tuition to qualifying military students up to the difference between the maximum amount of military tuition assistance funds received by the student and the applicable tuition. Qualifying military students are those that are residents of the State for tuition purposes and receive either (i) federal military tuition assistance funds, or (ii) military tuition assistance for members of the North Carolina National Guard.

This act also allows constituent institutions to discount tuition to students who are enrolled in an employer-sponsored financial support program approved by the Board of Governors of UNC (BOG). The discount can be up to the difference between the maximum amount provided by the employer and the applicable tuition. Any employer-sponsored financial support program is a program in which the employer of a student has committed to providing financial support to the student to offset the costs of tuition or fees for the student's degree or credential program.

No later than February 15 of each year, the BOG is required to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the discounted tuition provided in the previous academic year for qualifying military students and students enrolled in employer-sponsored financial support programs, including the number of students that received the discounts and the annual financial impact on each constituent institution because of the discounted tuition.

This act became effective June 26, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Department of State Treasurer Technical Corrections/Administrative Changes 2025.

SL 2025-19 (H476)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the RETIREMENT subject area.]

Designate the Department of Health and Human Services as the State Agency Responsible for Managing School Nurse Funds – Department of Health and Human Services Revisions.

SL 2025-27 (H576), Sec. 1.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Internet Safety Policy – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-38 (House Bill 959) requires local boards of education to adopt policies on student access to the internet on devices or internet services provided by local school administrative units (LEAs). The policies must do all of the following:

- Limit access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and materials.
- Protect the safety and security of students when accessing email, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communication.
- Prohibit unauthorized access by students to data or information maintained by the LEA, including by "hacking" and other unlawful online activities.
- Prevent access to websites, web applications, or software that do not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of a student's personal information.
- Prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes.

This section became effective July 1, 2025. Local boards of education must adopt required policies by January 1, 2026.

Social Media and Mental Health – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-38 (House Bill 959) requires the standard course of study to include instruction on social media and its effects on health, including social, emotional, and physical effects. Instruction must be provided once during elementary school, once during middle school, and twice during high school. In addition, this instruction must include information on at least the following:

- Negative effects of social media on mental health, including addiction.
- Distribution of misinformation on social media.
- Methods of manipulating behavior using social media.
- The permanency of information shared online.
- How to maintain personal security.
- How to identify cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on the internet.
- How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet.

- Personal and interpersonal skills or character education that enhances individual level protective factors and mitigates or reduces risk-taking or harmful behavior.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

Regulation of Wireless Communication Devices – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 3

Section 3 of S.L. 2025-38 (House Bill 959) requires governing bodies of public school units to establish a wireless communication policy that prohibits students from using, displaying, or having a wireless communication device turned on during instructional time, except in the following circumstances:

- If authorized by a teacher for educational purposes or for use in the event of an emergency.
- As required by the student's individualized education program (IEP) or Section 504 Plan.
- As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.

The governing body is required to establish the consequences of violations of the policy, which can include confiscation of the wireless communication device and disciplinary measures under the public school unit's Code of Student Conduct.

Each governing body is required to submit its policy to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI). DPI must annually report by October 1 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number of public school units that are in compliance with this requirement and provide a list of any units that are not.

This section became effective July 1, 2025. Governing bodies must adopt the policy by no later than January 1, 2026.

Residency Licenses for Certain Nonpublic Exceptional Children's Teachers – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-38 (House Bill 959) authorizes certain nonpublic schools to request a residency license. A residency license is a one-year teaching license that can be renewed twice. The nonpublic school is authorized to request a residency license if it meets both of the following:

- Meets the nonpublic school requirements in either Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
- Is approved and monitored by the Department of Public Instruction to provide special education and related services pursuant to a student's individualized education program.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to applications for residency licenses occurring on or after that date.

Allow Certain Schools to Apply for Re-Accreditation by the Criminal Justice Education and Trainings Standards Commission – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-38 (H959), Sec. 5

Section 5 of S.L. 2025-38 (House Bill 959) requires the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission to allow any school that received a suspension of its accreditation for at least four years to apply for re-accreditation after serving two years of the suspension.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to suspensions occurring on or before that date.

School Contracted Health Services.

SL 2025-40 (S77)

S.L. 2025-40 (Senate Bill 77) requires local educational agencies (LEAs) to contract with the parent's choice of nurse when providing nursing services pursuant to a child's individualized education program (IEP) if the following conditions are met:

- The child received nursing services from the nurse (i) prior to the nursing services being required by the child's IEP or (ii) prior to the child enrolling in his or her current school.
- The parent's choice of nurse is employed by a nursing agency and willing to provide the nursing services required by the child's IEP.
- The nursing agency employing the parent's choice of nurse is willing to enter into a contract with the LEA that otherwise meets all standard contract terms required for any other nursing agency contracted by the LEA, including licensing and liability requirements.
- The contracted rate is equal to or less than the contracted rate of other nurses contracted by the LEA.

Nursing services are defined as services that can only be provided by a nurse licensed in accordance with Article 9A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes. The act does not limit the LEA's responsibility to provide a free appropriate public education.

This act became effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Leon's Law – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) requires the State Board of Community Colleges to direct each community college to adopt a policy that requires a minor student to complete a form, prior to registration in any course at the community college, acknowledging the following:

- To the extent allowed under the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the education records of a minor student must be provided to the student's parent as long as the parent has not opted out of receiving the education records.
- To the extent allowed under FERPA, the education records of a minor student must be provided to the school administrators and school counselors at the school in which the student is dually enrolled.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Expand Academic Transition Pathways for Sophomore High School Students – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) was repealed by the enactment of S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125) on July 3, 2025.

Nondiscriminatory Admissions Evaluations and Military Deferment – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) was repealed by Section 2.5 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) on September 30, 2025.

Protect Certain Tax-Advantaged Accounts – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) exempts the following funds from liens, attachment, garnishment, levy, seizure, any involuntary sale or assignment by operation or execution of law, or the enforcement of any other judgment or claim to pay any debt or liability of any account owner, beneficiary, or contributor to the account:

- Funds located in a 529 Plan or withdrawn from a 529 Plan and used for purposes permitted by section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code. This section's increased protections replace previous exemptions from creditors for 529 Plans.
- Funds located in an ABL account or withdrawn from the account and used for purposes permitted under section 529A of the Internal Revenue Code.

The protections provided under this Part do not apply to the following:

- Any state claims, following the death of the ABL account owner, to reimburse the state's Medicaid program for benefits received by the participant after the establishment of the ABL account.
- Funds that were not used for a qualifying purpose under federal law.
- Funds deposited into a qualifying 529 Plan or ABL account as a result of fraud, intentional wrongdoing, or other violation of law.

Part VI became effective September 1, 2025, and applies to actions filed on or after that date.

Authorization for Name, Image, and Likeness Agency Contracts – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part VII

Part VII of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) modifies the Uniform Athlete Agents Act to allow student-athletes to use registered agents for the purpose of representation in name, image, and likeness contracts (NIL contracts).

NIL contracts are defined as contracts between the student-athlete and another entity where the student-athlete receives consideration in exchange for use of the student-athlete's name, image, or likeness. The Part authorizes a student-athlete to enter into a contract, called an NIL agency contract, with a registered athlete agent to negotiate NIL contracts. Those contracts must contain a warning to student-athletes that an NIL contract conflicting with law or institutional policies could have negative consequences. The NIL agency contract can be cancelled by the student within 14 days. These contracts are distinguished from professional sports services agency contracts, where an athlete entering into an agreement to negotiate a professional sports contract would lead to the loss of amateur status.

This Part also prohibits athlete agents who currently or within the prior two years have been in an employment or contractual relationship with an educational institution from entering into NIL agency contracts with student-athletes enrolled in that educational institution. Additionally, any NIL agency contract with an athlete agent who has such a connection to an educational institution is void if the student-athlete subsequently enrolls in that educational institution.

Part VII became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to NIL agency contracts entered into on or after that date.

Public Records Exemption for Certain Name, Image, and Likeness Contracts – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part VIII

Part VIII of S.L. 2025-46 (House Bill 378) exempts records related to a student-athlete's name, image, and likeness contract from being public records subject to disclosure.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025, and applies retroactively to all records related to a student-athlete's name, image, and likeness contract ever in the possession of an institution of higher education.

Regulation of Drivers Education Offered by Commercial Driver Training Schools – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Criminal History Checks for Drivers Providing Transportation Services to Children Pursuant to Contracts with Local Boards of Education – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 12

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Authorize Use of Electronic Speed-Measuring Systems in School Zones – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 13

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Allow Physical Therapists in School Concussion Protocol.

SL 2025-49 (H928)

S.L. 2025-49 (House Bill 928) adds physical therapists licensed under Article 18E of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes to the list of medical professionals approved to evaluate students who have exhibited signs of concussion when participating in an interscholastic athletic activity and provide written clearance for the students to return to play or practice in the athletic activity.

This act became effective July 2, 2025.

Reorganization of Chapter 115D and Conforming Changes – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-56 (S125), Parts I & II

Parts I and II of S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125), as amended by Section 2.3 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358), reorganize Chapter 115D of the General Statutes as follows:

- Divides Article 1, "General Provisions for State Administration," into the following Parts:
 - Establishment and Administration of the North Carolina Community Colleges System.
 - Administration of Local Community Colleges by State Board of Community Colleges.
 - Community College Programs.
 - Students.
- Creates a new Article 2B, "High School Programs."
- Divides Article 3, "Financial Support," into the following Parts:
 - Funding of Community Colleges.
 - Tuition and Fees.
- Repeals and recodifies statutes to place them in the appropriate Article and Part.

Part II makes the necessary conforming changes to reflect the reorganization of Chapter 115D.

These Parts became effective July 3, 2025.

Various Statutory Changes – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-56 (S125), Part II.5

Part II.5 of S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125) does the following:

- Allows the State Board of Community Colleges to approve the use of up to 15% of the funds appropriated for the Customized Training Program for the training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Program services.
- Allows all qualified high school students to participate in the CTE pathways, removing the restriction to specific pathways for freshmen and sophomore students.
- Codifies the Career and College Ready Graduate program as a pathway under the Career and College Promise program and allows high school juniors to participate, including during the summer preceding their junior year.
- Allows the Community Colleges System Office to use up to 4% of the funds appropriated for the NC Career Coach Program for administrative costs, including staffing, professional development, and program management and evaluation.
- Allows the State Board of Community Colleges to evaluate the success rate of students in credit-bearing Math or Science courses.

This Part became effective July 3, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Residency Licenses for Certain Nonpublic Exceptional Children's Teachers – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-56 (S125), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125) was repealed by Section 2.6 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) on September 30, 2025.

Extend Reversion Date for School Safety Grant Funds – Various Education Changes.

SL 2025-56 (S125), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125) extends the reversion date for funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction for the School Safety Grants Program from June 30, 2025, to June 30, 2027.

This Part became effective June 30, 2025.

Allow Use of Epinephrine Nasal Spray in Addition to Auto-Injectors – Improve Health and Human Services.

SL 2025-60 (S600), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-60 (Senate Bill 600) expands reference to epinephrine delivery systems in statutes governing public schools to include nasal sprays in addition to auto-injectors.

This Part became effective July 3, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Registered Nurses in Schools – Improve Health and Human Services.

SL 2025-60 (S600), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-60 (Senate Bill 600) clarifies that the State Board of Education (SBE) cannot impose a four-year degree requirement for an individual to be hired or contracted for as a school nurse. In addition, this section requires that a school nurse be paid on the certified nurse pay scale as established by the SBE if the nurse is a registered nurse licensed under Article 9A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes and has at least two years of experience serving in a hospital or health clinic.

This Part gives the SBE authority to adopt temporary rules until permanent rules can be adopted. The Department of Public Instruction must conform salary manuals with this section's requirements.

Part V became effective July 3, 2025, and applies to school nurses hired or contracted for on or after that date.

North Carolina Community College System Learning Management System/North Carolina Longitudinal Data System.

SL 2025-62 (S133)

S.L. 2025-62 (Senate Bill 133) does the following:

- Directs the State Board of Community Colleges (SBCC) to solicit a learning management system (LMS) for all community colleges.
- Provides the Community College System Office (System Office) with an exemption from the Department of Information Technology (DIT).
- Makes changes to the statutes related to the North Carolina Longitudinal Data System (NCLDS).

Community College Learning Management System. – Section 1 of the act requires the SBCC to conduct a competitive solicitation to provide an LMS to all community colleges by December 31, 2025. The transition to the new LMS must be completed by December 31, 2027. Answers to the competitive solicitation must include information about how the LMS would align with the systems (i) offered by the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and (ii) used by the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. The SBCC must report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the information received by December 31, 2025.

DIT Exemption. – Section 2 of the act exempts the System Office from the DIT requirements in Article 15 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes but allows it to elect to participate in the information technology programs, services, or contracts offered by DIT, including information technology procurement, by having the SBCC elect to do so in writing.

North Carolina Longitudinal Data System. – Section 3 makes various changes to the statutes governing the NCLDS, including the following:

- Removing the five year limit on the linkage of student data and workforce data.
- Removing the requirement that the Governmental Data Analytics Center (GDAC) designate a compliance timeline for electronic transcripts.
- Requiring GDAC to publish an inventory of the data proposed to be accessible in the NCLDS.
- Moving the NCLDS from being administratively housed within DPI to DIT.
- Requiring that the NCLDS act as a data broker for all public school units and the entire Department of Commerce.
- Requiring the NCLDS and recipients of data in fulfillment of approved data requests to use only aggregated data in public reports.
- Clarifying that all data collected and maintained by the NCLDS remains owned by the contributors and that all data sharing supported by the NCLDS must comply with applicable federal and State laws and regulations.

Section 3 of the act became effective July 1, 2025. The remainder of the act became effective July 3, 2025.

Clarify that all Felony School Notifications are limited to Class A through Class E Felonies – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 10

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Provide Additional Time for Military Families to Provide Proof of Residency for Public School Enrollment – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118), as amended by Section 2.2 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358), allows military children to begin attending school in a local school administrative unit (LEA) without proof of residency if proof of residency has not yet become available because the military parent and military child are residing in temporary housing.

In this situation, the LEA must:

- Allow the military child to enroll and begin attending school in the LEA of anticipated domicile (i) for a period of up to one year from the military parent's reporting-for-duty date, separation date from active military duty, or anticipated separation date from active military duty, or (ii) through the end of the school year, before being considered a resident of another LEA.
- Allow a military child who is a high school junior or senior to enroll and begin attending school in the LEA of anticipated domicile through high school graduation.

This Part became effective July 9, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Prohibit Discriminatory Admissions Policies Regarding Active Duty Service Members and Veterans, Require Military Admissions Deferment for Certain Persons Admitted to the UNC System, and Provide In-State Tuition to Certain Honorably Discharged Veterans – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) prohibits constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina (UNC) from denying admissions to any applicant solely on the basis of the applicant's indication that he or she is serving or intends to serve in the uniformed service.

The Board of Governors of UNC must adopt a policy requiring constituent institutions to provide enrollment deferment for members of the uniformed service and their spouses if the deferment

is requested at least 30 days prior to enrollment in a constituent institution. Members of the reserve Armed Forces and their spouses must be granted deferments of at least two years after entry into the reserve Armed Forces. All other members and their spouses must be granted deferments of at least five years after entry into the uniformed service.

This Part requires that any qualifying veteran admitted to a constituent institution of UNC or a community college under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Community Colleges be charged the in-State tuition rate and applicable fees for enrollment without having to satisfy the 12-month residency requirement. A qualifying veteran is an individual who (i) served not less than 90 days in the Armed Forces, (ii) was honorably discharged, and (iii) meets at least one of the following:

- Graduated from a high school in North Carolina on or after January 1, 2004.
- Served active duty in the Armed Forces with a permanent station in North Carolina for at least 90 continuous days.
- Was awarded a Purple Heart.

This Part became effective July 9, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Funds Award Flexibility – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) makes the following changes to the administration of funds for the Scholarships for the Children of Wartime Veterans Program (Program) in the 2024-2025 and the 2025-2026 academic years:

- Allows the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA), after consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department), to fund scholarships with monies from the Escheat Fund for eligible children of wartime veterans who have not been identified by the Department under the Program.
- Requires the Secretary, after consulting with SEAA, to determine whether to prioritize the award of new applicants for the 2025-2026 academic year in Class I-A, I-B, and IV scholarships, prior to awarding Class II and III scholarships.
- Permits the Secretary, after consulting with SEAA, to determine whether to reduce the room and board allowance award for students attending a public institution and the maximum allowance award for students attending private institutions, prior to August 15, 2025. The determination must be based on the number of eligible students, including new and renewal students, that have applied for the 2025-2026 academic year.
- Allows SEAA to adjust and standardize award amounts for the 2025-2026 academic year, if funds available for the Program are insufficient to provide scholarships to all eligible students.
- Requires that all scholarship notifications include language that the scholarship award is contingent upon the availability of funds.

- Directs SEAA to disburse scholarship funds in accordance with the authority granted by the General Statutes.
- Allows SEAA to use an amount of up to 2.5% for the administration costs related to the Program from the total amount of funding appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and allocated to SEAA in a fiscal year to support the award of scholarship funds under the Program. SEAA must place any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated funds remaining at the end of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years into an institutional trust fund for the purposes of awarding scholarships and paying administration costs.

This Part became effective June 30, 2025, and applies to awards granted for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years.

Local Boards of Education to Publish Total Compensation and Position Information for Central Office Employees – Harrison's Law.

SL 2025-73 (S375), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-73 (Senate Bill 375) requires each local board of education to publish and maintain the following information on its website by August 15 each year:

- For each central office employee (superintendent, assistant superintendent, associate superintendent, director/coordinator, supervisor, finance officer, person categorized as a central office employee by the Department of Public Instruction or the local school administrative unit [LEA], and permanent employee or third-party contractor not assigned to a school campus):
 - Total compensation from all funding sources, including at least salary, including supplements, and reimbursements and allowances for travel.
 - Position title.
 - Position description.
 - Date the position was created.
 - Department, unit, or office of the LEA in which the position is located.
- The title of each central office employee position in the LEA and the number of positions with that title.
- For each department, unit, or office of the LEA:
 - The number of central office employees located in that department, unit, or office.
 - The number of central office employees or each position title.

This act became effective July 9, 2025.

Regional Water Study/Interbasin Transfer Subbasin/Total Maximum Daily Load Revision.

SL 2025-77 (H694)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES, AND ENERGY subject area.]

Charter School Changes.

SL 2025-80 (S254)

S.L. 2025-80 (Senate Bill 254) does the following:

- Requires that rules or policies adopted by the State Board of Education (SBE) regarding charter schools must first be approved by the Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB). The CSRB is authorized to propose, recommend, and approve rules and policies on all aspects of charter school operation.
- Directs the SBE to assign the CSRB to conduct any hearings required under federal law on federal funds for charter schools. The CSRB has the duty to make findings and recommendations about these hearings.
- Authorizes the CSRB to employ legal counsel, including private counsel, to advise, represent, and provide litigation services to the CSRB without having to get permission from the Attorney General or the Governor.
- Provides that the Executive Director of the Office of Charter Schools reports and serves at the pleasure of the CSRB, rather than the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent), at a salary established by the CSRB within the funds appropriated for that purpose.
- Allows for charter schools to relocate without prior approval by the CSRB as long as the new location is within a 10-mile radius of the location specified and approved in the charter and located within the same local school administrative unit (LEA).
- Requires that all terms of the written charter that a charter school will operate under be approved by the CSRB.
- Provides that charter schools are not required to list class rank on a student's official transcript or record.
- Allows charter schools to develop and use any evaluation for conducting the evaluation of teachers, if the evaluation instrument includes standards and criteria similar to those used in the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards and North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process or such other evaluation standard and process required to be used by LEAs.
- Directs the CSRB to require charter schools that are identified as low-performing or continually low-performing to prepare and report plans to improve the performance of the school. Charter schools are not required to create school improvement plans as required for LEAs.
- Requires the SBE to withhold or reduce distribution of funds to a charter school if the CSRB notifies the SBE that a charter school has failed to meet generally accepted

standards of fiscal management or has violated a State or federal requirement for receipt of funds. This notification was previously the responsibility of the Superintendent.

