

Military, Veterans, and Indian Affairs

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Expand and Revise Existing Flexibility for the Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Funds Program to Include the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 Academic Years – Medicaid & Health and Human Services Adjustments/Other Critical Needs.

SL 2026-1 (H696), Sec. 2.5

Section 2.5 of S.L. 2026-1 (House Bill 696) and Section 8A.6 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) extend the flexibility provided for the administration of funds for the Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Program (Program) to include the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years. This flexibility was previously granted to the State Education Assistance Authority (SEAA) and Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Secretary) for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 academic years.

For the 2026-2027 academic year, all of the following apply to the administration of funds for the Program:

- The Secretary, after consulting with SEAA, must determine whether to prioritize applicants who meet the following criteria:
 - Apply as an undergraduate.
 - Qualify as a resident for tuition purposes.
 - Meet all other program requirements.
- The Secretary, after consultation with SEAA, can determine whether to establish a standardized payment schedule or formula for the efficient and effective administration of available scholarship funds.
- SEAA must place any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated funds in an institutional trust fund.

For the 2027-2028 school year, all the following apply to the administration of funds for the Program:

- SEAA, after consultation with the Secretary, must do the following:
 - Establish a formula and standardized payment schedule for maximum scholarship awards for students that reflects the cost of attendance for eligible students receiving scholarship funds who are enrolled at approved public and private institutions of higher education, including mandatory fees, room, and board, as applicable. If the Secretary determines that funds are insufficient to provide scholarships to all eligible students in accordance with the standardized payment schedule, SEAA can take necessary steps to adjust scholarship amounts, subject to the standardized payment schedule. If SEAA modifies scholarship amounts, the Secretary must notify eligible students of the adjustment.
 - Post the standardized payment schedule on its website.

- Report the standardized payment schedule to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC), Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government (JLOCGG), and Fiscal Research Division by April 1, 2027.
- The Secretary must open applications for the Program to new applicants no later than April 1, 2027. The priority period for submission of applications must close by May 1, 2027. The Secretary can adjust or close the application period for new applicants depending on the number of new eligible applicants and the availability of funds for the 2027-2028 academic year.
- New applicants must (i) be enrolling as undergraduates and (ii) qualify as residents for tuition purposes to qualify for a scholarship in the 2027-2028 school year.
- SEAA, after consultation with the Secretary, must determine whether the funds available for the Program in the 2027-2028 academic year are sufficient to provide scholarships to all eligible students in accordance with the standardized payment schedule by July 1, 2027.
- The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs must submit a report to JLEOC and JLOCGG by March 15, 2028, on at least all of the following:
 - The number of applications from eligible students.
 - The funds needed to provide full scholarships to all applicants who are eligible students.
 - Projected applications from eligible students for subsequent academic years based on trends in prior years and population growth in the State.
 - Any adjustments made to the scholarship amounts under the standardized payment schedule for the 2027-2028 academic year.
 - Any other measures taken to provide meaningful scholarship awards.
 - Recommendations for legislative changes needed to ensure the efficient and effective administration of scholarships for all eligible students in future academic years, in recognition of the sacrifices made by veterans and their families for the State.
- SEAA must place any unexpended and unencumbered appropriated funds in an institutional trust fund.

These sections became effective June 30, 2025, and apply to awards granted for the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years.

Codify North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program. – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 8A.8

Section 8A.8 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) codifies the existing North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program (Program) which provides funds to the Patriot Foundation and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. The Patriot Foundation and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation provide scholarships to (i) eligible children and eligible spouses of certain veterans, (ii) eligible children of certain currently serving members of the Armed Forces, and (iii) eligible

disabled veterans to attend eligible postsecondary institutions in the State when certain requirements have been met.

