GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023

S SENATE BILL 254

Short Title:	Government Transparency Act of 2023. (Public	2)				
Sponsors:	Senators Sanderson, Rabon, and Meyer (Primary Sponsors).					
Referred to:	Rules and Operations of the Senate					
March 9, 2023						
	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED					
AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT BY INCREASING						
	IBILITY TO CERTAIN PUBLIC PERSONNEL PERFORMANCE ANI)				
	AL RECORDS.					
	Assembly of North Carolina enacts:					
	ECTION 1.(a) G.S. 126-23 reads as rewritten:					
	ertain records to be kept by State agencies open to inspection.					
, ,	ach department, agency, institution, commission and bureau of the State sha					
	cord of each of its employees, showing the following information with respect t	0				
each such em	· ·					
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(-1,	or oral, past and current, to the extent that the agency has the written contract					
	or a record of the oral contract in its possession.	,,				
(5)	<u>*</u>					
(6)	•					
(7)						
(8)	•	t,				
	agency, institution, commission, or bureau.					
(9)	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation	ı,				
	or other change in position classification with that department, agency	/,				
	institution, commission, or bureau.					
(1)	0) Date Subject to subsection (g) of this section, date and general description of	f				
	the reasons for each promotion of the following with that department, agency	Ι,				
	institution, commission, or bureau.bureau:					
	<u>a.</u> <u>Promotion.</u>					
	b. <u>Demotion.</u>					
	<u>c.</u> <u>Transfer.</u>					
	 c. Transfer. d. Suspension. e. Separation. f. Dismissal. 					
	e. Separation.					
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(1	1) Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for	r				



disciplinary reasons taken by the department, agency, institution, commission, or bureau. If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, bureau, a copy of the

	General	Assemi	ory Of North Carolina Session 2025
1			written notice of the final decision of the head of the department setting forth
2			the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
3		(12)	The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.
4	•••		
5	<u>(f)</u>		ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
6			rmation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
7			110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
8			licable law.
9	(g)		following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
10	(a)(10) of		
11		<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from
12			disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
13		(2)	prohibited by applicable law."
14		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension,
15			separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
16			subsection (a) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
17			to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
18		CIE CII	decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
19	"/ L)		FION 1.(b) G.S. 126-22(b) reads as rewritten:
20 21	"(b)		urposes of this Article the following definitions apply:
22		(1)	"Employee" means any current State employee, former State employee, or
23		(2)	applicant for State employment.employment subject to this Article.
24		(2)	"Employer" means any State department, university, division, bureau,
25			commission, council, or other agency subject to Article 7 of this Chapter.this
26			Article. The term "university" shall include all of the following, as defined in G.S. 116-2:
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30			<u>C. Chancellor.</u><u>C. Constituent institutions.</u>
31			e. The President.
32		(3)	"Personnel file" means any employment-related or personal information
33		(3)	gathered by an employer or by the Office of State Human Resources.
34			Employment-related information contained in a personnel file includes
35			information related to an individual's application, selection, promotion,
36			demotion, transfer, leave, salary, contract for employment, benefits,
37			suspension, performance evaluation, disciplinary actions, and termination.
38			Personal information contained in a personnel file includes an individual's
39			home address, social security number, medical history, personal financial
40			data, marital status, dependents, and beneficiaries.
41		(4)	"Record" means the personnel information that each employer is required to
42		()	maintain in accordance with G.S. 126-23."
43		SECT	FION 2. G.S. 115C-320 reads as rewritten:
44	"§ 115C-		ertain records open to inspection.
45	(a)		local board of education shall maintain a record of each of its employees,
46	showing		owing information with respect to each employee:
47	J	(1)	Name.

- Name. (1)
- (2) Age.
- (3) Date of original employment or appointment.

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- following information with respect to each employee:
 - Name. (1)
 - (2) Age.
 - Date of original employment or appointment. (3)
 - The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written (4) or oral, past and current, to the extent that the board has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
 - (5) Current position.

Page 4

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Current position.

Title.

authority.

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Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that area

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- (5) position title, Current position and title.
- position descriptions, Position description. (6)
- Current salary and total compensation of current and former positions; (7) positions. For the purposes of this subdivision, the term "total compensation" includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity.
- the The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether (8) written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the authority has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession, possession.