- Requires the CSRB, instead of the Superintendent, to create standardized (i) enrollment verification and transfer request documents and (ii) transfer procedures for the per pupil share of the local current expense fund in consultation with charter schools and LEAs.
- Requires the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to provide each charter school with access to any required financial data reporting platforms for the school's first year of operation at no cost.
- Allows charter schools operating under a charter that allows for a remote academy that enrolls or intends to enroll 250 or more students in the remote academy to request that the CSRB grant the remote academy a separate charter. The CSRB must review these requests through an expedited process and cannot require a planning year for the remote academy.
- Requires that a charter school with both in-person instruction and a remote academy receive a separate school performance grade for the remote academy. The remote academy must be treated as a separate school for the purpose of assessing performance.
- For the 2025-2027 biennium, requires DPI to use \$82,100 per fiscal year of lapsed salary funds to provide operating funds to the CSRB. Legal counsel retained by the CSRB and funded with these monies can provide litigation services to the CSRB.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This act became effective July 29, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Excuse Students with Religious Objections – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.2

Section 3.2 of S.L. 2025-84 (House Bill 805) requires local boards of education to adopt policies allowing a student or the student's parent or guardian to request excusal from any classroom discussions, activities, or assigned readings if the student, parent, or guardian believes either of the following:

- The discussion, activity, or assigned reading would impose a substantial burden on the student's religious beliefs.
- The discussion, activity, or assigned reading would invade the student's privacy by calling attention to the student's religion.

To the extent practicable, the local board of education must provide advance notice to students, parents, and guardians of the discussions, activities, or assigned readings. The school must provide the excused student with an alternative activity or assignment aligned with the standard course of study.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This section became effective July 29, 2025.

Parent Access to Library Books – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.3

Section 3.3 of S.L. 2025-84 (House Bill 805) requires local boards of education to adopt policies to do both of the following:

- Provide public access to the titles of library books available within each school within the local school administrative unit.
- Allow a parent of a student to identify library books that cannot be borrowed by the student.

Library books are defined as electronic, print, and nonprint resources, excluding textbooks, for independent use by students and school personnel outside of the standard course of study for any grade or course. Library books can be held in a formal school library or in a classroom.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This section became effective July 29, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Restrictions on Sleeping Quarters – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.4

Section 3.4 of S.L. 2025-84 (House Bill 805) requires the governing bodies of public school units to adopt a policy prohibiting students from sharing sleeping quarters with a member of the other biological sex during any activity or event authorized by a school within the public school unit, except when authorized by the school when either (i) written permission is provided from the parents or legal guardians of all students sharing the sleeping quarters, or (ii) the member of the other biological sex is the student's immediate family member, which includes parent, brother, sister, or grandparent, including step and half relationships. Sleeping quarters are a room with a bed that is intended to be used to house a person overnight or other area designated for overnight sleep.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This section became effective July 29, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Maintain Coverage of Copays for Reduced-Price School Meals – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2A.8

Section 2A.8 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) requires local boards of education operating school nutrition programs to provide school meals at no cost to students who qualify for reduced-price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. If funds from alternate sources are insufficient to cover these costs, the Department of Public Instruction can use funds appropriated to the State Aid for Public Schools Fund for this purpose. Additionally, this section repeals a similar uncodified provision that only applied to the 2023-2024 biennium.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Revise Higher Education Accreditation Requirements – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 2.11

Section 2.11 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) revises accreditation requirements for constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and community colleges in the State by doing the following:

- Defining "institutional accrediting agency" as an accrediting agency that is recognized as an institutional accrediting agency by the United States Department of Education.
- Defining "preferred accrediting agency" as an accrediting agency that (1) is an institutional accrediting agency and (2) is one of seven listed accrediting agencies including the Commission for Public Higher Education.
- Repealing the defined term "regional accrediting agency" and replacing references in statute to regional accrediting agencies with references to institutional or preferred accrediting agencies.
- Repealing provisions prohibiting consecutive accreditation by the same accrediting agency in consecutive accrediting cycles of a constituent institution or community college.
- Requiring that a constituent institution or community college maintain accreditation from a preferred accrediting agency.
- Providing that a constituent institution or community college can receive accreditation from an institution that is not a preferred accrediting agency, if the constituent institution or community college continues to maintain accreditation from a preferred accrediting agency.
- Requiring virtual education providers, other than North Carolina Virtual Public School, that partner with local school administrative units to be accredited by an accrediting agency such as Cognia or an institutional accrediting agency.
- Providing that private institutions that are not eligible to be considered for accreditation can be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency that is designated by the State Education Assistance Authority.
- Making various other conforming and technical changes.

This section became effective September 30, 2025.

Advanced Teaching Roles - Limited Class Size Exception and Track Roles in Student Information System – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 7

Section 7 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) allows the State Board of Education to authorize any local school administrative unit that received its final year of grant funding in the 2024-2025 school year to exceed the maximum class size requirements for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. Additionally, this section requires the Department of Public Instruction to create designations in the student information system for teachers serving in advanced teaching roles.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Zoning Regulation/University Property – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 18

Section 18 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) exempts on a Statewide basis any building project managed by the State Construction Office from local zoning and development regulations. This section would also exempt projects that are both: (i) managed by The University of North Carolina or any of its constituent institutions, and (ii) are in Buncombe, Orange, Watauga, or Wake County.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA).

Ratified (H87)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Freedom to Carry NC.

Ratified (S50)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Children of Disabled First Responders Scholarship Program – Freedom to Carry NC.

Ratified (S50), Sec. 16.7

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

University of North Carolina Constituent Institutions to Comply with Laws Related to Immigration – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153), Part VI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Education.

Ratified (S227)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Higher Education.

Ratified (S558)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy

See full summary documents for additional detail

North Carolina Collaboratory May Use Cyanobacterial Algal Bloom Treatment Pilot Project Funds for Other Research Projects – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 2.4

Section 2.4 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) modifies a provision enacted in 2021 that allocated funds to the North Carolina Collaboratory to evaluate the effectiveness and efficacy of an approved in situ treatment of the nutrient impaired surface waters in lakes and reservoirs on cyanobacterial harmful algal blooms. The modification allows the Collaboratory to use any unexpended portion of those funds for other research projects related to the study, analysis, and improvement of surface water quality in the State, including research projects related to nutrient impaired coastal waters.

This section of the act became effective May 14, 2025.

Natural Heritage Program Data Confidentiality – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Extended Lease Terms for State Recreation Areas – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

State Nature and Historic Preserve Additions and Deletions – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 8

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Emergency Communications Exemptions/Sanitary Board/Section 401 Certifications.

SL 2025-50 (H768)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

County Waste Management Assistance.

SL 2025-66 (S706)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part II

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Authorize Adding South Fork Passage State Trail to the State Parks System. – Various State and Local Gov't Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part IV

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Codify Lake Norman Marine Commission. – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part V

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Interbasin Transfer Moratorium/Study.

SL 2025-74 (H850)

S.L. 2025-74 (House Bill 850) directs the North Carolina Collaboratory at the University of North Carolina to study the current process for approving large surface water transfers between river basins and recommend changes to the General Assembly no later than the convening of the 2027 General Assembly. This act also imposes a moratorium on the issuance of any approvals for

surface water transfers more than 15 million gallons per day. This moratorium expires March 1, 2027.

This act became effective July 9, 2025.

Regional Water Study/Interbasin Transfer Subbasin/Total Maximum Daily Load Revision.

SL 2025-77 (H694)

S.L. 2025-77 (House Bill 694) (i) directs the Environmental Finance Center at the UNC School of Government to study water and wastewater regionalization, and to report its findings and recommendations to the House Oversight Committee, the Senate Committee on Regulatory Reform, and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations by April 1, 2026; (ii) eliminates subbasin designations for the Haw River and Deep River basins within the Cape Fear River major river basin, and the Contentnea Creek basin within the Neuse River major river basin, allowing for the transfer of surface water between those subbasins within the same major river basin in any amount without first needing to obtain an Interbasin transfer certificate from the Environmental Management Commission; and (iii) revises the 2020 Farm Act Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) transport factor calculation applicability so that all wastewater discharge permit applications for local governments in the Neuse River Basin would apply the transport factors as specified in the 1999 Phase I TMDL, regardless of the size of the customer base.

This act became effective July 9th, 2025. The provision related to interbasin transfers applies to water withdrawals or transfers initiated on or after that date.

Allow Authorized Onsite Wastewater Evaluator to Prepare a Site Denial Letter for Subsurface Wastewater Systems – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) directs the Environmental Management Commission (Commission) to implement its rules concerning on-site wastewater systems to allow either a local county health department official or an Authorized On-Site Wastewater Evaluator to prepare and submit site denial letters for subsurface wastewater systems. This section also directs the Commission to readopt its rules consistent with that implementation.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Downstream Inundation Maps – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 19

Section 19 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) expands existing law which provides that certain dam Emergency Action Plans (EAPs) and downstream inundation maps are classified as sensitive public security information and exempt from disclosure pursuant to the Public Records Act to

include EAPs and downstream inundation maps associated with impoundments or dams owned or operated by: (i) an electric power supplier; and (ii) a unit of local government. EAPs or maps not associated with impoundments or dams regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission or owned or operated by an electric power supplier or a unit of local government are excluded from the definition of sensitive public security information.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

No Second Bite for Stormwater Permitting Review – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 20

Section 20 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) modifies the review process for stormwater permitting to limit the Environmental Management Commission's (Commission) ability to make subsequent requests for information from a permit applicant if that information was not previously identified as missing or required in an earlier information request from the Commission, except in certain circumstances.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Modify the Falls Reservoir Water Supply Nutrient Strategy Rules to Exempt New Residential Development Disturbing Less than One Acre – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 21

Section 21 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) requires the Environmental Management Commission to revise the rule governing stormwater management for new development in the Falls Lake watershed to:

- Except as required pursuant to federal law or permit, prohibit requirements for a stormwater permit, management plan, or post-construction stormwater controls for single family and duplex residential and recreational development that cumulatively disturb less than one acre, which is not part of a larger common plan of development.
- Prohibit applicable local governments from establishing requirements more restrictive than the rule.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Administrative Procedure Act Exemption for Rules to Modernize Wastewater Permitting – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 23

Section 23 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) amends legislation enacted in 2024 that required the Department of Environmental Quality (Department) and the Environmental Management Commission (Commission) to develop rules that establish methodologies and permitting requirements for the discharge of treated domestic wastewaters with low risk following site specific criteria to surface waters of the State, including wetlands, perennial streams, and unnamed tributaries of named and classified streams and intermittent streams or drainage courses where the 7Q10 flow or 30Q2 flow of the receiving water is estimated to be low flow or zero flow, or under certain conditions non-existent, as determined by the United States Geological Survey. The changes include modifications made pursuant to feedback from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) in response to draft rules previously submitted for the agency's consideration as follows:

- Modifies the 2024 legislation to provide that within 60 days of the date USEPA notifies the State that a rule must be formally adopted prior to submittal as a program revision for USEPA approval, the Commission must initiate the process for temporary and permanent rules pursuant to Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
- Clarifies that:
 - The Department may require an applicant to use different modeling than that submitted by an applicant upon issuing findings of fact that demonstrate that a model initially used by an applicant is unsuitable for the particular discharge and receiving water.
 - All requirements of a National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit must be met, including effluent limits for all parameters required to ensure the permit to be issued does not violate current State water quality standards approved by USEPA.

In addition, the section exempts these rules from certain requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, including those requiring ratification by the General Assembly, or supermajority approval by a board or commission, that are applicable when a rule's aggregate financial cost exceeds certain thresholds.

This section is effective retroactive to July 8, 2024.

Permitting by Regulation for Disposal Systems That Do Not Discharge to Surface Waters – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 24

Section 24 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) requires the Environmental Management Commission to amend a rule, 15A NCAC 02T .0113 (Permitting by Regulation), to provide that discharges to the land surface of less than 5,000 gallons per day of water from fractional vapor compression distillation of potable water, are deemed to be permitted without need for the Department of Environmental Quality to issue individual permits or coverage under a general permit for construction or operation of these disposal systems provided the system does not result in direct discharge to surface waters, any violations of surface water or groundwater standards, or ponding or runoff of discharge water. These rules are exempt from certain requirements of the Administrative Procedure Act, including those requiring ratification by the General Assembly, or supermajority approval by a board or commission, that are applicable when a rule's aggregate financial cost exceeds certain thresholds.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Reduce Frequency of Oversight for Certain Public Water System Supplemental Treatment Facilities – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 25

Insurance

See full summary documents for additional detail

Require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to Maintain the Online Reporting Portal on the Storage and Deployment of Aqueous Film-Forming Foams. – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 2.3

Section 2.3 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) requires the Office of the State Fire Marshall to maintain, with the assistance of the North Carolina Collaboratory, an online reporting portal on the storage and deployment of aqueous film-forming foams.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Retirement Death Benefits Rewrite.

SL 2025-11 (H477)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the RETIREMENT subject area.]

Pooled Trust Transfers/Public Benefits Eligibility.

SL 2025-24 (S344)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Eliminate Training Course Requirements for Insurance Producer License. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) eliminates the requirement that applicants for licensure as an insurance producer, limited representative, adjuster, or motor vehicle damage appraiser complete any specific amount of instruction or any specific course of instruction.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for licensure submitted on or after that date.

Maintain NAIC Accreditation of DOI. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) amends the Insurance Holding Company System Regulatory Act (Act) by doing the following:

- Requiring the controlling person of each insurer subject to registration under the Act to include with its registration an annual group capital calculation report and a liquidity stress test report if it meets certain criteria.
- Prohibiting the public dissemination of information contained in the required reports.
- Making conforming changes to the Act.

This Part becomes effective January 1, 2026.

Changes to the North Carolina Professional Employer Organization Act. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) makes the following changes to the North Carolina Professional Employer Organization Act (PEO Act):

- Adds definitions for "tangible net worth" and "working capital."
- Allows two or more persons controlled by the same entity to be licensed under the PEO Act.
- Requires an applicant to file with the Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner) information on the education and business experience of all officers and controlling persons of the applicant and audited financial statements, which may be consolidated among all individuals applying for a PEO group license.
- Allows the Commissioner to accept the audited financial statement of an applicant's parent company under specified circumstances.
- Adds the following new grounds upon which the Commissioner is authorized to deny an applicant's license:
 - An officer, director, or other controlling person does not meet the requirements applicable to a controlling person under the PEO Act.
 - The applicant is not current with respect to its obligations for payroll, payroll-related taxes, workers' compensation insurance, and employee benefits and has failed to satisfy the Commissioner as to why it is not current.
 - The applicant does not possess a tangible net worth of at least \$50,000 and positive working capital or adequate substitute surety bond.
 - The applicant has failed to provide evidence satisfactory to the Commissioner of its financial responsibility or has failed to meet its requirement to furnish a surety bond or irrevocable letter of credit meeting statutory requirements.

- Any other ground upon which the Commissioner could take disciplinary action against a person subject to licensure requirements under the PEO Act.
- Requires licensees to annually provide audited financial statements and solvency attestations to the Commissioner.
- Changes the deadline for required quarterly filings to 60 days after the end of the quarter.
- Adds the following requirements for de minimis registration: (i) not being domiciled in North Carolina, (ii) not expressly directing advertisements to employers in North Carolina, and (iii) being licensed in one other state.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to applications for initial licensure or renewal on or after that date.

Insurance Guaranty Association Act Revisions. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) amends the Insurance Guaranty Association Act (Act), which governs the operations of the Insurance Guaranty Association (IGA), a non-profit association established to avoid financial loss to claimants or policyholders because of the insolvency of one of its member insurers.

This Part makes the following changes to the Act:

- Provides that an exemption from the Act for insurance of warranties or service contracts does not apply to coverage provided under a cybersecurity insurance policy.
- Defines "cybersecurity insurance" as coverage for losses "arising out of or relating to data privacy breaches, unauthorized information network security intrusions, computer viruses, ransomware, cyber extortion, identity theft, and similar exposures."
- Limits IGA liability on cybersecurity insurance coverage claims arising out of a single insured event to \$500,000.
- Revises the definition of "covered claim" to include claim obligations that arose through the issuance of a policy by a member insurer that are subsequently transferred or allocated to another insurer, under certain circumstances.
- Authorizes the IGA to hire legal counsel to deal with claims brought against it and to pay claims in any order it deems reasonable.
- Gives the IGA the right to review and contest settlements, releases, compromises, waivers, and judgments in cases to which an insolvent insurer or its insureds were parties prior to entry of the order of liquidation.
- Provides that the aggregate net worth of all of an insured's subsidiaries and affiliates is to be included in calculating whether the insured's net worth meets the threshold entitling the IGA to recover all expenses it incurred in connection with a claim against the insured.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Clarify Permitted Trade Practices with Respect to Insurance Rebates. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) does the following:

- Repeals the law allowing insurers, insurance producers, or limited representatives to offer or provide products or services not specified in an insurance policy.
- Provides that the following acts do not constitute unfair or deceptive acts or practices: (i) engaging in an arrangement that would not violate certain provisions of the Bank Holding Company Act Amendments of 1972 or Home Owners' Loan Act; (ii) offering or providing value-added products or services that are not specified in the insurance policy at no or reduced cost, if the product or service meets certain criteria; (iii) offering or gifting noncash gifts, items, or services, if certain conditions are met; and (iv) conducting drawings or raffles, to the extent they are otherwise permitted by law, if certain conditions are met.
- Provides that the trade practices listed above are not prohibited rebates.
- Prohibits an insurer, producer, or representative of either from offering or providing insurance as an inducement to the purchase of another policy or from using the words "free," "no cost," or similar words in an advertisement, except for specified products or services.

The provisions excluding certain acts from being unfair or deceptive acts or practices become effective January 1, 2027, and apply to trade practices related to insurance contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date. The remainder of this Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Clarify Laws Relating to the Exchange of Business Between Insurance Producers – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part VII

Part VII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) makes the following changes to the statutes governing the licensing of insurance producers, limited representatives, and adjusters:

- Adds a new definition for "exchange business," "exchange of business," and "proper exchange of business."
- Allows producers to exchange business if both producers are licensed in all lines of business, include their National Producers Numbers, give notice to insureds and customers, and have a good-faith belief that the exchange of business complies with requirements set out in law.
- Allows commissions to be assigned (i) to an agency principal for business placed by a duly licensed and appointed producer on behalf of that agency and (ii) in connection with the exchange of business.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.

Inexperienced Operator Continuous Coverage. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part VIII

Part VIII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) makes the following changes to provisions of the Safe Driver Incentive Plan relating to the inexperienced operator premium surcharge:

- Prohibits a person subject to an inexperienced operator premium surcharge from operating a motor vehicle unless the liability insurance policy benefiting that person includes any required premium surcharge and authorizes the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to suspend the license of any operator who operates a motor vehicle in violation of this prohibition.
- Requires an insurer to notify the DMV when a person subject to an inexperienced operator premium surcharge is added to or removed from a policy's coverage or when a policy is cancelled after a person subject to an inexperienced operator premium has been added to the policy's coverage.
- Requires the DMV to ensure that its records accurately reflect the coverage status of persons subject to an inexperienced operator premium surcharge.

This Part becomes effective July 1, 2026.

Restrictions on Residential Leases Requiring Renters Insurance. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part X

Part X of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) provides that the following provisions apply to any lease that requires a tenant to maintain insurance coverage for the leased premises:

- The tenant cannot be required to obtain the required coverage from a designated carrier or through a designated agent.
- The landlord may charge the tenant for the actual cost of obtaining the required coverage and an administrative fee not to exceed \$50 per year only if the tenant fails to provide, within three business days after the landlord's request, proof that the tenant has obtained that coverage.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Technical Change to Effective Date Provision in S.L. 2023-133, as Amended by S.L. 2024-129 – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part XI

Part XI of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) amends Section 16(j) of S.L. 2023-133, as amended by Section 9(b) of S.L. 2024-29, to clarify that the lengthened time frame for imposing an insurance surcharge for moving violations enacted by S.L. 2023-133 only applies to violations for speeding 10 miles an hour or less over the speed limit and prayers for judgment continued that occurred before July 1, 2025, if those violations or prayers for judgment also occurred within three years of the insurance application or renewal.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Authorize Dual Registration of Salesmen with Dealers under Common Ownership and Control. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part XII

Part XII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) and section 2 of S.L. 2025-52 (Senate Bill 690) are the same. Part XII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) authorizes a securities salesman to register with more than one dealer if each of the dealers that employs or associates with the salesman is under common ownership and control, or if the Secretary of State authorizes the registration by rule or order.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Cancellation of Policy upon Chargeback of Credit Card Premium Payment. – Department of Insurance Omnibus Bill.