The Patriot Foundation and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation must submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on activities related to the Program and the use of State funds by April 1 of each year that State funds available to the foundations are spent.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

NC Pre-K Programs/Standards for Four- and Five-Star Rated Facilities. – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 9D.1

Section 9D.1 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) requires the prekindergarten programs (NC Pre-K) operating in four- and five-star rated facilities to meet the following requirements:

- Children must be 4 years of age on or before August 31 of the program year and meet one or more of the following additional eligibility criteria:
 - The family's income cannot exceed 75% of the State median income.
 - Up to 20% of enrolled children can exceed this income limitation if those children have other designated risk factors, like developmental disabilities or other chronic health issues. Otherwise, health of the child cannot be considered by the Division in determining eligibility.
 - A child's parent is an active-duty member of the Armed Forces of the United States, including the North Carolina National Guard, State military forces, or a reserve component of the Armed Forces and was (i) ordered to active duty by the proper authority within the last 18 months or is expected to be ordered within the next 18 months, or (ii) was injured or killed while serving on active duty.
- The staff to child ratio cannot exceed 1 to 10 and classrooms cannot exceed 20 children. There must be at least one teacher and one teacher assistant per classroom. The Child Care Commission (Commission) must adopt any rules and the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) must revise any rules or policies necessary to implement these requirements.
- Multiyear contracts for licensed private child care centers providing NC Pre-K classrooms must be issued by the NC Pre-K contractor.
- Private child care facilities and public schools operating NC Pre-K classrooms must meet the building standards for preschool students instead of building standards for child care facilities.
- With the exception of building standards requirements, NC Pre-K operators must comply with all DCDEE policies regarding program standards and classroom requirements.
- Local NC Pre-K committees must use the process developed by DCDEE to award NC Pre-K classroom slots and student selection.

- DCDEE must submit an annual report no later than March 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division which includes:
 - The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program by county.
 - The number of children participating in the NC Pre-K program who have never been served in other early education programs such as child care, public or private preschool, Head Start, Early Head Start, or early intervention programs.
 - The expected NC Pre-K expenditures for the programs and the source of the local contributions.
 - The results of an annual evaluation of the NC Pre-K program.
- Administration of the NC Pre-K program by local partnerships is subject to financial and compliance audits authorized under State law.

DCDEE must continue implementing the NC Pre-K program. Eligibility determinations can continue through local education agencies and local North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., partnerships.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Inclusion of Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians in Child Advocacy Centers – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 9J.10

Section 9J.10 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) makes the following changes to the statutes governing Child Advocacy Centers:

- Amends the definition of "Department" to include the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Department of Public Health and Human Services.
- Expands the definition of "Multidisciplinary team" to include a tribal prosecutor for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.
- Adds a tribal prosecutor for the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians to the list of individuals to which disclosure of information and records is allowed.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

Adjutant General Confirmation – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 19.8

Section 19.8 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) provides that the Governor's appointment of the Adjutant General is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly by joint resolution. It provides a procedure by which the Adjutant General's name is to be submitted by the Governor to the General Assembly for confirmation. It further provides a procedure for the Speaker of the House of Representatives and President Pro Tempore of the Senate to submit a name to the General Assembly for confirmation if the Governor does not submit a name by May 1 of the year

in which the Adjutant General is to be appointed and creates an additional procedure in the event of a vacancy in the office of the Adjutant General.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

Include Catawba Indian Nation In North Carolina Commission Of Indian Affairs – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 22.9

Section 22.9 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) adds the Catawba Indian Nation to the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs.

This provision became effective June 16, 2026, 10 days after the date the Catawba Indian Nation was granted State recognition as an American Indian tribe by the North Carolina State Commission of Indian Affairs. The remainder of this section became effective July 7, 2026.

Audit of State Veterans Home Trust Fund – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 24.4

Sec 24.4 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) requires the following:

- The Office of the State Auditor must conduct a financial audit of the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund for the period beginning July 1, 2023, and ending June 30, 2026.
- The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs must provide the State Auditor with access to all records the State Auditor deems necessary to conduct the audit.
- No later than March 1, 2027, the State Auditor must report the results of the audit to the chairs of the Senate Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the chairs of the House Appropriations Committee, the Joint legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division.