1 and date Date and type of the most recent each promotion, demotion, transfer, (9) 2 suspension, separation, or other change in position classification. 3 Subject to subsection (e) of this section, date and general description of the (10)4 reasons for each of the following with that public health authority: 5 Promotion. <u>a.</u> 6 Demotion. <u>b.</u> 7 Transfer. c. 8 <u>d.</u> Suspension. 9 Separation. e. 10 <u>f.</u> Dismissal. 11 (11)For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public health authority, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the public health 12 13 authority setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal. 14 15 (12)The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned. In addition, the following information with respect to each licensed medical 16 (13)17 provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public health facility shall be a matter of public record: educational history and 18 19 qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and current licensure; and 20 information relating to medical board certifications or other qualifications of 21 medical specialists. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "total 22 compensation" includes pay, benefits, incentives, bonuses, and deferred and 23 all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity. 24 25 Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any (d) confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 26 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 27 28 327, or other applicable law. 29 The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision 30 (b)(10) of this section: 31 No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) 32 disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action 33 prohibited by applicable law." 34 (2) The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, 35 separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under 36 subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period 37 to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final 38 decision being entered in that administrative appeals process." 39 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 131E-257.2 reads as rewritten: 40 "§ 131E-257.2. Privacy of employee personnel records. 41 42 (b) The following information with respect to each public hospital employee is a matter 43 of public record: 44 (1) Name. 45 (2) Age. 46 (3) Date of original employment.

Current position title.

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Date of the most recent and type for each promotion, demotion, transfer,

suspension, separation or other change in position classification.

The office to which the employee is currently assigned.

General Assembly Of North Carolina Session 2023 1 Subject to subsection (j) of this section, date and general description of the (7) 2 reasons for each of the following with that public hospital: 3 Promotion. 4 Demotion. b. 5 Transfer. <u>c.</u> 6 d. Suspension. 7 Separation. e. 8 f. Dismissal. 9 For each dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the public hospital, a copy **(8)** of the written notice of the final decision of the public hospital setting forth 10 11 the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal. In addition, the following information with respect to For each licensed 12 <u>(9)</u> 13 medical provider employed by or having privileges to practice in a public 14 hospital shall be a matter of public record: hospital, the following information: 15 educational history and qualifications, date and jurisdiction or original and

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(i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.

other qualifications of medical specialists.

- The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(7)(<u>i</u>) of this section:
 - No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from (1) disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."

current licensure; and information relating to medical board certifications or

(2) The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

SECTION 7.(a) G.S. 153A-98 reads as rewritten:

"§ 153A-98. Privacy of employee personnel records.

- Notwithstanding the provisions of G.S. 132-6 or any other general law or local act concerning access to public records, personnel files of employees, former employees, or applicants for employment maintained by a county are subject to inspection and may be disclosed only as provided by this section. For purposes of this section, an employee's personnel file consists of any information in any form gathered by the county with respect to that employee and, by way of illustration but not limitation, relating to his application, selection or nonselection, performance, promotions, demotions, transfers, suspension and other disciplinary actions, evaluation forms, leave, salary, and termination of employment. As used in this section, "employee" includes former employees of the county.
 - This section shall apply to all employees subject to G.S. 153A-103. (a1)
- (b) The following information with respect to each county employee is a matter of public record:
 - (1) Name.
 - (2) Age.
 - (3) Date of original employment or appointment to the county service.

General .	Assemb	bly Of North Carolina	Session 2023
	(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed v	whether written
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	, ,	or other change in position classification with that county.	-
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		<u>c.</u> <u>Transfer.</u>	
		d. Suspension.	
		e. Separation.	
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	(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.	
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	(g) confident 1996 (HI 327, or of (h) (b)(10) of	(4) (5) (6) (7) (8) (9) (10) (10) (11) (12) (g) Nothic confidential information in the interpretation of the interpretation in	or oral, past and current, to the extent that the county has the v or a record of the oral contract in its possession. (5) Current position. (6) Title. (7) Current salary. (8) Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with the ODate and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspens or other change in position classification with that county. (10) Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and general the reasons for each promotion-of the following with that eoun a. Promotion. b. Demotion. c. Transfer. d. Suspension. e. Separation. f. Dismissal. (11) Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion disciplinary reasons taken by the eounty. If the disciplinary dismissal, county, a copy of the written notice of the final county setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the dismissal. (12) The office to which the employee is currently assigned. (g) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disc confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accounty 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (A 327, or other applicable law. (h) The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required to be disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description-prohibited by applicable law." (2) The general description shall disclose information otherwise p disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description-prohibited by applicable law." (2) The general description for each promotion, demotion, transf separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record ma subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process." SECTION 7.(b) G.S. 153A-99(b) reads as rewritten: (b) Definitions. For the purposes of this section: (1) "County employee" or "employee" means any person employer or any department or program thereof that is supported, in who county funds; funds but shall not inclu