SL 2025-45 (H737), Part XIII

Part XIII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) provides the following:

- The chargeback of an insurance premium payment made by credit card is deemed to be a nonpayment of premium.
- In the event of a chargeback of an insurance premium payment made by credit card, any permitted policy cancellation is effective retroactively to the date the premium payment was made by credit card.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Continuing Care Retirement Communities Act.

SL 2025-58 (H357)

S.L. 2025-58 (House Bill 357) revises the laws governing continuing care retirement communities by repealing Article 64 of Chapter 55 of the General Statutes and replacing it with a new Article 64A, the "Continuing Care Retirement Communities Act" (Act). Continuing care contracts and continuing care at home contracts that are issued, renewed, or amended on or after December 1, 2025, are subject to following requirements of the Act.

General Provisions. – As used in the Act, the term “continuing care” is defined as the rendering of housing in an independent housing unit, together with related services, including access as needed to progressive levels of health care, to an individual unrelated by blood, marriage, or adoption to the person rendering the care, pursuant to a contract effective for the life of the individual or for longer than one year. The term “continuing care at home,” as used in the Act, is defined as a program offered by a provider holding a permanent license under the Act that provides continuing care to an individual who is not yet receiving housing.

Approval from the Commissioner of Insurance (COI) is required before a person can provide or offer to provide continuing care or can lease land for the purpose of operating a continuing care retirement community. All required filings are submitted electronically. The COI is authorized to waive any provision of the Act in the event of a state of emergency or disaster or an incident beyond the provider’s reasonable control. Certain documents provided to the COI by a provider are confidential and not public records, are not subject to subpoena, and are not discoverable or admissible in any private civil action. A provider’s advertising must conform with disclosures required by the Act and with contracts offered by the provider.

Approval, Certification, Licensure, and Permitting Process. – Establishing a continuing care business requires approval from the COI in several stages, each with its own application and approval requirements. Before constructing a continuing care retirement community or converting an existing structure into a continuing care retirement community, a provider must obtain a preliminary certificate from the COI. Before opening the continuing care retirement community or providing continuing care, a provider must receive a permanent license from the COI. If an applicant does not meet the requirements for a permanent license, the COI is authorized to deny the application or to issue a restricted permanent license. If a restricted license is issued, the COI must explain the restrictions under which the continuing care retirement community be operated, and the conditions that must be satisfied to qualify for a permanent license.

Expansion. – The COI’s written approval is required before a provider markets and collects deposits for a proposed expansion of a continuing care retirement community in which the number of additional units will equal or exceed 20% of the number of existing units.

Escrow Account. – All entrance fees and deposits received by a provider must be deposited in an escrow account and not commingled with any other funds. The escrow agent, escrow agreement, and any changes to the escrow agreement, must be approved by the COI. The COI’s written

permission is required for release or distribution of interest, income, and other gains derived from escrowed funds, for use of escrowed funds as collateral, or for release of escrowed entrance fees and deposits by the escrow agent.

Disclosure Statement. – A provider must give each prospective resident a disclosure statement for each continuing care retirement community operated in the State containing specific information about the provider, which must also be published on the DOI website. A provider must file a revised disclosure statement with the COI at the end of each fiscal year, together with a \$2,000 filing fee.

Binding Reservation Agreement and Continuing Care Contract. – Reservation agreements and continuing care contracts must contain provisions addressing when the agreement or contract can be rescinded or cancelled and when money can be refunded to the depositor or resident. In addition, a continuing care contract must disclose all fees charged to residents, resident property rights, policies for fee adjustments when a resident is absent or cannot pay, and any requirement that the resident maintain long-term care insurance or apply for any public assistance.

Continuing Care at Home. – Only a person licensed to operate a continuing care retirement community may apply for a license to provide continuing care at home. The application fee is \$500. After receiving a license, the provider must file a disclosure statement and periodic reports with the COI. A continuing care at home contract must contain specific information on when the contract can be rescinded or cancelled and when money will be refunded to a depositor or resident. In addition, a continuing care at home contract must disclose all required fees and the services to be provided under the contract.

Financial Reporting and Monitoring. – A provider must file an audited financial statement with the COI within 150 days of the end of each fiscal year. If a provider also provides continuing care at home, the audited financial statement must include revenue and expenses related to those services separately from the revenue and expenses from the provider's other operations. Within 45 days after the end of each fiscal quarter, a provider must file a financial statement with the COI and notify the COI of any changes in the provider's governing body or organizational documents. At least once every three years, a provider must submit an actuarial study to the COI for each continuing care retirement community and any continuing care at home program it operates.

Notification Requirements. – A provider must notify the COI and all residents in writing within 10 business days of certain events including a failure to maintain the operating reserve required under the Act and violation of any debt agreement. A provider must notify the COI of any material changes or deviations in information submitted to the COI within 10 business days of becoming aware of the change or deviation.

Other Transactions and Changes. – A provider is prohibited from transferring a permit, certificate, or license issued under the Act, and no permit, certificate, or license has value for sale or exchange as property. Any provider or person who owns real property or leases or uses real property in the operations of a continuing care retirement community must obtain approval from the COI before selling, transferring, or purchasing any real property used in the operations of a

continuing care retirement community. The provider must request approval at least 45 days prior to the transaction and give notice to all affected residents and depositors of the proposed transaction within 10 business days after receiving approval from the COI.

The COI's approval is required before a person enters into an agreement to merge with, or acquire control of, a provider holding a certificate or license under the Act. The provider must notify all affected residents and depositors of the proposed merger or acquisition within 10 business days after receiving approval from the COI.

Before contracting with a third party for the management of a continuing care retirement community, the provider must obtain approval from the COI and inform all residents in writing of the request for approval within 10 business days after submitting the request to the COI. The provider is required to remove a third-party manager immediately under certain circumstances.

Operating Reserve. – After opening a continuing care retirement community, a provider is required to maintain an operating reserve equal to 50% of the total operating costs of the community projected for the 12-month period following the period covered by the most recently filed disclosure statement. The amount of the required reserve is adjusted based on a statutory formula after the community's average independent living unit occupancy rate is at least 90%.

The COI is authorized to increase the required amount of the reserve or require it to be deposited with the COI if the provider is determined to be in a hazardous condition. If the COI takes such action, the provider must notify all residents in writing and provide a power of attorney to the COI.

A provider's operating reserve is funded with qualifying assets including cash and cash equivalents, investment grade securities, corporate stock that is traded on a public securities exchange that can be readily valued and liquidated for cash, and other assets considered to be acceptable by the COI. The act prohibits the operating reserve's assets from being subject to any liens, charges, judgments, garnishments, or creditors' claims, or pledged as collateral or otherwise encumbered, except for assets held as part of a security pledge of assets or similar collateralization that is a part of the provider's debt financing.

As alternative to the use of qualifying assets, a provider is permitted to fund its operating reserve by filing a surety bond or letter of credit with the COI.

Before releasing any part of an operating reserve, a provider is required to submit a detailed request in writing to the COI and simultaneously provide written notice of the request to all residents. The COI is authorized to deny a request that is determined not to be in the best interests of the residents.

Offenses and Penalties. – The COI can deny an application or request for approval or restrict or revoke any permit, certificate, license, or other authorization issued under the Act if an applicant or provider commits certain acts or violations.

If the COI issues a cease-and-desist order, restriction, or revocation, the provider must notify all residents and depositors of such action within five business days. While a revocation order is under appeal, the provider cannot accept new deposits or entrance fees. However, revocation does not release the provider from its obligations under its continuing care contracts and continuing care at home contracts.

The COI considers several factors to determine if a provider is in a hazardous condition, including whether the provider is impaired or insolvent, adverse findings in audit financial statements and actuarial opinions, whether the provider is contractually past due on entrance fee refunds, the age and collectability of receivables, and past or possibly future cash flow or liquidity problems.

After determining that a provider is in a hazardous condition, the COI is authorized to order the provider to submit a corrective action plan within 45 days and to notify all residents and depositors of the order. The plan must include proposals for eliminating the hazardous condition and a date by which the provider anticipates having rectified the identified problems and deficiencies.

A provider that enters into an agreement or contract with a person without first providing them with a disclosure statement, or that provides a person with a disclosure statement containing a material misrepresentation or omission upon which the person relies, is liable in an action brought by the person within three years after the alleged violation, for actual damages and repayment of all fees, less the costs of care, services, and housing provided before the discovery of the violation or material misstatement or omission, together with interest, court costs, and reasonable attorneys' fees. However, such an action must not be permitted to be maintained if, before it is commenced, the provider offers to refund all amounts paid, less costs of provided care, services, and housing, plus interest, and the person fails to accept the offer within 30 days of its receipt.

A person who willfully and knowingly violates a provision of the Act is guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor.

After giving a provider notice and opportunity for hearing, a permit, certificate, license, or other approval issued by the COI is forfeited upon the occurrence of certain events, including the provider's termination of its marketing of a proposed continuing care retirement community, its surrender of a permit, certificate, or license, or its closure of a continuing care retirement community. A provider must notify all residents and depositors within five business days after such forfeiture.

For violating the Act, the COI is authorized to prohibit a provider from entering into agreements and contracts and order the provider to make rescission offers to any resident or depositor. A resident or depositor must accept a rescission offer within 30 days of its receipt.

Delinquency Proceedings. – If a provider is determined to be in a hazardous condition, is bankrupt or insolvent, or has failed to maintain an escrow account or operating reserve required under the Act, the COI is authorized to commence a supervision proceeding or apply for a court order to rehabilitate or liquidate the provider. If the COI commences a supervision proceeding, the

provider must notify all residents and depositors within five business days. If a rehabilitation or liquidation proceeding is commenced, the COI must notify the residents and depositors within five business days or as otherwise directed by the court. An order for rehabilitation will be refused or vacated if a provider posts bond in an amount determined by the COI to be equal to the reserve funding required to fulfill the provider's obligations.

Residents' Right to Organization and Semiannual Meetings. – The residents of a continuing care retirement community are entitled to establish a residents' council to advocate for their rights and serve as a liaison with the provider. The provider's governing body is required to hold semiannual in-person meetings with residents of each continuing care retirement community, and to provide the residents with at least seven days' advance notice of the meeting. In the event of a state of emergency or disaster, the meeting is permitted to be held via telephone, video conference, or video broadcast.

Miscellaneous Provisions. – No act or agreement of a resident or individual purchasing continuing care for a resident under any contract for continuing care or continuing care at home may be effective to waive the Act's provisions.

A 12-member Continuing Care Advisory Committee must be established, comprising providers, residents, and professionals involved in the continuing care retirements community industry. Six members are appointed by the COI and three members each must be appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. The committee, which must meet at least twice a year, must advise the COI on matters pertaining to the operation and regulation of continuing care retirement communities and continuing care at home programs, report to the COI on the continuing care retirement community industry and problems or concerns of providers and residents, and recommend changes in relevant statutes and rules.

Nothing in the Act affects the authority of DHHS to license or regulate long-term care facilities.

This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date and to contracts issued, renewed, or amended on or after that date.

SCRIPT Act.

SL 2025-69 (S479)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Labor and Employment

See full summary documents for additional detail

Align State Law with the Federal Prohibition on Conditional Employment of Applicants of Child Care Institutions Prior to Obtaining Criminal History Record Check Results – Department of Health and Human Services Revisions.

SL 2025-27 (H576), Sec. 5.2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Align Dissemination of Background Check Information for Prospective Adoptive Parents and Foster Care Parents with Federal Policy, Law, and Standards – Department of Health and Human Services Revisions.

SL 2025-27 (H576), Sec. 5.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

2025 Omnibus Labor Amendments.

SL 2025-28 (H568)

S.L. 2025-28 (House Bill 568) does the following:

- Prohibits issuance of a third-party subpoena to the Commissioner of Labor of North Carolina (Commissioner), employees, and former employees of the North Carolina Department of Labor (Department) for appearance for the purpose of inquiring into any occupational safety and health inspection except in certain circumstances. This does not apply to a subpoena requesting only production of documents.
- Eliminates the requirement of publication and public hearing when the Occupational Safety and Health Division (Division) of the Department proposes to adopt a rule concerning an occupational safety and health standard identical to a federal regulation promulgated by the Secretary of the United States Department of Labor. The Division must file the rule with the Rules Review Commission for the purpose of receiving written objections.
- Requires the North Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission to permit the complainant and respondent to obtain prehearing discovery in accordance with Rule 26(a) of the Rules of Civil Procedure, including testimony taken by deposition, production of documents, and compelling persons to appear, upon a respondent's motion.
- Requires the Chief Medical Examiner to provide a finalized autopsy report within five months of a written request by the Commissioner when death occurs due to an injury received in the course of the decedent's employment.

- Allows the Commissioner to adopt, alter, amend, or repeal appropriate rules for the selection of an arbitrator or panel and for conduct of the arbitration proceedings without written approval of the Attorney General.
- Changes the name of the Elevator and Amusement Device Division to the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau and makes conforming changes.
- Clarifies that employers with five or more employees must post notice of employment laws in a conspicuous place, not in every room.

This act became effective June 27, 2025.

State Hiring Accessibility and Modernization.

SL 2025-34 (S124)

S.L. 2025-34 (Senate Bill 124) makes the following changes to the laws governing State hiring:

- Requires the State Human Resources Commission (Commission) to examine the educational, experiential, and training requirements for jobs and determine when practical experience and training can be the appropriate qualification for a position.
- Requires the Office of State Human Resources (OSHR) to streamline the job application process for State positions by allowing applicants to upload resumes or website profiles.
- Provides that any qualifications, knowledge, skills, and abilities listed in a specific vacancy announcement that are in addition to the minimum education and experience set forth in the class specification of the vacancy being filled are to be interpreted as management preferences rather than as mandatory minimum qualifications that must be met.
- Expresses the State policy that State departments, agencies, and institutions should simplify their job postings to make it easy for applicants to read the postings and understand essential qualifications and management preferences.
- Directs the Commission to adopt rules or policies requiring the posting of a closing date for each job opening unless the employing agency, department, office, board, commission, system, or institution has approved an exception for critical classifications.
- Grants employing agencies flexibility in hiring, pay, and classification.
- Permits the Council of State, executive branch agencies, the Community College System Office, and The University of North Carolina to:
 - Directly hire temporary employees into vacant positions if certain conditions are met.
 - Directly hire, without posting, into a vacant position if certain conditions are met.
- Requires the Commission to adopt a new performance management and performance evaluation policy.
- Allows local entities to give employment preference to eligible veterans and eligible members of the National Guard for positions subject to the North Carolina Human Resources Act (HRA).
- Allows local entities to offer sign-on and retention bonuses to employees subject to the HRA.

- Limits the job classification standards, job qualifications, salaries, and policies that are exempt from the definition of the term "rule" to those that directly affect only job applicants, current employees, or the resolution of matters relating to past employment.
- Requires the OSHR to report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Fiscal Research Division on recommended changes to modernize the HRA.
- Requires the Commission to repeal or amend rules to make changes consistent with this act.

This act became effective July 1, 2025.

Fee Modifications – Elevators/Interim Code Council Appointment.

SL 2025-63 (H559), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-63 (House Bill 559) does the following:

- Creates new fee schedules for the various devices inspected and certified for operation by the Department of Labor, including elevators, amusement devices, and passenger tramways, with the maximum amount varying depending on the type of device or inspection.
- Provides that these maximum amounts will be adjusted annually for inflation, beginning on and after July 1, 2026, in accordance with the percent change in the annual Consumer Price Index computed by the Bureau of Labor Statistics using the most recent 12-month period. The Department of Labor must give 60 days' notice of fee increases on its website.
- Creates a new fee of up to \$1,000 for expedited inspections of elevators/escalators and amusement devices.
- Establishes a new or alteration construction permit application fee to be the greater of \$200 or 1% of the contract price for the alteration or construction of the device being permitted.
- Expressly provides that unexpended fees at the end of the fiscal year do not revert.

The act provides that the fee increases are effective beginning July 1, 2025. However, the Department of Labor did not implement the increases until July 8, 2025, because the act was not signed into law until July 7, 2025. The fee increases are not retroactive. The remainder of this Part became effective July 7, 2025.

Develop Training and Apprenticeship Program – Elevators/Interim Code Council Appointment.

SL 2025-63 (H559), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-63 (House Bill 559) requires the Department of Labor to consult with the North Carolina Community College System to develop an in-house training and apprenticeship program for elevator inspectors and to utilize the program to fill vacancies within the Elevator and Amusement Device Division of the Department of Labor (S.L. 2025-28 renamed the Elevator and

Amusement Device Division to the Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau effective June 27, 2025).

This Part became effective July 7, 2025.

Department of Labor Modifications – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 4.1

Section 4.1 of S.L. 2025-92 (House Bill 358) does the following:

- Allows the Department of Labor (Department) to hire private counsel from available funds and represent itself in court, as necessary.
- Permits the Department to take action in court to enforce rules and regulations.
- Provides that upon request of the Department, the Attorney General must represent the Department in actions or proceedings. The Attorney General can designate staff to fulfill this duty.

This section became effective September 30, 2025.

Local Government

See full summary documents for additional detail

Purchases by Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.4

Section 5.4 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) allows Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOADs) to purchase surplus heavy construction equipment and motor vehicles from the State through the Department of Administration (DOA) for the purpose of aiding in disaster recovery. It further provides that the DOA must loan surplus heavy construction equipment and motor vehicles to units of local government and VOADs for a period of five years. At the end of the five-year period, the ownership of the loaned surplus property transfers to the unit of local government or VOAD.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Reconstruction of Nonconforming Residential Structures – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.7

Section 5.7 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) allows the reconstruction or repair of a nonconforming residential structure in the affected area if several criteria are met, including, to the greatest extent possible, compliance with the local government's current development regulations. For the purposes of this summary, "affected area" means the counties under a major disaster declaration as a result of Hurricane Helene.

This section became effective March 19, 2025, and expires June 30, 2030.

Local Government FEMA Loan Reimbursement from Previous Disasters – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 1A.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the DISASTER RELIEF subject area.]

Birth Certificates for Persons Adopted.

SL 2025-9 (S248)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Revise Voluntary Agricultural District Laws.

SL 2025-12 (H126)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE subject area.]

Adult Protection Multidisciplinary Teams.

SL 2025-23 (S400)

S.L. 2025-23 (Senate Bill 400) authorizes counties to establish Case Review Multidisciplinary Teams, consisting of various professionals associated with social services, law enforcement, and health care, to (i) review selected active cases in which disabled adults or older adults are being served by adult protective services and (ii) make recommendations to the board of county commissioners for addressing systemic problems and service gaps that may exist in the delivery of services to disabled adults and older adults.

This act became effective October 1, 2025.

Emergency Communications Exemptions/Sanitary Board/Section 401 Certifications.

SL 2025-50 (H768)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Exemption from Nonbetterment Costs – JMAC/ABC/Other Revisions.

SL 2025-65 (S664), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-65 (Senate Bill 664) requires the Department of Transportation to pay the nonbetterment cost of relocating water and sewer lines, located within the existing State transportation project right-of-way, that are necessary to be relocated for a State transportation improvement project and are owned by (i) a municipality with a population of 20,000 or less, or (ii) a private water or sewer utility organized pursuant to Chapter 62 of the General Statutes (Public Utilities) serving 20,000 or fewer customers.

This Part is effective retroactive to January 1, 2025, and applies to (i) nonbetterment costs arising after that date and (ii) nonbetterment costs arising before that date but unpaid by a municipality on that date.

County Waste Management Assistance.

SL 2025-66 (S706)

S.L. 2025-66 (Senate Bill 706) does the following:

- Requires that 30% of the net proceeds of the scrap tire disposal tax be credited to the Scrap Tire Disposal Account (Account) and that excess funds must be credited to the Highway Fund if the amount in the Account exceeds \$300,000 at the end of a fiscal year.
- Reenacts the Account as it existed immediately before its repeal and locates the Account within the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). DEQ can use funds in the Account as follows:
 - 75% of the revenue for grants to units of local government to assist them in disposing of scrap tires.
 - 15% of the revenue for grants to encourage the use of processed scrap tire materials. The grants can be made to encourage the use of tire-derived fuel, crumb rubber, carbon black, or other components of tires for use in products such as fuel, tires, mats, auto parts, gaskets, flooring material, or other applications of processed tire materials.
 - Up to \$175,000 for administrative costs and to support a DEQ position to implement the requirements of the scrap tire program.
 - The remaining revenue to fund the clean up of illegal scrap tire collection sites that DEQ has determined are nuisances.
- Removes the deadline for DEQ's report to the Environmental Review Commission (ERC) on the implementation of the North Carolina Scrap Tire Disposal Act.
- Requires DEQ to include in its annual report to the ERC and the Fiscal Research Division the beginning and ending balances of the Account for the reporting period and the amount credited to the Account during the reporting period.
- Provides that local governments that do not comply with requirements to (i) make a good faith effort to achieve the States' 40% municipal solid waste reduction goal and comply with the State's comprehensive solid waste plan, (ii) annually report on solid waste management programs and waste reduction activities within the unit of local government, and (iii) establish and maintain a solid waste reduction program are not eligible for grants from the Account and cannot receive the proceeds of the scrap tire disposal tax or white goods disposal tax. The proceeds of the taxes withheld from units of local government must be credited to the Highway Fund.
- Limits the use of the tax on new tires to the disposal of scrap tires.