This section became effective on July 1, 2026.

Purple Heart Homes – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 26.1

Section 26.1 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) appropriates \$1 million in nonrecurring funds to the Office of State Management and Budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to be allocated to Purple Heart Homes, Inc., as a directed grant to provide personalized housing solutions for service-connected disabled and aging veterans and their families across the State.

Purple Heart Homes, Inc., is prohibited from using more than 9% of the grant funds in each fiscal year for administrative costs.

By September 1, 2027, Purple Heart Homes, Inc., must provide a report on the use of these funds, including the number of individuals or families served, the types of services provided to those individuals or families, and the outcomes to the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, and the Fiscal Research Division.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

The Independence Fund – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 26.2

Section 26.2 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), notwithstanding State law regarding the North Carolina Veterans Home Trust Fund, provides to the Office of State Budget and Management one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year to provide a directed grant to The Independence Fund, Inc., a nonprofit corporation, to continue to expand the Veterans Justice Intervention (VJI) program by working with law enforcement agencies all across the State. These funds can be used to contract with a subject matter expert for the assessment, coordination, and implementation of the VJI in each of the law enforcement departments.

To receive the funds, The Independence Fund, Inc. must comply with several requirements including providing education to veterans on crisis intervention and resources available to them, monitoring and assessing each county's initial response to veterans in crises, and reporting to the Joint Legislative Committee on General Government, the Joint Legislative Committee on Justice and Public Safety, and the Fiscal Research Division on the effectiveness of the program by June 30, 2027.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Codify North Carolina Veterans Cemetery Trust Fund/Veterans' Cemeteries Upgrade & Maintenance – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 35.1

Section 35.1 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) does the following:

- Codifies the establishment of the North Carolina Veterans Cemetery Trust Fund (Fund), a special fund administered by the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department) that is used to operate and maintain the State's veterans' cemeteries.
- Repeals uncoded provisions related to the Funds' interest earnings and allows the Department to annually use up to \$400,000 of the Funds' interest earnings to create up to 4 full-time equivalent positions to maintain and operate the existing State veterans' cemeteries and up to \$350,000 of the Funds' interest earnings to contract with a vendor to maintain and operate the State veterans' cemeteries.

- Codifies the Department's State veterans' cemeteries reporting requirements. No later than September 15 of each year, the Department must submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the House Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division on all of the following:
 - The overall condition of each State veterans' cemetery.
 - The total funds spent at each State veterans' cemetery in the prior State fiscal year and the source of the funds.
 - The number of full- and part-time employees assigned to work at each State veterans' cemetery in the prior State fiscal year.
 - The number of veterans, legal spouses, and eligible dependents who were interred at each of the State veterans' cemeteries in the prior State fiscal year and the type of interment they received.
- Requires the Department, for the 2026-2027 fiscal year, to use the vendor funds allocated above to contract with a vendor to maintain and operate solely the Sandhills State Veterans Cemetery and submit a report detailing improvements and care to the House Appropriations Committee on General Government and the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology.
- Requires the Investment Authority to invest excess cash of the Fund.
- Requires the Department to spend up to \$40,000 of the funds appropriated to it for the 2026-2027 fiscal year for maintenance and improvements to install a plaque in a prominent location on the grounds of each State veterans' cemetery. Each plaque must be inscribed with President Abraham Lincoln's promise to veterans and their families made during his Second Inaugural Address, which is as follows: "To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan." Each plaque must also be of substantially similar size and material to the existing Western Carolina State Veterans Cemetery plaque commemorating the Gettysburg Address.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

DMVA/Statutory Changes – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 35.2

Section 35.2 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257), as amended by Section 7.18 of S.L. 2026-61 (House Bill 268), makes the following modifications to the laws governing the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (Department):

- Authorizes the Veterans' Affairs Commission (Commission) to delegate its authority to expend funds held in the Veterans Home Trust Fund to the Secretary of the Department, instead of the Assistant Secretary of the Department. However, the Commission's delegation of this authority can only apply to the Secretary holding office at the time a vote was taken to delegate this authority. A new vote to delegate this authority must be

taken by the Commission each time a new person is appointed to serve as either (i) the Secretary of the Department or (ii) the Chair of the Commission.

