

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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**SENATE BILL 801
Judiciary Committee Substitute Adopted 6/17/26
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 6/23/26
Fourth Edition Engrossed 7/1/26**

Short Title: Address Confidentiality/Study & DL. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 22, 2026

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT REQUIRING A STUDY PROGRAM TO EXPAND THE ADDRESS
3 CONFIDENTIALITY PROGRAM TO INCLUDE CERTAIN MILITARY AND SPECIAL
4 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL AND ALLOWING CERTAIN MILITARY AND SPECIAL
5 OPERATIONS PERSONNEL TO BE ISSUED A SUBSTITUTE DRIVERS LICENSE OR
6 SPECIAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.

7 Whereas, the Department of Defense personnel assigned to or supporting United
8 States Special Operations Command organizations in North Carolina, including military
9 members, civilian employees, and their dependents, perform among the most critical, most
10 effective, and most dangerous operations in defense of our nation's freedom; and

11 Whereas, the General Assembly is committed to ensuring the safety and protection of
12 Department of Defense personnel assigned to or supporting United States Special Operations
13 Command organizations in North Carolina; and

14 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that allowing continued public access to
15 the personal identifying information, including location information, of Department of Defense
16 personnel assigned to or supporting United States Special Operations Command organizations in
17 North Carolina jeopardizes the safety of these personnel and their families; and

18 Whereas, the General Assembly seeks ways in which to protect the personal
19 identifying information of Department of Defense personnel assigned to or supporting United
20 States Special Operations Command organizations in North Carolina that is particularly
21 susceptible to doxing or swatting from appearing on public-facing websites across State and local
22 agencies, whether by removing or shielding the personal identifying information; and

23 Whereas, the General Assembly is committed to exempting from the public records
24 of this State the personal identifying information of Department of Defense personnel assigned
25 to or supporting United States Special Operations Command organizations in North Carolina so
26 as to protect the safety of those personnel and their family; Now, therefore

27 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

28 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Justice, the Administrative Office of the Courts,
29 the Division of Motor Vehicles, the State Board of Elections, and the Department of Military and
30 Veterans Affairs shall convene a Task Force to explore how to protect military personnel, special
31 operations forces, elected officials, and others particularly susceptible to doxing or swatting. The
32 Task Force may consult with the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command,
33 or their designee, The University of North Carolina System, the Register of Deeds Association,



1 the Real Estate Commission, the North Carolina Sheriffs' Association, and any other affected
2 group or groups in conducting this study.

3 **SECTION 1.(b)** As part of the study, the Task Force shall consider the following
4 items:

- 5 (1) Which individuals are particularly susceptible to doxing or swatting, including
6 military personnel, special operations personnel, elected officials, and others.
- 7 (2) What personal identifying information is susceptible to doxing or swatting.
- 8 (3) Options to prevent harm, harassment, and abuse of individuals particularly
9 susceptible to doxing or swatting.
- 10 (4) How to develop and implement a uniform protocol across State and local
11 agencies for susceptible individuals to access protection of personal
12 identifying information, whether by removal or shielding or other method.
- 13 (5) How to implement effective security protocols for protecting personal
14 identifying information.
- 15 (6) Which State and local agencies should have access to such personal
16 identifying information, if removed or shielded from the public record.
- 17 (7) How to provide law enforcement, emergency services, and other vital
18 government services to participants in any removal or shielding program
19 while maintaining all security protocols.
- 20 (8) The feasibility of, and barriers to, expanding the Address Confidentiality
21 Program under Chapter 15C of the General Statutes to cover susceptible
22 individuals.
- 23 (9) Whether spouses, dependents, and other family members of susceptible
24 individuals should be covered by any programs protecting susceptible
25 individuals.
- 26 (10) If expansion of the Address Confidentiality Program is not found to be
27 feasible, recommendations for a separate program leveraging the existing
28 Address Confidentiality Program as the model to incorporate all best practices
29 from that program where appropriate.
- 30 (11) Recommendations for standard operating procedures for any protective
31 program, including eligibility verification, recertification of eligibility,
32 command validation for military personnel, and other criteria for reviewing
33 applications for certification of participation in any protective program.
- 34 (12) Recommendations for further study.
- 35 (13) Recommendations for legislative action, including potential enhancement of
36 criminal laws and civil liability, if any.
- 37 (14) Any other information necessary.

38 **SECTION 1.(c)** Not later than April 1, 2027, the Task Force shall report its findings
39 and recommendations to the General Assembly. The report, findings and recommendations,
40 records, data, analyses, and materials prepared or collected by the Task Force in connection with
41 the study authorized by this section shall be treated as sensitive public security information under
42 G.S. 132-1.7 and shall not be a public record.

43 **SECTION 2.(a)** Article 2 of Chapter 20 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
44 a new section to read:

45 **"§ 20-37.03. Special forces substitute drivers license.**

46 (a) Notwithstanding G.S. 20-7 or any other provision of this Chapter, upon the request of
47 a major military installation as defined by G.S. 143-151.71 and for use overseas only, the
48 Division shall issue a drivers license or special identification card with a substitute address in
49 lieu of the license holder's residence address for any special operations force member, upon
50 payment of the fee for a duplicate license. The application for a substitute drivers license or
51 special identification card shall be submitted on a form as designated by the Division, which shall

1 include a certification from the Commander of the United States Special Operations Command,
2 or the Commander's designee, as to the status of the special operations force member.

3 (b) The substitute address under this section shall be the address of the license holder
4 shall be the permanent duty station of the license holder as certified by the license holder's
5 Commander of the United States Special Operations Command, or the Commander's designee.
6 All documents related to the issuance of a substitute drivers license or special identification card
7 under this section shall be treated as sensitive public security information in accordance with
8 G.S. 132-1.7.

9 (c) For purposes of this section, a "special operations force member" shall be any
10 member, whether active or reserve component forces, of the United States military services,
11 designated by the Secretary of War or Secretary of Defense, and specifically organized, trained,
12 and equipped to conduct and support special operations, as certified by the Commander of the
13 United States Special Operations Command, or the Commander's designee."

14 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 132-1.7(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

15 "(6) Information containing specific details of personal identifying information of
16 special operations force members as described in G.S. 20-37.03."

17 **SECTION 3.** Chapter 132 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
18 section to read:

19 **"§ 132-1.15. Personally Identifiable Information of Special Operations Forces Members.**

20 (a) To the extent the agency of North Carolina government or its subdivisions determines
21 it is operationally feasible, the custodian of any public record containing personal identifying
22 information of a special operations force member as described in G.S. 20-37.03 shall redact or
23 remove that public record from any public-facing web-based database or application upon written
24 request of the special operations force member, as certified by the Commander of the United
25 States Special Operations Command, or the Commander's designee.

26 (b) Any written request submitted under this section shall not be a public record."

27 **SECTION 4.** The Task Force established by Section 2 of this act may create a pilot
28 program for eligible active-duty Department of Defense certified Special Operations Forces
29 personnel in an effort to evaluate the overall implementation of any program recommended under
30 Section 2 of this act to exempt personal identifying information from the public record.

31 **SECTION 5.** Sections 2 and 3 of this act become effective January 1, 2027. The
32 remainder of this act is effective when it becomes law.