The act became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to quarterly crediting of the proceeds of the scrap tire disposal tax occurring on or after that date.

Codify Lake Norman Marine Commission. – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part V

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act.

SL 2025-85 (H318)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COURTS, JUSTICE, AND CORRECTIONS subject area.]

Prohibit Inspection Departments from Charging Fees for Certain Inspection Cancellations – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 3

Section 3 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) prohibits local inspection departments from charging permit holders a fee or failing inspections of a building or structure subject to the North Carolina Residential Code, if the permit holder cancels the inspection with more than one business day's notice.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Limit Design Methodology and Construction Standards for Certain Municipal Streets – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) prohibits local governments from establishing or requiring pavement design standards for public or private roads that are more stringent than the minimum pavement design standards adopted by the Department of Transportation.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to projects initiated on or after that date.

Exempt Model Homes from Fire Protection Water Supply Requirement During Construction – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 6

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Prohibit Waiting Periods for Refiling of Development Applications – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 11

Section 11 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) bars a development regulation or unified development ordinance from including waiting periods prohibiting a landowner, developer, or applicant from refiling a denied or withdrawn application for a zoning map amendment, text amendment, development application, or request for development approval.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Limit Local Government Authority to Regulate the Display of American Flags on Private Property – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 12

Section 12 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) amends existing law that limits the authority of local governments to prohibit an official governmental flag from being flown or displayed if the official governmental flag is flown or displayed. The section enhances protections for the American flag and the State's flag to prohibit a local government from adopting or enforcing an ordinance that prohibits or restricts a property owner from displaying such flags on the property owner's property. A local government is, however, authorized to adopt an ordinance to reasonably regulate the manner and placement of the display of an American flag or a North Carolina flag only when necessary to protect public health and safety. To enforce such an ordinance against a particular property, a local government is required to produce written findings of fact documenting the public health and safety concerns. If a local government asserts a traffic based justification concerning a flag on a particular property, a site study conducted by the Department of Transportation must be performed to evaluate whether traffic concerns will actually arise with manner or placement of the display of the flag at the particular location, and a flag must only be prohibited if the Department of Transportation determines traffic concerns would in fact arise.

This section became effective October 6, 2025, and abates any citation, fine, penalty, action, proceeding, or litigation pending on that date which has resulted from application of an ordinance contrary to the provisions of this section.

Expand Definition of Local Agency to Include Public Works Authority for the Purposes of the Setoff Debt Collection Act – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 28

Section 28 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) expands the definition of "local agency" to include a "public works authority or public utilities commission created pursuant to a local act of the General Assembly" for the purposes of qualifying for the Setoff Debt Collection Act.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Clarify Existing Use Rights on Property – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 29

Section 29 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) provides that, in the context of land development:

- A vested right obtained by permit or other local government approval does not preclude the use or extinguish the existence of any other vested right or use by right attached to the property.
- If a special use permit expires and does not vest, the current zoning classification or regulation for the property applies.
- When two or more local governments with land use jurisdiction over a parcel of land fail to mutually agree, with the consent of the landowner, as to which jurisdiction's land use ordinances apply to the entire parcel, the landowner can elect to apply land use ordinances of the jurisdiction with a majority of the acreage of the parcel of land.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Military, Veterans, and Indian Affairs

See full summary documents for additional detail

University of North Carolina Tuition Discounts for Certain Students.

SL 2025-17 (H373)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Define Armed Forces/Religious Property Tax Exclusion.

SL 2025-20 (H91)

S.L. 2025-20 (House Bill 91) does the following:

- Amends references to the United States Armed Forces in the General Statutes by including the newly established United States Space Force.
- Authorizes the governing board of a local unit to release any unpaid property taxes levied on property owned by a religious entity during the previous five calendar years, if the entity submits an application and the property qualifies for relief.

This act became effective June 26, 2025.

Regulatory Changes – Child Care Regulatory Reforms.

SL 2025-36 (H412), Part II

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Nondiscriminatory Admissions Evaluations and Military Deferment – Various Education Law/Tax Accounts/Name, Image, and Likeness Changes.

SL 2025-46 (H378), Part IV

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Military Judges of the North Carolina National Guard Modifications – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part VIII

Part VIII of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710), does the following:

- Modifies the summary-courts martial process by providing that when a summary courts-martial officer is an appointed military judge, the summary courts-martial officer has the enhanced punishment authority to impose forfeitures of two-thirds pay for one month,

to impose extra duty, and to reduce the rank of enlisted persons with limitations. This modification became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to summary courts martial initiated on or after that date.

- Modifies provisions related to military judges by:
 - For appointment as a military judge, removes the requirement for certification as a military judge by the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard; and adds the requirements of being a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of North Carolina and holding the rank of lieutenant colonel or above. This modification became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to military judges serving on or after that date.
 - Provides that the Adjutant General or the Staff Judge may detail military judges for all purposes in which they may be detailed, except that only those certified by the Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marines, or Coast Guard may preside over a general or special court-martial.
 - Permits military judges for the Army National Guard and the Air National Guard to preside over court-martials of the other.
 - Allows military judges appointed by the Adjutant General to issue investigative subpoenas as authorized by the Uniform Code of Military Justice and pursuant to rules and regulation prescribed by the military judge's component of the Armed Forces of the United States and the Adjutant General.
 - These modifications became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to military judges serving on or after that date.
- Provides that in the North Carolina National Guard certain military judges detailed to courts-martial, rather than presidents of courts-martial and summary court officers, have the power to issue warrants and subpoenas. This provision became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to warrants and orders issued on or after that date.

Extend Certain Rights to Catawba Nation.

SL 2025-57 (S655)

S.L. 2025-57 (Senate Bill 655), as modified by S.L. 2025-56 (Senate Bill 125), does the following:

- Grants to the Catawba Indian Nation rights currently granted to the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians (EBCI) under State law by:
 - Requiring North Carolina courts to give full faith and credit to a judgment, decree, or order signed by a judicial officer of the Catawba Indian Nation.
 - Granting the Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Police Department the authority given to city police departments.
 - Requiring the Chief and the officers of the Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Police Department and the officers of the Catawba Indian Nation Marshals Service to comply with the training and standards applicable to police officers in North Carolina.
 - Granting the Catawba Indian Nation Marshals Service access to all probation and parole records of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS) to the

same extent as a probation or post release supervision officer of DPS for any individual over which the Catawba Indian Nation Tribal Courts have jurisdiction to try and impose a sentence upon.

- Includes the Catawba Indian Nation in the Administrative Office of the Courts' system for the exchange of criminal and civil information between the Judicial Department and local, State, and federal governments and the EBCI.
- Requires copies of the appellate division reports to be distributed to the Catawba Nation Tribal Courts, as is currently required for the EBCI Cherokee Supreme Court.
- Makes it a first degree trespass for a person without authorization to enter or remain on lands of the Catawba Indian Nation after the person has been excluded by resolution passed by the Catawba Indian Nation Executive Committee, as is currently the case for a person without authorization entering or remaining on EBCI lands after having been excluded by a resolution passed by the EBCI Tribal Council. This provision becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.
- Provides that nothing in this act invalidates any agreement between a county and the Catawba Indian Nation existing as of July 3, 2025.

Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective July 3, 2025.

Reduce Concealed Handgun Fees for Certain Veterans – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part I

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Provide Additional Time for Military Families to Provide Proof of Residency for Public School Enrollment – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part II

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Prohibit Discriminatory Admissions Policies Regarding Active Duty Service Members and Veterans, Require Military Admissions Deferment for Certain Persons Admitted to the UNC System, and Provide In-State Tuition to Certain Honorably Discharged Veterans – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part III

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Regulate Compensation For Services Related to Veterans' Benefits Matters. – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) does the following:

- Defines compensation as the payment of money, anything of value, or a financial benefit.
- Defines a veterans' benefits matter as the preparation, presentation, or prosecution of a claim affecting an individual who has filed or expressed an intent to file a claim for a benefit, program, service, commodity, pension, function, or status, the entitlement to which is determined under the laws and regulations administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs pertaining to veterans, their dependents, their survivors, and any other individual eligible for such benefits.
- Prohibits a person from receiving compensation for preparation, presentation, or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with an initial disability claim related to a veterans' benefits matter, except as permitted by this Part.
- Prohibits a person from receiving compensation for referring an individual to another person to prepare, present, prosecute, or advise, consult, or assist the individual with a veterans' benefits matter.
- Prohibits a person from guaranteeing or advertising that any individual is certain to receive specific veterans' benefits or that any individual is certain to receive a specific level, percentage, or amount of veterans' benefits.
- Prohibits a person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter or engaging in the preparation of an initial claim for a fee from (i) aggressively or directly soliciting business or (ii) gaining direct access to login, username, or password information for any personal medical, financial, or government benefits.
- Prohibits a person seeking to receive compensation for advising, assisting, or consulting any individual with any veterans' benefits matter from utilizing a medical professional for a secondary medical exam with whom they have an employment relationship.
- Prohibits a person from entering into any agreement related to a veterans' benefits matter that does not properly memorialize all terms of the agreement.
- Requires a person seeking to receive compensation for preparation, presentation, or prosecution of, or advising, consulting, or assisting an individual with a veterans' benefits matter to memorialize all terms of the agreement in a written agreement that complies with certain criteria before rendering any services.
- Makes a violation of this Part an unfair trade practice.
- Provides that nothing in this Part applies to attorneys who are licensed to practice in North Carolina.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Authorize Remote Drivers License Renewals for Armed Forces Members and Families – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part V.

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the TRANSPORTATION subject area.]

Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Funds Award Flexibility – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part VI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Authorize Sheriffs to Send Permit Expiration Notice via Email – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part VII

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Occupational Boards and Licensing

See full summary documents for additional detail

North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee Extension – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 6.4

Section 6.4 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) modifies the enabling legislation that created the North Carolina State Bar Grievance Review Committee (Committee) by doing all of the following:

- Extending the Committee's authority to operate until December 31, 2026 (under previous law, the Committee was set to expire upon submitting a report that was due by April 1, 2024).
- Repealing a reporting requirement to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.
- Broadening the scope of the Committee's review to any aspect or area of the North Carolina State Bar that the Committee deems concerning or needing improvement.
- Allowing the President of the State Bar to designate a person to serve on the Committee on his or her behalf.

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Social Work Interstate Licensure Compact.

SL 2025-7 (H231)

S.L. 2025-7 (House Bill 231) makes North Carolina a member of the Social Work Licensure Compact (Compact), facilitating the licensure of social workers across state lines.

All states who participate in the Compact must do the following:

- Have licensure, education, examination, and discipline standards.
- Participate in the Social Work Licensure Compact Commission's (Commission) data system, follow the Commission's rules, and nominate a delegate to participate in Commission meetings.
- Implement procedures to conduct criminal background checks and notify the Commission about any criminal or disciplinary activity of the state's licensees.
- Authorize individuals holding a multistate license to practice in the state.
- Designate the categories of social work that are eligible for multistate licenses. Member states can charge an additional fee for granting a multistate license.

All social workers participating in the Compact must:

- Hold an unencumbered license in a home state.
- Pay applicable fees.

- Pass a criminal background check.
- Notify the home state of any adverse action taken by any other state.
- Meet continuing education requirements.
- Follow the laws of the state in which the client is located when care is provided.

Once a state determines an applicant has submitted a valid application for multistate licensure, it must issue the multistate license at the appropriate licensure level.

Nothing in the Compact can be construed to limit a state licensing authority's ability to enforce its own laws and regulations, issue single-state licenses, or take adverse action against a single or multistate licensee practicing in the state.

Only home states can take adverse action against a regulated social worker's multistate license. Remote states can only take action against the authorization for an individual to practice remotely in that one state. Remote states can report conduct warranting adverse action to a licensee's home state. Member states can take notice of the investigation results of any other member state. Results of any investigation must be reported to the Compact's data center where it will be accessible to all member states.

The Compact will be administered by the Commission, which has the power to levy fees on member states to fund its operations and powers necessary to implement the provisions of the Compact.

This act became effective October 1, 2025.

Accounting Workforce Development Act.

SL 2025-35 (S321)

S.L. 2025-35 (Senate Bill 321) authorizes a person seeking to practice as a certified public accountant (CPA) to satisfy the education and work experience requirements for licensure by (i) receiving a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited college or university with a concentration in accounting and other courses that the State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners may require and (ii) having two years of experience in the field of accounting under the direct supervision of a CPA who is currently licensed in any state or territory of the United States or the District of Columbia.

This act becomes effective January 1, 2026.

Pharmacist Test and Treat – Healthcare Workforce Reforms.

SL 2025-37 (H67), Part V

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Reforms – Healthcare Workforce Reforms.

SL 2025-37 (H67), Part X

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES subject area.]

Allow Physical Therapists in School Concussion Protocol.

SL 2025-49 (H928)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Alarms Systems Licensing Act Modernization – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) makes the following changes to the Alarm Systems Licensing Act:

- Renames it as the "Security Systems Licensing Act" and makes conforming changes.
- Updates the definition of "security systems business" to include:
 - Any solicitation for the sale of a security system.
 - Wireless or hardwired alarm devices and security systems.
 - Integrated automation of a residence or business that includes a security element.
 - Analytic capturing devices, systems providing intelligence, or other imaging devices used to detect various illegal activities
- Adds additional requirements an applicant must meet to become a qualifying agent and grants the Director of the Security Systems Licensing Board additional discretionary authority related to the extension of time to find substitute qualifying agents.
- Requires out-of-state monitoring companies to obtain a license and register employees if the company is not licensed in any state.
- Gives the Security Systems Licensing Board additional powers related to investigating unlicensed activity, engaging in real property transactions, and denying, suspending, or revoking a license or registration.
- Updates requirements and conditions for issuing licenses, registrations, and permits.
- Removes outdated and unnecessary language and recodifies certain provisions.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Private Protective Services Board Laws Amendments – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) makes the following changes to the Private Protective Services Board (Board):

- Clarifies the types of trainee permits available that can be issued by the Board.
- Provides that the private protective services profession can involve services provided to the government.
- Authorizes the Board to charge a fee up to \$100 for an application for approval of a continuing legal education course.
- Modifies G.S. 74C-11, which governs probationary employees and registration of regular employees, to regulate security guard and patrol companies and armored car companies.
- Expands the grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of a license, registration, or permit.
- Modifies G.S. 74C-13, which governs firearm registration permits for private protective services, to apply generally to licensees.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Enhance Background Check Abilities of Private Protective Services Board and Security Systems Licensing Board – Department of Public Safety Agency Changes.

SL 2025-51 (S710), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-51 (Senate Bill 710) does the following:

- Adds courses certified or sponsored by the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board and the Secretary of Public Safety to the list of approved courses for purposes of a concealed handgun permit application.
- Allows the Administrative Office of the Courts, upon request of the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board or the North Carolina Security Systems Licensing Board, to disclose information about expunction orders for licensure or registration purposes.
- Exempts the North Carolina Private Protective Services Board and the North Carolina Security Systems Licensing Board from the requirements of G.S. 93B-8.1, which governs how occupational licensing boards can consider an applicant's criminal history record.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025.

Certified Residential Real Estate Appraisers – Various Real Estate and Business Law Changes.

SL 2025-52 (S690), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-52 (Senate Bill 690) establishes an alternative pathway to become a certified residential real estate appraiser by completing an approved Practical Applications of Real Estate Appraisal program and submitting 15 appraisals for review to the North Carolina Appraisal Board (Board). The Board is given authority to adopt rules to implement the alternative pathway to licensure.

The provision giving the Board authority to adopt rules became effective July 2, 2025. The remaining provisions become effective January 1, 2026.

Registration of Salesmen – Various Real Estate and Business Law Changes.

SL 2025-52 (S690), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-52 (Senate Bill 690) and Part XII of S.L. 2025-45 (House Bill 737) are the same. Section 2 of this act allows a salesman registered under the North Carolina Securities Act to register with more than one dealer if each of the dealers that employs or associates with the salesman is under common ownership and control, or if the Administrator (Secretary of State) authorizes the registration by rule or order.

This section became effective October 1, 2025.

Neighbor State License Recognition Act.

SL 2025-61 (H763)

S.L. 2025-61 (House Bill 763) requires occupational licensing boards and State agency licensing boards to issue a license, certification, or registration to any applicant who establishes residency in North Carolina and satisfies all the following requirements:

- The applicant holds a current license – and has held that license for at least one year – in the same professional occupation at a substantially equivalent practice level from one of the following states: Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, or West Virginia.
- The applicant has passed any exam required for licensure in the jurisdiction in which they currently hold a license.
- The applicant demonstrates competency in the profession through methods determined by the board.
- The applicant is in good standing in all jurisdictions in the United States in which he or she has ever held licensure, and has not: (i) faced any active or pending disciplinary actions from an occupational licensing board, (ii) had their license revoked or voluntarily surrendered due to unprofessional conduct related to the professional occupation, nor (iii) developed a disqualifying criminal history record.

- The applicant has paid all fees.

This act applies to all occupational licensing boards and State agency licensing boards, except the following:

- Any healthcare practitioner licensed under Chapter 90 of the General Statutes.
- Architects.
- Certified Public Accountants.
- Engineers.
- Veterinarians.
- Attorneys.
- Dealers, salesmen, issuers, investment advisors, investment advisor representatives, and athlete agents under Chapter 78A, 78C, and 78D of the General Statutes.
- Practitioners licensed by the North Carolina Pesticide Board.
- Practitioners licensed by the North Carolina Structural Pest Control Committee.
- Practitioners certified by the North Carolina On-Site Wastewater Contractors and Inspectors Certification Board.
- New/used motor vehicle dealers, motor vehicle sales representatives, manufacturers, factory branches, factory representatives, distributors, distributor branches, distributor representatives, and wholesalers under Article 12 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes.

Each occupational licensing board and State agency licensing board must:

- Publish on its website a list of specific criteria or requirements for licensure by the board under this act, along with any necessary documentation applicants must submit.
- Report annually, beginning October 1, 2026, on the number of individuals who applied for, received, or were denied licensure under the neighbor state licensure recognition statute.

This act became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to applications for licensure, certification, or registration received on or after that date.

Perpetual Care of Certain Cemeteries.

SL 2025-68 (H210)

S.L. 2025-68 (House Bill 210) defines "care and maintenance" in the North Carolina Cemetery Act and directs the North Carolina Cemetery Commission (Commission) to adopt rules establishing minimum standards for care and maintenance of cemeteries. The rules must provide that if a licensee is in violation of the minimum standards for care and maintenance, the Commission can revoke or suspend the license or impose a civil penalty of \$50 per day, provided the Commission

has given the licensee at least 10 days' written notice. This act also requires cemetery companies to produce annual reports with the details of the care and maintenance work performed.

This act became effective July 7, 2025.

End Dual Licensure Requirements for Audiologists – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) authorizes anyone holding an unrestricted license as an audiologist from the Board of Examiners for Speech and Language Pathologists and Audiologists to fit or sell hearing aids without having to obtain separate licensure from the State Hearing Aid Dealers and Fitters Board.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Allow Buyer's Agent Compensation to be Included in the Offer to Purchase – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 10

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Require Occupational Licensing Boards to Verify Applicants' Social Security Numbers – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 27

Section 27 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) requires occupational licensing boards to verify the authenticity of an applicant's provided social security number and authorizes the boards to share the number with the Social Security Administration for that purpose.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Locked Hearing Aid Disclosures for Hearing Aid Fitters, Dealers, and Audiologists – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Secs. 9 & 9.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Property, Trusts, and Estates

See full summary documents for additional detail

Electronic Storage of Attested Written Wills by An Attorney – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part VIII

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Updates to Elective Share Statutes – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part X

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Trust Administration / Contest Updates. – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part XI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Revisions To Year's Allowance Statutes – Amend Business Corporations Act.

SL 2025-33 (H388), Part XII

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Modernize NC S.A.F.E. Act/Second Mortgage Fee Act.