- Requires the Department to expend funds for the management and maintenance of the State's veterans nursing homes in accordance with appropriations made by the General Assembly, except for funds expended from the Veterans Home Trust Fund for the State's veterans nursing homes.
- Authorizes the Department to enter into contracts for the management and maintenance of the State's veterans nursing homes and veterans cemeteries in accordance with the provisions of Articles 3, 3C, 3D, and 8 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes and procedures established by the Division of Purchase and Contract and the Office of State Construction, instead of the Commission.
- Requires the Department to submit a report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the House Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division within 24 hours of the Department receiving an assessment report by the Office of State Construction or another entity that causes the Department to determine that a State veterans home requires repair in order to maintain the home in a safe and habitable condition. At a minimum, the report must include the name of the State agency or other entity that conducted the assessment, the reason for the assessment, the dangerous conditions found, the Department's recommendations for remedying the dangerous conditions, and the estimated costs of remedying the dangerous conditions.
- Authorizes the Department to use funds held in the Veterans Home Trust Fund to pay the cost to remodel, repair, construct, modernize, or add improvements to buildings and facilities at veterans nursing homes.
- Authorizes the Department to contract with third parties to operate veterans nursing homes, instead of the Commission.
- Authorizes the Department (i) to appoint and fix the salary for a Program Director for the State veterans home program who does not have to be a veteran and (ii) to hire additional staff.
- Requires the Department to submit an annual report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government and Fiscal Research Division on the activities of the State Veterans Home Program and on ways to improve the services provided by the homes.
- Requires the Department to include information about facility condition assessments, including any structural, mechanical, plumbing, electrical, or other issue that affects the integrity of the facility that should be repaired or replaced within the 12 months, in its annual report on the condition of each facility which is a part of the State Veterans Home Program.
- Removes the Secretary of the Department's Authority to call a meeting of the Commission.
- Limits the maximum amount of State funds which can be disbursed to the Veterans Life Center to \$750,000 in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Reporting Requirement For Grants To County Veterans Offices – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 35.4

Section 35.4 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) requires the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, no later than March 1 annually, to report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on General Government, the House Appropriations Committee on General Government, the Senate Appropriations Committee on General Government and Information Technology, and the Fiscal Research Division on which counties received funds from the Department for maintenance and operation of a county veterans services program and the dollar amount that each county received from the Department for the program in the previous calendar year.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Tribal Sports Wagering Technical Correction – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 39.6

Section 39.6 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) modifies the definition of sports wagering in the statute governing Class III gaming on tribal lands to be consistent with the definition of sports wagering in the North Carolina State Lottery Act.

This section became effective July 7, 2026, and applies to wagers placed on or after that date.

Increase Benefits Payable under North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 41.28

Section 41.28 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) increases the monthly pension benefit for qualifying members and former members of the North Carolina National Guard from \$105.00 to \$110.00, with an additional \$11.00 per month for each additional year of creditable military service. The total amount of the benefit is not to exceed \$220.00 per month.

This section becomes effective January 1, 2027, and applies to pension benefit amounts payable from the North Carolina National Guard Pension Fund (Pension Fund) due to a qualifying member on or after January 1, 2027. If a member becomes eligible to receive a pension benefit from the Pension Fund on or before December 31, 2026, but the pension benefit amount is paid from the Pension Fund on or after January 1, 2027, then the pension benefit amount due to the member must be the amount applicable to the pension benefit amount that was effective for each respective month to which the benefit applies.