1	(b)	The fo	ollowing information with respect to each city employee is a matter of public
2	record:		
3		(1)	Name.
4		(2)	Age.
5		(3)	Date of original employment or appointment to the service.
6		(4)	The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written
7			or oral, past and current, to the extent that the city has the written contract or
8			a record of the oral contract in its possession.
9		(5)	Current position.
10		(6)	Title.
11		(7)	Current salary.
12		(8)	Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that municipality.
13		(9)	Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation,
14		(>)	or other change in position classification with that municipality.
15		(10)	Date Subject to subsection (h) of this section, date and general description of
16		(10)	the reasons for each promotion of the following with that
17			municipality:
18			a. Promotion.
19			b. Demotion.
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21			d. Suspension.
22			 c. Transfer. d. Suspension. e. Separation. f. Dismissal.
23			f. Dismissal.
24		(11)	Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for
25		(11)	disciplinary reasons taken by the municipality. If the disciplinary action was
26			a dismissal, municipality, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of
27			the municipality setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis
28			of the dismissal.
29		(12)	
		(12)	The office to which the employee is currently assigned.
30 31	····	Mathi	no in this section shall be constanted to outhorize the disclosure of any
32	(g)		ng in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any
			mation protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of
33			10 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat.
34			licable law.
35	$\frac{\text{(h)}}{\text{(h)}(10)}$ of		ollowing shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision
36 37	(b)(10) of		
38		<u>(1)</u>	No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from
			disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action
39		(2)	prohibited by applicable law." The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, even and applicable law."
40		<u>(2)</u>	The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension,
41			separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under
42			subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period
43			to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final
44		OE OI	decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."
45	UQ 4 60 A		GION 9. G.S. 162A-6.1 reads as rewritten:
46	"§ 162A-0	b.1. Pr	ivacy of employee personnel records.
47		m ·	
48	(b)		ollowing information with respect to each authority employee is a matter of
49	public rec		N. C.
50		(1)	Name.
51		(2)	Age.

- (3) Date of original employment or appointment to the service.
 (4) The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the authority has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
- (5) Current position.
- (6) Title.
- (7) Current salary.
- (8) Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that authority.
- (9) Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification with that authority.
- (10) Date Subject to subsection (j) of this section, date and general description of the reasons for each promotion of the following with that authority:
 - <u>a.</u> <u>Promotion.</u>
 - <u>b.</u> <u>Demotion.</u>
 - <u>c.</u> <u>Transfer.</u>
 - d. Suspension.
 - <u>e.</u> <u>Separation.</u>
 - <u>f.</u> <u>Dismissal.</u>
- (11) Date and type of For each dismissal, suspension, or demotion dismissal for disciplinary reasons taken by the authority. If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, authority, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the authority setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
- (12) The office to which the employee is currently assigned.

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- (i) Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize the disclosure of any confidential information protected by the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), 110 Stat. 1936, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), 104 Stat. 327, or other applicable law.
- (j) The following shall apply to the general descriptions as required by subdivision (b)(10) of this section:
 - (1) No general description shall disclose information otherwise prohibited from disclosure by an applicable law but shall be listed as "description of action prohibited by applicable law."
 - (2) The general description for each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal shall become part of the record maintained under subsection (b) of this section upon the later of the expiration of the time period to file an appeal under any applicable administrative appeals process or a final decision being entered in that administrative appeals process."

SECTION 10. No later than November 30, 2023, each employer affected by this act shall adopt personnel policies to effectuate this act to permit all of its employees to challenge the wording of the general description of any promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or dismissal occurring on or after December 1, 2023.

SECTION 11. Sections 1 through 9 of this act become effective December 1, 2023, and apply to promotions, demotions, transfers, suspensions, separations, and dismissals occurring on or after that date. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.