SL 2025-43 (H762)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Timeshare Foreclosure – Timeshare Foreclosure/Paternity Matters.

SL 2025-75 (H992), Secs. 1 and 2

Sections 1 and 2 of S.L. 2025-75 (House Bill 992) will create a trustee foreclosure procedure as an alternative to judicial foreclosure for enforcing a claim of lien securing the payment of delinquent assessments owed by a timeshare owner that have been unpaid for six months or more.

This alternative procedure will enable a managing entity or lienholder to obtain a final judgment authorizing foreclosure upon the docketing and indexing of a certificate filed with the clerk of superior court showing the following information pertaining to a timeshare for which a delinquent assessment has remained unpaid for at least six months:

- The record owner of the timeshare and the amount of assessments and other costs secured by the lien.
- The year or years for which the delinquent assessments are due.
- A description of the timeshare sufficient to permit its identification by verbal testimony.
- The filing information for any claim of lien previously filed with the clerk of the superior court.

Prior to filing this certificate, the managing entity or lienholder will have to do the following:

- Send the timeshare owner a written statement of the delinquent assessment amount.
- No sooner than 15 days after sending the statement of delinquent assessment, file the claim of lien with the clerk of the superior court, together with a certificate that notice of the lien was sent to the record owner by first class mail and also either by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, or by a designated delivery service with a delivery receipt requested.
- At least 30 days before docketing the judgment, send the timeshare owner a notice of the assessment lien foreclosure that includes the following:
 - A statement that a judgment will be docketed authorizing a sale of the timeshare pursuant to a timeshare foreclosure proceeding.
 - The date on which the judgment will be docketed.
 - A brief description of the affected timeshare.
 - The filing information for the claim of lien if previously filed with the clerk of court.
 - A statement that the lien must be satisfied prior to entry of the judgment.
- Along with the notice, send the timeshare owner an objection form to be used in objecting to the use of the timeshare foreclosure procedure.

If the owner of the timeshare estate objects to the use of the timeshare foreclosure proceeding within 30 days after receiving the notice of the assessment lien foreclosure, the lien securing payment of the delinquent assessments will be enforceable only by judicial foreclosure, and the timeshare owner and any successor that acquires title to the timeshare will remain potentially subject to a deficiency judgment. Alternatively, if the timeshare owner does not object to the timeshare trustee foreclosure procedure within 30 days after receiving the notice of the assessment lien, then the timeshare owner will not be subject to a deficiency judgment if the proceeds from the sale of the timeshare interest prove insufficient to offset the amounts secured by the lien.

Under the timeshare trustee foreclosure procedure, the managing entity or lienholder will have to appoint a trustee to conduct the public sale of the timeshare estate, which will have to be conducted at least 30 days and not more than one year after the indexing of the judgment directing the sale of the timeshare. On the date of sale and upon receipt of cash or certified funds,

the trustee will be required to issue a certificate of sale to the highest bidder. Within 10 calendar days of the sale, the trustee will have to file a certificate of compliance with the clerk of superior court and issue a trustee's deed to the buyer.

At any time prior to the issuance of a certificate of sale, the timeshare owner and anyone else entitled to notice as an interested party will have the right to appear before the clerk of superior court and move to set aside the judgment on the ground that the assessment has been paid or that the assessment lien on which the judgment is based is invalid.

The timeshare foreclosure procedure will not be available to enforce a lien securing a debt consisting only of fines, interest on unpaid fines, or attorney's fees incurred by the managing entity solely associated with fines; only judicial foreclosure will be available for the enforcement of such liens.

All foreclosure proceedings commenced by a managing entity or lienholder prior to March 1, 2026, and all resulting sales and transfers of real property, will be declared valid unless an action to set aside the foreclosure is commenced on or before March 1, 2026, or within one year after the date of the foreclosure sale, whichever occurs last.

Sections 1 and 2 of the act become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to claims of lien filed on or after that date.

Paternity Matters – Timeshare Foreclosure/Paternity Matters.

SL 2025-75 (H992), Secs. 3 and 4

Sections 3 and 4 of S.L. 2025-75 (House Bill 992) will modify the laws governing the right of a child born out of wedlock to take by intestate succession from a person who has acknowledged himself in a written instrument to be the child's father. These sections will remove provisions requiring the instrument acknowledging paternity to be filed with the clerk of superior court of the county where either he or the child resides.

These sections become effective December 1, 2025, and apply to the estates of decedents dying on or after that date.

Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

SL 2025-88 (S55)

S.L. 2025-88 (Senate Bill 55) will add Article 22D (Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons from Residential Property) to Chapter 14 of the General Statutes. Article 22D will authorize a property owner or an authorized representative of the property owner to initiate an expedited proceeding for the removal of an unauthorized person unlawfully occupying residential property, upon filing a complaint alleging at least the following facts:

- The requesting party is the property owner or the authorized agent of the property owner.
- The occupied property is residential property or property used in connection with or appurtenant to residential property.
- An unauthorized person has entered the property after the property owner acquired the property and is remaining or residing unlawfully on the residential property of the property owner.
- The property was not offered or intended as an accommodation for the general public at the time the unauthorized person entered.
- The property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner has directed the unauthorized person to leave the residential property.
- The unauthorized person is neither an owner nor a tenant of the property being unlawfully occupied.
- There is no pending litigation between the property owner and the unauthorized person related to the residential property.
- No other valid rental agreement or contract for deed has been entered into between the property owner or a former property owner and the unauthorized person permitting the unauthorized person to occupy the residential property.
- No rent or other form of payment has ever been demanded of or paid by the unauthorized person to the property owner or to an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the residential property.

As used in Article 22D, the term "unauthorized person" will be defined to mean a person who has no legal claim to the property and who is not entitled to occupy it under a valid rental agreement or otherwise and will not include a tenant holding over after the lease term has expired.

The following procedure will be followed under Article 22D:

1. The requesting party's complaint will be filed and a summons will be issued in the county where the property is located.
2. Within 24 hours after receiving the summons and complaint, the sheriff will serve these papers on the unauthorized person personally or by posting a copy on the front door of the property and will promptly file a return.
3. A hearing before a magistrate will be held no more than 48 hours after the summons and complaint have been served.
4. If the magistrate finds in favor of the property owner, the magistrate will immediately enter a written order stating a time by which the property must be vacated, which will be no later than four hours after the order is served on the unauthorized person.
5. All parties will have the right to an appeal to the district court for a trial de novo.
6. If the unauthorized person fails to remove personal property from the occupied premises within the time allowed by the order, the property owner or their authorized representative will be authorized to remove the personal property to or near the property line.

The failure to vacate a residential property in accordance with a court order will constitute criminal trespass.

Law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers, and magistrates will have immunity for any acts or omissions related to the expedited removal process, provided the parties act in good faith and do not act with gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

The property owner or the owner's authorized representative will have immunity for any damages related to the expedited removal process, unless the removal was wrongful.

A person harmed by a wrongful removal under Article 22D will be entitled to bring a civil action against the property owner or the owner's authorized representative seeking to recover possession of the property and actual damages, as in an action for trespass or conversion.

This act becomes effective December 1, 2025.

Surveyor Right of Entry – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Award Attorneys' Fees for Trespass to Real Property or Surveyor Negligence – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 2.5

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CIVIL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

Ratified (H96)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Retirement

See full summary documents for additional detail

Extend the Time-Limited Removal of Barriers to Allow Retirees of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System to Return to Work on a Part-Time, Temporary, or Interim Basis – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.11

Section 5.11 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) amends Section 12.1(a) of S.L. 2024-51 to allow individuals who retired from the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System or the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System between April 1, 2024, and March 1, 2025, rather than October 1, 2024, to return to work after one month, provided they return to work in a disaster zone on a part-time, temporary, or interim basis.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Law Enforcement Officer Special Separation Allowance Options.

SL 2025-8 (H50)

S.L. 2025-8 (House Bill 50) establishes an alternative calculation for the special separation allowance for State and local law enforcement officers (LEO) who complete at least 30 years of creditable service. LEOs are eligible for an allowance of 0.85% of their annual equivalent of the base rate of compensation at the time they attained 30 years of service if they (i) have completed at least 30 or more years of creditable service prior to attaining 62 years of age, or (ii) have completed at least 5 years of continuous service as a LEO immediately preceding a service retirement.

This act became effective on July 1, 2025.

Retirement Death Benefits Rewrite.

SL 2025-11 (H477)

S.L. 2025-11 (House Bill 477) recodifies and standardizes the laws related to the Death Benefit Plan within the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS), the Local Governmental Employees' Retirement System (LGERS), the Consolidated Judicial Retirement System (CJRS), and the Legislative Retirement System (LRS), and creates a separate fund for line of duty death benefits.

The recodification and standardization provisions became effective June 13, 2025. The separate fund for line of duty death benefits became effective July 1, 2025.

Department of State Treasurer Technical Corrections/Administrative Changes 2025.

SL 2025-19 (H476)

S.L. 2025-19 (House Bill 476), as amended by Section 18.(a) of S.L. 2025-25 (House Bill 40), does the following:

- Authorizes the Board of Trustees (Board) of the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) to extend a school's provisional entry into the TSERS by up to two years at the conclusion of the school's initial year of provisional entry, or the school can apply to become a participating employer in the TSERS.
- Requires charter schools seeking to participate in the TSERS after the initial year of provisional entry, or during the extended period of provisional entry, to undergo an actuarial and financial review by the Board before a decision is made.
- Provides that a charter school that is approved by the Board contingent upon receiving a financially sound independent audit report will continue its period of provisional entry for up to one year, or until the Board denies the application, whichever occurs first. The charter school's participation ceases the first of the month following the month its provisional period ends, or its application is denied.
- Requires members or former members seeking reversal of a benefits forfeiture to present their evidence to the board of trustees of their retirement system, rather than to the State Treasurer.
- Requires the fee paid by an out-of-state attorney to be admitted pro hac vice for the limited purpose of appearing for a client in a proceeding in this State be transferred to the North Carolina Administrative Office of the Courts.
- Prohibits the State from filing a claim for medical assistance paid upon the death of a beneficiary of an Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) account unless federal law requires it to do so, and if so, requires the State to file its claim with the State Treasurer within 60 days of receiving notice from the State Treasurer of the beneficiary's death.
- Requires the ABLE account application package to include a notification of the State's right to file a claim for payment upon the beneficiary's death only if required by federal law.
- Makes various technical and conforming changes.

This act became law on June 26, 2025, and the provision regarding ABLE accounts applies to deaths of designated beneficiaries occurring on or after that date. The provision regarding charter schools applies to any charter schools that seek to become a participating employer in the TSERS, or are in the initial period of provisional entry into the Retirement System, on or after that date.

State Government

See full summary documents for additional detail

Extension of State of Emergency – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) extended the Statewide declaration of emergency issued by the Governor in Executive Order No. 315 until June 30, 2025. This Part also provided that the extension of Executive Order No. 315 had no effect on Executive Order No. 322, issued by the Governor on October 16, 2024, and concerning unemployment insurance benefits.

This Part became effective March 19, 2025.

Purchases by Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Delay 2024 North Carolina State Building Code Effective Date. – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.12

Section 5.12 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) delays the effective date of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code to 12 months after the first day of the month following the date the State Fire Marshal certifies, by letter to the Revisor of Statutes with copies sent to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, that both of the following events have occurred:

- The Building Code Council and Residential Code Council have completed all of the following publication and distribution requirements:
 - The initial publication and printing of the adopted 2024 North Carolina State Building Code, including all amendments adopted as of March 19, 2025.
 - The distribution of copies of the initially published 2024 North Carolina State Building Code to all State and local officials and departments who are required by statute to receive copies of the Code without the necessity of a written request.
 - The making of copies of the initial publication of the 2024 North Carolina State Building Code available for purchase by members of the general public.
- The Residential Code Council is fully constituted in accordance with statutory membership requirements.

Nothing in these provisions abrogates the duties of the Building Code Council or Residential Code Council during the delay, including finalizing its publication, providing technical assistance, and educating the public regarding changes to the North Carolina State Building Code. This section expires 12 months after the first day of the month following the State Fire Marshal's certification that both of the events listed above have occurred.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to Maintain the Online Reporting Portal on the Storage and Deployment of Aqueous Film-Forming Foams. – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 2.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the INSURANCE subject area.]

2025 State Investment Modernization Act.

SL 2025-6 (H506)

S.L. 2025-6 (House Bill 506) does the following:

- Reorganizes laws concerning the State Treasurer.
- Creates the North Carolina Investment Authority (Investment Authority) as a State agency within the Department of State Treasurer, independent of any fiscal control exercised by the Director of Budget, the Department of Administration, and the Department of State Treasurer, and outlines the powers and duties of the Investment Authority.
- Establishes a Board of Directors to govern the Investment Authority and describes the powers and duties of the Board.
- Clarifies that rules, codes of ethics, policies and procedures adopted by the State Treasurer in effect on June 30, 2025, that are impacted by the provisions pertaining to the creation of the North Carolina Investment Authority Act must remain in authority until repealed or amended by law or the Investment Authority.
- Allows funds appropriated and available to the Department of State Treasurer to be used to pay expenses of the Investment Authority until the Investment Authority begins to manage investments on January 1, 2026.
- Adds the Investment Authority as an entity to advise the Governor and Council of State with investments.
- Requires the Investment Authority to invest the excess cash of the General Fund, the Highway Fund, the Highway Trust Fund, and special funds held by the State Treasurer.
- Removes the public procurement process to select a third-party professional investment management firm and authorizes the Investment Authority to select the third-party professional investment firm to invest the assets of the Escheat Fund.
- Allows the Investment Authority to charge administrative fees for the operation of investment programs.

- Requires the Investment Authority's designated attorneys to review all proposed investment contracts and all proposed contracts for investment-related services and confirm that the contracts meet specified criteria.
- Permits the Supplemental Retirement Board of Trustees to request support or assistance from the Investment Authority.
- Amends the laws governing reports and audits of the State Treasurer by transferring authority from the State Treasurer to the Investment Authority and requiring the Investment Authority to report monthly on the performance of all investments.
- Requires the Board of Directors to ensure a portion of the Retirement Systems' invested assets are always available to be converted to cash proceeds sufficient to meet projected net benefit payments and highly probable contractual obligations.
- Directs the Chief Investment Officer to manage the Retirement Systems' investments to remain within the approved risk operating range set by the Board of Directors.
- Clarifies that rules adopted by the State Treasurer in effect as of December 31, 2025, that are impacted by the provisions pertaining to the duties and start date of the Investment Authority must remain in effect until repealed or amended by law or the Investment Authority, and makes further technical and conforming changes.

The provisions pertaining to the creation of the North Carolina Investment Authority became effective July 1, 2025. The provisions pertaining to the duties and start date of the Investment Authority become effective January 1, 2026. Certain technical and conforming changes have various effective dates. Except as otherwise provided, this act became effective June 13, 2025.

Natural Heritage Program Data Confidentiality – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) authorizes the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to limit public disclosure of information concerning the nature and location of any rare species of plants or animals, or sensitive natural habitats, upon determining that disclosure would create a risk of harm, theft, or destruction to those species or habitats.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Standards for Visitor Conduct Exempted from Rule Making – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) exempts the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) from rulemaking requirements under Article 2A of the North Carolina Administrative Procedure Act in developing standards and rules of conduct governing visitors to sites owned or managed by DNCR.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Extended Lease Terms for State Recreation Areas – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 3

Section 3 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) authorizes the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) to enter into leases for a period greater than 30 years, but no more than 50 years, of lands owned by the federal government and managed by DNCR as the Falls Lake, Jordan Lake, and Kerr Lake State Recreation Areas.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Modernize Historical Publications Statute – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) allows the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to fund publication of the Governor's papers from sources other than the State's Contingency and Emergency Fund and eliminates the provision that limits each published volume of colonial records to no more than 700 pages.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Symphony Statutory Revisions. – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 5

Section 5 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) clarifies that (i) employees of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources assigned to assist the North Carolina Symphony Society, Inc. (Symphony) are exempt from certain classification and compensation-related rules established by the State Human Resources Commission and (ii) the Symphony is not a State agency and continues to be eligible to receive the patronage of the State.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Expand and Codify Free School Group Admission – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) prohibits the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) from imposing regular admission fees on school groups visiting any site owned or managed by DNCR.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Repeal Obsolete Reporting Requirements – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 7

Section 7 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) repeals a reporting requirement for the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR) related to grants-in-aid to private nonprofit organizations in the areas of history, art, and culture. It also repeals a generalized biennial reporting requirement that DNCR is required to submit in addition to any other reports required to be submitted by the General Assembly.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

State Nature and Historic Preserve Additions and Deletions – Department of Natural and Cultural Resources Agency Bill.

SL 2025-10 (S477), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-10 (Senate Bill 477) adds North Peaks State Trail to the State Nature and Historic Preserve (Preserve). This section also excepts from dedication and removes certain small parcels from the Preserve that are located at Mayo River State Park, Chimney Rock State Park, New River State Park, and Fonta-Flora State Trail.

The removals from the Preserve are all minor deletions, as follows:

- Mayo River State Park: Excepts four small tracts totaling approximately .394 acres needed for a permanent easement for a highway construction project.
- Chimney Rock State Park: Excepts three small tracts totaling approximately 0.43 acres adjacent to US Highway 64 & 74A in Bat Cave that were destroyed by Helene.
- Chimney Rock State Park: Excepts approximately 5.78 acres needed for a permanent communications easement.
- New River State Park: Excepts a small tract totaling approximately 10,014 square feet needed for a permanent drainage easement for a highway construction project.

- Fonta-Flora State Trail: Excepts a small tract totaling approximately 4,417 square feet needed for an access easement.

This section became effective June 13, 2025.

Authorize a Temporary Exemption from Certain State Building Code Requirements Pertaining to Fire-Resistant Windows for Downtown, Commercial Structures Damaged by Hurricane Helene – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) allows eligible buildings to be temporarily exempt from compliance with current fire-resistant window requirements under the North Carolina State Building Code (Code). An eligible building is one that meets all of the following criteria:

- Is located in a Helene-affected county, was in existence prior to September 27, 2024, and was directly damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene.
- Is located within the central business district or downtown commercial district of a city as of September 27, 2024.
- Is solely classified as a commercial occupancy under the Code and not classified under any residential or mixed-use occupancy group.
- Is undergoing reconstruction, rebuilding, rehabilitation, or repair solely for the purpose of restoring the building to substantially its previous condition, use, occupancy, and size, without expanding its original footprint, height, or changing its occupancy classification under the Code.

Owners of eligible buildings may reconstruct or repair the eligible building using window assemblies that have the same fire-protection rating that existed in the eligible building as of September 27, 2024. Eligible buildings are not required to upgrade to the current fire-protection ratings required by the Code. To utilize the exemption, the owner of an eligible building must submit an affidavit to the local building inspections department with the permit application. The exemption must be claimed within two years after the effective date of this section and does not relieve owners of eligible buildings from complying with other fire safety requirements.

This section became effective June 26, 2025, and applies to eligible buildings for which a Certificate of Occupancy is issued on or after that date.

Historic Flood Event Building Code Exemptions (Replacing or Reconstructing Existing Buildings). – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 7

Section 7 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) does the following:

- Upon the execution of a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between North Carolina and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), authorizes the owner of a lawfully established building or structure damaged by the Helene flood event to replace or reconstruct the building or structure within the base floodplain to the same or lesser extent or volume existing immediately before the historic flood event, without regard to changes in State or local regulations adopted after the building or structure was lawfully established. The MOA must specify conditions under which reconstruction in the designated Helene-affected counties may deviate from the specific the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) floodplain management standards, while ensuring that all counties remain eligible for participation in the NFIP.
- Limits local government authority to adopt ordinances to regulate uses in flood hazard areas and grant permits for the use of flood hazard areas that are consistent with floodway regulation statutes.
- Requires all communities in North Carolina to continue to enforce FEMA's minimum floodplain management standards, except for property owners in Helene-affected counties granted specific authority pursuant to the MOA.

This section became effective June 26, 2025, and expires three years from the effective date of the MOA with FEMA, unless otherwise extended by mutual agreement between North Carolina and FEMA or terminated earlier pursuant to the MOA.

Historic Flood Building Code Exemption (Vegetative Debris) – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) requires the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (DACs), and units of local government, as applicable, to waive all of the following requirements, to the extent the requirements are State or local in origin and not otherwise required to satisfy federal law, as they may apply to activities to process tree stumps and other vegetative debris into mulch or soil amendments in the counties designated before, on, or after the effective date of this act under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States due to Hurricane Helene:

- Solid waste composting rules for Type 1 facilities.
- Stormwater and sedimentation and erosion control requirements.
- Air quality permit requirements for vegetative debris processing equipment.
- Soil amendment or compost product registration required by DACs.
- State Fire Code limitations on mulch pile storage.

