

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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HOUSE BILL 251

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

Sponsors: Representatives Hastings, Greene, Balkcom, and Bell (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Judiciary 1, if favorable, Emergency Management and Disaster Recovery, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 3, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION IN THE PROVISION OF STATE DISASTER RECOVERY ASSISTANCE.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"§ 166A-19.1. Purposes.

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

...

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



1 **SECTION 2.** Article 1A of Chapter 166A of the General Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new section to read:
3 **"§ 166A-19.4. Nondiscrimination in State disaster recovery assistance.**
4 (a) No United States citizen or legal resident shall be denied or discriminated against by
5 the State or its agencies and employees for disaster recovery assistance on the basis of political
6 affiliation or political speech.
7 (b) Any person who violates this section shall be guilty of a Class I felony."
8 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective December 1, 2025, and applies to offenses
9 committed on or after that date.