

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)

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.

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

Part II of S.L. 2025-36 (House Bill 412) does the following:

- Makes child care regulatory changes including the following:
 - Permits a lead teacher to plan and implement daily activities for no more than two groups, and if the lead teacher is responsible for two groups at least one other individual overseeing the group must be engaging in the Early Childhood Credential coursework or seeking on the job training for the five-year pathway to seek future Lead Teacher qualification.
 - Clarifies the mandatory licensing standards regarding out-of-school child care provided at operational elementary and middle schools for school-aged children.
 - Increases the group size for infants and toddlers for child care centers meeting certain requirements.
 - Permits five years or more of documented work experience teaching in a licensed child care facility in North Carolina to serve as the equivalent to the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential and ensures this work experience is treated the same as if it were earned in other ways when awarding a star-rating.
 - Requires administrators and lead teachers to have the North Carolina Early Childhood Credential or its equivalent, and all other staff to meet standards established by the North Carolina Child Care Commission (the Commission).
- Adds the Weikart Youth Program Quality Assessment as an assessment tool for out-of-school child care programs and award of star rating.
- Requires the Division of Child Development and Early Education (the Division), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to establish a school age/out-of-school care credential in consultation with North Carolina Community Colleges System.
- Requires the Division to award the North Carolina Early Childhood Administration Credential or the North Carolina Family Child Care Credential to individuals who have completed continuing education courses equivalent to child care curriculum courses as determined by the Community College System.
- Requires the Commissioner of Insurance to establish a workgroup to examine the potential for the development of group liability insurance opportunities for all child care providers and for certain nongovernmental contractors that contract with DHHS and any county or local agency for the provision of services to minors.
- Creates an exemption for certain Department of Defense family child care homes from child care licensure requirements.
- Requires the Division, in coordination with the Child Care Commission, to clarify rules governing multiuse child care centers.
- Allows a child care program that was licensed prior to a state of emergency to be deemed licensed during the state of emergency whether it expands provision of services to more children if the required staff-child ratio is maintained.

This Part became effective July 1, 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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.