This section became effective June 26, 2025, and expires July 1, 2027.

Historic Flood Event Building Code Exemption (Composting) – Various Disaster Recovery Reforms.

SL 2025-18 (H251), Sec. 9

Section 9 of S.L. 2025-18 (House Bill 251) requires units of local government in Helene-affected counties managing vegetative debris removal within their jurisdictions to transport that material to a composting site for reuse as mulch or soil amendment when the transportation and disposal costs for processing tree stumps and other vegetative material at a composting site are equal to or less than transporting and disposing of the material at a landfill.

This section became effective June 26, 2025, and expires on July 1, 2027.

Building Code Revisions – Child Care Regulatory Reforms.

SL 2025-36 (H412), Part III

Part III of S.L. 2025-36 (House Bill 412) does the following:

- Requires that until rules are adopted, the Office of State Fire Marshall, the Residential Code Council, Building Code Council, and State and local governments enforcing the North Carolina State Building Code treat a family care home as a Residential Group R-3 occupancy provided that the area of the dwelling used for the family child care home meets certain requirements for exit locations, fire extinguishers, safety plans, carbon monoxide detection, and smoke alarms.
- Requires that the Residential Code Council and Building Code Council create a family child care home occupancy classification within a dwelling and adopt rules amending the Code that are consistent with this Part.
- Amends the definition of child care facility in G.S. 110-86 and the mandatory standards for a child care license in G.S. 110-91 to conform to changes made in this Part.
- Requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education to establish the Licensed Childcare Licensure Workgroup to examine streamlining regulatory requirements for the physical structures of licensed child care facilities and report the findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly no later than one year after the act became law.

This Part became effective July 1, 2025.

Emergency Communications Exemptions/Sanitary Board/Section 401 Certifications.

SL 2025-50 (H768)

S.L. 2025-50 (House Bill 768) does the following:

- Exempts certain buildings and structures from emergency responder communications coverage requirements found within the North Carolina Fire Code, requires the Building Code Council to adopt rules in accordance with the act, and directs the Building Code Council and local governments to follow the requirements of the act until the effective date of permanent rules.
- Provides that vacancies on a sanitary district board that provides water and sewer service and that lies solely within a county with more than 17 municipalities that lie wholly within that county, shall be filled by the remaining sanitary district board members until the next election for board members with a resident from the same residency district of the vacating sanitary district board member.
- Establishes statutory requirements for the Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ) handling of applications under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act for projects that are eligible for a Nationwide Permit or Regional General Permit issued by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. DEQ is required to:
 - Notify an applicant of the required fee within 5 days of receipt of an application. DEQ's review period begins on the date the fee is paid. The fee is waived if DEQ does not notify an applicant of the fee within 5 days of receipt of the application.
 - Within 30 days of the beginning of the review period, DEQ must (i) determine whether the application is complete and notify the applicant accordingly and, (ii) if DEQ determines an application is incomplete, specify all deficiencies in a notice to the applicant. Review of amended applications or supplemental information responses provided by the applicant must occur within 20 business days of receipt. If DEQ fails to issue a notice that the application is incomplete within the requisite initial 30-day period, or the supplemental 20 day review period, the application is deemed complete.
 - Either approve or deny an application within (i) 10 business days of the date the application is deemed complete if no public hearing is held or (ii) 15 business days of the close of the record if a public hearing is held and no additional information is required. Failure of DEQ to approve or deny the application within the requisite time results in a waiver of the certification requirement by the State, unless the applicant agrees, in writing, to an extension of time, which must not exceed one year from the State's receipt of the application for certification.
 - Issue a certification, with or without conditions or limitations, upon determining that the proposed discharges into navigable waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act will comply with State water quality requirements. DEQ can include as conditions or limitations in a certification any effluent limitations or other limitations necessary to assure the proposed discharges into navigable waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act will comply with State water quality requirements. DEQ must not impose any other conditions or limitations in a certification.
 - DEQ can deny a certification application only if it determines that no reasonable conditions or limitations would provide assurance that the proposed discharges into navigable waters subject to the federal Clean Water Act will comply with State water quality requirements.

The section of the act pertaining to buildings and structures exempt from emergency responder communications coverage requirements expires when permanent rules adopted as required by the act become permanent. The section of the act pertaining to the filling of a vacancy in a sanitary district board became effective July 2, 2025. The section of the act pertaining to applications under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act became effective October 1, 2025.

Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-67 (House Bill 23) authorizes the Gullah Geechee Heritage Trail in Brunswick County. This Part requires the State to support, promote, encourage, and facilitate the establishment of trail segments on State park lands and on other lands. On segments of the Heritage Trail that cross property controlled by agencies or owners other than the State, the laws, rules, and policies of those agencies or owners control the use of the property.

This Part became effective July 7, 2025.

Authorize Adding South Fork Passage State Trail to the State Parks System. – Various State and Local Gov't Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part IV

Part IV of S.L. 2025-67 (House Bill 23) authorizes the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to add the South Fork Passage Trail (Trail) in Catawba, Lincoln, and Gaston Counties to the State Parks System as a State Trail. The Trail, which runs alongside the South Fork River, must begin at the confluence of the Henry Fork and Jacob Fork at Jacob Fork Park and end at the boundary between the State and South Carolina on Lake Wylie.

This section became effective July 7, 2025.

Codify Lake Norman Marine Commission. – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part V

Part V of S.L. 2025-67 (House Bill 23) does the following:

- Codifies the session law language that established the Lake Norman Marine Commission and makes various revisions to the laws that govern the Commission.
- Subjects individuals serving on the Lake Norman Marine Commission to the State Ethics Act, which would require them to submit a Statement of Economic Interest to the State Ethics Commission.
- Makes various conforming changes to the statute that governs the membership of the Catawba/Wateree River Basin Advisory Commission.

- Provides that the initial appointments to the governing board of the Lake Norman Marine Commission become effective on the date that is seven calendar days following the adoption by three or more eligible local governments of a joint resolution reconstituting the Lake Norman Marine Commission.
- Provides that all rules, regulations, and decisions made by the predecessor Lake Norman Marine Commission remain in full force and effect until and unless duly modified by the reconstituted Lake Norman Marine Commission.

This Part became effective July 7, 2025.

Road and Bridge Naming Designations – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part VI

Part VI of S.L. 2025-67 (House Bill 23) requires the Department of Transportation to make the following naming designations:

- Rename the bridge on North Carolina Highway 904 that crosses the Columbus and Robeson County Line as the "Assistant Chief Lenneau D. Hammond Bridge."
- Rename the bridge on Rock Barn Road NE that crosses Interstate 40 as the "Mayor Bruce R. Eckard Bridge."
- Rename Complex Street in the Town of Tabor City as "Shane Miller Street."

This Part became effective July 7, 2025.

Amend the North Carolina State Building Code to Allow Certain Unlimited Area Building Clearances to Include Railroad Rights-Of-Way – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part VII

Part VII of S.L. 2025-67 (House Bill 23) requires the Building Code Council to amend the North Carolina State Building Code (Code), and those enforcing the Code prior to the amendment, to include railroad rights-of-way as part of the term "public ways" for open space clearance determinations to allow for an unlimited area building classification for certain existing buildings which also meet specified parcel and building criteria.

This Part became effective July 7, 2025, and expires upon the adoption of permanent rules.

Limit Rules With Substantial Financial Costs.

SL 2025-82 (H402)

S.L. 2025-82 (House Bill 402) provides that a proposed permanent rule with an aggregate financial cost of \$20 million in a five-year period cannot become effective unless the General Assembly

ratifies a bill approving the rule. If the General Assembly does not ratify a bill approving the rule, the Rules Review Commission must return the rule to the agency within 15 days of the General Assembly adjourning for a period of 30 days or more. This act does not apply to rules required by federal law.

"Aggregate financial cost" is defined as the amount of costs to all persons affected, as identified in a substantial economic impact analysis, not including benefits. "Substantial economic impact" means an aggregate financial impact on all persons affected by a proposed rule of \$1 million in a five-year period.

Further, the act imposes limitations on permanent rules adopted by a board, commission, council, or similar unit of government, including rules adopted as part of the periodic review and readoption process, as follows:

- For proposed permanent rules with an aggregate financial cost of at least \$1,000,000 over a five-year period, the rule must be adopted by a vote of at least 2/3 of all members present and voting, except if the rule or set of rules is required by federal law.
- For proposed permanent rules with an aggregate financial cost of \$10,000,000 over a five-year period, the rule must be adopted by a unanimous vote of all members present and voting, except if the rule or set of rules is required by federal law.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on June 27, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This act became effective July 29, 2025, and applies to rules adopted on or after that date.

Clarify Powers of State Auditor – Clarify Powers of State Auditor.

SL 2025-83 (H549), Part I

Part I of S.L. 2025-83 (House Bill 549) does the following:

- Exempts the Office of the State Auditor from getting written approval from the Governor before contracting to obtain the services of a consultant. (Effective July 1, 2025).
- Generally exempts the Office of the State Auditor from the statutes governing information technology. The Auditor's Office may elect to participate in the information technology programs, services, and contracts offered by the Department of Information Technology, including procurement. The Office of State Auditor must make this election in writing. (Effective July 1, 2025).
- Exempts the Office of the State Auditor from statutes requiring the Department of Information Technology to approve information technology procurement. The Auditor may procure information technology services under the Auditor's authority to contract with professional persons and experts. (Effective July 1, 2025).
- Defines a "publicly-funded entity" as "[a]ny individual, private corporation, institution, association, board, or other organization that receives, disburses, or otherwise handles State or federal funds."

- Provides that the State Auditor is required to investigate reports of improper governmental activities of publicly-funded entities in addition to State agencies and employees of those agencies.
- Provides that upon demand of the Auditor, access to persons and records of a State agency includes the viewing of databases, datasets, and digital records necessary for any purpose within the authority of the Auditor.
- Permits the Auditor to have access to databases, datasets, digital records, and other documentation of publicly-funded entities which pertain to either: (i) amounts received from a grant or contract from the federal government, the State, or its political subdivisions or (ii) amounts received, disbursed, or otherwise handled for the federal government, the State, or its political subdivisions.
- Allows the Auditor to commence an action in superior court for a show cause hearing if a person failed to provide access to persons or records.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. Except as otherwise provided, this Part of the act became effective July 29, 2025.

Other State Auditor Amendments – Clarify Powers of State Auditor.

SL 2025-83 (H549), Part II

Part II of S.L. 2025-83 (House Bill 549) does the following:

- Removes language making certain entities subject to audit by the State Auditor and requiring the Auditor to verify certain membership counts.
- Provides that if an audit or investigation reveals that a person or entity received public funds as a result of fraud, misrepresentation, or other deceptive acts or practices while doing business with a State agency, then the Auditor must notify the Department of Revenue so the money can be collected. (Effective December 1, 2025).
- Allows the State Auditor to audit or investigate any publicly funded entity. This audit or investigation is limited to the State or federal funds received, disbursed, or otherwise handled by the publicly-funded entity.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. Except as otherwise provided, this Part of the act became effective July 29, 2025.

Sunday Opening State Historic Site Pilot Program – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2C.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the AGRICULTURE AND WILDLIFE subject area.]

Division of Accountability, Value, and Efficiency – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2E.2

Section 2E.2 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) appropriates \$6 million to the Department of the State Auditor (Department) to establish the Division of Accountability, Value, and Efficiency (Division) within the Department, including up to 45 new positions. No later than October 1, 2025, every State agency must report to the Division an explanation of how the agency, including each division or office within that agency, utilizes public monies to execute its powers and duties under law, and a description of all positions within that agency that have remained vacant for six months or more as of July 1, 2025.

The Division is directed to assess the continued need for each State agency and the vacant positions within each agency and report to the General Assembly by December 31, 2025. The Division terminates on December 31, 2028.

The appropriation in this section became effective July 1, 2025. The remainder of this section became effective August 6, 2025.

State Board of Elections Exempt Positions/Funds – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 2E.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CONSTITUTION AND ELECTIONS subject area.]

Department of Labor Modifications – Continuing Budget Operations Part II.

SL 2025-92 (H358), Sec. 4.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT subject area.]

Exempt Model Homes from Fire Protection Water Supply Requirement During Construction – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) authorizes a fire code official to reduce fire-flow requirements for an isolated model home at a subdivision project site where full fire flow requirements is impractical or pending. This section also requires the Building Code Council and Residential Code Council to make conforming changes to the Code, as applicable.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Limit Local Government Authority to Regulate the Display of American Flags on Private Property – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 12

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Extend Notice Required Before Contested Case Hearings – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 14

Section 14 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) requires that for Article 3 contested cases, the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) must give the parties notice of the location and week that the hearing is expected at least 30 days before the initial scheduled hearing date. OAH must still issue a formal notice of hearing at least 15 days before the hearing date. For Article 3A contested cases, the agency must give the parties notice at least 30 days before the hearing.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Encourage Article 3A Agencies to Negotiate Informally – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 15

Section 15 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) clarifies the official State policy on contested cases, to provide that for State agencies whose contested cases operate under Article 3A of the Administrative Procedure Act, disputes between a person and the agency should ideally be settled through informal procedures before the filing of a contested case, and that a contested case may be filed only if the dispute cannot be resolved informally.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Zoning Regulation/University Property – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 18

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Equality in State Agencies/Prohibition on DEI.

Ratified (H171)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the VETOED LEGISLATION subject area.]

Transportation

See full summary documents for additional detail

Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Subpart II-C

Subpart II-C of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) establishes the Private Road and Bridge Repair and Replacement Program (Program) within the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management (NCEM), to assist with the repair and replacement of private roads and bridges damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Helene. NCEM is directed to consult with the Department of Transportation to administer the Program and develop criteria to prioritize the repair and replacement of private roads and bridges.

If a qualifying road or bridge is owned by a homeowners association (HOA), then NCEM must enter into a cost-share agreement with the HOA, covering no more than 50% of the engineering and construction costs. Any funds that the HOA pays towards the projects must be non-State dollars.

If a private road or bridge is repaired or replaced through the Program, the ownership or responsibility for maintenance or safety of the road or bridge shall not transfer to or be assumed by the State or local government.

NCEM is directed to take all reasonable steps to obtain federal assistance or alternative funds prior to obligating State funds for the Program if such federal assistance or alternative funds are available, and NCEM is directed to not duplicate repair efforts and benefits. Funds appropriated to NCEM for this program may be used for program costs associated with the repair of private roads and bridges, disbursement of grants to nonprofit organizations supporting bridge repairs, and to provide technical support and assistance for individual and local governments to comply with the no-rise certification requirements required by FEMA under the National Flood Insurance Program.

NCEM must report on the Program annually to the Joint Legislative Emergency Management Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division beginning on June 30, 2025, and ending June 30, 2029.

This subpart became effective March 19, 2025.

Allow Use of Inmates to Clean up Debris on Public Roads and Roadsides – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COURTS, JUSTICE, AND CORRECTIONS subject area.]

Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47)

Section 5.5 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) requires the North Carolina Department of Transportation (DOT) to enter into a contract with a third-party administrator to expeditiously seek reimbursement from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Highway Administration for qualifying disaster expenditures in areas affected by Hurricane Helene. DOT must report monthly to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on expenditures and the status of reimbursement.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Transfer North Carolina Center for Missing Persons to the State Highway Patrol – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 5.1

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Bridge Naming Clarification – House Budget Technical Corrections.

SL 2025-4 (H74), Sec. 8.1

Section 8.1 of S.L. 2025-4 (House Bill 74) modifies Section 41.7 of S.L. 2023-134 by clarifying that the bridge on U.S. Highway 74 that crosses over the Catawba River at the Mecklenburg County and Gaston County Line and is numbered 350091 by the Department of Transportation is named the "Representative Dana Bumgardner Bridge."

This section became effective May 14, 2025.

Motor Vehicle Dealers.

SL 2025-22 (H421)

S.L. 2025-22 (House Bill 421) amends the law related to motor vehicle dealers in the following ways:

- Extends to 60 days the grace period provided by statute during which a dealer license continues to be valid after its expiration date while the Division of Motor Vehicles is considering a properly submitted renewal application.
- Increases the validity period of dealer plates issued from one to two years, to align with the validity period of dealer licenses, which was increased from one to two years in 2024, and requires dealer plates to be replaced every four years instead of every three years.
- Provides for an extension of dealer license plate validity to coincide with any applicable extension of dealer license validity provided by the renewal grace period.

This act became effective October 1, 2025.

The P.A.V.E. Act.

SL 2025-39 (H948)

S.L. 2025-39 (House Bill 948):

- Amends laws that relate to Mecklenburg County sales tax for public transportation, which include the incorporation of a metropolitan public transportation authority authorized by this act.
- Amends laws that relate to Mecklenburg County U-Drive-It Tax to include a metropolitan public transportation authority authorized by this act.
- Authorizes Mecklenburg County to levy an additional sales and use tax, under the enacted Mecklenburg County Roadway Systems and Public Transportation Systems Sales Tax Act, and outlines use criteria, for roadway systems and public transportation systems.
 - Mecklenburg County must distribute forty percent (40%) of the net proceeds to eligible municipalities which include the City of Charlotte and the Towns of Cornelius, Davidson, Huntersville, Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville.
 - Mecklenburg County must distribute sixty percent (60%) of the net proceeds of the tax to a metropolitan public transportation authority authorized by this act.
- Authorizes the creation of a Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority, in areas that, at the time of creation of the authority, meet all of the following criteria:
 - The area consists of a single county that has a population greater than one million.
 - The county borders another state.
 - The county includes at least one unit of local government that operates a light rail system.
- Imposes additional requirements for establishment of a Metropolitan Public Transportation Authority by Mecklenburg County.
- Authorizes the utilization of sales and use tax and other taxes received by a municipality in connection with revenue bond projects, and to finance and refinance public transportation facilities with bonds or notes, in cities meeting certain criteria or metropolitan public transportation authorities.
- Prohibits the North Carolina Department of Transportation from:
 - Reducing funding for any transportation projects as a result of this act without authorization from the General Assembly.
 - Revising highway project selection ratings as provided in North Carolina Strategic Transportation Investments law based on local funding participation by the City of Charlotte, the Town of Cornelius, the Town of Davidson, the Town of Huntersville, the Town of Matthews, the Town of Mint Hill, or the Town of Pineville.
- Authorizes the State Auditor to conduct audits of a local government or metropolitan public transportation authority in its utilization of net proceeds distributed by the Secretary of Revenue pursuant to the Mecklenburg County Roadway Systems and Public Transportation Systems Sales Tax Act to the extent that a local government or metropolitan public transportation authority uses those net proceeds for local funding

shares or local funding contributions for any individual projects which are subject to prioritization pursuant to North Carolina Strategic Transportation Investments law.

Modifications to distribution of tax proceeds and U-Drive-It taxes become effective if Mecklenburg County levies a roadway systems and public transportation systems sales tax as authorized by this act on the date the tax becomes effective. The remainder of this act became effective July 1, 2025.

Clarify Motor Vehicle Dealer Laws.

SL 2025-41 (S295)

S.L. 2025-41 (Senate Bill 295) makes the following changes to motor vehicle dealer and manufacturer licensing laws:

Manufacturer approval of transfer; dealer franchise termination. The act prohibits a manufacturer from requiring certain information in determining whether to approve a dealer's proposed transfer, change in executive management, or appointment of a designated successor. It also provides that good cause does not exist for a manufacturer to terminate, cancel, or not renew a franchise if, in evaluating the performance of a dealer to determine cause, the manufacturer did not provide a dealer with a sufficient number and mix of vehicles to make progress toward compliance with the manufacturer's performance criteria. This act also makes provisions related to voluntary termination assistance applicable to recreational vehicle dealers in the same manner as other franchised motor vehicle dealers.

Dealer compensation for over-the-air products and services. The act requires a manufacturer that, through over-the-air or remote means, provides for a fee any accessory, option, add on, service, feature, improvement, or upgrade for any motor vehicle owned or leased by a retail customer in this State, to provide its franchised dealers with an itemized schedule of compensation the dealer will receive for those sales and, upon request, a statement itemizing the type, volume, and gross receipts generated from the sale of over-the-air products and services to the dealer's customers and the fees and commissions to which the dealer is entitled.