Veterans Special Registration Plate Modifications – 2026 Appropriations Act.

SL 2026-41 (S257), Sec. 43.13

Section 43.13 of S.L. 2026-41 (Senate Bill 257) exempts Military Veteran special registration license plates from the requirement that all license plates issued by the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) for private passenger vehicles and private hauler vehicles be either (i) a "First in Flight" plate, (ii) a "First in Freedom" plate, or (iii) a "National/State Mottos" plate.

This section also requires that Military Veteran special registration license plates issued by the DMV must (i) bear the words "U.S. Military Veteran" across the top of the plate and (ii) bear the name and insignia of the branch of service in which the individual served on the left side of the plate.

This section becomes effective October 1, 2026.

Airport Lease Authority – Department of Public Safety/Other Changes.

SL 2026-53 (H206), Sec. 1

Section 1 of S.L. 2026-53 (House Bill 206) grants the North Carolina Department of Public Safety and North Carolina Air National Guard independent signature authority to accept an additional 50-year land use license related to the Stanly County Airport.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

Authorize Tribal Police Chiefs to Enter Into Mutual Aid Agreements With Other Law Enforcement Agencies – Department of Public Safety/Other Changes.

SL 2026-53 (H206), Sec. 7

Section 7 of S.L. 2026-53 (House Bill 206) modifies the statute governing cooperation between law enforcement agencies to allow tribal police chiefs to enter into mutual aid agreements with other law enforcement agencies.

This section became effective July 7, 2026.

NC Farmland and Military Protection Act.

SL 2026-54 (H133)

S.L. 2026-54 (House Bill 133) prohibits a prohibited foreign party from purchasing, acquiring, leasing, or holding any interest, except for a de minimus direct interest, in (i) agricultural land, or (ii) property that is within a 50-mile radius of a military installation.

Definitions – The following definitions apply to this Act:

- An "adversarial foreign government" is a nation that is prohibited by the federal government from importing or exporting defense items under the International Traffic Arms Regulations.
- A "prohibited foreign party" is any of the following, unless the entity is approved by the Committee on Foreign Investments in the United States:
 - An adversarial foreign government or a foreign government formed within an adversarial foreign government.
 - An entity or trust, other than a government, that is created or organized under the laws of a foreign government within an adversarial foreign government.
 - An entity or trust, other than a government, that meets certain criteria.
 - An agent, trustee, or other fiduciary of any entity in the above categories.

Land Held by a Prohibited Foreign Party Prior to April 1, 2027 – This Act allows a prohibited foreign party that holds any interest in either (i) agricultural land, or (ii) property that is within a 50-mile radius of a military installation prior to April 1, 2027, to continue to hold those lands. However, a "prohibited foreign party" cannot acquire any new interest in such lands and must register with the Secretary of State. Failure to register is punishable by a civil penalty of at least \$1,000 per day, and any unpaid balance would constitute a lien against the land.

Land Acquired by a Prohibited Foreign Party After April 1, 2027 – A prohibited foreign party that acquires either (i) agricultural land, or (ii) property that is within a 50-mile radius of a military installation after April 1, 2027, must divest itself of the land within one year of the acquisition. If the prohibited foreign entity fails to divest itself, the Attorney General must commence a receivership proceeding in the county where the property is situated seeking the appointment of a general receiver.

Affidavit Required – At a time no later than the time of closing, a buyer of either (i) agricultural land, or (ii) property that is within a 50-mile radius of a military installation, must provide an affidavit, which would be attached as an exhibit to a deed, attesting that the buyer is not a prohibited foreign party and is in compliance with this Act. Failure to obtain or maintain the affidavit would not affect the title or insurability of the title. A county's Register of Deeds must record affidavits as an exhibit to the deed.

Liability – No person, other than a prohibited foreign party, bears any civil or criminal liability for any of the following:

- Failing to determine or make inquiry of whether any entity is a prohibited foreign party.
- Failing to obtain, maintain, or otherwise comply with the affidavit requirement.

