

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 251  
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30102-NB-18

Short Title: Disaster Response Funding/Nondiscrimination. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Hastings.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL  
3 AFFILIATION IN THE PROVISION OF STATE DISASTER RECOVERY  
4 ASSISTANCE.

5 Whereas, the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)  
6 controls and manages the distribution of the Community Development Block Grant Disaster  
7 Recovery (CDBG-DR) awards authorized by the United States Congress; and

8 Whereas, the State of North Carolina does not have direct control over how  
9 CDBG-DR funds and other federal financial and operational assistance program funds are  
10 awarded to qualifying individuals and businesses; and

11 Whereas, the State of North Carolina, through the North Carolina General Assembly,  
12 does have control over how State disaster recovery programs, including financial, operational,  
13 and housing assistance, are distributed to its residents; and

14 Whereas, Section 19 of Article I of the North Carolina Constitution guarantees that  
15 "[n]o person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws; nor shall any person be subjected  
16 to discrimination by the State because of race, color, religion, or national origin."; and

17 Whereas, the State of Florida has filed a complaint against the Federal Emergency  
18 Management Agency in the Southern District of Florida alleging an actionable conspiracy to  
19 interfere with civil rights through 42 U.S.C. § 1985, which allows for those who have been denied  
20 equal protection, privileges, or immunities under the law to sue those who engaged in conspiracy  
21 against them, on the basis of political affiliation; Now, therefore,  
22 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

23 SECTION 1. G.S. 166A-19.1 reads as rewritten:

24 "§ 166A-19.1. Purposes.

25 The purposes of this Article are to set forth the authority and responsibility of the Governor,  
26 State agencies, and local governments in prevention of, preparation for, response to, and recovery  
27 from natural or man-made emergencies or hostile military or paramilitary action and to do the  
28 following:

29 ...

30 (5) Provide for disaster recovery assistance from both federal and State funding  
31 sources to all United States citizens and legal residents of North Carolina  
32 affected by states of emergency and disaster declarations free from  
33 discrimination on the basis of political affiliation or political speech."

34 SECTION 2. Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by  
35 adding a new section to read:

36 "§ 166A-19.4. Nondiscrimination in State disaster recovery assistance.



1        (a)    No United States citizen or legal resident shall be denied or discriminated against by  
2 the State or its agencies and employees for disaster recovery assistance on the basis of political  
3 affiliation or political speech.

4        (b)    Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class I felony."

5                **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses  
6 committed on or after that date.