Manufacturer objection to dealer transfer. The act provides that a manufacturer objecting to a proposed change in executive management or principal operator based on alleged poor past performance has the burden of proving below average performance across all dealerships operated by the candidate over the preceding three-year period.

Definition of "motor vehicle dealer". The act amends the definition of "motor vehicle dealer" for purposes of motor vehicle dealer and manufacturer licensing laws by deleting an exemption for providers of vehicle subscriptions or monthly rental programs, and by including persons who perform warranty service or recall work.

Definition of "sell". The act provides a new definition for "sell" applicable to the laws regulating motor vehicle dealers and manufacturers, comprising a non-exclusive list of activities related to motor vehicle retail sales, leases, exchanges, or subscriptions.

Dealership succession rights. The act amends the law governing dealer succession rights adding retirement to death and incapacity as events upon the occurrence of which a dealership owner is authorized to appoint a designated successor.

Manufacturer prohibitions re: unfinished vehicles, cost of training and equipment. The act prohibits manufacturers from requiring dealers to accept vehicles that cannot be immediately sold because of a recall, inoperable parts, or that have not been delivered to the dealer. It also prohibits manufacturers from varying the price of training, software, equipment, or tools based on dealer compliance with a facility image program.

Warranty reimbursement clarifications. The act clarifies that warranty reimbursement requirements apply to pre-sale maintenance and manufacturer-required component installation and assembly and requires that compensation for warranty and recall service cannot be less than the dealer's current retail rate for parts and labor.

Loaner vehicle cost reimbursement. The act requires a manufacturer to reimburse a dealer for providing a loaner vehicle to a customer if provision of the loaner vehicle is approved by that manufacturer. The act also requires such reimbursement if provision of the loaner vehicle is regardless of whether the manufacturer has its own loaner program in which the dealer has elected not to participate, and it requires the manufacturer to allow the dealer to submit claims for reimbursement in 30-day increments when the repair period is open due to a delay in parts or repair information from the manufacturer.

Severability clause. The act has a severability clause providing that if any provision of the act or its application is found to be invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of the act that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

The act became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to all current and future franchises and other agreements in existence as of that date between new motor vehicle dealers in this State and manufacturers or distributors.

Regulation of Drivers Education Offered by Commercial Driver Training Schools – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) clarifies the ability of the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to adopt regulations governing the private driver training schools the Commissioner licenses when they are offering the driver education course required for teen drivers. It specifies that the Commissioner may adopt regulations in addition to requirements applicable to the program of driver education offered in the public schools.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Dealer License Renewal Fix – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 2

Section 2 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) provides that, for a licensed dealer, a change in ownership is not grounds for denial, suspension, or revocation of the license. The dealer's business is not required to apply for licensure as a new business, as long as any new owners are qualified and approved by the Division of Motor Vehicles.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Change Cash Balance Requirement to Cash on Hand – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 3

Section 3 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) changes the amount of the Department of Transportation's cash balance requirement at the end of each month from at least 7.5% of the total appropriations for the fiscal year to an amount equal to at least 45 days of the total appropriations for the fiscal year from the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund.

These provisions also direct the Department to utilize cash flow financing to fund transportation projects with the goal of reducing the combined average daily cash balance of the Highway Fund and the Highway Trust Fund to an amount equal to between 75 and 120 days.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Eliminate Turnpike Authority Reporting Requirements – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 4

Section 4 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) repeals requirements for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority to develop an annual work plan and to report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee annually on the number of one-time toll facility users charged more than \$50 in processing fees and penalties.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Turnpike Unpaid Toll Notice by Electronic Mail – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 5

Section 5 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) clarifies that the North Carolina Turnpike Authority may send a toll bill by email to an email account on file with any state Department of Motor Vehicles.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Remove Limit on Turnpike Projects – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 6

Section 6 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) eliminates the statutory cap on the number of projects the Turnpike Authority is authorized to design, establish, purchase, construct, operate, and maintain. Previously, the Turnpike Authority was permitted to undertake no more than eleven projects.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Revisions to Bridge Program Outsourcing – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 8

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) prohibits the Department of Transportation from outsourcing certain culvert and structure installations with a project cost of \$500,000 or less on low volume or non-outlet roads.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Exempt Ferry Division from Temporary Solutions Program – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 9

Section 9 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) exempts the Ferry Division of the North Carolina Department of Transportation from using the Temporary Solutions Program to hire temporary employees when there is an established need during peak season or when work requires specific skills.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Modify Report to General Assembly – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 10

Section 10 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) modifies Department of Transportation reporting requirements to require submission of the report on use of funds for maintenance and construction to the General Assembly on or before the tenth day after its convening each regular session and to include cost of maintenance and construction, receipts of license fees, disbursements of the Department, and other financial information relevant to illustrate the Department's financial condition during the previous fiscal year.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Criminal History Checks for Drivers Providing Transportation Services to Children Pursuant to Contracts with Local Boards of Education – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 12

Section 12 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) requires a criminal history check for an individual before a local board of education may allow the individual to act as a driver pursuant to a contract entered into by a local board of education with a person, firm, or corporation to provide transportation services to students in lieu of operating school buses. It also provides for sharing of information between school boards if one local school board has previously done a criminal history check on an individual, the check was done within the previous three years, and the individual consents.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to contracts for transportation services for students beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

Authorize Use of Electronic Speed-Measuring Systems in School Zones – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 13

Section 13 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) authorizes cities and counties to use electronic speed-measuring systems to enforce speed limits in school zones. Local governments must adopt ordinances to allow for the civil enforcement of those speed limits, providing processes for issuing and processing citations, and providing an administrative hearing process for contesting citations. Installation of systems on North Carolina Department of Transportation right-of-way must be approved by the Department. A civil penalty of \$250 must be assessed for violations, and the Division of Motor Vehicles must refuse registration of a vehicle when the owner fails to pay a penalty.

This section became effective October 1, 2025.

Codify Limits of Existing Rights-of-Way and Easements Maintained by the Department of Transportation to Provide Clarity and Consistency for Persons Impacted by Previous Property Transactions That Were Not Documented or Recorded in Accordance with Current Requirements – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 14

Section 14 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) enacts a statutory provision defining the boundaries of rights-of-way and easements for roadways where the Department of Transportation (DOT) has

responsibility for maintenance but there is no instrument of conveyance describing the boundaries.

When a developer is required by DOT to construct offsite improvements as a condition of receiving a permit, and by constructing offsite improvements there is a need for the developer to acquire a right-of-way or easement but the developer is unable to do so, DOT must coordinate with the developer to revise the project so that no right-of-way or easement is needed. DOT must act within a reasonable amount of time once the developer shows proof of a good-faith effort to get the land.

DOT is prohibited from requiring a Hold Harmless declaration from a developer, and DOT may not take any action that would constitute a taking of property in violation of the Constitution of this State or of the United States.

By October 1, 2025, DOT must submit a report to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee describing the maintenance limits used by DOT and recommending any additional legislative changes that may further aid in defining the boundaries of rights-of-way and easements subject to this section.

DOT must adopt rules, or amend their rules, to be consistent with these provisions.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

No Mowing in Right-of-Way When Placement of Political Signs Is Permitted or During the Month of May – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 15

Section 15 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) prohibits the Department of Transportation (DOT) from scheduling mowing in any right-of-way where the placing of political signs is permitted by statute during the period beginning the 30th day before the date early voting begins and ending on the 10th day after the primary or election day. It further prohibits the DOT from scheduling mowing in any highway right-of-way during the month of May.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Modify Cap on Certain Public-Private Partnerships – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 16

Section 16 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) amends the cap on public private partnership agreements so the North Carolina Department of Transportation and the Turnpike Authority may enter into up to six agreements, an increase from three agreements, with private entities and authorized political subdivisions to finance transportation infrastructure projects in this State.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Trucks in Left Lane – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 17

Section 17 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) prohibits vehicles with a gross vehicle weight rating of 26,001 pounds or more from operating in the leftmost lane of any controlled-access highway with six or more lanes, except when entering or exiting the highway or avoiding a hazard or to pass. A violation of this provision is an infraction.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Impose Temporary Moratorium on the Expiration of Certain Class C Drivers Licenses – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 18

Section 18 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) extends the validity of regular Class C drivers licenses for up to two years after the date they expired only for purposes of establishing the licensee's driving privilege. The extension does not apply to any license that is otherwise revoked, suspended, or cancelled.

This section also directs the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee to review studies and audits conducted or commissioned by, or any recommendations made by, the Committee, the Department of Transportation, or the Office of the State Auditor regarding the delays and staffing shortages occurring at the Division of Motor Vehicles and to report its findings, and make any legislative proposals designed to alleviate those issues, to the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly.

This section became effective July 1, 2025, and applies to Class C regular drivers licenses that expire on or after that date, and it expires on December 31, 2027.

Modify Age of Motor Vehicles that Secondary Metals Recyclers or Salvage Yards May Purchase without Title – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 19

Section 19 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) amends the law to allow secondary metals recyclers and salvage yards to purchase motor vehicles without a certificate of title if they comply with certain requirements and the vehicle is 12 model years old or older, whereas previously the vehicle was required to be 10 model years old or older.

This section became effective October 1, 2025.

Division of Motor Vehicles Modernization Modifications – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 19.5

Section 19.5 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) extends the date by which a vendor must be selected by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to modernize its IT systems from July 1, 2025, to January 1, 2026. It also requires the DMV, in consultation with the vendor and the Department of Information Technology, to make quarterly status reports. The DMV must update the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on the status of its vendor selection process by October 1, 2025.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Use and Study of Native Plants – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 20

Section 20 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) clarifies that any planting or replanting done in conjunction with selective vegetation removal for outdoor advertising must be done in accordance with the existing statutory requirement that the Department of Transportation (DOT) use plants and seeds in highway right-of-way that are native to the Southeastern United States with a strong preference for plants native to North Carolina, except that the DOT may use nonnative turf grasses and nonnative grasses, plants, and seeds for the purpose of soil and slope stabilization for erosion control. It also requires the DOT and the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, in consultation with North Carolina State University and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, to study and develop a list of native grasses, plants, and seeds to be used in place of nonnative species and to study and develop a list of invasive plant species and a plan for removing invasive species from State parks and highway right-of-way. A report on the study and development of the lists and plan must be submitted to the 2026 Regular Session of the General Assembly upon its convening.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Increase Maximum Allowable Number of Window Tinting Medical Exception Permits – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 21

Section 21 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) increases the maximum number of medical exception permits a person may be issued from two to four. These permits are for a person who suffers from a medical condition that causes the person to be photosensitive to light and requires alternative window tinting requirements on specified vehicles.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Eliminate Required Inspection of Window Tint and Require Drivers with Tinted Windows to Roll Down on Approach of Law Enforcement – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 22

Section 22 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) eliminates inspection of window tint from vehicle safety inspection requirements. It also adds a statutory requirement that a driver of a vehicle with tinted windows must roll down the window when the vehicle is approached by a law enforcement officer.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Progressive Design-Build Delivery Method Pilot Program Modifications – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 23

Section 23 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) amends Section 2 of S.L. 2024-15, which authorized the Department of Transportation to establish a pilot program to award contracts for up to five transportation projects that meet eligibility criteria utilizing a Progressive Design Build delivery method. This section amends that provision by modifying the definition of "Progressive Design-Build" and how the Design-Build Team is selected and allowing for more than two contracts to complete a project.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Transfer Certain Nonsworn Personnel from the License and Theft Bureau of the Department of Transportation to the State Highway Patrol and Establish New Budget Funds – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 23.5

Section 23.5 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) transfers additional nonsworn License and Theft Bureau personnel from the Department of Transportation to the State Highway Patrol, following legislation enacted in 2024 (S.L. 2024-57) that made the State Highway Patrol an independent department and transferred all functions of the License and Theft Bureau that were required to be performed by sworn law enforcement personnel and those personnel from the Department of Transportation to the State Highway Patrol.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Amend Requirements for Commercial Driver Training Schools Administering Road Tests – Department of Transportation Omnibus.

SL 2025-47 (S391), Sec. 24

Section 24 of S.L. 2025-47 (Senate Bill 391) amends the current authorization of commercial driver training schools to administer road tests for persons at least 16 years old but less than 18 years old to clarify that the road tests must meet requirements and standards of road tests administered by the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV). It also requires the DMV to adopt forms for administering the tests and reporting results to the DMV and authorizes the DMV to adopt rules and policies implementing the section.

This section became effective July 1, 2025.

Exemption from Nonbetterment Costs – JMAC/ABC/Other Revisions.

SL 2025-65 (S664), Part IV

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Road and Bridge Naming Designations – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part VI

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Amend the North Carolina State Building Code to Allow Certain Unlimited Area Building Clearances to Include Railroad Rights-Of-Way – Various State and Local Government Provisions.

SL 2025-67 (H23), Part VII

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Increase Punishment for Committing the Offense of Failure to Yield that Results in Serious Bodily Injury – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 12

Section 12 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) increases the penalty for failure to yield that results in serious bodily injury but not death from an infraction to a Class 2 misdemeanor, which shall include a \$500 fine and revocation of the driver's license for 90 days.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses committed on or after that date.

Clarify Penalty for Failure to Yield the Right-of-Way to a Blind or Partially Blind Pedestrian – 2025 Public Safety Act.

SL 2025-70 (S429), Sec. 13

Section 13 of S.L. 2025-70 (Senate Bill 429) specifies that failure to yield to a blind or partially blind pedestrian is a Class 2 misdemeanor.

This section becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses on or after that date.

Authorize Remote Drivers License Renewals for Armed Forces Members and Families – Military and Veteran Support Act.

SL 2025-72 (S118), Part V.

Part V. of S.L. 2025-72 (Senate Bill 118) amends statutory eligibility requirements for remote renewal of drivers licenses to provide an exception from the general requirement that the most recent prior renewal was in person for (i) active duty and reserve members of the Armed Forces of the United States who are stationed outside of this State, and (ii) the member's spouse and dependent children. The exception allows those licensees to remotely renew a second consecutive time if:

- The license being renewed is not REAL ID compliant; or
- The license is REAL ID compliant but is being converted to a non-REAL ID compliant license for purposes of the renewal.

This Part became effective October 1, 2025, and applies to licenses renewed on or after that date.

Limit Design Methodology and Construction Standards for Certain Municipal Streets – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Utilities

See full summary documents for additional detail

Facilitate Permanent Installation of Broadband Infrastructure – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.2

Section 5.2 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) requires roadway constructors repairing or rebuilding roads within a county affected by Hurricane Helene to do all of the following: (i) on roads that are a quarter of a mile long or longer, collaborate with any broadband provider that is repairing or rebuilding broadband infrastructure that was located along the original right-of-way; (ii) coordinate with broadband providers to avoid extended traffic disruptions or the necessity of further improvements upon the completion of the roadway construction process; and (iii) cooperate with broadband providers converting temporary backbone broadband service into permanent broadband installations.

This section further requires the Department of Transportation and local governments to allow the underground installation of broadband infrastructure within rights-of-way as needed for the repair of broadband infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

Utility Emergency Authority – Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - Part I.

SL 2025-2 (H47), Sec. 5.10

Section 5.10 of S.L. 2025-2 (House Bill 47) imposes a temporary moratorium that prohibits private landowners in the affected area^[1] from filing inverse condemnation or trespass claims against utilities arising from the replacement or repair of utility poles or transformers, to be in effect until June 30, 2026. The statute of limitations for private landowners to bring claims subject to the temporary moratorium is extended by one year.

This section became effective March 19, 2025.

^[1] "Affected area" is defined as those "counties designated before, on, or after the effective date of this act under a major disaster declaration by the President of the United States under the Stafford Act (P.L. 93-288) as a result of Hurricane Helene."

Exemption from Nonbetterment Costs – JMAC/ABC/Other Revisions.

SL 2025-65 (S664), Part IV

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the LOCAL GOVERNMENT subject area.]

The Power Bill Reduction Act.

SL 2025-78 (S266)

S.L. 2025-78 (Senate Bill 266) does all of the following:

- Eliminates the interim goal for a seventy percent (70%) reduction in carbon dioxide emissions in the State from electric generating facilities owned or operated by certain electric public utilities from 2005 levels by the year 2030.
- Allows an increase in the base rates of an electric public utility for financing costs of construction work in progress for baseload electric generating facilities outside of a general rate case, if the Utilities Commission (Commission) determines there is an overall cost savings for customers over the life of the generating facility and the facility has been subject to an annual ongoing review process through which the Commission has determined that the expenditures were reasonably and prudently incurred.
- Makes various changes to the statute governing fuel cost recovery to:
 - Add capacity costs to the total delivered costs of all purchases of electric power and capacity that a utility may recover.
 - Modify the language governing allocation of cost recovery among classes of customers to provide that the costs would be allocated on a demand basis.
 - Specify that the utility must make appropriate adjustments to its fuel and fuel-related costs to reflect costs already being recovered in base rates so as to avoid double recovery of any fuel and fuel-related costs and the Commission must approve any accounting adjustments necessary in a future fuel proceeding or general rate case to avoid such double recovery.
 - Provide that any experienced over-recovery or under-recovery of reasonable fuel and fuel related costs prudently incurred must accrue interest at the commercial paper rate as identified by the Federal Reserve for A2/P2 nonfinancial issuers (or reasonable successor thereto) on a weighted average basis over the applicable time period.
 - Require that a utility file a quarterly report detailing its actual over- and under-recovered fuel cost amounts through the quarter and an updated projection of the cumulative over- or under-recovered amounts at the end of such 12 month recovery period based on the most recently available fuel forecast. If the updated projection of the cumulative over- or under-recovered amounts at the end of such 12-month recovery period (inclusive of the actual amounts) is greater than 10% of the total revenue requirement approved by the Commission in the most recent fuel proceeding, then the electric public utility must identify the adjustment needed to the increment or decrement rider to address such over- or under-recovery and file an updated tariff to reflect such adjustment as part of such quarterly report. The identified adjustment to the increment or decrement rider would go into effect at the start of the month that is approximately 45 days after the quarterly update filing and would remain in effect for the remainder of the 12 month recovery period in effect as of the effective date of such adjustment. All of the costs of fuel and fuel-related costs, including those which are recovered through the quarterly adjustment would be reviewed

for reasonableness and prudence of such costs in the next annual proceeding held by the Commission to review an electric public utility's annual fuel and fuel related adjustment.

- Makes various changes to the statute governing performance-based ratemaking (PBR) to:
 - Exclude combustion turbine generating units which are not part of a combined cycle plant from a prohibition on the inclusion in a multi-year rate plan (MYRP) of revenue requirements associated with any single new generation plant placed in service during the MYRP for which the total plant in service balance exceeds \$500,000,000.
 - Alter reporting requirements for electric public utilities on the status of approved MYRP projects.
 - Modify a requirement that the Commission hold a technical conference prior to submission of any PBR application consisting of one or more public meetings at which the utility presents information regarding projected transmission and distribution expenditures and interested parties are permitted to provide comment and feedback. The change to the language requires the Commission to hold one meeting, and alters the required timing of the conference.
- Codifies authority for a public utility to securitize costs for retirement of subcritical coal-fired electric generating facilities.

This bill was vetoed by the Governor on July 2, 2025, and that veto was overridden by the General Assembly on July 29, 2025. This act became effective July 29, 2025.

Changes to the Broadband Pole Replacement Program – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 4.2

Section 4.2 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) expands reimbursement eligibility under the Broadband Pole Replacement Program (Program) to allow the Department of Information Technology to reimburse communications service providers up to fifty percent (50%) of costs incurred to install broadband facilities underground. This section also allows cooperatively organized communications service providers to qualify for reimbursement under the Program for eligible costs related to poles owned by the provider or its affiliate.

This section became effective August 6, 2025.

Broadband Fund Flexibility – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 4.3

Section 4.3 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) does all of the following:

- Repeals the statutory authority for the Satellite-Based Broadband Grant Program and the Growing Rural Economies with Access to Technology (GREAT) Program for Fixed Wireless and Satellite Broadband Grants.

- Directs the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to use funds appropriated to the GREAT Program for Fixed Wireless and Satellite Broadband Grants to award grants to eligible entities to purchase installation materials for satellite internet service. In awarding these grants, DIT must prioritize applicants operating in a county designated within the Hurricane Helene disaster area, and may also give priority to applicants that offer emergency services, disaster relief, educational services, or economic development. Eligible grant recipients include State agencies, local governments, volunteer fire departments, schools, libraries, community colleges, community centers, and other similar places.
- Authorizes DIT to provide emergency funding to communications service providers to rebuild, repair, or replace broadband infrastructure damaged by Hurricane Helene. DIT may use up to \$50 million of available funds that were originally appropriated in the 2021 Appropriations Act (S.L. 2021-180) for the purpose of the Broadband Make Ready Accelerator programs.