However, if a person knowingly sold either (i) agricultural land, or (ii) property that is within a 50-mile radius of a military installation to a prohibited foreign party, that person is guilty of a Class 2 misdemeanor.

Map – The North Carolina Real Estate Commission, in coordination with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, must develop and publish a map outlining the boundaries of certain

military facilities by April 1, 2027, and maintain the map by annually publishing an updated version.

The requirement that the North Carolina Real Estate Commission develop and publish a map outlining the boundaries of certain military facilities by April 1, 2027, became effective July 7, 2026. Additionally, a severability clause and the effective date requirements for this Act became effective July 7, 2026.

The remainder of this Act becomes effective April 1, 2027.

Extend Annual Reporting Requirements for Business Entities Owned by Deployed Members of The Armed Forces. – Regulatory Reform Act of 2026.

SL 2026-59 (S445), Secs. 12-17

Sections 12 through 14 of S.L. 2026-59 (Senate Bill 445) amend the Business Corporation Act, Limited Liability Company Act (LLC), and Registered Limited Liability Partnerships (LLP) Chapters of the General Statutes by a waiving business entity's filing fees for annual reports and extending the deadline to report, so long as the business is (i) more than 50% owned by deployed members, defined under the provision as those removed from their county of residence under an official order of deployment, and (ii) prior to deployment, the business entity files an affidavit of deployment with the Secretary of State. If deployment is extended beyond the end date in the affidavit of deployment, the business entity must file an affidavit of extended deployment with the Secretary of State.

The annual reports of those business entities are deemed timely if submitted to the Secretary of State 90 business days after the end of the deployment period for LLPs and corporations or by April 15 of the year immediately following the end of the deployment period for LLCs. If the deployment is extended, the due date is 180 days after the end date of the extended deployment for all entities.

Section 15 exempts from disclosure under the public records laws any information contained in an affidavit of deployment or affidavit of extended deployment filed with the Secretary of State.

Section 16 directs the Secretary of State to make available any forms needed for the affidavit of deployment or affidavit of extended deployment and to take any other action necessary to allow business entities to begin filing pursuant to this act on October 1, 2026.

These sections become effective October 1, 2026.

Military World Games Funding – 2026 Budget Technical Corrections - II.

SL 2026-61 (H268), Sec. 5.7

Section 5.7 of S.L. 2026-61 (House Bill 268) appropriates \$25 million in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department of Commerce (Department) to

support the 2027 Military World Games in North Carolina (Games). It also requires the Department to report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations on the use of those funds by October 1 of each year following the fiscal year in which funds are expended or encumbered. Funds appropriated under this section do not revert at the end of the 2026-2027 fiscal year, but if the appropriated funds have not been expended or encumbered by June 30, 2028, they revert to the General Fund.

The allocation and expenditure of \$17.5 million is contingent upon the local organizing committee for the Games (i) securing commitments by August 1, 2026, for participation in the Games from at least 50 countries with a minimum of 7,500 total participants and (ii) receiving a Special Event Assessment Rating Level 1 or Level 2 designation from the United States Department of Homeland Security prior to June 25, 2027. The remaining \$7.5 million appropriated under this section must be used by the Department to reserve facilities at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte for hosting the Games and must be disbursed from the Department to the University as soon as practicable after this section becomes effective.

This section became effective July 1, 2026.

Clarify the Application of Limitations on Compensation for Services Related to Veterans' Benefits Matters – 2026 Court Changes.

Ratified (H377), Sec. 14.1

Section 14.1 of House Bill 377 would have excluded agents, attorneys, or other representatives accredited and regulated by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs or the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs from State law requirements regarding compensation for services related to veterans' benefits matters.

House Bill 377 was ratified by the General Assembly on August 6, 2026, but was vetoed by the Governor and is not current law. If the General Assembly overrides the veto, this section would be effective when it becomes law.