This section became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

BEAD Deployment Changes – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 4.4

Section 4.4 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) does all of the following:

- Revises the statute authorizing the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program to incorporate by reference to federal law the definitions for the following terms: "low-cost broadband service," "reliable broadband service," "underserved," and "unserved."
- Repeals a provision that directed the Broadband Infrastructure Office in the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to prioritize applicants proposing to serve the highest number of new unserved and underserved locations when deciding between competing applicants for a BEAD grant who have received the same score on the objective, 100-point scale used to evaluate grant applicants.
- Appropriates to DIT any federal funds received from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act for the BEAD Program to be used for administering the Program.

This section became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Lifeline Service Providers – Continuing Budget Operations.

SL 2025-89 (H125), Sec. 4.5

Section 4.5 of S.L. 2025-89 (House Bill 125) authorizes the Utilities Commission to designate a provider or reseller of mobile radio communications service as an eligible telecommunications carrier for the purpose of providing Lifeline Service.

This section became effective retroactively to July 1, 2025.

Allow Renewal or Extension of Contracts for Joint Municipal Power Agencies – Regulatory Reform Act of 2025.

SL 2025-94 (H926), Sec. 22

Section 22 of S.L. 2025-94 (House Bill 926) amends the law authorizing the formation and operation of joint municipal power agencies (such as the North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency and North Carolina Municipal Power Agency Number 1), originally enacted in 1975, to provide that contracts between a joint agency and a member municipality may be renewed or extended for additional periods not to exceed 50 years from the date of expiration of the preceding term.

This section became effective October 6, 2025.

Vetoed Legislation

See full summary documents for additional detail

Personal Privacy Protection Act.

SL 2025-79 (S416)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COMMERCIAL LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION subject area.]

Charter School Changes.

SL 2025-80 (S254)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Limit Rules With Substantial Financial Costs.

SL 2025-82 (H402)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Clarify Powers of State Auditor – Clarify Powers of State Auditor.

SL 2025-83 (H549), Part I

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Department of Revenue Authorization to Force Collect Debts – Clarify Powers of State Auditor.

SL 2025-83 (H549), Part III

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the FINANCE subject area.]

Other State Auditor Amendments – Clarify Powers of State Auditor.

SL 2025-83 (H549), Part II

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the STATE GOVERNMENT subject area.]

Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the CRIMINAL LAW AND PROCEDURE subject area.]

Excuse Students with Religious Objections – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.2

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Parent Access to Library Books – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.3

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

Restrictions on Sleeping Quarters – Prevent Sexual Exploitation/Women and Minors.

SL 2025-84 (H805), Sec. 3.4

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the EDUCATION subject area.]

The Criminal Illegal Alien Enforcement Act.

SL 2025-85 (H318)

[For a detailed summary of the provisions of this act, please see the COURTS, JUSTICE, AND CORRECTIONS subject area.]

Educational Choice for Children Act (ECCA).

Ratified (H87)

House Bill 87 would authorize the North Carolina State Education Assistance Authority (NCSEAA) to certify and submit a list of qualifying scholarship granting organizations to the Secretary of the Treasury (Secretary).

The bill would voluntarily elect the State to (i) participate in the federal tax credit program for qualified elementary and secondary education scholarships established under § 25F of the Internal Revenue Code and (ii) identify scholarship granting organizations located in the State. NCSEAA would be required to submit to the Secretary and publish on its website a list of the scholarship granting organizations located in the State that meet the federal requirements.

NCSEAA could establish rules governing the process and documentation necessary for an organization to be included on the list and enter into agreements with other State agencies to meet these requirements.

NCSEAA would be required to comply with all federal regulations regarding the administration of the federal tax credit program set in federal law to ensure that the State could participate in taxable years beginning after December 31, 2026. NCSEAA would establish any necessary rules by the later of July 1, 2026, or within 120 days of federal regulations being published.

Scholarship granting organizations would be authorized to provide scholarships for home school expenses to the extent allowed under federal law.

House Bill 87 was ratified by the General Assembly on July 31, 2025, and was vetoed by the Governor on August 6, 2025.

Expedited Removal of Unauthorized Persons.

Ratified (H96)

House Bill 96 would have created an expedited removal process for the removal of an unauthorized person from residential property and created a new statute providing State uniformity for the operation of licensed pet shops.

Section 1

Section 1 would have added a new Article 22D to Chapter 14 of the General Statutes, under which a property owner or an authorized representative of the property owner may initiate an expedited removal proceeding for the removal of an unauthorized person unlawfully occupying residential property if all the following conditions are met:

1. The requesting party is the property owner or the authorized agent of the property owner.
2. The property that is being unlawfully occupied is residential property or property used in connection with or appurtenant to residential property.
3. An unauthorized person has entered the property after the property owner acquired the property and is remaining or residing unlawfully on the residential property of the property owner.
4. The property was not offered or intended as an accommodation for the general public at the time the unauthorized person entered.
5. The property owner or the authorized representative of the property owner has directed the unauthorized person to leave the residential property.
6. The unauthorized person is not a tenant of the property being unlawfully occupied.
7. The unauthorized person is not an owner of the property being unlawfully occupied.
8. There is no pending litigation between the property owner and the unauthorized person related to the residential property.

9. No other valid rental agreement or contract for deed has been entered into or formed by the property owner or a former property owner and the unauthorized person permitting the unauthorized person to occupy the residential property.

(10) No rent or other form of payment has ever been demanded of or paid by the unauthorized person to the property owner or to an authorized representative of the property owner in connection with the occupancy of the residential property.

The term "unauthorized person" would have meant a person who has no legal claim to the property and who is not entitled to occupy it under a valid rental agreement or otherwise. It would not have included a tenant holding over after the lease term has expired.

In terms of procedure, the following would have occurred: Filing of a complaint and issuance of a summons in the county where the property is located. ? The summons and complaint are provided to the sheriff. ? The summons and complaint are served on the unauthorized person by the sheriff within 24 hours of the sheriff receiving the documents. ? The sheriff promptly files a return. ? A hearing is held before a magistrate as soon as practicable, but no more than 48 hours after service. ? If the court finds for the property owner, the court immediately enters a written order granting the property owner possession of the property and stating the time the unauthorized person must vacate the property – which cannot be more than 4 hours after the order is served on the unauthorized person.

All parties would have had the right to appeal an order entered by a magistrate to the district court for a trial de novo.

If the court entered an order of removal and an unauthorized person failed to remove personal property from the residential property within the time allowed by the order, the property owner or authorized representative of the property owner would have been permitted to remove the personal property from the premises to or near the property line. The failure of an unauthorized person to vacate a residential property in accordance with a court order would have been a criminal trespass.

Law enforcement agencies, law enforcement officers, and magistrates would have been granted immunity for any acts or omissions related to the expedited removal process, provided the parties acted in good faith and did not act with gross negligence, willful or wanton misconduct, or intentional wrongdoing. The property owner or authorized representative would have been granted immunity for any damages related to the expedited removal process unless the removal was wrongful.

A person harmed by a wrongful removal would have been entitled to bring a civil action against the property owner or authorized representative seeking to recover possession of the property and would have been able to recover from the property owner or authorized representative damages limited to actual damages as in an action for trespass or conversion.

Section 2

Section 2 would have directed the Administrative Office of the Courts, in consultation with the North Carolina Sheriff's Association and the North Carolina Association of Chiefs of Police, to develop the affidavit form to implement the expedited removal process discussed above by September 30, 2025.

Section 3

Section 3 would have created a new statute, G.S. 19A-27.5, to provide for State uniformity for operation of pet shops. Specifically, this new law would have provided that no local government or other political subdivision of the State may enact, maintain, or enforce any ordinance, resolution, or other enactment that does either of the following:

- Prohibits or restricts the sale of animals by a licensed pet shop.
- Imposes additional licensing, operational, or regulatory requirements on pet shops beyond those established by State law.

House Bill 96 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 30, 2025, and vetoed by the Governor on July 9, 2025. Subsequent to the Governor's veto of House Bill 96, the General Assembly enacted and the Governor signed Senate Bill 55, which included language similar to the sections of this bill addressing expedited removal of unauthorized persons.

Equality in State Agencies/Prohibition on DEI.

Ratified (H171)

House Bill 171 would have done the following:

- Prohibit State agencies from promoting, supporting, implementing, or maintaining diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI), including using DEI in State government hirings and employment, maintaining dedicated DEI staff positions or offices, or offering or requiring DEI training.
- Prohibit a State agency or unit of local government from (i) using State funds or public monies to promote, fund, implement, or maintain DEI initiatives or programs and (ii) applying for, accepting, or utilizing federal funds, grants, or other assistance that require compliance with DEI policies, initiatives, or mandates. Existing programs funded in these ways would have been discontinued unless federal law required continued participation.
- Require the State Auditor to conduct periodic compliance audits to determine violations and report those violations to named entities.
- Amend the State Budget Act by requiring State agencies to attempt to recoup the misspent funds by all lawful means available, including filing a civil action. It would have also required the Governor to report the facts leading to the suspension of a State officer or employee of the Executive Branch to the Attorney General and the district attorney for the county in which all or a substantial part of the violation occurred.
- Require the Local Government Commission, after suspending a local officer or employee for refusing to comply with the Local Government Finance Act, to report the

circumstances to the Attorney General and the district attorney for the county in which all or a substantial part of the noncompliance occurred.

- Provide consequences for violating the prohibition on using public monies for DEI purposes.

House Bill 171 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 30, 2025, and vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025.

Freedom to Carry NC.

Ratified (\$50)

Senate Bill 50 would have made the following changes to the firearms laws of North Carolina:

- Created a new Article 54C in the General Statutes, which would have authorized the concealed carry of a handgun by any U.S. citizen, who is at least 18 years old, and who is not otherwise disqualified by law because of a disqualifying criminal conviction or otherwise. The list of disqualifying criteria would have mirrored the criteria contained in G.S. 14-415.12(b) which would disqualify a person from obtaining a concealed handgun permit.
- Allowed a person to carry a concealed handgun pursuant to Article 54B or Article 54C.
- Continued to authorize the issuance of concealed handgun permits for purposes of reciprocity with other states, efficiency of purchasing a firearm, and various other reasons.
- Eliminated an impaired driving conviction within the prior three years as a disqualifying event to obtaining a concealed handgun permit.
- Amended the current prohibitions against carrying a firearm into an assembly where a fee is charged for admission or an establishment where alcohol is served to only prohibit firearms in those locations if the person is consuming alcohol or has alcohol or a controlled substance remaining in their body.
- Amended several statutes that generally prohibit firearms in certain locations but provide an exception for a person with a concealed handgun permit, to modify the exception to reflect the creation of Article 54C.
- Amended the disqualifying criteria for restoration of firearm rights for a felon to remove a finding of probable cause for a felony from the list of disqualifying criteria. Being under indictment for a felony would have remained a disqualifier.

Section 1.9 of the bill would have increased the public safety employee death benefit to \$150,000.

Section 9.1 would have increased the punishment for assault with a firearm to a Class B1 felony if the assault is committed against one of the following:

- A law enforcement officer
- A probation officer
- A parole officer

- A member of the North Carolina National Guard
- An employee of a detention facility
- An emergency medical technician or other emergency health care provider
- A medical responder
- A firefighter
- A telecommunicator employed by a law enforcement agency.

Sections 15.5 and 15.6 would have amended the offense of possession of a firearm by a felon, which is a Class G felony, to include two new offenses as follows:

- A Class F felony for possession of a firearm by a felon during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under Chapter 14 or Article 5 of Chapter 90.
- A Class C felony for possession of a firearm by a felon when a firearm is discharged during the commission or attempted commission of a felony under Chapter 14 or Article 5 of Chapter 90.

Section 8 of S.L. 2025-71, which creates new offenses regarding possession of a firearm or weapon of mass death and destruction by a felon, is similar to the provisions in Section 15.5 and Section 15.6 of Senate Bill 50. Senate Bill 50 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 12, 2025, and vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025.

Children of Disabled First Responders Scholarship Program – Freedom to Carry NC.

Ratified (S50), Sec. 16.7

Section 16.7 of Senate Bill 50 would require The University of North Carolina Board of Governors (BOG) to develop a scholarship program for any child of a law enforcement officer, correctional officer, firefighter, volunteer firefighter, or rescue squad worker who is permanently and totally disabled as a direct result of a traumatic injury sustained in the line of duty.

The scholarship would be available to children at least 17 years old but not yet 28 years old and could be used for the following:

- Tuition, fees, educational supplies, and boarding expenses not covered under Chapter 115B of the General Statutes (Tuition and Fee Waivers).
- Both undergraduate and graduate programs.

The BOG would be required to report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the establishment of the program no later than July 1, 2026.

Senate Bill 50 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 12, 2025, and was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025.

North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153)

Senate Bill 153 would have made various changes related to enforcement of federal immigration laws within the State.

Require Certain Agencies to Cooperate with ICE

Senate Bill 153 would have directed the Secretary of the Department of Public Safety (DPS), the Secretary of the Department of Adult Correction (DAC), the Commander of the State Highway Patrol (SHP), and the Director of the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) to do all the following:

- Enter into Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) with the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. § 1357(g)) to perform immigration law enforcement functions under the supervision of ICE.
- Develop policies requiring employees of each agency to do all the following:
 - Have employees attempt to determine if any person in the custody of or under the supervision of the agency is a legal resident or citizen of the United States by asking the person questions or examining relevant documents.
 - If an employee cannot determine a person's status by conducting the above inquiry, then the employee would be required to make an ICE query.
 - If an employee determines that the person is not a legal resident or citizen of the United States, then the employee would be required to provide information requested by ICE.
- Cooperate to the fullest extent allowed by law with ICE.
- Report the MOAs and policies required by this bill to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety no later than August 1, 2025.

The State Auditor would have been required to perform an audit to determine that agencies are complying with the above requirements.

Require Certain Agencies to Cease Providing Benefits to Certain Noncitizens

Senate Bill 153 would have required the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Department of Commerce, the Housing Finance Agency, and all local housing authorities to do the following:

- Cease providing State-funded benefits and publicly funded housing benefits to noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission, to the extent permitted by federal law.
- Develop a plan, to the extent permitted by federal law, to update and review eligibility criteria for all State-funded benefits and publicly funded housing benefits to ensure noncitizens residing in the United States without legal permission are ineligible to receive those benefits.

- Report by January 15, 2026, on the steps taken to cease providing benefits and the details of the developed and implemented plan including all federal statutes or regulations prohibiting denial of benefits.

"State-funded benefits" would include various programs administered by DHHS or through a contract with DHHS, excluding benefits or services available under the listed programs that help eligible beneficiaries access food or meals.

"Publicly funded housing benefits" would include various programs or assistance administered by or through a contract with the Department of Commerce, the North Carolina Housing Agency, and any local housing authority.

Require Verification of Legal Residency for Unemployment Benefits

Senate Bill 153 would have required the Department of Commerce, Division of Employment Security, to the extent permitted by federal law, to adopt and implement a policy to verify that all applicants for unemployment benefits are legally authorized to reside in the United States prior to receiving the first unemployment benefit payment by January 15, 2026.

Waive Governmental Immunity for Sanctuary

Senate Bill 153 would have waived governmental immunity from tort liability for cities and counties that adopt sanctuary ordinances when the tort claim is based on the commission of a crime by an unauthorized alien against a person or property within the corporate limits of the city or county, whether or not insurance has been purchased.

Senate Bill 153 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 10, 2025, and vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025.

University of North Carolina Constituent Institutions to Comply with Laws Related to Immigration – North Carolina Border Protection Act.

Ratified (S153), Part VI

Part VI of Senate Bill 153 would prohibit constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina from having policies or procedures that limit the enforcement of federal immigration laws to less than the full extent permitted by federal law. Constituent institutions would not be allowed to do any of the following with respect to information about an individual's citizenship or immigration status:

- Prohibit law enforcement officials or agencies from gathering the information.
- Prohibit communication of the information to federal law enforcement agencies.

Senate Bill 153 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 10, 2025, and was vetoed by the Governor on June 20, 2025.

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Education.

Ratified (S227)

Senate Bill 227 would prohibit public school units from doing the following:

- Engaging in or advocating for discriminatory practices.
- Compelling students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to affirm or profess belief in divisive concepts.
- Providing instruction to students on divisive concepts.
- Engaging in activities related to professional development that include or advocate for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.
- Maintaining an office or other unit (i) promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts or (ii) referred to as or named diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Employing or assigning an employee whose duties for a public school unit include promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.

The bill would prohibit the State Board of Education (SBE) from approving, providing, recommending, or requiring professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices. The SBE would not be able to:

- Approve, recommend, or require a professional educator to participate in that professional development.
- Develop, purchase, or provide the professional development.
- Contract with an entity for the professional development.
- Provide an entity access for the purpose of delivering the professional development.

No continuing education credit for professional educator license renewal could be awarded for any professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.

The following would not be construed to be limited under the bill:

- Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- Materials accessed on an individual basis that advocate divisive concepts or discriminatory practices for research or independent study.
- Policies, procedures, or professional development required by State or federal law.
- Instruction on divisive concepts in accordance with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study when it is made clear that the public school unit does not sponsor, approve, or endorse any divisive concepts including instruction related to:
 - The history of an ethnic group as described in textbooks and instructional materials adopted in accordance with State law.
 - The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history.
 - The impartial discussion of the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region.

- Historical documents such as the United States Constitution and the writings of the founding fathers.

Discriminatory practice would be defined as any of the following based on an individual's protected classification under federal law:

- Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
- Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under federal law.
- Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program or activity, except as allowed under federal law.

Divisive concepts would be defined as any of the following:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive solely because of his or her race or sex.
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of the individual's race or sex.
- Moral character is necessarily determined by an individual's race or sex.
- An individual solely by virtue of his or her race or sex bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by members of the same race or sex.
- An individual solely by virtue of his or her race or sex should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish or other psychological distress.
- A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
- The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
- Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.
- The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
- Americans are not created equal and not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

By September 1 of each year, each public school unit would be required to certify in writing to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) that it fully complies with the requirements of this bill and include any actions taken to achieve compliance. DPI must summarize the certifications in a report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by January 15 of each year. For the certifications due by September 1, 2025, each public school unit would be required to include information on the initial implementation of these requirements, including reductions in force and spending, changes to job titles and position descriptions, and how savings achieved from these actions have been directed.

Senate Bill 227 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 26, 2025, and was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025.

Eliminating "DEI" in Public Higher Education.

Ratified (S558)

Senate Bill 558 would prohibit public institutions of higher education from doing any of the following:

- Engaging in or advocating for discriminatory practices.
- Compelling students, professors, administrators, or other employees to affirm or profess believe in divisive concepts.
- Endorsing divisive concepts.
- Maintaining an office, division, or other unit (i) promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts or (ii) referred to as or named diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Employing or assigning an employee whose duties include promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.
- Requiring completion of a course related to divisive concepts for purposes of awarding a degree or completing a program, unless approved by the chancellor of the institution.

These prohibitions would not apply to any of the following:

- Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
- Materials accessed on an individual basis for research or independent study that advocate for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices.
- Policies or procedures required by State or federal law.
- Instruction or discussion on divisive concepts that makes it clear the public institution of higher education does not endorse the divisive concepts.

Discriminatory practices would be defined as doing any of the following based on an individual's protected classification under federal law:

- Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
- Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under federal law.
- Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program or activity, except as allowed under federal law.

Divisive concepts would include any of the following:

- One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive.
- An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex.

- An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex.
- An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
- Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.
- A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
- The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
- Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.
- The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
- All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
- Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.

Public institutions of higher education would be required to certify annually in writing by September 1 to their applicable governing board that they fully comply with the bill's requirements. The University of North Carolina Board of Governors and the State Board of Community Colleges would be required to summarize the relevant certifications and submit a consolidated report by January 15 annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. For the first certifications due September 1, 2025, public institutions of higher education would have to include information on the initial implementation of the requirements, including reductions in force and spending, changes to job titles and position descriptions, and how savings achieved from these actions have been directed.

The bill would also prohibit constituent institutions and community colleges from establishing, maintaining, or otherwise implementing a process for reporting or investigating offensive or unwanted speech that is protected by the First Amendment, including satire or speech labeled as microaggression.

Senate Bill 558 was ratified by the General Assembly on June 26, 2025, and was vetoed by the Governor on July 3, 2025.